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**COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN
AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (COMESA)**

**FORTY FOURTH MEETING OF THE
COMESA POLICY ORGANS**

**LUSAKA, ZAMBIA
21ST – 23RD NOVEMBER 2023**

**AFRICA LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS INSTITUTE
(ALLPI)**

PROGRESS REPORT
(January - October 2023)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Institute was established in 1990 as COMESA/Leather and Leather Products Institute (COMESA/LLPI) to support the leather sector in COMESA region. Since 2018 it has been rebranded as Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) with the purpose of spearheading the regional goals to meet the tenets of AU Agenda 2063 and the continental FTA goals.
2. ALLPI's main Mandate is to support the development of the leather sector in Africa in general and in the COMESA Region in particular. The Vision of ALLPI is to be Africa's premier center of excellence for competitive Leather sector in the global arena and the Mission to facilitate Member States and link Partners, Enterprises and Institutions for value addition, sustainability and competitiveness in the leather sector through sharing of knowledge and innovations.
3. ALLPI's membership encompasses ten countries, namely; Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. However, in 2021, ALLPI activities also involved DRC, Eswatini, Egypt, Madagascar, Mauritius Morocco, Niger, Namibia and South Africa.
4. ALLPI's activities are planned and implemented under its 10 years (2016-2025) Strategic Plan that has nine strategic objectives and aligned to the COMESA MTSP (pillars on Market Integration, Productive Integration and Gender & Social Integration; AU Agenda 2063: pillars 1, 2 and 7 (Prosperous Africa, an integrated continent and a strong and influential global player and partner) and SDG goals 5, 8, 9, 12 and 17 (gender equity, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, sustainable industrialization, sustainable production and consumption and global partnership). ALLPI planned leather sector activities for the year 2021 were more than 60 in number. Table 1 shows the summary of activities grouped into some 6 categories and their accomplishment status including beneficiary countries. Table 2 shows the annual activity performance Report for the year 2021 showing activities performance in the year categorized into 9 strategic objectives and 58 sub strategic interventions.

MAJOR KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The major activities performed by ALLPI and the notable results achieved during the period of the report (1st January – 30th October 2023) are as presented herebelow.

5. Under the RECAMP Phase III ALLPI Trained 56 personnel in Application of Standards, the trained personnel were from 14 countries namely: Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe, DRC, Eswatini, Madagascar and Mauritius.

6. 40 representatives from 10 member states participated in a preparatory workshop organized by ALLPI. The workshop was organized to prepare member states for physical piloting of the hides and skins traceability and eco certification.
7. Procurement of equipment for physical piloting of hides and skins traceability and eco certification is in process. Laptops are already delivered or they in a process of delivery to 14 regional countries. Implementation of the physical piloting will start upon the delivery of the equipment and release of funds from the RECAMP.
8. ALLPI Co - organized All Africa Leather Fair (AALF) that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2023. ALLPI sponsored and facilitated 9 SMEs representatives from 9 Member States, Sudan didn't participate due the present situation.
9. ALLPI sponsored and facilitated the participation of 6 export-oriented SMEs in a trade fair conducted in Kenya. Similarly sponsored and facilitated the participation of 4 export-oriented SMEs from Ethiopia to show case their products in a trade Fair organized by the Ministry of Industry of Ethiopia, under the initiative "Ethiopia Tamrt" or "Let Ethiopia produce".
10. ALLPI delegates also hold talks with APEX Body established by the Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism about the governance of the Incubation Center in Kabenge.
11. Ten days training on Vegetable Tanning Techniques to selected Artisans/MSME's was conducted and successfully completed in Kabenge Artisans Production Center. The training was conducted by Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) in collaboration with the Government of Burundi Ministry of Trade Industry, Transport, Industry and Tourism 9th to 18th August 2023. The training aim was to produce quality vegetable and Chrome tanned leather using vegetable tannin extract and home-based equipment (plastic containers) as vessels for tanning replacing the tanning drums which are used in modern tanning process. During the training, the trainees were able to process different types of leathers including hair on leather from raw stock to crust stage using vegetable tannins (Mimosa - plant based), mineral tannin (chrome tan powder) and Syntan (Man-made synthetic tannin) as tanning agents.
12. One day workshop was organized in Kabange Artisanal Production Center, in Bujumbura, Burundi. The workshop was organized with the objective of enhancing market access and local sourcing for SMEs through linkages with raw materials and input suppliers and institutional buyers of leather products.
13. Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI), in collaboration with the Kenya Leather Development Council (KLDC) conducted Vegetable Tanning training for 25 traditional tanners. The training was conducted in the Training and Production Center for Shoe Industry (TPCSI), Thika, Kenya. The ten-day programme took place from 17th – 26th July 2023

14. 30 SMEs trained in Training of Trainers (ToT) in Design of Footwear and Leather Products, Craftsmanship, Export Readiness, Transformative Entrepreneurship, Record Keeping, Costing and Pricing. The training took place from 22nd June to 4th July 2023 at the Industrial Development Service Center (IDSC) in Asmara, Eritrea. The training is part of the BADEA Project Part II.
15. Model for establishing and governance of cluster for Eritrea, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda were validated in the respective countries. In these validation workshops 80 stakeholders in the leather sector participated and validated the cluster governance models in respective countries.
16. Using the validated cluster models 120 (30 each from respective countries) from the leather sector participated in the training workshops organized in the four countries. The contents of the trainings included: Principles of Cluster, governance of cluster, benefits and responsibilities of members of a cluster. After the training Asmara Leather Cluster in Eritrea, Kigali Leather Cluster in Rwanda, Blantyre Leather Cluster in Malawi and Kampala Leather Cluster in Uganda were voluntarily established.
17. ALLPI Participated in the development and validation of Business Development Plan for Zambia incubation Center.
18. Facilitated the drafting of an integrated development plan document for Zambia. The document is being circulated with stakeholders in Zambia for validation.
19. Secured a contract for Consultancy Service titled as “Enhancement of the Leather Value Chain in the Republic of Mauritius”. The Contract amount is USD 88,015.00. The preparation of the study is going according to a schedule agreed between Mauritius and ALLPI.
20. Submitted a technical Proposal to World Bank for a Consultancy Service. The Proposal is submitted as a Consortium with African Innovations and Technologies Research and Consulting House (AITRCH). Project aims to develop capacity of secondary technical schools of Burundi in different fields (agriculture and agribusiness, livestock and animal value chain, production and processing of skins and leathers, constructions of building and other infrastructures, communication and IT and the environmental impact assessment).
21. Conducted a TOT on Master Class Training for 15 Industry players from 10 ALLPI Member States. ALLPI organized and sponsored the TOT. An expert from a renowned Institutes in Italy by the name Academai Della Moda conducted the four day TOT.
22. ALLPI in collaboration with Leather & Hides Council of America (L&HCA), conducted young Africa Talent Design Competition in 2023. 15 participants have been selected

as finalists. L & HCA and ALLPI will sponsor the 15 finalists to participate and show case their products in the forthcoming 16th Annual Regional Consultative Forum of ALLPI, to take place in Mombasa Kenya, 13th – 15 December 2023. The overall winner of the talent Design Competition 2023 will be selected in the forum. The overall winner will have the opportunity to participate in a global competition to take place in Hong Kong in February 2024. The costs will be covered by L & HCA.

23. Signed MOUs with African Organization for Standardization (ARSO), Dar Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT), Interuniversity Council of East Africa (IUCEA).
24. Organized successful missions to Member States: Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya. Missions help in consolidating the collaborations between MSs and ALLPI.
25. Participated in IULTCS congress (China), ARSO General Assembly (DRC).
26. Submitted expression of interest for grant funding to SMEP. The project aims to contribute to reducing or eliminating environmental pollution and waste resulting from the Tanneries and leather sector.

Recommendation:

27. **Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI) should persist in its partnerships with various entities such as academic institutions, international leather societies, and developmental allies. This collaboration could be instrumental in fostering the growth of the leather industry throughout the African continent.**