

## PROJECT PLAN

### Executive summary

Project title	Deployment of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) WORLD on Sint Maarten
Country	SINT MAARTEN
Theme	The deployment of a modern computerized system to simplify the Customs clearance process. This will bring about faster clearance of cargo, strengthened internal controls, improved revenue control, and will provide up-to-date accurate information on trade in goods. Linked to an associated program of trade facilitation, the new computerized system will be the cornerstone of the program to improve the performance of the Customs Department in Sint Maarten.
Measure	Theme H - Strengthen the rule of law
Background	<p>Customs Sint Maarten is one of the few islands in the Caribbean region that does not have an automated Customs registration and declaration system. Consequently, there exists a significant lack of transparency regarding the movement of goods, as well as the various stakeholders involved in these transactions.</p> <p>The Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance have recognized the problem of the lack of an automated system. In pursuit of a suitable solution the Government of Sint Maarten has requested United Nations Conference on Trade and Developments (UNCTAD) assistance in introducing ASYCUDA World as an integrated customs management system with the view to increase efficiency and effectiveness on the customs clearance process, minimizing the risk of fraud, maximizing revenue receipts, facilitating trade and making Customs the primary source of trade data. To that regard UNCTAD assess the situation and submitted a technical proposal; 'The Government of Sint Maarten and UNCTAD for the deployment of ASYCUDA World'. This proposal can be seen as the basis for this plan of approach.</p> <p>The benefits of this system for customs and other stakeholders include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Risk-oriented work (profiling), which increases the chance of detection of illegal / prohibited / dangerous / counterfeit goods;</li> <li>○ Labour-intensive manual actions will be a thing of the past, allowing staff to be deployed more effectively/efficiently. This is desperately needed because Sint Maarten customs has an extreme shortage of staff;</li> <li>○ Provision of data for analysis purposes for Enforcement, Investigation and Intelligence (one of the main objectives in the Plan van Aanpak Versterking Grenstoezicht);</li> <li>○ Provision of statistical data for policy and decision making purposes to the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of TEATT, Central Bank and other Departments;</li> <li>○ Strengthening the image and HUB function of the island</li> </ul>
Objective	<p>To improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of customs operations;</p> <p>To automate the entire customs clearance process by providing electronic document management and, at the same time, to enhance it by extending automation to other cross border agencies involved in international trade;</p> <p>To interface existing trade related computerized systems with ASYCUDA World to provide a complete integrated solution for customs processes;</p> <p>To facilitate trade through the streamlining and simplifying of customs procedures, information flows and documentation;</p> <p>To provide government and relevant public sector entities with the information necessary to formulate macro-economic and fiscal policies and to monitor and control trade revenue;</p> <p>To provide the Customs with additional information on trade and on individual traders to institute risk management and post clearance audit measures;</p>

	To provide recommendations as to areas of Customs processing requiring business process re-engineering and simplification of customs and trade formalities, including expanding information flows and interchange, to enable the most effective use of the new system; and, To provide the Customs with sustainable means to access continuous technical support and system maintenance and upgrading
End product	Implemented automated declaration system
Intended results	<p>Efficiency: ASYCUDA World streamlines customs processes, reducing paperwork and manual tasks. This efficiency can lead to faster clearance times for goods entering or leaving the country.</p> <p>Transparency: The system provides a centralized platform for customs management, allowing for better tracking and monitoring of trade activities. This transparency helps prevent fraud and improves revenue collection.</p> <p>Accuracy: Automated data entry and validation minimize errors in customs declarations, ensuring that tariff classifications and duty calculations are correct. This accuracy reduces the risk of discrepancies and disputes between traders and customs authorities.</p> <p>Trade Facilitation: ASYCUDA World facilitates electronic communication between customs authorities, traders, and other stakeholders in the supply chain. This exchange of information simplifies trade procedures and enhances cooperation between countries.</p> <p>Revenue Generation: By improving compliance and reducing opportunities for evasion, ASYCUDA World can increase government revenue from customs duties and taxes.</p> <p>Capacity Building: Implementing ASYCUDA World often involves training customs officials and stakeholders on how to use the system effectively. This capacity-building initiative can enhance the skills of personnel involved in customs administration.</p> <p>Data: Support the decision-making process in formulating economic and fiscal policies.</p>
Approach	<p>The ASYCUDA World system will be implemented in Sint Maarten using a gradual and phased approach with five (5) phases allowing the Customs Department to introduce automated procedures for the clearance of goods in a short timeframe. Some project phases may run activities in parallel to concurrently expedite the adoption and deployment of the new automated services.</p> <p>Phase 1 – Project installation and Prototype Building.</p> <p>Phase 2 – Implementation at Pilot Sites</p> <p>Phase 3 – Roll-out at all other Customs sites</p> <p>Phase 4 – Capacity building to support ASYCUDA</p> <p>Phase 5 – Evaluation and Monitoring</p>
Coherence and/or interdependencies	<p><b>Theme A in the Country Package:</b> Implementation of the ASYCUDA system will provide up-to-date accurate information in real time on trade in goods. This will feed into creating reliable statistical information and data for policy development and decision making.</p> <p><b>Theme B in the Country Package:</b> The implementation will lead to curbed organised crime and money laundering activities.</p> <p><b>Theme C in the Country Package:</b> Full transparency of imported goods can lead to more tax compliance.</p> <p><b>Theme E in the Country Package:</b> The gathered data will aid in comprehending aspects of the informal economy, serving as a valuable resource for informing and guiding further interventions.</p> <p><b>Theme F in the Country Package:</b> The counterfeit products that enter the country form potential health and safety issues. Examples are illegal pharmaceuticals, toiletries, cosmetics, tobacco and liquor.</p> <p><b>Theme H in the Country Package:</b> Strengthen the rule of law.</p>
Planning	The duration of the project is estimated at approximately eighteen (18) months
Continuation	This project includes training, evaluations and aftercare. These elements are put in place to ensure the continuation after the project.