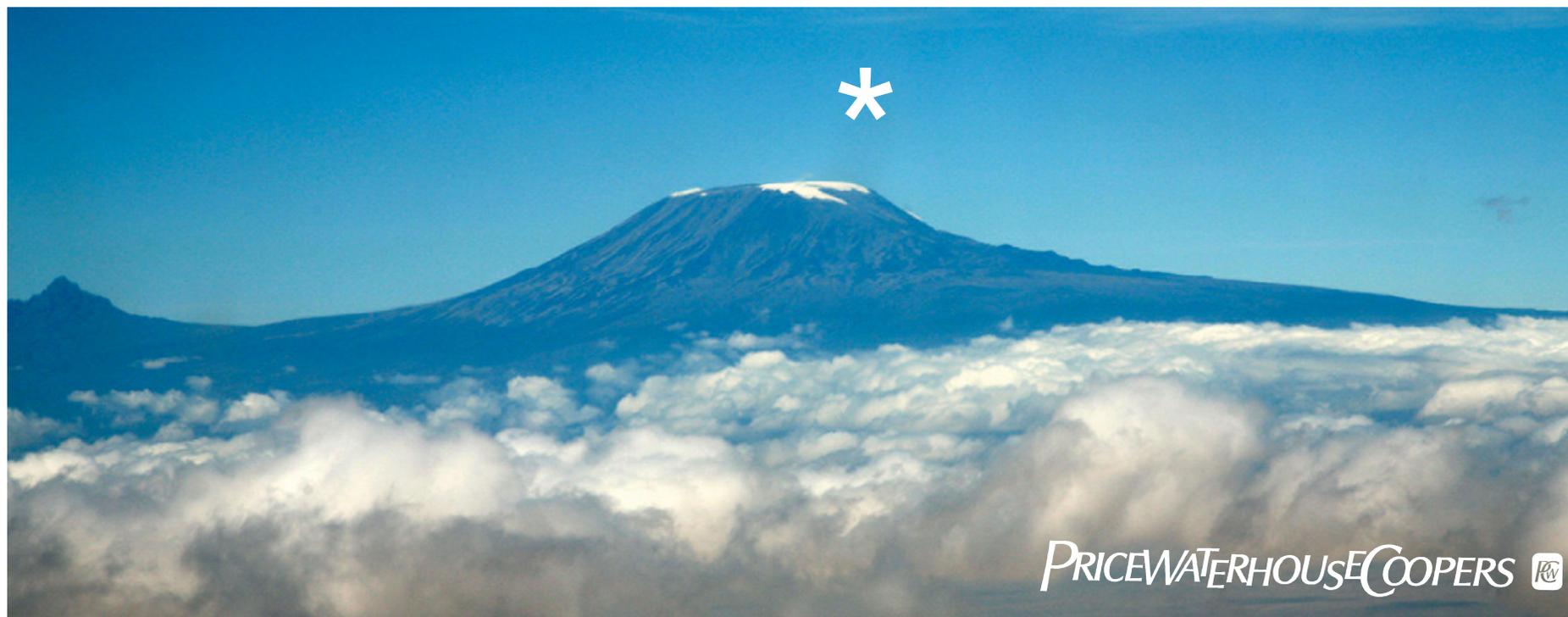




EU-ACP Sustainability Impact Assessment of Economic Partnership Agreements

Key findings, policy recommendations and lessons learned
9th Regional Seminar of ACP-EU Economic & Social Interest Groups



Agenda/Contents

1. Introduction:
 - Objectives
 - Process
 - Consultation in the Caribbean
2. Key findings & recommendations
3. Lessons Learned



The SIA was undertaken over four years and involved developing a methodology, undertaking case studies in key sectors throughout the ACP, and undertaking extensive consultation with negotiators, experts, and relevant stakeholders in civil society in the EU and in the ACP regions.

Specific goals of the EU-ACP SIA?

The European Union is committed to assessing the economic, environmental and social impacts of trade:

- Contribute to analytical awareness
- Encourage negotiations to take sustainable development into account
- Encourage negotiators to adopt positions to promote sustainability
- Define policy packages to support sustainability
- Increase transparency and consultation

A four year process involving case studies in key sectors and extensive consultation in the EU and the ACP

	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
West Africa	Pilot study	Agribusiness		Dissemination Consultation
Central Africa	All-ACP overview study		Financial services	
SADC group			Rules of origin	
Eastern & Southern Africa			Horticulture	
Caribbean	Pilot study	Tourism		
Pacific		Fisheries		

Consultation activities : Regional seminars/workshops

Date/Location	Meeting	Purpose
July 2003 Jamaica	CTA workshop	Preliminary findings of Caribbean SIA pilot study
11-13 Nov.2003 Trinidad	SIA workshop (with CPDC)	Findings of Caribbean SIA pilot study. Setting priorities and sector selection
26-30 April 2004 Brussels	EPA orientation seminar Caribbean region	Launch of tourism sector study
13 Nov. 2004 Barbados	NSA network meeting after the 2 nd CARIFORUM-EC Negotiators' meeting	Findings of tourism sector study
24-25 July 2006 Jamaica	Caribbean workshop on building sustainable development into EPAs (with ECDPM & CPDC)	Findings of tourism sector study Recommendations for EPA text related to sustainable development
14-16 May 2007 Barbados	9 th ACP-EU economic & social interest groups	SIA final summary report



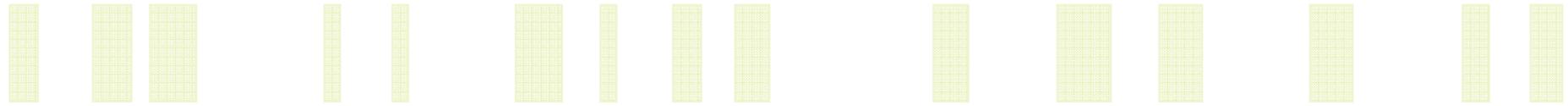
Specific consultation activities in the Caribbean region (cont.)

- Case-studies provided by experts from the region (e.g., through CPDC)
- Specialized interviews and field missions
- Dedicated Internet website:
 - information about the project
 - an electronic feedback function
 - opportunities to join electronic discussion groups
 - electronic links to related SIA websites



Workshop "Building sustainable development issues into EPAs"

- Three area of progress and specific recommendations:
 - Rules
 - The EPA Negotiation Process
 - Accompanying Measures



Workshop "Building sustainable development issues into EPAs"

- Three underlying issues
 - Not necessary to reinvent the wheel: build on what exists
 - Shared responsibility: achievement of sustainable development in the EPA process needs to be a partnership effort
 - Pace of negotiations
- Recommendations related to rules, EPA negotiation process and EPA implementation process

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The SIA of the EU-ACP EPAs has yielded twelve conclusions and recommendations for negotiators and other stakeholders that can help ensure that the EPAs promote development that supports economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Summary

- Regional integration is challenging, but EPAs can reinforce and support
- Market access (and other trade measures) can help countries take advantage of preferences and help bring about the development opportunities
- Trade liberalisation alone is not enough to guarantee increased levels of trade and/or sustainable development: technical assistance and development cooperation is needed
- Multi-stakeholder institutional mechanisms are vital for ensuring an integrated approach to trade negotiations and monitoring of EPA implementation
- SIA has emphasised the importance of dialogue with negotiators and civil society
- SIA has contributed to the discussion about EPAs and helped define and/or reinforce the agenda for ACP-EU development cooperation

Key findings and recommendations

12 key findings and recommendations: regional integration, trade measures and measures to promote sustainability

Selected example

Regional integration

#1 Pursue sustainability through regional strategies

Trade measures: tariffs, rules of origin, services and standards

#2 Retain duty free and quota free access to EU market and access improve access for the few products not yet fully liberalized

#3 Define “sensitive products” and ensure appropriate safeguards to mitigate potential negative impacts of reciprocity taking into account sustainability

#4 Explore policy options to simplify and relax Rules of Origin

#5 Increase commitments in categories of services analysed in the SIA to improve certainty and transparency, encourage trade, and sustainability

#6 Encourage FDI that supports sustainability through, *inter alia*, the enforcement of environmental and social regulations

#7 Address obstacles to trade and assist ACP countries to develop their own approaches to SPS and TBT

#8 Cooperate on trade facilitation including, *inter alia*, customs, transportation, technology, business information and human resources

Measures to promote Sustainable Development

#9 Focus on priority needs for diversification of production and exports towards higher value-added products

#10 Focus on technical assistance to collect information and data on trade and sustainability to support sound policy development

#11 Focus on capacity building to promote sustainable development in both the private and public sectors, with an emphasis on training, research and development, and a sound regulatory framework

#12 Develop a permanent institutional mechanism to monitor economic, environmental and social sustainability of the implementation of the EPAs

#12 Develop a permanent institutional mechanism to monitor the implementation of the EPAs

- Civil society stakeholders can make effective contribution to ACP-EU cooperation
- Establish a permanent *EU-ACP Cooperative Dialogue for Public Participation and Capacity Building for Sustainability* to:
 - Encourage multi-stakeholder participation
 - Encourage informed participation in the implementation of the EPA through: collection, analysis and dissemination of information
 - Increase awareness and track progress towards sustainability
- Should have ability to make recommendations to key decision-makers in both the EU and the ACP regions

#12 Develop a permanent institutional mechanism to monitor the implementation of the EPAs (cont')

Such a mechanism could:

- Compile and disseminate information, and undertake research and assessments with regard to trade and sustainable development
- Coordinate technical assistance in support of sustainability
- Consult and collaborate with local, national, and regional environmental authorities and institutions
- Interact and consult regularly with civil society
- Develop indicators that can be employed to monitor the implementation of the EPAs and assess their ongoing contribution to sustainability
- Create guidelines for public participation on matters related to EU-ACP cooperation under the EPAs

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The SIA has yielded lessons emphasizing the importance of making meaningful connections in the ACP regions and undertaking a sustained dialogue with negotiators and civil society and it has contributed to the discussion surrounding the EPAs and helped define and/or reinforce the agenda for ACP-EU development cooperation.

SIA has yielded lessons emphasizing the importance of dialogue with civil society and it has contributed to the discussion

The SIA...

- has been used by negotiators and stakeholders in the ACP regions and has been part of the discussions
- has reinforced the importance of existing debates
- can help set priorities for trade-related infrastructure and development
- has highlighted issues related to regional integration and relevant institutional measures
- is useful to help set and/or reinforce the agenda for development cooperation

Thank you for your attention

Please visit our website:
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Advisory

European Commission Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development and Regional Trade Agreements »

Caribbean workshop on building sustainable development issues into Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)

Montego Bay, Jamaica, Holiday Inn + Sunspree + Resort, July 24-25, 2006

Sustainability Impact Assessment of the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements

Summary of key findings, policy recommendations and lessons learned

Draft document for consultation

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

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Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) of the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements

Phase Two

Final Report (revised)

27 July 2005

Report was prepared with financial assistance from the Commission of the European Communities. The views expressed herein are those of the Consortium and do not represent any official view of the Commission.

Forum Pour l'Afrique

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

Caribbean Consultation Seminar

November 11 - 13, 2003
Crown Plaza Hotel
Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago

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