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This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX

of the Commission Decision on the individual measure in favour of Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund

**Action Document for a "Coordination Mechanism for EPA signatories in the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region" (COMEE)**

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Coordination Mechanism for EPA signatories in the Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region (COMEE) CRIS number: RSO /FED/ 41526 financed under the 11 <sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF)			
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) Region The action shall be carried out at the following countries: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.			
3. Programming document	11 <sup>th</sup> EDF Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) 2014 – 2020			
4. Sector of concentration	Regional economic integration	DEV. Aid: Yes <sup>1</sup>		
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost : EUR 1 000 000 Total amount of EDF contribution: EUR 1 000 000			
6. Aid modality and implementation modality	Project Modality Direct management: procurement of services			
7 a) DAC code(s)	3310 – Trade policy and administrative management			
b) Main Delivery Channel	42000 European Commission – European Development Fund			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>1</sup> Official Development Aid is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships</b>	n/a			
<b>10. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all Secondary SDG 17: Revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development (Realise timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis)			

## SUMMARY

Under the Cotonou framework, the European Union (EU) and a group of five states of the Eastern and Southern Africa region (comprising Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe) have signed an interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) to support economic performance and competitiveness, enhance value chain development and promote economic transformation and integration into the global economy. So far, the iEPA covers only goods and supplementary chapters on rules of origin, cooperation, fisheries, trade defence and dispute settlement mechanisms.

The iEPA includes also a *rendezvous* clause for negotiating other areas such as services and investment, intellectual property, competition and sustainable development. The group has now expressed the willingness to start negotiations for a deeper and wider EPA. This means new negotiations between the EU and the group of five countries have to be coordinated and facilitated.

The **overall objective** of the project "Coordination Mechanism for the EPA signatories in the ESA region" (COMEE) is to achieve increased trade between the EU and the five ESA countries, namely Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

The **specific objective** of the project is to contribute to the deepening and widening of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and the five ESA countries.

The **expected results** are:

**Result 1:** Enhanced effectiveness of the coordination of the negotiations for deepening the EPA between the EU and the five ESA countries, namely Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

**Result 2:** Enhanced capacity of EPA signatory countries for preparing negotiating positions and policy dialogue with the EU

## 1 CONTEXT

### 1.1 Sector and country context

The broad developmental challenges faced by the Eastern and Southern Africa and Indian Ocean region are diverse given that it is a heterogeneous group composed of island states, continental states, lesser developed countries, middle income countries and one high income country. These challenges range from undiversified markets with low value addition and overdependence on raw material exports to insularity, small internal markets, low levels of effective trade and economic integration, lack of infrastructure, regional food insecurity, as well as negative impact of climate change. The impact of these challenges is different in each country. The core objectives of the region's future development remain the strengthening of market integration, pursue regional infrastructure development and undertake high value-addition industrialisation and transformative production.

Economic Partnership Agreements with the EU offer a strong potential for boosting trade and inclusive growth. They are also conducive to greater regional integration within their respective regions and act as stepping stones for continental integration. The EU has concluded Economic Partnership Agreements with different partners and regions. Participating African states selected their EPAs' regional configurations and determined the level of ambition of the regional negotiations. The Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) group includes the Indian Ocean islands (Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles), countries from the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sudan) and some countries of Southern Africa (Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The ESA region hosts the longest standing interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA) with five countries from southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, namely Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

*Comoros* signed the EPA in July 2017 and ratification is being awaited. Comoros therefore has not yet received specific targeted funding under the EDF for the implementation of the EPA development chapters.

*Mauritius* signed the iEPA in 2009. Following the ratification of the ESA-EU iEPA, a number of policy reforms have been implemented aimed at reducing trade barriers. In this context, Mauritius is implementing the iEPA to a large extent with tariff liberalisation already reaching 89 % of tariff lines in 2013, attracting zero duty. Tariff phase-down and its timeline are as per the offer Mauritius made for the iEPA negotiations. No non-tariff barriers for imported products at regional level were reported in Mauritius. The Government of Mauritius receives EU support for iEPA implementation which will in particular help improving the business and investment climate in the form of an e-licensing platform that was launched in 2018.

*Madagascar* signed on 29 August 2009 the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement (iEPA). While this agreement offers Madagascar full free access to the EU market, to the EU it offers a progressive (spread over 15 years) and partial opening (81 % of tariff lines) of the Malagasy market to its products. Tariff dismantling began on 1 January 2014, however for Madagascar, access to the European market remains difficult because of technical barriers to trade (TBT), related to standards and other regulations. Trade within the own region remains low (4-5 %) despite Madagascar's combined membership of the Regional Economic Communities, the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the Southern African

Development Community (SADC). Madagascar is also member of the regional organisation Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), which plays an important role in developing the blue economy.

The EPA already benefits companies in Madagascar in several ways: 100 % permanent access to the EU market, gradual opening to EU products, the possibility of excluding sensitive products (19 % of tariff lines) and more flexible rules of origin with the possibility of sourcing raw materials from outside the ESA.

**Seychelles** signed the EU-ESA interim Economic Partnering Agreement (iEPA) on 29 August 2009 and ratified it in May 2010. The implementation of the provisions of the Agreement is well underway, particularly regarding the adaptation of national legislation. Seychelles prepared its iEPA implementation strategy 2017-2020 in 2016, with EU assistance. Under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF Regional Integration Support Programme and the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF EPA implementation support, the Government of Seychelles is improving the efficiency, ownership and capacity of key actors to manage and implement the iEPA. This includes support to the upgrading of value chains in the manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries sectors and job creation through high value addition, including through using environmentally friendly production techniques. With the support also trade facilitation and trade and investment promotion will be improved.

**Zimbabwe**, along with Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles, signed the iEPA, which entered into force in May 2012. Zimbabwe, acquiring an immediate duty-free quota-free access to the EU market, foresees gradual liberalisation of 80 % of EU imports over a period of 10 years. The 2016 iEPA rates were published in its national gazette. Zimbabwe's strong commitment to full implementation will ensure that the iEPA results in increased trade with positive spin-offs for intra-regional trade and continental integration.

### ***1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework***

EPAs make trade work for development. They are expected to result in more trade, investment, inclusive growth, and better integration of partners into the world economy. However the focus cannot be on market access alone. Accompanying measures are necessary, and in particular improved economic governance and capacity building for the partners are essential means to ensure the benefits of EPA.

The 11<sup>th</sup> EDF Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) for Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean establishes regional economic integration as its main priority area. The EU recognises that enhanced intra-regional and continental trade serves as a tool for sustainable development and contributes to the realisation of development goals, poverty alleviation, as well as improved conditions for investment, private sector development and decent job creation.

The RIP provides for a cross regional allocation of EUR 40 000 000 for support to the implementation of the EPA in the countries that have signed up to it. The objective is to support the ESA countries with the implementation of the EU-ESA iEPA provisions. At the time of adoption of the RIP in May 2015, four ESA states (Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe) had started implementing the EU-ESA iEPA which entered into force on 14 May 2012. The Agreement includes an economic and development cooperation chapter where the parties commit to cooperating in a number of sectors so as to facilitate iEPA implementation and to ensure its immediate and medium to long-term positive effects on the economies of the four ESA countries. EU support complements national reforms and

development programmes. This allocation of EUR 40 000 000 comes over and above the EUR 4 000 000 support project provided under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF to cover immediate needs arising from EU ESA iEPA implementation. Activities funded so far include trade promotion, trade facilitation, capacity building of national authorities and private sector development. The 11<sup>th</sup> EDF RIP is a privileged instrument to support EPA implementation, both because of its sectorial focus and its implementing modalities, which allow for funding directly national governments in addition to regional organisations on the basis of the direct access and subsidiarity principles.

The 11<sup>th</sup> EDF RIP provides for the delivery of trade-related assistance and support to the private sector at national level. It also aims at enhancing conditions for effective integration of the EA-SA-IO countries into regional and international trading systems, including support to the implementation of EPAs and by enabling the private sector to take advantage of regional and international trade and investment opportunities, including in the context of EU trade schemes/agreements. The COMEE project is therefore directly aligned with the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF EA-SA-IO RIP objectives.

The EU and the ESA EPA countries maintain also a regular dialogue in the context of the Joint Economic and Development Committee, established under the iEPA.

### ***1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis***

Key stakeholders include the five countries signatories of the EPA, their respective Duly Mandated Regional Organisations (DMROs), actual or potential implementing partners, and both bilateral and regional EU Delegations overseeing programming, implementation and monitoring of EU funded actions in the EPA envelopes. Other development partners (EU donors, multilaterals, UN agencies, private sector and civil society organisations, etc.) may be involved in consultations during the implementation of actions, to be determined through regular dialogue, and in the spirit of donor and stakeholder coordination.

### ***1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis***

So far all EPAs in the African region cover only trade in goods and development cooperation. Only the CARIFORUM EPA is a comprehensive agreement that covers services, trade-related regulatory issues like public procurement, competition as well as intellectual property rights and investment. The objective of the African EPAs is to continue the negotiations on a number of issues so as to deepen and widen the current agreement towards a deeper and wider EPA that goes beyond trade in goods and development cooperation to cover services and investment.

Strong commitment to full implementation will ensure that EPAs result in increased trade between the EU and Africa with positive spin-offs for intra-African trade and continental integration.

EPAs are broad and ambitious agreements, helping first of all to build regional markets and diversify economies in the ACP regions before they phase out customs duties so to progressively build increasing, balanced and sustainable trade flows between the parties. They change the trade relationship with ACP countries from one that offered unilateral tariff preferences to one that builds lasting, more efficient and investment friendly regional and international markets for our partners. As part of the EPA, the EU will eliminate all duties and all quotas on all exports from ACP countries as from the entry into force of the Agreement without seeking full reciprocity in return.

The proposed Coordination Mechanism for EPA for ESA countries is based on lessons learned from the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> EDF initiatives, and intends to provide a coordination mechanism between ESA countries and the EU. This coordination mechanism will strengthen dialogue, preparation and negotiations for the deeper and wider EPA, as well as address the challenges of capacity constraints of the EPA signatories.

## 2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk level</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Political and social instability in any of the five countries may negatively affect the pace of the project design and implementation	Medium	The EU will continuously engage with the authorities and other stakeholders in the countries concerned to ensure that project activities are flexible so as to take into account political and social developments
Ownership, capacity and commitment to results by project owners and stakeholders is variable	Medium	An emphasis will be placed on the importance of leadership and ownership of expected results at both technical level and high-level meetings.
Weak coordination with similar activities at national and regional levels and thereby a potential for overlap and duplication of efforts	Medium	The EU will constantly engage with the donors and other stakeholders and coordinate via national, regional, pan-African and EU-DMRO mechanisms to ensure that overlap and duplication are excluded, and that effective communication with all stakeholders is maintained.
<b>Assumptions</b>		
<p>General assumption: The political, social and economic contexts in the five countries in the ESA region are sufficiently stable to foster negotiations for a deeper and wider EPA.</p> <p>Assumptions related to DMRO capacity and commitment: there is capacity within each country to identify, formulate and propose its negotiating EPA position.</p> <p>Assumption related to intra-EU and EU-donor coordination: the various EU services providing support to the region will continue to coordinate so as to exclude overlap and duplication of efforts. At the same time, communication between the EU and other donors will continue, at both Headquarter and Delegation levels, so as to maximise synergies and complementarities with other donor-funded efforts.</p>		

## 3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

### 3.1 Lessons learnt

Under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF the EU had included among its initial objectives to be able to conclude a comprehensive EPA. However, as the implementation of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF progressed and the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF was prepared, strategies were adjusted and the deepening of the EPA was proposed for a later stage. The priority under the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> EDF EPA actions were on the implementation

of actions in favour of capacity building, and enabling factors for trade and business facilitation, as well as on development cooperation.

The negotiations for a deepening of the EPA have not yet progressed, though discussions were held with the countries every year through the ESA EPA committees. This was partly due to a lack of a systemised coordination mechanism that would foster structured dialogue between the five EPA signatories in the ESA region and the EU. The project COMEE will serve to fill this void.

### **3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination**

The project will be complementary to the existing projects supporting EPA implementation in the various countries, namely:

In *Madagascar* the EPA support project (11<sup>th</sup> EDF – EUR 10 000 000) aims at creating a favourable business environment; increasing regional and international trade; enhancing product and market diversification; and, institutional capacity development.

EPA support in *Mauritius* targets the business and investment climate (11<sup>th</sup> EDF – EUR 12 000 000) and aims at streamlining the business and investment regulatory framework and operational procedures for licensing for starting and operating businesses.

The EPA support project for *Seychelles* (11<sup>th</sup> EDF – EUR 10 000 000) has three specific objectives: to improve the efficiency, ownership and capacity of key actors to manage and implement the current EPA, as well as other trade and regional integration agreements; to support value chains upgrading in the manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries sectors and job creation through high value addition, including through using environmentally friendly production techniques; and to improve trade facilitation and trade and investment promotion.

The EPA project in *Zimbabwe* is focussing on enhancing Zimbabwe's integration into the regional and international trading system. The project targets the reduction of policy and regulatory barriers, strengthened capacity to implement and monitor trade and trade related agreements, improved customs operations, improved border management as well as improved and expanded service delivery of Business Support Organisations.

Also the programmes at the level of the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) contribute to the effectiveness of the ESA EPA through the further development of a free trade area and trade facilitation in the wider region.

The main donors active in this area of trade related assistance include the World Bank, Germany, France and the United Kingdom, with whom regular coordination takes place both at the national and the regional level.

### **3.3 Cross-cutting issues**

The proposed programme will support mainstreaming of cross-cutting development objectives such as gender equality, environmental protection, and good governance. These will be addressed in the implementation of programmes and reflected in results.

## 4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 4.1 Objectives/results

This Programme is relevant for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all, but also promotes progress towards Goal 17: Revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development (Realise timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis).

The **overall objective** of the project "Coordination Mechanism for the EPA signatories in the ESA region" (COMEE) is to achieve increased trade between the EU and the five ESA countries, namely Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

The **specific objective** of the project is to contribute to the deepening and widening of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and the five ESA countries.

The **expected results** are:

**Result 1:** Enhanced effectiveness of the coordination of the negotiations for deepening the EPA between the EU and the five ESA countries, namely Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.

**Result 2:** Enhanced capacity of EPA signatory countries for preparing negotiating positions and policy dialogue with the EU

### 4.2 Main activities

***Result 1: Enhanced effectiveness of the coordination of the negotiations for deepening the EPA between the EU and the five ESA countries, namely Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zimbabwe***

*Activity 1.1: Recruitment of a long term expert for the coordination of widening and deepening of the EPA between the five ESA countries and the EU*

Under this project, a long term technical assistance will be recruited as project coordinator and will act as coordinator between the five ESA countries. The coordinator will be based in Mauritius and will work with the authorities and non-state actors of the five countries to consolidate and facilitate the presentation of the respective country positions and the negotiation mandates to the EU.

*Activity 1.2: Support for the continued involvement of state and non-state actors, and other stakeholders, such as DMROs, in the negotiations for the deepening and widening of the EPA*

The project coordinator will sensitise the relevant stakeholders, including state and non-state actors, on the advantages and importance of widening and deepening the EPA. This advocacy activity will contribute to maintaining the momentum for and interest in a deeper and wider EPA.

***Result 2: Enhanced capacity of EPA signatory countries for preparing negotiating positions and policy dialogue with the EU.***

*Activity 2.1: Participation of stakeholders from the five EPA signatory countries in the ESA region in EPA meetings, including technical meetings, as well as organisation thereof.*

The project will make provision for the participation of authorities of the respective countries and relevant non-state actors, including private sector, when relevant, in the discussions and



negotiations regarding deepening the EPA with the EU. The eligible funding will be travel and mission expenses, as well as costs pertaining to the organisation of EPA related meetings, namely preparation, organisation for all background documents in the appropriate languages in EPA meetings. The project may also enable the participation of relevant DMROs in the EPA meetings.

*Activity 2.2: Provision of short term, ad hoc expertise for analytical work to underpin specific areas within the deeper and wider EPA that the five concerned countries would request.*

The negotiations towards a deepening EPA being a complex process, the project would provide on-demand short term expertise to any of the five countries for analytical work in specific areas needed for finalising negotiating positions.

### **4.3 Intervention logic**

Long term and short term technical assistance will be procured on the basis of detailed terms of reference that will be prepared in close coordination with the five beneficiary countries. The long term technical assistance (TA) will provide direct support to the authorities and non-state actors, including private sector as relevant, in the five countries in view of their coordination. This will allow each of the countries to prepare consolidated negotiation positions. In parallel to its coordinating role, the TA will regularly and as necessary sensitise key stakeholders from both the public and the private sectors with regard to the importance and possible impact of a broader and deeper EPA.

Both activities of coordination and advocacy will ensure the five countries are fully prepared to participate in the meetings and negotiations with the EU in view of concluding a full-fledged EPA.

In addition, short-term TA will be made available to the participating countries in view of specific analysis that each of the countries may require to inform its negotiation position.

These activities then allow for a high level of preparedness of the participating countries, whose participation in the meetings and negotiation rounds will also be financially secured through the project up to a certain limit to be defined.

On that basis the five countries will be in an optimal position to successfully participate in the related meetings and negotiations, leading in due course to the conclusion of a full-fledged EPA with the EU and henceforth larger trade flows between the partners to the new agreement.

## **5 IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1 Financing agreement**

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

### **5.2 Indicative implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 42 months from the date of the adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such

amendments to this decision constitute non-substantial amendments in the sense of Article 9(4) of Regulation (EU) 2015/322.

### **5.3 Implementation of the budget support component**

n/a

### **5.4 Implementation modalities**

Both in indirect and direct management, the Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures affecting the respective countries of operation<sup>2</sup>.

#### **5.4.1 Procurement (direct management)**

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
One technical assistance contract (that will include the long term technical assistance, ad hoc short term technical assistance and also cover all costs related to meetings, seminars and conferences)	Services	1	Q4 2018

### **5.5 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants**

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

In accordance with Article 22(1)(a) of Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, Article 89(2)(f)(i) of Council Decision 2013/755/EU, the Commission decides that natural and legal persons from the following countries having traditional economic, trade or geographical links with neighbouring partner countries shall be eligible for participating in procurement and grant award procedures: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe. The supplies originating there shall also be eligible.

In accordance with Article 20(6) of Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, Article 89(1)(c) of Council Decision 2013/755/EU and with regard to the regional and cross-border nature of this action, the Commission decides that natural and legal persons from the following countries, territories or regions shall be eligible for participating in procurement and grant award procedures: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Zimbabwe. The supplies originating there shall also be eligible.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 22(1)(b) of Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, Article 89(2)(f)(ii) and 89(3) of Council Decision 2013/755/EU on the basis of urgency or of

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<sup>2</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/restrictive\\_measures-2017-04-26-clean.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/restrictive_measures-2017-04-26-clean.pdf)

unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

## **5.6 Indicative budget**

	<b>EU contribution (EUR)</b>
<b>5.4.1 Procurement (direct management)</b>	<b>900 000</b>
<i>Result 1) Enhanced effectiveness of the coordination of the negotiations for deepening the EPA</i>	600 000
<i>Result 2) Enhanced capacity of EPA signatory countries for preparing negotiating positions and policy dialogue with the EU</i>	300 000
5.9 Evaluation, 5.10 Audit	<i>will be covered by another decision</i>
5.11 Communication and Visibility	50 000
Contingencies	50 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 000 000</b>

## **5.7 Organisational set-up and responsibilities**

The EU Delegation in Mauritius will directly contract services and actions under this project, and will keep the other bilateral and regional Delegations informed so as to ascertain what services and actions need to be contracted and how best to do this to support the objectives. The 11<sup>th</sup> EDF High Level Group and the ESA EPA Committee will also be important stakeholders.

## **5.8 Performance monitoring and reporting**

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

## **5.9 Evaluation**

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

The Commission may however, during implementation, decide to undertake an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner regional organisation(s) and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner(s) and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner regional organisation(s), jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of an evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

#### **5.10 Audit**

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

#### **5.11 Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.6 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

## APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY) <sup>3</sup>

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	<b>Intervention logic</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baselines (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Targets (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Overall objective: Impact</b>	To achieve increased trade between the EU and the five ESA countries, namely Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Zimbabwe.	1. – Trade volume between the EU and ESA EPA signatory countries	2018 data	2028 data – to be determined at inception	1. Eurostat and statistics institutes of the countries involved	
<b>Specific objective(s): Outcome</b>	1. To contribute to the deepening and widening of the Economic Partnership Agreement between the EU and the five ESA countries.	1.1- Number of countries with finalised negotiation positions for the deepening of EPA	1.1 0	1.1 5	1.1 Project reports prepared by the Coordinator	The socio-economic conditions in the countries are sufficiently stable so as to allow for full participation in the negotiations. Countries dedicate sufficient resources to preparation for and participation in the negotiations.

<sup>3</sup> Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with "\*" and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with "\*\*".

<b>Result 1</b>	1.1 Enhanced effectiveness of the coordination of the negotiations for deepening the EPA between the EU and the five ESA countries	1.1.1 - % of formal meeting attended by senior officials or ministers.  1.1.2 – Number of meetings informed and facilitated by the long-term TA	1.1.1 0  1.1.2 1 per year	1.1.1. 30%  1.1.2 3 per year	1.1.1 TA Activity Reports  1.1.2 TA Activity Reports	There is a commitment from the ESA countries to participate in the EPA meetings at high level
<b>Result 2</b>	1.2 Enhanced capacity of EPA signatory countries for preparing negotiating positions and for policy dialogue with the EU	1.2.1 - Number of participants from the five ESA countries in preparatory sessions  1.2.2 - Number of analytical papers prepared by the short term TA	1.2.1 0  1.2.2 0	1.2.1 15  1.2.2 12	1.2.1 TA Activity Reports  1.2.2 TA Activity Reports	The countries are in a position to express their needs in terms of capacity building  Short term expertise is available for specialised areas within the deeper and wider EPA