



## **Africa's North-South Trade Corridor to Open Markets**

According to a 2009 World Bank report, it takes an average of 40 days for exports to cross African borders, in stark contrast to Latin America's 22 days. These factors, coupled with high transportation costs, are prompting African countries and donors to focus attention on regional integration and, specifically, on the north-south trade corridor. The corridor, once completed, will consist of a network of roads, ports and railroads linking eight participating countries: Botswana; Democratic Republic of Congo; Mozambique; Malawi; South Africa; Tanzania; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

On November 30, CCA's U.S.-South Africa Business Forum organized a briefing on the north-south corridor for CCA members. The guest presenters were USAID Senior Private Sector Advisor Jeffrey Jackson and South African Department of Trade and Industry Minister (Economic) Lerato Mataboge.

Jackson framed USAID's role in the support of sub-Saharan Africa's transportation infrastructure as an extension of U.S. emphasis on agricultural development, which is embodied in the Feed the Future initiative. Jackson reconfirmed that USAID is no longer in the business of directly investing in projects but advised that there would be related tender opportunities for American businesses through the Feed the Future process.

Mataboge informed the audience that the South African government's support of the north-south trade corridor is a manifestation of its commitment to regional integration. Mataboge described how the corridor will connect Durban to Dar es Salaam, intersecting a variety of existing corridors such as the Maputo, Beira, Trans Kalahari, and Durban corridors. A second component of the corridor will connect Mombasa, Kenya, to eastern DRC, passing through Rwanda and Uganda.

Mataboge also explained that participating states are responsible for financing and delivering support projects along their section of relevant trade corridors. For those seeking additional information, the NEPAD Business Foundation maintains a list of these projects.