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The Sahel and West Africa Club's monthly newsletter aims to provide regular information on ongoing SWAC activities, publications, upcoming events and other SWAC news.

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BORDER CO-OPERATION & FOOD SECURITY IN THE KANO-KATSINA-MARIDI CORRIDOR

SWAC Director, Mr. Normand Lauzon, together with Mr. Musa Mbenga, Executive Secretary of the CILSS and other SWAC partners, participated in a joint mission in the framework of the initiative on "**Cross-Border Trade & Food Security in the Kano-Katsina-Maradi (K²M) Corridor**", in Niamey (Niger) on 21 and 22 February 2007. Following several working sessions with high-level government representatives and technical staff of Nigerien ministries, Mr. Lauzon met with President S.E. Mamadou Tandja to discuss objectives and next steps of the K²M initiative. He



also met with the financial partners of the K²M initiative, Mr. Michele Falavigna, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Co-ordinator, and Mr. Paul Vossen, First Counsellor of the Delegation of the European Commission, to facilitate the mobilisation of technical and financial resources. If funding is made available in time, a cross-border workshop will be organised in Katsina, Nigeria in September 2007. UNDP has already confirmed its financial contribution for the organisation of the meeting. [> learn more](#)

SWAC PARTICIPATION IN THE ECOWAS COMMISSION RETREAT

Mr. Lauzon was invited by ECOWAS to participate as a resource person at the Retreat of the new ECOWAS Commissioners held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from 25 February to 3 March 2007. The Retreat aimed to (i) develop team spirit and a shared vision between the seven new ECOWAS Commissioners; (ii) facilitate the effective establishment of the Commission; (iii) better respond to the challenges and priorities set by the ECOWAS Authority. Dr. Ibn Chambas, President of the ECOWAS Commission, highlighted in his closing statement that the Sahel and West Africa Club through its Director, Mr. Lauzon, continues to be a strong partner in the quest for moving West Africa forward. The SWAC has prepared a [working document on West Africa](#) (French only) to facilitate discussions at the Retreat.

REGIONAL WORKING GROUP ON THE DDR, POST-CONFLICT & DEVELOPMENT



The second meeting of the Regional Working Group on "DDR, Post-conflict and Development in West Africa", organised by the SWAC in collaboration with ECOWAS, was held in Praia, Cape Verde from 28 February 2007 to 1 March 2007. The Cape Verde Prime Minister, Mr. José Maria Neves opened the meeting which brought together about thirty participants including regional development partners (Canada, France, Germany and Portugal), field-level actors involved in DDR and post-conflict activities (Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone) as well as representatives from regional and international organisations (African Development Bank (AfDB), Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), ECOWAS, International Organisation of Francophone Nations (OIF) and the World Bank). The meeting took stock of the current situation of post-conflict countries in West Africa, identified the challenges related to the socio-cultural, political and economic reconstruction processes and set up the Regional Working Group. [> learn more](#)

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SWAC SUPPORT TO LOCAL CROSS-BORDER INITIATIVES

Steering Committee Meeting of Beekeeping Sector Professionals in Brikama (the Gambia)

Gambian Beekeeping Sector Professionals discussed the implementation of joint activities set out in the 2007 Cross-Border Action Plan together with partners from Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. Activities aim to increase production and to promote the sustainability of the industry in the Senegambia region (Sénégal méridionale). A cross-border study on "**Pollination and Apiculture fostering Agricultural Development**" will be launched in 2007.

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Workshop for Community Radio Professionals in Bignona (Senegal)

The workshop, financed by Enda-Diapol, GTZ Procas and the SWAC, aimed to (i) strengthen relationships between community radio professionals, (ii) attract new radio members, (iii) prepare a common work and training programme for 2007 and (iv) develop a fundraising strategy. The community radio covers the border area between Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and The Gambia. One of the objectives is to facilitate the dissemination of ECOWAS legal texts on the free movement of people and goods.

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2nd meeting of the Pilot Operation on Local Development Issues in the Karakoro Basin in Kayes (Mali)

As a follow up to the pilot operation launched in September 2006 in Nouakchott (Mauritania), the Research Group and Achievements for Rural Development (GRDR) organised a second meeting inviting local/national authorities and representatives from civil society to discuss local development issues such as infrastructure, natural resources and dynamics of the local economy.

Contact: grdr@mauritel.mr; also visit: www.grdr.org

FOLLOW-UP ON UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN 2007 IN WEST AFRICA

Mr. Lauzon was invited to join the Vice-President of the ECOWAS Parliament, Hon. Assan Seïbou, and the former Nigerien Minister of Communication, Mr. Hassoumi Massaoudou, to participate in the debate ("Le Débat") on the electoral year 2007 in West Africa that was broadcasted by Radio Africa n°1 on 15 February 2007. The debate is part of a series of regular meetings with media representatives, aiming to accompany the numerous elections that will take place this year in West Africa.

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NEW SWAC LOGO

The SWAC has the pleasure to present its new logo:



PUBLICATIONS

West Africa: a region in movement, an evolving region, a region in the process of integration

This working document was elaborated upon the request of ECOWAS as reference to facilitate exchanges and discussions at the ECOWAS Commission Retreat that was held in Ouagadougou from 26 February - 3 March 2007. While providing information on West Africa and ECOWAS, it also addresses a large number of strategic key questions concerning the region's future. The document will be finalised following the Retreat.

[> download the working document \(French only\)](#)

Cross-Border Diaries on Food Security

The February edition of the Cross-Border Diaries focuses on food security in West Africa. It includes a special report on "Food Security & Cross-Border Trade in the Kano-Katsina-Maradi (K²M) Corridor", an analysis of the 2005 Food Crisis in Niger, a presentation of the "Food Crisis Prevention Network in the Sahel" and various interviews with Food Security experts. Two local cross-border initiatives are presented: The Cross-Border Network of Senegambian Community Radio Stations and the Creation of a Network of Senegambian Beekeeping Professionals.

Food Security Information Note, N°6, February 2007

The Food Security Information Note provides a short overview of recent evolutions in the general agriculture and food situation in the Sahel and West Africa. It also presents key issues and proposes information sources and selected background documents. [> download the note 6](#)

CD-Rom - Summary Reports & Presentations of Meetings in 2005 and 2006, GCDPS Unit

The "Governance, Conflict Dynamics, Peace and Security" Unit compiled a CD-rom including all summary reports & presentations of meetings held in 2005 and 2006. If you are interested in receiving a copy of this CD, please contact: julia.wanjiru@oecd.org

Aquaculture in West Africa – A Sustainable Source of Food and Income?

Information note on the role and evolution of aquaculture in West Africa: The majority of the West African population depends on fish-based resources for their daily sustenance. With the emergence of aquaculture around the world, the opportunity for West Africa to harness this technology is of keen interest to both the public and private sector.

[> download the information note](#); contact: sara.minard@oecd.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

SWAC Participation in the African Experts Meeting on Cross-Border Co-operation, Bamako (Mali), 8-9 March 2007

The overall objective of the meeting is to facilitate conflict prevention, the promotion of security as well as fair and sustainable development. In particular, it aims to collect feedback on the African Union's Future Border Programme and to prepare the Ministerial Conference on Cross-Border Co-operation that will take place in Addis Ababa in May 2007. The SWAC is a member of a pilot group providing support to the African Union for the establishment of an African Border Programme.

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SWAC Mission to ECOWAS to Follow-Up on the ECOWAS Retreat, Abuja (Nigeria), 19-22 March 2007

SWAC Director Mr. Lauzon will meet with Dr. Ibn Chambas, President of the ECOWAS Commission, the Vice-President, the new ECOWAS Commissioners and other ECOWAS colleagues in individual work sessions to follow-up on the ECOWAS Retreat. The objective of the work sessions is to discuss with the concerned ECOWAS colleagues the implementation and funding of joint ECOWAS-SWAC activities in 2007 that are outlined in the "[Framework of Co-operation between the Executive Secretariat of ECOWAS and the SWAC](#)".

All publications can be downloaded from the SWAC website: www.westafricaclub.org
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