

GREENING SMES LEATHER CLUSTERS AND LEATHER TANNING INDUSTRY

BACKGROUND

Kenya has 14 operational tanneries; however most of them are faced with challenges pertaining to limited modernization and effluent management. Approximately 95% of material is being exported in semi processed state (wet blue), earning approximately US\$ 160 million per annum. The production of finished products such as footwear is dominated by MSMEs who face enormous challenges thereby undermining their competitiveness with labour productivity of around 3 pairs per person. This is against leading benchmarks of more than 15 pairs/person/day in china, India, Thailand, Brazil and Turkey. This project provides an opportunity to integrate all underlying and studied factors towards the sustainable development of the leather sector in the selected regions and their potential to regional and international trade integration.

COMESA:
LEATHER AND LEATHER
INSTITUTE

PARTNER:
Kenya Leather
Development Council

LOCATION:
Nyeri, Sagana and Thika

Budget
 **\$ 248,508.00**

Timeline
 **24 Months**

OBJECTIVES

The project will contribute to improved productivity, reduction in the production of waste and it would enhance the management of physical and liquid waste. Specifically the project seeks to: Improve SMEs competitiveness through energy, space and machinery optimisation by promoting joint use under Clusters; Promote recycling and reduction in the use of chemicals with a negative impact to the environment; and develop a roadmap for improving effluent management and quantification of carbon footprint of the leather sector.

ACTIONS

- » Training SMEs on the advantages of working as Clusters and undertake conformity assessment tests of SMEs products against international quality standards.
- » Training SMEs in footwear production process aimed at boosting labour productivity and meeting international quality standards including undertaking physical and chemical laboratory tests on footwear soles currently produced to gauge their compliance with international standards.
- » Evaluating SMEs and tanneries to gauge their compliance with International Environmental Standards and training them on pollution, recycling and waste management processes and how to meet the International Environmental Standards.
- » Training effluent managers, technicians and officials from relevant government departments in effluent management and monitoring processes; and developing a national roadmap for improving effluent management and carbon emission quantification.