

A Concept Note

*Wakanda Beyond
Peer Action Group*

Wakanda Beyond design requirements for smart regulations

A collaboration between WeRobotics and DDG Alliance

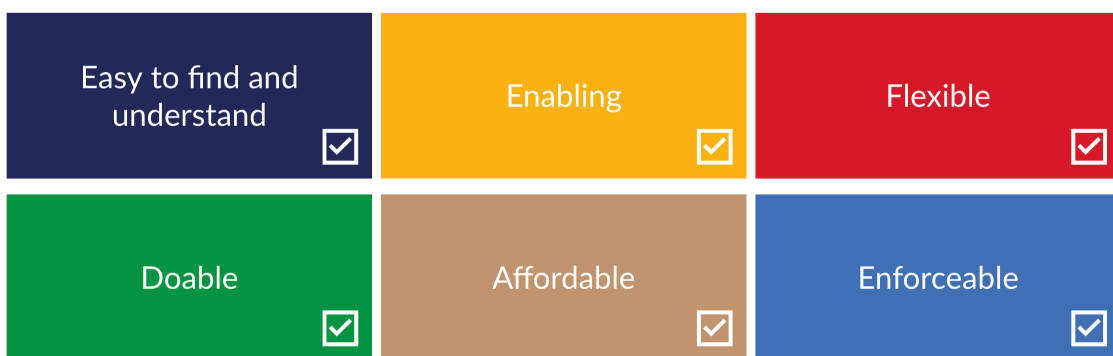




Overview

In the first phase of the Wakanda Beyond journey, Civil Aviation Authorities (CAAs) immersed themselves in the operator perspective with the game “Flight Control”, revealing how sometimes seemingly reasonable regulations could inadvertently lead to low compliance and stifle economic growth. Recognizing this, they came up with six key design requirements for smart regulations available in the Wakanda Beyond Toolkit and illustrated below.

In Phase 2, the focus is on pinpointing specific regulatory gaps to achieving the design requirements through operator dialogues, devising tailored solutions, and measuring the impact. To achieve this, we will partner with WeRobotics and the Flying Labs Network, leading partners with a tested, locally-led process for engaging operators and the wider local drone ecosystems by gathering vital insights that support data-driven regulations.



Design Requirements for Smart Regulations

The Challenge

CAAs confront the challenge of crafting regulations that fit current and future realities of drone operators, in order to foster both a safe and secure enabling environment with high compliance levels and a thriving drone ecosystem. Many member countries, despite acknowledging the necessity of data-driven policy approach, lack a structured method to continuously and effectively gather, analyze, and apply data. There’s a pressing need for an approach that aligns CAAs’ regulatory intent with the local drone ecosystem and operators’ actual experiences, fulfilling the six design requirements identified.

Our Proposed Solution

“ A strategic collaboration to facilitate data-driven policy-making by introducing the WeRobotics/Flying Labs’ community-driven methodology to the Wakanda Beyond approach to developing smart regulations ”

WeRobotics in collaboration with Namibia Flying Labs has developed a methodology to collect data and draw insights from operators and the wider local drone ecosystem on a range of key indicators. Their process is detailed in an upcoming Drone Regulation and Engagement White Paper in April 2024. By merging our approaches, we aim to assess gaps, co-create solutions, and refine regulations, paving the way for integrated, evidence-based regulatory and policy decisions, working closely with CAAs and all representatives of local drone ecosystems.



How it works

1. Expanding Perspectives:

CAAs: Expand their perspective to grasp the operators' challenges through shadowing days and participating in immersive role-playing experiences like the "Flight Control" game.

Local drone ecosystem and operators: Bring together a wide range of actors from the local drone ecosystem (current and future operators, academia, research, insurance companies, etc.) to establish trust, transparency, and openness, facilitated by Flying Labs and WeRobotics.

2. Creating a Vision:

In separate groups regulators and actors of the local drone ecosystem articulate their visions for the drone sector.

Actors of the drone ecosystem and regulators are then brought together to forge a common vision that all stakeholders are motivated to realize.

3. Identify and prioritize gaps:

Based on the data collected, conduct a gap analysis to determine key regulatory challenges along the framework of the design requirements.

Prioritize these challenges to establish the areas for action and policy refinement.

4. Expanding Data:

Develop a thorough landscape assessment that aggregates and distills data, highlighting specific challenges and identifying viable solutions.

5. Developing Solutions:

Present the assessment findings.

Engage in a facilitated process where all stakeholders collaborate to co-create suitable solutions that align with the pre-established design requirements.

6. Implementing Solutions:

Roll out the co-created solutions.

7. Measuring Impact and Next Steps:

Assess the impact of the new regulations.

Based on this evaluation, outline subsequent actions to further refine policies and practices.



Expected Results

Outputs:

- A comprehensive Diagnostic Report identifying specific regulatory gaps against the six key design requirements.
- A suite of Practical Solutions developed collaboratively to address the identified regulatory challenges.
- An Impact Framework for measuring the effects of implemented solutions on compliance and industry growth.

Outcomes:

- ✓ **Increased Regulatory Compliance:** By making regulations more accessible and easier to understand, we expect to see a rise in compliance rates among drone operators.
- ✓ **Enhanced Safety and Security:** The implementation of refined regulations will lead to a safer, more secure drone operating environment.
- ✓ **Data-Driven Regulatory approach:** The introduction of a systematic approach to collect and analyze drone operation data, challenges and missed opportunities faced by actors of local drone ecosystems, gaps in current regulations, examples from other countries, and more will support CAAs in making informed policy decisions.
- ✓ **Sustainable Industry Growth:** With more enabling and practical regulations, the drone industry within member countries is poised for accelerated development and innovation.
- ✓ **Strengthened Drone Ecosystem-Regulator Relations:** The dialogue process and subsequent regulatory refinements will build trust and better alignment between all actors of local drone ecosystems (operators, academia, civil society, commercial companies, etc.) and regulators.

Join us

Become part of the Wakanda Beyond Alliance, joining forces with partners dedicated to enhancing drone safety and operational efficiency across Africa and beyond.

If you share our vision for a seamlessly integrated airspace, we invite you to express your interest. Together, we can contribute to making Africa the easiest place to fly drones safely.