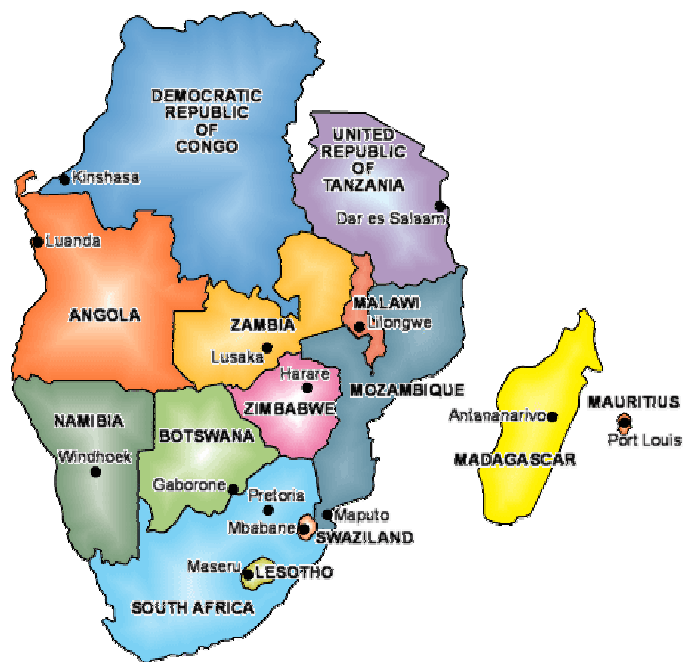




SADC COOPERATION IN ACCREDITATION [SADCA]



**ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2007 TO APRIL 2008**

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1.0 SADCA

1.1 GENERAL

At the 11th Annual SADCA meeting held on 24 April 2007 at the National Leadership Institute, Presidential Palace Grounds in Antananarivo, Madagascar, Mrs Masego Marobela was elected Chairperson of SADCA and Mr Othy Kaakunga of Namibia elected as Vice Chairperson of SADCA for a two year period. At this meeting the co-option onto the Project Management Committee [PMC] of Mr Robin Gopee of Mauritius was confirmed by the SADCA members. With the imminence of the operationalisation of SADCAS the input from MAURITAS as an emerging accreditation body, the problems encountered and how they dealt with them, would be of invaluable input to the PMC. A number of regional cooperations, namely European Accreditation [EA], Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa [COMESA] and The Western African Economic and Monetary Union [UEMOA] attended the SQAM meetings. SADCA was pleased to have EA and UEMOA both making presentation at the annual SADCA meeting. The SADCA members re-endorsed the importance of the SADCA members participating in international meetings to continue the information and experience exchange.

Following the official opening of the 22nd meeting of the SADC Expert Group on Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Accreditation and Metrology, a workshop was held for the Malagasy industry and stakeholders at which representatives of the four SQAM structures informed delegates on the activities within each of their structures. The workshop whose theme was "SADC Quality Infrastructure Support for Improved Market Access" was very ably chaired by Mr Mike Peet, the Chief Executive Officer of the South African National Accreditation Service [SANAS]. The workshop was a great success and it was agreed that such a workshop should be held in conjunction with SQAM meetings going forward.

At the conclusion of the SADC SQAM meeting, two olive trees were planted by representatives from SADC SQAM and Malagasy representatives in the presidential orchards as a symbol of the importance of the meetings to Madagascar.

Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu, the SADC SQAM Expert, and a Malagasy representative planting the olive trees in the Presidential Palace Grounds, Antananarivo, Madagascar.



During the second half of 2007, notification was received from the Norwegian government on the approval of the funding of the NORAD Phase II project to the value of R13 million. The focus of this funding supports the establishment of SADCAS accreditation infrastructure. The monies will be released based on annual work plans and budgets. The work plan for 2007/2008 was submitted and approved and the first disbursement was received from Norway at the end of August 2007. The 2007/2008 workplan included amongst other, the advertising and the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer [CEO], Technical Manager [TM] and Accreditation Administrator [AA] for SADCAS, as well as obtaining and equipping offices for SADCAS in Gaborone, Botswana.

In January 2008 the Chairs, Regional Coordinators and Secretariats of the four SQAM structures met with the EU Technical assistance team who discussed and confirmed the deliverables of the four structures and also appraised the SADC members of all the EU rules and regulations associated with EU funded projects.

The main focus of SADCA during 2007 remained that of the operationalizing SADCAS.

1.2 PMC MEETINGS

During the period under review two PMC meetings were held in October 2007 and February 2008 in Pretoria, South Africa and Gaborone, Botswana respectively.

The focus of the October 2007 PMC meeting was to short list the applications received for the three SADCAS posts, discuss the Norwegian funding and its deliverables and also as the current Executive Committee of SADCAS to discuss a number of pertinent SADCAS issues.

The focus of the PMC meeting held in February 2008 was to continue with the discussions on the pertinent SADCAS issues in the light of the appointed SADCAS staff members, the roles and responsibilities of SADCAS and the PMC's future to SADCAS. The meeting also discussed the EU project deliverables for the start-up activities. Time was also spent on the preparations for the 2008 annual SADCA meeting.

1.3 National Accreditation Focal Points [NAFPs]

During the period under review, the PMC did not meet with the NAFPs. With the imminent operationalisation of SADCAS and the role the NAFPs will be playing in SADCAS going forward, the PMC discussed a number of NAFP related issues.

✦ Launching of NAFPs

All 13 NAFPs have now been launched in their respective countries with ministerial and / or senior government officials in attendance. Appreciation is expressed to the PTB of Germany for providing donor funding for the majority of these launches.

✦ Quarterly reports

It is hoped that at the 2008 SADCAS annual general meeting to be held on 07 May 2008, certificates of recognition would be handed to deserving NAFPs who regularly and timeously submit their quarterly reports. In future the quarterly reports would be used to monitor progress in the implementation of action plans.

✦ NAFP job descriptions

Noting the important role NAFPs would be playing in SADCAS, job descriptions have now been drafted. These would be signed by the NAFPs, their immediate supervisors and the SADCAS' representative as acceptance of their roles and responsibilities.

✦ IT equipment

Realizing the need to equip the NAFPs with reliable IT equipment for them to effectively undertake their tasks in SADCAS a provision was made in the NORAD Phase II project funding to equip the NAFPs with a laptop, data projector, printer/scanner/fax and a flash disk. The ownership of this equipment remains that of SADCAS and equipment shall only be used for official SADCAS business. NAFPs are only the custodians of the equipment and will be expected to maintain it.

1.4 SADCA MEMBERS

SADCA Committee Ordinary Members

Angola	Mrs Teodora Lourenco Silva
Botswana	Mrs Masego Marobela
Democratic Republic of Congo	Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama
Lesotho	Mr Cyprian Mokhorro
Madagascar	Mrs Jeanne-Françoise Ranorovelo
Malawi	Mr Charles Malata-Chirwa
Mauritius	Mr Robin Gopee
Mozambique	Mr Alfredo Siteo
Namibia	Mr Othy Kaakunga
Swaziland	Mr Henson Dlamini
Tanzania	Mr C Ekelege
Zambia	Mr Mataa Mukelabai
Zimbabwe	Mrs Maureen Mutasa

1.5 SADCA Project Management Committee

Mrs Masego Marobela	Chairperson
Mr Othy Kaakunga	Vice Chairperson
Mr Ron Josias	Regional Coordinator
Mrs Marie Chilcott	Secretary
Mr Mike Peet	South Africa
Mrs Maureen Mutasa	Zimbabwe
Mr Robin Gopee	Mauritius
Mrs Elsabé Steyn	South African Department of Trade & Industry
Ms Anna-Marie Lötter	South African Department of Trade & Industry (Alternate)
Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu	SADC SQAM Expert (SADC Representative)

1.6 NAFPs:

Angola	Mr Carmo dos Santos
Botswana	Mr Dennis Juta
Democratic Republic of Congo	Mr Viki Mbuya Kanama
Lesotho	Mr Motjoka Makara
Madagascar	Mrs Jeanne-Françoise Ranorovelo
Malawi	Mr Davlin Chokazinga
Mauritius	Mr Chankar Bheekhun
Mozambique	Ms Guilhermina Nhampulo
Namibia	Mr Nicky litula
Swaziland	Mr Henson Dlamini
Tanzania	Mr Dominic Mwakangale
Zambia	Mr Nteema Muzandu
Zimbabwe	Mr Francis Karani

SADCA Secretariat

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2.0 SADCAS

At the SADCAS Annual General Meeting [AGM] on 24 April 2007 in Antananarivo, Madagascar two directors were due to retire but had indicated that they were available for re-election. Both directors, i.e. Messrs Carstens and Chinyamakobvu were re-elected ensuring much needed continuity in the formation stages of SADCAS. In addition, Mrs Marobela who was co-opted onto the SADCAS Board of Directors in 2006 was elected by the AGM as a full director of the SADCAS Board.

At a SADCAS Board of Directors' meeting held in Pretoria, South Africa in January 2008, the human resources company which had conducted the interviews for the two SADCAS posts, made a presentation to the Board on the interviews conducted. After the presentation and evaluation of the results, the Board made offers of employment to Mrs Maureen Mutasa of Zimbabwe for the post of Chief Executive Officer and Mrs Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo of Madagascar for the post of Technical Manager. Interviews for the post of Accreditation Administrator are to be conducted at a later stage.

SADCAS Chief Executive Officer



SADCAS is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Maureen P Mutasa to the position of Chief Executive Officer of SADC Accreditation System (SADCAS).

Mrs Mutasa has 26 years' diverse experience in the food industry, lecturing and agricultural research, standards development and management, testing and certification. She has worked with the Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ) for 20 years, eight of which she has been the Director General. Prior to joining SAZ Mrs Mutasa worked as: Research Officer – Plant Protection Research Institute, Senior Research Officer – Dairy Services; Lecturer in Food Microbiology and Biochemical at the University of Zimbabwe and Quality Assurance Manager – Dairy Marketing Board. She joined SAZ in 1988 as a Manager – Food & Microbiology and rose through the ranks to the position of Director General which assumed in June 2000.

A distinguished scholar, Mrs Mutasa has a first class BSc Honours, Degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Wolverhampton (UK) and MSc Food Science with Distinction from the University of Zimbabwe. A “Beit Scholar”, she attended management development and leadership training programmes in Singapore and the USA as at a Singapore International Foundation Scholar and Eisenhower Fellow respectively.

She has served on various national and international boards and is the chair of SADC Cooperation in Standardization (SADCSTAN), ISO Regional Liaison Officer for Africa (excluding Arab countries), immediate past Chair of ISO Policy Committee for developing countries (ISO DEVCO) and is a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Joint Implementation Accreditation Panel (UNFCCC JI-AP).

Mrs Mutasa has presented many papers at national and international fora and has published various papers.

Maureen is married to Lincoln Mutasa and have 3 sons Taku, Simba and Tapfuma.

SADCAS Technical Manager

Mrs Jeanne Françoise Ranorovelo is an Agro and Food Industry Engineer, has been working in the field of Standardization, Quality Assurance and Conformity Assessment for 25 years.

Mrs Ranorovelo attended training courses in Standardization and related activities in many countries organized by regional and international standardization organisations.

Mrs Ranorovelo presented standardization and quality lectures in high schools since 1991 and has been a consultant since 1993

Mrs Ranorovelo participated in SQAM activities with ISO, ARSO, COMESA, SADC and IOC.

Before joining SADCAS, Mrs Ranorovelo was the Director General of the “Bureau de Normes de Madagascar”



**Mrs Jeanne Françoise
Ranorovelo**

With SADCAS operational, it would be one of the three operational accreditation bodies in the SADC region which means that a SADC MLA could become a reality. The other two accreditation bodies are SANAS and MAURITAS.

Members of the SADCAS Board of Directors at their meeting in Pretoria, South Africa in January 2008.

From left to right:

Back row

Ron Josias, South Africa; Mataa Mukelabai, Zambia; Stuart Carstens, South Africa, Oswald Chinyamakobvu, Zimbabwe and Mike Peet, South Africa.

Front row

Cyprian Mokhoru, Lesotho; Marie Chilcott, South Africa, Othy Kaakunga, SADCAS Chairperson, Namibia; Masego Marobela, Botswana and Ali Tukai, Tanzania.



2.1 SADCAS subsidiarity status

The application by SADCAS for SADC subsidiarity status was submitted through the SADC Secretariat for discussion at the SADC Trade Ministers meeting held in Lesotho. This was approved in principle by the Ministers and then submitted to the meeting of the Heads of States' Summit for acceptance. It was with great excitement that the members of SADCA and SADCAS were informed that this application had been approved by the Summit at their meeting held in Lusaka, Zambia in August 2007. Now that the subsidiarity status has been granted there is a need to have a Memorandum of Understanding signed between SADC and SADCAS.

2.2 SADCAS offices

Offices for SADCAS had been secured in the building housing the only other SADC organisation who had obtained SADC subsidiarity status, namely SADC-DFRC [Southern African Development Community-Development Finance Resource Center.

2.3 SADCAS bank accounts

SADCAS has opened a current account and an interest-bearing account in Gaborone, Botswana.

2.4 SADCAS auditors

SADCAS had appointed PriceWaterhouseCoopers as their auditors for the period until 31 March 2008.

2.5 SADCAS corporate identity

SADCAS employed the services of a marketing company to develop a corporate identity. This will be viewed at the 2008 SADCAS annual general meeting to be held on 07 May 2008.

2.6 SADCAS Regional Assessors

From the 16 trainee technical assessors who attended the training course in 2005, three trainees have to date been on SANAS assessments as observers. As part of their training the respective lead assessors provided them with assessment documentation to complete. In all instances the assessment teams were impressed with the trainees. SADCA would like to express their gratitude to PTB, Germany for funding the trainees on these assessments.

With funding from the EU project the remainder of the trainee assessors would be attached to an internationally recognised accreditation body and accompany assessment teams on assessments to gain practical experience and finally be registered as SADCAS technical assessors.

The SQAM structures were informed by the EU Technical Assistance team that a number of activities would be funded from the EU start-up funding, one of which was a technical assessor training course for SADC technical experts. After a selection process by the PMC, 20 experts from 12 of the SADC countries were nominated to attend the technical assessor course which is scheduled for the first half of 2008.

2.7 The members of the SADCAS Board of Directors are:

Mr Othy Kaakunga	Chairperson, Namibia
Mrs Masego Marobela	Botswana
Mr Mataa Mukelabai	Zambia
Mr Ali Tukai	Tanzania
Mr Cyprian Mokhorro	Lesotho
Mr Stuart Carstens	South Africa
Mr Mike Peet	South Africa
Dr Oswald Chinyamakobvu	Zimbabwe
Mr Ron Josias	SADCAS Secretariat
Mrs Marie Chilcott	SADCAS Secretariat

The SADCA secretariat current also provides the secretariat function to the SADCAS Board of Directors.

3.0 DONOR FUNDING

3.1 NORAD, NORWAY

A report and audited financials on the bridge funding was submitted to the Norwegian Embassy who accepted the project as completed.

The Norwegian government through NORAD approved R13 million for the support of the SADCAS accreditation infrastructure creation. The money would not be paid in one lump sum but NORAD called for annual work plans including a budget for the work plan. The work plan for 2007/2008 was submitted which was approved and the first disbursement was received from Norway at the end of August 2007. The 2007/2008 workplan included amongst other, advertising and appointing the Chief Executive Officer [CEO], Technical Manager [TM] and Accreditation Administrator [AA] for SADCAS, obtaining and equipping offices for SADCAS in Gaborone, Botswana. The Phase II project will run until 2011.

Mr Jan Eriksen, formerly attached to the Norwegian Embassy in Pretoria, and now attached to NORAD in Norway paid a visit to the SADCA Secretariat early in February 2008.

3.2 PTB, GERMANY

During 2007 and early 2008 PTB funded 2 technical assessors to accompany SANAS assessment teams as observers and funded the NAFP launches of Botswana, Mozambique and Swaziland. In addition PTB funded the translation and development of the SQAM demystifying presentation into French and Portuguese. Members of the French and Portuguese speaking SADC countries have all received copies of this DVD.

3.3 The South African dti

The South African dti continues to fund the SADCA Secretariat, PMC meetings and attendance of the SADCA Chairperson and Regional Coordinator at ILAC and IAF meetings.

3.4 EU funding

In general the training of assessors, trainers, peer evaluators, and attachment training of trainee assessors would be covered from this funding.

SADCA wishes to express its appreciation to the above donors for funding these very important accreditation initiatives in the SADC region.

4.0 INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

4.1 IAAC meetings

In 2004 SADCA signed a Statement of Technical Cooperation with the IAAC. As part of this agreement members of the IAAC are invited to attend the annual SADCA meeting and vice versa. SADCA was represented at the IAAC General Assembly meetings for 2004, 2005 and 2006. However, due to the lack of funding, SADCA was not represented at the 2007 IAAC General Assembly.

4.2 EA meetings

Mr Peet will represent SADCA at the EA meeting in April 2008 in Warsaw, Poland.

4.3 ILAC and IAF meetings

The SADCA Chairperson, Mrs Marobela and the Regional Coordinator, Mr Josias attended the following ILAC / IAF meetings:

- ILAC Executive Committee meeting in Beijing in July 2007.
- ILAC / IAF General Assembly meetings in Sydney, Australia in October 2007.

5.0 MARKETING AND PUBLICITY

During the period under review, numerous articles on SADCA were published in the following national and international publications:

- ✦ Regular articles for the ILAC Newsletter
- ✦ Regular articles for the IAF Newsletter.
- ✦ Regular articles for the APLAC Newsletter
- ✦ Regular articles for IAAC Newsletter.
- ✦ Regular articles for the SANAS Communiqué.
- ✦ Regular articles for the SANAS Report.
- ✦ Regular feedback to the SANAS and NLA Boards

Various presentations on SADCA were also made throughout the period under review.

6.0 IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE PLANS

- ✦ SADCA will assist in the integration of the technical infrastructure being created within SADC into the regional strategies to manage TBT and SPS related activities.
- ✦ Next steps after SADCAS obtaining SADC subsidiarity status.
- ✦ With the receipt of the Norwegian donor funding, all efforts will be focused on operationalizing SADCAS as a regional accreditation body.
- ✦ Submission of projects to international donor funding organisations for further funding of SADCA activities.
- ✦ Liaison and cooperation with other regional accreditation bodies like EA, APLAC and continued the cooperation with IAAC.