



## Project I-CEMAC

Securing borders in the Central Africa region



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The I-CEMAC project works to strengthen border security in the six countries of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC).

It will achieve this by extending access to INTERPOL's secure global communications network (I-24/7) and databases to law enforcement agencies at international airports, sea ports and strategic border crossing points.



## THE SITUATION

CEMAC's mission is to promote peace and economic development in its six Member States: Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Central African Republic.

The CEMAC common market promotes economic growth through the free movement of people, goods and capital. While reduced border controls bring many advantages in terms of trade, they also heighten the risk of illicit activities such as trafficking in counterfeit goods, human beings, and weapons.

Abundant natural resources, including oil, fisheries and forests, also make the region vulnerable to transnational organized crime, while civil conflicts present further challenges to peace and security.

Regional cooperation between CEMAC countries is therefore crucial in order to effectively monitor borders and prevent and detect cross-border crime.

## PROJECT AIMS

Through the I-CEMAC project, INTERPOL will support the modernization of six INTERPOL National Central Bureaus (NCBs) and the extension of the I-24/7 Global Communication System to a selected 40 border points in the CEMAC zone.

This project responds to the needs of the CEMAC Member States in the fight against all forms of crime, both national and international. It will also allow them to promote police cooperation between the Member States of CEMAC and the Central African region.

## Specifically, the project will:

- enable border security officers to screen passengers and travel documents at main transport hubs;
- improve connectivity and access to INTERPOL's systems, and optimize interoperability among the national systems of the beneficiary countries;
- strengthen the infrastructure and technical capabilities of the six NCBs so they can fully support the expansion of the I-24/7 system to law enforcement authorities in their countries;
- improve the quality and exchange of criminal information at the national and international level.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

To achieve the required project outcomes, the following activities are necessary:

- carry out needs assessments in beneficiary countries;
- assess border posts and the state of their infrastructure;
- work with specialized companies to install equipment and software at border posts and NCBs;
- ensure the sustainability of the project through appropriate hardware and software maintenance contracts over a period of five years;
- organize technical coordination and project monitoring meetings;
- deliver operational training on the use of INTERPOL databases.



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