

TRADE HUB HAPPENINGS



A monthly update of upcoming activities and recent progress from the SA Trade Hub offices in Gaborone, Botswana, October 2005

Hub Highlights

- The Trade Hub's SACU Trade Facilitation Advisor, Joshua Setipa, left the Trade Hub on September 16 to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) as Counselor in the Office of the Director General, Pascal Lamy. Mr. Setipa will be responsible for all development-related work and the WTO relationship with Africa and the Caribbean.
- On September 23 the Trade Hub held a national workshop in Windhoek, Namibia, to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Namibia Investor Roadmap report which was completed by Trade Hub analysts in July 2005. The event was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Namibia, Hon. Nahas Angula, and was attended by 110 high-level representatives of government and the private sector.
- On September 27 the Trade Hub held a stakeholder roundtable in Maputo, Mozambique, to discuss the Report on Trade Finance in Mozambique, released to stakeholders for comment last quarter. Participants which included representatives of banks, the agricultural sector and the donor community, discussed the recommendations on the provision and availability of trade finance in Mozambique.
- During September the second issue of the Trade Hub's flagship newsletter, *Inside Southern African Trade* (INSAT) was electronically distributed to over a thousand stakeholders in the region and beyond. The newsletter is also available on the Trade Hub's website: www.satradehub.org. To subscribe to the newsletter, please e-mail INSAT@satradehub.org.
- On September 15 the RCSA and the Trade Hub participated in the launching of the Global Development Alliance (GDA) Project in Washington, DC, which will work with local manufacturers in Southern Africa with Trade Hub assistance to improve the nutritional profile of locally-processed foods by introducing soy as an ingredient.
- From September 19 to 22 representatives of USAID/Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) and the Trade Hub traveled to Madagascar to examine the situation with AGOA apparel exports and to recommend mitigation strategies.

October 2005 Trade Hub Events

- 4** U.S. Ambassador to Botswana, Katherine Canavan, will pay a formal visit to the Trade Hub where she will be briefed on the Trade Hub's activities and scope of work.
- 10-14** Evans Marowa, Transport Advisor, will attend the World Trade Organization (WTO)/World Bank/World Customs Organization (WCO) Regional Workshop on WTO Negotiations in Trade Facilitation in Windhoek, Namibia, from October 10 to 14, in preparation for assisting Zambia with the upcoming WTO Doha Multilateral Trade Negotiations.
- 13-14** Paulina Elago will make a presentation on WTO / EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement) issues at TRALAC's Annual International Trade Law Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.
- 17-18** The Botswana Cattle Producers Association (BCPA), in coordination with the Trade Hub, will sponsor the "BCPA National Weaner Production and Marketing Conference" to address a variety of issues in the conversion from an oxen-production system to a modern, high-capacity weaner production system.
- 25-27** Amanda Hilligas, AGOA Advisor, and Ken Ames, Trade Competitiveness Project Coordinator, will travel to the East and Central Africa Regional AGOA Sectoral Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- 31** John Keyser, Trade Competitiveness Director, and Amanda Hilligas will travel to Johannesburg to participate in the US – Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Investment Mission which is being organized by USDA.

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USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

In June 2002, the US Agency for Development (USAID) established the Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub in Gaborone, Botswana to respond to President's Bush's new trade initiative for Africa. The Trade Hub helps Southern Africa take full advantage of the increased trading opportunities available through duty free access to the US economy under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The Trade Hub:

- brings together American and African businesses;
- enhances the competitiveness of African products and services;
- expands the role that trade can play in African poverty reduction strategies;
- improves the delivery of public services supporting trade;
- builds African capacity for trade policy formulation and implementation; and
- strengthens the enabling environment for African businesses.

AGOA



An example of the colorful new labels that adorned bottles of Nali Peri-Peri Sauce at the Fancy Food Show

- At the end of the October, John Keyser, Trade Competitiveness Director, and Amanda Hilligas, AGOA Advisor, will travel to Johannesburg to participate in the US – Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Investment Mission being organized by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This event, announced by Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns, at the AGOA Forum in Dakar, aims to promote joint ventures, support bilateral trade, and boost investment in Africa’s rich agricultural sector. The mission contributes directly to the goals of AGOA and will provide an opportunity for up to 40 participants from Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, and Swaziland to meet U.S. private sector representatives from the fruit and vegetable, ready-to-eat retail, food-processing, wine & spirits, seafood, livestock genetics, and feed and grain sectors.
- The first Regional AGOA Sectoral Workshop will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on October 25 and 26. The workshop is the first of three regional workshops to be held in Africa, and will be attended by private sector representatives and government officials from both Africa and the US, including the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Ken Ames, Trade Competitiveness Project Coordinator, and Amanda Hilligas will attend the meeting which will focus on the leather and handicraft sub-sectors. It is expected that the Southern Africa regional workshop will take place in 2006, with possible topics including trade policy issues impacting business and sub-sectors with potential for additional exports under AGOA.
- During the last quarter of 2005 the Namibian National Trade Forum, a group of private and public sector representatives from Namibia, will consider an AGOA diversification strategy at the national level in coordination with the Trade Hub. The Trade Hub has been instrumental in assisting Swaziland, Botswana and now Namibia in developing AGOA Diversification Strategies at the national level. Namibia will examine maintaining competitiveness in the apparel sector and exporting additional product categories under AGOA.
- As a follow-up to the Botswana AGOA Forum which was held at the Trade Hub on August 11 of this year, the Trade Hub is continuing to work with the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) on a plan to diversify exports to the US under AGOA. During the last quarter of the year, MOTI will be proposing a roster of members to the Botswana AGOA Forum, a standing committee which will be looking at policy and competitiveness issues that have an impact on export diversification.

Trade Competitiveness



Lawrence Johnson from the USAID Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) addresses members of the Botswana Cattle Producers Association.

- During October, the team will finalize its annual work plan, which will build on the momentum gained over the past twelve months. The work plan will outline activities to be undertaken in the coming year which focus on making specific transactions occur and the elimination of constraints to competitiveness.

Exportable Agricultural Products

- With support from the Trade Hub, the Botswana Cattle Producers Association (BCPA) will host the “BCPA National Weaner Production and Marketing Conference” from October 17 to 18 to address a variety of issues in the conversion from an oxen-production system to a modern, high-capacity weaner production system. The meeting will feature presentations on the introduction of new, more competitive technologies which will benefit Botswana’s only major agriculture export industry.

Trade Competitiveness, cont.



Lawrence Johnson from the USAID Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) addresses members of the Botswana Cattle Producers Association.

- During October, the Trade Hub will continue activities focused on gaining market access to the United States for litchis from South Africa and Madagascar. Following discussions held in September on the use of sulfites as a food additive, the Competitiveness Team will engage in a dialogue with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) focused on establishing a maximum residue level similar to the approved level for table grapes. Simultaneously, activities will focus on outstanding phyto-sanitary issues including the need to develop acceptable cold treatment standards that minimize the risk of litchi moth, fruit fly, and false codling moth.
- Building on a successful Trade Hub mission to Namibia, which was undertaken at the request of the U.S. Ambassador to Namibia, the USAID Mission Director and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade, the Trade Hub will work with private sector representatives to identify technical assistance needs for follow-up action. These will include the identification of an expert in meat equivalency standards and market specialist for cold-water fish for possible studies to be carried out together with the Namibian private sector.
- Ronald Ramabulana, Business Linkages Specialist, will complete an assessment of the training needs of the Masevani Trust and other Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) groups in South Africa. These organizations are supplying horticulture produce to large-scale export processing and marketing firms. This work will lead to the design of training programs to address management and production constraints from a competitiveness perspective.

Tourism

- Alvin Rosenbaum, Value Chain Leader for Tourism, will finalize the action plan for work in the tourism sector. This plan will include timelines, alternate implementation opportunities, and options for funding activities in the sector. The action plan focuses on obtaining buy-in from donors and private organizations interested in the promotion of the tourism sector in Southern Africa.

Apparel

- During the month of October the Trade Hub will finalize preparatory work for conducting a survey of U.S. apparel buyers focused on identifying needs and constraints for doing business with Southern Africa. Joop de Voest, Value Chain Leader for Apparel, has identified the lack of market intelligence of the U.S. apparel retail trade as one of the key constraints to growing the AGOA apparel exports of Southern African manufacturers. Similarly, many U.S. apparel retailers/importers have not yet considered the Southern African countries to be potential apparel suppliers. The Trade Hub will use the results of this survey to guide future activities in the apparel sector.

Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building (TFCB)



- In October the TFCB Team will complete its annual work plan for the second year of the project which is designed to build on the accomplishments of the first year of operation and respond to specific requests and demands of key stakeholders in the region.

Customs Modernization and Transport Facilitation

- During October Ranga Munyaradzi will monitor the progress with the implementation of the Action Plan for a Trans-Kalahari Corridor (TKC) Pilot Common Customs Transit Bond Guarantee and will assist in the drafting of relevant procedures.

Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building (TFCB), cont.



- Ranga Munyaradzi, Senior Customs Advisor, and Simon Royals, a Technical Officer from the World Customs Organization (WCO), will assist the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) with the implementation of the WCO Time Release Study by drafting the methodology and training the Malawi Customs / Private Sector Working Group on how to conduct the Study. The Trade Hub / WCO Team will also assist the MRA with producing a questionnaire, analyzing the findings, and producing the final report. A Time Release Study identifies inefficiencies in the Customs Clearance process by measuring the time required to clear goods for home use from their time of arrival in country to their time of release by Customs. The study is used to design strategies for improving the Customs Clearance System and increase competitiveness. Malawi will be the first country in Southern Africa to conduct the WCO Time Release Study. The Trade Hub will subsequently assist Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana—all of whom have requested Trade Hub Technical assistance—with conducting the study on their respective Customs procedures.
- Ranga Munyaradzi, Bridget Chilala, Director of Trade Capacity Building, and Evans Marowa, Transportation Advisor, will initiate a project in Zambia for creating a diagnostic tool to assist Zambia in prioritizing its needs for trade facilitation. The tool will also assess the cost implications of implementing proposed trade facilitation measures in readiness for the upcoming WTO Doha Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The exercise, which will result in an analysis of the trade facilitation status of Zambia as measured against international best practices, will be completed in November. The analysis will also include a proposed program for adjustment to assist Zambia with implementation of a future trade facilitation agreement. In preparation for this work, Evans Marowa will attend the World Trade Organization (WTO)/World Bank (WB)/World Customs Organization (WCO) Regional Workshop on WTO Negotiations in Trade Facilitation in Windhoek, Namibia, from October 10 to 14.
- Evans Marowa will continue to work with the Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG) and the Trans Kalahari Management Committee (TKCMC) to secure legal advice from the three member countries—Namibia, Botswana and South Africa—and establish a permanent secretariat for the TKCMC. In addition, the Trade Hub will seek to confirm a date for a proposed meeting of the Ministers responsible for transport in the three member countries.
- Ranga Munyaradzi and John Keyser will finalize the report and action plan for removing identified tariff and non-tariff barriers in Mozambique.
- Evans Marowa will prepare and plan for the Dar es Salaam Corridor Meeting programmed for the end of November in Lilongwe, Malawi. The meeting will focus on activities to establish a sustainable permanent secretariat for the Corridor.
- In response to requests from Zambian horticultural exporters received through the Trade Competitiveness Team, Evans Marowa will conduct an assessment of the air cargo capacity at Lusaka International Airport as well as air cargo costs to determine their impact on the country's competitiveness in the horticulture sector.

Outreach and Dialogue for Competitiveness

- During October Gina van Schalkwyk, Information and Communications Coordinator, will continue to update the Trade Hub's website with new information, reports and publications. She will also continue to expand the contacts database and will develop additional outreach materials.
- October will see the distribution of hard copies of the second issue of the Trade Hub's flagship newsletter, *Inside Southern Africa Trade* (INSAT), to a broad range of stakeholders in the southern and east African region.

Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building (TFCB), cont.



- Also during October, Ms. van Schalkwyk and Lisa Yarmoshuk, TFCB Director, will liaise with potential partner organizations in South Africa and the rest of the region to strengthen the 'Dialogue of Competitiveness, including Knowledge for Development,' component of the Trade Hub's work. Activities to be explored include training, the development and promotion of web-based tools to increase competitiveness, and the promotion of 'Dialogue for Development' through targeted public lectures, closed roundtable discussions, and publications.
- In coordination with the USAID Mission at the Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) in Gaborone, the Trade Hub will be developing a new outreach strategy for which will target a wider scope of contacts in the region and the US, as well as stronger ties with media representatives.

Capacity Building

- Bridget Chilala will meet with the Commonwealth Secretariat Hub and Spokes Management Team to present a concept paper outlining collaborative activities with them in the area of trade data analysis and trade policy in the Southern Africa region. She will also meet with the Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth who is the Chairman for the Hub and Spokes Coordinating Committee. The "Hub and Spokes" Project Coordinating Committee will meet on September 30 to discuss among others the Trade Hub's proposal for collaboration. The Projecting Coordinating Committee has representation from L'Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (AIF), the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), the Commonwealth Secretariat and the European Union.
- Work on Seed Policy Harmonization will continue, and a workshop to discuss and adopt the draft policy will convene in Maputo, Mozambique, in November. SEED Co International has completed its field research and representatives of the company have discussed their findings with Bridget Chilala and Dr. Keith Jefferies, Economic Advisor to the Trade Hub. The findings of this research will be incorporated into a briefing paper which is being prepared for trade officials who have not been involved in previous discussions leading to the development of the legislation. They will then be presented at the workshop in November. Consultations on the need to assist the region with developing a regional framework on intellectual property rights will also continue.
- Having completed desk research to determine which assessments have been conducted on the transport and tourism sectors in Malawi, Bridget Chilala has developed draft terms of reference for work on Trade and Services in the country. In October Ms. Chilala and short-term experts currently being recruited will begin to develop a liberalization strategy for Malawi so as to attract new investment in these sectors.
- Ranga Munyaradzi and Bridget Chilala will continue to liaise with the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) on the presentation of the technical report entitled 'The Economic Impact of Implementing a Regional Customs Bond Guarantee Scheme on Zambian Businesses and the Economy'.
- In response to an invitation by the Trade Law Centre of Southern Africa (TRALAC), Paulina Elago will make a presentation on WTO / EPA (Economic Partnership Agreement) issues at TRALAC's Annual International Trade Law Conference on October 13 and 14 in Cape Town, South Africa. Economic Partnership Agreements will be the main topic of discussion at the event.
- As a follow-up of the presentation of the Namibia Investor Roadmap report on September 23 in Windhoek, Trade Hub consultants will incorporate comments made at the workshop into the report. Furthermore, Sutherland Miller III will prepare a draft action plan that would guide implementation of the recommendations. The Trade Hub will continue to assist the Namibia Investment Center (NIC) with the implementation of the Investor Roadmap recommendations.

Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building (TFCB), cont.



- Sutherland Miller will travel to Swaziland during the first week of October to examine the issue of Value-added Tax (VAT) procedures applicable to Swaziland's exports transiting through South Africa, as well to prepare an assessment of the progress with the implementation of the reforms which were recommended in the Swaziland Investor Roadmap prepared for the Swaziland Investment Promotion Agency (SIPA).
- Paulina Elago will finalize the analysis of the implication of existing bilateral trade agreements concluded between individual SACU member states and third party countries including an evaluation of the extent to which such agreements conform to the provisions of the SACU agreement.

Recent Highlights



Keith Jefferis addresses the audience in a presentation on 'How Trade Liberalization Can Help Revitalize the Cattle and Beef Industry in Botswana'.

Events

- During a meeting on September 1 between the Trade Hub and the South African National Department of Agriculture (NDA) in Pretoria, it was announced that a new import permit had been approved for pineapples from the Ivory Coast. The permit is based on earlier Trade Hub research of quarantine action pests and intellectual property rights for the MD2 variety which is needed by a South African fresh cut fruit processor to maintain its position in an expanding market in Europe. With this new permit, the processor expects to import 50 metric tons of MD2 pineapple from the Ivory Coast per week worth an estimated US\$ 800,000 annually. This is in addition to 50 metric tons per week being sourced from Ghana through a supply channel opened with Trade Hub support in April.
- On September 6, the Trade Hub hosted the Botswana book launch of *Reconfiguring the Compass: South Africa's African Trade Diplomacy*. The editor of the book, Peter Draper, a trade analyst with the South Africa Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), introduced the book which examines South Africa's trade policy-making process and the country's trade relations with the rest of the continent. This stimulated much discussion among the twenty-seven attendees from government, industry, academia, and the press on a multitude of trade issues including South Africa's trade role in the region, the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and regional economic integration in Southern and Eastern Africa.
- Lance Graef, Vice President of International Trade of Nathan Associates, was at the Trade Hub from September 6 to 9 to participate in the launch of Peter Draper's book. He was also a respondent at the Trade Hub's Round table Lunch on the Doha Negotiations / Run-up to Hong Kong and worked with the TFCB Team on the second-year workplan.
- On September 8 the Trade Hub hosted a Business Education Seminar organized by the U.S. Embassy in Gaborone. Panelists included Hagen Maroney of the Commercial Office of the U.S. Embassy in Gaborone, Wanda Barquin of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Foreign Commercial Service Office in Johannesburg, South Africa, and Mukesh Chauhan who represents Apple Computers in Botswana. The seminar was designed to provide the Botswana business community with information on how to source U.S. products and services and how to access trade finance through the Export-Import Bank. Fifty-five members of the business community were present at the event and the lively question and answer session following the formal presentation gave evidence of the existing interest in U.S. products and services.
- On September 9, the Trade Hub held a round table discussion with sixteen representatives of government, academia and the private sector on Botswana's expectations for the upcoming WTO Meetings in Hong Kong. Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Mrs. Ntleteng Masisi, made a presentation on the status of the WTO Doha Negotiations and Botswana's position in those negotiations.

Recent Highlights, cont.



Keith Jefferis addresses the audience in a presentation on 'How Trade Liberalization Can Help Revitalize the Cattle and Beef Industry in Botswana'.

- On September 15 the RCSA and the Trade Hub participated in a ceremony in Washington, DC, where the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health (WISHH) celebrated the signing of a Global Development Alliance (GDA) Project with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). With coordination from the Trade Hub, the GDA Project will be working with local manufacturers in Southern Africa to improve the nutritional profile of locally-processed foods by introducing soy as an ingredient. U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota hosted the signing ceremony which recognized the launch of this unique private-public partnership known as the Soy in Southern Africa Alliance.
- Ms. Bridget Chilala participated in a workshop for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on September 15 and 16 that was organized by the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) entitled "Botswana Trade and Poverty Program". The objectives of the conference were: (1) to raise awareness on trade policy issues and identify ways of improving dialogue between government, private sector and civil society, (2) to identify trade capacity building needs for NGOs, (3) to identify possible areas for policy research on trade and poverty related issues, and (4) to discuss strategies on how to mainstream trade into NGO programs and poverty reduction strategies. The Trade Hub will continue to collaborate with BIDPA for the purpose of supporting activities to raise awareness of trade policy issues and building trade capacity within the private sector and civil society.
- On September 15 John Keyser and Amanda Hilligas gave a presentation to the Namibian Agricultural Trade Forum and the Namibian Manufacturers Association on the Trade Hub and areas for coordination on promoting exports to the United States. The presentation was well attended, received wide coverage by the press, and represented the beginning of a new partnership and coordination between the Trade Hub, the Namibian Agricultural Trade Forum and Namibian Manufacturers Association.
- On September 23, Paulina Elago, Deputy Director of Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building, and Sutherland Miller III, one of the authors of the Namibia Investor Roadmap, presented the findings and recommendations of the Roadmap at a high-level national workshop co-hosted by the Trade Hub, the Ministry of Trade and Industry / Namibia Investment Centre (NIC) and the USAID Mission in Windhoek, Namibia. The event was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Namibia Hon. Nahas Angula, who also served as chair. About 110 participants from the highest levels of government, the private sector and private sector associations, and parastatal organizations attended the workshop. The workshop urged all institutions to commit to serious consideration of the proposed recommendations so that Namibia can remain competitive and improve its ranking on the Africa competitiveness report ranking. Participants recommended that a coordinating mechanism be established to facilitate implementation of the recommendations, an effort with which the Trade Hub will continue to assist.
- At the request of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Namibia, the Trade Hub facilitated a training course on trade data analysis from September 26 to 30 in Windhoek, Namibia. Twenty participants from the Ministries of Trade and Industry, Fisheries, Agriculture, Finance, the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU) attended the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to equip participants with skills in using trade policy analysis tools for policy development purposes and to prepare them for trade negotiations. The Trade Hub facilitated the workshop in collaboration with TRALAC.
- On September 27 the Trade Hub hosted a workshop organized by the U.S. Embassy in Gaborone for representatives from both the government and private sector involved in public and press relations. The seminar - "How to Run an Effective Press Office" - was conducted by Mimi Goss, Public Relations and Press Expert from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, with twenty-two participants in attendance.

Recent Highlights, cont.



Keith Jefferis addresses the audience in a presentation on 'How Trade Liberalization Can Help Revitalize the Cattle and Beef Industry in Botswana'.

- On September 27 the Trade Hub held a stakeholder roundtable in Maputo to discuss the Report on Trade Finance in Mozambique, released to stakeholders for comment last quarter. Nearly 25 representatives from banks, the agricultural sector and the donor community discussed the proposed recommendations on the provision and availability of trade finance in Mozambique, including establishment of a project proposal facility, creation of framework agreements, and improvements to the credit information system and insurance services for trade finance. Alistair Tite, Keith Jefferis, and Lisa Yarmoshuk led the roundtable discussion. The event received extensive local press coverage, including coverage on the evening news. The recommendations will be taken up by the Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CTA), Mozambique's private sector business association.

Projects, Papers, Studies and Other Highlights

- Progress has been made towards gaining market access to the US for litchis from South Africa and Madagascar. The Trade Hub initiated a discussion with the FDA's Office of Food Additive Safety focused on sulfites and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) use as a mold inhibitor on table grapes, which is comparable to its use as a post-harvest fumigant on litchis. The result of these discussions have led to the Trade Hub engaging in a dialogue with the Environmental Protection Agency aimed at getting SO₂ approved as a pesticide and establishing an appropriate maximum residue level.
- Subsequent to the workshop on "A Strategy for Implementation of a Trans Kalahari Corridor (TKC) Pilot Customs Transit Customs Bond Guarantee" held at the Trade Hub on August 30, Ranga Munyaradzi and Des Grimble, Short-Term Customs Transit Specialist, continued to work on the preparation of the implementation of the pilot program scheduled to begin on March 31, 2006, after the legalization of the necessary procedures and regulations. This pilot project is the first of its kind in Southern Africa and is a milestone in regional integration. Once it is successfully piloted in the TKC, it will be rolled-out to other Transport Corridors in the SADC Region, and will be instrumental in the process of achieving regional integration.
- Evans Marowa reviewed and provided inputs for a proposal by the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI) to provide secretariat services to the multilateral and multi-stakeholder institutional framework for managing the Maputo Corridor. The South African Government through the National Department of Transport has agreed to financially support the MCLI in this role.
- Evans Marowa consulted with the SADC Directorate for Infrastructure and Services on the possibility of collaboration among the Trade Hub, SADC, the EU and the Federation of East and Southern African Road Transporters Association (FESARTA) to implement HIV/AIDS projects within the Trans Kalahari and Maputo Corridors. The Trade Hub and FESARTA are preparing a concept note for approval by SADC.
- Lawrence Johnson, CTO USAID/RCSA, Lisa Yarmoshuk, Director of Trade Facilitation and Capacity Building, and Amanda Hilligas, AGOA Advisor, traveled to Antananarivo, Madagascar, at the request of U.S. Ambassador to Madagascar, James D. McGee, to examine the situation with AGOA apparel exports and to recommend mitigation strategies. Trade Hub representatives also met with stakeholders and the Government of Madagascar regarding its recent admission to the Southern African Development Community (SADC).
- From August 31 to September 2 Paulina Elago was in Cape Town to attend an African regional workshop for senior level trade policy makers and trade diplomats from Geneva organized by the Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa (TRALAC) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat.