



# **DRAFT PROJECT DOCUMENT**

*(To be reviewed and discussed during the quaterly meetings of AAOSG in 2026)*

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## **AERODROME CERTIFICATION PROJECT –**

### **AFRICA**

.....

Address

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## Introduction

This document explores strategies for African States to fulfil the ICAO's mandate of certifying international aerodromes, given the current deficiency in aerodrome certification at the continental level. In order to make progress in the aerodrome certification process in Africa, the States and the aerodromes to be targeted are outlined in the document. This document also seeks to help collaborate with RSOOs in ensuring the harmonisation of assistance to States and aerodrome operators in order to avoid duplication of activities and waste of resources, with a clear definition of coordination between ICAO and RSOOs and other industry partners like ACI and IATA on how to grant support on assistance missions to states.

The States that meet the criteria and selected, are hereinafter referred to as “beneficiary states.”

Technical expertise in the area of aerodrome certification will be used through the AFI initiative to assist Member States with their needs;

**Recalling** the work done by the ICAO AFI Plan aerodrome certification project and building on its work, experiences, and lessons learned:

**Recalling** the Convention on International Civil Aviation signed in Chicago on 7 December 1944;

**Seeking** to collaborate in “securing the highest practicable degree of uniformity in regulations, standards, procedures, and organization in relation to aircraft, personnel, airways and auxiliary services in all matters in which such uniformity will facilitate and improve air navigation” and in compliance with Article 37 of the Convention on International civil Aviation;

**Recalling** the obligation of States and the responsibilities of Civil Aviation Authorities and Airport Operators, as well as other Stakeholders in the certification of international aerodromes within their territories as outlined in Annex 14 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and relevant ICAO guidance material;

**Taking into account** the July 2012 Abuja Declaration and Targets adopted by the Conference of Ministers on aviation safety in Africa, that required, amongst other things, that States certify all their international aerodromes by the end of 2015;

**Recognizing** the significant efforts by some States, yet generally slow progress in the successful accomplishment of aerodrome certification in the region;

**Wishing to benefit from** the decision made by the AFI Plan Steering Committee at its seventeenth meeting approving implementation of key projects for assistance in priority areas including aerodrome certification as part of the broader "No country left behind" initiative of ICAO;

Have agreed as follows:

## Article 1 –Endorsement

To hereby endorse the project document ....., hereto annexed which establishes the framework for the provision of assistance in the certification of international airports in line with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requirements and aspirations expressed in the Abuja Safety Targets.

## Article 2: Implementation

The Beneficiary States hereby undertake to fully participate in this endeavor and undertake to fulfill their roles as outlined in the document for the successful implementation of the project.

The first two beneficiary States, each from ESAF and WACAF, have been selected as shown in the table below. Other States would be considered later based on the project criteria selection detailed in this document.

ESAF STATE	WACAF STATE
Burundi	Equatorial Guinea
Comoros	Chad
Malawi	Guinea Bissau
Djibouti	Bangui (Central African Republic)
Eritrea	Liberia
Lesotho	Sao-Tome Principe
South Sudan	

Accordingly, the following entities and officials will be responsible for the follow up and implementation of the present project as it relates to their respective States:

(STATE) Name: Title: Contact: Entity:	(STATE) Name: Title: Contact: Entity:
(STATE) Name: Title: Contact: Entity:	(STATE) Name: Title: Contact: Entity:
(STATE) Name: Title: Contact: Entity:	(STATE) Name: Title: Contact: Entity:

Signed in representation of:

*Date & Place*



## Project Document

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1. **Beneficiary State/Group of States:** TDN
2. **Project No.:** .....
3. **Project Title:** Assistance in the certification of International Airports
4. **Project Duration:** 36 months (starting in *date*)
5. **Implementation Agency:** ICAO
6. **Source of Funding:** Sponsors (To be discussed)
7. **Project estimated cost:** US\$ .....

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## **A. Project justification**

1. The Ministerial Conference on Aviation Safety in Africa held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 16 to 20 July 2012, adopted specific and measurable aviation safety targets to enhance safety standards in the region. One of these safety targets is for States to certify all International Aerodromes by the end of December 2015.
2. These targets were revised in 2024 and the certification of international airports implementation dates on 2025.
3. The number of certified airports in Africa remains considerably low, with the possibility of realisation of the Abuja Safety Targets within the anticipated period not likely. It is therefore, necessary that States and airports receive support to facilitate the certification of airports.
4. The States to be assisted and Airports to be certified will be selected based on the following criteria:
5. Baseline criteria – State that are yet to certify any aerodrome but have established aerodrome regulatory framework and certification procedures.
6. Other additional criteria listed in order of significance are as follow:
  - (a) States that have established an aerodrome oversight unit/department with personnel/inspectors who have appropriate minimum qualification.
  - (b) States that have recently developed a new (greenfield) aerodrome or have rehabilitated major aerodrome infrastructure (such as runways, taxiways, aprons etc.) and are yet to certify the aerodrome.
  - (c) States that have not certified any of their aerodromes but have defined acceptable corrective action in their AGA USOAP-CMA findings related to ensuring certification of their aerodromes.
  - (d) States with sufficient financial (budgetary allocation) resources to support the aerodrome certification process, including conducting inspections, audits, and assessments, as well as implementing necessary improvements and corrective actions
7. The baseline criteria shall apply for all selections to be made. In addition to the baseline criteria, selection shall take account of other criteria having regard to their order of significance. For instance, an airport which satisfies baseline criteria and all other criteria will be of highest priority while the airport satisfying only the baseline criteria will be accorded lowest priority
8. Based on the above criteria, a GAP analysis will be conducted to design a State and airport specific work plan aimed at ensuring certification of an aerodrome and ensure sustainability of the regulator's aerodrome oversight capacity. The gap analysis will include:
  - a. the airport compatibility study
  - b. the airport operational management assessment
  - c. the State's oversight system self-assessment
  - d. the schedule for each airport

## **B. End of Project Status/ Target / Overall Objective**

9. By the end of the project, all the international airports that will have been selected will have been certified, and the States benefiting from the project will have enhanced their aerodromes oversight capacity.

#### 10. Implementation Strategy

- a. A meeting with DGCAAs for beneficiary States will be held with the purpose of sensitizing them on the objectives of the project, adopting the project document and getting the commitment of top management.
- b. Selection of suitable experts to undertake the aerodrome certification project with specific qualifications and experience to meet the State and airport oversight and certification needs.
- c. Project team composition:
  - i. Expert in compatibility studies:
  - ii. Experts in operational management assessment:
    - 1. Experts in aerodromes operations
    - 2. Experts in infrastructure
    - 3. Expert in firefighting operations
    - 4. Expert in wildlife hazard management
    - 5. Expert in Electrical Systems
    - 6. Expert in Aerodrome Safety Management

#### Coopted Experts

- iii. Expert from Aviation Security (AVSEC)
- iv. Expert from Air Navigation Service (ANS) – Pans-OPS
- d. Aerodrome Experts shall be identified from among the ICAO Aerodromes expert with demonstrated capabilities to assist other States. Additionally, ACI, Airbus will provide additional expertise to support the resource-experts under the guidance of the project coordinator.
- e. The project will be conducted in 4 steps. The following deliverables are expected for each step:

#### **Step 0 : Launching and Project Familiarisation Workshop**

- i. ICAO Launching Workshop
  - *ICAO/Beneficiary States*
- ii. ICAO Familiarisation Workshop
  - *ICAO/RSOs/Beneficiary States/Project Team Members*

#### **Step 1 : Assessing the airport infrastructure**

- i. Airport infrastructure/compatibility study
  - 2. Airport Infrastructure/layout Documentation Review –
    - *Remote review (By CAA/Project Team)*
  - 3. Review of Airport Compatibility Study Report (If required)
    - *Remote review (By CAA/Project Team)*
- ii. Remedial measures/Funding plan to address non compliances
  - 4. Development of proposals on remedial measures
    - *Remote (By Airport Operator)*
  - 5. Review of proposals on remedial measures
    - *Remote (By CAA/Project Team )*



6. *Funding plans for the Execution of remedial measures*
7. Execution of Remedial Measures
  - *Onsite (By Airport Operator)*
8. Inspection of remedial measures
  - *Onsite (By CAA)*
  - *Remote (By Project Team - Pictorial Evidence)*

## **Step 2 : Assessing the airport operational management**

- i. Airport operational assessment
  1. Review of Comprehensive Airport Inspection Report (ACI APEX Report, if not available, other acceptable alternative )
    - *Remote (By CAA/Project Team)*
  2. Detailed inspection of all facets of airport operations and production of report of findings and recommendations (if ACI APEX Report or other suitable report is not available)
    - *Onsite (By CAA/Project Team)*
- ii. Airport action plan for certification
  1. Development of plan of action (Based on findings/recommendations of the report)
    - *Desk (By Airport Operator)*
  2. Review and validation of plan of action
    - *Remote (By CAA supported by Project Team)*
  3. Implementation of action plan
    - *Field/Desk (By Airport Operator)*
  4. Verification of Implementation status
    - *Onsite (By CAA)*
    - *Remote (By Project Team – Pictorial Evidence)*

## **Step 3 : Assessing State's Oversight Capability**

- i. CAA's Self-assessment oversight capability
  1. Conduct of self assessment oversight capability and production of report
    - *Desk (By CAA)*
- ii. CAA's action plan for certification
  1. Preparation of corrective action plan based on findings of assessment
    - *Desk (By CAA)*
  2. Implementation of Plan of Action
    - *Desk (By CAA)*
  3. Review and validation/monitoring of implemented actions items
    - *Remote (By Project Team – Documentation/Records Evidence)*

## **Step 4 : Implementation of Aerodrome Certification Proocess**

- i. Dealing with expression of interest
  1. Conduct of Flight Operations Assessment
    - a. *Field/Desk (By Airport Operator/ANSP)*
  2. Review of Assessment Report
    - *Remote (By CAA/Project Team)*
  3. Review of evidence of compliance with other requisite state laws (EIA, etc)
    - *Remote (By CAA/Project Team)*
- ii. Assessment of formal application including evaluation of Aerodrome Manual
  1. Review and approval of aerodrome manual
    - *Remote (By CAA with support of Project Team)*
- iii. Assessment of aerodrome physical characteristics, facilities, services and equipments
  1. Inspection of Aerodrome and preparation of report of findings and classification of non-compliances

- *Onsite (By CAA/Project Team)*
- 2. Follow Up Inspection to address identified findings
  - *Onsite (By CAA, remotely supported by Project Team)*
- iv. Grant or refusal of aerodrome certificate
  - 1. Preparation and issuance of certification
    - *Desk (By CAA, remotely supported by Project Team)*
- v. Promulgation of the certified status of the aerodrome in the AIP
  - *Desk (By ANSP)*

## **1. ICAO Inputs**

- 2.1 Funding
- 2.2 Experts
- 2.3 International Missions
- 2.4 Monitoring and reporting
- 2.5 Others

## **2. ICAO Inputs**

- 3.1 Funding
- 3.2 Experts
- 3.3 International Missions
- 3.4 Monitoring and reporting
- 3.5 Others

## **3. Airbus and RSOOs Inputs**

- 4.1 Funding
- 4.2 Experts
- 4.3 International Missions
- 4.4 Monitoring and reporting
- 4.5 Others

## **4. ACI and RSOOs Inputs**

- 5.1 Funding
- 5.2 Experts
- 5.3 International Missions
- 5.4 Monitoring and reporting
- 5.5 Others

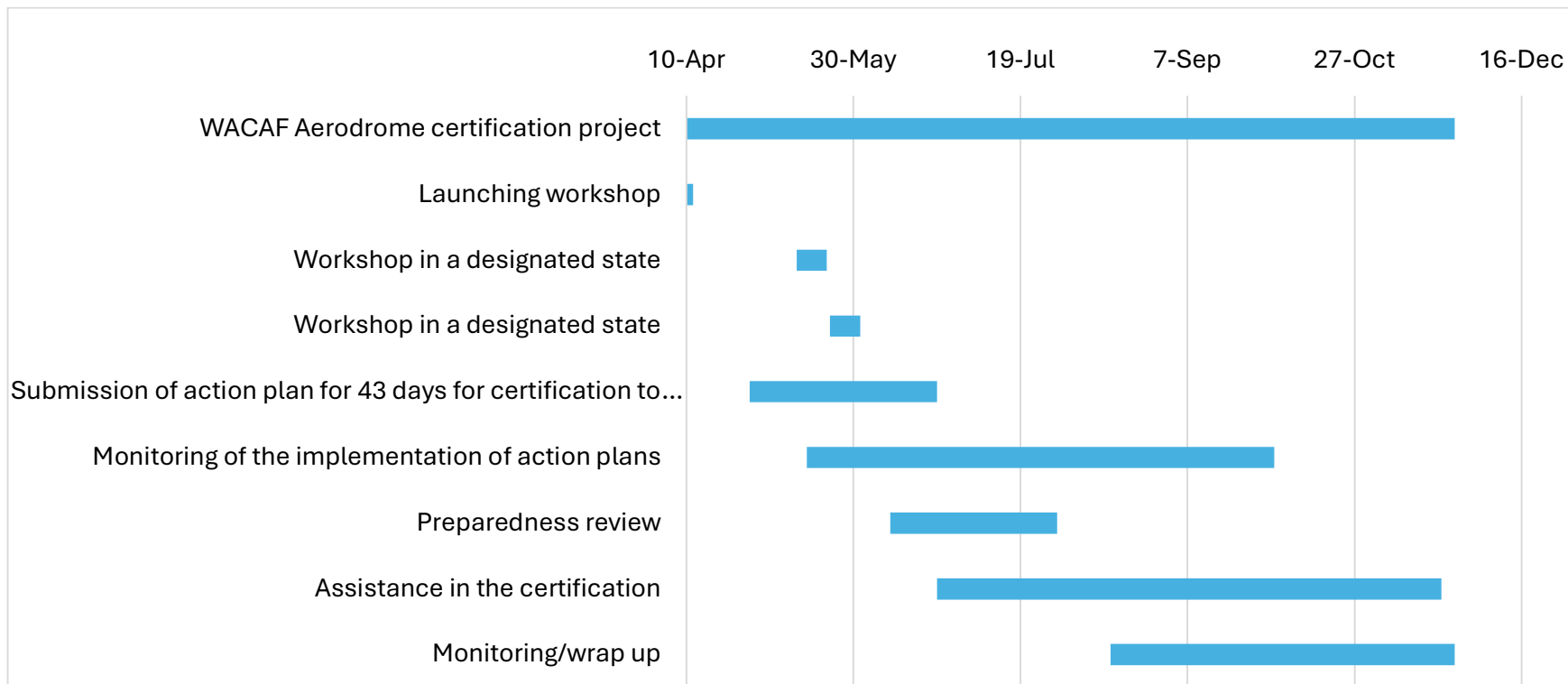
## **C. Project Work plan**

- 1. A preliminary work plan is attached as Appendix A. This preliminary work plan is indicative and will be refined during the implementation of the project.

## **D. Estimated Cost (US\$): .....**

**Annex A – Preliminary schedule (Proposed-To be discussed)**

	<b>Task Name</b>	<b>Duration (working days)</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>
1	Aerodrome certification project	230		
2	Launching workshop	2		
3	Workshop in a designated state (WACAF State)	7		
4	Workshop in a designated state (ESAF State)	7		
5	Submission of action plan for 43 days for certification to ICAO for review . Production, review and acceptance of action plans (aerodrome infrastructure, aerodrome operations and CAA safety oversight system)	43		
6	Monitoring of the implementation of action plans (aerodrome infrastructure, aerodrome operations and CAA safety oversight system)	101		
7	Preparedness review	38		
16	Assistance in the certification	110		
25	Monitoring/wrap up	73		



**Appendix B – Estimated Cost (To be discussed)**