The East African Community

A Brief

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization of The Republic of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Vision : A prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa.

Mission: To widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production and investment.

History of Cooperation

Pre-Independence Cooperation 1900 - 1967

1900 Mombasa was established as a Customs collection centre for Uganda.

1905 The East Africa Currency Board was set up to issue currency for Kenya and Uganda.

1917 A Customs Union between Kenya and Uganda was established.

1922 Tanganyika joined the Customs Union.

1948 The Cooperation was named the East African High Commission.

1961 The name changes to East African Common Services Organization and included: the East African Posts & Telecommunications, the East African Railways & Harbours, the East African Airways, the East African Air Aviation Services and the East African Development Bank.

1967 The East African Common Services Organization was superceded by the East African Community.

Motto	"One People, One Destiny"
Partner States:	
	Republic of Kenya - joined in 1999
	United Republic of Tanzania - joined in 1999
	Republic of Uganda - joined in 1999
	Republic of Burundi - joined in 2007
	Republic of Rwanda - joined in 2007
	Republic of South Sudan - joined in 2016
	Democratic Republic of the Congo - joined in 2022
	Federal Republic of Somalia - joined in 2023
Headquarters	Arusha, Tanzania
Official Languages	English, Swahili & French
Legislature	East African Legislative Assembly
Judicial	East African Court of Justice
Website	www.eac.int

Stages of EAC Regional Integration

East African Community | 1967 - 1977

The East African Community which lasted between 1967 - 1977 comprised of a common market, a common customs tariff and a range of public services so as to achieve balanced economic growth within the region. It was already a monetary union with a currency board and a parity currency (1 Kenyan shilling = 1 Tanzanian shilling = 1 Ugandan shilling).

Public enterprises included the East African Railways & Harbors, East African Airways, East African Posts & Telecommunications and the East African Development Bank

Other areas of commonality included education, with a single syllabus and a single examination body, the East African Examinations Council; the University of East Africa with specialized colleges in each country; the East African Literature Bureau engaged in publishing, the Inter-University Council of East Africa, and others. Citizens of the Community moved and worked across the region, from the professionals to the casual laborers.

As an economic bloc, the region presented a large market for foreign direct investment with many multinationals establishing themselves in the region.

Re-establishment of the EAC | 1999

1999 The Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community was signed by the three Presidents of the Republic of Kenya, Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania on **30th November, 1999.**
30th November is recognized as **EAC Day** across the region.

2007 The Republic of Burundi and the Republic of Rwanda were admitted and became full members of EAC on **1st July, 2007**.

2016 The Republic of South Sudan was admitted and became a full member of EAC on **05th September 2016**.

2022 The Democratic Republic of the Congo acceded to the EAC Treaty on **8th April 2022** and became a full member on **11th July 2022**.

2023 The Federal Republic of Somalia acceded to the EAC Treaty on **15th December, 2023** and became a full member on **4th March, 2024.**

Collapse of the Community | 1977

The East African Community Collapse in 1977 primarily due to:

- Different political ideologies pursued by individual Partner States - Kenya was Capitalist, Tanzania was Socialist while Uganda was non-committal;
- Influence from the America-Russia cold War period;
- Lack of a mechanism of equitable development;
- Disagreements on the sharing of benefits from jointly owned Common Services organizations,
- Concentration of power in the Summit (Heads of State)and low private sector and civil society involvement in the running of the Community;
- Lack of political goodwill among leaders from the Partner States; and
- Failure to uphold democracy and rule of law in some countries, notably Uganda under Idi Amin Dada among others.

1967 — 1999 — 2005 — 2010 — 2013 — 2016

Objective of the Community

The Community develops policies and programmes aimed at widening and deepening co-operation among Partner States in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology, defence and legal and judicial affairs for their mutual benefit.

With this objective, the Partner States agreed to establish among themselves:

- a Customs Union,
- a Common Market,
- a Monetary Union, and ultimately;
- a Political Federation.

It is based on these four (4) stages of regional integration that the Community shall be able to strengthen and regulate the industrial, commercial, infrastructural, cultural, social, political and other relations of the Partner States to the end that there shall be accelerated, harmonious and balanced development and sustained expansion of economic activities, the benefit of which shall be equitably shared.

STAGE I: Customs Union | 2005

The Protocol for the establishment of the EAC Customs Union was signed on **1st July, 2005**.

This was the first achievement of the EAC integration process. A Customs Union is characterized by a Common External Tariff (CET) on imports from third countries; duty-free trade between the EAC Partner States and common customs procedures including common customs law and a common regulatory body.

STAGE II: Common Market | 2010

The EAC Common Market Protocol entered into force on **1st July, 2010**, an expansion of the bloc's existing Customs Union.
The Protocol provides for **"5 Freedoms"** and **"2 Rights",** namely:

- Free Movement of People;
- Free Movement of Goods;
- Free Movement of Services;
- Free Movement of Labour;
- Free Movement of Capital;
- Right of Residence; and
- Right of Establishment

The EAC Partner States are still changing their national laws to allow the full implementation of some aspects of the Common Market such as immigration and labour.

STAGE III: Monetary Union | 2013

The East African Monetary Union (EAMU) is the third milestone of the EAC integration process. The EAMU Protocol was signed on **30th November, 2013** and set the groundwork for a monetary union within 10 years while allowing the EAC Partner States to progressively converge their currencies into a **single currency** in the Community.

The East African Monetary Union shall be characterized by:

- A common currency with a centralized monetary authority;
- Coordinated macroeconomic policies; and
- Strong central institutions and common policies for structural change and development

The East African Monetary Union Protocol provides for establishment of the following necessary Institutions to support the Monetary Union:

- The **East African Monetary Institute** shall be set up as a precursor to the eventual establishment of an **East African Central Bank**;
- The **East African Statistics Bureau** shall harmonize Statistics;
- The **East African Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement** Commission shall guide the convergence process during the transition period; and
- The **East African Financial Services Commission** shall supervise financial services that are expected to be established.

STAGE IV: Political Federation

A Political Federation is the ultimate goal of the EAC Regional Integration, the fourth step after the Customs Union, Common Market and Monetary Union. A political federation occurs when two or more states come together to form a super- state under a single political authority/government. In such an arrangement, federating states cede their sovereignty and some of their powers to the super-state.

It will involve a central political authority as well as common foreign and security policies. It is worth noting that attainment of the Political Federation is a process and not an event. On **20th May, 2017**, the EAC Heads of State adopted the **Political Confederation** as a transitional model of the East African Political Federation.

The East African Community Anthem

On **3rd December, 2010** the EAC Heads of State approved the "*Wimbo wa Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki*" to become the East African Community Anthem.

1. *Ee Mungu twaomba uilinde*
   Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki
   Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani
   Tutimize na malengo yetu.

   Jumuiya Yetu sote tuilinde
   Tuwajibike tuimarike
   Umoja wetu ni nguzo yetu
   Idumu Jumuiya yetu.

2. *Uzalendo pia mshikamano*
   Viwe msingi wa Umoja wetu
   Na tulinde Uhuru na Amani
   Mila zetu na desturi zetu.

3. *Viwandani na hata mashambani*
   Tufanye kazi sote kwa makini
   Tujitoe kwa hali na mali
   Tuijenge Jumuiya bora.

Contacts

East African Community
EAC Close, Afrika Mashariki Road
P.O. Box 1096
Arusha
United Republic of Tanzania

Tel: +255 (0)27 216 2100
Fax: +255 (0)27 216 2190
Email: eac@eachq.org
Website: www.eac.int

@jumuiya
@proudlyeastafrican
@eac_secretariat1