

Rockefeller Foundation
Horizon Scanning and Trend Monitoring Report
Greater Horn of East Africa – February 2010

In this issue:

- An interview with the Secretary General of the East African Community
- A look at some of the key developments in regional integration, following the East African's "Regional Integration Tracker"
- HIV/AIDS and condoms
- Institutional efforts at the regional level to tackle climate change and food security

Interview with Ambassador Juma Volter Mwapachu, the Secretary-General of the East African Community

On December 26, 2009, the Great Horn of East Africa trend monitoring team met with Ambassador Juma Mwapachu, Secretary General of the East African Community (and Vice President of the Society for International Development) to talk about his observations, and perspectives and insight on the East African region.

Excerpts:

Q: Ambassador, thank you for making time for us. Let us jump straight into the discussion. Is poverty permanent in the East Africa region?

A: I fear that poverty seems to be entrenching itself in East Africa. Efforts at poverty reduction by national governments seem to be yielding little result. In Tanzania, research shows that the share of the population living below the poverty line declined from 36% in 2001 to 33% in 2007. But because of population growth, the actual number of Tanzanians living in poverty increased by 1.3 million people during the same period. So, the ranks of the poor are swelling despite the amount of resources being poured in health, education and other social sectors.

Certainly the level of joblessness, especially among young people seems to be permanently high throughout the region. The Tanzanian government announced this year [2009] that 1.3 million jobs had been created since 2006, but it is hard to see where they are. Are they in the informal sector? Kenya's Economic Survey for 2009 reported a massive 67% decline in formal sector job creation in 2008 compared to 2007. It also found that 93% of all new jobs created in 2008 were in that country's informal sector.

But, there is also evidence of some positive developments. Rwanda has been successful in adding value to its agricultural outputs such as coffee and tea, in its management of scarce resources and in the provision of quality education. Kenya is also doing well in terms of providing public primary education, especially in rural areas. Uganda is ahead in terms of managing local governance. Interestingly this might be one reason for a lower rate of rural-urban migration than elsewhere in East Africa.

Q: It is interesting that you mention rural-urban movement across the region. Is that unstoppable? Is there a case for a deliberate policy to encourage urbanization?

A: Urbanization is unstoppable, but what this does is strengthen the case for planned urbanization, one that balances the rural-urban development nexus. I believe that the rural-urban migration in the region is a result of the governments withdrawing from rural development since the 1980s, largely as a result of structural adjustment programmes. One consequence of this has been severely weakened local government institutions and performance.

The pressure to better manage government finances, led to fiscal centralization. The result was local governments which had greater responsibility to provide basic social services, but fewer resources with which to deliver them. But there are additional challenges, including management capacity at the local government level, corruption and party politics. In Tanzania again research by REDET on local government exposed poor management of resources and at times, outright theft. The Auditor-General's report frequently raises similar issues. Kenya largely retained the pre-independence administrative structure. Unfortunately corruption has meant that fiscal decentralization has not worked well. Part of the result is that rural education in Kenya is provided to a very significant extent by the private sector, alongside the government. In Uganda, the government has in a sense 'detrified' local government authorities and created many sub-districts, partly to entrench loyalty for the ruling party.

Q: Is the State then still relevant in East Africa?

A: The state, defined as a guarantor of security, tax collector, arbiter of competing interests and distributor of wealth, remains very relevant in East Africa. Sadly it has also weakened and it is becoming more personality driven. The practice of statecraft in running government is under severe strain. In some instances there has been cause for circumspection about the quality of leadership particularly in confronting governance issues and corruption.

Q: So are we then seeing a generational disengagement with the State?

A: What I am noticing is an emerging and growing supra-national ethos among young people, especially as the region's economic drivers shift from the agricultural sector to a service industry facilitated by ICTs. Technology is a powerful medium linking economic activity and young people are particularly comfortable with the new and essentially borderless communications ecosystem. The state is lagging behind in integrating the region because of its inherent bureaucracy. I believe the state needs to keep up with the pace of change as it has a crucial role to play in the process.

Q: Ambassador let us turn to climate change and Copenhagen 2009. What is its relevance to the region?

A: Unfortunately, I think the Copenhagen accord was a failure. The African Union (AU) failed to represent Africa. There was no collective African voice, and the Union went in unprepared. Now that we have the accord I cannot help but wonder whether the resources will reach the needy, whether will they go to individual countries or to the regional bodies. I think regional initiatives are the way to adapt to climate change because the problem for us has regional dimensions as well as national ones. For instance, East Africa has lost over two million cattle to the current drought. Twelve million Kenyans alone are facing hunger as a result of the drought. We must use existing East African resources, regulate the trade in food across borders, establish an agricultural bank and implement initiatives such as joint fertilizer plants. The East African presidents have called a special summit on food security and climate change

in March 2010, because they recognize the critical importance of handling this issue at the regional level.

Q: What about the East African region causes you to lose sleep at night?

A: I am worried by the growing signs of political tension and instability. Our politics does not seem to be informed by transparent governance. The coming elections season, which starts in 2010 and ends in 2012, will be a litmus test for the region. Will the 'Zanzibar for the Zanzibaris' rapprochement in the Isles last up to and beyond Tanzania's election in October 2010? Will the winner-take-all elections in Burundi in 2010 lead to a resurgence of armed conflict? Uganda seems to be balkanizing and Kenya's politicians are busy forming alliances ahead of the 2012 election. What is the prognosis for a post-Kagame Rwanda?

Q: Finally, what gives you hope about the region's prospects?

A: There is a strong official push for the establishment of a single Customs Union merging the current regional blocs of EAC, COMESA and SADC. This will be a bigger internally driven, homegrown organization. I am the current chairman of the tripartite taskforce that has been created to realize this vision, and the thought of achieving it is a source of great motivation and inspiration for me.

Regional Integration Tracker and Economic Outlook by The East African

The East African newspaper tracks the integration process within the East Africa Community (EAC) on a weekly basis. It assigns positive, negative and neutral assessments of developments with respect to their contribution to deepening regional integration. The following is a summary review of the newspaper's tracking in January and February 2010.

Economics and business issues: Risks and rewards

The private sector has been at the centre of driving the region's economic recovery following the global crisis. However some setbacks were reported. The tax regime seemed to be problematic with tax exemptions hurting local motor industry, while \$100m was lost in unpaid tobacco taxes. Infrastructural problems included the major logistics firm AP Moller-Maersk suspending trips to East African ports and poor logistics taking [a] toll on the region's global trade.

On a positive note Kenyan firms continue to lead the way with their continued expansion across the region. The Akamba Bus Service expanded its operations to include Kigali (Rwanda) after successfully expanding to Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and Kampala (Uganda). Mount Kenya University announced the opening of a Rwanda branch, while the Tell-Em Public Relations firm is now operating in Kampala, Uganda.

Official action: Potential and promises

As far as official action around integration is concerned, anticipation seems to be the name of the game. The following forward-looking statements heightened the sense of anticipation: 'Joint policy on conflict resolution in EA to be out soon'; 'Plans for single tourist visa at an advanced stage; 'Region to use Kenya's vision 2030 as guide'; Common Market sensitization activities begin soon; Kenya to domesticate Common Market Protocol'; 'Leaders working on regional social security scheme'; 'Tanzania to remove curbs on movement of capital' and the rather bold 'Kenya, Uganda to abandon artificial borders soon.'

However, not all seems to be going swimmingly. The move to make Kiswahili which is widely spoken in the region and an official language in the EAC, an elective subject in Kenya's education system seems to have left a bitter taste in scholars mouths. Reports that Kenya is considering breaking ranks with EAC and secure a trade pact with the EU despite the fall back position by other EAC partners is sending mixed signals. Sadly, a Kenyan fisherman held by Tanzanian authorities on poaching charges, died in a Dar es Salaam hospital potentially re-igniting the robust discussion about the role and impact of Kenyans in Tanzania. And finally a ghost from the past still continues to haunt the region as a US envoy claims that a prominent Rwandan genocide suspect is still at large in Nairobi.

The paper also provides economic outlook for the region and the following was captured between January and February

Tanzania is forecasting food production deficit, a reverse from previous estimates as El-Nino rains are reported to have wreaked havoc in 18 regions. The drop will also have a negative impact on the inflation rate, derailing government efforts to lower it to single digit in the next fiscal year. Tanzania was in 2008/2009 expected to harvest 11.5 million metric tonnes, which is an increase of 600,000tonnes, but late rains have diminished this hope. It's not all gloom as Tanzania's economy will 'pick up fast' this fiscal year because internal revenue contributions are set to increase to 15.5% of GDP. The revenue collection is projected to growth further to reach 16.1% of GDP in 2012/13 according to the national budget guideline unveiled by Mustafa Mkulo, Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs. He also said that the GDP would grow from 5% in 2009 to 6.1% this year.

In **Kenya**, the gradual recovery of the key sectors that are the source of dollar inflows, and which are expected to hold the Kenya shilling steady, hang in the balance following the split in the ruling coalition. The Kenyan shilling in February touched an eight month low against the US dollar, sparking concerns that unfolding events in the political arena could lead to a repeat of the wild currency swings last seen in 2008. Despite recording marked improvement in the past two years, the tourism sector may miss the Vision 2030 goal of three million visitors a year. Research by Stanbic Bank shows that the tourism sector, which is still recovering from the post-election violence, might also miss its target of 10% contribution to the country's GDP by 2012.

Rwanda will register a GDP growth of 7% in 2010 compared with 11.2% achieved last year. This is due to the global financial crisis and the local credit squeeze that held back the real sector throughout 2009. The forecasts by the National Bank of Rwanda suggest that inflation may rise by 6-10% by the end of 2010, against a backdrop of high domestic demand triggered by the ongoing recovery in the credit market. Meanwhile, Nakumatt, one of the region's biggest retail chains by branch network and sales revenue, has announced plans to open three more supermarkets in Kigali. The local subsidiary of the retailer says it has recorded average gross revenue worth \$1.0 million per month since November 2009, a development that has prompted the expansion.

In **Uganda**, the International Monetary Fund projects Uganda's real economic growth at 6% in 2010. The outlook is premised on Uganda's sustained macroeconomic policies, a flexible labour market and access to international markets in spite of the world's slow recovery from the 2008 financial meltdown. The economic growth, according to IMF World Economic Outlook, is expected to recover to a longer-term average of 7% by 2012.

However Uganda's commodity producers are still grappling with a general decline in demand for their goods. The country mainly exports coffee, tea, cotton, fish and flowers to the EU and the US. Provisional figures from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics show that total exports fell from \$1.7 billion in 2008 to \$1.5 billion in 2009.

The joint Kenya-Uganda Railway Commission concessionaire was expecting to report in mid-February on whether the shareholders have sorted out their disagreements, as the deal faces cancellation and replacement by the Kenya-Uganda Railway Limited.

The East African Legislative Assembly debated the EAC Tourism and Wildlife Management Bill, 2008, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Bill and the EAC Election Bill at the 3rd Meeting of the 3rd Session of the 2nd Assembly in February in Uganda.

HIV/AIDS and Condoms - Shared Challenges, Different Approaches

(from IRIN)

TANZANIA: Merging family planning and HIV services

DAR ES SALAAM, 1 March 2010 (PlusNews) - A Tanzanian project is integrating family planning and HIV messages via community health workers who teach HIV-positive couples how to avoid unwanted pregnancies or infecting their unborn children. As many as 130,000 Tanzanian women fall pregnant every year; many of these are unwanted pregnancies

www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=88263

RWANDA: Nurses to help speed up ART rollout

KIGALI, 26 February 2010 (PLUSNEWS) - Rwandan nurses will soon be authorized to start HIV-positive patients on life-prolonging antiretroviral treatment (ART), a move Ministry of Health officials say will speed up the rollout of ART in the East African nation.

www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=88243

RWANDA: New HIV awareness drive targets prisoners

KIGALI, 18 February 2010 (PLUSNEWS) - Rwandan health authorities have embarked on a campaign to sensitize the country's prisoners - considered high risk for HIV - on how to protect themselves from contracting and transmitting the virus.

www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=88152

KENYA: Condom conundrum puts prisoners at risk

NAIROBI, 16 February 2010 (PLUSNEWS) - The Kenya Prisons Service has won praise for its HIV programmes, including education, testing and the provision of anti-retroviral drugs to prisoners, but specialists say unless the issue of unprotected sex is addressed, HIV transmission will continue unchecked.

www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=88117

SUDAN: Battling HIV in a post-conflict army

JUBA, 29 January 2010 (PLUSNEWS) - The evidence of five years of peace is everywhere in Juba, regional capital of Southern Sudan - in the brisk trade in the city's markets, its packed bars and nightclubs, and in the relaxed gait of the soldiers of the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=87914

ETHIOPIA: Condom creations grace the catwalk

ADDIS ABABA, 9 February 2010 (PLUSNEWS) - The whims of fashion collided with some of life's harsher realities when, during a recent fashion show in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, condoms were the fabric of choice on the catwalk.

www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=88046



SUDAN: Young girls risk sexual exploitation on Juba's streets

JUBA, 28 January 2010 (PLUSNEWS) - In a large market in Juba, the regional capital of Southern Sudan, young women spend long afternoons lounging on beds in sweltering iron sheet rooms, waiting for men.

www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=87900

The road to the forthcoming Extra-Ordinary East African Community Summit on Food Security and Climate Change

This review describes the evolution of discussion at the highest regional level on food security and climate change. It seeks to identify those initiatives and actions that are being discussed and recommended at this level which have an explicitly region (cross-border) character.

Step 1: Ninth Ordinary Summit, June 26th 2008: Food security worries, but no mention of climate change.

The communiqué of the 9th ordinary summit of EAC Heads of State held in Kigali on June 26th 2008 contained the following statements:

'The Summit reflected on the current global and regional food crisis, specifically on the high prices of food that threaten social stability in some parts of the world. In the case of the East African region, the urban populations are particularly vulnerable. The Summit observed that the East African region is capable of producing adequate food for consumption as well as for export and other uses such as bio-fuel...The Summit further observed that the current global food crisis presents huge and attractive opportunities to the EAC region given its endowment in large and fertile land.

'The Summit decided that joint financing of fertiliser production in Tanzania and Uganda where these resources are adequately available should be undertaken as a priority EAC regional project under the framework of the Agricultural and Food Security Programme.'

Step 2: The Eleventh Ordinary Summit, November 20th, 2009: Climate change prominence.

18 months later, the tone and sense of urgency had changed. The region was in the grip of a severe drought, livestock losses were mounting and food aid was required across northern regions of Kenya and Tanzania. Furthermore, as the December 2009 Copenhagen meeting approached and fears that it would under-deliver on a new global climate agreement, the EAC Summit communiqué contained the following paragraph:

'The Summit expressed grave concern about the state of food security in the region following three to four years of continuous drought which has afflicted millions of people and especially the poor. The Summit directed the urgent development of a climate change policy and strategies to address the adverse impact of climate change, including determining how surplus food in country can be shared in countries that are worst hit. The Summit further directed that a

special food security and climate change summit be organised quickly and should involve all key stakeholders.'

Step 3: Preparatory meetings and emerging policy statements.

In response to the directives issued by the Summit, the EAC Secretariat has spearheaded the process of preparing for the Extraordinary Summit on Food Security and Climate change due to be held on March 25-26, 2010 in Arusha, Tanzania.

The first preparatory meeting, involving representatives of the five EAC Partner States and key stakeholders from across the East African region was held on January 25-26, 2010 in Arusha. The report of the meeting contained the following explicitly regional recommendations:

- *'Establish an EAC food reserve facility based on proportional input from surplus countries, and distributed proportionally to countries using an agreed Food Insecurity Index.'*
- *'Enact a legal framework to remove all non-tariff barriers to food export and importation.'*
- *'Adopt a regional trade policy to improve intra-[regional] trade of food commodities through improve[d] trade-supporting infrastructures such as roads and warehousing facilities.'*
- *'Regional and national climate change strategies should be developed.'*
- *'EAC should develop institutions or focal points with clear mandates to coordinate climate changes (sic) issues at both national and regional levels.'*

The second meeting was held on February 22 – 26, 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya to make important technical inputs into three key Summit documents, namely the Draft EAC Food Security Action Plan, the Draft EAC Climate Change Policy and the Draft Extraordinary Summit Declaration on Food Security and Climate Change.

In the Draft EAC Food Security Action Plan, the priority areas for food security with an explicitly regional focus were:

- *To create a harmonised approach for enhancement of food security in the East African region.*
- *To make [the] East Africa Region a net exporter of food.*
- *[To] ensure that food is effectively moved from areas of surplus to areas of deficit within the East Africa region.*

The Draft Climate Change Policy contained the following selection of explicitly regional policy statements:

On disaster reduction and risk management...

'Improve early warning systems and preparedness in the region to avert or minimize the adverse impacts of climate change.'

On building economic and social resilience...

'Develop and implement a regional climate change master plan within which medium to long term strategies of adaptation to climate change will be formulated.'

On water resources...

'Promote regional and international cooperation for better water management and conflict prevention through trust and confidence building.'

On food security...

'Support development of joint research programs (including research on drought, pests and disease resistant crops and livestock) and foster cooperation with regional organisations to facilitate transfer of research development from other regions.'

On wildlife...

'Develop a database and information sharing system for purposes of monitoring of wildlife resources in the region.'

On forestry and wetlands...

'Strengthen research and promote data and information exchange of all forests and trees in the community.'

Step 4: Multi-Sectoral Council (of Ministers) Meeting, February 28 – March 5, 2010, Kisumu, Kenya.

This meeting is ongoing at this writing and is expected to finalise the technical and policy documents for the Summit as well as the Summit Declaration.