



SSATP's Fourth Pillar:

RESILIENT ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT

From Maintenance to Resilience: Future-Proofing Africa's Road Networks



Roads are the backbone of Africa’s economies and communities, enabling trade, connecting people to jobs and services, and fostering economic growth. Yet, the continent’s road networks face mounting challenges. Climate change is driving more frequent and severe weather events, while longstanding maintenance gaps continue to undermine the safety and efficiency of existing transport systems. To sustain economic momentum, improve connectivity, and maintain business continuity across the continent, strengthening road management institutions and adopting innovative financing mechanisms is key—ensuring that every dollar invested in transport infrastructure delivers lasting results.

Under its Fourth Development Plan (DP4), the Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP) sets out a bold vision for transforming Africa’s transport sector. Building on past achievements and lessons learned, the DP4 brings together 42 African countries, regional economic communities, and global partners under a unified strategy that addresses climate change, digitalization, and low-carbon development. As part of this strategy, SSATP is launching

a new thematic pillar—Resilient Road Asset Management (RRAM)—to embed climate-smart practices and innovative financing into road asset management.

Complementing SSATP’s three existing pillars—Regional Connectivity and Economic Integration (RCEI), Sustainable Urban Mobility and Accessibility (SUMA), and Road Safety (RS)—RRAM aims to ensure that Africa’s road networks and transport systems are sustainable, well-maintained, and capable of withstanding future climate risks. Together, these four pillars provide a comprehensive approach for modernizing Africa’s transport sector—strengthening regional connectivity, improving urban mobility, and reducing road fatalities—all while paving the way for resilient, future-proof infrastructure.

With the launch of RRAM, SSATP reaffirms its commitment to strengthening road management institutions, climate-resilient practices, and innovative financing mechanisms. By investing in sustainable and well-managed road networks, Africa can build a transport system that is not only safe and efficient today but also resilient for the future.



BENEFICIARIES

The RRAM pillar supports a broad range of stakeholders involved in road network management, financing, and policymaking:

- **National road agencies and authorities:** Responsible for managing, maintaining, and integrating climate resilience into national road networks.
- **Road funds and financing institutions:** Oversee financial mechanisms that fund road maintenance and development, including strategies to attract private sector investment.
- **Ministries of transport, infrastructure, and regional economic communities (RECs):** Shape national and regional transport strategies, lead sector reforms, and drive cross-border connectivity initiatives.
- **Local governments and municipal authorities:** Manage rural and local transport systems, ensuring the effective delivery and maintenance of resilient infrastructure at the community level.
- **Local Communities and Economies:** Including small-scale contractors, private operators, women, youth, and vulnerable groups – the ultimate beneficiaries of improved transport services, employment, and business opportunities created through inclusive, climate-resilient road sector initiatives.



OBJECTIVES OF THE RRAM PILLAR

Aiming to enhance the longevity and efficiency of road transport systems and services across Africa, the RRAM initiative focuses on strengthening road asset management practices to ensure they are sustainable, resilient and climate friendly. RRAM interventions are structured around four strategic outcomes:



Embedding climate resilience

Enhancing the resilience of road networks to climate-related disruptions by promoting network-level strategies and standardized tools for climate risk assessment and management. Integrating resilience into national road management systems will help ensure that infrastructure investments are more durable, cost-effective, and sustainable over the long term.



Strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of road management institutions

Improving the effectiveness and financial sustainability of road agencies by enabling them to manage resources more efficiently, secure diverse financing—including private sector investment—and foster a more inclusive workforce, providing greater employment opportunities for women, youth, and local communities.



Enhancing rural and local transport infrastructure and services

Strengthening the resilience and accessibility of rural and local transport systems, ensuring that local authorities and contractors are better equipped to sustainably develop and maintain rural road networks. Communities will benefit from reliable, climate-adapted transport links that support economic activity and social inclusion.



Empowering through capacity and digital tools

Promoting the adoption of digital technologies, advanced data systems, and decision-support tools to enhance access to reliable information, enabling smarter planning, proactive maintenance, and efficient long-term road asset management. Targeted training programs for government officials and local stakeholders will aim to build lasting technical and managerial capacity across the sector.



IMPLEMENTATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The RRAM pillar will be implemented through a collaborative framework that brings together key stakeholders in the road sector committed to developing sustainable, climate-resilient transport systems in Africa.

SSATP, under the leadership of a dedicated Pillar Lead, will lead and coordinate RRAM activities and ensure alignment with the strategic priorities of its African member countries. As the main donor, the European Commission, will provide essential financial and policy support to advance the initiative's objectives.

Technical implementation will be driven by a team of experts specializing in climate resilience, road asset management, maintenance financing, and digital solutions. Working collaboratively with SSATP, this team will deliver targeted technical assistance to address the main policy and capacity-building needs and priorities of African countries.

Ensuring that resilient road asset management practices are effectively integrated at the national, regional, and local levels will require strong collaboration among a diverse network of partners. These partnerships include:

- 1 **National governments and road authorities**, who are at the forefront of implementing improved road asset management systems and embedding climate resilience in national policies and practices.
- 2 **Regional associations**, such as ARMFA, ASANRA, and AGEPAR, which play a critical role in fostering cross-country collaboration, harmonizing standards, and sharing best practices across the continent.
- 3 **Local stakeholders**, including local governments, small-scale contractors, and community groups, to promote context-specific, inclusive solutions that strengthen rural and local road networks and support local economies.
- 4 **Academic institutions and training centers**, engaged in institutional capacity building and knowledge dissemination to equip road sector professionals with the specialized skills and expertise needed for effective road asset management.



CONTACT

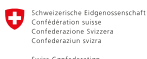
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