

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PROFILES INDIAN OCEAN REGION

ADVOCACY FOR TRADE POLICY



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The International Trade Centre (ITC) is the joint agency of
the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

Street address: ITC 54-56, rue de Montbrillant 1202 Geneva, Switzerland

Postal address: ITC Palais des Nations 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Telephone: +41-22 730 0111

Fax: +41-22 733 4439

E-mail: itcreg@intracen.org

Internet: <http://www.intracen.org>

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Faezah Ibrahimsah, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, wrote this report and is entirely responsible for the views expressed.

The report was written under the overall supervision of Jean-Sébastien Roure, Senior Officer, Business and Trade Policy Section, International Trade Centre. Jean-Sébastien Roure together with Andrew Huelin, Associate Advisor, Business and Trade Policy Section, reviewed draft versions of this report as well as coordinated the writing of this report. Andrew Huelin provided editorial advice for this study, and Isabelle Jouve, Associate Programme Adviser, Business and Trade Policy, enhanced the stylistic presentation.

For any comments, questions and/or suggestions please contact:

Business and Trade Policy Team. ITC - E-mail: jouve@intracen.org

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Introduction

ITC has recently completed studies which identify business associations in selected African regions and gauge their capacity and areas of interest on trade policy issues and business advocacy. This study focusses on the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) region, with the findings providing key insights into the state of business advocacy and public-private dialogue in the region. The specific objectives of the studies were to:

- Identify the national and regional business associations that are currently engaged in dialogue with their respective national government and/or regional governing bodies on trade policy issues, or have the potential and interest to become more engaged;
- Identify the needs, weaknesses/strengths and priorities of the associations. Moreover, for each of the associations, information was detailed on business advocacy activities carried out; the means available to advocate; the specific trade policy areas of interest, and; the geographic focus of their advocacy (i.e. national, regional or international level).

Why a need for business perspective in trade policy?

ITC supports public-private dialogue for national and regional trade policy decision making owing to the immense benefits it can bring. Governments that recognize the constraints faced by the private sector tend to develop reasonable prioritization plans and workable reforms. Trade policy decisions and negotiation strategies refined through a consultative process that engages legislators, business groups and civil society are frequently more effective. This dialogue ensures that trade policies are better attuned to the commercial environment, which makes the policies more broadly endorsed and sustainable.

Public-private dialogue can help government tap into the experience of firms, a potentially valuable resource for designing public policies. The effectiveness of economic policies would be significantly enhanced if the private sector could provide policymakers with the information they need to anticipate the likely impact of policy changes.

There are myriad different sectors, approaches and actors that governments could choose to prioritize for assistance and policy reforms. Governments must determine which sectors and regulatory reform issues are the major stumbling blocks to effective trade, and devise plans accordingly. Collaborating with the private sector gives policymakers the information they need to set priorities.

As such, ITC brings public and private stakeholders together in a structured process to find solutions for issues affecting business performance and exports.

African regional integration and business advocacy

A particular focus of the mapping exercise was to better understand the current and potential level of capacity and interest of the business associations to engage on policy issues particular to their region and specific integration process. This is of particular relevance owing to the African Union's decision to fast track the African Continental Free Trade Area to be completed by 2017 by consolidating sub-African regional integration initiatives. The growth of intra-African trade is seen as the foundation of a stronger and more sustainable economic growth and as a way to drive Africa's EPA negotiations and its engagement with the WTO.

Within this context, ITC is encouraging businesses to identify core issues that inhibit regional trade and in mounting well-informed and structured advocacy campaigns at regional and national levels. Additionally, ITC is providing support to business associations to advocate more effectively in this context.

Next steps

Through this mapping exercise, ITC has been able to draw conclusions on both the environment for public-private dialogue of trade policy issues within the nations and sub-regions as well as assess the capacity and interest of each association to engage in advocacy on trade policy. The findings of the studies will help ITC in defining areas where technical assistance needs to be provided to ensure a better informed trade policy formulation process based on strong input from the private sector.

It is envisaged that the mapping exercise, which is the first such comprehensive effort of such a nature, will be updated on a regular basis as well as similar studies be undertaken in other African sub-regions.

Study details

The study has been carried out in 2011 in the following countries: Comoros Islands, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.¹ 34 national business associations and one regional private sector association have been contacted for the survey, and 25 responses were attained. In addition to the written responses received, for most associations, further follow-up interviews were undertaken to gather, or clarify information. A site visit was conducted in Madagascar to attain the views of the business associations.²

Section I presents a brief summary of the findings derived from the questionnaires sent to business associations.

Section II includes an analytical profile of each business association; concentrating on business advocacy activities carried out, means available to promote their members interests, the specific trade policy areas of interest and a brief assessment of their capacity to effectively participate in public private dialogue on policy issues.

Section III presents a narrative description of the outcome of the survey for each business association.

¹ Note: Réunion Island, although a Member of the IOC, has not been involved given it is a "Département d'Outre-Mer".

² Annex 1 provides the list of organizations which have been approached.

Section I - Background

Business advocacy in the IOC

The regional framework

The IOC is a regional organization grouping four African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP States), that being, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, and one ultra-peripheral region of the European Union (EU) (Reunion, an overseas department of France). Set up in 1984, the IOC's main objective is to strengthen the links between the peoples of its member states and to promote cooperation in a number of areas including economy and trade.

In terms of development, these islands are not all on an equal footing and are in fact at various levels very far apart. Réunion, an ultra-peripheral region, is part of the developed world. Comoros and Madagascar are Members of the Group of Least Developed Countries, Seychelles and Mauritius are Middle Income Countries. It is felt that regional cooperation and integration is the key to greater cohesion and to closing disparity gaps.

The IOC's activities are financed by a significant aid package from the EU. Further activities are financed by organizations like the African Development Bank, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the World Bank and the United Nations agencies.

Public-private dialogue at IOC level

The private sector of the IOC is often invited to participate in activities organized by the IOC. Private sector representatives are invited to workshops, seminars and trade negotiations to express their views and to make proposals to be submitted to the relevant authorities. In many cases and depending on the approach taken by the countries to private sector involvement, often only government officials are nominated to attend these events.

In Mauritius, the situation is different. Given the good relations which exist between the government and the private sector, the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) is invited to attend events where trade and related issues are raised.

Since 1988, initiatives have been undertaken by the IOC to promote interaction between the private sector and the region's governments. The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Indian Ocean (FCCIIOI) comprising the chambers of commerce of the five member states was set up to act as the region's sole private sector representative 'body' to dialogue with the relevant authorities in order to promote trade within the region.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of financial resources, the FCCIIOI was unable to function to the extent required, and ceased existing in 1994.

Formation of the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UCCIIOI) in 2005

Given the major development namely the launching of a Preferential Trade Area, which was taking place in the IOC region, it was felt that there was a need to form a regional association to replace the defunct FCCIIOI which would be the interface at the IOC level for all issues pertaining to the private sector. In October 2005 the UCCIIOI was launched during the first meeting of the Forum Economique des Iles de l'Océan indien (FEIOI) in Antananarivo, Madagascar. The objectives of the UCCIIOI are to promote trade in the IOC countries. The UCCIIOI is registered in Mauritius.

Strengthening of the role of UCCIIOI at the regional level

In 2007, the UCCIIOI was officially recognized as the umbrella organization of the private sector which acts as the interface with the IOC, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Secretary-General of the IOC, and the President of the UCCIIOI during the third meeting of the FEIOI in BalACLava, Mauritius.

Since then, regular dialogues have been held between the two organizations. The UCCIIOI is also invited to all meetings organized by the IOC where issues relating to trade are discussed. Owing to the success of the FEIOI initiative, regular interactions have been organized since 2007 by the UCCIIOI in collaboration with the IOC. In addition to the organized meeting, the views of the UCCIIOI are sought by the IOC on various issues whenever a development/problem occurs. For instance, UCCIIOI was invited to a meeting on "Iles Vanille" organized by the Tourism Authorities of the IOC countries.

Another example: the UCCIIOI was invited by the IOC to form part of the "Mission de médiation" in the context of the political instability in Madagascar in 2009.

A follow-up of all issues raised and proposals made is being conducted by the UCCIIOI. Meetings are held between the Members of the UCCIIOI regularly and discussions are held on the issues identified. Proposals are also made to the IOC.

Section II - Key finding

Regional level

At the regional level, it is well recognized that a private sector led platform aimed at formulating and expressing the views of the private sector in relation to trade policy is required. 18 national organizations out of 25 surveyed stated that they firmly believed that a regional organization is a major component in the enhancement of trade in the region, particularly regarding the major developments which are taking place at the regional level.

From the survey, it is felt that there is a consensus among all the national organizations of the different countries that the UCCIIOI is the most legitimate platform which represents the interests of the private sector at the IOC level. Beyond the IOC, there are broader private sector initiatives that exist at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) levels of which some national associations surveyed are members.

Membership of the UCCIIOI comprises only the respective national chambers of commerce and industry of each Member State; that is the Union des Chambres de Commerce et d'Agriculture des Comores, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Madagascar, Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de la Réunion, Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Mayotte and Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The process for raising issues typically follows the following process: Should a sectoral association have any pertinent issue to be addressed it will discuss the issue at the UCCIIOI level, which in turn will raise the issue with the relevant authorities.

Business organizations feel that UCCIIOI should be strengthened. 90% of the organizations surveyed were of the view that the UCCIIOI should have permanent staff and a structured secretariat, as opposed to the present situation in which the functioning of the UCCIIOI is conducted mostly by the President himself on a voluntary basis.

Sectoral organizations are of the view that there are many issues (standardization, movement of goods and persons, non-tariff barriers, etc.) that require greater private sector involvement in regional policy decision-making forums as well as follow-up of policies implemented. Effective participation on these issues requires significant financial and technical resources, and, as such, business organization considers a well-resourced permanent structure is needed to represent private sector interests.

So as to operate with greater effectiveness, some business organizations have suggested that it is essential that UCCIIOI's membership increases beyond only the presently six national chambers of commerce and industry. This proposal has been made by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Antananarivo, FIVMPAMA and the Groupement des Opérateurs des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication de Madagascar

Other institutions, namely the Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs de l'île Maurice, Outsourcing and Telecommunications Association of Mauritius, Office National du Tourisme, Groupement des Exportateurs de Litchis de Madagascar, Syndicat des Industries de Madagascar, Groupement des Entreprises de Madagascar, Groupement des Entreprises Franches et Partenaires, Syndicat National pour le Développement de la Pêche, and the Association des Bijoutiers des Comores are of the view that sectoral issues can be addressed by the existing organization, the UCCIIOI. Even if the sectoral associations are not Members of the UCCIIOI. Moreover, they all express that there should be a strengthening of the present structure - including allowances for permanent staff – so as to better fulfill the organization mandate as the coordinating body and voice for all private sector issues at regional level.

Business advocacy capacity of organizations per country

	Strong	Average	Weak
Comoros	Union des Chambres de Commerce et d'Agriculture	Syndicat National des Commerçants Comoriens Syndicat National des Agriculteurs Comoriens	
Mauritius	Joint Economic Council Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs de l'Île Maurice Outsourcing and Telecommunications Association of Mauritius	Association of Mauritian Manufacturers Association Professionnelle des Transitaires	
Madagascar	Groupement des Entreprises Malgache Fédération des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie	Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie d'Antananarivo Groupement des Opérateurs des Technologies, de l'Information et de la Communication Groupement des Exportateurs de Litchis de Madagascar Syndicat des Industries de Madagascar Groupement des opérateurs malgaches Groupement des Entreprises Franches et Partenaires	
Seychelles	Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Small Enterprise Promotion Agency	

The most pressing issues for private sector stakeholders

Survey respondents indicated that the most pressing trade policy issues for the private sector in the IOC region are regional integration, rules of origin (ROO), non-tariff barriers (NTBs), market access and trade in services.

Regional integration

Most of the organizations surveyed considered regional integration to be a priority. Free movement of goods and free movement of persons will allow an increase in the volume of trade in the region.

RoO

Issues concerning rules of origin have been identified by a large number of associations whose members are in the import/export sector, namely FIVMPAMA, Groupement des Entreprises Franches et partenaires, Union des Chambres de Commerce et d'Agriculture des Comores, Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture.

NTBs and market access

Issues concerning NTBs and market access have been raised by organizations whose members are faced with constraints to promote their products in foreign markets, particularly those in the agriculture sector. The following organizations have highlighted the issue: Groupement des Exportateurs de Litchis, Syndicat des Industriels de Madagascar, Groupement des Entreprises Malagaches, Fédération des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie, Union des Chambres de Commerce et d'Agriculture des Comores, Syndicat des Agriculteurs Comoriens and Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Services

It is felt that there are constraints in the services sector, particularly in the information and communications technology (ICT) and tourism sectors. Some of the specific issues included:

Tourism:

- Air access policy has been identified as a major issue by Association des Hôteliers et des Restaurateurs de l'île Maurice and the Office National du Tourisme of Madagascar. There is only one airline which serves Mayotte and the tariffs are very high. As far as Madagascar is concerned, there are only 2 international flights. One to Paris and the second one to Shanghai.
- Visas

ICT

Outsourcing and Telecommunications Association of Mauritius and Groupement des Opérateurs en Technologie de l'Information et de la Communication express the wish that there is an appropriate legislative framework which can consolidate relations between ICT operators. No proper legislation on ICT exists in Madagascar for the time being.

Constraints of business associations

Business associations typically considered their participation in trade policy formulation to be constrained in the following main ways:

A lack of technical skilled staff

Most of the organizations have a limited number of staff to deal with the numerous issues both at the national and regional levels.

All countries, and in particular Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros, expressed the need to have more trained staff, specialized in trade issues, and with the ability to advocate competently with government authorities.

A lack of financial resources

Almost all organizations are financed by membership contributions. Although some have certain commercial activities, financial resources are very limited to effectively engage in advocacy. Thus financially resource intensive activities, such as participation in international negotiations namely the Economic Partnership Agreement and COMESA are commonly considered not feasible.

Some organizations in Madagascar and Comoros expressed the wish to develop income-generating activities, but required assistance to do so.

Difficulties in circulating information regarding regional and international trade developments to members

A number of business organizations within the region (particularly those in Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles) have highlighted a general lack of information on trade developments that are taking place at the regional and international levels. Consequently it is difficult to engage members in issues that may be of interest to solicit their feedback as well as advocate upon.

Information usually remains at the level of the government officers. It is only when there is a problem at the level of export/import that clarifications are sought at the level of the Ministry concerned, the information is not systematically transmitted to operators. In some countries, Comoros for instance traders do not have the necessary IT infrastructure.

Business organizations have expressed the following main needs:

A better access to trade and business information. This implies that they need to have the necessary infrastructure (IT equipment, internet facilities, etc.) trained staff to filter and disseminate appropriate information, etc.

Setting up or upgrading of member databases so as to send regular newsletters and developments of interest to members.

Section III - Analytical profile of each business organizations

MAURITIUS



Source: Flickr

L'Union des CCI de l'Océan Indien (UCCIOI)

S/C Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie de Maurice
 3 rue Royale, Port-Louis – Tel: (230 208 3301 – Fax : (230) 208 0076 –
 Email: mcci@intnet.mu

Date of foundation: 2005

Number of secretariat staff: 0

Number of staff dedicated to advocacy:

Languages spoken: English, French, Creole

Interests represented: Chambers of Commerce of Mauritius, Reunion, Malagasy, Comoros, Mayotte and Seychelles

Mission of the organization: promote the interests of the private sector of Indian Ocean Region (Trade, services, tourism, transport).

Senior members of the secretariat: 0

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

UCCIOI has gained notoriety since its formation in 2005. It is now recognized as the private sector organization of the Indian Ocean Region. The President participates in meetings of the IOC to voice the concerns of the private sector in the region. It organises each year the "Forum Economique des Iles" which is an excellent platform for government and private sector representatives to meet and discuss.

Issues raised: Standards in the region, international financing, ICT, regional integration, free movement of persons in the IOC Region, air access policies

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Meetings with the relevant ministries in each country and the IOC; position papers; Forum Economique des Iles.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Regional integration
 Economic partnership agreements
 SPS/TBT
 Trade in services: tourism, transport

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The UCCIOI was set up in 2005 to promote the interests of the private sector at the regional level. The organisation is actively engaged on a range of issues. It is invited to all meetings organised by the IOC. Discussions between the President of the UCCIOI and the Secretary General of the IOC are held regularly.

However, the UCCIOI has limited resources in terms of staff and finance. There is not a permanent secretariat, able to follow-up on all issues raised. The work is currently done by the President.

The UCCIOI has also financial constraints as it is solely reliant on membership fees as revenue, which is limited, and has not previously benefited from donor organisation. Participation in international meetings is difficult.

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong:

Average: **X**

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	10%
Regional level	90%
International level	0%

Joint Economic Council

Plantation House, Place d'Armes, Port-Louis
Tel: 213 0990 – Email: jec@intnet.mu – Website: www.jec-mauritius.org

Date of foundation: 1970

Number of secretariat staff: 2

Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 1

Languages spoken: English, French, Creole

Interests represented: The JEC is the apex organization of the private sector in Mauritius. Its membership comprises of private sector organizations, including Commerce, industry, tourism, banking, insurance, agriculture

Mission of the organization: Promote the interests of the private sector in Mauritius.

Key members

Private sector organizations: Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, Mauritius Employers' Federation

Senior members of the secretariat

Mr. Raj Makoond, Director
Email: jec@intnet.mu

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

The JEC participates at very high-level meetings with the government and at international level.

JEC has engaged in advocacy of the following and other issues:

- EPA negotiations
- SADC Trade Protocole which has led to an increase on exports of textile products to South Africa
- COMESA
- Local issues relating to socio-economic development of Mauritius
- Labour law reforms
- Corporate tax

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Government / private sector meetings/dialogues, position policy papers/studies. Joint promotional activities, representation on government committees.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Regional integration (COMESA – SADC)

EPAs

NTBs

Market access (through preferences)

Trade in services

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

As the apex organisation for representing the private sector in Mauritius, JEC is very well positioned.

The JEC represents its members at high-level meetings with government. Its views are taken into consideration. It is also involved in the formulation of national development strategies. The JEC is represented on various national committees.

However, there is only one permanent staff member (the Director). Owing to a shortage of capacity, issues arising are often entrusted to the relevant organizations for follow-up. For instance, to deal with the Ministries on EPA related issues, the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry and/or the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture will be entrusted with the 'dossiers'.

The JEC has not previously benefited from assistance from donors.

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong: **X**

Average:

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	80%
Regional level	10%
International level	10%

Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry

3, Royal Street, Port-Louis, Mauritius – Tel: (230) 208 3301 – Fax: (230) 208 0076
Email: mcci@intnet.mu – Website: www.mcci.org

Date of foundation: January 1850

Number of secretariat staff: 60

Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 7

Languages spoken: English, French, Creole

Interests represented: Large and medium companies. Main sectors include: commerce, industry, banking, insurance, tourism, ICT, transport and logistics

Key members : Rogers Co. Ltd. Food and Allied Industries Ltd. Innodis/Espitalier-Noël Ltd, Currimjee Jeewanjee Co. Ltd.

Senior members of the secretariat

Mr. Mahmood Cheeroo

mcheeroo@mcci.intnet.mu

Mr. Barlen Pillay

bpillay@mcci.intnet.mu

Mrs. Sarada Moothoosamy

smoothoosamy@mcci.intnet.mu

Mrs. Rooma Narrainen

rnarrainen@mcci.intnet.mu

Mr. Hamid Jhumka

hjk@mcci.intnet.mu

Mr. Ashraf Joomun

ashrafj@etudes-superieures.org

Mr. Anwar Kaidoo

akaidoo@mcci.intnet.mu

Ms. Faeza Ibrahimsah

fibrahimsah@mcci.intnet.mu

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

The MCCI is represented on a number of national joint committees. It expresses its views through dialogues with the relevant ministries. It also presents position papers to the government on specific issues. It participates in international negotiations at the SADC, COMESA, EPA and IOC level. It also forms part of official trade and investment promotion missions, usually led by government minister.

Some examples of activities carried out include the following:

National economic policy orientations;
Local trade issues, such as the legal enactment of trade policies (anti-dumping and countervailing measures);
Studies on the electronic submission of

documents for improved customs procedures
Corporate Social Responsibility

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Dialogues with ministries, position papers, meetings, forums etc.
Representation on committees and promotional activities.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

WTO, SADC, COMESA, IOC

Regional integration

EPAs

Preferential trade agreement

Trade in services

Industrial policy

Investments

Intellectual property

Competition

Trade remedies

Other trade related issues

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The MCCI has qualified staff who are dedicated to advocacy. It is represented on various committees at government level. It is involved in the elaboration of policies (local and international). Its views are taken into consideration by government.

Technical assistance received from ITC, PRO INVEST (SOPSED)

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong: **X**

Average:

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	50%
Regional level	25%
International level	25%

Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture

PLANTATION HOUSE, PORT LOUIS
 Tel: (230) 208 0747, 230 211 3031 - Email: mca312@intnet.mu - Website:
 chamberofagriculture.mu

Date of foundation: 1853

Number of secretariat staff: 3
 Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 2

Languages spoken: English, French, Creole

Interests represented: Agricultural, (excluding fish) sugar millers, cane growers, cooperatives, food producers

Senior members of the secretariat

Mr. Jocelyn Kwok
 Email: mca312@intnet.mu
 Mr. Laurent Law

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

The MCA's main activities are centered around:

- Defending the local agricultural sector
- Providing policy and strategic insights into agricultural development in Mauritius and in the region.

The MCA formal meetings and dialogues with the government, ministries and agencies, private sector organizations, regulatory bodies and regional and international organizations.

Issues addressed: All issues falling under the trade policy and promotion mandate and development cooperation.

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Institutional dialogue, permanent forums, direct consultations at the highest level, position/policy paper, studies

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST ,

Regional integration (COMESA, SADC, IOC)
EPAs
Rules of origin

Trade in agricultural products. In particular, the diversification of export markets; protection of sensitive industries; securing improved market access

Special and differential treatment for Small and Island Developing States

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The MCA is a strong and dynamic organization. It promotes its members' views through meetings with the relevant authorities. It also presents studies/policy papers to the government. There are good working relations between the government and the MCA.

MCA also participates in high-level international negotiations such as ESA/EU, COMESA, SADC, IOC

On the other hand, the MCA faces some constraints relating to funding and keeping members informed on issues. A lack of coordination has also been noted among public institutions. There are often contradictory views on some issues from one Ministry to another. For instance, the Ministry of Agriculture can approve a decision. Whereas, the Ministry of International Trade has an opposite view.

MCA has not previously benefited from assistance from donor organizations.

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong: **X**

Average:

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	70%
Regional level	20%
International level	10%

Association of Mauritian Manufacturers

c/o MCCI, 3 Royal Street, Port-Louis
Tel: 208 3301 – Fax: 208 0076 – Email: amm@mcci.intnet.mu

Date of foundation: 1995

Number of secretariat staff: The Secretariat is hosted by the MCCI

Number of staff dedicated to advocacy:

The President

Languages spoken: English, French, Creole

Interests represented: large companies in the industry sector

follow-up on issues raised with the Ministries. The Secretariat is being hosted by the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Its financial resources are also limited. Its only source of revenue is from membership fees.

The association, Owing to a cooperation agreement it has entered into with Association pour le Développement industriel de la Réunion counterpart in Réunion Island, it is hoped that it will benefit from Reunion funds to implement projects on energy and transport.

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

AMM has had formal meetings with government agencies and relevant ministries on the following issues:

- Non-tariff barriers
- Strengthening of public/private sector dialogue

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong:

Average: **X**

Weak:

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS: PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Meetings with relevant Ministries are held. Position paper on diverse policy issues and letters conveying the views of its members are presented to government to present members' views.

Trade missions are also organised

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	90%
Regional level	0%
International level	10%

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Market access

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

AMM has been set up with the objective of promoting the local manufacturing sector. Meetings are held with the relevant ministries. AMM is a member of the Joint Economic Council (JEC). As such, it advocates in the interests of the industry sector at JEC level.

AMM is limited in its capacity to advocate due to a shortage of resources. There is no permanent staff to manage the day-to-day running of the association as well as

Association des hôteliers et restaurateurs de l'île Maurice

5th Floor, Barkly Wharf, Caudan Waterfront - Port Louis
 Tel: 211 5630 – Email: ahrim@intnet.mu – Website: <http://www.mauritiustourism.org/>

Date of foundation: 1973

Number of secretariat staff: 5
 Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 1

Languages spoken: English, French, Creole

Interests represented: Hotels, restaurants (small, medium and large)

Mission of the organization: To promote the interest of members in line with government policies relating to the tourism sector.

Senior members of the secretariat

Mr. Patrice Legris
 Email: ceo.ahrim@intnet.mu

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

AHRIM is a very dynamic organization. It works in close collaboration with the ministries to promote Mauritius as a tourist destination. Its views are taken into consideration in the elaboration of policies on tourism.

It has benefited from the following organizations:

- The Commonwealth Secretariat for the design of an eco-friendly best practices in the hotel and restaurant sector
- Centre pour le Développement de l'Entreprise, Energy audits

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

Meetings are held regularly with the relevant Ministries.

Issues raised:

- Facilitation of movement of tourists in the region
- Possibility of setting up a triangular package for tourists visiting Mauritius, Reunion and South Africa
- Maurice without Passport for the European tourists

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong: **X**

Average:

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	70%
Regional level	20%
International level	10%

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Meetings and formal dialogues with the relevant ministries, representation on national committees, policy papers, etc.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST ,

- Regional integration
- Free movement of persons
- Trade in services
- Policy issues in relation to the tourism sector

Outsourcing and Telecommunications Association of Mauritius

C/o The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 3 Royal Street, Port Louis
 Tel: (230) 208 3301 – Fax: (230) 208 0076 – Email: secretariat@mcci.intnet.mu
 Website: www.otam.mu

Date of foundation: 2004

Number of secretariat staff: The Secretariat is hosted by the MCCI

Number of staff dedicated to advocacy:

President and Secretary

Languages spoken: English, French, Creole

Interests represented: Companies in the ICT sector of all sizes

Mission of the organization: to promote business friendly and competitive environment conducive to the growth of the ICT industry in Mauritius.

Senior members of the secretariat:

Mr. Barlen Pillay
 bpillay@mcci.intnet.mu

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

Meetings are held with the National Computer Board, the Board of Investment and the Ministry of ICT.

Some issues discussed :

- Decrease in the cost of traditional bandwidth services.
- Setting up a special purpose vehicle to ensure a second undersea cable link
- Occupational permits by BOI lowered from Rs 75000 to Rs 45000
- Training programme in collaboration with the government

Policy issues in relation to a specific sector: Partnership with other ICT organizations in the region, namely GOTICOM, ARTIC and other organizations in Africa. National/regional policies supporting the development of the ICT sector For instance: policies regarding transfer of knowledge and recruitment of foreigners in the sector.

Trade in services

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

OTAM has good working relations with the government. No particular constraints noted.

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong: **X**

Average:

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	90%
Regional level	5%
International level	5%

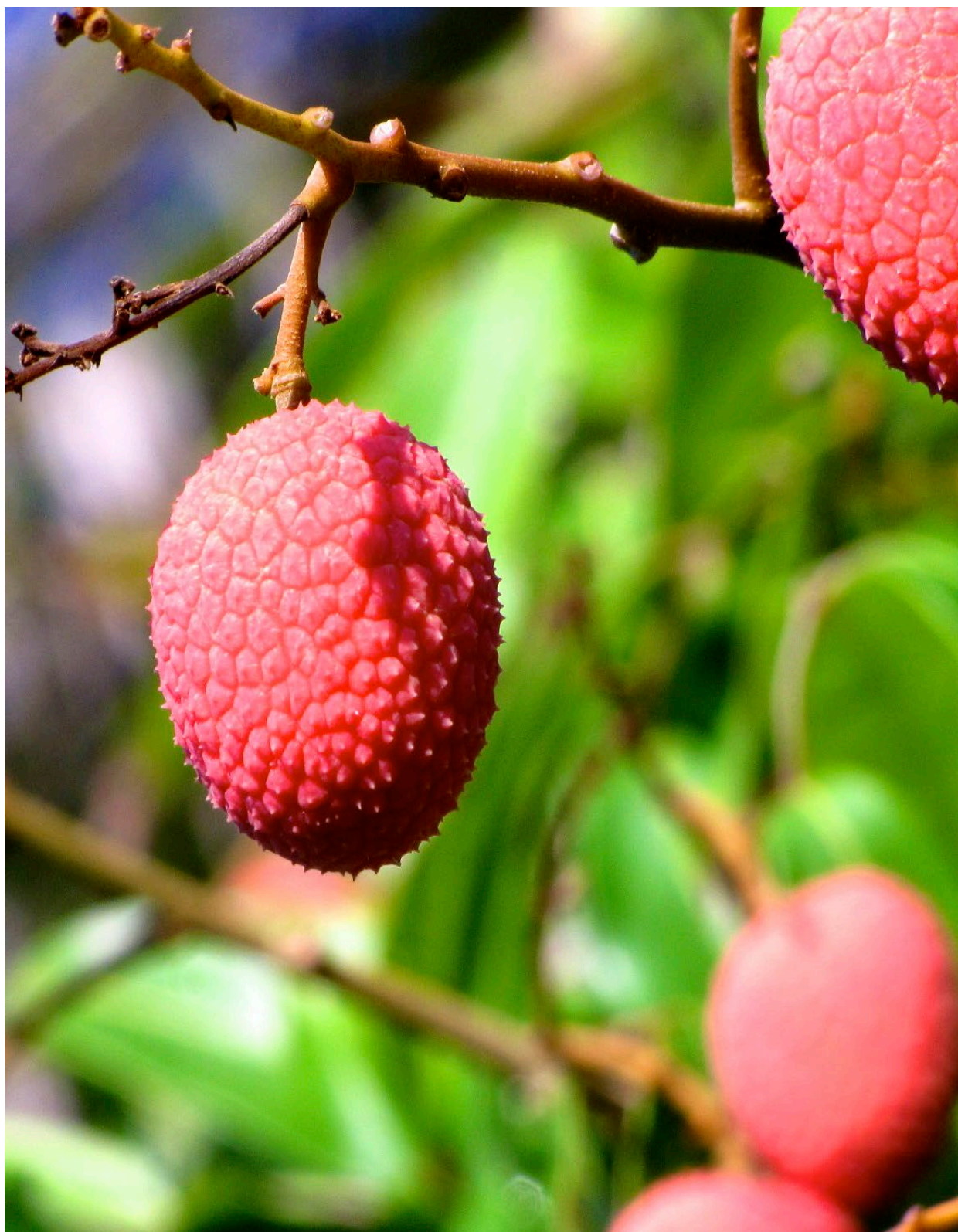
MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS

Meetings with the relevant ministries. Position papers are presented to the authorities, letters and e-communications.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Regional integration

MADAGASCAR



Source: Flickr

Groupement des Entreprises de Madagascar

Kianja MDRM sy Tia Tanindrazana, Ambohitovo, Antananarivo, 101, Madagascar.

Tel: 261 20 22 238 41 - E-mail: gem@iris.mg

Website: www.gem-madagascar.com

Date of foundation: 1975

Number of secretariat staff: 8.

Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: .2

Languages spoken: French, Malagasy

Interests represented: Companies (all sectors) and most associations (all sectors)

Senior members of the secretariat

Mme. Zinah RASAMUEL RAVALOSON

Secrétaire Générale

Email: gem@iris.mg

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

GEM participates at meetings to discuss with the government issues raised by the members.

Issues discussed:

Labour law, customs, Health/sanitary issues, energy, EPA, business environment, regional integration, exports of agro products, exports of seafood

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Meetings/dialogues/policy papers.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST ,

Regional integration (COMESA, SADC)

EPAs

Business environment

Trade in services

SPS

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

GEM is a respected organization. Its concerns are taken into consideration by the government. However, due to a lack of resources, GEM's advocacy capacity is limited. Very often, it is a representative of a particular sector which speaks on behalf of GEM. There are constraints regarding follow-up of issues raised with the government. In 2009 GEM benefited from a World Bank programme aimed at better integrating SMEs into association, and an ILO programme aimed at strengthening the associations institutional capacity.

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong: **X**

Average:

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	80%
Regional level	10%
International level	10%

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Antananarivo

20, Rue Henry Razanatsehéno, Antaninarenina, Antananarivo 101,
Tel: (261) 20 22 202 11/ 12, Email: dg.tnr@cci.m, Website: www.cci.org

Date of foundation: 1920

Number of secretariat staff: 120 (The majority are in logistics)

Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 2

Languages spoken: French, Malagasy

Interests represented:

All sectors related to commerce, industry and services (Large, medium and small enterprises)

Senior members of the secretariat:

Jacky RANDRIAMASY

Director General

Email: dg.tnr@cci.mg

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Although the organisation participates in meetings and discusses with the relevant ministries on specific issues, its resources are limited.

Support has been received from:

- A 5 year action plan has been defined by Fonds International de développement agricole
- Assistance has also been received from the Agence Française de Développement

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

Meetings are held with relevant ministries to discuss specific issues. Position papers and letters are sent to the authorities concerned.

Issues: Legislation on finance, customs, standards, reduction in VAT

Participates in regional events like the Forum Economique des Iles de l'Océan indien.

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong:

Average: **X**

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	70%
Regional level	15%
International level	15%

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Meetings with relevant ministries, dialogues and presentation of position papers.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Regional integration

Investments

Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Madagascar

20, Rue Razanatsehéno, Antananarenina, Antananarivo 101,
Tel: (261) 34 47 101 62/ 20 22 213 22, Email: dg.fcci@cci-madagascar.org / federation@cci-madagascar.org

Date of foundation: 1956

Number of secretariat staff: 6

Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 2.

Languages spoken: French, Malagasy

Interests represented: All sectors

Key members:

All Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Madagascar

Senior members of the secretariat:

Mrs. Monah Andriambalo

Email: dg.fcci@cci-madagascar.org

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

FCCI is represented on various national committees, such as

- Trade remedies
- National Standards office,
- Commission on Customs and Conciliation (tackles issues like trade policy, trade promotion and standards).

The organization also participates in meetings where issues of national, regional and international interest are discussed.

FCCI is also participating in the technical meetings of the UCCIOI as well as those organized by the Tripartite Private Sector Working Group, involving the following issues:

- Tripartite FTA,
- COMESA – EAC – SADC
- Campaign on unfair trade practices in specific sectors
- Further regional integration matters

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Meetings and dialogues with the relevant ministries, position papers and participation in national events and international events with regards to trade and investment promotion.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Regional integration

EPAs

Rules of origin
Trade facilitation
SPS
NTBs

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

FCCI is a federation whose membership comprises the 22 regional chambers of commerce of Madagascar. FCCI is a multi-sectoral association which has to deal with almost all issues.

Although FCCI is represented on many committees, it is felt that there is a lack of resources to conduct its activities in an efficient manner.

Similarly, all regional chambers of commerce do not have the same facilities. For instance, some have good databases, while others cannot afford to compile basic information on their members.

FCCI is working under the FIDA programme 2008-2015 (Programme de Soutien aux Pôles de micro-entreprises rurales et aux économies régionales). It is also receiving support from the UNDP for a capacity building programme (2010-2012).

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong: **X**

Average:

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	70%
Regional level	15%
International level	15%

Groupement des Opérateurs des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication de Madagascar

20, rue Henry Razanatseho, Antaninarenina – Antananarivo – 101
 Tel: (261) 20 22 202 11 / 12 - Email: gilrz@gmail.com
 Website: www.cci.mg

Date of foundation: 2000

Number of secretariat staff: 2
 Number of staff dedicated to advocacy:
 This job is entrusted to the President

Languages spoken: French, Malagasy

Interests represented:

ICT Sectors and all related sectors. Large, medium and small companies

Key members:

Six major IT companies in Madagascar

the following organizations:-

- AFD
- World Bank and capacity building for PRO-INVEST

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong:	
Average:	X
Weak:	

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

Regular meetings and dialogues are held with the relevant ministries and government. GOTICOM participates also in trade negotiations at the regional level.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	60%
Regional level	20%
International level	20%

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Meetings and dialogues are held with Ministries. Sometimes, press campaigns are also conducted to express concerns of the sector.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST ,

WTO
Regional integration
EPA
ICT regulatory framework

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

GOTICOM deals with a relatively new sector for the country. It is represented on committees where ICT issues are raised. It does not have a permanent staff able to engage in advocacy and follow-up of issues raised. This task is being conducted by the president or committee members.

GOTICOM has obtained assistance from

Groupement des Exportateurs de Litchis de Madagascar

13, rue de la Réunion Isoraka - Antananarivo 101
 Tel: (261) 20 22 283 36 – Email: madscri@wanadoo.mg – Website: www.gelmada.com

Date of foundation: 2001

Number of secretariat staff: 0
 Number of staff dedicated to advocacy:
 This is done by Committee Members

Languages spoken: French, Malagasy

Senior members of the secretariat
 Rakotondrahova Simon, President
 madscri@wanadoo.mg

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

The GEL holds meetings with relevant authorities to express its concerns.

Some issues previously discussed, include: the dosage of sulphur as preservatives for litchis exported to the German market;

Supply control of litchis and fixing of quantity of litchis due to be exported so that prices do not fall.

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Regular meetings / dialogues with operators and with the ministries.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Sanitary and phyto sanitary measure

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The GEL does not have a permanent staff able to engage in advocacy, identify issues and make a thorough follow-up. Such activities are being conducted by committee members and are mostly dealt with on ad hoc basis.

The GEL has benefited from the COLE-ACP programme.

It has also benefited from EUREPA in 2007 (World Bank).

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong:

Average: **X**

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	70%
Regional level	15%
International level	15%

Syndicat des Industries de Madagascar

1 bis, rue Patrice Lumumba, B.O. : 1695 Antananarivo
 Tel: 261 22 240 07 – Email: syndusmad@moov.mg
 Website: www.sim.mg

Date of foundation: 1958

Number of secretariat staff: 6

Languages spoken: French, Malagasy

Interests represented

Large companies in the Industry Sector and Associations

Senior members of the secretariat

Claude Ratefiarisoa
 Executive Director
 Email: syndusmad@moov.mg

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

SIM is represented on various committees which elaborate strategic plans for the industry sector. It also presents papers to the government. Meetings are also organized with the ministries concerned.

Issues: Customs tariffs, fiscal issues, business friendly environment.

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Dialogues and meetings with Government ministers and officials.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST ,

Regional integration
EPAs
Harmonisation of standards and of regulations
Customs tariffs

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

SIM is an ambitious organization. Its membership encompasses companies in the industry and the related sectors. A permanent staff of five persons is deemed insufficient to address all the requirements in various meetings and dialogues with the government.

A lack of communication at regional level has also been noted.

In 2007, SIM benefited from the assistance of UNCTAD for the drafting of a strategic plan for industrial development.

It is currently benefiting from a capacity building programme from PRO-INVEST (2010-2011)

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong:

Average: **X**

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	70%
Regional level	15%
International level	15%

Groupement des Operateurs Malgaches (FIVMPAMA)

Immeuble Santa, Lot II, 2ème étage, Antanimena

Tel: (261) 20 22 292 92

Email: fivmpama@moov.mg

Date of foundation: 1972

Number of secretariat staff: 3

Number of staff involved in advocacy: 1

Languages spoken: French, Malagasy

Interests represented

Handicrafts, Services, Construction, Environment, (SMEs)

Senior members of the secretariat

Mrs. Hanta RAKOTOVAO

Secretary General

Email: fivmpama@moov.mg

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

FIVMPAMA participates in meetings with representatives of government – both at local, regional international levels.

Issues: International trade, export legislation, competition law, EPA, SADC, COMESA

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Meetings and dialogues with the relevant Ministries. Participation in international negotiations

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST , E.G.

Regional integration
Economic partnership agreements
Rules of origin
Trade facilitation
Trade in services

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

FIVMPAMA is recognized as the voice of its members and is provided the opportunity to raise its concerns with the government.

However, a lack of financial and technical resources have been highlighted. The

organisation does not have enough 'senior staff' to engage in effective advocacy activities, including following up on all problems identified by its members.

FIVMPAMA has obtained assistance from the following organisations:-

- CDE
- Pro-Invest
- AFD
- IFC (Negotiating skills)

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong:

Average: **X**

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	80%
Regional level	10%
International level	10%

Groupement des Entreprises Franches et Partenaires

Immeuble BIONEXX- 2^{ème} étage, Tana Water Front – Ambodivona, 101 – ANTANANARIVO
 Email: gefpmg@blueline.mg, juliesetra@hotmail.com
 Website: www.gefpmg.com

Date of foundation: 1998

Number of secretariat staff: 5
 Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 1

Languages spoken: French, Malagasy

Interests represented Large companies in the export processing zones

Key members: Socota, Floreal and Flexnit

Senior members of the secretariat

Ms. Julie Rajaonah Ratsimisetra
 Email: juliesetra@hotmail.com

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

The GEFP participates at meetings with the Ministry of Economy and Commerce for all issues pertaining to local trade. At international level, the GEFP is represented by a consultant

Issues :

- Export processing zone regulations
- Export related regulations
- EPA negotiations

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS: PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Meetings, letters, position/policy papers produced in partnership with universities

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST ,

Regional integration
Economic partnership agreements
Rules of origin
Investments
Competition
Trade facilitation
Business environment (legal certainty)

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Given the fact that there is only one permanent staff, all issues faced by the sector cannot be dealt with in a systematic manner. The GEFP is faced with human resources and financial constraints.

The GEFP has benefited from:
 AFD: Training programme (1992-2003)

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong:

Average: **X**

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	80%
Regional level	10%
International level	10%

Office National du Tourisme

Lot IBG 29 C, Antsahavola BP 1780, 101 Antananarivo
 Tel : 261 20 22 661 15 – Email : promotion@ontm.mg –
 Website : www.madagascar-tourisme.com

Date of foundation: 2003

Number of secretariat staff: 21
 Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 2

Languages spoken: English, French, Malagasy

Interests represented: Hotels, Restaurants, national parks, car rental companies, tour operators and associations

Senior members of the secretariat:

Lalaina A. Rabemananjara
 Promotion Director

- AFD Capacity Building in 2009
- UNIDO
- IFC : 2008 “Pôle intégré de croissance”

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY (

Strong:

Average: **X**

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	80%
Regional level	10%
International level	10%

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

Meetings are held with relevant authorities.

Issues :
 Free entry to foreigners; air access policy (to Seychelles and Europe)

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Meetings, dialogues, position papers

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Trade facilitation

Transport

Trade in services: tourism

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

ONT has limited means. Its budget is limited to the revenue obtained from the tax on tourism. It does not have a 'budget' which would allow it to define a proper strategy for the tourism sector.

ONT does not have sufficient staff to discuss in high-level meetings. It is felt that there is a need to employ high-level staff competent in legal matters.

ONT has obtained assistance from:

COMOROS



Source: Flickr

Union des Chambres de Commerce et d'Agriculture

BP 763 Moroni - Union Des Comores

Tel: +269 773 09 58 - EMail: cooperation@uccia-comores.com – Website: www.uccia.km

Date of foundation: 1948

Number of secretariat staff: 8

Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 3

Languages spoken: French

Interests represented

Large, medium and small enterprises in following sectors: Commerce, Industry, Fishing, Handicraft, Agriculture

Senior members of the secretariat

Mr. Fakriddine Youssouf Abdoulhalik
International cooperation
Email : Fakri68@yahoo.fr

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

Structural dialogues are held with the Ministry concerned.

Issues raised: Improvement of the business environment (in 2007, action focused specifically on the improvement of the regulatory framework on investments) led to increase of investments (including FDI in the tourism sector). Public private interaction on the elimination of export taxes led to elimination of these taxes. Also the improvement of trade related infrastructures (port & airport). Accession of Comoros to the WTO, EPA with the EU, Regional integration which implies free movement of goods & services, Investment security, Tourism, freight, etc.

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Informal meetings between members and Ministries, policy papers, studies.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST , E.G.

Regional integration (free movement of persons)

Economic partnership agreement

Rules of origin

Policy issues in relation to a specific sector: Investment, renewable energy, fishing

Trade in services = transports

TBT / SPS

Non-tariff barriers

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The UCCIA is an intermediary organisation which groups almost all private sector associations. It is a well-structured multi-sectoral body which acts as the voice of the private sector in Comoros (although it is defined by law as an "Etablissement Public à caractère professionnel")

It is also the voice of the private sector in international fora. It is represented on the negotiating teams.

The UCCIA has benefited from funding from donor organizations such as EU (2008), IOC (July 2009), International Trade Centre (2007-2008), UNCTAD (2010) and Organisation de la Francophonie (2011-2015)

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong: **X**

Average:

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	50%
Regional level	25%
International level	25%

Syndicat national des Commerçants Comoriens

BP: 926 Moroni
Tel: 269 331 83 40

Date of foundation: 1992

Number of secretariat staff: 1
Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 1

Languages spoken: French

Interests represented: Import/export sector

Senior members of the secretariat

Idjihadi Ali
President
Email: hamada.moroni@yahoo.com

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

The Association discusses with the Ministries concerned on various issues. Meetings are regularly held. The views of the Association are also forwarded through papers. Representations are also made through the UCCIA and at the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the IOC Region.

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Meetings with government. The association requests for meetings with the government to present their views. If no agreement is reached, the operators will organize demonstrations in the streets. If still there is no response from the government they will close their shops until an agreement is reached.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Regional integration (free movement of goods and persons)
Trade in services

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Communication facilities are not available
Staff limited
Resources limited
No assistance from donors has been obtained

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong:

Average: **X**

Weak:

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	100%
Regional level	0%
International level	0%

Syndicat National des Agriculteurs Comoriens

BP 2504 Moroni
 Email: snac.fa@comorestelecom.km

Date of foundation: N/A

Number of secretariat staff: 4
 Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 2

Languages spoken: French

Interests represented: SMEs and Associations in the Agricultural Sector

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY	
Strong:	
Average: X	
Weak:	

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES	
National level	100%
Regional level	0%
International level	0%

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

Meetings are held regularly with the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss specific issues and to elaborate strategic plans for the agricultural sector. The Association also expresses its views through the Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Comoros (UCCIA).

Issues raised:
 Exemption of export taxes on agricultural products;
 Obtention of land for office use and for sale of agricultural products;

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Discussions with government / correspondence
 Representations through the UCCIA of Comoros

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

Regional integration
 NTBs (harmonization in the region)

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The association has limited staff and resources
 Assistance has been obtained from French government with regard to capacity building.

Syndicat National pour le Développement de la Pêche aux Comores

BP: 763 Moroni Comores
 Tel: +269 337 19 80/ 338 64 02 –
 Email: alifou@yahoo.fr / gombessa-marine@comorestelecom.km

Date of foundation: N/A

Number of secretariat staff: .4
 Number of staff involved in advocacy: 2

Languages spoken: French

Interests represented:
 Fishing sector (Cooperatives)

Senior members of the secretariat
 Ali Msa Soilih
 President
 Secretary-General
 Email: alifou@yahoo.fr

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Very limited capacity in terms of staff and resources. Information on the developments of the sector is not available.

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY

Strong:
 Average:
 Weak: **X**

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

The association has been able to obtain a 10% reduction of tariffs on inputs for the fishing industry.
 No participation at regional or international levels noted so far.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	100%
Regional level	0%
International level	0%

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Dialogues are held with the representatives of government on specific issues. The association also expresses its views through letters and informal meetings. The association views and its 'voice' through the Union des Chambres de Commerce, d'Industrie et d'Agriculture des Comores.

Informal meetings

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

EPAs

Policy issues in relation to a specific sector: Food security / food preservation.
 Improvement of existing infrastructure to promote trade, export of halientic products

SEYCHELLES



Source: Flickr

Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry

PO Box 1399, Victoria, Seychelles
Tel: (248) 323812 – Email: scci@seychelles.sc - Website: www.scci-sey.org

Date of foundation: N/A

Number of secretariat staff: 2
Number of staff dedicated to advocacy: 1

Languages spoken: English, French, Creole

Interests represented: All sectors

Senior members of the secretariat:

Mrs. Germaine Michaud
Secretary-General
Email: scci@seychelles.sc

ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC PRIVATE DIALOGUE ON TRADE POLICY:

Strong:	
Average:	X
Weak:	

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

National level	60%
Regional level	20%
International level	20%

BUSINESS ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

The SCCI has formal meetings with the relevant authorities. It participates also in international negotiations (SADC, COMESA, EPA, IOC)

MEANS AVAILABLE TO PROMOTE MEMBERS INTERESTS:

Meetings, dialogues and policy papers.

SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST

FTAs
Rules of origin
Trade in services

REMARKS ABOUT CURRENT CAPACITY TO PROMOTE MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The SCCI is a multisectoral organization whose role is to defend the interests of its Members.

However, there is not enough staff to make a proper follow-up of all issues. The Secretary General is the only permanent staff who participates in all meetings (local and international). Sometimes, this task is shared with Board Members. Issues cannot be dealt with thoroughly.

The SCCI has not benefited from assistance of donors.

Section IV – Description of each business organizations and their capacity to advocate

IOC Region

The Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UCCIOI)

The UCCIOI was set up in 2005. Its membership comprises the chambers of commerce and industry of Mauritius, Seychelles, Comoros, Mayotte, Madagascar and Reunion Island.

The UCCIOI has become increasingly well recognized within the region. In 2007 a MoU between the IOC and the UCCIOI was signed, paving the way for the organization to participate at IOC meetings where economic issues are raised. It also opens the door for further cooperation between the IOC and the private sector organisations of the region.

In February 2009, the UCCIOI participated in the “Mission de Médiation” to Madagascar as part of the effort to calm the serious political instability taking place in the country at that time.

The ‘Forum Economique des Iles de l’Océan indien’, a yearly event organised under the aegis of the UCCIOI, has become a most important regional event for developing approaches to regional and international economic issues. It has set the benchmark for business gathering across the Indian Ocean Region.

Distinguished speakers from the World Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Agence Française de Développement (AFD), and the European Commission and senior ministers typically make up the different panels.

Issues relating to regional integration, the industrial environment and technical assistance, ICT and shipping and others have previously been addressed.

In 2007, the UCCIOI made clear its objectives and actions for the forthcoming years with the launch of a ‘White Paper’. Issues relating to the business environment in the region, to sustainable development to trade information, capacity building and promotion have been identified.

Constraints

There exists no permanent staff. The President, who is a business person, devotes a lot of his time to the UCCIOI. Whilst technical issues are handled by the respective chambers of commerce, it is commonly felt that there need to be greater resources at the UCCIOI level for dealing with these and other advocacy related issues.

Mauritius

The private sector in Mauritius is very well structured. The apex body is the Joint Economic Council (JEC), which is composed of three core organizations, namely: the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture and the Mauritius Employers’ Federation and six sectoral organizations namely: Mauritius Sugar Producers Association, Mauritius Bankers Association, Mauritius Export Association, Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs de l’Île Maurice, Insurers’ Association and the Association of Mauritian Manufacturers.

Each organization is totally independent and discusses directly with the government in its own name. The JEC acts as the ‘coordinator’ of all private sector organizations.

Other sectoral associations which are not members of the JEC have also been involved in the survey, namely the Outsourcing and Telecommunications Association of Mauritius and the Association Professionnelle des Transitaires.

The Joint Economic Council

The JEC is the coordinating body of the private sector. It is also known as the 'coordinator'. Membership is comprised of the major private sector organizations in Mauritius.

Objectives

The objectives are to provide for joint consultation among the various organizations of the private sector, to liaise with government and other bodies on matters relating to the socio-economic development of Mauritius and to initiate and encourage activities which would further the development and interests of the private sector and progress of the country.

The JEC has a very strong capacity to engage in advocacy. .

The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI)

Established in 1850, is the oldest private sector organization in Mauritius. It is the most representative intermediary body of the private sector, comprising members from all major sectors of the economy: commerce, industry, financial services, tourism, logistics, ICT, property development, other business services. The MCCI membership includes the main professional organizations and associations.

The MCCI promotes members' interests through meetings with government, policy papers and representation on national committees. The organizations views are solicited by the government on many issues both at the local, regional and international levels; such as on trade negotiations, price control, industry policy, intellectual property rights, Corporate Social Responsibility, etc.

The MCCI has very good working relations with the government. Its lobbying activities are focused on the creation of a business friendly environment and on promoting economic development.

Constraints

The MCCI is constrained most significantly by a lack of human and financial resources. There is a constant need for the MCCI to participate at international negotiations to defend the interests of the business community. It is also a must for the MCCI to be apprised of the latest developments taking place on economic issues both at the national, regional and international levels. Such activities require significant resources in order to participate effectively. .

Regional organization

The MCCI is in favour of strengthening the UCCI/OI, of which it is a founding Member.

The Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture (MCA)

Established in 1853, the MCA membership comprises sugar millers, foods producers, farmer cooperatives and companies in the agro-industry sector. Its role is to guide the sugar cane industry through a major reform process and to provide policy and strategic insights into agricultural development in Mauritius and in the region.

Membership interests are promoted through dialogues and meetings at the highest level with government.

Constraints

The MCAI is constrained most significantly by a lack of human and financial resources, particularly regarding participation at international negotiations to promote Members' interests.

Regional organization

It is in favour of having a strong regional organization to promote trade within the region.

Association of Mauritian Manufacturers (AMM)

Established in 1996, the AMM has the objective of enhancing the development of the local industry and promoting local products.

The AMM's membership is comprised of domestic manufacturers whose products are typically sold mainly at the domestic market. Some manufacturers are also exporting to the regional market.

The AMM's Secretariat is hosted by the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI). AMM has regular meetings with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. It also presents policy papers to the relevant authorities. It expresses its views through the MCCI and through the JEC, of which it is a Member.

Constraints

There is a lack of capacity both in terms of human and financial resources. There are a number of technical issues which need to be addressed, but there are not sufficient resources to ensure the necessary follow-up of all issues.

Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs de l'Île Maurice

Established in 1973, the AHRIM membership is comprised of small, medium and large hotel groups and restaurants.

The AHRIM role is to promote the interests of its members, and its agenda is generally in-line and complimentary to the government's pro-tourism policies. The association has very good working relations with government bodies, particularly with the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority and with the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure.

Outsourcing Telecommunications Association of Mauritius (OTAM)

Established in 2004, OTAM's objective is to promote the ICT sector in Mauritius.

OTAM's secretariat is hosted by the MCCI.

Regional Organization

OTAM is in favour establishing a regional organization which would bring together companies in the sector, thus promoting the ICT sector at regional level.

Association Professionnelle des Transitaires (APT)

Established in 1976, the APT's objective is to defend and promote its members interest and contribute to the diversification of export markets. The Secretariat of APT is hosted by the MCCI.

APT has regular meetings with the relevant authorities, in particular customs, to raise their concerns.

Madagascar

The organizational set-up of the private sector in Madagascar is quite complex, owing mainly to the observation that many organizations are dealing with similar issues. As such, competing 'frictions' among the different organizations commonly arise.

The multisectoral organizations which represent the main sectors of the economy are the Groupement des Entreprises de Madagascar (GEM), Fédération des entrepreneurs malgaches, and a number of different chambers of commerce and industry. These are numerous sectoral organizations which represent specific sectors such as, seafood, ICT, tourism, etc. Most of the associations are either members of GEM or members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry or both. It is important to note that a company becomes automatically a member of the CCI once it is officially registered each region in Madagascar has its own Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Each of the 22 regions of the country is represented by chambers of commerce and industry. The Antananarivo based "Fédération des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie" represents the interests of all chambers of commerce and industry.

Each regional chamber of commerce discusses directly with the relevant authorities of the region. The level and nature of activities are different from one chamber to another, depending upon the level of economic development taking place in each region.

Groupement des Entreprises de Madagascar (GEM)

Established in 1958, GEM is a multisectoral organization with the objective of defending and promoting the interests of the business community. GEM's membership comprises associations, "syndicats professionnels sectoriels nationaux", "groupement régionaux" and private companies. The sectors represented are much diversified, ranging from agriculture to ICT and banking.

GEM has structured dialogues with the relevant ministries. It is represented on national committees which deal with issues related to industrial relations and social security and is recognized as the main advocate of the business community for a number of issues.

Constraints

The organization is constrained by a lack of human and financial resources. Representation at various meetings is typically undertaken by members who are business persons from the specific sector; rather than a dedicated team of GEM staff who are expert on different issues.

Regional organization

GEM is in favour of the setting up a regional organization which would defend all the private sector at regional level.

Membres of GEM

16 groupements et syndicats sectoriels nationaux

ACELMAD	Association des Opérateurs de Radiotéléphonie Cellulaire Mobile de Madagascar
AMIC	Association Malagasy des Investisseurs en Capital
APB	Association Professionnelle des Banques
APEM	Association pour la Promotion de l'Entreprise à Madagascar
CCIFM	Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie France-Madagascar
FHORM	Fédération des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs de Madagascar
GAPCM	Groupement des Aquaculteurs et des Pêcheurs de Crevettes de Madagascar
GCAM	Groupement des Concessionnaires Automobiles de Madagascar
GEFP	Groupement des Entreprises Franches et Partenaires
GO TO MADAGASCAR	Groupement des Opérateurs du Tourisme de Madagascar
GOTICOM	Groupement des Opérateurs des Technologies, de l'Information et de la Communication
GPCAD	Groupement Professionnel des Commissionnaires Agréés en Douanes
GPM	Groupement Pétrolier de Madagascar
JPM	Jeune Patronat de Madagascar
SEBTP	Syndicat des Entrepreneurs du BTP de Madagascar
SIM	Syndicat des Industries de Madagascar

5 groupements régionaux multisectoriels

FIOVA	Fivondronan`ny Orinasan`ny Vakinankaratra
GENOM	Groupement des Entreprises Nord de Madagascar
GEPAM	Groupement des Entreprises Privées A Mahajanga
GEPAT	Groupement des Entreprises de la Province Autonome de Toamasina
GES	Groupement des Entreprises de la SAVA (Sambava - Antalaha - Vohémar - Andapa)

Antananarivo Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Established in 1920, the CCI of Antananarivo Membership of the CCI is 'automatic', with any company which is registered in the province becoming automatically a member of the CCI. The objective of the CCI is to defend and promote the interests of its Members and to promote trade and investment within the region.

The CCI is provided adequate opportunity to discuss with the relevant ministries on a number of issues.

Constraints

The CCI is constrained by a lack of financial and human resources. The CCI has to seek the approval of the parent ministry in many cases, particularly regarding travelling abroad. (For instance, when the CCI participates at the Forum Economique des Iles, the Ministry has to approve the mission).

Staff capacity is insufficient and suitably skilled to undertake work of technical issues, meaning the director-general performs such functions.

Regional organization

The CCI is in favour of strengthening the “Union des Chambres de Commerce et d’Industrie de l’Océan indien”. It is in favour of involving not only chambers of commerce, but also sectoral business associations.

The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Madagascar (FCCI)

Established in 1956, the FCCI membership composes the 22 regional chambers of commerce and industry of Madagascar.

As an umbrella organization of all 22 regional chambers within the country, the CCI is well-recognized and has good working relations with the government. It participates in meetings both at local, regional and international levels.

Constraints

The FCCI is faced with the following main constraints:

- A lack of financial resources. The FCCI does not have the necessary resources to represent its Members on all issues. Issues differ from Chamber to another. It is difficult to sensitize all CCIs on a number of issues due to lack of capacity.
- A lack of human resources. There are only 2 staffs dedicated to advocacy.

Regional organization

The FCCI is in favour of a strong regional organization which can represent regional private sector interests. It is of the view that the UCCI/OI should be strengthened.

Groupement des Opérateurs en Technologie de l’Information et de la Communication

Established in 2000, GOTICOM’s objective is to promote ICT in Madagascar and at the regional level.

GOTICOM is represented on committees where issues concerning the ICT sector are raised. GOTICOM’s objective is that Madagascar has the appropriate legislation for the ICT sector.

Constraints

The organization is constrained by a lack of financial and human resources. There are no highly qualified permanent staff that can represent the sector. This task is being conducted by the President or Committee Members. Follow-up of all issues cannot be made regularly.

Regional organization

GOTICOM is in favour of establishing a regional organization which will have greater capacity to promote ICT at the regional level.

Groupement des Exportateurs de Litchis de Madagascar (GEL)

Established in 2001, GEL objective is to promote the exports of litchis. The GEL groups exporters of litchis only. The GEL is a member of GEM. GEL has the opportunity to express its views directly to the Ministries. As a Member of GEM, it also has the support of the latter in negotiations with the government. The organization participates effectively in regular dialogues and meetings with the relevant authorities.

Constraints

The GEL does not have a permanent staff, and is represented by either the President or a Member of the Committee in meetings at the national level. GEL has insufficient financial resource to engage in advocacy and research activities which aim at promoting the litchi sector. For instance, GEL wants to diversify its markets. South Africa, a neighbouring country has been identified as a potential market. Moreover, the litchis of Madagascar do not conform to the standard applied in South Africa. .

Regional organization

GEL is in favour of having a strong regional organization which will be able to defend and promote the litchi sector.

Syndicat des Industries de Madagascar (SIM)

Established in 1958, SIM membership comprises companies and associations in the industry sector. The organization's objective is to promote the industry sector and to promote Malagasy products.

SIM has good working relations with the government. It has regular meetings and dialogues with the relevant ministries on various issues.

Constraints

The organization is constrained by a lack of financial and human resources.

There are only two persons (The President and Director) to represent SIM in the meetings. SIM consider the lack of communication from the side of government on the developments regarding the sector as a main stumbling block for necessary private sector input.

Regional organization

SIM is in favour of establishing a strong regional organization which would represent views of the industry at regional level.

Fédération des entrepreneurs malgaches

Established in 1972, FIVMPAMA objective is to promote the interests of companies in the following main sectors: handicrafts, services, construction and environment. Most of the companies are SMEs.

FIVMPAMA expresses the views of its members through formal meetings with the relevant ministries.

Constraints

The organization is constrained by a lack of human resources: There is a lack of staff with technical knowledge to represent and advocate on behalf of the organization at the various meetings as well as engage in preparing position papers and/or in follow up work.

Regional organization

FIVMPAMA is in favour of establishing a strong and well structured regional organization with representatives from IOC countries. The organization should be able to boost trade in the region.

Groupement d'Entreprises Franches et Partenaires

Established in 1998, the GEFP objective is to promote the export sector. GEFP participates in the elaboration of strategic development for the sector at domestic, regional and international levels and participates in meetings with the government and other relevant authorities. For instance GEFP gives its views on all regulations pertaining to the export processing zone.

Constraints

The organization is constrained by a lack of human and financial resources: Since there is only one permanent staff member to represent the organization in meetings, effective representation and follow-up is difficult on all issues.

GEFP is unable to be represented at regional and international negotiations, but does have access to a representative of the 'private sector' who negotiates on behalf of GEFP and other private sector associations

Regional organization

GEFP is in favour of the establishing a regional private sector organization which will group all private sector organizations and act as 'one body' and not as 'competitors'.

Office National du Tourisme de Madagascar (ONT)

Established in 2003, ONT's objective is to promote Madagascar as a tourist destination and to promote all tourism related sectors in Madagascar.

Its membership comprises all companies in the tourism sector, such as inbound operators, airlines, restaurants, national parks, hotels.

Constraints

The organization is constrained by the following human and financial resources:

The ONT depends on a government tourism tax which means that the sum collected varies depending on the tourism activities from one year to another. It is not in a position to prepare a proper action plan for the coming years.

Participation in missions abroad is also limited. Most of the travelling expenses are 'sponsored' by the Members. The number of staff dedicated to advocacy is limited. There is also lack of capacity to handle issues pertaining to international negotiations and legal affairs.

Regional organization

The ONT is in favour of establishing a regional organization which will gather all institutions/organizations in the tourism sector from all countries.

Comoros Islands

The Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Comoros Islands (UCCIA) is the focal point of the private sector in the islands. The UCCIA groups the chambers of commerce of Grande Comore, Mohéli and Anjouan as well as sectoral organizations in agriculture, trade, fishing industry and jewellery.

The UCCIA

Established in 1948, the UCCIA is a multisectoral organization with the objective of promoting the interests of the private sector.

The UCCIA has regular dialogues and meetings with the government and the relevant ministries. It has benefited from the assistance of various organizations, such as UNCTAD, CDE, ITC, EU, and IOC.

Constraints

Given that UCCIA is a multisectoral organization; its views are sought on a number of issues. However the organization it has limited capacity both in terms of staffing and in terms of financial resources and is thus unable to meet the needs of the business community in a comprehensive manner.

Regional organization

It is in favour of strengthening the existing regional private sector organization which is the "Union des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie de l'Océan indien", of which it is a founding Member.

Syndicat National des Commerçants Comoriens (SYNACO)

Established in 1992, the objective of SYNACO is to defend and promote the interests of the traders of general goods (consumables) in the export sector and for the local market. Membership is comprised of small, medium and large companies

Meetings are held with the relevant ministries on specific issues. Views are expressed through the UCCIA as well.

Constraints

The organization is constrained by a lack of human and financial resources

There is only one permanent staff to deal with all issues. Technical issues cannot be dealt with properly. SYNACO is also faced with lack of infrastructure (IT equipment and other logistics)

Syndicat National des Agriculteurs Comoriens (SNAC)

SNAC has been set up with the objective of developing the agricultural sector and increase the trade of agricultural products.

SNAC has regular meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture on the strategic development of the sector. It also advocates its concerns through the UCCIA.

Constraints

Lack of capacity: Lack of human resources to make a proper follow-up of issues. SNAC is not always informed by government of the developments taking place in the sector. There is also a lack of commitment on behalf of its members.

Regional Organization

SNAC is in favour of the setting up a regional organization to promote agricultural products in the region.

Syndicat National pour le Développement de la Pêche aux Comores (SNDP)

The SNDP's main objective is to defend and promote the interests of the fishing sector. Its membership comprises mainly cooperatives and fishermen. The SNDP has the impression that the fishing industry is being marginalized, albeit that it is an important sector for the country.

The association does participate at meetings with the relevant ministries, but not on a regular basis. Position papers are submitted. It is also a member of the UCCIA.

Constraints

The organization is constrained by a lack of human and financial resources. There is not enough staff to handle matters properly and thus promote the interests of its members. For instance there is a lack of information on the preservation of fish and food security.

Regional organization

The association is in favour of establishing a regional organization to assist seafood exports.

Seychelles

The Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)

The SCCI was established in 1938. It is a multisectoral organization with around 200 Members, comprising the main economic operators and professional organizations and associations. Its role is to promote and protect business investment in the Seychelles.

The SCCI has regular meetings with the government as well as submitting their views on issues relating to the macro-economy, and participating in regional and international negotiations.

Constraints

Lack of capacity: There is only one permanent staff (The Secretary-General) who deals with local as well as regional and international issues. As such, there are constraints for advocacy engagement and follow-up, particularly of technical issues.

Regional organization

The SCCI, is already a member of the UCCIOI, and is in favour of strengthening the regional organization with a permanent staff.

Annex I: Questionnaires have been sent to the following organizations

COMOROS ISLANDS	
Association des bijoutiers des Comores (SONACOM)	
Syndicat National des Commerçants Comoriens (SYNACO)	
Syndicat National des Agriculteurs Comoriens (SNAC)	
Syndicat National pour le Développement de la Pêche aux Comores (SNDP)	
Union des Chambres de Commerce, d'Industrie et d'Agriculture	
MADAGASCAR	
Groupement des Entreprises de Madagascar (GEM)	
Antananarivo Chamber of Commerce and Industry	
The Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Madagascar (FCCI)	
GOTICOM	
Groupement des Exportateurs de Litchis de Madagascar (GEL)	
Syndicat des Industries de Madagascar (SIM)	
FIVMPAMA	
Groupement d'Entreprises Franches et Partenaires	
Office National du Tourisme de Madagascar (ONT)	
MAURITIUS	
The Joint Economic Council	
The Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry	
The Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture	
Association of Mauritian Manufacturers	
Association des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs de l'Île Maurice	
Outsourcing Telecommunications Association of Mauritius	
Association Professionnelle des Transitaires	<i>No response</i>
Mauritius Bankers Association	<i>No response</i>
Mauritius Export Association	<i>No response</i>
Insurers' Association	<i>No response</i>
SEYCHELLES	
The Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI)	
Small Enterprise Promotion Agency (SEPA)	
Seychelles Farmers Association	<i>No response</i>
Seychelles Tourism Board	<i>No response</i>
Seychelles Bankers Association	<i>No response</i>
REUNION	
RECO	
INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION REGION	
Union des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie de l'Océan indien	

