

COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

THE PRESENT 20 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA) ARE: Angola, Burundi, Comoros, D.R. Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

ORIGINAL NAME: The Preferential Trade Area of Eastern and Southern Africa States (PTA)

FOUNDED: The PTA was founded in 1981 with the aim of eliminating customs duties and tariff barriers between member states. The PTA gradually developed and its place was taken by the present-day Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) (set up, and ratified, by the PTA members in November, 1993) beginning in December, 1994. The aims had grown to include co-operation in the development of natural and human resources, peace and security in order to the national economies of the region. The COMESA Headquarters are in Lusaka, Zambia.

THE MAJOR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE TO PROMOTE AMONG MEMBER STATES:

internal (regional) and external trade, trade liberalisation and customs co-operation;

the development of basic industries and productivity; cooperation in agricultural development, production and food security,

improvement in the administration of transport and communications infrastructure;

technical and professional skills;

an environment and legal framework to encourage the growth of the private sector, the

establishment of secure investment, and the adoption of common standards;

a wider, harmonised and more competitive market;

rational exploitation of natural resources; and

harmonising macro-economics, financial institutions and policies.

COMESA INSTITUTIONS: Several institutions have been created to promote sub-regional co-operation and development. These include: the COMESA Trade and Development Bank (Nairobi, Kenya); the COMESA Clearing House (Harare, Zimbabwe); the COMESA Association of Commercial Banks (Harare, Zimbabwe); the COMESA Leather Institute (Ethiopia); the COMESA Re-Insurance Company (ZEP-RE) (Nairobi, Kenya); and the COMESA Court of Justice.

RELATED ORGANISATIONS: COMESA has an interest in the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (includes 21 members: Angola, Burundi, Comoros, D.R. Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

Information on the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) from various sources including their web site at <http://www.comesa.int/business/hometest1.htm> and the Mbendi web site at <http://www.mbendi.co.za/orgs/co4s.htm>.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

THE PRESENT 14 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) ARE: Angola, Botswana, D.R. Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

ORIGINAL NAME: The Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC). SADCC (SADC) began as a way to reduce these countries' economic dependence on South Africa and so South Africa was excluded in the early days (at the time of the Apartheid regime).

FOUNDED: The first meeting was on the 3rd. July, 1979, at Arusha, Tanzania, where the then President of Botswana (Seretse Khama) called for the formation of the Community. Those who attended were: Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. They were later joined by: D.R. Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

SADCC was founded at the regional economic summit in Lusaka, Zambia on

the 1st. April, 1980, following the adoption of the 'Lusaka Declaration' ('Southern Africa: Towards Economic Liberation'). It was in an attempt to harmonise economic development among the member countries. The Southern African Development Community (SADC), which replaced the Coordination Conference, came into being at the Summit of Heads of State or Government on the 17th. August, 1992, held in Windhoek, Namibia. SADC's Headquarters are in Gaborone, Botswana, and its working languages are English and Portuguese.

THE MAJOR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE TO PROMOTE AMONG MEMBER STATES:

a common political system, democratic government, economic and development;

to strengthen historical, social and cultural ties;

defend peace and security;

the free movement of capital and labour, goods and services, and of the peoples of the region;

the development of human resources, employment, technology;

achieve self-sustaining development and economic growth based on self-reliance, alleviate poverty, raise the standard of living;

mobilise the inflow of public and private resources in the region; and

sustainable utilisation of natural resources and effective protection of the environment.

THE SECTORAL RESPONSIBILITIES: Each of the SADC member States has 'Sectoral Responsibilities', they are as follows: Angola for energy; Botswana for agricultural research, livestock production and animal disease control; Lesotho for tourism, environment and land management; Malawi for inland fisheries, forestry and wildlife; Mauritius for tourism; Mozambique for culture, information and sport, transport, communications and meteorology; Namibia for marine fisheries and resources, legal affairs; South Africa for finance and investment, health; Swaziland for human resources development; Tanzania for industry and trade; Zambia for employment and labour, mining; Zimbabwe for food, agriculture and natural resources, crop production.

Information on the Southern African Development Community (SADC) from various sources including their web site at <http://www.sadc-sqam.org/Default.htm> and the Mbendi web site at <http://www.mbendi.co.za/orsadc.htm>.