



**BANJUL ACCORD GROUP ACCIDENT
INVESTIGATION AGENCY (BAGAIA)**

INTERNATIONAL AVIATION SAFETY & AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION SYMPOSIUM

**Title: Supporting Member States: Benefits and Challenges of
BAGAIA**

Abu Dhabi, UAE 19-21 Nov, 2024

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BANJUL ACCORD GROUP ACCIDENT
INVESTIGATION AGENCY (BAGAIA)

Preamble

This presentation reviews the benefits of BAGAIA supporting member and non-member states, the challenges of such support and way forward for Regional Cooperation.

Background

BAGAIA means the Banjul Accord Group Accident Investigation Agency (BAGAIA) as an independent body under the Banjul Accord Group as established on 30 June 2009, by the Member States of Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. Also, there is an Mgt. Service Agreement (MSA) between BAG and ICAO.

Note:

However, that this “Cooperation does not mean that governments would give up their Sovereignty or responsibilities.”



Introduction

- Accident Investigation (AIG) is a critical component of aviation safety, ensuring lessons are learned from incidents to prevent future occurrences. As such the institutionalization and establishment AIAs vis-à-vis the technical mission to states in support of aviation systems is very paramount.
- The ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) evaluates a state's adherence to international standards in AIG, while focusing on Effective Implementation (EIs).
- High EIs in AIG reflects a country's commitment to robust safety oversight, essential for maintaining global aviation safety standards.
- It is imperative that member states strive for excellence in AIG to not only meet ICAO requirements but also to safeguard lives and enhance the safety of the global air transport system including sustainability.



Introduction

BAGAIA as a Regional Accident Investigation Agency (RAIO) is created to:

- Ensure aircraft accidents and serious incidents are investigated in strict compliance with Annex 13.
- Enhance cooperation within the BAG Sub-Region.
- Ensure sharing of information on aircraft accidents and incidents within and outside the region.
- Ensure provisions of adequate resources.

Achievements by the BAGAIA Member States in the Region:

- 59 Accidents, 61 Serious Incidents, and 4 Incident investigations
- 287 Safety Recommendations



BAGAIA Corporate Statements

VISION

- To be the most efficient Regional Accident and Incident Investigation Organization in the World.

MISSION

- To assist the Banjul Accord Group (BAG) Member States in the conduct of an independent investigation of aircraft accidents and serious incidents in compliance with international standards.



Member States Challenges with Regards to AIG

The **independence** of the State's Investigation body requires the State to establish a **new body** within its state machinery, necessitating a **highly skilled staff** and, logically, a **budget** that ensures that the body can comply with the international standards and recommended practices set out in **Annex 13** and other related documents.

Thus, the following are some of the challenges facing states in the creation of Independent AIA:

- Lack of the political will by the various stakeholders;
- Lengthy legislative process;
- Fear of “loss of job” by some civil servants;
- Lack of trained personnel in aircraft accident and incident investigations;
- Civil Aviation Authority of most states sees it as a threat.



The Strategic Objectives/Support to Members State

To reduce Operational Risk, BAGAIA in its Strategic goal **will assist** member states in the establishment of an Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority (AIA) that is **independent** of the state aviation authorities and other entities that could interfere with the **conduct or objectivity** of an Investigation.

BAGAIA also assists states in closing gaps in the findings of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP). Some of the Strategic Objective among others are as follows:

- ***Strategic Objective 1.1: Mission to States (Member State Visit)***
- ***Strategic Objective 1.2: Open Conversation***
- ***Strategic Objective 1.3: Engaging Stakeholders***
- ***Strategic Objective 5.2: Implementation of Activities Relating to AIG***



Support to Member and Non-Member States

- **Strategic Objective 5.2 (*BAGAIA Strategic Workplan*): Implementation of Activities Relating to AIG**
 - Institutionalization/Establishment of Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia AIBs
 - Virtual, and onsite mission to Sierra Leone (SLAAIIB) before their ICAO USOAP Audit 2023
 - Peer Review carried out on Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) before their ICAO USOAP Audit 2023
 - BAGAIA/AFCAC Partnership-Mission to Non-Member State (Namibia) before their ICAO USOAP Audit 2024.
 - Also, BAGAIA in building capacity has carried out various training/workshops in basic aircraft accident Investigation, flight recorder, report writing, etc. over the years with a recent training carried out in June 2024 in Monrovia, Liberia.
 - Delegated Aircraft Accident Investigation by a Non-Member State – (e.g. **Sao Tome in 2017**)

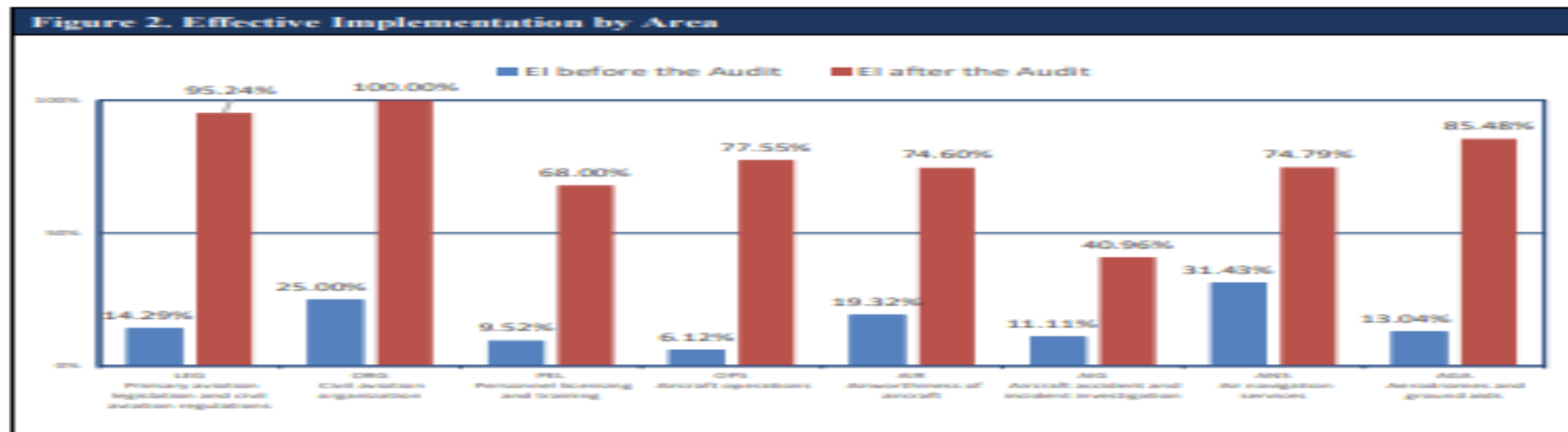
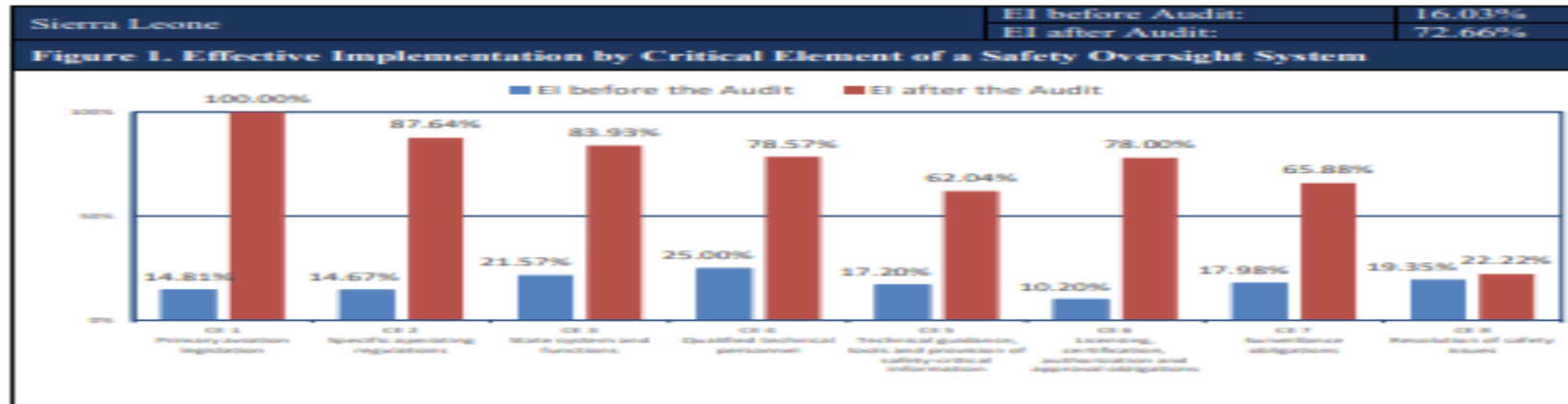


Support to Member and Non-Member States - The Impacts/Benefits

1. BAG Member States with established Accident Investigation now have the capability for investigation of civil aviation aircraft accidents and serious incidents by the highest standards and best practices as established by ICAO.
2. There is also improvement in aviation safety at the national, regional, and global levels.
3. In Sierra Leone, the BAGAIA support made a positive impact on the Effective Implementations (EIs) of states with regards to ICAO USOAP Audits of states in 2023 with a success story of Sierra Leone's quantum leap of its Effective Implementations (EIs) in **AIG audit area from 11.11% to about 40.96%** and overall, of the state from about 16.03% to 72.06% scores from the audit report (*Appendix I*).

Sierra Leone - The Impacts

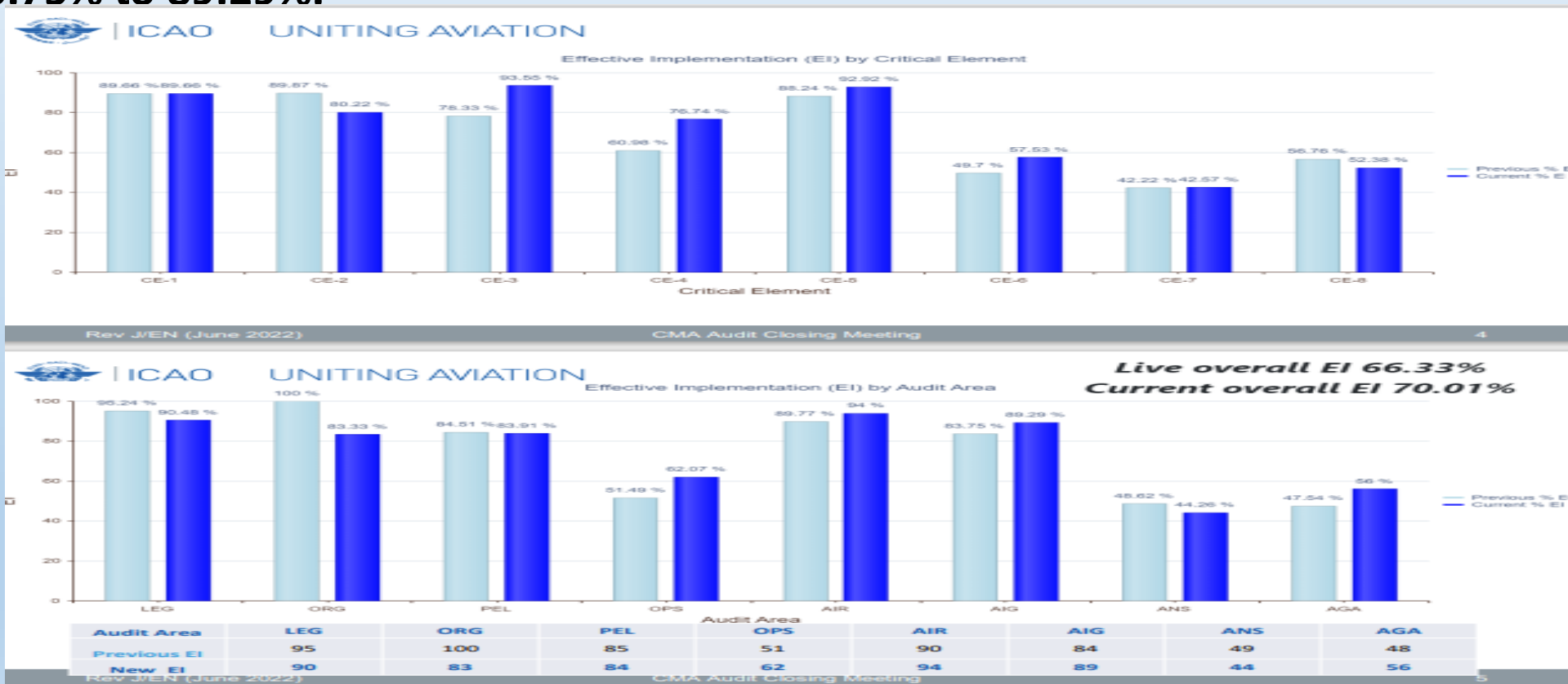
Appendix 1 — Executive Summary





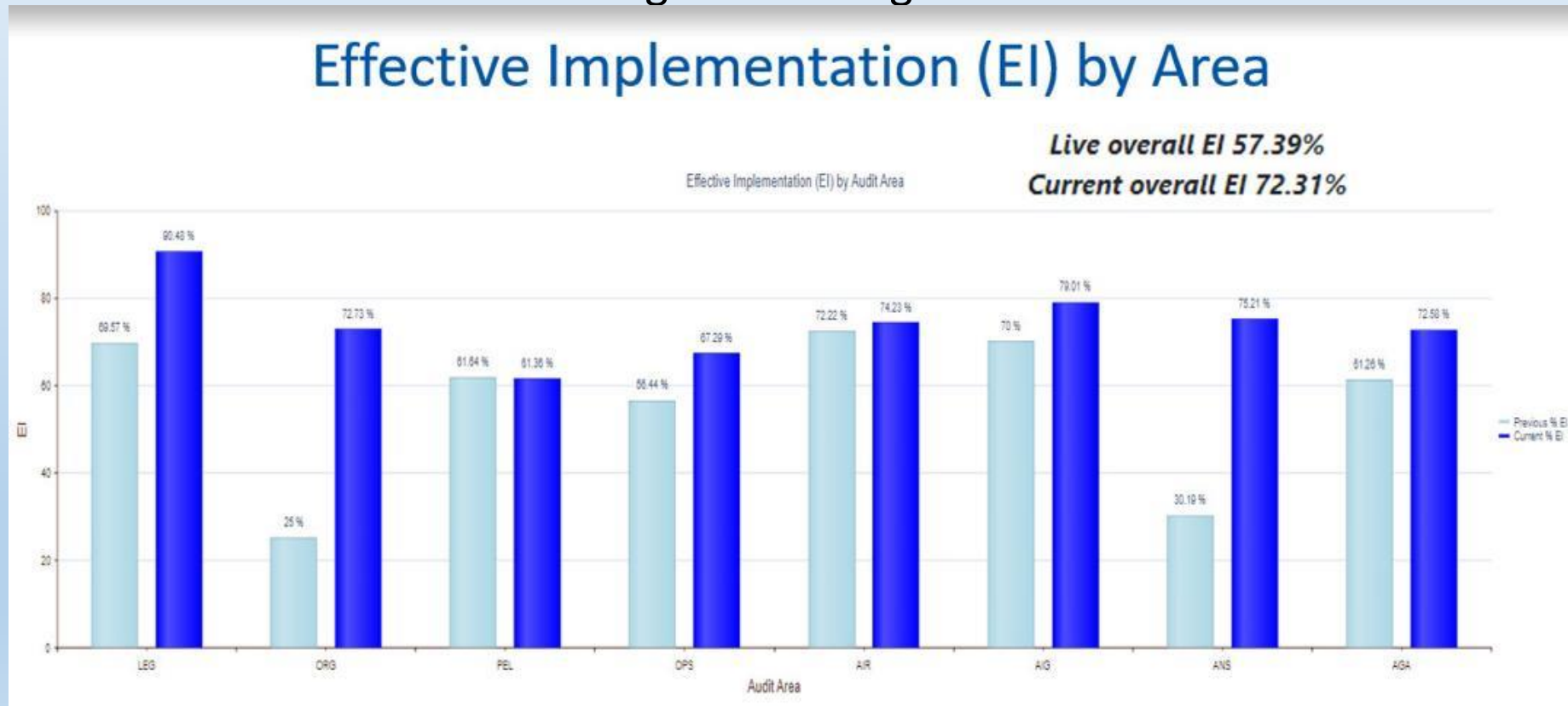
Nigeria - The Impacts

4. In Nigeria, also the support BAGAIA as a Peer Review carried out before ICAO USOAP CMA AUDIT 2023, it was evident in the result that NSIB improved in its Effective Implementation (EIs) in **AIG audit area from 83.75% to 89.29%.**



Namibia - The Impacts

5. NAMIBIA ICAO USOAP CMA AUDIT 2024: It was evident in the result that Namibia improved in its Effective Implementation (EIs) in **AIG audit area from 70% to about 79.01%** and overall, of the state from 57.39% to 72.31% which is above the global average of 69.3%.





Capacity Building - The Impacts

On capacity building, **over 450** air safety investigators/professionals have been trained however some persons required on-the-job training in aircraft accident/incident investigation, etc.



Lessons Learned from BAGAIA's Assistance to States

- ✓ The various AIBs are all getting their government supports.
- ✓ There is improved compliance with ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) in AIG in those states assisted by BAGAIA.
- ✓ Investigators' Training and resource allocations are enhanced.
- ✓ With BAGAIA's assistance, there is also strengthened legal frameworks and reporting systems in most states.



Challenges Faced in Assisting States

- ✓ There are always resource constraints in sustaining long-term AIG improvements
- ✓ Limited Trained Personnel
- ✓ Need for continuous training and development of investigators.
- ✓ Gaps in inter-agency cooperation and information sharing.
- ✓ There are most times duplicated efforts by other Regional Organization.



The Way Forward - Regional Cooperation

Sustainability:

- ✓ Establish continuous training programs for investigators
- ✓ Secure funding for maintaining and upgrading AIG capabilities.
- ✓ Accessing SAFE fund domiciled with ICAO to assist states

Collaboration:

- ✓ Promote regional cooperation to avoid duplication of efforts and information sharing among member states.
- ✓ Establish formal partnerships with international organizations and other regional bodies.

Capacity Building:

- ✓ There is a need for states to invest in modern investigation technologies and tools
- ✓ Encourage and support the existence of RAIO with AIG experts like BAGAIA.



The Way Forward - Regional Cooperation

Legal and Regulatory Framework:

- ✓ Regularly update national legislation to align with evolving ICAO standards.
- ✓ Strengthen enforcement mechanisms for safety recommendations and findings.

RSOO/RAIO Assessment Programme (RRAP):

- ✓ The assessment mechanism to strengthen BAGAIA as a RAIO has not been initiated due to paucity for funds to execute the process.

Benefit for Expansion of BAGAIA:

- ✓ Economy Scale; Quick gain of knowledge by investigators; Promotion of best practices,
- ✓ Increase in public awareness and information sharing beyond the BAG region etc.



CONCLUSION

- ✓ In conclusion, it is essential to recognize the significant benefits that the BAGAIA assistance missions/supports bring to states in the AFI Region and beyond. As a Regional Accident Investigation Organization (RAIO), BAGAIA plays a crucial role in helping these states fulfil their obligations to ICAO regarding Accident Investigation and Safety Management. This collaboration has substantially enhanced aviation safety across the region over the years.
- ✓ We strongly encourage states to establish and institutionalize independent Accident Investigation Authorities(AIAs). Such independence from state aviation authorities and other potential influences is vital for maintaining the integrity and objectivity of aircraft accident and incident investigations.
- ✓ To tackle ongoing challenges and foster sustained improvements in Accident investigation and Safety Management across all regions, a collective effort is required. While notable progress has been made evident in the steady increase in Effective Implementation (EIs) rates supported by BAGAIA's assistance, as more resources and commitment are necessary. This will ensure that states can continue to enhance and uphold robust safety oversight systems.
- ✓ The need to subscribe to a regional body like BAGAIA and its expansion is for the economy of scales where resources can be harnessed in achieving the predetermined business goals and objectives.
- ✓ Let us work together to build on these advancements and secure a safer aviation future for all.



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