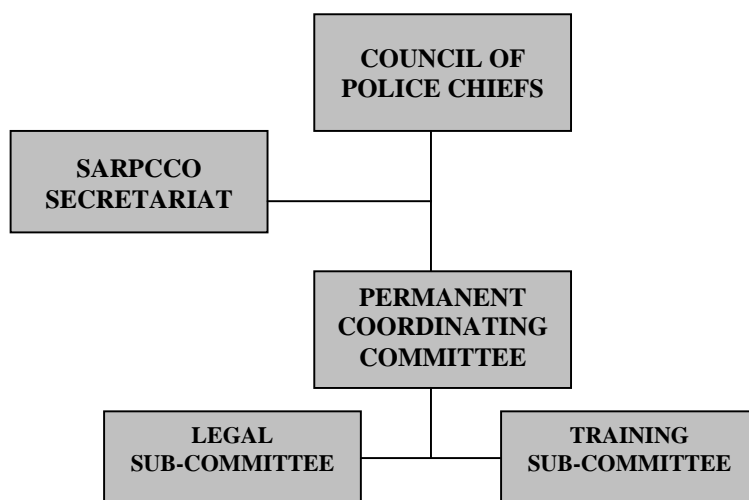




PROFILE OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIONAL POLICE CHIEFS COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SARPPCO)

The Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPPCO) was formed in 1995, at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. It has firmly established itself as a benchmark for international police cooperation. SARPPCO's is supported by INTERPOL's Sub-Regional Bureau in Harare which coordinates its activities and programmes and provides it with secretarial services.

STRUCTURE: In accordance with the constitution, the following SARPPCO structure is in place:



Council of Police Chiefs (CPC): The highest decision-making body that presides on all policy matters and oversees regional police co-operation as well as the proper functioning of all SARPPCO structures.

Permanent Coordinating Committee (PCC): Comprising Heads of the Criminal Investigation Services of each member country, this committee coordinates regional co-operation, plans and executes joint crime combating operations as well as the implementation of all SARPPCO resolutions.

The Legal Sub-committee: Constituting Heads of Legal Units of respective police forces/services, this committee attends to all legal matters that may hamper police co-operation and lobbies for harmonizing of regional legislation.

The Training Sub-committee: Made up of the Directors of Training Institutions of respective police forces/services, this committee coordinates and conducts regional operational police training needs analyses and the implementation of capacity building interventions.

The SARPCCO Constitution empowers both the CPC and PCC to appoint such committees or units as they deem fit for its operations.

Membership:

SARPCCO consist of the following 13 member countries:

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Angola | Namibia |
| Botswana | South Africa |
| Democratic Republic de Congo | Swaziland |
| Lesotho | Tanzania |
| Malawi | Zambia |
| Mauritius | Zimbabwe |
| Mozambique | |

The SARPCCO Constitution provides for Chiefs of Police of other countries to apply for SARPCCO membership.

CHAIRPERSONSHIP

The Chairpersonship of SARPCCO rotates among its members countries on annual basis. The year of SARPCCO starts from August- July. Below is the information about SARPCCO's chairpersonship since its Annual General Meeting in 1996;

PERIOD	COUNTRY	TITLE	NAME
2007/2008	Zambia	Inspector General	Mr.Ephraim Mateyo
2006/2007	Lesotho	Commissioner	Mrs.Evelyn Mpho Letoane
2005/2006	Angola	General Commissioner	Mr.Jose Eduardo "Èkuikui"
2004/2005	Tanzania	Inspector General	Mr.Omari Iddi Mahita
2003/2004	Mozambique	Inspector General	Mr.Miguel Francisco Dos Santos
2002/2003	Zimbabwe	Commissioner	Mr.Augustine Chihuri
2001/2002	Mauritius	Commissioner	Mr.Ramanooj Gopalsingh
2000/2001	Malawi	Inspector General	Mr.B.B.M'phinji
1999/2000	Swaziland	Commissioner	Mr.Edgar Hillary
1998/1999	Botswana	Commissioner	Mr.Norman Moleboge
1997/1998	South Africa	Nacional Commissioner	Mr.George Fivaz
1996/1997	Namibia	Inspector General	Mr.Lucas P.Hangula

Priority Crime Areas

The priority crime areas for the sub-region as determined by SARPCCO are:

- Anti-terrorism
- Motor vehicle thefts
- Drugs and Counterfeit pharmaceuticals
- Economic and Commercial crimes
- Firearms and Explosives
- Trafficking in gold, diamonds and other precious stones and metals
- Crimes Against women and children
- Illegal Immigrants and Stolen and lost travel documents
- Wildlife crime and Endangered species
- Trafficking in human beings

Highlights of the SARPCCO Constitution

Objectives

The objectives of SARPCCO are provided for in its constitution subject to the domestic legislation and the international obligations of member countries as;

- To promote, strengthen and perpetuate co-operation and foster joint strategies for the management of all forms of cross-border and related crimes with regional implications
- To prepare and disseminate relevant information on criminal activities as may be necessary to benefit members to contain crime in the region.
- To carry out regular reviews of joint crime management strategies in view of changing national and regional needs and priorities.
- To ensure efficient operation and management of criminal records and efficient joint monitoring of cross-border crime taking full advantage of the relevant facilities available through INTERPOL.
- To make relevant recommendations to governments of member countries in relation to matters affecting effective policing in the Southern African region.
- To formulate systematic regional training policies and strategies taking into account the need and performance requirements of the regional police services/forces.
- To carry out any such relevant and appropriate acts and strategies for purposes of promoting regional police co-operation and collaborations as regional circumstances dictate.

Cooperation and Mutual Assistance

The principles upon which the organisation was founded are that police co-operation within SARPCCO be implemented in accordance with the respect of national sovereignty; equality of police forces/services; non-political professionalism; non-discrimination and flexibility of working method; mutual benefit to all members; observance of human rights and mutual respect and goodwill.

Further, the constitution provides for member countries to co-operate with one another on a bilateral or multilateral basis and the major issues of common interest include but are not limited to:

- Formulation of agreements on joint cross- border operations
- Reduction of time-consuming bureaucratic procedures on cross-border operations by recommending amendments to border control legislation.
- Promulgation and harmonization of regional legislation and practices
- Improvements in the dissemination of criminal intelligence/information
- Development and maintenance of appropriate regional training structures
- Deliberate efforts to facilitate investigators' movements within the region

The SARPCCO Agreement in Respect of Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in the Field of Crime Combating is the basis of regional police co-operation. Among other things it provides for police officers to travel to other countries in the region to undertake investigations or the seizure of exhibits, tracing and questioning witnesses in connection with any such offence. Nevertheless, the local police force/service maintains authority in effecting the relevant police actions.

Code of Conduct

This set of SARPCCO principles on co-operation promotes the observation of human rights in policing and are the bases upon which the Code of Conduct for Police Officials is founded. The Code is aimed at strengthening and integrating human rights into police training and best practices. The SARPCCO Code of Conduct is included as a module in all SARCCO training interventions and is premised on the following principles:

- Respect for all human life
- Reverence for the law
- Integrity Service excellence, and
- Respect for property rights

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SARPCCO AND INTERPOL

All members of SARPCCO are members of INTERPOL. The INTERPOL National Central Bureaus in SARPCCO member countries are used as liaison offices for SARPCCO. However, the official languages of SARPCCO are English and Portuguese.

The two Organizations exist for similar objectives; the only difference is that SARPCCO is a sub-regional structure, while INTERPOL is global. Thus to prevent duplication of work and waste of resources, SARPCCO designated the INTERPOL Sub-Regional Bureau (SRB) in Harare, to be its Secretariat. The INTERPOL SRB Harare has been responsible for the administration of SARPCCO and serves as its Secretariat since the establishment of the Bureau in 1997. It is important to note that, there is no difference between the SARPCCO Secretariat and the SRB, all staff were seconded to INTERPOL, and utilise INTERPOL equipment to facilitate SARPCCO activities.

Cooperating Partners

SARPCCO owes some of its success in combating regional crime to the good cooperation and the support it receives from its cooperating partners. Some of the organisations that provide financial and technical support to SARPCCO over the years include;

- East and Southern African Anti-Money laundering Group (Tanzania)
- Institute for Security Studies (South Africa)
- Safer Africa
- Southern African Development Committee (South Africa)
- Southern African Human Rights Trust (Zimbabwe)
- United Nations office on Drugs and Crime (South Africa and Vienna)