

RSOO STUDY VALIDATION WORKSHOP

OVERVIEW OF THE EAST AFRICAN - CIVIL AVIATION SAFETY AND SECURITY OVERSIGHT AGENCY

(EAC – CASSOA)

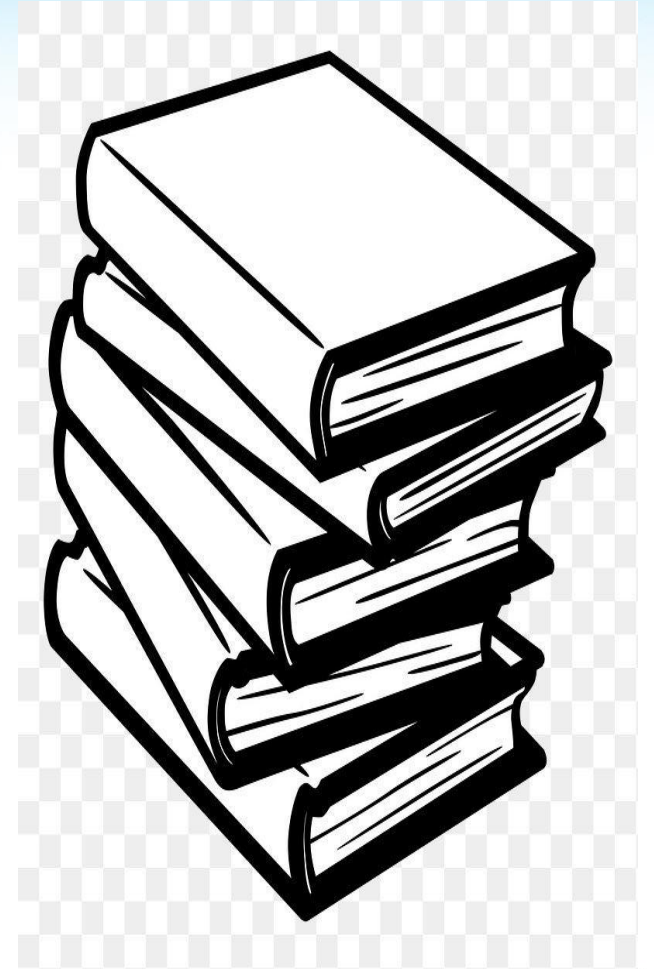
Presented by: Mr. Masha Mweni

28th April 2025



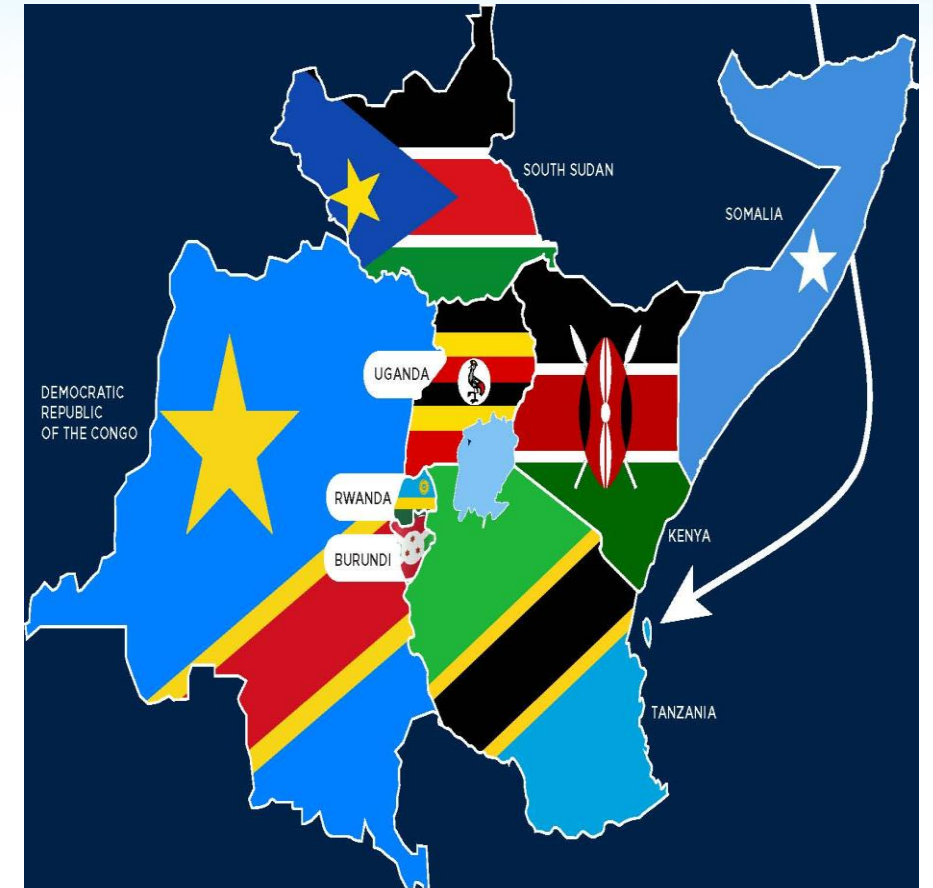
OUTLINE

- ✓ About CASSOA.
- ✓ Objectives and Functions of the Agency
- ✓ Organisation Structure
- ✓ Key activities
- ✓ Governance and Management set up
- ✓ Funding of the Agency
- ✓ Milestones - Impact on Partner States
- ✓ On Going activities and collaborations
- ✓ Main Challenges and their mitigations
- ✓ Opportunities.



ABOUT CASSOA

- **Establishment** - 18th April 2007 by a Protocol to the EAC Treaty as an Autonomous Agency.
- **Mission** - To enhance effective oversight systems in all Partner States by harmonizing civil aviation safety and security standards and best practices.
- **Vision** - To be a Model Regional Safety and Security Oversight Organization
- **Headquarters** – Entebbe, UGANDA
- **Members** – 8 Member States
 - Started with 3 - Uganda, Kenya & Tanzania,
 - Now 8 members - Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, DRC, Somalia



FUNCTIONS

Level 1 RSOO - Advisory and coordinating

- ✓ Develop Harmonized operating regulations and Guidance Materials.
- ✓ Providing guidance and assistance to Partner States
- ✓ Platform for coordination and sharing of Aviation Resources.

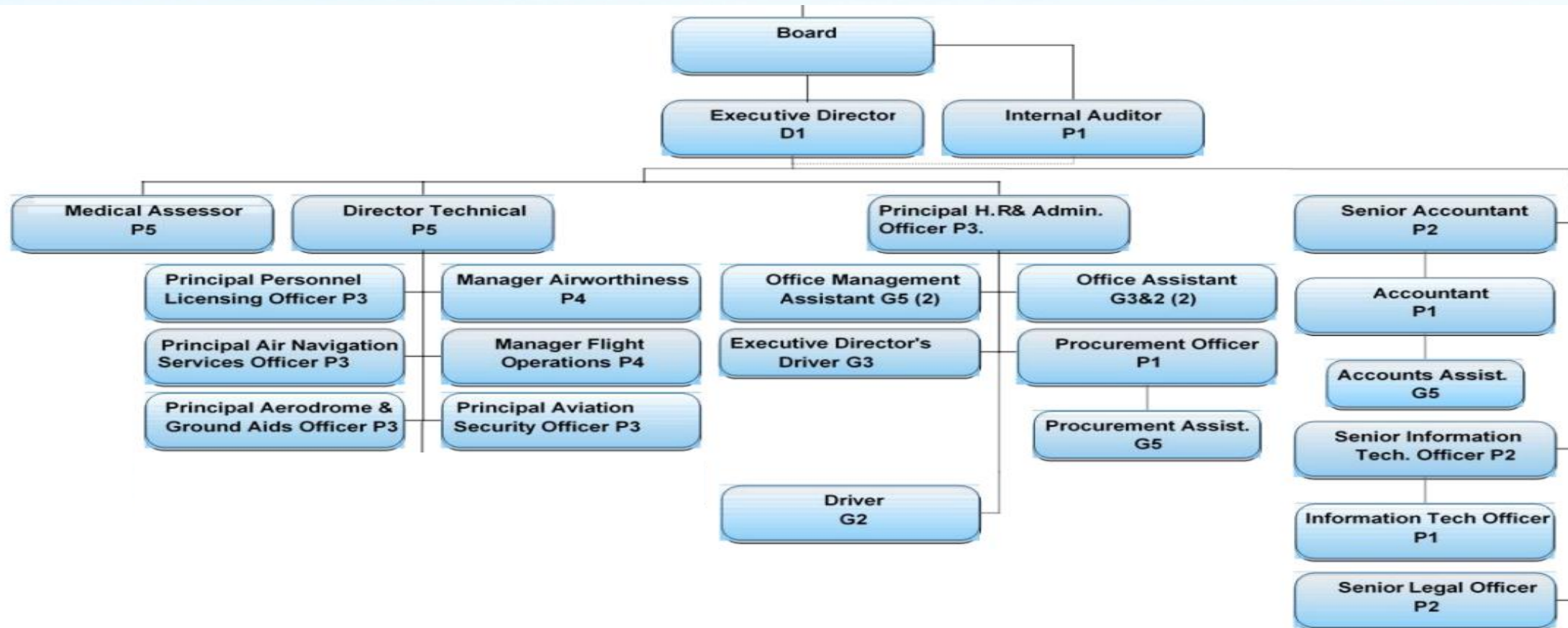


Plans to move to level II in the next three years

- ✓ To provide Operational assistance functions
 - ✓ Certification and Licencing assistance functions (Audits and Investigations)



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Coordinated by CASSOA Mgt , Oversight by Partner State representatives

Board of Directors

- DGs of CAAs – Default Members
- 1 state expert nominated by the Minister

Executive and Management

- Headed by Executive Director
- Supported by Director Technical, Technical experts and Administrative Staff.

Technical Committees.

- Regulatory (TC-R) - CAA Directors of Safety and Security
- Finance & Administration (TC-F&A) - CAA Directors of Finance/HR
- Audit and Risk (TC- A&R) - CAA Heads of Audit and Risk



KEY ACTIVITIES

The Agency interacts with the Partner States through their CAAs

Technical Missions – *By CASSOA and Regional Experts*

- Gap Analysis,
- Safety Oversight Support – for routine CAA activities,
- Mock Audits,
- Audit Preparation – USOAP and USAP

Working Groups – *With Partner State experts*

- Working Groups - State Experts (PEL, AIR, OPS, ANS, AGA, AVSEC, SSP/SMS, AvMED & AIG)
- Develop Model Legislation and Regulations
- Develop Model Technical Guidance Materials

Workshops, Trainings and Seminars - *By Dev't Partners*

- To improve skills and keep abreast with new developments

ICT support – *common IT systems*

- Provision of common IT systems eg. SOFIA, ECCAIRS, PEXO3



FUNDING OF THE AGENCY

Partner States

- Primary source of funding.
 - Through the Civil Aviation Authorities.

Revenue from Agency activities

- Seminars, Galas, Symposiums, workshops etc
- Grants or Revenue from regional and international bodies
 - ✓ ICAO - AFCAC/AUC - ESAF
 - ✓ EAC Secretariat
 - ✓ EAC Partner States CAAs
 - ✓ RSOOs - EASA, BAGASO, SASO, **FAA**
 - ✓ OEMs – AIRBUS, BOEING
 - ✓ OPERATORS – AOCs, ATOs, AMOs, Airports



MILESTONES & IMPACT TO PARTNER STATES

Harmonized Legislation and TGM Procedures.

- Already developed and up-to-date with latest ICAO Annexes.

Sharing and pooling of resources

- CASSOA experts immediately available
- Other experts from Partner states
- Attachments and OJT with other partner state
- Certifications of Airports, ANSPs, AOCs, AMOs, ATOs

Shared IT systems and infrastructure.

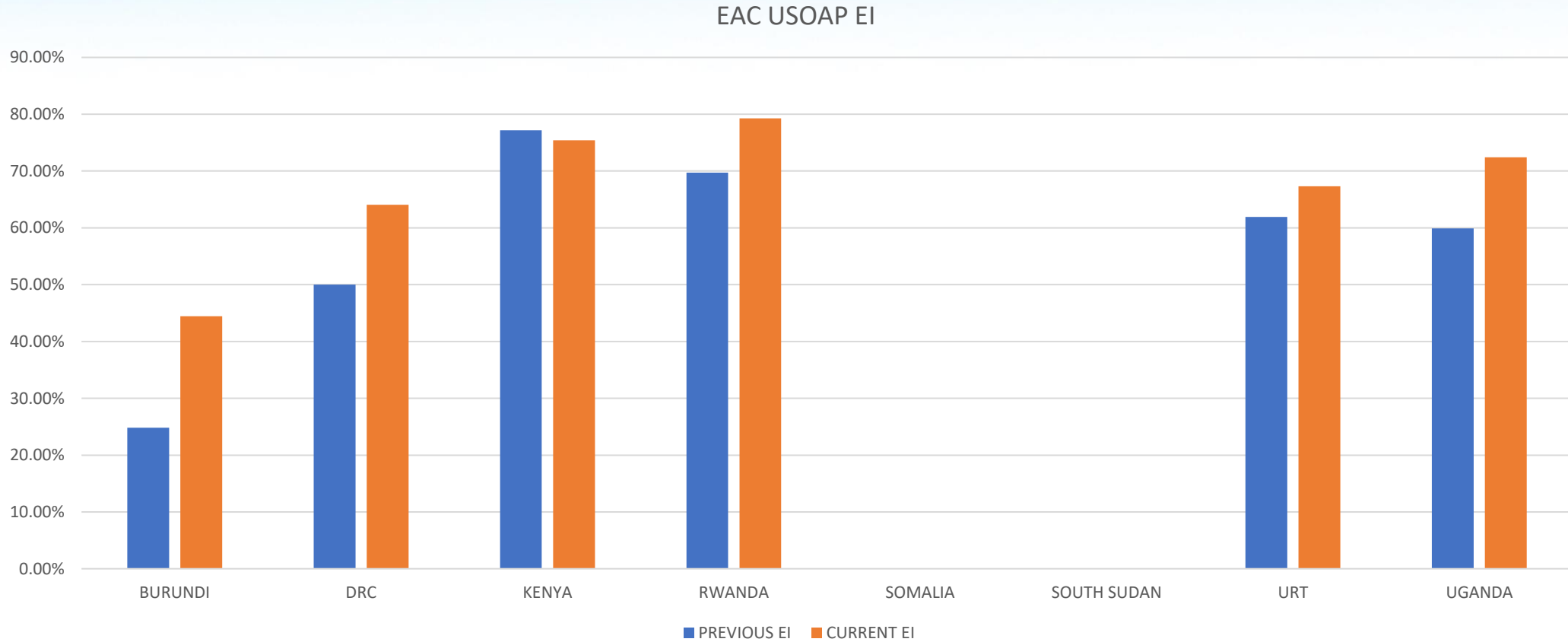
- (SOFIA, ECCAIRS, PEXO 3 exam system)

Project support with international partners.

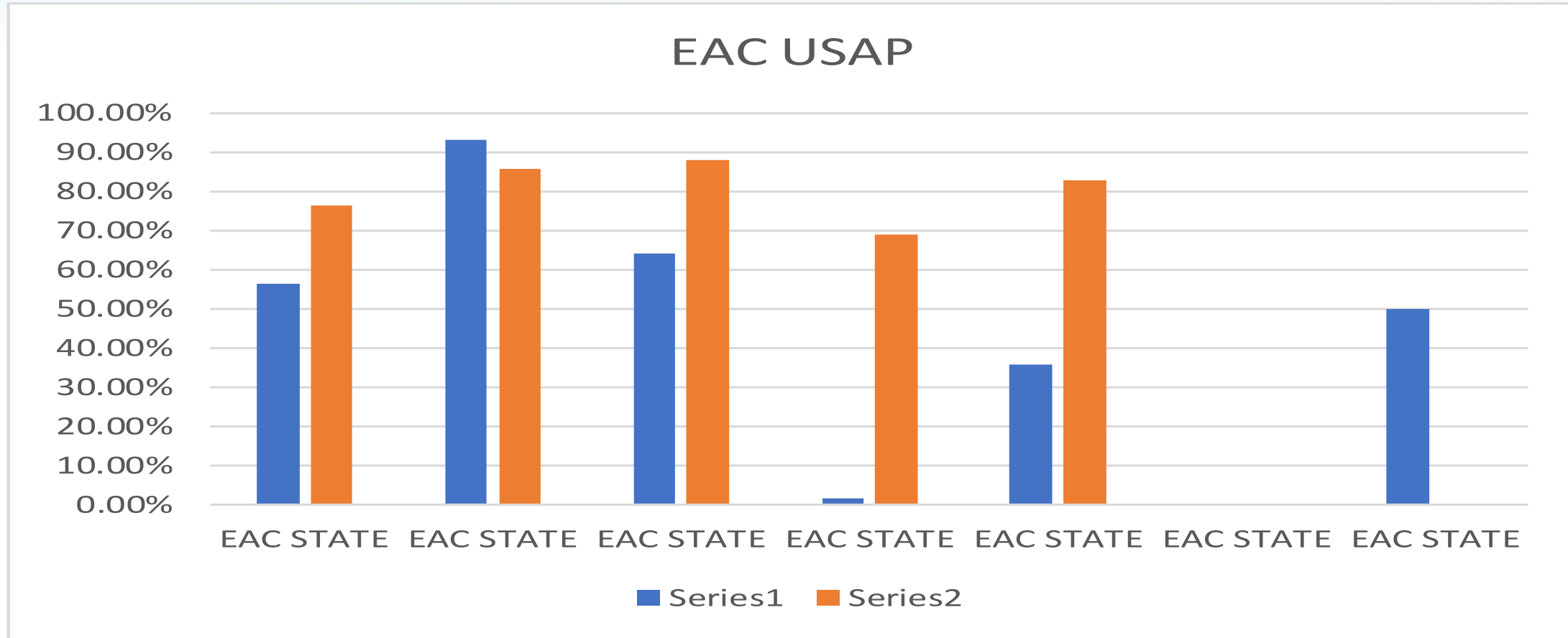
- RSOOs, RAIOS, OEMs, Operators
 - Trainings, Certifications, financing and coordination



CASSOA IMPACT ON PARTNER STATES



OUR IMPACT: USAP EI



GASOS/RRAP ASSESSMENT.....

Carried out by ICAO on CASSOA in October 2024

- GASOS - Global Aviation Safety Oversight System – Generic
- New strategy – RRAP (RSOO & RAIO Assessment Program)
- Standardised way to assess qualifications and capabilities of regional organizations
- Uses USOAP CMA philosophy for Assessment Questions

Scope:

- GEN - (ORG & LEG)
- AIR – Airworthiness.



GASOS/RRAP ASSESSMENT.....

Focus Areas:

- CASSOA's Level 1 RSOO - (Advisory, & coordination).
- CE1 - CE5 – only

1st RSOO to be audited under the new RRAP system



RRAP ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The Civil Aviation Safety and Security
Oversight Agency (CASSOA)

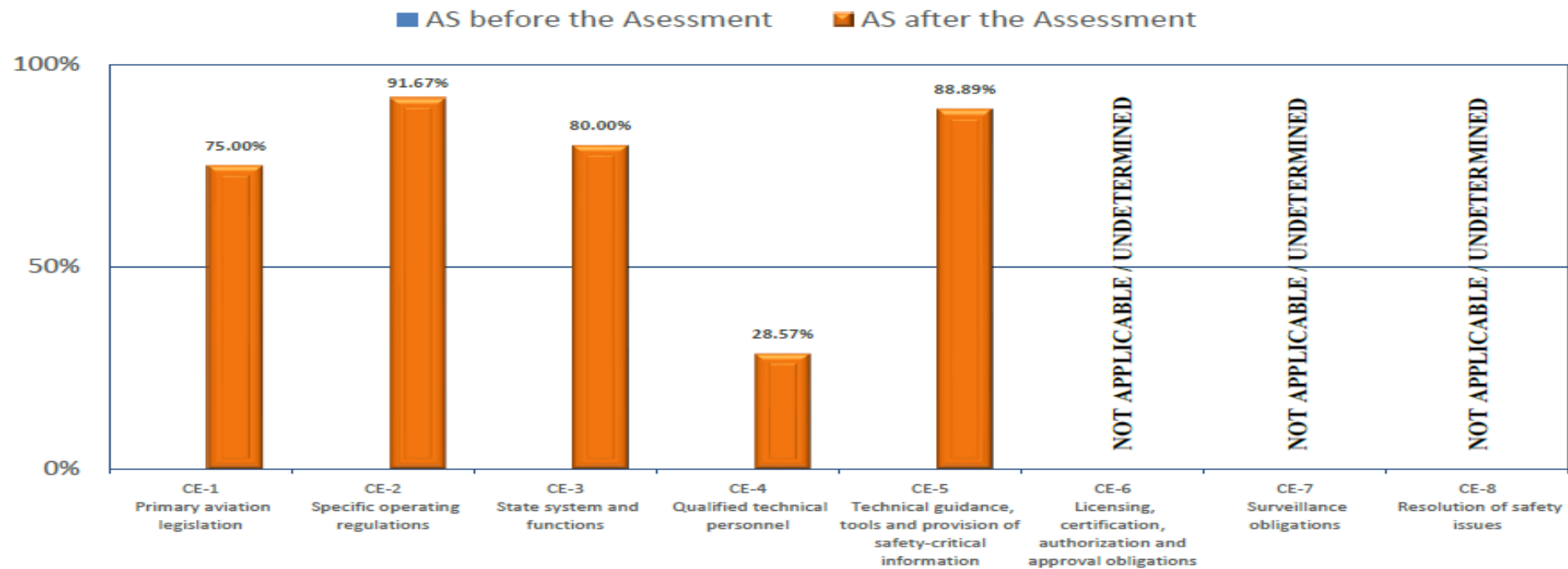
AS before Assessment:

N/A

AS after Assessment :

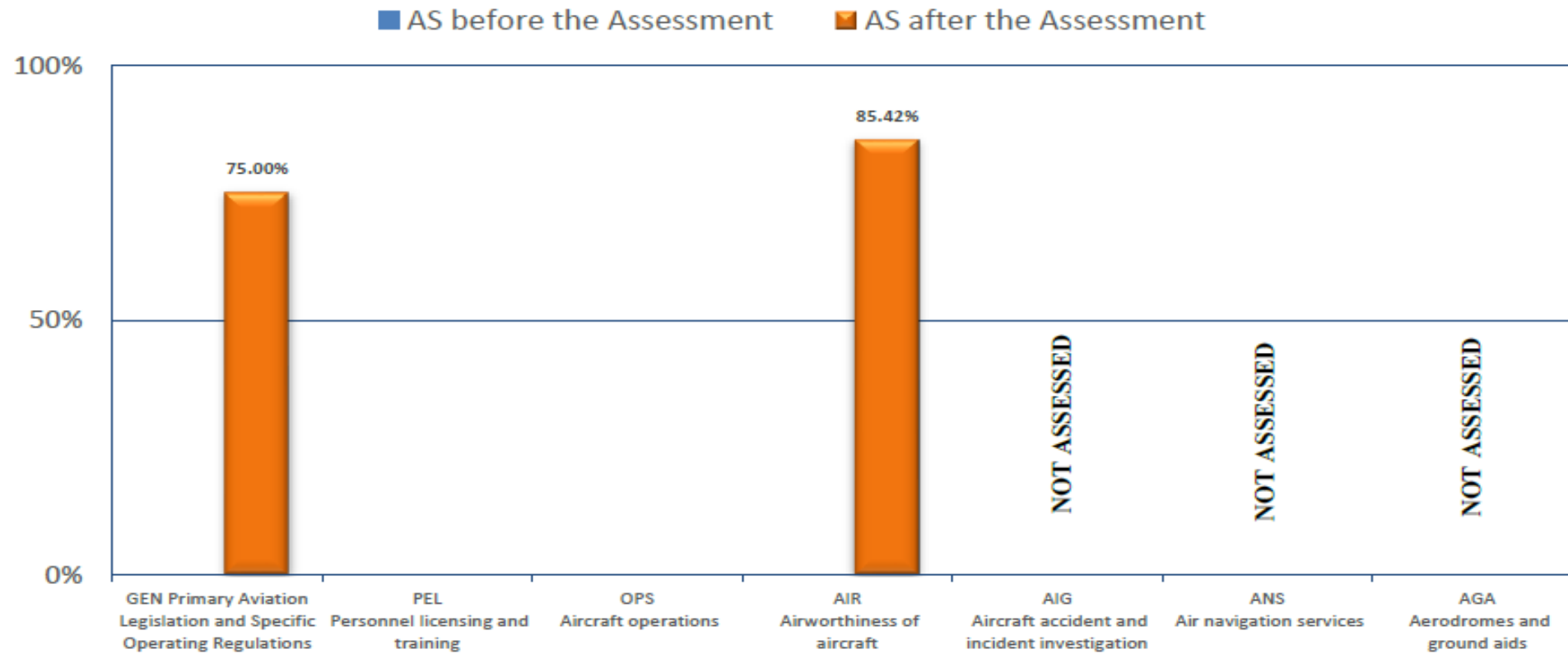
81.94%

Figure 1. Assessment Scores by Critical Element of a Safety Oversight System



RRAP ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Figure 2. Assessment Scores by Area



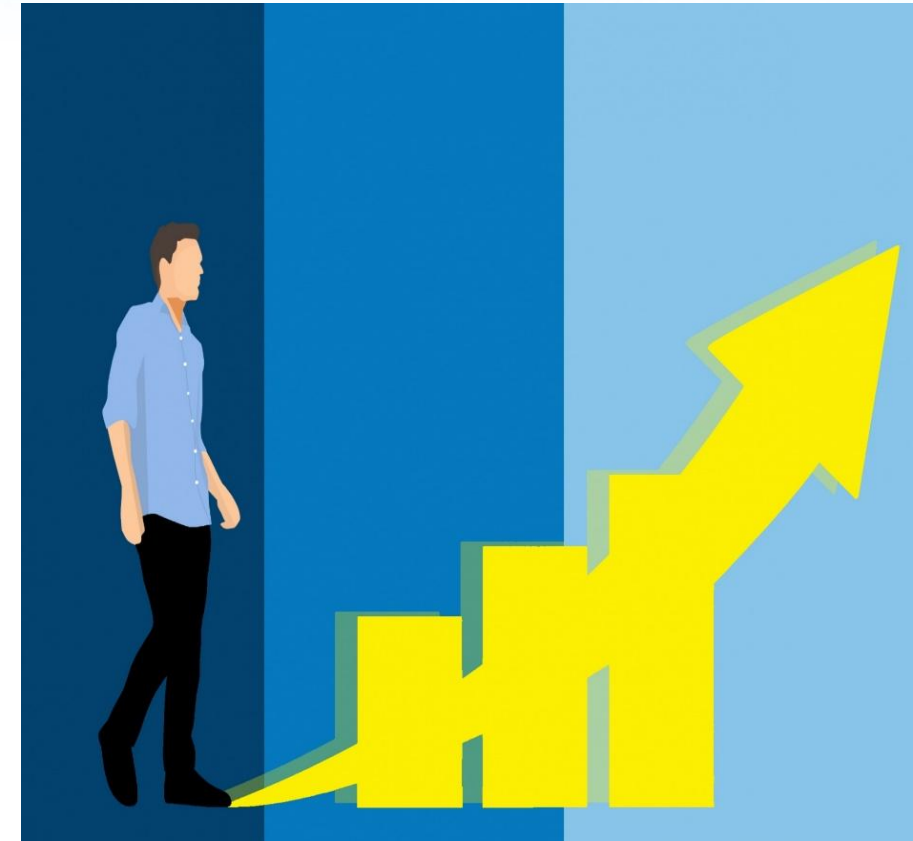
RRAP ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES

Strengths:

- Strong organizational framework.
- Solid regulatory framework and TGM
- Commitment to continuous improvement in safety oversight

Areas for Improvement:

- Technical capacity building (especially in training)
- Coordination among Member States
- Resource allocation
- Monitoring and Quality control



ON GOING PROJECTS

Recognition of licences

- Common Examinations already in place.
- Common Regulations being considered

Centre for Aviation Medicine (CAM)

- Aligning AVMED and public health standards
- Centralized medical Assessment services
- Public health programs, Research and partnerships



ON GOING PROJECTS ...

Regional Organisation Collaborations

- SASO – RRAP Self Assessment & Aerodrome certifications
- EASA – AIG set up and ECCAIRS and RSS set up
- BAGASO – To share Inspector Training System Data base
- AAMAC – MOUs and RRAP benchmarking at CASSOA
- AFCAC – Set up South Sudan CAA System
 - Phase 1. Act and regulations completed
 - Phase 2 – TGMs, ORG structure and OJT activities in CE1-5



CHALLENGES AND MITIGATIONS

Delayed Financial contributions

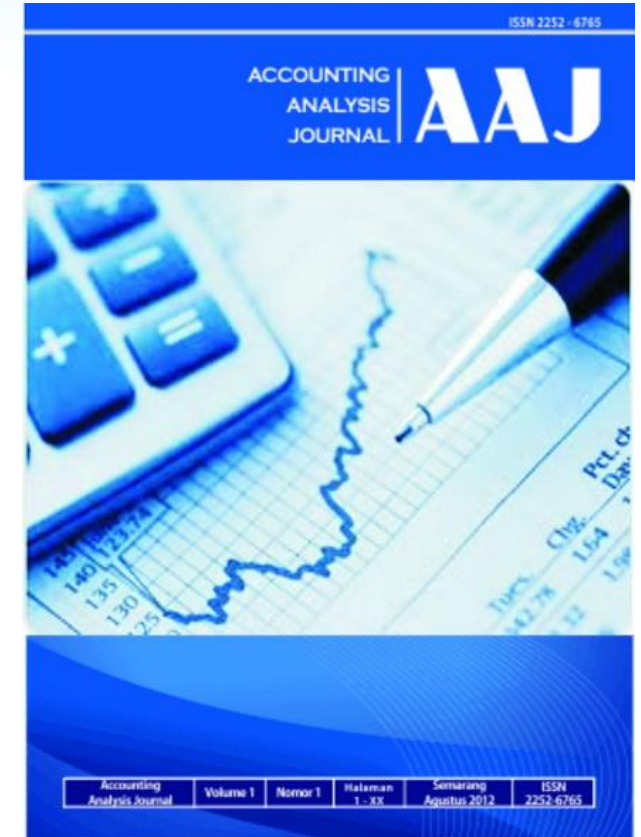
- Development of a sustainable funding Mechanism based on GDP

Sharing of relevant safety information and data

- Use of IT systems with user rights
- More awareness workshops, trainings and seminars

Sovereignty and Political issues

- Encouragement of dialogue
- **High staff turnover**
 - Retention and Attraction study underway



OPPORTUNITIES

- **ICAO Engagement** - Coordinating regional representation in ICAO meetings and international partnerships.
- **Joint Support Activities** – Conducting collaborative safety audits and gap analyses to enhance oversight.
- **Safety Research** – Partnering on studies related to emerging aviation risks and safety performance indicators.



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Conclusion

- ❖ **EAC CASSOA** is a specialized agency of the East African Community (EAC).
- ❖ Its primary mandate is to;
- ❖ promote safe, secure, and efficient civil aviation within the EAC Partner States;
- ❖ **assist Partner States** in implementing international aviation safety and security standards;
- ❖ **harmonize civil aviation regulations** and practices across EAC member states;
- ❖ **provide oversight** in areas where Partner States require support; and
- ❖ **coordinate and implement regional aviation safety and security initiatives** in line with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).



A large commercial airplane is shown from a front-on perspective, flying towards the viewer. The aircraft has a white body with a purple vertical stabilizer. Its landing gear is deployed, and its wingtip lights are illuminated (green on the left, red on the right). The background features a dramatic sunset sky with orange and yellow clouds, and a runway with white lights leading into the distance.

• Asante Saana, Merci Beaucoup
Thank you Very Much