Maputo Corridor

From vision to reality:
An interview with the CEO

The Maputo Development Corridor (MDC) was launched as a Spatial Development Initiative (SDI) in 1996 as the governments of South Africa and Mozambique sought to rebuild their economies and restore trade and investment ties. Both governments agreed on the enormous potential benefits of rehabilitating the key elements of this vital strategic transport corridor which links the Port of Maputo with Africa’s most vibrant economic hub, the city of Johannesburg. SDI was the chosen means to maximise investment in the potential of the Corridor and fulfil the inherent promise of sustainable economic and social development along its length and hinterland.

Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative

The Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative (MCLI) brings together infrastructure investors, service providers and stakeholders from Mozambique and Swaziland who have a common interest in the promotion and further development of the MDC as the region’s primary logistics transportation route. The MCLI is a non-profit organisation which exists to translate this vision into reality.

Transit cargo efficiencies

“Our focus is to support the initiative from a broad framework perspective by providing a platform for inward investment in the Corridor,” explains Barbara Mommen, CEO of MCLI. “We know that the future of the Corridor lies in achieving transit cargo efficiencies and in growing general levels. Our contribution is to co-ordinate a stakeholder partnership that can remove barriers along the corridor, keep everyone involved and up-to-date with all relevant developments and to market the Corridor’s strategic benefits and opportunities, so making the MDC the first choice for both the region’s importers and exporters.”

Partnership approach

“Our work consists entirely of bringing efficiencies to the Corridor and because we are an NGO we can draw the widest possible range of stakeholders, not just those partners concerned with logistics, but also those who serve user interests.”

SADC region

“We want to raise the profile of the Corridor in the SADC region generally, but particularly with the government of Swaziland. Our priorities at present are to provide concrete information to stakeholders, map the supply chain more accurately and address transit cargo issues and markets from Maputo throughout the SADC region. At the moment, we face the challenge that transit movements along the Corridor tend to be one-directional from South Africa to Mozambique. We need to see much more growth in bi-directional cargo movements and general growth of the Corridor as a key route throughout the SADC region.”

Regional integration a reality

As the Maputo Corridor matures, Mommen is seeing a renewed emphasis on growth, with many aspects of the Corridor witnessing investment in additional services, improvements in systems and processes and greater awareness of the need for collaboration and partnership.

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Partnership approach

“All of [the MCLI achievements have been the result of a partnership approach],” Mommen states. “Our contribution has been to provide a platform for the public and private sector to develop a collaborative approach and then provide a linkage to take their concerns to the highest levels of government policymaking. We provide a route for the public and private sectors to build and achieve consensus and work towards common goals”, says Mommen.

More info: http://www.mcli.co.za/