

Consultation Document

DFID Southern Africa Regional Plan 2011 and beyond

Contents

- Overview
- Summary of key questions
 1. The regional agenda
 2. What makes Southern Africa distinct?
 3. Rationale for regional working
 4. Current areas of engagement
 5. Partnerships and modalities
- Glossary

1. Overview

1.1 Taking a regional approach

DFID Southern Africa's [Regional Plan 2006 - 2011](#), published in February 2006, set out the rationale for regional working and proposed a regional approach to tackling some of the challenges facing Southern Africa. The plan identified three thematic areas where DFID Southern Africa (DFID-SA) would aim to make a contribution at the regional level:

- Growth, jobs and equity
- Resilient livelihoods
- Peace and security

1.2 Success so far

Working with a range of partners in national and regional government, the private sector, civil society, bilateral and multilateral donors, and UN agencies, DFID has seen this regional approach achieve successes in many areas:

- Harmonisation of regional standards to facilitate trade has helped increase vegetable exports from Mozambique by more than 100% from 2007 to 2008.
- Sales by smaller-scale suppliers in South Africa and Swaziland to Shoprite/Checkers supermarket group rose by 40% in 2008-09 due to better adherence to food safety standards.
- Exports of groundnuts, cashews and birdfood from Malawi and Mozambique to Europe grew almost 11 fold from 2006 to 2008. 93% of these were fair-trade exports.
- The SADC transit management system pilot in 2008 showed an 83% reduction in customs clearance times averaging 0.5 hours (from 3 hours) and more than 40% reduction in transit times to 4 days (from 7 days).
- DFID's Regional Standards Programme helped small growers in South Africa's Limpopo province to be certified as producers by major European retailers resulting in a ten fold increase in production and £120,000 increase in income.
- Soul City's innovative 'edutainment' programme has worked across the region using multimedia to raise awareness and change behaviour on health and social issues. This approach has been proven to contribute to increases in safer sexual behaviour, HIV testing and reduced stigma among young South Africans.
- The South African Peace Mission Training Centre was opened in November 2007 and is being used to train military and civilian personnel working on peace support missions across Africa and beyond.
- The high level North-South Corridor conference organised in April 2009 by the SADC-EAC-COMESA Tri-Partite, raised \$1.2 billion in donor commitments to upgrade road, rail, ports and energy infrastructure along the NSC.
- UNICEF's Children and AIDS Regional Initiative has strengthened national and community capacity to meet the needs of vulnerable children, increasing access to basic services and benefiting 236,595 vulnerable children in 6 countries in Southern Africa.
- River Basin Organisations in Southern Africa have been strengthened in order to improve trans-boundary water management in the region.
- Vulnerability Assessment Committees in the region have been strengthened and awareness of a range of policy options in response to chronic hunger increased.

- The Southern Africa Trust has supported civil society organisations to participate in regional policy development, and build constructive relationships with governments; and disbursed more than US\$8m through 180 grants to CSOs in 14 countries.

1.3 Where we stand

The recent UK White Paper, Building Our Common Future, recognises the potential of working regionally in Africa for building strong growth. The UK has committed to doubling its funding for regional programmes in Africa to £1 billion over the next four years.

DFID Southern Africa (DFID-SA) will spend £29 million through its regional programme in 2009/10. DFID's Africa Regional Department, based in London, also plays an important role in Southern Africa, including through their engagement with pan-African institutions such as the African Union and NEPAD. Their pan-African programme will spend £43.85 million in 2009/10 and £74 million in 2010/11. DFID-SA and Africa Regional Department will be working in close partnership, coordinating efforts to achieve the maximum impact for Southern Africa.

In this context, DFID-SA are beginning a process to develop our plans for 2011 and beyond, learning from and building on current foundations to deepen impact. The aim is to maximise the potential of regional working to support the reduction of poverty and tackle the challenges faced by the countries of Southern Africa.

To help us with this process, we invite you consider this consultation document and respond to a number of questions about working regionally in Southern Africa. Please send your responses and comments to SAREgional@dfid.gov.uk. **This consultation will run until 18/01/2010.**

A consolidated reply addressing the key issues raised will be sent to all respondents after the consultation has closed. We will be unable to respond to individual comments.

Following this consultation, a consolidated reply addressing the key issues raised will be sent to all respondents. We will be unable to respond to individual comments.

Summary of key questions

DFIDSA welcomes your views and feedback on all sections of this document. We have also identified 11 questions to help inform the consultation process.

About Southern Africa

1. What are the key characteristics of the Southern Africa region which should influence development efforts? What distinguishes the region from other parts of Africa?
2. What are the three most important challenges facing the Southern Africa region?
3. What are the three most important issues to be tackled to overcome those challenges?
4. Who are the key players responding to these challenges? Are their efforts effective? What are the constraints?

About the UK in Southern Africa

5. What criteria should inform decisions on *which* issues to tackle through a regional programme? What criteria should determine *how* those issues are approached?
6. What do you like about the UK's current engagement in the region?
7. What don't you like about the UK's current engagement in the region? What could we do differently?
8. Are we focused on the right priorities in the region? Do you perceive any significant gaps in our current approach?
9. Is DFID-SA working with the most appropriate partners to address the priority challenges of the Southern Africa region?
10. Are we using the right modalities for working with others? Are there other ways of partnering which would add more value at the regional level?
11. How can DFID best support the RECs to fulfil their potential as building blocks of regional and ultimately Pan-African integration?

2. The regional agenda

2.1 Africa's economic integration

African countries have stated their intention to pursue the political and socio-economic integration of the continent through the **African Union (AU)** and **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)**. The Pan-African Agenda aims to move Africa from a position of poverty and dependence, to fulfil its potential as a thriving, peaceful continent, which engages fully with its international peers on the global stage.

The AU provides a platform for African countries to speak with a united voice so that Africa's one billion people are properly represented in global negotiations which will impact on the citizens of Africa. Often the issues debated in the international arena will have a disproportionate impact on the poorest. This function of the AU was recently demonstrated in the development of the African common position on climate change, which will be the basis for Africa's position at the Copenhagen negotiations.

The Pan-African Agenda also recognises the need for African nations to work together on economic and social development, to increase sustainable growth across the continent and lift people out of poverty. The 1991 Abuja Treaty established the African Economic Community, and set out a process for attaining African economic union. This is to be achieved through the creation of regional blocs; the establishment of free trade areas and customs unions within each of these; the completion of a continent wide customs union by 2019; a continent wide common market by 2023; leading finally to full economic and monetary union.

The AU recognises eight RECs as the building blocks and pillars of this gradual integration. Overlapping country membership of RECs is a common feature across the region.

2.2 Promoting democracy and governance

In addition to its concerns for economic development, the objectives of the AU include the promotion of democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance; and the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. In addition to changing Africa's relationship with the rest of the World, the Pan-African Agenda encourages stronger relationships of accountability between African leaders and their citizens.

The **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)** is the programme of the AU which supports regional and continental integration and Africa's development objectives. The Guiding Principles of NEPAD include:

- African ownership and leadership
- Promotion and protection of human rights, good governance and democracy
- Anchoring Africa's development on the resources and resourcefulness of Africans—people-centred development
- Promotion of gender equality
- Accelerating and deepening of regional and continental economic integration

- Building a new relationship of partnership among Africans, and between Africans and the international community, especially the industrialized world, and
- A comprehensive, holistic and integrated development programme for Africa.*

*AU / NEPAD African Action Plan 2010-15 Advancing Regional and Continental Integration in Africa

2.3 Supporting efforts across Africa

DFID is keen to support the AU, NEPAD, RECs and member states to achieve the goals of the Pan-African Agenda as a means of providing routes out of poverty for men, women and children; increasing prosperity, peace and good governance in the region; and enabling Africa to take its place with a stronger voice on the world stage.

This has always been an objective of DFID-SA's regional work. In the process of developing a new regional plan, we will consider whether DFID is playing the most effective role that it can in regard to the pan-Africa agenda; and how we might enhance our support for the key regional players and institutions which drive this process.

3.1 What makes Southern Africa distinct?

3.1 History

It is important to take account of the specifics of the Southern Africa region. There are a number of factors which will shape how issues are addressed through the regional plan.

Southern Africa's colonial history and liberation struggles have had a strong influence in shaping relationships between the countries of the region, and have left legacies in terms of language, control of land and resources, and migration. SADC's own origins are as a coalition of 'frontline states' as a defence against apartheid.

Most countries within Southern Africa are relatively recent emerging democracies with evolving governance and accountability systems. Challenges in institutional and human resource capacity are a common constraint. While the region is relatively stable, a history of conflict continues to pose challenges of post conflict reconstruction, and fragile peace processes. Personal insecurity is a fact of life for many Southern Africans, and inequalities and scarce resources are risk factors for new types of conflict to erupt.

3.2 Inequality

High inequality can mask the high levels of poverty in the region, with large numbers of people experiencing increasing vulnerability. Inequalities also threaten social cohesion in the region.

Inequalities within countries are echoed at the regional level by imbalances between Southern African states. South Africa makes up more than 60% of the region's GDP. As the strongest economy on the continent, South Africa is a magnet for multi national companies to come to Southern Africa, as well as an important investor in its neighbours in its own right.

Furthermore it has a unique role among African states as a member of the G20 and an influential role in the World Trade Organisation in the India, Brazil, South Africa group.

3.3 International relations

While South Africa is a dominant force (reliance on South African imports ranges from 35% to 90% among the other countries of the region), DRC and Angola are large countries with huge untapped resources. However SADC's total GDP is only equal to that of Belgium. Most countries in the region depend on exports of primary commodities. Intra-regional trade in 2006 represented only 9% of the region's overall trade. The trade context is complicated by the 'spaghetti bowl' of overlapping memberships of regional groupings, while Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations with the EU form a further layer of un-aligned geometry.

Despite the complexity of relationships, countries are highly interdependent, demonstrated by high levels of small scale cross border trade. Agriculture is a key element of growth and livelihoods across the region, but lack of successful land reform and poor access to land amongst women limits its potential in both arenas.

3.4 Vulnerability

Southern Africa has the highest rates of HIV and AIDS prevalence in the world, with 8 hyper endemic countries in the SADC region. HIV prevalence among pregnant women in South Africa is 29%, and 1 in 2 women in Swaziland is infected. The pandemic impacts the most economically active members of households and communities, in particular women, which deepens poverty.

The region is classified as water scarce, and predicted to become water stressed by 2016. Food insecurity is also very high in more than half the states in the region, set to deteriorate with the effects of climate change, HIV and AIDS, and limited trade. Climate change is also a risk in terms of the spread of malaria, which is already a major cause of mortality and ill health in the region.

3.5 Questions: characteristics of the region

What are the key characteristics of the Southern Africa region which should influence development efforts? What distinguishes the region from other parts of Africa?

3.6 Questions: three challenges and issues

What are the **three** most important challenges facing the Southern Africa region?
What are the **three** most important issues to be tackled to overcome those challenges?

3.7 Questions: key players

Who are the key players responding to these challenges? Are their efforts effective? What are the constraints?

4. Rationale for regional working

4.1 Beyond national boundaries

As a geographical area where national boundaries have only been fixed relatively recently, Southern Africa has historically experienced a great deal of natural movement of people between what are now separate countries. Traditional agricultural and trade flow routes do not recognise national borders, and this has been a source of tension as formal management of labour system migration has been imposed. It is within this historical context that the contemporary Pan-African agenda is played out in Southern Africa.

The AU's Pan-African Agenda, and the integration mandates of the RECs recognise that there are a number of challenges common to many African countries which cannot be effectively dealt with by individual nations but instead require countries to work together towards regional solutions. Some of these require a regional approach due to the transboundary nature of the problem or the benefits to all countries of working together.

4.2 Markets, resources and cooperation

The populations of most African countries are too small to constitute significant **markets** or to attract external investment. Regional economic integration is essential to create larger markets. African countries do very little **trade** with one another, to the detriment of their economies. Numerous regulatory regimes, border controls and tariffs constitute significant barriers which need to be tackled through coordination between countries, at the regional level.

For example, 'Public goods' such as **roads, railways, ports and energy** infrastructure also need to be provided through an integrated regional approach. Poor infrastructure has been identified as a top priority to promoting growth; energy production and distribution can be supported regionally in a way that is out of the reach of individual countries.

The scarcity of water in Southern Africa means that it is becoming more and more difficult to meet this basic human need across the region. Furthermore, the economic potential of **transboundary water** resources is not maximised if each country tries to, for example, manage its own section of a river. Countries must collaborate to derive maximum benefit from their resources. Climate change will only exacerbate environmental impacts which are already felt by neighbouring countries.

Communicable **diseases** do not respect national borders and therefore some aspects of the battle to control them can benefit from a regional approach. Benefits from economies of scale can be reaped if countries pool resources for increasing public awareness or procuring medicines.

Issues of **peace and security**, while closely bound up with national sovereignty, are also clearly cross border issues with huge implications for a whole region. Cooperation between neighbouring countries, both at the level of governments and among non-state actors, can contribute to stability for all of them.

Other issues can be effectively tackled at the national level, but collaboration between countries may result in added benefits through lesson learning and capacity building, building momentum towards policy innovation, or pooling knowledge and resources.

There may also be some initiatives which could be handled at the national level which will have a disproportionate impact throughout the region. There can therefore be an argument for regional approaches that support pivotal countries in some of their domestic efforts, because of the transboundary influence they have.

4.3 Different ways of working

Just as there are many issues which can potentially benefit from a regional approach, there is also a spectrum of possible approaches to regional working.

These range from '**soft**' **integration** based on consensus in a framework of intergovernmental arrangements; through to '**hard**' **integration** where member states give up a certain amount of national sovereignty to supranational institutions. Currently there are African examples of the various depths of integration, ranging from coordination, through cooperation and harmonisation, to full integration. The African Peer Review Mechanism, a voluntary programme among AU member states to increase accountability, is an example of soft integration based on countries opting into a peer review system. The RECs' aspirations of establishing common markets, and the ultimate aim of the African Economic Community to achieve economic and monetary union across the continent, demonstrate the goal of African nations to ultimately progress towards supra-nationalism. The pace at which this progression takes place will depend on the perceived benefits to the countries concerned of giving up control over some aspects of national policy. Some sectors, such as peace and security, are perceived as being more important to national sovereignty and therefore the benefits need to be clear and significant in order to justify the cost of ceding control in these areas.

However, it is also possible for regional objectives in more contentious areas to be achieved through **functional integration** in less sensitive areas. The founders of the European Union aimed to make war between member states 'not only inconceivable but impossible'; but this was achieved primarily through technical integration in specific fields (initially coal and steel). Equally, purely functional integration can lead to calls for a more holistic approach in the new relationships between member states. The Social Chapter of the Treaty on European Union reflects a vision of social cohesion across the region, and acknowledges the need for member states to work together to address the **social implications** of regional economic integration.

The principle of subsidiarity dictates that policy issues should be dealt with at the most local, or lowest possible level, so that regional institutions should only have competence in matters which cannot be more effectively handled nationally. The application of this principle should ensure that regional approaches are genuinely adding value, and not duplicating or countering national efforts.

4.4 Questions: tackling the right issues

What criteria should inform decisions on *which* issues to tackle through a regional programme? And what criteria should determine *how* those issues are approached?

5. Current areas of engagement

5.1 Promoting growth

DFID-SA's 2006 regional plan identified three broad areas for DFID engagement at the regional level: growth, jobs and equity; resilient livelihoods, including food security, water, climate change and infectious diseases; and peace and security.

The overall rationale for DFID-SA's focus on promoting **stable and inclusive growth** in the region is the recognition that growth has a central role to play in delivering poverty reduction aims in sustainable ways. This role can manifest itself through direct effects, generating increased employment and productive opportunities for poor people, but also through indirect effects by, for instance, increasing the revenues available to governments for targeted social spending and public services. Growth is seen as a means to an end - poverty reduction - rather than as an end in itself.

Key constraints to growth in the region include a need for greater intra-regional trade and broader access to international markets. Underdeveloped infrastructure is a constraint to trade and to economic activity more generally.

DFID-SA's recently approved £100m Trademark programme will address some of the key constraints to trade through helping to achieve: improved efficiency of regional trade infrastructure; harmonised regional trade facilitation systems; reduced tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade; improved compliance with export standards in pro-poor agricultural export value chains.

Market failures such as lack of information can also impede private sector growth. And there is a need for a more stable and inclusive financial sector if the benefits of increased growth are to be felt by the poor. DFID-SA is planning two regional programmes on private sector development, and to promote better and sustainable access to financial services for poor people (building on our current ComMark and FinMark programmes). These will result in: more poor people across Southern Africa having access to bank accounts; improved access to credit for SMEs and farmers; reduced transaction costs for sending remittances in the SADC region; and increased incomes and employment opportunities for poor people through regional value chains.

5.2 Reducing vulnerability, increasing resilience

Increasing and sustaining economic growth levels is a crucial factor in achieving the AU vision of a prosperous, healthy and safe Africa. However, poor people need to be able to participate in and enjoy the benefits of this growth. In Southern Africa, disease, hunger, political instability, insecurity and inequalities hinder people's ability to participate in opportunities that growth might provide. **Reducing vulnerability and protecting the poorest** is therefore central to the reduction of poverty in the region.

In the context of its regional programme, DFID SA has worked with regional and national institutions to address some of these drivers of vulnerability.

Eight countries in Southern Africa are classified as HIV and AIDS hyper-endemic. In addition to the devastating human impact, this also contributes to labour market

constraints, affecting growth. The links between health and poverty are well known: poor people are more likely to experience ill health and the poor are vulnerable to shocks such as illness, which exacerbate impoverishment. For ten years DFID-SA has been supporting innovative behaviour change work through Soul City, a multi-media HIV and AIDS communications programme. The £19m programme rolls out Behaviour Change Communication activities and capacity across the region.

Water resources are already scarce in Southern Africa and getting scarcer with increased demand and climate change. Managing shared water resources must be dealt with at a cross border level. DFID-SA is supporting the development of river basin authorities in key river basins in Southern Africa. We contribute as a partner in GTZ's Trans-boundary Water Resource Management Programme.

With at least three million people annually suffering food insecurity, hunger is predictable in southern Africa. DFID-SA has been working with SADC to address this at the regional level, through the Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis programme which facilitates the sharing of knowledge and increases understanding of vulnerability across the region through building capacity of the Vulnerability Assessment Committees. In addition we have increased awareness of policy options to address chronic hunger in the region.

The impacts of climate change, from increased temperatures to precipitation changes, are not confined within national borders, and impact most on poor people. These need to be tackled collaboratively by neighbouring countries. DFID-SA's new Regional Climate Change Programme (RCCP) focuses on increasing the region's ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change. RCCP has prioritised supporting the SADC member states to form a consensus position in the run up to the international Copenhagen negotiations.

5.3 Building capacity, improving governance

In some instances regional working can help increase limited national capacity to tackle issues which are common to countries across the region. The UNICEF Children and AIDS Regional Initiative has supported 6 countries in Southern Africa to strengthen capacity at the national and community level to better meet the needs of vulnerable children.

Civil society organisations can benefit from regional networking, sharing lessons and best practice. In its advocacy role, a regional platform allows civil society to interact with governance institutions at the regional as well as national and local levels, providing an important space for citizens' participation in regional integration. The Southern Africa Trust has facilitated this in the SADC region.

As the UK's White Paper highlights: 'To reduce poverty effectively, and allow each person to achieve their full potential, we need states that are capable, accountable and responsive and where a flourishing civil society empowers citizens to realise their rights.' Political **instability** and poor **governance** are major contributors to poverty in the region. The economic and environmental challenges in Southern Africa create conditions of highly contested political spaces which drive insecurity and lead to instability and fragility. The quest for a better life, more jobs, access to adequate health care and improved social protection, and safe and secure communities is made more difficult in a region in which there is increasing competition for scarce natural resources (like water and energy). The movement of people across borders fuels tensions and prejudices driven primarily by

unacceptable conditions of poverty and vulnerability which in turn feed political tensions because weak states are unable to respond effectively. DFID-SA has worked with civil society and local government to increase the level of capacity, accountability, and responsiveness of government in the region, and will explore the potential of lifting this agenda to the regional level.

5.4 Ensuring peace and security

While Southern Africa is not now affected by **conflict** to the same extent as some other parts of the continent, instability and insecurity, on a personal, national and regional level, do impact on the lives of the people of the region, and especially on the poor. The AU has stated its intention to address peace and security at a continental level, and is building and capacitating the African Peace and Security Architecture. The Regions have a part to play in this, and some regional institutions such as SADC include 'durable peace and security' among their goals for the region.

DFID-SA has engaged in this agenda alongside FCO and MOD, through for example its support to the Southern Africa Trust, which works to increase the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to take a human security approach to regional security initiatives; and to Pax Africa which aims to develop partnership between Governments and CSOs on human security in the region. However the changes in the structure of the DFID-FCO-MOD Africa Conflict Prevention Pool have meant that this pillar of the 2006 Regional Plan has not been as strong a focus for DFID-SA as was envisaged. We are considering whether DFID-SA can add value at a regional level by engaging with partners to help improve personal security, peaceful societies or nations, regional stability, or contribute to the pan-African peace-building agenda.

5.5 Questions: pros and cons of engagement

What do you like about the UK's current engagement in the region? What don't you like about the UK's current engagement in the region? What could we do differently?

5.6 Questions: our priorities and gaps

Are we focused on the right priorities in the region? Do you perceive any significant gaps in our current approach?

6. Partnerships and modalities

6.1 Regional Economic Communities (RECs)

It is essential that all development partners in the region, including Member States and international agencies, seek to work in a way which maximises collective strengths and synergies.

The eight **RECs** recognised by the AU are the fundamental building blocks of regional and ultimately Pan-African integration. Given its broad mandate, which includes socio-economic development and poverty alleviation, **SADC** is a natural partner for DFID-SA. **COMESA**'s strong trade focus also make it a key interlocutor, especially on growth work. DFID-SA has also engaged with **EAC**, particularly in the context of the three RECs' groundbreaking collaboration in the **SADC-COMESA-EAC Tri-Partite**.

While they are different organisations with diverse aims and organisational practices, SADC, COMESA and the EAC share common objectives around increasing intra-Africa trade to increase the prosperity of African citizens. Together they represent half of all the AU member states. The Tri-Partite therefore has huge potential to progress this aspect of the Pan-African agenda. Given the clear benefits of increasing market size and facilitating easier trade between member states, and the necessity of addressing infrastructure constraints above the national level, these are obvious areas for the three RECs to collaborate. Through providing a Secretariat function to the Tri-Partite and helping to convene the successful North South Corridor Conference in April 2009, DFID-SA has been able to play a constructive role in supporting the pioneering work of the Tri-Partite.

However, while the NSC Conference succeeded in securing \$1.2 billion for regional infrastructure and trade facilitation, public finance is never going to be sufficient for the large scale infrastructure projects which are part of the Tri-Partite's vision for the region. It will be essential that the RECs are able to also source private finance in order to implement their ambitious plans. DFID will consider whether there is a role for us in leveraging such resources, or whether we can encourage the kind of commercial investment which is needed.

DFID-SA has worked with the RECs individually through a number of different modalities, including direct funding, technical assistance, intermediary organisations and through the mechanism of the SADC-ICP sectoral groups. Other international agencies similarly undertake work with SADC, COMESA and EAC on various thematic issues and using different mechanisms. While this demonstrates their desire to support the RECs' agendas, there is a risk that the demands of this multi-faceted engagement could become a drain on the limited capacity of the RECs, rather than the assistance that is intended. DFID-SA would like to explore with the RECs and other partners how the effectiveness of development assistance to regional bodies can be increased.

6.2 Civil society

DFID-SA has had a long engagement with various **civil society** organisations (including national, regional and international NGOs, Trade Unions and faith groups) on aspects of regional working including HIV and AIDS, gender, peace and security, and governance. In their capacity as advocacy organisations, CSOs have an important role in driving regional

integration, by calling both national governments and regional institutions to account for their commitments in regional forums. Their mandate allows them to monitor some of the equity dimensions of the regional agenda, such as commitments on gender and the extent to which poverty reduction objectives are being achieved.

In some sectors CSOs may be better placed than the RECs to harness the benefits of working regionally, for example through taking advantage of economies of scale to raise awareness of cross boundary issues such as HIV. Given the limited capacity of the RECs, it may also fall to civil society to monitor and help respond to the social implications of regional economic integration.

CSOs are also able to play an essential role in delivering services in conflict situations or to hard to reach groups. While Southern Africa is less affected by conflict than some regions, this function has been demonstrated in Zimbabwe, Angola and South Africa.

6.3 Private sector

As drivers of economic growth, businesses are important actors in the achievement of sustainable poverty reduction. As well as working with policy makers to enhance the policy environment for growth, DFID-SA also engages with private sector players to support innovation in their practices that will benefit poor people. DFID-SA's FinMark programme for example recognises the need to increase poor people's access to financial services, to enable them to participate in the benefits of growth.

6.4 Governments

In considering regional institutions and organisations with regional 'reach' we must not neglect essential relationships with **national governments**. To a greater or lesser extent, member states drive all regional integration - either negotiating on inter-governmental forums or ceding authority to supranational institutions. There are particular questions here for DFID-SA, as a regional DFID office, with sister country offices with bilateral remits in some but not all of the SADC/ COMESA/ EAC member states.

6.5 International agencies

In seeking to build even more constructive relationships with African partners, DFID-SA will also aim to uphold the Paris Declaration principles in its engagement with other **international agencies**. Mechanisms such as the SADC-International Cooperation Partners thematic groups at the regional level provide frameworks for cooperation and harmonisation. The challenge is to operationalise these more effectively in terms of day to day working. Practical examples of good practice include German-led support to SADC's transboundary water resource management programme, in which DFID-SA is a partner. The UN agencies are also important partners for DFID-SA, in particular UNICEF and UNAIDS. Finally, in recent work to develop the new Trademark Southern Africa programme, DFID-SA has begun to explore the possibilities of partnering with multilaterals such as the Development Bank for Southern Africa (DBSA).

6.6 Questions: working with partners

Is DFID-SA working with the most appropriate partners to address the priority challenges of the Southern Africa region?

6.7 Questions: using the right modalities

Are we using the right modalities for working with others? Are there other ways of partnering which would add more value at the regional level?

6.8 Questions: Supporting Regional Economic Communities

How can DFID best support the RECs to fulfil their potential as building blocks of regional and ultimately Pan-African integration?

Glossary

| | |
|---------|--|
| ACPP | Africa Conflict Prevention Pool |
| AU | Africa Union |
| COMESA | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa |
| CSO | Civil Society Organisation |
| DBSA | Development Bank of Southern Africa |
| DFID | Department for International Development |
| DFID-SA | DFID Southern Africa |
| DRC | Democratic Republic of Congo |
| EAC | East African Community |
| EU | European Union |
| FCO | Foreign and Commonwealth Office |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GTZ | Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit |
| ICP | International Cooperation Partner |
| MOD | Ministry of Defence |
| NEPAD | New Partnership for Africa's Development |
| NGO | Non Governmental Organisation |
| NSC | North South Corridor |
| REC | Regional Economic Community |
| RCCP | Regional Climate Change Programme |
| SADC | Southern African Development Community |
| SME | Small or Medium sized Enterprise |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNAIDS | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |