



D I V I S I O N O N T E C H N O L O G Y A N D L O G I S T I C S

ASYCUDA **NEWSLETTER**



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April 2020

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EDITORIAL

English version

This editorial deals with the alignment of [ASYCUDA guidelines](#) for Customs Administrations to face the COVID-19 situation with the recommendations of trade-related International Organizations and how the ASYCUDA Programme is supporting user-countries in ensuring business continuity while reducing the spread of the virus. The Newsletter also describes the achievements of the Programme since its last edition in August 2019.

Since mid-April, more than half of the planet's population has been confined. Travel is limited but borders remain open to avoid any disruption of the supply chains of essential goods like food and medical supplies. People are encouraged or mandated to stay at home, respect social distancing and avoid mass gatherings. Non-essential businesses are closed, and telecommuting has replaced working at the office where possible.

Thanks to these measures set by Governments and the active participation, respect of rules and solidarity of the populations and medical staff, the impact of the virus is slowly being reduced, and there is hope for a total control in a near future. However, fighting the spread of the epidemic has given rise to a massive economic challenge. The global economy has entered a recession worse than that of the financial crisis of 2009 and could last a few years. It is now too soon to measure or identify precisely its impact. Publications are trying to forecast it, but the [numbers](#) are being updated week after week and are hard to [quantify](#). Furthermore, the pandemic is just starting to wreak havoc in Africa, where repercussions can be disastrous, and a [health Marshall plan](#) is required to fight against the virus and its economic impact. One thing is certain: the economic repercussions can only be

quantified once the pandemic is under control. In the meantime, transport, and especially the maritime one (approx. 80% of trade is transported by ships), should be facilitated and encouraged. In this context, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, UNCTAD Secretary-General, called for [cross-border trade to flow and ports to remain open](#) to ensure the continuous provision of medical supplies among other things. Governments and trade-related International Organizations are working together to minimize the economic fallouts on societies, issuing guidelines and implementing measures to tackle the crisis and facilitate trade and transport.

The ASYCUDA Programme, UNCTAD's largest technical assistance programme, provides both guidelines and practical technical support to address the impact of the COVID-19 to customs administrations using ASYCUDAWorld, the fourth generation of ASYCUDA's customs procedures and data management system. Indeed, ASYCUDA published in mid-April [recommendations for the adaption of the ASYCUDAWorld system](#) to the situation, the necessary adjustments of the ICT infrastructure and the review of some organizational arrangements. In addition to that, the Programme is also providing tailored support to each of its user-countries, thanks to its experts in the field and from headquarters in Geneva, using technology to ensure remote assistance.

Trade-related International Organizations have issued guidelines for business continuity of Customs and Partner Governmental Agencies, and for trade facilitation during these trying times. Besides the above-mentioned ASYCUDA recommendations, UNCTAD also recently issued a 10-point [action plan](#) to strengthen international trade and transport facilitation in

times of pandemic. The World Customs Organization (WCO) published [practices](#) and [ideas](#) for customs to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and a classification of [COVID-19 related medical supplies](#) by HS (Harmonized System) code. The World Trade Organization (WTO) shared information on all [COVID-19 trade-related measures taken by its Member States](#) and dedicated an article to the importance of [transparency](#) of data and in procedures. The UNCTAD website dedicated an entire [webpage](#) to COVID-19 analysis and news documents, while the TrainforTrade Programme published [best practices and recommendations to ensure continuity of ports' operations](#) and shared guidelines and action plans implemented by port authorities from around the world. All these recommendations can be summarized as follows:

- **Automation & Digitization.** To avoid any unnecessary interaction and respect social distancing, customs clearance processes should be automated with the objective to move towards a 100% paperless environment.
- **Coordination of activities & cooperation in action.** All decisions and measures should be coordinated and implemented in cooperation with PGAs (Partner Governmental Agencies) to ensure the involvement of all, smoothness of customs procedures and faster clearance of COVID-19 related goods. Together, these Administrations should appoint a crisis team, establish a Business Continuity Plan and reinforce their help desks services.
- **Responsibility.** All Governments are calling for responsible behavior of their populations. This also applies to customs officers and economic operators who should respect all the sanitary measures (wash hands, respect social distancing, wear masks, wear gloves, avoid direct interaction etc.) and act responsibly when doing their jobs.
- **Facilitation of trade procedures.** The legal framework should be adapted; for example, to assign a legal value to scanned supporting documents. Customs Administrations should review their Risk Management Strategy by ensuring less physical inspection and implementing a programme of trusted operators to accelerate the clearance of goods. To promote trade, Governments should review their tax and payment strategy to accept e-payments, prepayments and deferred payments, and introduce tax exemptions.
- **Transparency.** Information sharing should be optimized to provide economic operators with all the trade facilitation measures implemented and amended trade policies. Customs clearance procedures and its related data should be the clearest possible to accelerate customs clearance, avoid unnecessary interaction and duplicate data entries.

The ASYCUDA Programme has detailed all the practical actions to be taken for the ASYCUDAWorld system to be aligned with these recommendations. The guidelines provided by ASYCUDA also offer recommendations on organizational arrangements and a set of adjustments and assessments of the ICT infrastructure. These actions are general and are addressed to all ASYCUDA user-countries. Nevertheless, although user-countries share a common basis of ASYCUDAWorld, the system can be very different from a region or from one country to another. Therefore, the ASYCUDA Programme, through its regional coordinators, is sharing the guidelines to all user-Customs Authorities, specifying the readiness of the Programme to assist in any development, system configuration, data analysis, review etc. that can help minimize the spread of the virus and ensure business continuity. Below are some examples of support provided by the Programme.

In Afghanistan, based on the Government's order to facilitate the importation of medical supplies for the COVID-19 response and necessary food items, the ASYCUDA system is running 24/7, covering daily operations in all border crossing points. Further to the Government's decision to cancel the customs duty for five hygienic commodities, the ASYCUDA national experts configured the new taxation rules in the system accordingly. Furthermore, the cabinet of Afghanistan amended the transport law in March 2020. All transport fees, usually collected by the Ministry of Transportation, must be collected by Customs through the ASYCUDA system. Consequently, The Customs and UNCTAD teams configured the new functionality for collecting all transport fees. The new functionality went live on 23 April 2020, making the Ministry of Transportation an additional user of ASYCUDAWorld in Afghanistan. The UNCTAD ASYCUDA team constantly shares the daily customs operation status at all borders crossing points with the COVID-19 task force, OCHA HQ, the UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan) and the UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO).

Albania and Kosovo customs administrations have implemented special transit measures to further accelerate the movement of CEFTA-approved (Central European Free Trade Agreement) essential goods.

In D.R. Congo, the Government issued [economic and sanitary measures](#) in March to face the COVID-19 crisis. With the assistance of ASYCUDA, measures such as the exemption of taxes on imported medical supplies, suspension of delay penalties and tailoring of the Risk Management mechanism to expedite shipments and perform less inspections, were easily implemented in ASYCUDAWorld.

The Government of Equatorial Guinea has issued a Presidential Decree on 31 March 2020

adopting [measures](#) to strengthen the National System for Social Protection and supporting SMEs (PYMES), in the context of COVID-19. Article 9 of this Presidential Decree instructs the Ministry of Finances, Economy and Planning to ensure mandatory use of the ASYCUDAWorld system in the Customs jurisdiction of Malabo. This measure aims at automating collection of revenue to facilitate trade and ultimately enforce procedures of social distancing linked to the pandemic.

In Guyana, the [pre-payment functionality](#) of ASYCUDAWorld was extended to export declarations to avoid any unnecessary direct interaction.

In Kazakhstan, The ASYCUDA-based ASTANA-1 system enabled brokers and Customs officials to comply with COVID-19 conditions and continue their direct duties working from home. The system allows the processing of Customs transactions and payments without physical interventions. ASTANA-1 ensures the prompt automatic application at the national level of all Governmental emergency measures such as a ban on the export of medical protection equipment, introduction of tax incentives for the import of socially important goods, as well as a ban on the export of such goods. Functions of customs control and risk management over COVID-related measures are fully operational. Under the conditions of the State of Emergency, the ASTANA-1 reporting and monitoring tools provide timely and reliable data to the President's Administration and governmental agencies concerned.

In Vanuatu, ASYCUDA assisted in the launch of the New Biosecurity SPS Online Module, as a component of the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project, to monitor and prevent import of pests and diseases while facilitating imports and exports of plant and agricultural products. The electronic connectivity features of ASYCUDA allow for the remote processing of

customs and trade related formalities, without face-to-face interaction. The manager of Customs Border and Enforcement, Stanley Trief stressed “This new module will also ensure, with the current state of emergency endorsed by the Government, there is no need for people to come by the office anymore.”

These are just a few examples of support the ASYCUDA Programme provided during the crisis until the end of April. As this document is being finalized, more user-countries have contacted ASYCUDA for support.

In the following articles, we deal with the major achievements of the Programme in the field since last autumn. The newsletter starts with Barbados where the Customs Administration successfully migrated to the ASYCUDAWorld system. It then details the launch of the ASYCUDA Express Operators Module in collaboration with GIZ (German Corporation for International Cooperation) in Kosovo. In Africa, Gabon and Sierra Leone migrated to ASYCUDAWorld while Eswatini is making great progress in the implementation of ASYPM (ASYCUDA Automated System for Performance

Measurement). In Turkmenistan, the Customs Administration is now using a tailored version of the Import/Export Module. An ASYCUDA Mobile App was implemented last January in Nepal. eCITES, developed in collaboration with CITES (Conference on International Trade of Endangered Species), was launched in Sri Lanka in February to manage the granting, processing and controlling of trade of CITES listed species and plants. Finally, Vanuatu launched the Biosecurity SPS Module as a component of its Electronic Single Window, built in collaboration with ASYCUDA.

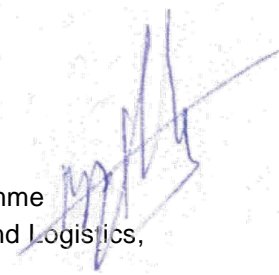
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[#StaySafeStayHome](#)

[#WorkingFromHome](#)

[#uncovid19brief](#)

Fabrice Millet
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Geneva, April 2020.



EDITORIAL

Version française

Cet éditorial traite de l'alignement des [recommandations SYDONIA](#) pour les administrations douanières pour faire face à la situation COVID-19 avec les recommandations des organisations internationales liées au commerce et comment le programme SYDONIA aide les pays utilisateurs à assurer la continuité des activités tout en réduisant la propagation du virus. Ce bulletin décrit aussi les réalisations du programme depuis sa dernière édition en août 2019.

Depuis la mi-avril, plus de la moitié de la population de la planète est confinée. Les voyages sont limités, mais les frontières restent ouvertes pour éviter toute perturbation des chaînes d'approvisionnement de produits essentiels comme la nourriture et les fournitures médicales. Les gens sont encouragés ou mandatés à rester à la maison, à respecter la distance sociale et à éviter les rassemblements de masse. Les entreprises non essentielles sont fermées et le télétravail a remplacé le travail au bureau dans la mesure du possible.

Grâce à ces mesures fixées par les gouvernements et à la participation active, au respect des règles et à la solidarité de la population et du personnel médical, l'impact sanitaire du virus diminue lentement dans l'espoir de sa maîtrise totale dans un avenir proche. Cependant, lutter contre la propagation de l'épidémie pose un nouveau défi aux gouvernements. L'économie mondiale est entrée dans une récession, pire que celle de la crise financière de 2009, qui pourrait durer quelques années. Il est maintenant trop tôt pour mesurer ou identifier précisément son impact. Certaines [publications](#) tentent de le prévoir mais les chiffres sont mis à jour semaine après

semaine et sont difficiles à [quantifier](#). De plus, la pandémie commence tout juste à faire des ravages en Afrique, où les répercussions peuvent être désastreuses, et un [plan Marshall de santé](#) est nécessaire pour lutter contre le virus et son impact économique. Une chose est sûre : les répercussions économiques ne peuvent être quantifiées qu'une fois la pandémie maîtrisée. Dans l'intervalle, le transport, et spécialement le maritime (environ 80% du commerce mondial est assuré par le transport maritime), devrait être facilité et encouragé. Dans ce contexte, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secrétaire Général de la CNUCED, a appelé à [maintenir le commerce transfrontalier et assurer l'ouverture des ports](#) afin d'assurer entre autres l'approvisionnement continu en équipement médical. Les gouvernements et les organisations internationales liées au commerce travaillent ensemble pour minimiser les retombées économiques sur les sociétés, en mettant en place des mesures et en émettant des directives pour faire face à cette crise et faciliter le commerce et le transport.

Le Programme SYDONIA, le plus grand programme d'assistance technique de la CNUCED, fournit à la fois des recommandations et un soutien technique pratique pour contrer l'impact du COVID-19 sur les administrations douanières utilisant SYDONIAWorld, la quatrième génération de système de gestion des procédures et des données douanières. En effet, SYDONIA a publié à la mi-avril des [recommandations pour l'adaptation du système SYDONIAWorld](#) à la situation, les ajustements nécessaires de l'infrastructure TIC et la révision de certains arrangements organisationnels. De plus, le Programme fournit également un soutien personnalisé à chacun de ses pays utilisateurs

grâce à ses experts sur le terrain et depuis le siège à Genève, utilisant la technologie pour assurer une assistance à distance.

Les Organisations Internationales liées au commerce ont publié des lignes directrices pour la continuité des activités des douanes et des agences gouvernementales partenaires et pour la facilitation des échanges pendant ces périodes difficiles. En plus des recommandations du Programme SYDONIA mentionnées plus tôt, la CNUCED a récemment publié un [plan d'action](#) en 10 points sur le renforcement de la facilitation du commerce international et du transport en ces temps de pandémie. L'Organisation Mondiale des Douanes (OMD) a publié des [pratiques douanières](#) et des [idées](#) pour atténuer les effets de la pandémie et une [classification des fournitures médicales](#) liées au COVID-19 par code SH (Système Harmonisé). L'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce (OMC) partage des informations sur les [mesures commerciales](#) relatives au COVID-19 prises par ses États membres et a consacré un article à l'importance de la [transparence](#) des données et des procédures. Le site Web de la CNUCED a consacré une page [Web entière](#) à l'analyse du COVID-19 et au partage d'information, tandis que le Programme TrainForTrade a publié des [pratiques et des recommandations permettant d'assurer la continuité des opérations des ports](#) et a partagé des plans d'action mis en place par les autorités portuaires à travers le monde. Toutes ces recommandations peuvent être résumées comme suit :

- **Automatisation et numérisation.** Pour éviter toute interaction inutile et respecter les distanciations sociales, les processus de dédouanement doivent être automatisés dans le but d'évoluer vers un environnement 100% sans papier.
- **Coordination des activités & coopération dans l'action.** Toutes les décisions et mesures devraient être

coordonnées et mises en œuvre en coopération avec les AGP (Agences Gouvernementales Partenaires) pour garantir la participation de tous, la fluidité des procédures douanières et un dédouanement plus rapide des marchandises liées au COVID-19. Ces Administrations devraient nommer une équipe de crise, établir un plan de continuité des activités et renforcer leurs services d'assistance.

- **Responsabilité.** Tous les gouvernements demandent un comportement responsable de leurs populations. Cela vaut également pour les agents des douanes et les opérateurs économiques qui doivent respecter toutes les mesures sanitaires (se laver les mains, respecter la distance sociale, porter des masques, porter des gants, éviter les interactions directes, etc.) et agir de manière responsable dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions.
- **Facilitation des procédures commerciales.** Le cadre juridique devrait être adapté ; par exemple, pour attribuer une valeur légale aux pièces justificatives numérisées. Les administrations des douanes devraient revoir leur stratégie de gestion des risques en garantissant moins d'inspection physique et en mettant en œuvre un programme d'opérateurs de confiance pour accélérer le dédouanement des marchandises. Pour promouvoir le commerce, les gouvernements devraient revoir leur stratégie fiscale et de paiement pour accepter les paiements électroniques, les paiements anticipés et les paiements différés, et introduire des exonérations fiscales.
- **Transparence.** Le partage d'informations devrait être optimisé pour fournir aux opérateurs économiques toutes les mesures de facilitation des échanges mises en œuvre et les politiques commerciales modifiées. Les procédures

de dédouanement et leurs données connexes devraient être les plus claires possibles pour accélérer le dédouanement, éviter les interactions inutiles et les doublons.

Le programme SYDONIA a détaillé toutes les mesures pratiques à prendre pour que le système SYDONIAWorld soit aligné sur ces recommandations, ainsi que des recommandations sur les dispositions organisationnelles et un ensemble d'ajustements et d'évaluations de l'infrastructure des TIC. Ces actions sont générales et s'adressent à tous les pays utilisateurs de SYDONIA. Néanmoins, bien que les pays utilisateurs partagent une base commune de SYDONIAWorld, le système peut être très différent d'une région ou d'un pays à l'autre. Par conséquent, le Programme SYDONIA, par le biais de ses coordonnateurs régionaux, partage les directives à toutes les Autorités Douanières utilisatrices, spécifiant la préparation et la disponibilité du Programme à assister tout développement, configuration du système, analyse des données, examen, etc... qui peuvent aider à minimiser la propagation du virus et assurer la continuité des activités. Des exemples de soutien fourni par le Programme sont décrits ci-dessous.

En Afghanistan, sur la base de l'ordonnance du Gouvernement visant à faciliter l'importation de fournitures médicales pour la réponse au COVID-19 et des produits alimentaires nécessaires, le système SYDONIA fonctionne 24h/24 et 7j/7, couvrant les opérations quotidiennes dans tous les points de passage frontaliers. Suite à la décision du Gouvernement d'annuler les droits de douane pour cinq produits hygiéniques, les experts nationaux SYDONIA ont configuré les nouvelles règles fiscales dans le système en conséquence. De surcroît, Le cabinet ministériel a modifié une loi sur le transport en mars 2020. Tous les frais de transport,

d'habitude collectés par le Ministère des Transports, doivent dorénavant être collectés par la Douane à travers le système SYDONIA. En conséquence, les équipes de la Douane et de la CNUCED ont développé une nouvelle fonctionnalité pour la collection des frais de transport. Elle a été mise en service le 23 avril 2020, faisant du Ministère des Transports une agence supplémentaire utilisatrice de SYDONIAWorld en Afghanistan. L'équipe SYDONIA de la CNUCED partage constamment le statut quotidien des opérations douanières à tous les points de passage frontaliers avec la force opérationnelle COVID-19, le siège d'OCHA, la Mission d'Assistance des Nations Unies en Afghanistan (MANUA) et le bureau du Coordonnateur Résident (RCO) auprès de l'ONU.

Les Administrations Douanières de l'Albanie et du Kosovo ont mis en œuvre des mesures de transit spéciales pour accélérer la circulation des marchandises essentielles approuvées par l'ALECE (Accord de libre-échange d'Europe centrale).

En R.D.C., le gouvernement a publié des [mesures économiques et sanitaires](#) en mars pour faire face à la crise du COVID-19. Avec l'aide de SYDONIA, des mesures telles que l'exonération des taxes lors de l'importation de fournitures médicales, la suspension des pénalités de retard et l'adaptation du mécanisme de gestion des risques pour accélérer les expéditions et effectuer moins d'inspections, ont été facilement mises en œuvre dans SYDONIAWorld.

Le Gouvernement de Guinée équatoriale a publié un décret présidentiel le 31 mars 2020, adoptant des [mesures](#) pour renforcer le Système national de protection sociale et de soutien aux PME (PYMES), dans le cadre de COVID-19. L'Article 9 du présent décret présidentiel charge le ministère des Finances, de l'Économie et de la Planification d'assurer

l'utilisation obligatoire du système SYDONIAWorld dans la juridiction douanière de Malabo. Cette mesure vise à automatiser la collecte des revenus pour faciliter les échanges et à terme assurer des procédures de distanciation sociale dues à la pandémie.

Au Guyana, la fonctionnalité de [prépaiement](#) de SYDONIAWorld a été étendue aux déclarations d'exportation pour éviter toute interaction directe inutile.

Au Kazakhstan, le système ASTANA-1 basé sur SYDONIA a permis aux courtiers et aux agents des douanes de se conformer aux conditions COVID-19 et de continuer à exercer leurs fonctions depuis leur domicile. Le système permet le traitement des transactions et paiements douaniers sans intervention physique. ASTANA-1 assure l'application automatique rapide au niveau national de toutes les mesures d'urgence gouvernementales telles que l'interdiction d'exporter des équipements de protection médicale, l'introduction d'incitations fiscales pour l'importation de biens d'importance sociale, ainsi qu'une interdiction d'exporter de telles marchandises. Les fonctions de contrôle douanier et de gestion des risques liés aux mesures liées aux COVID sont pleinement opérationnelles. Dans les conditions de l'état d'urgence, les outils de rapport et de surveillance d'ASTANA-1 fournissent des données fiables et en temps opportun à l'Administration Présidentielle et aux organismes gouvernementaux concernés.

A Vanuatu, SYDONIA a aidé au lancement du nouveau module en ligne SPS sur la biosécurité, en tant que composante du projet de Guichet Unique Electronique de Vanuatu, pour surveiller et empêcher l'importation de parasites et de maladies tout en facilitant les importations et les exportations de produits végétaux et agricoles. Les fonctionnalités de connectivité électronique de SYDONIA

permettent le traitement à distance des formalités douanières et commerciales, sans interaction en face à face. Le chef du projet de mise en place du Guichet Unique, Stanley Trief, a souligné : « Ce nouveau module garantira également, avec l'état d'urgence actuel soutenu par le Gouvernement, qu'il ne sera plus nécessaire de venir au bureau. »

Il ne s'agit là que d'exemples de soutien apporté par le Programme SYDONIA pendant la crise jusqu'à fin avril. Alors que ce document est en cours de finalisation, davantage de pays utilisateurs ont contacté SYDONIA pour demander une assistance.

Dans les articles suivants, nous abordons les principales réalisations du programme sur le terrain depuis l'automne dernier. Le bulletin commence par la Barbade, où l'Administration des Douanes a réussi à migrer vers le système SYDONIAWorld. Il détaille ensuite le lancement du module d'opérateurs Express SYDONIA en collaboration avec la GIZ (Société Allemande de Coopération Internationale) au Kosovo. En Afrique, le Gabon et le Sierra Leone ont migré vers SYDONIAWorld tandis qu'Eswatini fait de grands progrès dans la mise en place d'ASYPM (Système Automatisé SYDONIA de Mesure de Performance). Au Turkménistan, l'Administration des Douanes utilise désormais une version personnalisée du module SYDONIA d'importation/exportation. Une application mobile SYDONIA a été mise en œuvre en janvier dernier au Népal. eCITES, développé en collaboration avec la CITES (Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction), a été lancé au Sri Lanka en février pour gérer l'octroi, le traitement et le contrôle du commerce des espèces et plantes inscrites à la CITES. Enfin, Vanuatu a lancé le module SPS de biosécurité en tant que composant de son Guichet Unique Electronique, développé en collaboration avec SYDONIA.

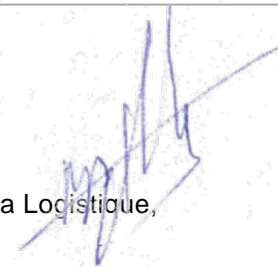
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Division de la Technologie et de la Logistique,
Genève, avril 2020.



EDITORIAL

Versión española

Este editorial hace referencia y toma en cuenta el documento [con directrices](#) sobre el uso de SIDUNEAWorld que, en el contexto de la pandemia COVID-19, fue dirigido a las Administraciones de Aduanas. El documento incluye recomendaciones de diferentes Organizaciones relacionadas con el Comercio Internacional y la manera como el Programa SIDUNEA sugiere preservar el movimiento de mercancías creando condiciones para evitar la propagación del virus. Al mismo tiempo, en esta emisión del boletín informativo encontrará material sobre los logros del Programa, desde su última edición en agosto de 2019.

Desde mediados de abril, más de la mitad de la población mundial se encuentra bajo algún tipo de confinamiento y, aunque la posibilidad de viajar se ha reducido considerablemente, es evidente que los pasos fronterizos deben mantenerse abiertos para evitar interrupciones en la cadena de suministro de bienes esenciales como alimentos y productos médicos. La recomendación general es que las personas se mantengan en casa, respeten un distanciamiento social y eviten reuniones masivas. Los negocios no esenciales se mantienen cerrados y, en la medida de lo posible, el teletrabajo ha reemplazado la asistencia a las oficinas.

Es gracias a este tipo de medidas gubernamentales y la participación de la sociedad, a través del respeto a las nuevas reglas y la solidaridad con la población y los equipos de asistencia médica, que el impacto del virus ha empezado a disminuir, con la esperanza de lograr un mejor control en los próximos meses. Sin embargo, hay un costo adicional de esta pandemia. La economía mundial ya ha entrado en recesión,

posiblemente más devastadora que la experimentada en el año 2009 y con el riesgo de quedarse por mucho tiempo, y todavía se puede medir o identificar el impacto con certeza. Algunas publicaciones tratan de [estimar](#) o [predecir](#) el daño económico final, pero, puesto que los datos se actualizan semanalmente, resulta muy difícil hacerlo. En todo caso, es importante señalar que la pandemia recién está empezando a causar estragos en África, donde se estima que las repercusiones pueden llegar a ser desastrosas, por lo que será necesario que un [Plan Marshall sanitario](#) para hacer frente al virus y su impacto económico. Lo que si es cierto es que las repercusiones económicas solo podrán ser cuantificadas una vez se haya podido controlar la pandemia. Mientras esto sucede, el transporte, y especialmente el marítimo (aproximadamente el 80% del comercio es transportado por barcos), debe ser facilitado y fomentado. En este contexto, el Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretario General de la UNCTAD, [pidió el mantenimiento del flujo comercial transfronterizo y que los puertos permanezcan abiertos](#) para garantizar la prestación continua de productos médicos, entre otras cosas. Gobiernos y organizaciones internacionales relacionadas con el comercio, se encuentran trabajando simultáneamente con el fin de reducir posibles consecuencias económicas en sus sociedades, implementando medidas y generando directrices para enfrentar esta crisis y facilitar el comercio y el transporte.

SIDUNEA, el Programa de asistencia técnica más importante de la UNCTAD, ha emitido directrices y se ha puesto a disposición de los países usuarios del SIDUNEAWorld para proporcionar soporte técnico y funcional en la implementación de medidas relacionadas con la pandemia COVID-19, utilizando la cuarta

generación de su sistema aduanero automatizado. A mediados de abril el Programa SIDUNEA publicó una serie de recomendaciones orientadas a adaptar el sistema SIDUNEA a la situación causada por la pandemia, incluyendo ajustes en la infraestructura informática y la necesaria revisión de arreglos institucionales. A esto se suma el trabajo de nuestros expertos que, desde la sede en Ginebra, las oficinas regionales o los proyectos en diferentes países, aseguran un soporte personalizado y adaptado a las necesidades de nuestros países usuarios, utilizando tecnología y mecanismos disponibles para un eficiente soporte a distancia.

Organizaciones Internacionales relacionadas con el comercio generaron directrices estableciendo guías para asegurar el mantenimiento de operaciones en las Administraciones de Aduana y demás agencias relacionadas con el movimiento de mercancías. Además de las recomendaciones del Programa SIDUNEA mencionadas anteriormente, la UNCTAD también emitió recientemente un [plan de acción](#) de 10 puntos para fortalecer la facilitación del comercio internacional y del transporte en estos tiempos de pandemia. La Organización Mundial de Aduanas (OMA) publicó documentos sobre [práctica Aduanera e ideas](#) para mitigar los efectos de la pandemia, y a su vez una lista de mercancías (y su correspondiente clasificación arancelaria) para [productos médicos esenciales](#) relacionados a la emergencia COVID-19. La Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC) compartió las [medidas](#) sobre comercio adoptadas por sus países miembros, y dedicó un artículo sobre la importancia de la [transparencia](#) en los procedimientos y el intercambio de información. El sitio web de la UNCTAD dedica una [página](#) completa al COVID-19, con noticias, análisis e información relacionada con recursos disponibles, mientras que el Programa TrainforTrade publicó [mejores prácticas y recomendaciones para garantizar la continuidad](#)

[de las operaciones de los puertos](#) y las directrices y compartió planes de acción implementados por las autoridades portuarias. Todas estas recomendaciones se pueden sintetizar en los siguientes puntos:

- **Automatización y Digitalización.** Los procesos de despacho Aduanero deberían automatizarse y convertirse en procesos sin papeles, a fin de evitar interacción personal innecesaria y respetar el distanciamiento social.
- **Coordinación de actividades y Cooperación activa.** Todas las decisiones y medidas de protección deberían estar coordinadas e implementadas en cooperación con otras Agencias Gubernamentales, a fin de asegurar la participación de todos, establecer procesos Aduaneros más ligeros y facilitar el despacho de productos médicos esenciales relacionados a la emergencia COVID-19. Todas las agencias asociadas deberían nombrar un equipo de respuesta inmediata, establecer un plan de contingencia operativa, y mejorar sus servicios de ayuda al cliente.
- **Responsabilidad.** El llamado de los gobiernos por un buen comportamiento de la población se aplica también a los funcionarios de Aduana y operadores económicos quienes están obligados a respetar las medidas sanitarias (higiene, distanciamiento social, uso de máscaras y guantes, interacción personal, etc.) y actuar responsablemente en el desarrollo de sus funciones.
- **Facilitación de comercio y procesos de despacho.** El marco legal debe ser adaptado a las circunstancias, por ejemplo, legalizando el uso de documentos de soporte escaneados. De igual manera, las Administraciones de Aduanas deben revisar su estrategia de gerencia de riesgos, asegurando un número limitado de inspecciones físicas y creando programas para empresas confiables, a fin de acelerar el despacho de mercancías. Finalmente, a fin de impulsar el comercio, los gobiernos deberían revisar su estrategia impositiva, introduciendo exenciones impositivas e implementando esquemas de pago electrónico, prepago y pago diferido.

- **Transparencia.** El intercambio de información debe ser necesariamente optimizado a fin de permitir la diseminación de medidas de facilitación y otras políticas de comercio entre los principales operadores económicos. Los procedimientos de despacho aduanero deben ser claros y transparentes, a fin de asegurar mayor agilidad en dichos procesos, y evitar duplicaciones e interacción innecesaria.

El Programa SIDUNEA, en sus directrices sobre el uso del sistema SIDUNEAWorld, tiene una lista detallada de acciones prácticas que deberán ser consideradas para que el sistema pueda alinearse con las recomendaciones COVID-19. El documento también proporciona directrices sobre arreglos organizacionales y un conjunto de ajustes y evaluaciones sobre la infraestructura informática. Estas acciones son generales y están dirigidas a todos los países usuarios de SIDUNEA. Sin embargo, aunque los países usuarios comparten una base común, el sistema puede ser muy diferente de una región o país a otro. Por lo tanto, el Programa SIDUNEA, a través de sus coordinadores regionales, ha compartido dichas directrices con las Autoridades Aduaneras de cada región, especificando la disponibilidad del Programa para asistir en cualquier desarrollo, configuración del sistema, análisis de datos, revisión, etc., con la intención de ayudar a minimizar la propagación del virus y garantizar la continuidad de las operaciones. A continuación, algunos ejemplos de soporte proporcionados por el Programa SIDUNEA.

En Afganistán, en base a la decisión del gobierno de facilitar la importación de productos médicos esenciales y productos alimenticios, relacionados a la emergencia COVID-19, el sistema SIDUNEA se encuentra en funcionamiento durante las 24 horas del día, cubriendo operaciones aduaneras en todos los puestos fronterizos. En base al decreto gubernamental que anuló el arancel aduanero de cinco productos higiénicos, fue necesaria la reconfiguración y modificación de las reglas impositivas en el sistema, por parte del equipo nacional SIDUNEA. El equipo UNCTAD proporciona constantemente datos sobre el estado de las operaciones en frontera, al equipo de emergencia COVID-19, la Oficina central de

OCHA, la Misión de Asistencia de las Naciones Unidas para Afganistán (UNAMA) y la oficina del Coordinador Residente de la ONU.

En Albania y Kosovo, las Administraciones Aduaneras han implementado medidas especiales en los procesos de tránsito, a fin de acelerar el movimiento de mercancías esenciales aprobadas por CEFTA (Acuerdo de Libre Comercio de Europa Central).

En R.D. Congo, en el mes de marzo, el gobierno emitió [medidas económicas y sanitarias](#) para hacer frente a la crisis COVID-19. Con la asistencia de los Expertos UNCTAD, medidas como la exención de impuestos para la importación de suministros médicos, suspensión de penalidades por incumplimiento de plazos, y ajuste del instrumento de administración de riesgos para reducir la inspección física, fueron fácilmente configuradas en SIDUNEAWorld.

En Guinea Ecuatorial, a través de un Decreto Presidencial del 31 de marzo de 2020, el gobierno adoptó [medidas económicas](#) para el fortalecimiento del Sistema Nacional de Protección Social y Apoyo a las PYMES (Pequeñas y Medianas Empresas), en el contexto de COVID-19. En uno de sus artículos, el Decreto Presidencial instruye al Ministerio de Finanzas, Economía y Planificación hacer obligatorio el uso del sistema SIDUNEAWorld en la jurisdicción aduanera de Malabo, con el fin de automatizar la recaudación de impuestos, facilitar el comercio y en última instancia asegurar el distanciamiento social a fin de evitar el contagio del virus.

En Guyana, una de las funcionalidades del sistema SIDUNEAWorld, el [prepago](#), fue configurada para ser utilizada también en declaraciones de exportación, con el fin de evitar interacción personal innecesaria.

En Kazajstán, el sistema ASTANA-1, desarrollado bajo la plataforma SIDUNEA, fue configurado para permitir que los oficiales de Aduana puedan trabajar desde casa, en cumplimiento de las medidas relacionadas con el COVID-19. El sistema permite completar transacciones aduaneras y pagos sin necesidad de intervención física. ASTANA-1 ha asegurado la pronta implementación de medidas de emergencia dictadas por el gobierno, tales como

la prohibición de exportación de equipos médicos de protección, incentivos impositivos para la importación de mercancías de interés social (y prohibición de exportación de las mismas). Todas las funcionalidades de control y administración de riesgos se encuentran operacionales. Bajo las condiciones de Estado de Emergencia, las herramientas de reporte con que cuenta ASTANA-1 permiten la entrega puntual y oportuna de datos confiables, tanto a la administración de la casa de gobierno, como a las distintas agencias gubernamentales asociadas con el monitoreo de la condición de emergencia.

En Vanuatu, SIDUNEA colaboró con la puesta en marcha de un nuevo módulo de bioseguridad SPS sobre medidas sanitarias y fitosanitarias en línea, en el contexto de la implementación del proyecto de Ventanilla Única. Este módulo permite, por una parte, monitorear y prevenir la importación de plagas y enfermedades, y por otra facilitar la exportación de plantas y otros productos agrícolas. El diseño del SIDUNEA, permite un total uso de conexiones electrónicas para el procesamiento remoto de las formalidades relacionadas con el despacho aduanero y la facilitación de comercio, sin necesidad de interacción personal. Stanley Tried, Gerente de Control Fronterizo y Aduanas, dijo: "Dentro el contexto del estado de emergencia ordenado por el gobierno, este nuevo módulo permitirá hacer innecesaria la presencia física de personas en nuestras oficinas".

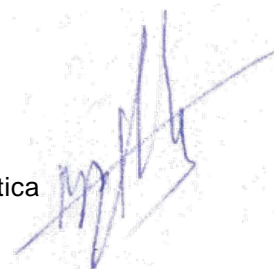
Como se puede apreciar, estos son solo algunos ejemplos sobre el soporte que, en el marco de esta crisis (hasta fines de abril), ha brindado el Programa SIDUNEA. Al presente, mientras se finaliza este documento, muchos otros países usuarios de SIDUNEA han oficializado su solicitud de soporte.

Los artículos que a continuación se presentan, muestran los logros más importantes del Programa desde el otoño pasado. El boletín comienza con Barbados, donde la Administración de Aduanas finalizó la migración a la última versión del SIDUNEAWorld. Posteriormente, sigue con el lanzamiento en Kosovo del módulo SIDUNEA para Operadoras Express, desarrollado en colaboración con GIZ, la Agencia Alemana de Cooperación Internacional. También se mencionan los procesos de migración al SIDUNEAWorld en el África (Gabón y Sierra Leona), y el progreso de Eswatini en la implementación de ASYPM (módulo SIDUNEA para el Control de Gestión). En Turkmenistán se ha empezado a utilizar una versión especialmente configurada para el módulo de Importación y Exportación. Nepal ahora cuenta con una aplicación móvil para SIDUNEA. Sri Lanka inauguró en febrero 2020 una aplicación desarrollada en colaboración con CITES (Conferencia Internacional sobre Comercio de Especies en peligro de extinción), que administra y garantiza los procesos y controles sobre el comercio de las especies bajo control de CITES. Finalmente, Vanuatu puso en marcha un nuevo módulo de bioseguridad SPS en el marco de su proyecto de Ventanilla Única, desarrollado en colaboración con el Programa SIDUNEA.

Le invitamos a enviarnos sus comentarios sobre este boletín informativo a la dirección de correo electrónico asycuda@unctad.org. Así mismo, le invitamos a seguirnos en nuestra cuenta oficial de twitter: [@AsycudaProgram](https://twitter.com/AsycudaProgram).

[#QuedeseEnCasa](#)
[#TrabajoDesdeCasa](#)
[#uncovid19brief](#)

Fabrice Millet
Jefe, Programa SIDUNEA
División de Tecnología y Logística
Ginebra, abril 2020



РЕДАКЦИОННЫЙ

Русская версия

эта редакционная статья касается принципов адаптации системы ASYCUDA для таможенных администраций в условиях ситуации COVID-19, рекомендаций связанных с торговлей международных организаций, и мер поддержки Программы ASYCUDA для стран-пользователей системы в обеспечении непрерывности бизнеса при одновременном сокращении распространения вируса. В следующих статьях Бюллетеня описываются достижения Программы с момента его последнего издания в августе 2019 года.

С середины апреля более половины населения планеты находится в режиме ограничений. Поездки ограничены, но границы остаются открытыми, чтобы избежать любых нарушений цепочек поставок основных товаров, таких как продовольствие и медикаменты. Людям предлагается или им предписано оставаться дома, уважать социальное дистанцирование и избегать массовых собраний. Несущественные предприятия закрыты, а удаленная работа заменена работой в офисе, где это возможно.

Благодаря этим мерам, установленным правительствами, соблюдению правил и солидарности их населения и медицинского персонала, санитарное воздействие вируса постепенно снижается в странах, впервые затронутых COVID-19, давая надежды на его полный контроль в ближайшем будущем. Однако борьба с распространением эпидемии ставит перед правительствами новый вызов: экономический. Мировая экономика вступила в рецессию, серьезнее, чем финансовый кризис 2009 года, которая может продлиться несколько лет. Сейчас еще слишком рано оценивать или точно

определять его воздействие. Публикации пытаются спрогнозировать его, но цифры обновляются неделю за неделей. Кроме того, пандемия только начинает сеять хаос в Африке, где последствия могут быть катастрофическими, и план Маршалла здравоохранения требуется для борьбы с вирусом и его экономическими последствиями. Одно можно сказать наверняка: экономические последствия могут быть точно количественно определены только после того, как пандемия будет под контролем. В то же время следует предпринимать меры по упрощению процедур и поддержке транспорта, особенно морского (около 80% торговли перевозится судами). Это играет важнейшую роль в борьбе с пандемией. В этом контексте Д-р Мухиса Китуи, Генеральный секретарь ЮНКТАД, призвал к тому, чтобы [трансграничная торговля продолжалась и порты оставались открытыми](#) для обеспечения, среди прочего, поставок медикаментов. правительства и связанные с торговлей международные организации работают вместе над тем, чтобы свести к минимуму экономические последствия для наших обществ, соответственно, осуществляя меры и издавая руководящие принципы для того, чтобы противостоять этому кризису.

Программа ASYCUDA, крупнейшая программа технической помощи, обеспечивает как теоретические руководящие принципы, так и практическую таможенную и техническую поддержку странам, стремящимся применить связанные с коронавирусом меры в ASYCUDAWorld, четвертом поколении таможенной системы управления данными.

Действительно, ASYCUDA опубликовала в середине апреля рекомендации по адаптации системы ASYCUDAWorld к данной ситуации, необходимым корректировкам инфраструктуры ИКТ и перенастройке некоторых организационных механизмов¹. Кроме того, Программа также оказывает специализированную поддержку каждой из своих стран-пользователей благодаря своим экспертам на местах и в штаб-квартире в Женеве, и использованию технологий удаленной помощи.

Как указывалось выше, связанные с торговлей международные организации издали руководящие принципы для обеспечения непрерывности деятельности таможенных и партнерских правительственных учреждений, а также для упрощения процедур торговли в эти трудные времена. Помимо вышеупомянутых рекомендаций АСИКУДА, ЮНКТАД был недавно опубликован [план действий](#) из 10 пунктов по укреплению международной торговли и облегчению торговых процедур в периоды пандемии. Всемирная таможенная организация (ВТамО) опубликовала практику таможенных мер по смягчению последствий пандемии и классификацию сопутствующих медицинских принадлежностей COVID-19 кодом HS (Гармонизированная система). Всемирная торговая организация (ВТО) поддерживает все меры, связанные с торговлей COVID-19, принятые ее государствами-членами, и посвятила статью важности транспарентности данных и процедур. Веб-сайт UNCTAD посвятил целую [веб-страницу](#) анализу и информационным документам COVID-19, в дополнение Программа TrainforTrade опубликовала [передовой опыт и рекомендации для обеспечения непрерывности работы портов](#) и поделилась руководящими принципами и планами действий, осуществляемыми портовыми администрациями всего мира.

Все эти рекомендации можно резюмировать следующим образом:

- **Автоматизация и цифровизация.** Чтобы избежать необязательного взаимодействия и уважать социальное дистанцирование, процессы таможенного оформления должны быть автоматизированы с целью перехода к 100% безбумажной среде.
- **Координация и согласование действий.** Все решения и меры должны быть скоординированы и реализованы в сотрудничестве с ПГО (Партнерскими государственными органами), для обеспечения всеобщего участия, бесперебойности таможенных процедур и более быстрого оформления товаров, связанных с COVID-19. Вместе эти администрации должны назначить кризисную группу, составить план обеспечения непрерывности бизнеса и усилить свои службы поддержки.
- **Ответственность.** Все правительства призывают к ответственному поведению своего населения. Это также относится к сотрудникам таможни и экономическим операторам, которые должны соблюдать все санитарные меры (мыть руки, соблюдать социальную дистанцию, носить маски, носить перчатки, избегать прямого взаимодействия и т. д.) и действовать ответственно при выполнении своей работы.
- **Упрощение торговых процедур.** Правовая база должна быть адаптирована; например, обеспечение юридической легитимности электронных сопроводительных документов Таможенным администрациям следует пересмотреть свою стратегию управления рисками, обеспечив меньше физических проверок и внедрив программу Уполномоченных операторов для

ускорения очистки грузов. Для стимулирования торговли правительствам следует пересмотреть свою налоговую и платежную стратегию, чтобы принимать электронные платежи, предоплаты и отсроченные платежи, и вводить налоговые льготы.

- **прозрачность.** Обмен информацией должен быть оптимизирован, чтобы предоставить экономическим операторам все реализованные меры по упрощению процедур торговли и внести изменения в торговую политику. Процедуры таможенного оформления и связанные с ними данные должны быть максимально ясными для ускорения таможенного оформления, избегания ненужного взаимодействия и дублирования данных.

В рекомендациях Программы ASYCUDA подробно описаны все практические действия, которые необходимо предпринять для приведения системы ASYCUDAWorld в соответствие с этими рекомендациями. Также приводятся рекомендации по организационным мероприятиям, а также ряд корректировок инфраструктуры ИКТ. Эти действия носят общий характер и адресованы всем странам-пользователям ASYCUDA. Тем не менее, хотя страны-пользователи имеют общую основу ASYCUDAWorld, система может существенно отличаться в зависимости от региона или страны. Поэтому Программа ASYCUDA через своих региональных координаторов делится руководящими принципами со всеми таможенными органами стран-пользователей, определяя готовность Программы оказать помощь в любом развитии, конфигурации системы, анализе данных, пересмотре и т.д., которые могут помочь минимизировать распространение вируса и обеспечить непрерывность бизнеса. Ниже приведены

некоторые примеры поддержки, оказываемой Программой.

В Афганистане, согласно распоряжению правительства об упрощении ввоза медикаментов для реагирования COVID-19 и необходимых продуктов питания, система ASYCUDA работает круглосуточно и без выходных, обеспечивая ежедневные операции во всех пунктах пересечения границы. В соответствии с решением правительства о снижении ставок таможенных пошлин для пяти гигиенических товаров до нуля, национальные эксперты ASYCUDA соответствующим образом настроили новые правила налогообложения в системе. Национальная команда ЮНКТАД ASYCUDA постоянно делится информацией о статусе ежедневных таможенных операциях на всех пунктах пересечения границы с целевой группой COVID-19, штаб-квартирой УКГВ и МООНСА (Миссия Организации Объединенных Наций по содействию Афганистану), координатором-резидентом (КР).

Таможенные администрации Албании и Косово ввели специальные транзитные меры для дальнейшего ускорения перемещения основных товаров, одобренных СЕФТА (Центральноевропейское соглашение о свободной торговле).

В Д. Р. Конго правительство приняло экономические и санитарные меры еще в марте, чтобы противостоять кризису COVID-19. С помощью ASYCUDA в ASYCUDAWorld легко внедрялись такие меры, как освобождение от налогов при импорте предметов медицинского назначения, приостановка штрафов за задержку и адаптация механизма управления рисками для ускорения поставок и проведения меньшего количества проверок.

Правительство Экваториальной Гвинеи издало Указ Президента (№ 43/2020 от 31 марта 2020 года), в котором приняты меры по укреплению Национальной системы социальной защиты и поддержке МСБ (PYMES) в контексте COVID-19. Статья 9 этого Указа Президента поручает Министерству финансов, экономики и планирования обеспечить обязательное использование системы ASYCUDAWorld в таможенной юрисдикции Малабо. Эта мера направлена на автоматизацию сбора доходов для содействия торговле и, в конечном итоге, для обеспечения процедур социального дистанцирования в связи с пандемией.

В Гайане функция предоплаты ASYCUDAWorld была расширена для деклараций экспорта, чтобы избежать ненужного прямого взаимодействия.

В Казахстане система АСТАНА-1 на базе ASYCUDA позволила брокерам и сотрудникам таможни соблюдать условия COVID-19 и продолжать выполнять свои прямые обязанности, работая на дому. Система позволяет обрабатывать таможенные операции и платежи без физического вмешательства. АСТАНА-1 обеспечивает быстрое автоматическое применение на национальном уровне всех правительственных чрезвычайных мер, таких как запрет на экспорт медицинского защитного оборудования, введение налоговых льгот для ввоза социально значимых товаров, а также запрет на вывоз таких товаров. Функции таможенного контроля и управления рисками в отношении мер, связанных с COVID-19, полностью работоспособны. В условиях чрезвычайного положения мощные инструменты отчетности и мониторинга АСТАНА-1 предоставляют своевременные и надежные данные для администрации президента и

соответствующим правительственным учреждениям.

В Вануату ASYCUDA оказала помощь в запуске нового онлайн-модуля SPS по биобезопасности в качестве компонента проекта электронного окна «Вануату» для мониторинга и предотвращения импорта вредных организмов и болезней, одновременно облегчая импорт и экспорт растительной и сельскохозяйственной продукции. Функции электронной связи ASYCUDA позволяют удаленно обрабатывать таможенные и торговые формальности без непосредственного взаимодействия. Стэнли Триф (Stanley Trief), менеджер таможенной границы и правоприменения, подчеркнул: «Этот новый модуль также гарантирует, что при нынешнем чрезвычайном положении, утвержденном правительством, больше не нужно, чтобы люди приходили в офис».

Это всего лишь примеры поддержки Программы ASYCUDA в период кризиса до конца апреля. Поскольку этот документ дорабатывается, все больше стран-пользователей обращаются в ASYCUDA за поддержкой.

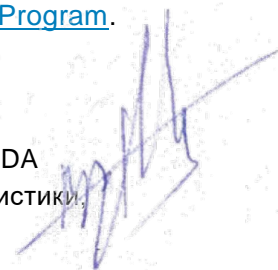
В следующих статьях мы расскажем об основных достижениях Программы в этой области с осени прошлого года. Начнем с Барбадоса, где таможенная администрация успешно перешла на систему ASYCUDAWorld. Затем мы подробно расскажем о запуске Экспресс-модуля ASYCUDA в сотрудничестве с GIZ (Немецкая корпорация международного сотрудничества) в Косово. В Африке Габон и Сьерра-Леоне перешли на ASYCUDAWorld, в то время как Eswatini делает большие успехи во внедрении ASYPM (ASYCUDA Automated System for Measurement). В Туркменистане таможенная администрация в настоящее время использует

специализированную версию модуля импорта / экспорта. Мобильное приложение ASYCUDA было внедрено в январе прошлого года в Непале. eCITES, разработанный в сотрудничестве с СИТЕС (Конференция по международной торговле видами, находящимися под угрозой исчезновения), был запущен в Шри-Ланке в феврале для управления предоставлением, обработкой и контролем торговли видами и растениями, включенными в список СИТЕС. Наконец, Вануату запустила модуль биологической безопасности SPS в качестве компонента своего электронного единого

окна, созданного в сотрудничестве с ASYCUDA.

Мы приглашаем вас присылать любые вопросы, которые могут у вас возникнуть, по адресу asycuda@unctad.org. Вы также можете подписаться на нас официальный аккаунт в твиттере: [@AsycudaProgram](https://twitter.com/AsycudaProgram).

Fabrice Millet
Начальник, Программа ASYCUDA
Департамент технологий и логистики
Женева, апрель 2020



Barbados launches ASYCUDAWorld

Barbados is one of the most populous and prosperous Caribbean islands. Political, economic and social stability had given it a relatively high standard of living. Barbados is one of the most developed countries in the Eastern Caribbean with one of the highest per capita income in the region.

Since 1994, the Barbados Customs and Excise Department (CED) is using ASYCUDA as its customs management system. In 2005, Barbados was the first country in the Caribbean to adopt ASYCUDA++, which brought many benefits and reforms to the Department. Unfortunately, the progress achieved was not sustained over time and despite numerous attempts to continue with its transformation initiatives the CED took longer than anticipated to upgrade its customs management system.

In 2018, the Government of Barbados supported by the IMF (International Monetary Fund) embarked on an ambitious economic recovery and transformation plan to unlock the country's growth potential. Reforming the CED became an important matter in the Government's agenda, which allowed reengaging UNCTAD for the provision of technical assistance. This facilitated reactivating the project, preparing the implementation and successfully launching ASYCUDAWorld in September 2019. The newly appointed CED management team led by the Comptroller of Customs instigated significant changes to the operational environment facilitating trade under a compliance framework. It renewed its organizational structure, revamped risk management policies and ICT infrastructure with a gradual approach. The implementation of ASYCUDAWorld was nationwide, where all customs offices simultaneously started using the new system on the Go-Live date, after ASYCUDA++ stopped accepting new transactions.

Although Barbados was the last country adopting ASYCUDAWorld in the region, it has

benefited from latest improvements, which brought about relevant changes to the trade community. One of the CED's key trade facilitation measures introduced was establishing a wide-ranging paperless clearance processing environment. This involved building an electronic data interchange mechanism with its strategic partner, the Barbados Port Inc. (BPI) to improve port logistics. This exchange gives BPI the possibility to receive advance cargo manifest data and subsequent amendments from the CED; immediate notification when customs release orders are issued or if conditional releases are granted for an off-site physical examination at the importer's premises; and, allows the CED to receive notifications when BPI is delivering shipments (i.e. gate pass issued) to their consignees. Thanks to the data exchange, both CED and BPI now share the same information related to incoming and outgoing cargo, thus streamlining clearance processes and greatly reducing paper-driven transactions. Also, Barbados ASYCUDAWorld is part of the regional CARICOM IMPACS Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS), where all cargo bound to be discharged in the island go through the data collection, risk assessment and advisory network.

Barbados CED has implemented ASYCUDA's latest Portal (Picture 2) which among other things enables the use of mobile devices through web applications. Since other trade-related government agencies must carry out their regulatory mandate, ASYCUDAWorld gives each cross-border agency direct access to the system with a user-friendly web interface (Picture 3), where they can easily review and grant clearance to shipments in a much quicker timeframe. This feature is combined with the electronic processing of import licenses, simplifying the application and approval process, as well as the usage and automated verification

during the customs declaration processing, while remaining balance permits.

Similarly, Customs Guards at exit gates can verify through their mobile devices (e.g. tablets – Picture 1) that goods attempting to leave the customs-controlled areas have satisfied all formalities. A dashboard is currently available for the customs management team to view the movement of cargo and releases (Picture 4). Additional capabilities provide access to a business intelligence tool for data discovery.

Subsequent to the launching of ASYCUDA World, the CED has seen improved controls being enforced through the various automated features, leading towards an enhanced revenue collection. The CED has significantly shifted from being highly intrusive with frequent physical inspections to adopting a systematic risk management approach based on compliance. Customs is heavily relying on ASYCUDAWorld

post-clearance auditing tools and introducing a Trusted Trader Programme to foster voluntary compliance. Moreover, release times are significantly lower than those experienced prior to the launching of the new system. **During the first quarter of 2020, there were more than 835 declarations being processed on a regular working day. Over 60% of commercial imports were cleared within 24 hours of submitting paying duties of customs declarations.**

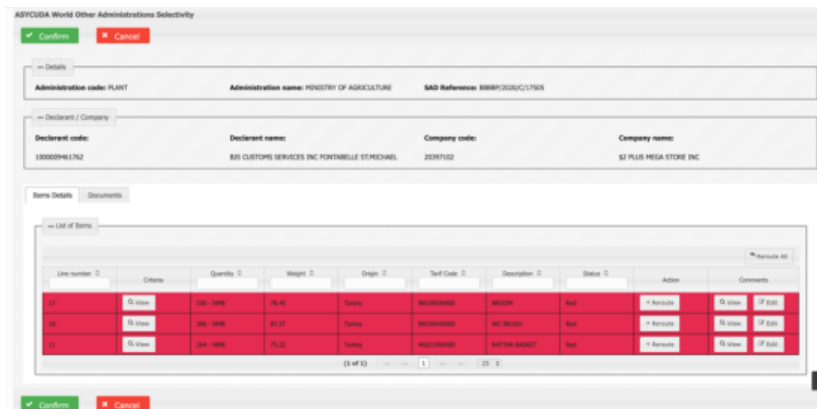
The Government is conscious that reform and modernization efforts at Customs are still required. There is commitment to bring further simplification, facilitation, automation and digitization to Customs and to all other cross-border and trade regulatory agencies to continue enhancing international trade and Barbados business climate.



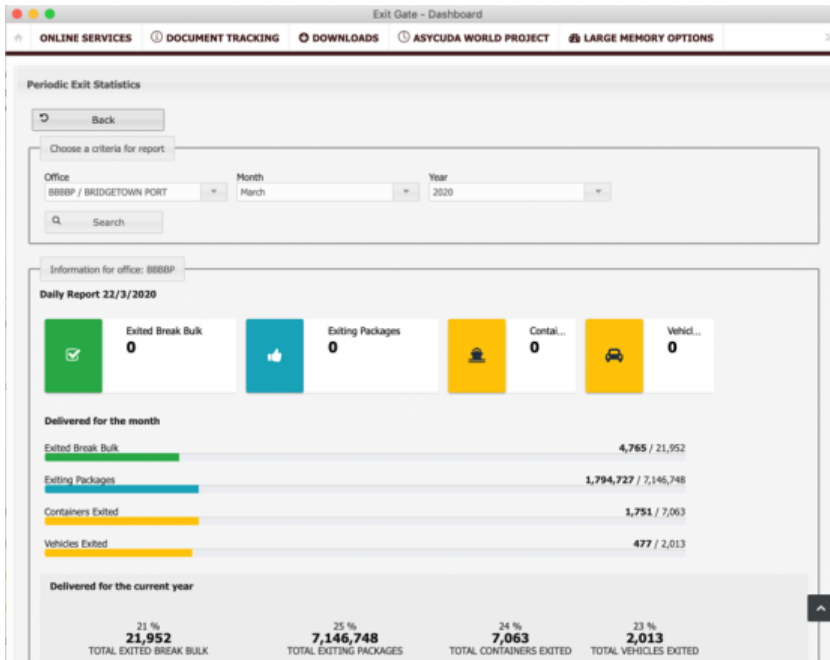
Picture 1. Customs Guards verifying at Exit Gate



Picture 2. Barbados ASYCUDA Portal



Picture 3. Web Application Other Admin. Selectivity



Picture 4. Dashboard Cargo Movement

Kosovo Customs pilots the ASYCUDA eCommerce solution for Pre-Arrival Processing of Express consignments

The Customs Administration of Kosovo (KCD) with the support of UNCTAD and GIZ (German Corporation for International Cooperation) is piloting the ASYCUDA eCommerce solution for Pre-Arrival Processing for Express consignments, strengthening the existing automated processes through submission, exchange and processing of advance electronic data, harmonization of the automated clearance processes, application of advanced risk management techniques specific to e-Commerce and/or Express operators, in line with Art. 7.1 of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), the provisions of the WCO Revised Kyoto Convention, WCO Guidelines for Immediate Release, Cross-Border eCommerce Framework of Standards as well as within the legal provisions of the European Union.

The overall aim of the joint UNCTAD – GIZ – KCD – Express operators project is to:

- Support the deployment of an electronic interface to submit/collect, process and exchange advance electronic data to facilitate the Pre-Arrival Processing (PAP) of express consignments with the goal of completing processing and assessing of all low-risk shipments before physical arrival for their immediate release/clearance;
- Support for revision of existing formalities and procedures with a view to introduce Simplified Declaration with regular use (pre-authorized) for Express consignments (Picture 5), and application of various models for revenue collection;
- Support for inter-agency cooperation and information sharing to support real-time or near-real time response or intervention from all relevant government agencies to ensure that legitimate shipments are rapidly cleared, and risks are effectively managed with minimal intervention and delay;

- Significantly increase the number of consignments released from customs within 1 hour of their arrival. The project targets at least 50% of Customs transactions for express operators should be released within one hour.

The solution developed enhances cargo manifest and standardized advance electronic data exchange between Express operators and Customs as follows:

- ASYCUDAWorld Cargo manifest enhanced (Picture 6) to facilitate the submission of electronic manifest pre-arrival, in accordance with the time limits of the SAFE Framework of Standards, the current national and EU Union Customs Code requirements;
- ASYCUDAWorld Risk Management component enhanced to facilitate the risk assessment on cargo manifest data (pre-arrival stage and upon arrival);
- Standardized communication platform configured for the automatic processing and exchange of cargo manifest data between ASYCUDAWorld systems and Express operators' systems;
- ASYCUDA system enhanced to facilitate the categorization of consignments, data requirements for each category and the definition of clearance procedures may apply for each category; Enabling Customs administration to carry out regular reviews (updates) of the de minimis threshold, taking into consideration inflation/deflation, the need to simplify the processing of low value goods, and the need for proper revenue collections and trade controls.

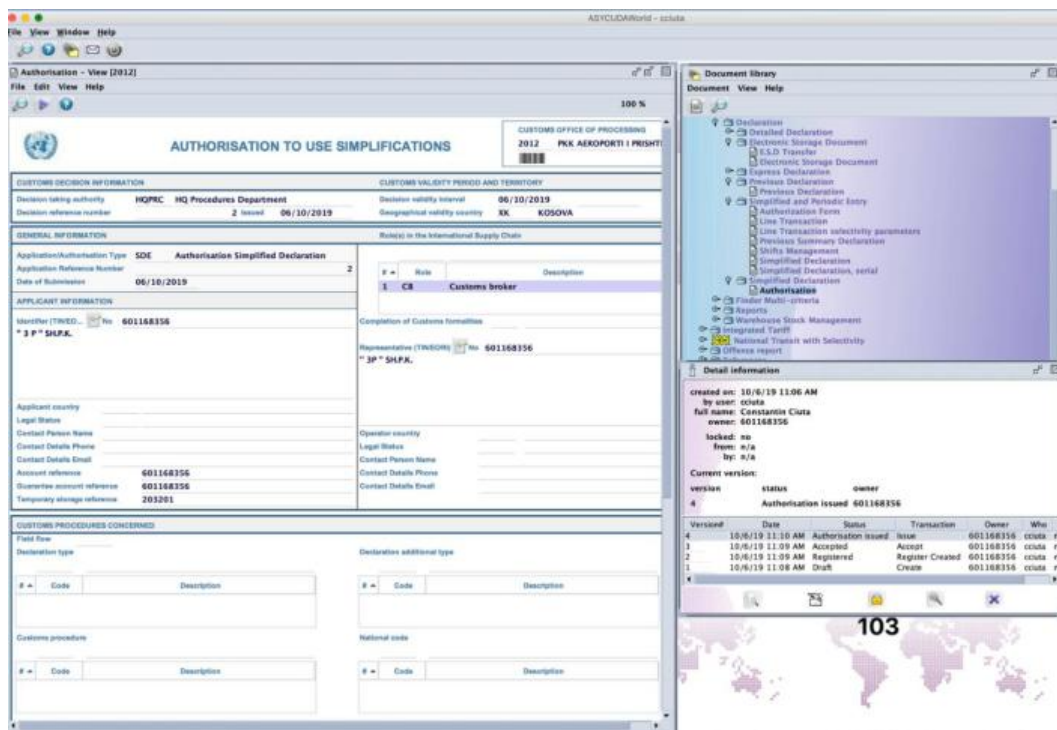
The ASYCUDAWorld Customs Declaration Processing System was also enhanced to facilitate the submission and processing of

Simplified Customs Declarations (Picture 7) by express operators (new module called ASYPAP) as follows:

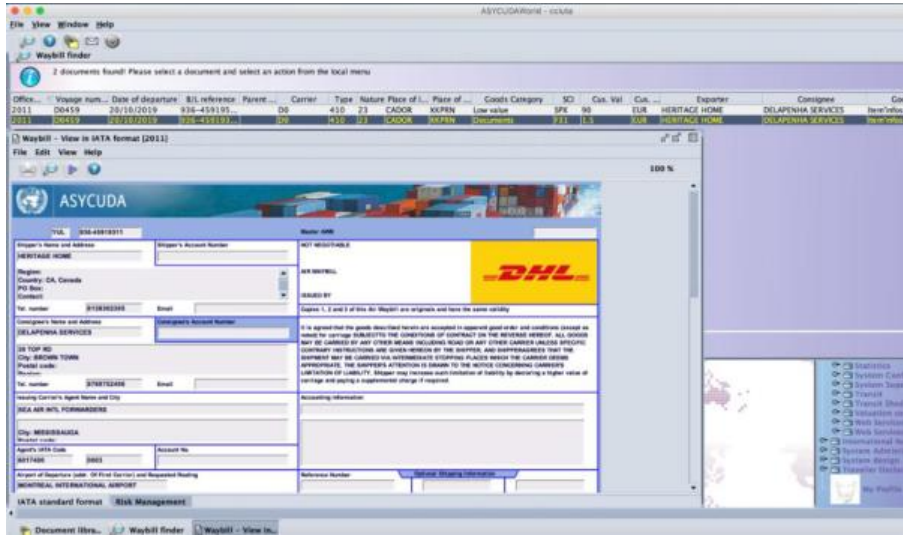
- Clearance procedure for express consignments streamlined and expedited, facilitating the processing prior to the arrival of goods with a view to expediting the release of goods upon arrival;
- Authorization for Simplified Declaration - Express operators authorized to benefit from the use Simplification Declaration (Regular use) and application of various models for revenue collection (e.g. deferred payment or payment from Express operator account);
- Simplified declaration - Introduce the possibility to declare low-value

consignments for customs purposes using a different dataset, one that contains less elements than a standard customs declaration dataset. Datasets determined and tailored in accordance with national, EU regulations and WCO Guidelines for immediate release of consignments by Customs (version III June 2018);

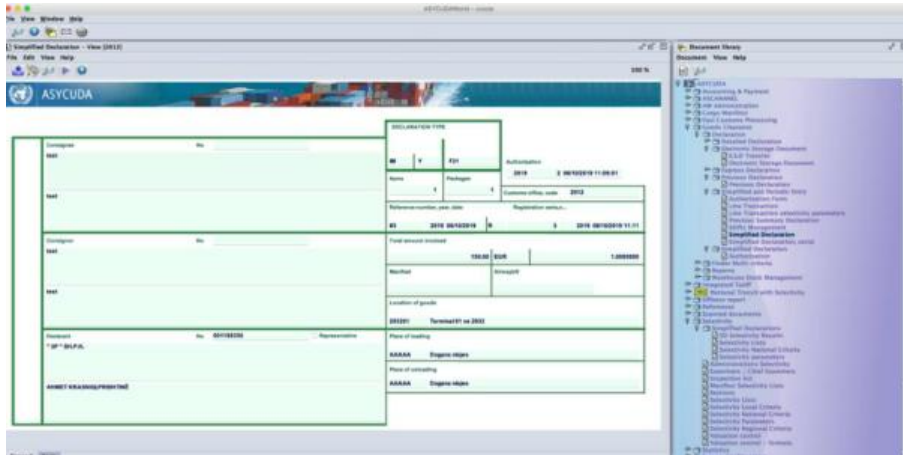
- Risk Management for Simplified Declaration (Picture 8) - Integration of new selectivity functions and variables to introduce risk-management in relation with the Simplified Declarations, provision of clear instructions to the Customs staff on the type(s) of control/ intervention and instructions on how the control should be performed.



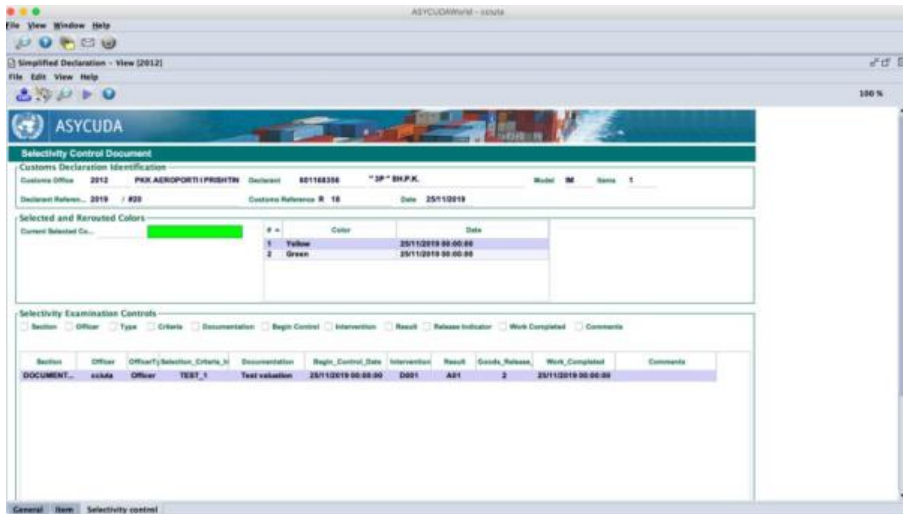
Picture 5. Authorization for Simplified Declarations, regular use Express operators



Picture 6. Cargo manifest – Revised dataset



Picture 7. Simplified declaration – Reduced dataset



Picture 8. Simplified Declaration - Selectivity control

Gabon migrates to ASYCUDAWorld

Following the signing of an assistance agreement between UNCTAD and the government of Gabon, the ASYCUDAWorld project started in July 2018 with the organization of technical and functional training for the national project teams and the preparation of the prototype. In August 2019, a first pilot office (New Owendo Port) was migrated to ASYCUDAWorld to familiarize operators with the new system. On January 13, 2020, the migration to ASYCUDAWorld of the main Gabonese customs site, the central office Port Owendo, took place.

The new ASYCUDAWorld system has enabled Gabon Customs to integrate into a single system the specific external applications that had been developed with the old system: the application for managing the Community integration tax, the one for managing scan fees, the one for the manifest processing fees and the one managing the vehicle registration certificate. In addition,

two modules were developed and deployed for automatic and instantaneous exchange of data with the General Tax Office and the national Treasury. The module for exchanging data with the General Tax Office allows for sending customs transactions directly to their server but also to automatically identify importers. The second module with the national Treasury allows for sending information from the declaration.

The main impacts of setting up ASYCUDAWorld in these two offices are:

- the significant **28,5% increase in revenue** with approx. 33.4 million USD revenue in February 2020 compared to 26 million USD in February 2019;
- the centralization of data on a single server;
- the automation of the customs clearance procedure (paperless environment);
- Facilitation of procedure for economic operators requesting exemptions and generating exit notes.



Picture 9. Official Visit of the Prime Minister to Customs and Excise Directorate to monitor the implementation of ASYCUDAWorld on 17 February 2020 (1/2)



Picture 10. Official Visit of the Prime Minister to Customs and Excise Directorate to monitor the implementation of ASYCUDAWorld on 17 February 2020 (2/2)

Sierra Leone migrates to ASYCUDAWorld

The cooperation between the Government of Sierra Leone and World Bank (the sponsor) to facilitate international trade through automation and simplification of business processes and procedures upshot the piloting of ASYCUDAWorld on 18th January 2019.

Key objectives were:

- to reduce the cost of doing business both on the side of traders and Customs;
- to reduce clearance time by streamlining Customs procedures with less paperwork;
- to increase country's tax revenue generated from taxes international trade;
- make integration with external and internal information systems easier.

The project was divided into of eight phases:

- setup of the project office
- deployment of team members
- re-engineering the business processes
- training of team members and end users
- migration of historical data

- piloting of the system at a selected customs office
- rolling out to the remaining customs stations
- implementation of the Single Window.

The benefits so far are:

- Customs Business processes have been re-engineered and documented. ASYCUDAWorld was successfully built and rolled out to all customs stations;
- The Project Team, Customs staff, clearing Agents and other stakeholders are trained;
- New functionalities such as Declaration Tracker, SMS / Email Notifications, and Motor vehicle Form have been developed and implemented;
- e-manifest XML upload functionality has been implemented. Cargo Carrier can upload manifest, bills and containers using a single XML file;

- Decision support Reports and performance dashboards are developed and implemented;
- Business continuity Systems (using Standby Servers) are designed and developed;
- ASYCUDAWorld is operational in five major customs stations; Queen Elizabeth II Quay since 21st January 2019, Lungi International Airport since 1st June 2019, Gbalamuya Pamelap Border since 21st August 2019, Freetown Post Office and Kissy Terminal Depot.

Following the completion of ASYCUDAWorld roll-out, the implementation of Single Window has started. This will further simplify

international trade processes and procedures and will consequently affect reduction on cost of doing business for both clients, the National Revenue Authority and Government ministries and departments.

There are observable performance improvements after the implementation of ASYCUDAWorld. The following charts compare results in ASYCUDA++ (A++) vis-à-vis ASYCUDAWorld (AW), from 2017 to March 2020 (before COVID-19), and show that the country increased the number of processed declarations (chart 1); increased its trade volume (charts 2), and reduced clearance times (chart 3).

The Commissioner General's speech at the launch of Declaration Tracker, SMS/Email Notifications and in-house banking

"NRA moved from the old ASYCUDA to ASYCUDA World, which is actually helping with a lot of declarations, creating sanity within the Customs system and on the policy front"

Source: The Calabash Newspaper June 11, 2019.



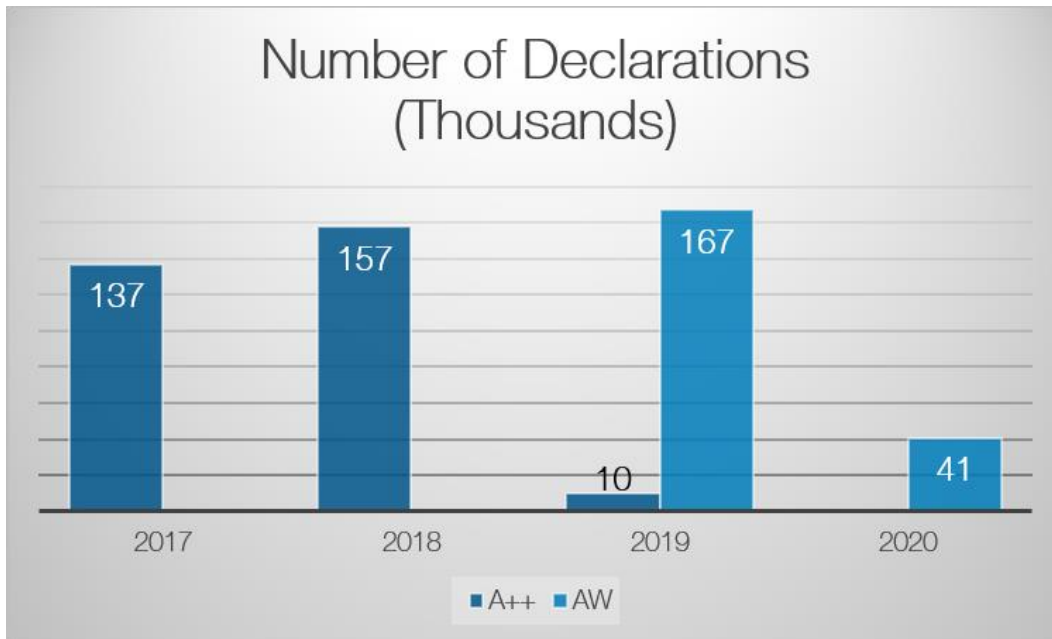


Chart 1. Number of ASYCUDA Declarations

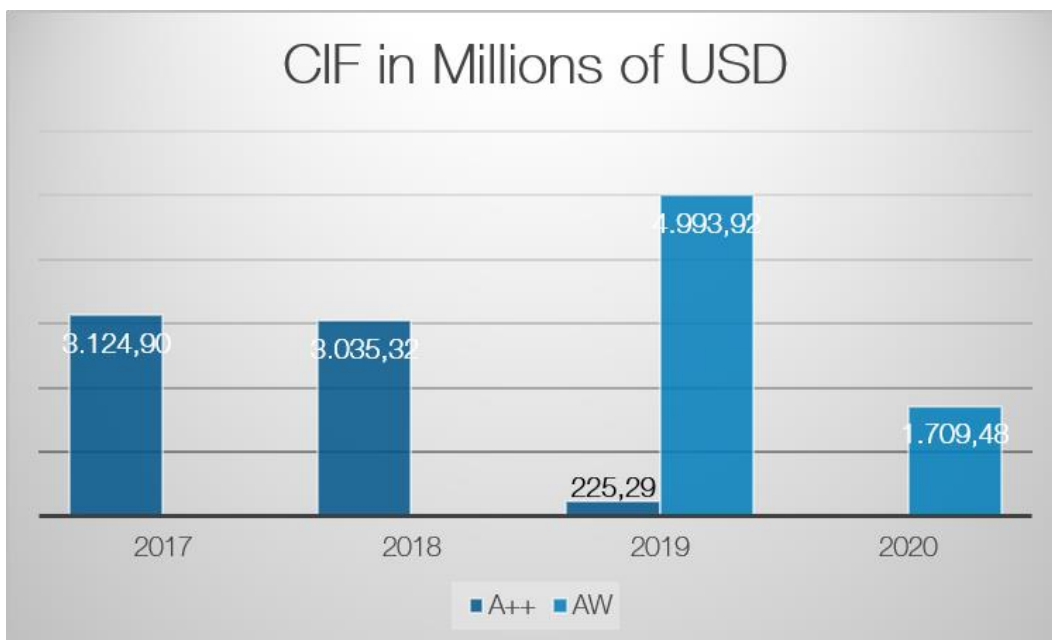


Chart 2. Trade Volume in USD



Chart 3. Clearance Times

Eswatini makes great progress in the implementation of ASYPM

A project agreement was signed in 2018 between UNCTAD and the Government of Eswatini through the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade, allowing the commencement of the ASYPM (ASYCUDA Automated System for Performance Measurement) Project aimed at facilitating the effective monitoring of trade flows and the effectiveness of trade facilitation measures by the tracking the performance of the Eswatini Revenue Authority (formerly Swaziland Revenue Authority) and its stakeholders through the use of the ASYCUDAWorld Customs system and procedures thereof.

During the initial mobilization mission, numerous presentations were delivered to SRA project team and management staff mainly in Mbabane, Eswatini at the SRA Headquarters as an opening workshop to assist SRA understand the aim of the project and the benefits thereof. Equally, field and pilot office site visits were conducted to establish the Customs clearance process in preparation to map it against the Time delay indicators.

Following the mobilization workshop, Data from SRA's ASYCUDAWorld was extracted to create an ASYPM working portal. After migrating ASYPM system software from Oracle Database to MS SQL Database, the data was subsequently uploaded into the country specific ASYPM Portal on an UNCTAD Geneva Server. During this time, UNCTAD staff performed an initial series of data consistency and coherency verifications, and some indicators were adjusted to the specific national configuration. The SRA Performance Indicators Project (PIP) Team was then given access to the Geneva based server to begin validation of the indicators.

From a functional perspective, in subsequent missions beginning with the Awareness Seminar in July 2019, a number of capacity building sessions were delivered, and activities thereof achieved as part of the project plan as briefly described below:

- Analysis of SRA's Customs Clearance Process;
- Mapping of ASYPM Indicators to SRA's Strategic Objectives;

- Mapping of ASYPM indicators against Customs staff roles;
- Use of and usefulness of the ASYPM Forum;
- Reviewing information content of SRA's data by navigating through all ASYPM indicators and validating data therein;
- Sessions on how to run the Monthly Performance Meetings;
- Reviewing structure and content of the 3 types of Monthly reports (General Report, Performance Indicators Project - PIP presentation, Confidential Note to CC/CEO);
- Discussion on performance culture and the need to disseminate it among SRA staff
- Discussion on the analysis process with indicators, and on the reliable data concept
- Discussion on selection of priority indicators and pilot sites linked to SRA's strategic objectives.

Key success factors

- The project team that was appointed at the beginning of the project remained largely the same with hardly any changes. This gave the project more stability as activities would proceed without much interruption;
- SRA's Senior management team especially the Commissioner General and Commissioner of Customs & Excise, were committed and participative in the project team activities. This commitment gave the project team a sense of stability and support to achieve the project objectives;
- The ICT infrastructure that is the equipment and network were largely sufficient to accomplish the project activities. Equally support from the ICT staff was appreciated during extractions, access granted to members and general support during the missions.

Outcomes of the Project

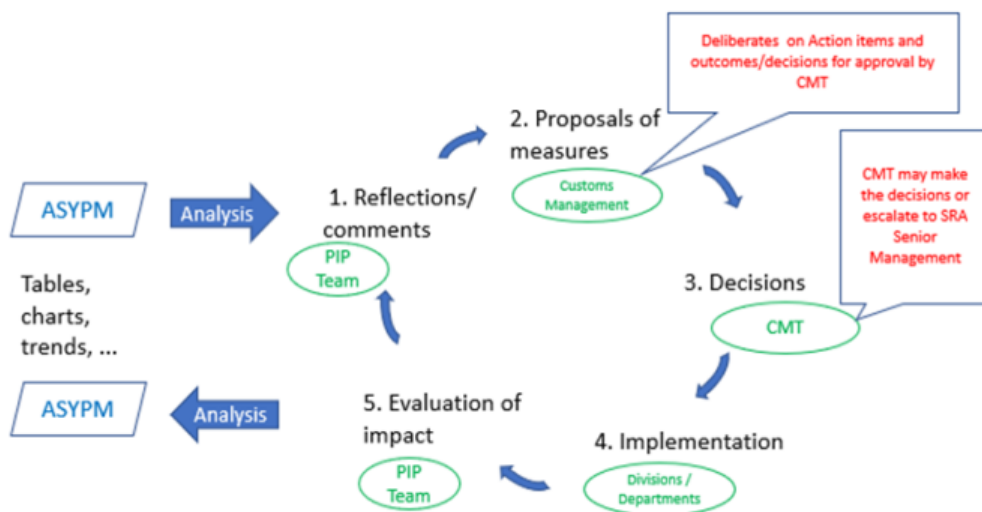
1. During each mission, several recommendations (areas of improvement) were made to the project team hence the Customs Department as a result of studying the data in ASYPM, totaling to over 30 recommendations from all Missions throughout the project lifetime. These recommendations covered different areas around the management of the ASYCUDAWorld system and the procedures thereof. By the end of the project some of the recommendations had been realized while others awaited final discussions and approval from SRA Management. The observations and recommendations were covered in the following block areas:
 - a) Declaration processing and procedures thereof;
 - b) Payment modes and procedures thereof;
 - c) Manifest and waybill processing and procedures thereof;
 - d) Risk Management (selectivity);
 - e) The clearance process;
 - f) Query management;
 - g) System Data management;
 - h) Change management and user training.
2. The SRA's Performance Indicators Project Team (PIP) succeeded in generating their first Monthly Performance Report in January 2020, clearly highlighting to the Customs Management Team (CMT) some of the areas required for improvement. From the first report, Customs Management approved changes to certain procedures while the team was given tasks to establish solutions to some of the issues raised. Customs Management looked forward to subsequent monthly reports
3. The Virtuous Cycle of Reform was adapted by the SRA Project team to suit their Monthly Performance Review meetings as shown in picture 11.

4. A comprehensive deployment strategy was developed clearly determining the expected periods when the Monthly Performance review meetings would be held starting January 2020. The strategy also indicated the reference periods (of the data to be analyzed) that would be considered for each monthly report, for the first four Performance Meetings, based initially on quarters of selected years before the stabilization of the

reports and then moving to analysis based on previous month's data.

5. At the end of each mission, an Action plan was drawn with several actions to be achieved before the following mission and over time a number of the actions were achieved while others remain ongoing as they are scheduled as dynamic actions. A final Action Plan was drawn up in the closing mission and given to the Project leadership for follow-up.

Cycle of Monthly Performance Review Meetings – Virtuous Cycle of Reform



February 2020, Eswatini

Picture 11. Cycle of Monthly Performance Review Meetings



Picture 12. Project Team Working Session



Picture 13. UNCTAD & Project Teams

Implementation of a tailored version of the Import/Export Module in Turkmenistan

Within the framework of the signed project agreement for the implementation of the ASYCUDAWorld integrated customs information system between the State Customs Service of Turkmenistan and the UNCTAD, an active phased implementation of the electronic goods declaration system is being implemented in all customs authorities.

In this regard, several seminars for customs officers were organized at the customs authorities of Turkmenistan, in which representatives of UNCTAD took part. These seminars were aimed at training on the process of working with Import/Export module of the ASYCUDA World information system, considering the features of the new procedure for filing, registering and issuing of SAD.

From 1st January 2020, the customs authorities of Turkmenistan completely switched to full-

scale electronic customs declaration which allowed a significant reduction of the time for processing of the goods in customs. This was made possible as a result of the introduction of the ASYCUDAWorld integrated customs system.

On January 13, 2020, Chairman of SCST met representatives of ASYCUDA. The meeting discussed promising areas of cooperation between Turkmenistan and UNCTAD. In particular, the progress of implementation of the ASYCUDAWorld integrated customs system and the exchange of customs data between the customs authorities of neighboring and other states was also included in the agenda.

The implementation of electronic declaration allowed to reduce customs clearance time by 14 times.



Picture 14. ASYCUDA Training Session for Turkmenistan Customs Officers

Sri Lanka pilots the launch of eCITES System

Sri Lanka has enhanced its management in wildlife trade by becoming the first country to go live with an electronic permit system developed by UNCTAD and the Convention in International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Switzerland funded the joint development of the eCITES BaseSolution by the CITES Secretariat and UNCTAD's ASYCUDA. The roll-out in Sri Lanka took place under a 10-month technical assistance project between the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) and UNCTAD. It involved tailoring the solution to DWC's needs, rules, regulations and configuring the system's eReporting module.

The country's Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) in Sri Lanka made history on the 14th of February 2020 as the first ever country to use the "eCITES BaseSolution", to better control legal trade in CITES-listed species and help prevent illegal trade.

"The live implementation of the eCITES permitting solution developed jointly by the CITES Secretariat and UNCTAD, and tailored to DWC needs, marks an important step in the Department's efforts to improve its operations in compliance with its international obligations," said Chandana Sooriyabandara, Director General of the Sri Lankan authority.

"The solution makes a significant contribution to our global collective efforts to combat illegal trade in wildlife, especially for parties that do not have access to electronic permit management systems," said Shamika N. Sirimanne, UNCTAD's director of technology and logistics.

CITES head Ivonne Higuero said: "We hope this tool will strengthen Sri Lanka's work in issuing and reporting CITES permits, minimizing human error and improving the connection with different

authorities at the national level, leading to a more effective implementation of the CITES regulatory framework."

The benefits of the system are the following:

- The system offers a 24/7 accessible online (no more physical presence requires) and is fully automated;
- It provides automatic alerts on actions to be performed by any actors along the processing workflow;
- It allows a direct access to the Species Identification and Classification;
- It has built-in controls allowing accurate data to be submitted by the applicants and restricting exchanges between applicants and MAs to their minimum, thus accelerating the entire process;
- It provides for secured permits using QR code feature (picture 17), that could be authenticated by applicants, other government agencies within the country, MAs/SAs and other government agencies all around the world;
- It allows faster and more robust reporting by authorities, provides better data to decide on non-detriment findings and enables government agencies to better target their inspections and identify actors that break the law;
- It facilitates the exchange of electronic permits and information across borders, which increases transparency and prevents the use of fraudulent permits;
- The solution improves collaboration between international and national agencies in implementing CITES provisions.

For more information on eCITES system, please visit the following link: https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/dtlasy_cuda_inf2019d2_en.pdf.



Picture 15. Official launching of CITES permitting system in and for Sri Lanka

My notifications

My tasks

User ref.	Status	Actions
THU5	PENDING_INFO	1
MD-FRI1	PENDING_INFO	1
TUES341	PENDING_INFO	1

Items per page: 5 | 1 - 5 of 56

My applications

Application date	User ref.	Type of permit	Status	
2020-03-06	MD-FRI1	E	PENDING_INFO	⋮
2020-03-06	AAAAA	E	GRANTED	⋮
2020-03-06	MD-FRI6	E	REJECTED	⋮
2020-03-06	MD-FRI7	E	GRANTED	⋮
2020-03-06	MD-FRI3	E	REJECTED	⋮





My permits

Application date	User ref.	Type of permit	Status	
2020-03-06	MD-FRI8	E	ISSUED	⋮
2020-03-06	MD-FRI2	E	ISSUED	⋮
2020-03-05	MD-THU1	E	ISSUED	⋮
2020-02-13	nvexz890kjngfse ...	E	ISSUED	⋮
2020-02-13	WED15	E	ISSUED	⋮

Items per page: 5 | 1 - 5 of 56

Picture 16. Intuitive and user-friendly dashboard with all user-related information at a glance

4/9/2020

 CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA		PERMIT/CERTIFICATE No. 20SL000026 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> RE-EXPORT <input type="checkbox"/> IMPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER :		Original 2. Valid until 09 10 2020					
3. Importer (name and address) TRADER X ADDRESS X 3a. Country of import GB - United Kingdom		4. Exporter/re-exporter (name, address and country) BORNEO EXOTICS PVT LTD "SANDAGIRI FARM" OLD COLONY, PALMERSTON JUNCTION LK - Sri Lanka							
5. Special conditions If for live animals, this permit or certificate is valid only if the transport conditions comply with the IATA Live Animals Regulations; if for live plants, with the IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations, or, in the case of non-air transport, with the CITES Guidelines for the Non-Air Transport of Live Wild Animals and Plants		6. Name, address, national seal/stamp and country of Management Authority   DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA 0094 11288585 DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SRI LANKA 0094 112883265							
6a. Purpose of the transaction T - Commercial Trade		6b. Security stamp no. STAMPID							
7. 7B. Scientific name (genus and species) and common name of animal or plant 7. 7C. S.N., C.N.: ELEPHANT		8. Description of specimens, including identifying marks or numbers (eggs/seed if live) 9. N/A		10. Appendix no. and source 10. Appendix : Source: C - Animals bred in captivity 11. Quantity (including unit) 11. Quantity: 12 NAR 11a. Total exported/Quota 11a. Quota: N/A					
A 12. Country of origin * N/A		Permit no. Date N/A N/A		12a. Country of last re-export Certificate no. Date N/A N/A N/A					
* Country in which the specimens were taken from the wild, bred in captivity or artificially propagated (only in case of re-export) ** Only for specimens of Appendix I species bred in captivity or artificially propagated for commercial purposes *** For pre-Convention specimens		12. This permit/certificate is issued by: Department of Wildlife Conservation, 811A, Jayanthipura, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka. 13-02-2020 Place Date Security stamp, signature and official seal 							
14. Export endorsement <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Block</th> <th>Quantity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Block	Quantity	A		15. Bill of lading/Air waybill number Port of export Date Signature Official stamp and title			
Block	Quantity								
A									

Picture 17. Permit issued with QR code security feature

Nepal implements an ASYCUDA Mobile App

The Department of Customs (DOC) in Nepal and the UNCTAD/ASYCUDA Programme have a long-standing shared history; from the ASYCUDA++ version in 2000 used in 18 customs offices in a decentralized manner to the ASYCUDAWorld (AW) version deployed in all customs offices in a centralized manner since 2016.

The current hardware and equipment are housed in a state-of-the-art data centre. Over 500 concurrent users are connected during peak time of activities with an estimated 3,000 customs declarations being processed daily through ASYCUDAWorld. Several specific features have been developed for DOC to satisfy local requirements such as but not restricted to cash deposit, integrated gate entry, guarantee management.

The beginning of the year 2020 saw another turn in DOC's and UNCTAD's cooperation to facilitate and speed the Customs Clearance process with the deployment of a mobile application which interacts with ASYCUDAWorld in the main Customs office, Birgunj.

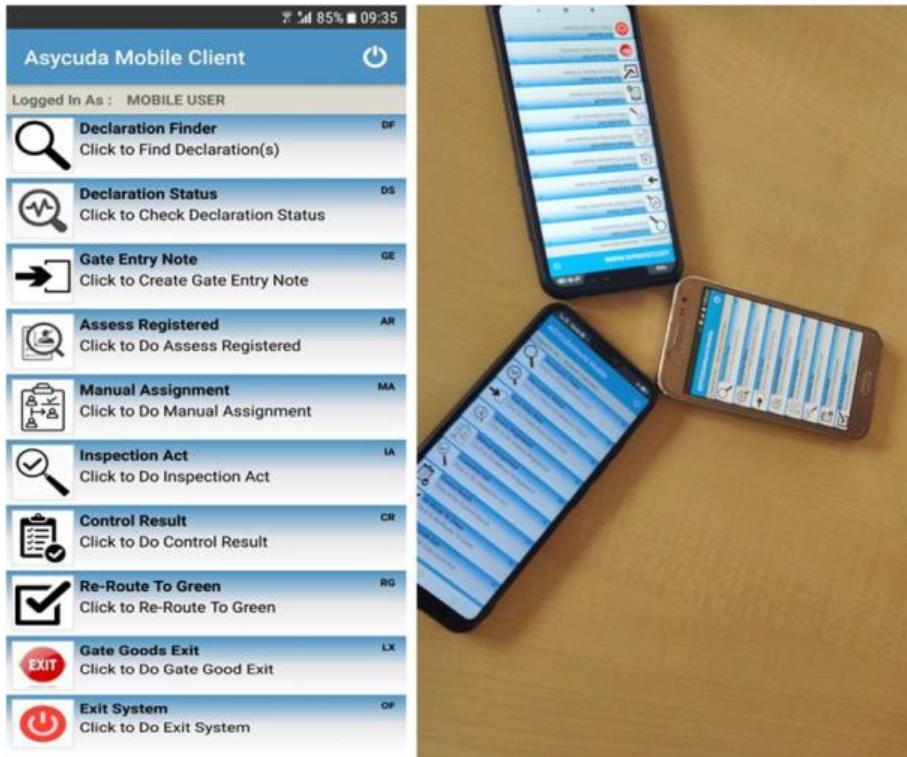
This initiative from the ASYCUDA expert in Nepal was initially meant to help the inspectors in carrying their tasks while in the field (Yard) in providing an easy way to update in real-time the Inspection Act with their findings, in order for the customs process to continue, without interruption due to the limitation of access to equipment in the field.

The mobile application was further extended to other operations, including a simple, easy and

modern way for brokers to check the status of their Declaration and for Customs officers to provide entry and exit data of trucks, assess and re-route to green declarations.

Finding and Viewing declarations without printing and/or without asking brokers to submit papers upfront to Customs, has therefore paved way for a paperless environment, and for a limitation of interaction between brokers and Customs.

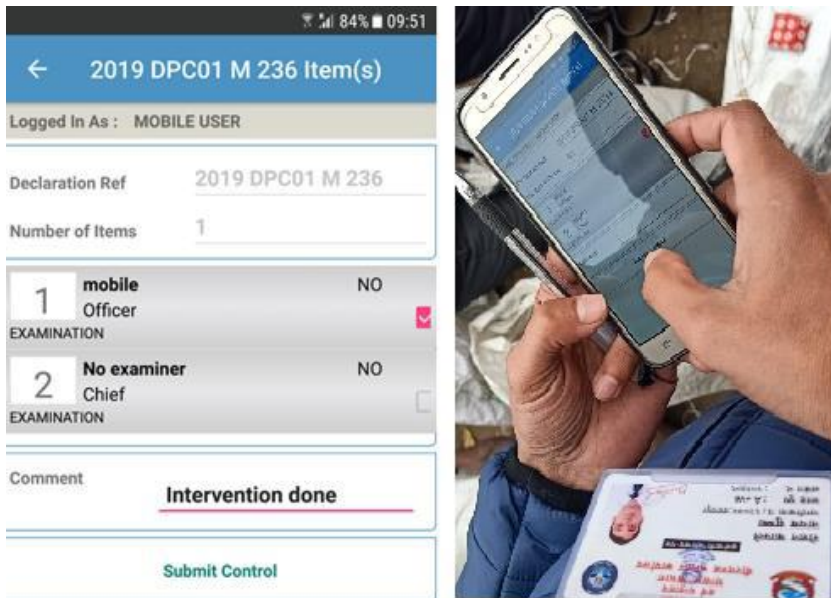
This mobile Application is currently only Andoid enabled, downloaded from Google Play Store and installed on a user mobile Device. This initiative, shared also with Lebanon Customs, opened the door to more ASYCUDA user-countries using such mobile technology. A similar approach for supporting Customs officers in their daily work, especially for those in the field with limited access to computers, comes from Timor Leste with Customs Officers now equipped with tablets to report on goods examination.



Picture 18. Full set of available operations



Picture 19. Customs Officer using the ASYCUDA App



Picture 20. Control Results entered by a Customs Officer

Vanuatu implements the ASYCUDA Sanitary and Phytosanitary Module

The Government of Vanuatu (GoV) has made improving trade facilitation a key objective in order to surmount its challenging conditions, such as small size and geographical distance from the main world markets. Vanuatu has consistently ranked among the top Pacific countries in the World Bank Group's "Ease of Doing Business," and GoV looks to move higher up in the ranking by improving its "Trading Across Borders" indicators with the establishment of Vanuatu's ASYCUDA-based Electronic Single Window System (ESWS).

Vanuatu is an agriculture-based economy with the sector contributing 15% of overall GDP and 80% of the population depending on subsistence farming. The remoteness of Vanuatu, like other Pacific island countries and territories, has led to formation of unique natural landscapes and ecosystems and development of endemic species that allowed the country to offer niche products derived from cocoa, copra, sandalwood, beef and kava, among others. Any disturbance, such as introduction of invasive alien species and habitat loss due to climate change, poses a threat to the sustainability of Vanuatu's ecosystem and economy.

Biosecurity Vanuatu is a department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB) and plays the key role in managing risks to protect Vanuatu's health, environment, economy and industries from exotic pests and pathogens entering, establishing and spreading in the country. Working closely with the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue (DCIR) and other border agencies, Biosecurity has been critical in trade facilitation and export promotion. In 2018, Biosecurity processed sanitary or phytosanitary certification for up to 89% of total crops and animal products exports. For imports, Biosecurity controls commodities that require permits after Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and Disease Risk Analysis (DRA) to protect the country.

Biosecurity benefits from the ESWS project funded by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) and Australia's Governance for Growth (GfG) programme to establish a robust Sanitary

and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS)/Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) architecture, noting that SPS and TBT play an important role in determining the speed of sea and air freight clearance.

The 24th of March 2020 marked an important milestone as Vanuatu officially launched and rolled out the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (ASYSPS) module developed by UNCTAD, the ESWS Project Team and Biosecurity that would streamline and automate the application, processing, payment and issuance of SPS import permits and export certificates.

Prior to exporting live animals or animal products, the Exporter (or their Agent) should apply for a Live Animal Health Certificate (for live animals – Picture 21) or Veterinary Health Certificate (for animal products) through the ESWS and attach all relevant supporting documents, usually an Import Permit from the country of destination. Prior to importing live animals or animal products, the Importer (or their Agent) should apply for a Live Animal Import Permit (for live animals) or Sanitary Import Permit (for animal products – Picture 22) and attach the required documents.

After the application is submitted electronically, the relevant Biosecurity officer would receive an email alert to verify the application. The officer can either i) return the application if there is a query or request for additional information; ii) modify the application; iii) reject the application or iv) accept the application.

After accepting the application, it is then elevated to the relevant higher authority (Plant Expert, Plant Inspectors, Senior Veterinary Officer, or Veterinary Officers). Where inspections are required and conducted, the results are recorded in the system against the application.

Once the application is approved and finalized, the payment is also collected and recorded in the ESWS. Like the ASYCUDAWorld payment modalities, the system accepts payments per application, prepayment or deferred payment. Paid applications can be printed or downloaded. The printouts of Export Certificates conform to the format required by Vanuatu's major trading

partners, such as Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia.

In a month, 400 applications were processed and over 22'000 USD were collected.

BIOSECURITY VANUATU
Live Animal Health Certificate

1. Office: BVHQ BIOSECURITY OFF 1. Registration Reference: 2020 35 2. Registration Date: 09/03/2020

3. EXPORTER: TIN: [] Name: ROGER PHILLIPS Address: PORT VILA Category type: EX03 LIVE ANIMALS Application type: Commercial Personal Credit/Prepayment account: [] Import Permit #: [] Point of Exit: VUVLI PORT VILA

EXPORTING TO: Name: ROGER PHILLIPS Address: BRISBANE AUSTRALIA Destination Country: AU Application type: Commercial Personal Means of Conveyance: 4 Air Transport Point of Entry: AUBNE BRISBANE

#	Tariff Code	Goods Description	Breed	Name	Age	Sex	Qty	Desc.	Microchip	Country of...
1	EA0301	Cat - Live Animals	ISLAND	TOM	1 YEAR	MALE	1	BLACK AND WHITE	2513	Vanuatu

16. Prepared by: Vicky Tolish Submitted on: 09/03/2020

17. REMARKS: []

Picture 21. Live Animal Health Certificate

BIOSECURITY VANUATU
Sanitary Import Permit

1. Office: BVHQ BIOSECURITY OFF 1. Registration Reference: 2020 16 2. Registration Date: 02/03/2020

3. IMPORTER: TIN: [] Name: MARIA BOE Address: GRAY INVESTMENT PORT VILA VANUATU

EXPORTER: Name: TEGEL FOODS Address: AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND Exporting Country: NZ

Category type: IM02 ANIMAL PRODUCTS Application type: Commercial Personal Credit/Prepayment account: [] Vessel/Aircraft name: AIR VANUATU NF051 Estimated Date of Arrival: 17/03/2020 Means of Conveyance: 4 Air Transport Point of Exit: NZAKL AUCKLAND Point of Entry: VUVLI PORT VILA

#	Tariff Code	Goods Description	Pck. Nbr	Pck. Type	Wgt	Qty	Country of Origin
1	IA0027	Cheese and Cherd - Dairy Products	5	21	105.0	50.0	New Zealand

Total Packages: 5 Total Weight: 105.0 Kg

16. Prepared by: Marie Noella Sera Submitted on: 02/03/2020

17. REMARKS: []

Picture 22. Sanitary Import Permit

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
BIOSECURITY VANUATU
 BIOSECURITE DE VANUATU
 PMB 9086, Port Vila, TEL: (678) 33580
 PO Box 271, Saele - Tel: (678) 33818
IMPORT PERMIT
 208/HQSIPO016

GOVERNMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

PERSONAL IMPORT PERMIT FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Importer Name MARIA BOE	Suppliers Detail TESEL FOODS	Due Date 2020-03-02
Address GREY INVESTMENT PORT VILA VANUATU	Address AUCKLAND NEW ZEALAND	Port of Arrival PORT VILA Means of Transport Air Transport Vessel/Aircraft name:

DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS/DESCRIPTION DES ARTICLES

Description	Quantity	Weight	Country of origin
Cheese and Chard - Dairy Products	5 Cartons	105.0 Kgs	New Zealand

This import permit is issued subject to the attached conditions.
 Upon arrival the material will be inspected and any consignment found to be non-compliant with the specified conditions may be seized, treated, destroyed or reexported at the importer's expense.
 Biosecurity Vanuatu reserves the right to revoke this permit or change the import conditions at any time without prior notice.

Name of Authorizing Officer / Nom du Signataire: **Janine Sallan**
 Designation: **AUTHORIZING OFFICER** Date: **02/03/2020**
 Signature: _____ Stamp / Cachet:

THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT GUARANTEE FREE ENTRY INTO OTHER COUNTRIES WITHOUT APPLICABLE TARIFF RATES OF ENTRY
 CE CERTIFICAT NE GARANTIT PAS L'ENTREE EN DROIT D'ENTREE SANS DROIT D'ENTREE DANS D'AUTRES PAYS SANS DROIT D'ENTREE

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
BIOSECURITY VANUATU
 BIOSECURITE DE VANUATU
 PMB 9086 Port Vila Tel: (678) 33519 / (678) 33580
 P.O Box 271, Saele - Tel: (678) 33818 / (678) 36223
 Email: biosec@biosec.gov.tu

GOVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTS - PERSONAL CONSIGNMENTS

Below are the products allowed for importation under this permit and the countries from where they originate.

Product	Permitted countries of origin
Pork, raw	Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand
Pork, cooked, smoked, cured	Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, France
Beef, raw	Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia
Beef, cooked	Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, France
Poultry, raw and cooked	Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, New Caledonia
Sheep meat (cooked and uncooked)	Australia, Fiji, New Zealand
Fish and seafood (cooked and uncooked)	All countries
Dairy products (pasteurised)	Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, New Caledonia, EU
Dairy products (un-pasteurised)	Australia, New Caledonia
Veal/min (cooked and uncooked)	Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand
Rabbit (cooked and uncooked)	Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, EU

The importation of the items specified above is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) All products must be commercially purchased, packaged and sealed, and shall be labelled by the manufacturer clearly stating the contents and country from which the product originates.
- 2) The country of origin as detailed on the packaging must be declared when applying for this permit.
- 3) The total quantity of IMPORTED PRODUCT(S) allowed per person shall NOT exceed FIVE (5) kilograms. Excess amounts of product will be seized and DESTROYED.
- 4) A copy of this permit must accompany the imports when they are presented for inspection upon arrival by a Biosecurity officer.
- 5) The product must be for personal consumption ONLY and not intended for sale.
- 6) This permit is valid for one (1) month from date of issue.
- 7) Biosecurity Vanuatu reserves the right to detain, sample, treat or destroy any goods that they consider to constitute a quarantine risk.

Biosecurity Vanuatu reserves the right to change the conditions of this approval or revoke it without prior notice.

Picture 23. Sanitary Import Permit Printout (Pages 1 & 2)