



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

Integrating sustainable development into Economic Partnership Agreements  
OECD Global Forum on Investment (GFI-7), 28 March 2008, Paris, France

Jochen Krimphoff, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Paris





*The Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) was undertaken over four years and involved developing a methodology, undertaking case studies, and consulting with negotiators, experts, and relevant stakeholders in civil society in the EU and in the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) regions.*

# The EU-ACP SIA – an analytical and consultative process

	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
West Africa	Pilot study	Agribusiness		<i>Dissemination</i>
Central Africa	<i>Methodology and all-ACP overview study</i>		Financial services	
SADC group			Rules of origin	
Eastern & Southern Africa			Horticulture	
Caribbean	Pilot study	Tourism		
Pacific		Fisheries		

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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*

## #6: Encourage FDI and regional investment that support sustainability through, *inter alia*, cooperation to achieve compliance with environmental and social regulations.

- Policies to encourage FDI should be accompanied by adequate protections for sustainability.
- A strong regulatory framework is crucial to ensure that investors behave in a way that is environmentally and socially responsible.
- FDI should be subject to high level of environmental scrutiny and governed by
  - Mandatory requirements;
  - Voluntary codes of conduct that prioritize sustainability

## FDI-related articles: example of environmental chapter in the CARIFORUM-EC Economic Partnership Agreement <sup>(1)</sup>

- **Maintenance of standards** (Art 73): FDI is not encouraged
  - by lowering domestic environmental, labour or occupational health and safety legislation and standards or
  - by relaxing core labour standards or laws aimed at protecting and promoting cultural diversity.
- **Upholding levels of protection** (Art. 188 in environment chapter)
  - [the Parties] agree not to encourage trade or FDI to enhance or maintain a competitive advantage by:
    - a) lowering the level of protection provided by domestic environmental and public health legislation;
    - b) derogating from, or failing to apply such legislation.
  - [the Parties] commit to not adopting or applying regional or national trade or investment-related legislation or other related administrative measures [...] in a way which has the effect of frustrating measures intended to benefit, protect or conserve the environment or natural resources or to protect public health.

(1) Published on 22 February 2008 and available from EC website:  
[www.ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/pr220208\\_en.htm](http://www.ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/acp/pr220208_en.htm)



## Conclusion

- Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) in itself is a transparent, participatory mechanism to ensure that environmental and social dimension are taken into account in RTAs.
- RTA provide an opportunity to strengthen regional approaches through specific, investment-related provisions to ‘**uphold protection**’ and avoid a ‘**race to the bottom**’.
- Effective enforcement and additional mechanisms to allow stakeholder involvement and scrutiny are key.

# Thank you for your attention

Please visit our website:

[www.sia-acp.org](http://www.sia-acp.org)

Or contact us:

Jochen Krimphoff

Tel: +33 1 56 57 86 17

Fax: +33 1 56 57 36 16

[jochen.krimphoff@fr.pwc.com](mailto:jochen.krimphoff@fr.pwc.com)

Advisory 

## Sustainability Impact Assessment of the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements

Summary of key findings, policy recommendations and lessons learned

Draft document for consultation



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European Commission Regional Workshop on Sustainable Development and Regional Trade Agreements

Central African regional workshop on building sustainable development issues into Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)

Luanda, Senegal, Malindi, Port-Harcourt, 6-7 June 2007




PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS

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 - Gortown - Resort, July 24-25, 2008



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Selection et zoom 

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

Financial Services in Central Africa

11 September 2008



Forum Pour l'Afrique 




## Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) of the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements - Phase Three\*

Horticulture in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA)



\*connectedthinking 




## Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) of the EU-ACP Economic Partnership Agreements - Phase Three\*

Rules of Origin in the Southern African Development Community Group (SADC Group)

Final Report (English)

21 October 2008



\*connectedthinking 