



Country Summary

Benin

The Problem

Drones are used across a wide variety of sectors in Benin. There are many owners and operators making use of various drone models. The challenge for Benin's National Agency of Civil Aviation (ANAC) is that they are responsible for safety but don't have complete information about activities that are taking place or who is undertaking them. This information is critical if they are to manage the safe and secure use of drones and to demonstrate to other national authorities that drone use is safe and secure so use cases can be encouraged and scaled.

Benin's ANAC identified the following needs:

1. Who is doing what, where and when (altitude, flight times, drones' distance from operators, type of drone).
2. Which drones are collaborative (which operators are willing and able to comply with registrations).
3. Better integration of drones and other airspace users

Solution

Benin's initial hypothesis, developed in June 2023, was:

If we implement the appropriate tracking system...

then we will be able to adequately conduct our oversight function, improve our regulations, and create safe spaces for all users, including recreational users,

which means that we can increase safety and security, motivate people to enter the sector and promote economic development, supporting innovation for job creation.

ANAC aims to identify possible solutions; undertake a test of one or more tracking solutions; communicate intentions to operators so they would be aware of coming updates to regulations within 12 months. Their long term ambition is through tracking of drones, collecting data and analysing it, to improve regulations and regulatory procedures to improve safety and security.



The Problem

ANAC started by detailing a solution that would meet their needs for information about drone flights and users. Initial needs included:

- A map interface which allows us to see the position of the pilot.
- Incorporate registration data; potentially a QR code sticker to place on each drone containing information on the owner so that we can identify who it belongs to.
- It must be nationwide, cover the whole air space
- Ability to filter drones based on risk level and/or other categories.
- The System should provide analysis and be predictive; perhaps triggering an alert.
- The System should record all information and allow post flight analysis and a reporting system to inform decision making.
- Enable ANAC to intervene if needed in an emergency
- ANAC should be able to access the tracking platform from a mobile phone.
- It should be a modular system so we can add new functionalities in the future

In identifying their initial needs, an interesting question was raised about how data can be collected in compliance with the data protection act?

After this initial exploration of their own needs, the team created an action plan, breaking the challenge into incremental steps.

1. Identifying a tracking solution that meets needs and is cost effective;
2. Designing a protocol / procedure for actions to be taken in response to live data (enable intervention to avoid incidents) and
3. Engaging stakeholders, including operators, to share information and seek feedback.

ANAC recognised that there are many stakeholders, including other Government agencies, critical to designing and implementing a fit for purpose solution and therefore convened a technical committee to lead this project.

In addition to developing a new registration and tracking system, the ANAC has been reviewing Benin's pilot training and licence processes and are in the process of setting new standards.

Outcome and Next Steps

The team continue to make progress with new pilot licence processes and training, an online registration system and a tracking solution, including how these solutions can best be integrated into regulations, in collaboration with the technical committee convened to drive this work forward.