

AML-CFT ESCAY, ISSUE 1

Targeting Transnational Organised Crime and Terrorist Groups' Illicit Financial Flows in East, Southern, Central Africa & Yemen



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The entire AML-CFT
ESCAY project team
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As you may know, AML-CFT ESCAY is the third phase of an EU funded-project, first launched in 2015 as AML-CFT in the Greater Horn of Africa (AML-CFT GHoA) to support countries in the Horn of Africa with technical assistance to strengthen their AML/CFT regimes and their regional cooperation to counter financing of terrorism and other forms of serious crime. Four years later, the EU continued its support to this project, in a second phase, with a special focus on disrupting financial flows generated by trafficking in human beings and with the inclusion of Southern Africa countries as observers (AML-THB GHoA).

In 2023, a third phase of the project has been launched, which not only extends the geographical scope of the first two phases but also the field of expertise covered to include all forms of transnational organised crimes and the illicit financial flows they generate. This third phase is our current AML-CFT ESCAY, which covers 34 countries – 33 in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa; and Yemen.

The AML-CFT ESCAY project has therefore been able, for 8 years now, to position itself as an

effective and operational player in training in the fight against Illicit Financial Flows generated by international organised crime, and corruption which facilitates the spread of terrorism.

This AML-CFT ESCAY project phase, the 3rd of our cycle, is based on the crucial acquisition of know-how for national stakeholders in the fight against illicit financial flows; that is, to acquire knowledge at the national level in order to interact with efficiency and experience at the regional and international level.

The entire project team thanks you for your attention and we assure you of our commitment to support you in our daily relations to better serve the fight against Illicit Financial Flows thanks to the AML/CFT/CPF tool.

The content of this newsletter – and the ones to follow – will be inspired by the joint collaborations and activities with you, our partner states and institutions. Each newsletter will showcase the highlights of activities we undertake in a given quarter. It will also explore the fields of expertise we cover and look forward to what we plan to cover in the coming quarter.

Enjoy the read, and remember to check out our new website, www.amlcft-escay.eu and to follow us on our social media accounts, LinkedIn and Twitter!



AML-CFT ESCAY Project's Regional meetings: Our Strategy

With improved know-how and a good regional network of experts among trained national officials, the project seeks to contribute to reduce the incidence of transnational organized crime and movement of illicit financial flows.

Since the beginning of its activities in October 2022, the Project has organized over 30 workshops and trainings in multiple cities in eastern and southern Africa. Some of these meetings have been regional, bringing together participants from the 34 project beneficiary countries, drawn from their relevant national bodies who are mandated with fighting money laundering and terrorist financing, countering illicit financial flows derived from transnational organised crimes in their respective countries.

Transnational organised crimes and terrorism pose serious security threat to this region. Countries of the region (Eastern, Central and Southern Africa) are affected although in varying degrees and impact. However, criminal networks are increasingly organized and operate across borders, taking advantage of jurisdictions with loopholes in their laws and their approach to transnational organized crimes.

This demands that relevant authorities in this region must talk to each other and work together, regardless of the scale by which a country perceives itself to be affected by these crimes. The same

logic applies on the global level: that with increasing interconnectedness of global markets and economies, all countries and regions have an interest in working together to jointly fight all forms of transnational organized crimes and therefore to protect their security and nationhood.

Thus, the European Union, through this project, has been supporting regional activities in eastern, central and southern Africa, dedicated to enhancing national and regional capacity in the field of financial investigations/prosecutions, asset recovery, AML/CFT and counter illicit financial flows (IFFs).

It is increasingly recognized that targeting proceeds and financial flows of serious criminal activities and terrorism, through effective financial investigations & prosecution together with effective AML/CFT measures bears much fruit in effectively mitigating the threats of organized crimes and the illicit financial flows that they generate.

And this is the strategy that we have employed in designing our regional forums, workshops, training and other technical assistance: To build the capacity of the participants to target and disrupt the financial flows generated by organized crimes. We are also training them and equipping them to recover and confiscate assets amassed through proceeds of organized crimes, and therefore to deprive criminal networks from benefiting from crime and thus effectively deter.

By training law enforcement agencies, public prosecutors, judiciary, financial intelligence units and all other relevant national institutions, the project is

deliberate in seeking to improve the skills and capacities of these institutions to apply AML/CFT frameworks and tools. Also key in bringing these different agencies and departments together in one room is to eventually have them talking to one another and to realise their improved understanding on cooperation and collaboration within the criminal justice chain at the national and regional level.

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The training adopts the following approach:

1. A progressive approach building from financial analysis to asset recovery covering the complete chain of trial in line with the FATF's and respective FSRBs' standards with a due emphasis on improving effectiveness.
2. A multiagency approach bringing all relevant authorities that enhance shared understanding, mutual trust and effective cooperation and coordination at national and regional levels.
3. An integrated approach blending theories and practices building knowledge, skills at individual and institutional levels contextualised to the needs and priorities of the region
4. Providing specific technical assistance to countries under the ICRG process to address their deficiencies as outlined in their respective FATF action plans and support their efforts of exiting from the ICRG review





Speech Excerpt From Honourable Mahen Kumar Seeruttun, Mauritius Minister for Financial Services and Good Governance

In March 2023, The Project organised a meeting for all the directors of Asset Recovery Agencies from its 34 beneficiary countries. This meeting was held in Mauritius from 14th to 17th March.

The Mauritian minister for Financial Services and Good Governance, Honourable Mahen Seeruttun, officially opened the Asset Recovery Agencies Directors' meeting and gave the welcoming speech.

Below is an abridged version of his speech at the opening ceremony:

Mauritius is very proud to host this workshop, in tandem with the Eastern, Southern, Central Africa and Yemen (ESCAV) Project Team.

This Project Team, with the support of the European Union, has made significant strides in combatting illicit financial flows generated in the region. It has also helped to strengthen the capacities of countries in the region to curb transnational organised crime.

The predicate crimes generating illicit fund flows are many, varied and

uniformly heinous. They feature human trafficking, possibly the most despicable of all crimes, as well as arms trafficking which feeds violence and the looting of non-renewable natural resources.

These crimes are a scourge on victim populations, bringing them misery, exacerbating social and political vulnerabilities. They further deny countries tax revenues, that is so desperately needed, to build and maintain key infrastructure such as housing, healthcare and clean water network.

Illicit enrichment is the key motivating factor of these groups and denying them the financial benefits of their crimes is a profound disincentive for criminality.

In this respect, Collaboration is key! Seamless communication and cooperation, at both national and international levels, between Financial Intelligence Units, Police, Prosecutors and Asset Recovery Agencies is a critical aspect and provides the platform supporting effective counter action.

Today, this workshop bears another testimony to this joint effort, and it also resonates with the words of the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, "change is the only constant in life."

This is true of the criminal ecosystem, which is constantly evolving and adapting to changing circumstances, be it novel money laundering schemes, new smuggling routes or the use of crypto currencies.

Similarly, law enforcement ecosystems should be alive to change and to the need to adapt and it is possibly fair to

say that the extent to which assets can be confiscated is wholly dependent on the legislation underlying asset recovery efforts.

The growth in Africa's economic and strategic heft is increasingly felt beyond the Indian Ocean, creating new opportunities for our region based on our shared values and outlook.

Our special relationship with mainland Africa has plugged us into a critical network of independent and dynamic developing economies working together to create our own norms for intra-regional growth, critical to the interests of all of us.

In Mauritius, the asset recovery framework covers both the conviction-based and non-conviction-based asset forfeiture.

Mauritius is among the few countries that have taken a novel approach to laws that target Unexplained Wealth. It has introduced the concept of Unexplained Wealth to the canon of the Mauritian Asset confiscation regime.

This workshop provides the ideal opportunity for Agency Heads to exchange ideas, best practices as well as to share and learn others' experience in applying their legislation.

I thank the AML-CFT ESCAV Project Team, the EU and the Mauritian Integrity Reporting Services Agency (IRSA) for hosting this prestigious workshop in Mauritius.

I hope you enjoy an enriching, rewarding conference and are inspired to greater efforts and success in your profoundly important work.



AML-CFT ESCAY Team poses with Tanzanian officials in Arusha. The team was in Arusha to offer technical support to Tanzanian institutions to create standard Guidelines on investigation and prosecution of money laundering and terrorism related cases



Frederic Bayard addresses a gathering of Africa's prosecutors during the 16th Annual General Meeting & Conference of Africa Prosecutors' Association (APA)



Frederic Bayard and Sebastian Sperber with a representative of the Central Bank of Kenya during the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between CIVIPOL/AML-CFT ESCAY Project and the Central Bank of Kenya



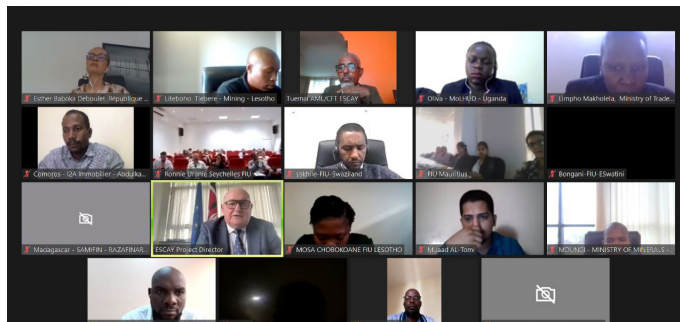
The Head of the EU Delegation to Kenya, H E Henriette Geiger, giving the keynote address during the official launch of the AML-CFT ESCAY Project in Nairobi



AML-CFT ESCAY Project director, Frederic Bayard, addressing participants during the opening ceremony of a training workshop on Financial Intelligence analysis in Johannesburg South Africa



Group photo of participants at the start of a training workshop on Financial Intelligence analysis in Johannesburg South Africa. Participants were from eastern, central and southern Africa



Participants follow proceedings during an AML-CFT ESCAY regional webinar on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risks and Obligations of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBP)



AML-CFT ESCAY senior technical advisor, Tuemay Aregawi, addressing participants during the opening ceremony of a training workshop on Financial Intelligence analysis in Johannesburg South Africa



Senior project technical expert, Alma Wanyama, was the master of ceremony during the official launch of the AML-CFT ESCAY Project in Nairobi



AML-CFT ESCAY Project senior technical expert Alma Wanyama at a training workshop on Counter terrorism for Kenya's judges and magistrates in Naivasha, Kenya. The Project supports a series of training for judicial officers throughout the year

To view more videos from our trainings and testimonials, scan this QR code to log on to our **YouTube Channel** or use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/@aml-cftescaymedia-di9sm/videos>



In Focus: The European Union's AML-CFT ESCAY Launch - in 3 acts

The AML-CFT ESCAY Project was officially launched in Nairobi in January 2023.

To reach relevant institutions, and given its wide geographic and thematic scope, this third phase of the project was launched in 3 events: one in Nairobi dedicated for heads of Immigration, heads of directorates of criminal investigations and heads of financial intelligence units. A second launch in Mombasa, dedicated to the directors of public prosecutions and the final launch, in Mauritius, was dedicated to the Directors of Asset Recovery Agencies from all the beneficiary countries.

The Nairobi Launch: 17-19 January 2023



Organised over three days, the event brought together about 150 delegates, drawn from the 34 beneficiary countries. This was the opportunity to present the project to all beneficiaries, especially to the 18 new countries. Additionally, this conference provided a unique platform by bringing together officials from the Financial Intelligence Units, from the Directorates of Criminal Investigations and the Immigration authorities. The project team used this event to encourage exchanges and meetings between participants from the three institutions, to promote effective regional, inter-regional and international cooperation in the fight against IFFs and money laundering linked to TOC and terrorist groups.

During the event, the project team facilitated bilateral meetings between participants by putting those interested in meeting in contact. These bilateral meetings were productive, resulting in the signing of 3 MoUs.

This launch was attended by several high-level officials, including the EU ambassador to Kenya and representatives from the Kenyan government.

The Mombasa Launch: 29th Jan - 2nd February



The second launch of the project was held in Mombasa alongside the 16th Annual General Meeting and Conference of African Prosecutors' Association (APA).

Kenya's President H E William Ruto was the chief guest at the opening ceremony. Also present was the EU Ambassador to Kenya Her Excellency Henriette Geiger.

The conference brought together 40 African countries, with the participants drawn from the Africa Prosecutors Association (APA) member states and National Prosecution Authorities in Africa. The conference sought to strengthen collaboration and coordination towards effective cross border prosecution of transnational organised crimes.

Speaking on behalf of the EU, the Ambassador Geiger assured the African prosecutors present of the European's Union's support in fighting transnational organised crimes. As an EU fully funded project, our AML-CFT ESCAY project team assured national institutions across Africa represented in the gathering, of our commitment to strengthen their

capacities to stop illicit financial flows generated by transnational organised crimes.

The Mauritius Launch: 14th - 16th March



This was the third and final launch of the project, hosting the Heads of Asset Recovery Agencies from across Africa.

The Minister for Financial Services and Good Governance for Mauritius, Honourable Mahen Kumar Seeruttun gave the welcoming remarks to officially open the meeting. Present at the meeting was the EU Ambassador to Mauritius, His Excellency Vincent Degert, as well as the presidents of the Asset Recovery Inter Agency Networks for east and southern Africa; Ms Lilian Kafiti and Ms Carine Charlette-Katinic respectively.

The AML-CFT ESCAY team leader Frederic Bayard presented the new project, its objectives and aspirations to the directors of asset recovery agencies gathered in Mauritius and assured participants of the EU's commitment to supporting Africa in fighting organised crimes and threats to financial systems stability.

As with the other two launch workshops, this meeting provided an opportunity for the Asset recovery agency heads to exchange on bilateral and multilateral interests, discuss areas of common interests and of technical cooperation of the represented countries. It also provided the opportunity for the heads to form an informal channel of communication, enabling them to easily reach out to each other and work together.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEXT QUARTER

Activity Name	Country of Implementation	Target Institution(s)	Starting Date - Ending Date
Regional training prosecutors, asset recovery and judiciary agencies on asset recovery and confiscations - French Speaking Countries	ZAMBIA, Lusaka	LEAs, ARAs, Prosecution, Judiciary	6/5/23 - 6/9/23
Regional training prosecutors, asset recovery and judiciary agencies on asset recovery and confiscations - Session 2	ZAMBIA, Lusaka	LEAs, ARAs, Prosecution, Judiciary	6/5/23 - 6/9/23
Tanzania - Training for TZ PCCB's investigators and prosecutors on AML/CFT	Tanzania - Dar es Salaam	Prosecutors, Investigators	6/5/23 - 6/9/23
Regional training FIUs, LEAs, prosecutors, Customs and other relevant agencies on trade-based money laundering and illicit financial flows - Session 1	N/A	FIUs, DCI/CID, Prosecution, Customs	7/3/23 - 7/7/23
Madagascar Mentoring on IO3	Madagascar - Antananarivo	FIU, Central Bank, DNFBPS/SRBs	7/10/23 - 7/21/23
Regional training FIUs, LEAs, prosecutors, Customs and other relevant agencies on trade-based money laundering and illicit financial flows - French Speaking Countries	N/A	FIUs, DCI/CID, Prosecution, Customs	7/10/23 - 7/14/23
Regional Workshop on Financial investigation curriculum and development of the 0 draft	Mombasa - Kenya	National training academies, FIU, DCI, Prosecution	9/11/23 - 9/15/23
Training South Sudan	South-Sudan - Juba	FIU, LEAs,	9/18/23 - 9/22/23

The above planned events are tentative and are subject to change. Kindly contact the project for the most up-to-date calendar.

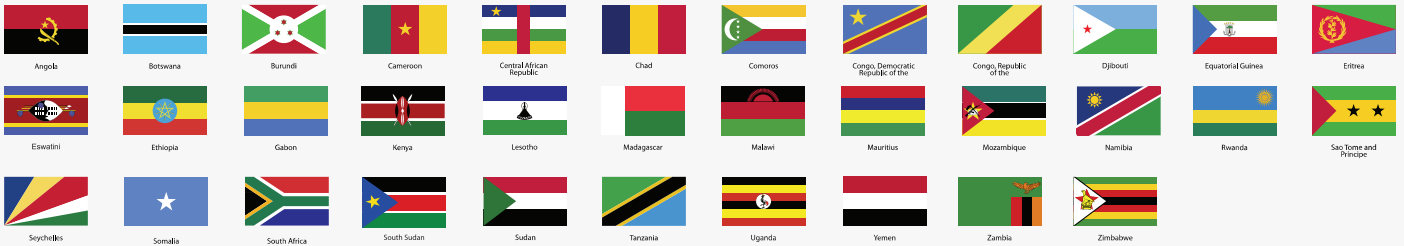


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Eastern, Southern, Central Africa and Yemen

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