



Pugmarks of CUTS in Africa

Genesis

Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS International) has been working out of its offices in India, since 1983-84. Having implemented projects on various elements of social and economic policy issues in India, CUTS realised over time that its experience as a civil society organisation (CSO) aiming to influence public policy through research would be vital in evolving an informed civil society in other parts of the developing world as well. The organisation therefore embarked on an ambitious endeavour to establish itself in Africa, to foster greater understanding among African civil society of ways to influence policies that affected livelihoods of the African citizens. A similar approach was also adopted for Asia.

CUTS Africa Resource Centres (CUTS ARCs) were established at Lusaka in 2001, and at Nairobi in 2003 (and at Hanoi in 2007) to promote South-South cooperation on trade and development and strengthen long-term capacity of civil society representatives, media and civil servants to address equity and accountability issues.

Role/Functions

While laying down the foundations of its presence in the continent, CUTS envisaged its Africa centres to carry out the following functions:

- Act as a repository for information on trade and development, competition policy, consumer protection, investment and regulatory policy issues;
- Build local, national and regional capacities of multiple stakeholders (specifically of civil society, business and government) on various elements of sustainable development;
- Undertake research-based-advocacy and capacity building at the national, regional and international levels;
- Promote South-South co-operation on trade and development; and
- Coordinate and implement CUTS regional activities in Africa.

Programmatic Areas

CUTS ARC has been implementing its activities since its establishment on the following programmatic areas:

- Trade and Development
- Competition and Regulatory Policy
- Consumer Protection and Governance
- Investment Climate

CUTS had realised that there was a lack of understanding on these 'contemporary' issues among key stakeholders in Africa.

Activities

CUTS undertakes activities in the above programmatic areas often by combining some of the following elements:

- Policy Research
- Capacity Building and Advocacy
- Coordination and Networking
- Information Dissemination and Outreach

Resources

- Well equipped offices with about ten professional staff (five each in Nairobi and Lusaka)
- A network of local and international experts who the centres regularly consults with, in relation to their work programme
- An advisory board and project-specific advisers (experts/scholars/practitioners) to guide the activities of the Centre
- Support from five programme centres and four resource centres of CUTS spread in India, Hanoi, London and Geneva
- Support of CUTS HO for editing, layouting, documentation, etc.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

Trade and Development

- Poverty Impact of Doha Development Agenda Negotiations**
 Assessed the possible impact of the WTO negotiations for poverty reduction in Zambia.
- Capacity Building for Media Coverage on Trade and Economic Issues in Zambia**
 Created awareness among media representatives in Zambia about the ongoing Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations to enable proper reporting on the process; thereby enhancing their ability to analytically report on trade and development issues.
- Capacity Building of Eastern and Southern African Civil Society during the EPA Negotiations**
 Empowered a broad range of CSOs in six African countries, namely Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi and Zambia to defend their rights and promote their economic interests by feeding their concerns into the negotiation process.
- Understanding Supply-side Capacity and Export Response: Diagnostic Studies in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia**
 Examining factors determining export competitiveness in select sectors in these countries and draw lessons thereof.
- Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (TDP)**
 Explored the linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction by conducting research and lobbying for enabling policy and practice changes, among others, in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia.
- Promoting African Woman's Voice in EPA Negotiations**
 Conducted research in South Africa, Zambia, Kenya and Uganda on the likely impact of the EPAs on women, and on sectors dominated by them; and identify major issues in relation to EPA.
- Trade and Market Linkages Strategy for Small Scale Producers in Eastern Province, Zambia**
 Created awareness about market opportunities and challenges, and capacity building for District Farmers Associations and small scale farmers to effectively influence policy for enhanced production, and market access.

- Capacity Building for the Fast Tracking of East African Common Market**

Undertook consultation and sensitisation, advocacy, networking and capacity building to monitor the East African region before the common market becomes operational.

Competition & Regulatory Policy

- A Comparative Study of Competition Regimes in Seven Selected Countries of the Commonwealth (7Up1)**
 Examined the national and regional understanding of competition regimes, which involved both research and advocacy on competition policy and consumer protection. Among other countries, the project was implemented in South Africa, Zambia, Kenya and Tanzania.
- Capacity Building on Competition Policy in Select Countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (7Up3)**
 Enhanced the understanding among Eastern and Southern African civil society, government and business of the challenges that need to be addressed in order to promote a healthy competition culture in the region. The project was implemented in Botswana, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and Uganda.

Investment Climate

- Investment for Development (IFD)**
 Provided information and understanding to policy-making bodies for designing and implementing investment policies that facilitate development. The project countries, among others, comprised South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia.
- Investment Policy Review of Zambia with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and Government of Zambia**
 Provided a comprehensive review of the policies, legal, regulatory and operational framework that have a bearing on the investment climate in Zambia.

Consumer Protection & Governance

- Competition Policy and Consumer Protection**
 Provided support to consumer organisations in Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Malawi and Mozambique for bringing out reader friendly research documents on competition policy and consumer protection issues in their countries which lead to reforms.



20/06/2008



ONGOING PROJECTS

Trade and Development

- **Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System**
Achieving a better coherence between development and trade policies while advocating for appropriate safety nets in Eastern Africa, viz Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and Southern Africa, viz Malawi and Zambia. (<http://www.cuts-grc.org/FEATS-Projects.htm>)
- **Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) – Aid for Trade to LDCs**
Act as focal point in supporting CSOs to respond to on going policy discussions in the EIF process in Zambia; analyse the Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study (DTIS) of Zambia; and mainstream the rice sector into the EIF processes. (http://www.cuts-international.org/EIF-Newsletter_Vol1-2009.htm)
- **Building an Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC)**
Support a range of CSOs in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi to examine the implications of external trade policies in the context of welfare and livelihoods, and provide a better understanding of challenges and opportunities from Economic Partnership Agreements and regional trade integration. (<http://www.cuts-grc.org/BIEAC-Projects.htm>)
- **Economic Roundtables/Public Forum**
Debate topical social and economic issues in Kenya relevant for national development, growth and welfare.

Competition & Regulatory Policy

- **Strengthening Constituencies for Effective Competition Regimes in Select West African Countries (7Up4 project)**
Develop baseline information on competition issues in seven ECOWAS countries (Anglophone – The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria; and Francophone – Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal and Togo) through the active engagement of CSOs. (<http://www.cuts-ccier.org/7up4/index.htm>)
- **Research Project on Competition Policy and Regulations in the Energy Sector in Kenya**
Assess overlaps in institutional and regulatory frameworks between the competition and energy regulator, and suggest measures for effective cooperation between them.

Outreach & Networking

- Publishing a wide spectrum of material for information dissemination in a reader-friendly format.
- Extremely adept at organising campaigns, meetings, workshops and seminars in the eastern and southern African region.
- A number of CSOs working on competition policy and law issues are member of the network INCSOC (www.incsoc.net), some of these CSOs are also quite active in the areas of trade and development.

Publications



Newsletters

- The Centres publish a flagship newsletter, 'Tradequity' covering news on economic and trade issues in the context of WTO relevant for Africa; an EIF e-Newsletter in Zambia; and two e-newsletters: 'Consumer Watch' and 'Regional Cooperation and Development Monitor' at regional and international levels.

Research Reports

- Investment Policy in Zambia – *Performance and Perceptions*
- Enforcing Competition Law in Zambia
- Foreign Investment Policy and Practice in Zambia
- Services and Investment Liberalisation and Domestic Regulation: *Case Study for Kenya*
- Changing Global Order: *Eastern African Perspective*
- EPAs and Services in 2008 and Beyond – *What Challenges Lie Ahead for ACP?*
- Regulation in Kenya's Electricity and Telecom Sectors

Monographs

- Competition and Consumer Protection in Kenya
- Market Practices in Zambia: *Where do the Consumers Stand?*
- Why is a Competition Law Necessary in Malawi?
- Beyond Rhetoric: Ensuring EPAs Deliver on Development

Policy Briefs

- COMESA Regional Trade Agreements – *The Zambian Experience*
- Investment Policy – Performance and Perceptions: *Case Studies of Tanzania and Zambia*
- Economic Partnership Agreement Negotiations: *Cotonou Undermined*
- PRSP and HIPC Completion Point: *Unravelling Zambian Experience*
- Kenya and the EU: *Can Kenya say No to EPAs?*
- Bridging the Gap: *Towards a Conducive Policy Framework for Socio-Economic Development in Kenya*



Partners in Development



Ford Foundation



MS Zambia



CIDA



Finnish Embassy

What others say



CUTS is the first NGO to have stepped out of its boundaries to work in a poor country in Africa to extend its knowledge and experience on economic policy issues as an 'appropriate technology'. The Zambia Competition Commission (ZCC) has benefited from its association with CUTS, which began in 2000; and has commended CUTS for providing assistance to other developing countries in Africa and Asia on the subject of competition policy and law.

George K Lipimile

Former Executive Director

*Zambia Competition Commission and
now Senior Adviser, UNCTAD*



CUTS has now become an internationally recognised NGO speaking for the interests of consumers in developing countries. It has further expanded its horizon by conducting studies and capacity building programmes in African countries with the establishment of the Africa Resource Centre in 2001, a milestone in CUTS' history as it serves to strengthen and facilitate cooperation among developing countries.

Pamela W.S. CHAN

Former President, Consumers International



The Monopolies and Prices Commission (MPC) of Kenya acknowledges the significant contribution of CUTS in fostering competition culture in Kenya through its advocacy, training and networking activities. CUTS has assisted the Commission and its staff by regularly providing competition-related literature which has helped its staff in building their capacity.

Dr P M Njoroge

Former Commissioner

*Monopolies and Prices Commission and
now Chairman, COMESA Competition Commission*

For more details, contact:

CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Nairobi

Yaya Court, Second Floor, Room No.5, Ring Road Kilimani
P.O.BOX 8188-00200 Nairobi, Kenya
Ph: +254.20.386 214 9, +254.20.386 215 0, +254.20.232 911 2
Email: nairobi@cuts.org
Website: www.cuts-international.org/cuts-arc.htm

CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Lusaka

Suite 4.11, Main Post Office Building
Cairo Road, P.O. Box 37113, Lusaka, Zambia
Ph: +260-1-224992, Fax: +260-1-225220
Email: lusaka@cuts.org
Website: www.cuts-international.org/cuts-arc.htm

Head Office:

Consumer Unity & Trust Society

D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India
Ph: 91-141-228 2821, Fax: 91-141-228 2485, Email: cuts@cuts.org, Website: www.cuts-international.org
Calcutta, Chittorgarh and New Delhi (India); Hanoi (Vietnam); London (UK); Geneva (Switzerland)