

# *the* Courier

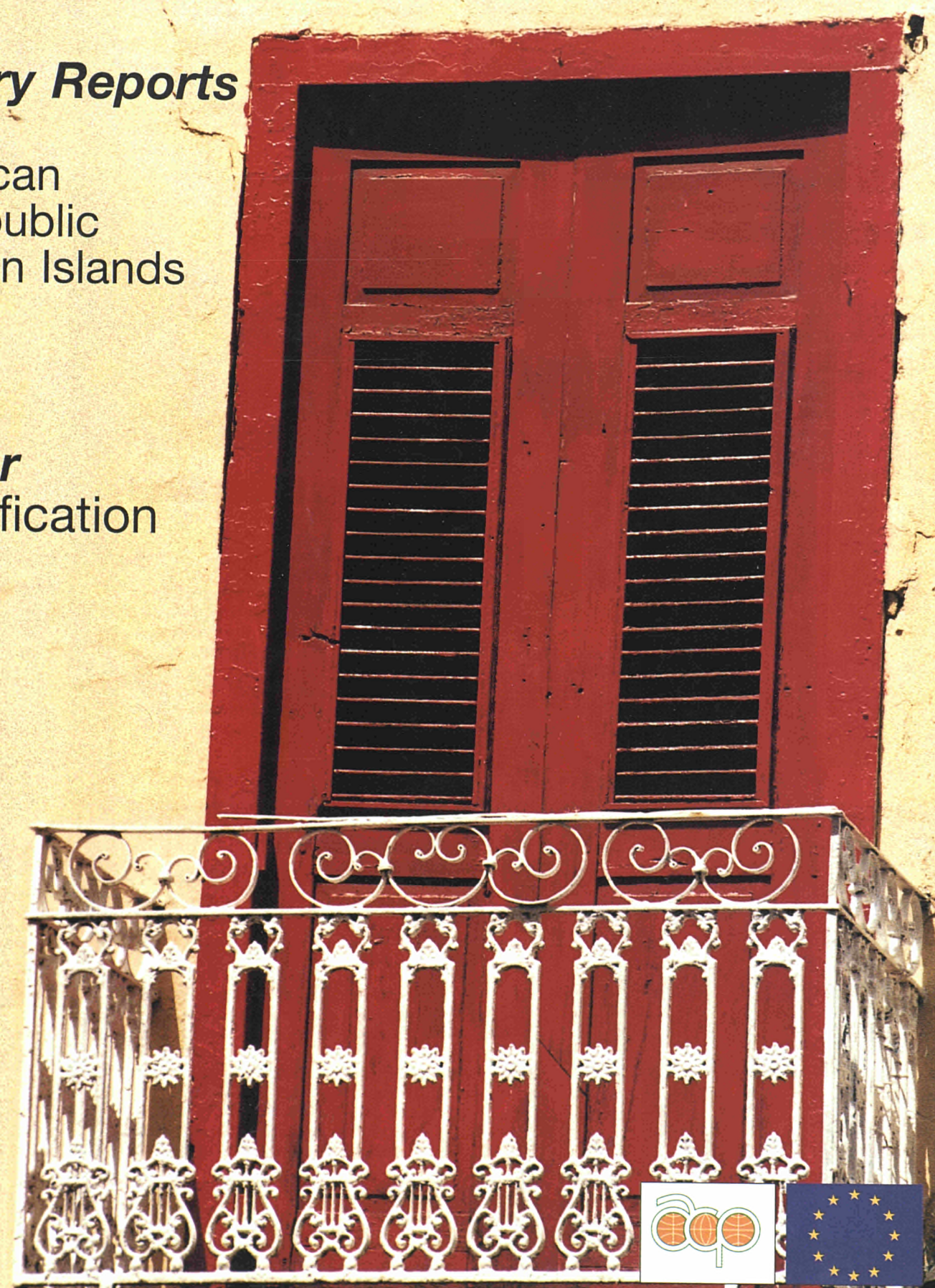
Africa - Caribbean - Pacific - European Union

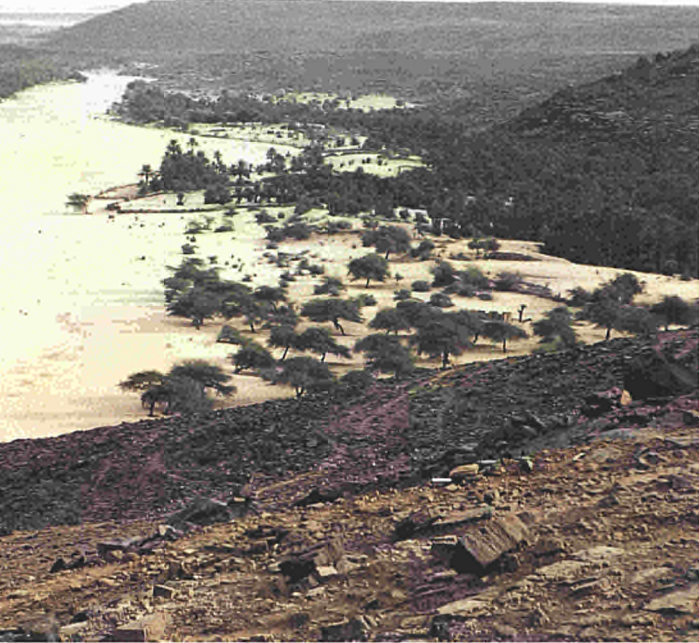
## **Country Reports**

Guinea  
Dominican  
Republic  
Solomon Islands

## **Dossier**

Desertification





## Desertification

Over the past three decades, drought has worsened in the dry regions of the world and desertification has accelerated, threatening the livelihoods of more than a billion people. Famine, poverty and mass migration have become widespread and the capacity of the drylands to support increasing populations is being called into question. With deforestation, overgrazing and over-cultivation continuing to undermine land productivity, urgent solutions need to be found. We focus on what the EU and the wider international community are doing to tackle the problem. **pages 65 to 86**

## COUNTRY REPORT

### Solomon Islands

This is a critical period for Solomon Islands, which is confronted with very difficult economic challenges, including a crippling public debt. The situation has been compounded by the financial crisis in Asia. The new government, in power since August 1997, is intent upon reform, and has begun implementing a 'policy and structural reform programme'. They are also putting relations with their international development partners on a new footing, winning their support for the new economic strategy. Public opinion has, so far, been with the government, but will this hold firm when the adjustment measures begin to bite? **pages 51-64**



## COUNTRY REPORT

### Guinea

The statistics are sadly there to show that Guinea is one of the poorest countries on the planet, despite having considerable natural resources. The new people responsible for steering the ship of state must navigate through a minefield of problems and constraints. Yet despite this, there are clear signs of renewal which give grounds for optimism. It is hoped that major reforms in the way the country is managed economically will deliver better results, and help to underpin the democratic process. **pages 14 to 32**

## COUNTRY REPORT

### Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is a nation of vivid colours. It is a place of tourism, and where people of different races have become intermingled. It is a land of music and dance. And it is a country where economic growth and poverty exist side-by-side. Important reforms are now under way aimed at building a more just society and at consigning to history the recurring legacy of three decades of past dictatorship. In an ideal world, there would be a consensus among the key actors in this society... but perhaps that is a little too much to hope for less than two years before the Presidential election! **pages 33-50**



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### Cover page

Balcony of a house in  
Santo Domingo  
(Dominican Republic).  
*Nation of vivid colours*

### Inside front cover

Above: Desertification  
threatens the  
livelihoods of more  
than a billion people.

Centre: A typical Peul  
dwelling in Guinea.

Below: A young girl  
from Bahoruco, in the  
south-west of the  
Dominican Republic.

### Back cover

Statue of mother and  
baby carved for the  
Melanesian Arts and  
Cultural Festival in  
Honiara, Solomon  
Islands.

## meeting point

- 2. Glenys Kinnock MEP, Vice-President of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly

## acp

- 4. Clear skies at the Joint Assembly
- 8. Political dialogue: an African perspective
- 11. Liberia – back on its feet?

## country reports

- 14. **GUINEA:** Light on the horizon
- 18. Interview with Prime Minister Sydia Touré
- 22. Profile
- 23. The long haul to democracy
- 25. Guarantor of the rule of law under the microscope
- 27. Interview with Yaya Keita, Secretary-General of *CODEM*
- 30. Impressive mineral resources
- 31. Cooperation in focus: Tackling the urban health challenge
- 33. **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** The big clean-up
- 37. Poverty fuelled by ignorance
- 38. Interview with Max Puig, Lomé Secretary of State and National Authorising Officer
- 41. Profile
- 42. Interview with Opposition Leader, Hatuey de Camps
- 44. Digging for a deeper blue
- 46. Dancing in the streets
- 49. Cooperation in focus: A wide-ranging project for wide-ranging problems
- 51. **SOLOMON ISLANDS:** Grasping the nettle of reform
- 54. Interview with Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu
- 57. Profile
- 58. Interview with Opposition Leader, Job Tausinga
- 59. Frank Haiku, wood carver and artist
- 62. Cooperation in focus: Applause for forestry project

## dossier

- 65. **DESERTIFICATION**
- 66. The Convention to combat desertification

- 69. Desertification, biodiversity and climate change – the path to sustainable development
- 72. Lessons from the Sahel
- 74. The European Community approach
- 76. Women tackle desertification in Kenya
- 77. Community-based woodland management in Botswana
- 79. Combating the creeping sands in northern Mali
- 80. The contribution of some EC programmes in Namibia
- 81. Using traditional knowledge and modern science in the drylands
- 83. Desert, water and war

## close-up

- 87. 'Send-a-Cow' celebrates its tenth birthday

## developing world

- 88. 'Bigger economic units are better able to compete in world markets'

## culture and society

- 89. The science of words

## cta bulletin

- 90. Livestock research in the developing world: where is it going?

## cdi partnership

- 94. Encouraging the development of local skills
- 98. Zambia gives priority to the private industrial sector
- 99. In the sectors
- 101. In brief

## NEWS ROUND-UP THE COURIER'S MAILBAG OPERATIONAL SUMMARY (BLUE PAGES) ENDPIECE

## Glenys Kinnock MEP, Vice-President of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly

### 'If we listened to people, we wouldn't make so many mistakes'

Glenys Kinnock is a highly active and committed politician. Her involvement in the most recent ACP-EU Joint Assembly, held in September in the European Parliament in Brussels, underlined this fact yet again. This gathering was the last opportunity for parliamentary representatives from the two sides to present their joint arguments – notably to the Commission – before the opening of the formal negotiations on the future of ACP-EU cooperation. Mrs Kinnock is a member of the EP's Socialist Group and, more importantly for present purposes, the first Vice-President of the Joint Assembly. She is also rapporteur of the working group that was set up by the Assembly to consider the future of the ACP-EU relationship. Its first report will be available in Spring 1999 but at the Brussels session, the working group presented an interim document, which was widely praised by Assembly members: encouragement, if it were needed, for Glenys Kinnock to press on with her work, deploying, as always, her renowned ability for frank talking.

■ *We are on the eve of the opening of talks on the future of ACP-EU cooperation. In your view, what are – and what should remain – the pillars of the relationship?*

– There are three things. The Convention is based on trade, aid, and political dialogue and cooperation. I think it is true to say that over the years, the trade aspect has probably been the most important one. In a future agreement, we must ensure that we reach a situation which gives the ACP countries something compar-

able to what they have now. It should not be beyond the bounds of possibility to do that, and to ensure that the prosperity and stability of ACP countries can be supported by the European Union.

■ *Do you think we might end up without any preferences?*

– Non reciprocal preferences are obviously being called into question, in particular by the World Trade Organisation. But I think that for some countries – the least developed ones – they will remain necessary. The idea that these countries should continue to have market access with preferential tariffs from the EU is likely to be acceptable to the WTO. However, our deepest concern is for the countries that do not fit into that category. They seem to be faced with either free trade area agreements, or nothing! I am one of those who has major reservations about the FTA option. Many countries, such as the Caribbean states and other small island nations, have vulnerable economies precisely because they are small islands. They are not yet ready for the kind of liberalisation that joining an FTA entails. So I think it is necessary to be flexible about the transitional periods. It was the representative from Mauritius who said that we must see trade liberalisation as just a station along the road and not necessarily as the ultimate goal. So it is just part of the solution, and of the agenda we are pursuing here. I thought that this was a highly significant contribution. I am also very pleased to see that the UK government, in particular, is putting forward the possibility of another option, namely the enhancing of super-GSP, alongside FTAs. But I think we need to be very



The Courier

cautious and to understand that the FTA proposal is still the main objective of the Commission. I think that is quite a dangerous prospect.

■ *There has been a lot of talk in the Joint Assembly about the length of the transitional period. Is the proposal for five years a realistic one?*

– It is not realistic, but I did get an answer from Mr Pinheiro to questions I asked about flexibility on a number of issues, and it was quite encouraging. The Commission is actually saying that 'negotiations will be as flexible as possible in establishing the duration of the transitional period and the degree of asymmetry in terms of the timetable for tariff dismantlement and final product coverage, while remaining in complete conformity with WTO rules'. That is quite a helpful response to my question. I argued very strongly for a ten year transition period and, in fact, the Commission initially only proposed three years!

We should not underestimate the scale of the adjustment that is needed for economies that are so vulnerable and susceptible to pressure as they enter highly competitive markets. So I believe it is very good that the Commission has shown a degree of flexibility in this area. I think they have listened to the ACPs and also to what the European Parliament has been saying. Of course, it is important that we comply with WTO rules, but we have long-standing obligations under the Lomé Convention too. We should constantly be reminding ourselves of those obligations as we discuss how we should fit in with WTO requirements. I also think it is important for the ACP

countries to be pro-active, and not defensive about their role within the WTO. There are 71 of them as well as 15 EU member states and that adds up to a powerful voice. We need to speak out strongly for arrangements from the WTO which acknowledge the particular obligations we have under the Lomé Convention.

■ *You have talked about trade and liberalisation, but in the context of broader ACP-EU cooperation, what would you regard as the other important areas?*

– Having gender in the mainstream is very important for any future agreement. I don't want to see issues relating to women's rights and opportunities just tacked on at the end as an afterthought. They should be integral to the Convention. They are relevant when we talk about how we evaluate projects, how we put them in place, and how we get civil society involved. They are even relevant when we discuss trade issues which are vital for women traders and entrepreneurs and those working in the parallel sectors. So I want that to be a theme that runs throughout any future agreement. That would be a great step forward. Of course, it also means responding to UN statements on gender issues. We should take note of the various UN conferences – certainly the Beijing Conference and the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development.

Targeting poverty eradication is also essential. It is not the case that all growth benefits poor people. Growth – and the amount of it you have – is important of course, but its quality is what matters more. Too often, the economic growth indicators do not reflect the reality. It is very important to meet the international targets drawn up by the OECD and the UN. We need to identify clearly how health, education and welfare priorities can work in an inclusive way in the ACP countries – bringing in the people so that their priorities and interests are reflected in the final outcome.

■ *What about efforts at conflict prevention. Can these really be effectively implemented on the ground?*

– In my view, conflict prevention is vital. Every other part of our work is undermined by the constant destabilisation when there is tension or fighting between and within states. Take Eritrea and Ethiopia. These are two countries that held out such promise in the Horn of Africa. Now we see hostilities breaking out between them and paralysis from the international community which doesn't know how to deal with it! We really must find ways of tackling this kind of problem much more effectively.

You will find, however, that neither gender nor conflict prevention is dealt with sufficiently in the Green Paper. It is only thanks to pressure from the ACPs, the European Parliament and others that you will now see a much stronger emphasis on these issues.

**'Every possible effort seems to have been made to make the Lomé Convention totally incomprehensible to everybody'**

■ *You are also interested in decentralised cooperation.*

– Yes, my next working group will concentrate entirely on the issue of how to make decentralised cooperation work. It is not just a question of directing resources through NGOs or throwing money at problems. It has to be much more broadly based, involving an understanding of the dynamics of different countries: looking at how people operate in their communities and villages. We really need to see how all the fine words in support of decentralised cooperation are actually translated into action on the ground. In my view the future of the ACP-EU relationship really depends on a strong commitment to this kind of cooperation. If we listened to people we wouldn't make so many mistakes.

■ *You talk about working with people. Can the future convention be made understandable and accessible to civil society?*

– That's another point that I made in my report. All the structures need to be simplified. If people are part of the process, they will feel they have an investment in it and a sense of ownership. People in the ACP countries do not have this sense of ownership at the moment because the Convention is virtually impenetrable. The text is long, the structures are byzantine and every possible effort seems to have been made to make it totally incomprehensible to everybody! We need to consult and make sure that when the new agreement is reached, people can have that sense of ownership. Then they will be part of it and they can stand up and criticise it.

■ *The forthcoming negotiations will take place in a very different global context from the last ones. Given this, do you understand the fears of the ACPs?*

– Yes. We have a very hard battle ahead – there's no doubt about that. Europe is now focusing less on the ACP states and increasingly on the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. You see huge increases in budget lines for these countries. I am not denying their importance but I think there is a political and moral imperative here – to tackle the extreme inequalities that we see in the world. It is completely unacceptable that a billion people are living in absolute poverty, and that we have no idea how to react when conflicts and tension occurs. We need to take a great deal more interest in these issues. Just because a place is not geographically close to us, it doesn't mean that it should be of less concern. It is more obvious to me than ever before that we live in an interdependent world and what happens in other parts of the globe is important to us in Europe. But at the moment, we seem far less engaged in Africa and what happens there, than in Eastern Europe. We tend to disregard events in Africa, or leave things until it is too late. I do wish we could sometimes get strong statements from Europe on issues affecting the African continent – because their concerns are our concerns too. ■

Interview by A.K.

## Clear skies at the Joint Assembly

The omens were favourable for the 27th session of the Joint Assembly in Brussels in September 1998, the final meeting before the start of official talks on the new ACP-EU relationship. The city basked in fine weather throughout the proceedings, and the discussions largely reflected the sunny conditions outside. There were items on the agenda that could have caused storm clouds to gather, but in the event, the skies remained clear. Some of the issues raised were inevitable: human rights, tackling poverty, trade, economic crisis and conflict prevention. But anyone expecting a series of passionate debates will have been disappointed, for overall, the session proceeded serenely. One major point of discussion was the extent to which ACP-EU relations (hitherto largely apolitical) would acquire a political dimension in future.

At the opening ceremony, ACP co-President *David Mogami* (Botswana) expressed satisfaction with the way preliminary discussions on future ACP-EU links had been conducted. He noted that, for the first time, all parties in the Member States had been able to express their views. He went on to stress that liberalisation and globalisation required a continuing policy of close cooperation, reducing the danger that the ACP states would become marginalised. His European counterpart, *Lord Plumb* (EPP-UK), spoke of the financial crisis in Asia and expressed regret about the dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Conflict prevention was debated at length during the session with a particular emphasis on the situation in the Great Lakes region. The representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo gave a lengthy denunciation of what he referred to as a 'Rwando-Ugandan conspiracy', accusing the two states in question of

having violated his country's territory. The President-in-Office of the Council (EU), *Benita Ferrero Waldener*, said it was essential that troops be withdrawn immediately and that there should be a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The Ugandan representative denied the various accusations and sought to rebut allegations about his country's 'intervention' in the Congo. Other speakers were concerned that the conflict might spread to other countries in the region, and general support was expressed for negotiations on the lines laid down by SADC. The Assembly voted in favour of an EU initiative designed to open the way to dialogue between all the African states involved in the crisis.

### Neighbours at loggerheads

The hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea also featured prominently in the Joint Assembly's proceedings. Both sides presented their case. As far as Ethiopia was concerned, its neighbour had failed to honour its undertakings and had made further territorial claims. Eritrea's representative asserted that his country's efforts to resolve the border disputes had been unsuccessful and that Ethiopia had violated the internationally recognised colonial frontiers and so triggered the conflict. Again, members expressed their desire to see a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

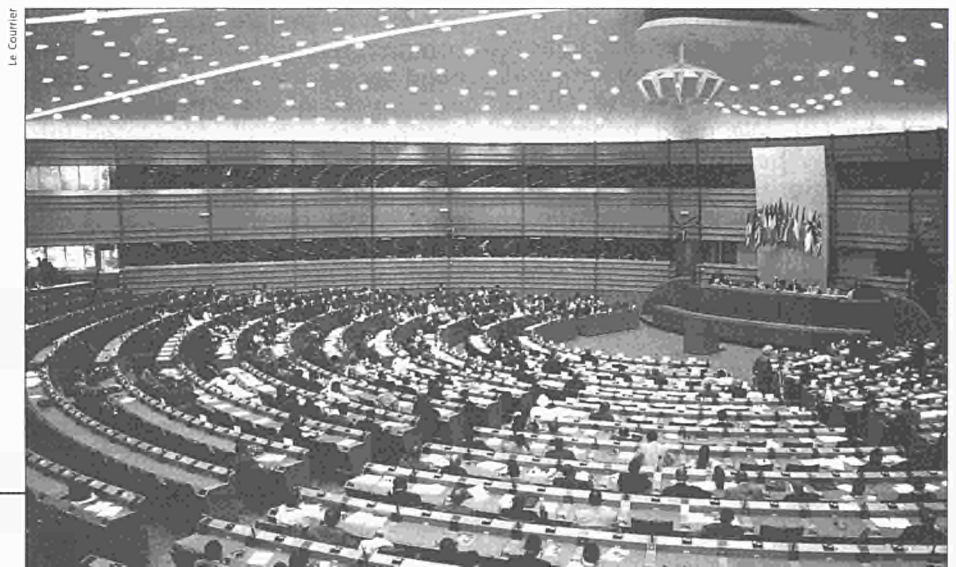
The debate on Sudan was reminiscent of the hard-hitting exchanges that have been a feature of past Joint Assemblies. *Glenys Kinnock* (PES-UK) forcefully condemned remarks made by the representative of Khartoum, who had demonstrated his own particular talent for lyricism when he declared his determination to pursue the IGAD peace initiatives in the face of 'Ugandan venom and Eritrean poison'.

### Ready to comply with WTO rules

The gradual integration of the ACP states into the world economy is likely to be a key objective of any new Convention. The mechanisms to help them achieve this goal were given careful consideration at the Brussels meeting. Both the European Parliament and the Joint Assembly believe it is essential to evolve a system that is compatible with the new WTO rules, while retaining trade preferences. There was a feeling that it should be possible for the ACP states to have a stronger negotiating position within the WTO. The European side is proposing two-stage talks: the first leading to a general agreement, followed by differentiated regional accords involving the creation of free-trade areas. In order to revitalise the partnership, the EU would like to broaden its scope to non-official participants, notably NGOs.

The President-in-Office of the ACP Council, *Hidipo Hamutena*, summarised the achievements

Opening ceremony of the 27th session of the Joint Assembly  
*Conflict prevention was a major issue.*



## Ethiopia and Eritrea: the roots of conflict

The crisis between Addis Ababa and Asmara flared up in May 1998. The catalyst for the conflict was Eritrea's introduction, in November 1997, of its own currency, the *nakfa*, intended to replace the Ethiopian *birr*. Ethiopia refused to authorise the convertibility of the two currencies, causing a breakdown in trade relations. The economic difficulties created by this resulted in sharp exchanges between the neighbours. In May, the Addis Ababa authorities decided to evacuate all civilians from Zalambesa, and the army set about digging trenches in preparation for hostilities – which broke out on 12 May at Badme, a border village in the extreme north-west of the country. Heavy fighting became generalised along the border, resulting in hundreds of deaths.

Zalambesa is now under Eritrean control, and the *birr* and *nakfa* are both in circulation there. Prior to the conflict, Asmara did not question Ethiopian sovereignty in this area and shortly after taking the town, Eritrean

officials indicated that it would be returned once a peace agreement had been concluded. Three months later, they adopted a tougher line. Ethiopia refused to enter into peace negotiations until its neighbour had withdrawn from the disputed territories.

Each country accuses the other of having forcibly deported civilians. The Asmara government claims that 20,000 Eritrean citizens have been expelled since hostilities began. International aid agencies, for their part, say that increasing numbers of Ethiopians want to leave Eritrea. This is said to be especially the case in the port of Assab, where Ethiopians make up three-quarters of the population. They are apparently no longer able to find work because of the crisis.

Efforts by OAU mediators to end the conflict have yet to bear fruit. Meanwhile, the civilian population is reported to be weary of living in a continuing state of uncertainty, and wants, above all, a rapid settlement of the dispute.

It is worth recalling that Eritrea's independence from Ethiopia in 1991, following the fall of the *Mengistu Hailé Mariam* regime, occurred peacefully.

of nearly 25 years of cooperation, and took the opportunity to remind the Assembly that the ACP states wanted to continue being treated as a single partner in the negotiations. He also stressed the role of the private sector and investment, and the need to provide outlets for ACP products. As far as trade was concerned, he believed that the economies of the ACP states were too weak to embark on reciprocal agreements with the EU. The speaker also regretted that Article 366A of the Lomé Convention, which provides for the suspension of cooperation in the event of violations of human rights and democracy, had 'not been applied in a genuine spirit of partnership'.

## Abnormal weather conditions

The sun may have been shining in Brussels but Hurricane Georges was simultaneously devastating islands in the Caribbean. In these circumstances, it was not surprising that particular close attention was paid to the report of the working group on climate change and small island states. The group's president, *Monica Baldi* (FE-I), presented proposals for sustainably managing, at regional level, the problems arising from climate change. There were numerous factors contributing to climate change, she indicated, including deforestation, and the emissions from ever-increasing

road traffic and industrial activity. *Renaud Bernardin*, a Haitian senator, called for steps to be taken to bring the principal polluters to book, arguing that it was their responsibility to foot the bill. 'Let me speak plainly,' he told *The Courier*. 'Atolls are being submerged in our region. We have no meteorological services capable of collecting data. Even if the existing stations in Port-au-Prince were functioning, we would still have no way of alerting fishermen at sea.' He was supported by the Irish member *Alan Gillis* (EPP), who said that the industrialised countries of the North were increasing levels of gaseous emissions to the detriment of small island states. The Ghanaian representative made the point that the impact of climatic change was not confined to small countries.

## Nigeria: return to the ballot box?

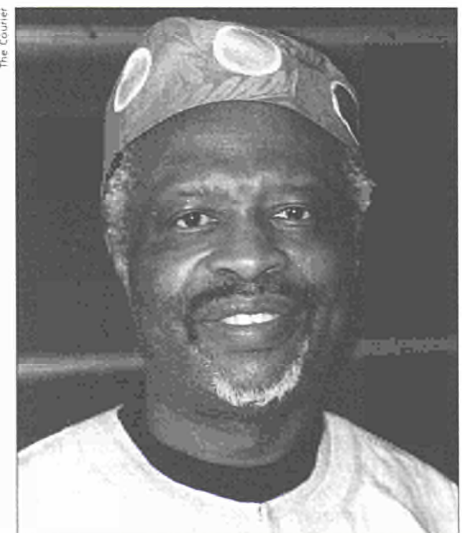
Reports on the situation in specific ACP countries were keenly awaited by the Assembly. The restoration of the rule of law in Lesotho, and the withdrawal of foreign troops from Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Papua New Guinea and Haiti were all examined closely.

But it was when the subject of Nigeria arose that most observers recognised a real change of emphasis. A degree of satisfaction was apparent on every face, not least that of the Nigerian representative, who expressed his delight that the Joint Assembly



Johanna Maij-Weggen  
'Nigeria: light at the end of the tunnel'

Alaba Ogunsanwo, the Nigerian  
Ambassador in Brussels  
'We invite a mission of inquiry to visit  
our country.'



was not proposing any further sanctions. He summarised the 'achievements' of the present government and stressed that his country had embarked on the path of democratisation. He then called on the international community to support the current process and invited the Assembly to send a joint mission of inquiry to Nigeria.

## Democracy, human rights and sanctions

*The European Parliament has donned the mantle of spokesperson for human rights and democratic values. But, according to ACP states, there is no such thing as a perfect democracy, and it is essential to take a balanced view. Broadly speaking, they prefer to let things take their course and offer encouragement rather than constant criticism. They are ready to point out that EU nations do not have a perfect record either when it comes to human rights. The ACPs are keen to see a genuine political dialogue established as part of the new partnership, because they consider it unacceptable that Europe can unilaterally decide to suspend development aid. The Nigerian Ambassador in Brussels, Alaba Ogunsanwo, commented recently on the sad event that occurred in Brussels in September, which cost the life of a young, asylum-seeker. She died in the course of an attempted forcible expulsion by the Belgian authorities. According to the Ambassador: 'A growing number of asylum-seekers are arriving in Europe, believing they will find a safe haven and better living conditions. In some cases, current legislation enables these people to be detained indefinitely, with no court hearing. This is a very sensitive subject, but those unfortunate enough to find themselves in this situation must not be treated as if they were criminals, or allowed to die. Here, too, human rights are being treated with contempt.'*

## Censured

*In 1997, at the Lomé Joint Assembly, Sudan was censured but resolutions critical of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria were not adopted.*

*At the first 1998 session, held in Mauritius, Sudan and Nigeria were censured. During its July meeting, the European Parliament condemned Nigeria and Sudan, as well as Togo and Guinea-Bissau.*

*The latest Joint Assembly criticised Sudan yet again. Sudan responded once more with an invitation to the Assembly to send a mission of inquiry. The resolution adopted on Nigeria this time was more nuanced, supporting continued political dialogue with a view to a transition to a democratic form of government. It also called, however, for sanctions to continue. The Assembly failed to adopt a position on Togo or Equatorial Guinea following split votes (the ACPs and Europeans being balloted separately).*

For her part, Glenys Kinnock urged the Joint Assembly to exercise caution, although she was encouraged by recent developments in Nigeria. A Dutch MEP, *Johanna Maij-Weggen* (PPE), felt that there was 'light at the end of the tunnel' but believed that certain conditions needed to be met before any sanctions were lifted. 'There are still a number of steps that the Nigerian government must take', she stressed.

## ACPs rally round Togo

When it came to the votes on individual resolutions, the Assembly failed to adopt a position on the situation in Togo. A resolution was tabled which strongly criticised the administration in Lomé for the way the presidential election had been conducted, and which questioned the credibility of the result. This attracted the support of most MEPs but was rejected by the ACP side. The President of Mali's National Assembly, *Ali Nouhoum Diallo*, presented a report on the activities of the observer mission. His view was that while irregularities had been noted, these did not cast doubt on the results. By contrast, the Belgian Christian Democrat, *Raphaël Chanterie*, said it was 'obvious' that the official result was not accurate. 'A transitional government needs to be set up to reorganise the elections', he argued. *Dahuku Pere*, President of Togo's National Assembly, drew support from his ACP colleagues when he stressed that his country needed assistance. 'The picture painted by the observers is not accurate. The problems of the elections are partly the fault of those who organised them but also partly of those who supervised them.'

'We financed these elections, so how can we sit back today and say nothing?' asked French Socialist *Marie-Arlette Carlotti*, calling for Togo to be helped to prepare for its transition to democracy. The floor was then given to a representative of the Togolese opposition, *Yawowi Gbone*, despite an objection by *Dahuku Pere*. The former called on the EU to help repair 'the results of the ballot'.

## Economic resolutions adopted: extracts

**Fisheries:** Health and plant health regulations should not be used as non-tariff barriers to ACP exports.

**Trade and development:** The Union should support initiatives intended to increase the negotiating power of the ACP group within the WTO.

**Debt:** This should be written off for the LDCs and rescheduled for the others.

**Education:** Compulsory schooling should be introduced for all children of both sexes and a percentage of the EDF should be specifically set aside for education and training.

**Health:** Cooperation should be intensified with Commission support for policies to combat AIDS.

**Biodiversity:** The ACP states and EU should arrange to record and study natural resources. They should create databases and genetic banks.

**Mining development:** The EU should provide increased support for the mining sector in the ACP states.

**Information society:** Access for the ACP states should be facilitated by appropriate measures relating to human resources, technology transfer and participation in the Community's research and development activities.

**Euro and franc zone:** The Council should adopt an official position on the future link between the CFA and the Euro.

Source: Agence Europe

## South Africa negotiations deadlocked

'Perhaps the EU should simply have allowed South Africa to become a full member of the Lomé Convention, as the European Parliament proposed.' These words from Glenys Kinnock reflected the broader concern of Assembly members about the suspension of the trade negotiations between South Africa and the EU. The stumbling blocks, it was reported, were agriculture and alcoholic spirits.

During the Assembly week, the South African delegation held a number of informal meetings in an effort to make progress on these issues. According to *Ebrahim Ebrahim*, head of the country's representation in Brussels, the fault lay with the EU. 'Let us confine ourselves to the issue of spirits. They have insisted that this



should be included in the free trade negotiations, although it was not part of the initial agreement. And some European countries are causing difficulties. For example, my country has been producing port and sherry for 200 years. The EU wants us to stop using these names because Portugal and Spain produce them, too. We cannot accept that!

## Caribbean example of regional cooperation

The Chairman of the working group on regional cooperation in the ACP states, Mr *Wetangula* (Kenya), praised regional arrangements in the Caribbean which he had recently witnessed in operation. As far as Kenya was concerned, this kind of cooperation was a 'must' in the context of globalisation. It would allow economies of scale and result in the widening of markets. *John Corrie* (EPP), the working group's British rapporteur, observed that such cooperation had produced some beneficial spin-offs, citing West Africa as an example. The speaker from Haiti underlined the significant differences that existed between the various Caribbean states – which, he said, needed to be ironed out. Meanwhile, the Samoan representative, deplored the fact that the rapporteur had not referred to the Pacific in his introduction.

## Pride of place for intra-ACP cooperation

In the debate on intra-ACP cooperation, one point that emerged strongly was the 'determination' of the ACP group to strengthen their internal links. This was the certainly the main theme of the presentation made by rapporteur, *Andebrhan Weldegiorgis* of Eritrea. He told us at a press conference that the ACPs had a serious problem – they had always defined themselves solely in terms of their relationship with the EU and had not succeeded in forging a distinct identity of their own. As a result, they had failed to create the necessary set of shared values and objectives. They also lacked the means for cooperating successfully. The rapporteur saw the Joint Assembly session as an opportunity for the ACPs to take decisions and

## Firms learn from each other

*Iain Christie, a senior official responsible for private sector development at the World Bank, looks at ways of boosting business dynamism in Africa.*

*'We work closely with the European Commission, the EIB and the CDI. We have extended it beyond a discussion among bureaucrats to include private sector groups in Europe and those linked to the World Bank. There have obviously been a lot of macro-economic reforms, and we think now that we have to help firms, particularly in Africa, to respond. The business environment must be improved. Africa is a high-risk place, but the returns can be significant too. The continent needs more infrastructure and a working financial sector. But more than anything, it needs to capitalise on a dynamic private sector. Right now, it is mainly very small concerns, so we have to find ways of helping them kickstart their activities and also to grow, so that they can compete regionally and internationally.'*

*'We are currently working on a programme to tackle the sometimes arbitrary behaviour that one finds in some of these countries. We are examining the blockages which can be bureaucratic or financial. And we are helping governments address the issues by promoting a public-private dialogue – so that the private sector itself can go in there, work with the authorities, and act as an advocate for change.'*

*'Africans are surrounded by micro-enterprises and there are also some very big companies. But in the middle, there are very few medium-sized operations. Yet in Latin America and Asia, medium-sized enterprises have been the main engine of growth. Africa must realise that we are in a world economy dominated by technology. The more they are able to compete with firms from other parts of the world, the more likely they are to survive. One way to do that is networking, through business associations – because it is clear across the globe that firms learn from each other. Overall, I should say that we are optimistic about Africa. They have brought in a lot of macro-economic reforms. But that doesn't mean they don't need to do more!'*

raise issues on a more concerted basis – 'to strengthen our negotiating capacity'. He continued: 'There is general agreement that this partnership needs to be converted into a more flexible, transparent and effective tool, and that we need to recognise the reciprocal nature of the responsibilities and privileges that concern us all.'

It was repeated on a number of occasions that intra-ACP cooperation offered real possibilities for establishing peace and security within the countries in question. Measures to strengthen regional organisations such as the OAU, Caricom and the Pacific Forum should, it was argued, be strongly supported.

Johanna Maij-Weggen welcomed the report, which urges ACP states to do everything they can to achieve optimum cooperation. She acknowledged that there often was a lack of coordination, but pointed out that the same accusation could also often be levelled at the EU Member States.

Finally, the Joint Assembly supported the idea of setting up an ACP parliamentary body. This would be a forum for ACP members, and would enable them to prepare more effectively for the Joint Assembly sessions in the same way that the EP operates for the Assembly's European members. The new ACP body should, it was stressed, be established and financed exclusively by the ACP states.

The final sitting in Brussels was given over to votes on motions (using the electronic voting system installed in the parliamentary chamber) and a short closing ceremony, presided over by the co-Presidents. The members of the European Parliament and their ACP counterparts will next meet in Strasbourg, in March 1999. ■

A.K.

# Political dialogue: an African perspective

by Vijay S. Makhan\*

In discussions and preparations for the talks on the successor to Lomé IV, 'political dialogue' has been introduced by the European Union alongside trade and development cooperation as the third pillar in its relationship with the African, Caribbean and Pacific states. While the EU proposals are silent on the level, format and related arrangements for dialogue with the ACP, a robust agenda of the issues for discussion has been provided. Many of the issues in the EU agenda are concerns that are shared by the ACP countries. However, a response to the EU proposals is needed, as there are a number of ACP priorities that also require dialogue with the EU. This article reviews the EU proposals and identifies issues of importance to Africa that must be included on the agenda.

The article is divided into three parts. Using mostly EU sources including the *Green Paper on Relations between the European Union and the ACP Countries on the Eve of the 21st Century* and the *Guidelines for the Negotiation of New Cooperation Agreements with the ACP Countries*, the first part reviews the agenda for dialogue as proposed by the EU and the context in which this has emerged. The second part identifies the key issues that are African priorities for dialogue with the EU while in the third part, specific proposals are made to make political dialogue meaningful and results-oriented.

## The EU agenda

According to the EU, the objectives of political dialogue are two-fold. First, it will provide a framework for the discussion of matters pertaining to good government, democracy, human rights, and the consolidation and maintenance of the rule of law. Second, it will offer a framework for discussing matters concerning political instability, and conflict prevention and resolution. To this extent, political dialogue is intended to provide the EU with a framework for approaching and engaging its ACP partners to examine and resolve issues of governance and instability that constrain the effective implementation of the trade and aid instruments contained in the Lomé arrangements.

Moreover, according to the EU, political dialogue is an important dimension of its common foreign and security policy (CFSP). The logic applied in linking development cooperation with international peace and security runs along the following lines. If the fundamental principles of development cooperation are concerned with addressing the bases of poverty and inequality – as potential causes of political instability – then these same principles are

aimed at preserving peace and strengthening international security.

Accordingly, the agenda for dialogue proposed by the EU is derived from the perceived need to promote good governance, conflict prevention and resolution within the framework of the CFSP. As far as good governance is concerned, issues relating to accountability and transparency in government, capacity-building for policy-making and implementation, support for civil society, and the development of the capacities of a broad spectrum of private sector and social movements, are the main items on the EU agenda. As regards conflict prevention and resolution, the main EU themes relate to arms control, illegal arms trafficking and limitations on the use of landmines (notwithstanding the fact that the EU is itself a major purveyor of these items).

The EU also emphasises a range of policy issues that cut across its concerns for good governance and conflict prevention/resolution. These are derived from commitments made at the major international conferences held during the 1990s. Environment and Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro), Human Rights (Vienna), Population (Cairo), Social Development (Copenhagen), Women (Beijing), Cities and Migration (Istanbul), Trade and Development (Midrand, South Africa), and Food Security (Rome). The decisions taken at these conferences, and the programmes emanating therefrom, have a wide-ranging impact on environmental protection, poverty alleviation, the prevention of hunger, demographic issues, migration and urban development, the promotion of human development, human rights, and the status of women. The EU's perspective regarding the commitments made at the conferences is that implementation and effective follow-up is not merely a technical or economic matter but also a question of political will and action. To this extent, dialogue with the ACP on these issues will not only facilitate implementation of these international programmes but will also contribute to the overriding objectives of good governance and conflict prevention/resolution.

It should be clear from the foregoing that political dialogue is a more ambitious rendition of the earlier concept of *policy dialogue* introduced in 1979 during the Lomé II negotiation – that has since become a feature of ACP-EU relations. At first, most ACP countries viewed policy dialogue as an avenue of undue interference in their internal affairs and resisted the idea. However, as more and more countries came to accept the policy conditionalities of Bretton Woods institutions during the 1980s, and with the gale force winds of *glasnost* blowing beyond the borders of the former Soviet Union, policy dialogue became more or less a *fait accompli* in ACP-EC relations.

As noted previously, virtually all the issues on the EU agenda for political dialogue are concerns that are shared by the ACP countries. Indeed, political dialogue with the EU will clearly be helpful on such aspects as controlling illicit arms and drug trafficking, international money laundering and the AIDS pan-

\* Deputy Secretary-General of the OAU/AEC

demic, and on following up the programmes of the international conferences. But there are also a number of ACP priorities that require dialogue with the EU. The issues important to Africa at this stage in its development are the focus of the second part of this article.

## The African agenda

African priorities for political dialogue with the EU have to be seen in the context of our emerging response to the challenges of the new global economy. The dynamics of globalisation have been felt in their entirety in Africa. One measure of this is the fact that almost all African countries have in place today an economic reform programme of adjustment – supported in most cases by the IMF and the World Bank. Another fact worth mentioning is that by May 1998, 41 of the 54 African states had become members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) while five others were at various stages of accession.

Perhaps the most telling aspect of Africa's response to globalisation is the broad consensus that has emerged on the major policy issues relating to the way forward for the continent's development. In addition to embracing such values as peace, security, responsive and accountable governance, this consensus includes recognition of the need for sound management of the macro-economic fundamentals, fiscal responsibility, debt reduction, economy-wide liberalisation, the promotion of entrepreneurship and the private sector, export diversification, poverty eradication, human resource development, infrastructure improvement and sustainable use of non-renewable resources. The current policy reform programmes of most African countries envisage action on a good number of these policy issues.

Part of the process of reassessing the region's development prospects is occurring within the framework of the Organisation of African Unity. Member state governments have committed themselves to action on these broad policy areas through a major OAU policy statement entitled *'Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development: The Cairo Agenda for Action'*. This was adopted at a special Council of Ministers session in the Egyptian capital in March 1995, and by the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa in June of the same year. The *Cairo Agenda* distinguished between the things that Africa can do for itself – in such areas as governance, economic management, human development and food security – and what we are looking for from our development partners in support of these efforts (debt relief, investment inflows, help in capacity-building etc.)

Alongside this growing consensus on key areas of policy reform, African countries have taken decisive action to make regional integration the centrepiece of their development strategy. Major free trade areas or regional integration initiatives including the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and the Economic and Monetary Union of West Africa (UEMOA) emerged or were revitalised during the 1990s. The *Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community* (the Abuja Treaty), embodying a new and realistic approach to regional integration, was signed by OAU member states in June 1991. By May 1994, 34 African countries had ratified the treaty, thus paving the way for its entry into force.

In the Abuja Treaty, African countries have embarked on a 34-year journey to create a continental economic space and common market, the existing regional economic communities having been designated as the building blocks. The Treaty provides a legal and institutional framework, as well as a systematic approach, with benchmarks for a gradual process of economic cooperation and integration over the next three decades. It entrusts responsibility for overseeing the process to the OAU Secretariat, which is therefore, also the AEC Secretariat. The underlying rationale of the Treaty is that the regionalisation of economic activity in Africa will enable our national economies (limited in size due to the extreme 'balkanisation' of the continent) to build-up capacities in all critical areas – from the absorption and generation of new technology, to production and marketing, as a springboard for more meaningful participation in the world economy. As our entrepreneurs – in partnership with foreign investors – respond to the freer flow of goods, capital and services within the regions of our continent, and build-up their supply capacity in terms of productivity, scale and scope of production and marketing, they will become more able to exploit global opportunities in a gradual, step-by-step process of integration into the world economy.

It follows from this that the Abuja Treaty is Africa's timely and authentic answer to its need for strategic direction in preparing for the challenges of the 21st century. It is timely because, unlike earlier eras, when African countries were still experimenting with various approaches to development, the far-reaching effects of globalisation in a post-Cold War world have created a situation where economic integration within Africa – as part of the overall process of integration into the world economy – has become an overriding priority. In this regard, and in view of the statist and dirigiste orientation of previous efforts at integration, our approach to the implementation of the Abuja Treaty requires certain emphases. Fundamental among these are not just political will and commitment at the national level, but also a bottom up process in which an enabling environment of markets, incentives, profit opportunities, exchange rate policy, fiscal responsibility, financial institutions, infrastructure provision, and the necessary legal framework combine, to release the energies, creativity, and innovative potential of African entrepreneurs, foreign investors, and all segments of civil society. The support and understanding of the Bretton Woods institutions, our development partners and other influential countries on the international scene will be crucial in determining the pace at which we move towards fulfilling our integration objectives. It is in this context that political dialogue between Africa and the EU, on issues that go beyond good governance and the sectoral agenda stemming from the UN conferences, to include the critical economic questions relating to Africa's development in the 21st century, will determine the strength of the new partnership.

## Towards meaningful dialogue with Europe

With a new regional integration initiative (the Abuja Treaty) and the comprehensive policy direction embodied in the Cairo Agenda in place, Africa has demonstrated a readiness to face the multi-faceted challenges of globalisation. In much of the continent, there has been a dogged determination to implement policy reforms and simultaneously institutionalise the responsive processes of governance. As Africa's most

important trading and development cooperation partner, Europe clearly has a major role to play in support of these objectives which Africans themselves have defined.

The obvious framework for the exercise of such support is the Lomé arrangements. Political dialogue, as noted above, was introduced by the EU in the context of discussions and preparations for a successor to the Lomé IV Convention.

While this is not the place to review in detail EU and ACP proposals for the new convention, or to assess the issues in the current talks, it suffices to note that the timing of these negotiations is fortuitous as far as our objectives in Africa regarding the implementation of the Abuja Treaty are concerned. To this extent, the impact of a future ACP-EU cooperation agreement will be assessed by how effective it is in contributing to integration among African states, and to their full integration into the emerging international economic system. The same applies for the countries in the Caribbean and Pacific.

In this context, an important provision of the *Treaty on European Union* (Maastricht Treaty) – which sets out the framework for consolidating integration in Europe – is the use of trade and development cooperation to facilitate the integration of the ACP states into the world economy. But this provision also signals the EU's aim to rid itself of the so-called dependent 'neocolonial' elements in its relations with the ACPs, as it positions itself as a major player in the new global economy and looks towards eastward expansion. Indeed, it would seem that this provision of the Maastricht Treaty has inspired current EU proposals to place a limit on non-reciprocity in the successor to the Lomé Convention, and to replace this with a patchwork of free trade areas with the EU. The Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government, held in Gabon in November 1997, affirmed that the break-up of the group is not negotiable. This, however, is a separate matter from the question of the scope of EU support to help ACP countries become viable players in the world economy.

In the light of the foregoing, at this critical point in Africa's development, political dialogue should be used to address the key issues of European support to our own efforts to change the fundamental structure of our economies. First, political dialogue should fully address the well-known shortcomings of the Lomé relationship. These include a declining ACP share of EU imports, a reduced share of aid funds and the apparent lack of EU commitment in helping ACP countries overcome supply side constraints through infrastructure development, the introduction of modern technology and the development of new export products and outlets beyond raw materials and commodities. Second, political dialogue should be used to address the issues germane to the restructuring of ACP economies. In this regard, political dialogue should encompass aspects relating to support for implementing the Abuja Treaty. Third, it should be used to monitor the effectiveness of EU support over time.

Thus, our assessment in Africa of the shortcomings of the Lomé experience, *vis-à-vis* our future requirements as enunciated in the Abuja Treaty and the Cairo Agenda, has led to the conviction that political dialogue must be more broadly based than currently proposed by the EU. We should have dialogue not only on issues of governance and the international policy agenda but also on the critical economic questions. What we require is nothing more than what already happens in EU dialogue with other

regions including Asia and the United States. It has been observed that these dialogues provide a forum to renew political commitment and impetus to deal with the thorny problems in the respective relationships. Thus, for example, the 1998 US-EU summit was able, *inter alia*, to find a way out of the impasse over the application of the extra-territorial provisions of the Helms-Burton Act. Similarly, the 1998 Asia-EU summit was able to move forward in designing a credible response to the Asian financial crisis. For the ACP, and Africa in particular, it will be crucial for political dialogue to provide a forum for the review and monitoring of all aspects of the relationship, as well as unforeseen developments, with a view to taking corrective action. Indeed, a recent review of the issues pertaining to the post-Lomé IV negotiations and related matters by the UK House of Commons International Development Committee placed much emphasis on the effective monitoring of the implementation of the cooperation arrangements. The Committee recommends that there should be an Annual Report on the operation of the Convention, which can provide a basis for discussion in various fora including the ACP-EU Council of Ministers. It also goes further, proposing that a complaints procedure be established for interested parties who consider that the principles and terms of the Lomé Convention have been breached.

Beyond these necessary reforms, we believe that meaningful dialogue between the OAU/AEC and the EU is required on various issues related to the implementation of the Abuja Treaty. This will ensure that the EU's contribution is relevant, focused, directed at the priorities that we as Africans have defined ourselves, and in tune with the current African dynamism. We have observed a preference on the part of the EU to discuss only conflict and security issues in *troika* sessions with the OAU. I have often stressed that, without a minimum of peace, development is not possible. But without development, peace is not durable. Our agenda for dialogue must focus equally on both sides of this axiom. The EU should not fall into the old trap of not seeing the wood for the trees.

## Conclusion

The EU has made much of trade and development cooperation as the vehicles for eradicating poverty in ACP states. Poverty eradication is, indeed, the overriding priority and the main aim of all our reform efforts. However, the best way of attacking poverty is to deal head on with such problems as falling export shares in the EU market, declining ODA, the inequitable distribution of private capital flows, the debt burden, and positioning our economies for sustainable growth in the new global context. In Africa, the implementation of the Abuja Treaty will provide a basis for national economies to build up capacities in key areas of comparative advantage, and offers a springboard for more meaningful participation in the world economy. I remain hopeful that our friends in Europe will see the wisdom of using political dialogue as an open channel of communication to make the right response to our real needs. ■

V.S.M.

# Liberia – back on its feet?

by Bram Posthumus\*



Pre-war photo of the memorial at Fort Norris, Monrovia, celebrating the founders of Liberia

In July, Liberia celebrated its 150th birthday – a year late! The proper party could not be held last year because of the presidential and parliamentary contests. But now, with an elected government in office and the shooting wars behind them, Liberians may celebrate, without losing sight of the fact that the country has very difficult tasks before it. Among the priorities are national reconciliation, restructuring the security apparatus, returning people to their homes and physical reconstruction. Initiatives have sprung up everywhere to achieve these aims. However, Liberians cannot be expected to do everything on their own. Welcome assistance from the outside world, including the EU, has been coming in.

On 21 July, close to 1500 delegates gathered at the Unity Conference Centre in Virginia, Monrovia for the opening of the

National Conference on the future of Liberia. President *Charles Taylor* addressed those present. He called on all Liberians to forget their differences and unite in nation-building, seizing the opportunity to reconcile and discuss their common future. The Reverend *Jesse Jackson*, who during his previous visit in February had proclaimed: 'It's morning time in Liberia', attended as President Clinton's special envoy. The conference provided an opportunity to those who do not visit Monrovia regularly to air their views and concerns, and this they did in large numbers, according to the accounts of the reportedly chaotic proceedings.

Just the drive from the mangled remains of the terminal building at Robertsfield International Airport to the Liberian capital, some 65 kilometres away, will tell you how much physical reconstruction remains to be done. The landscape is dotted with the shells of rural homes. Only the walls remain, testimony

to the looting that took place not so long ago. Much of Monrovia's centre gives the queer impression of a city divided – but not in geographical terms. Rather, it appears to have a lower half and an upper half. On the streets, there is an incessant bustle as yellow taxis (all second-hand from EU countries) file noisily past the crowds. Market women and children sell just about anything you will find in a European supermarket. Pavement services thrive. You can have your hair cut, your documents photocopied, your US dollars changed and your shoes polished. But look upwards and what you see, more often than not, is akin to a ghost town. The upper floors of the buildings are skeletons. Exceptions are the office blocks where some ministries and businesses are located, and the shell-damaged high-rise buildings that are home to tens of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The towns in Lofa County, one of Liberia's densely-forested inland provinces, have been extensively looted and burned. Once thriving places like Zorzor and Konia are bustling again – under improvised mud and thatch shacks next to the remains of the original buildings. Zorzor's large regional hospital has been reduced to an overgrown labyrinth of single walls, but the clinic next door is operating. Voinjama, which *The Courier* visited in 1997, still has no electricity. The once famous Multilateral High School is deserted; the school bus has been burned and the classrooms smashed. The town's mayor, who fled to Guinea during the fighting, bemoans Voinjama's fate: 'I am deeply saddened by all this. Everything we had is lost.' But though it will take years to put things back into place, he remains optimistic about the future. 'We have never given up hope for better times. The people I work with are honest and hard-working, so I don't despair.'

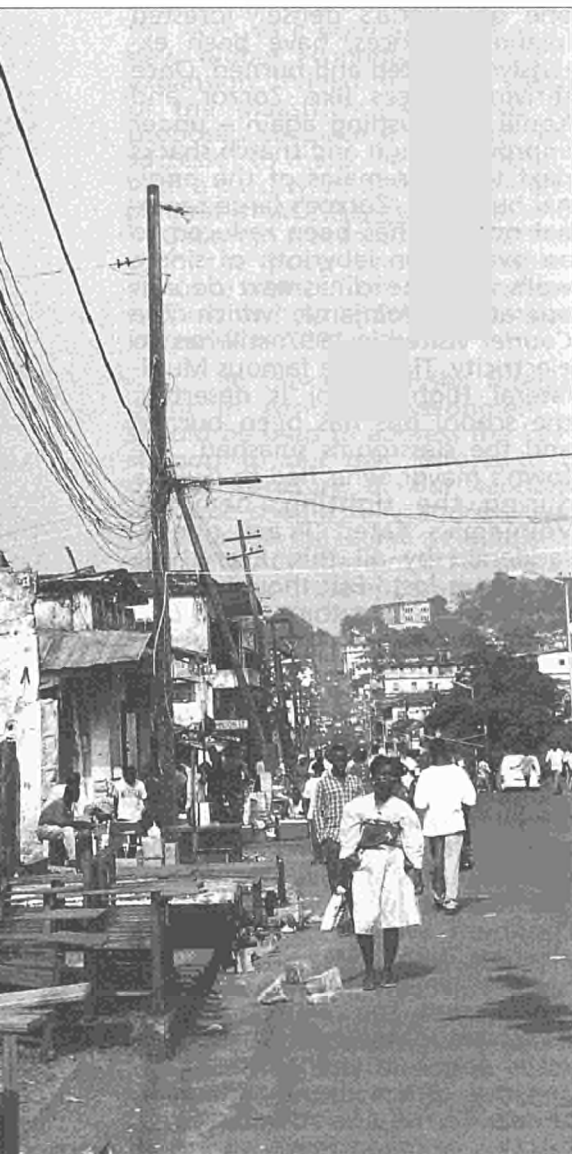
Arguably more difficult is another long-term process, reconciliation. This involves politics at the highest level. Charles Taylor, confident winner of last year's election with 75% of the vote, has problems with some of his old rivals from the war, including *Roosevelt Johnson* and *Alhaji Kromah*. Johnson keeps flitting in and out of the country, claiming to fear for his life. Alhaji Kromah remains abroad, from where he

\* Freelance journalist based in the Netherlands specialising in West and Southern Africa.

hurls accusations at the government. It makes for an unstable political environment: In early August, Defence Minister *Daniel Chea* went so far as to accuse Guinea of hatching destabilisation plans, which the Guineans felt obliged to deny during an impromptu visit.

The security forces have been at the centre of highly public disputes between President Taylor and the commanders of the West African peace-keeping force called ECOMOG. ECOMOG has made remarkable progress since the 14th peace accord was embraced by all fighting parties in 1996. Its popularity on the streets of Monrovia is not in doubt, but there have been major disagreements with the government about who should be in charge of restructuring the Liberian army.

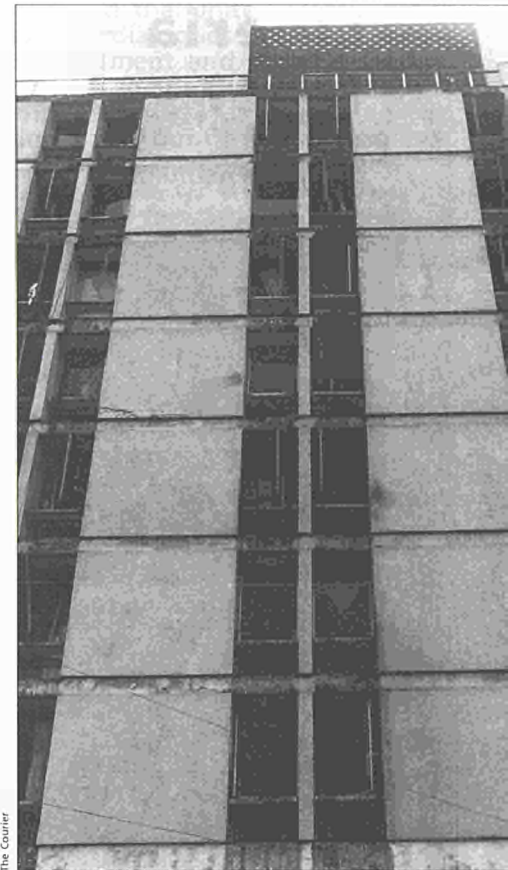
Incessant bustle on the streets



The Courier

Now the peace-keepers have all but withdrawn from the streets and not all Monroviaans are happy about this. The general view was that ECOMOG checkpoints were the only ones you could pass without fear of harassment. This may sound exaggerated, but people have good reason for their caution *vis-à-vis* local security personnel. Given the unstable political and regional climate, legitimate criticism of government action is often mistaken for full frontal assault. On many occasions, the security apparatus has been called in to deal with 'dissenters', when dialogue would have been more appropriate. No less an authority than Archbishop *Michael Francis* told the National Conference in July that the security apparatus, and those responsible for it, must understand the concept of human rights. The record of law-enforcement and security agencies in this area has been less than encouraging. Journalists, civil rights lawyers and members of the public have been threatened, held in custody without charge, or attacked. Some have disappeared without trace. A Human Rights Commission is in place but its mandate remains unclear and not much has been heard from it.

All this underlines the need for an alert civil society. *Samuel Kofi Woods*, director of the Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (JPC) says: 'This is the critical period for Liberia. How can we keep peace, democracy and stability? How do we work with a young and inexperienced government to get a stable society?' LWI spokeswoman *Massa Washington* holds a similar view of the project of rebuilding Liberia: 'People must be taught their civil rights, and their responsibilities. They must know what they can expect from the government and how they can help it. It works both ways.' JPC and LWI are among several civic groups that are organising workshops to bring about this sense of civic responsibility. Another player here is the press. As *Abraham Massaley* of the Press Union of Liberia puts it: 'We have a crucial role in the process of national reconstruction and healing. For most Liberians, it is a way to clarify to the government what the people want in the reconstruction programmes. And of course, the government can explain its agenda and position.'



The Courier

45,000 people are 'living dangerously' in high-rise blocks

The people, meanwhile, are trying to go about their business. For many, this involves going home. The conflict displaced two-thirds of the country's population of an estimated 2.5 million. In February, the UN High Commission for Refugees in Liberia put the number of people still adrift outside the country at 600,000. It has registered close to 100,000 requests for repatriation. Just who goes where is sometimes difficult to establish. As *Alexander Kulue*, director of the government-instituted Liberian Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) explains: 'People who are in Guinea can just walk across the border. [But] we also have about 150,000 IDPs living in recognised shelters and 45,000 living dangerously.' This last is a reference to the crowded high-rise blocks in Monrovia. Earlier this year, LRRRC tried, with significant assistance from the EU, to get as many people as possible home in time for the planting season, but Kulue concedes the task has proved difficult: 'Some people don't intend to return. They have reasons for not wanting to go back. Bad memories as victims. Their own actions. The

perception that there are no longer opportunities there. People will gravitate to where they feel comfortable.' For many that means remaining in Guinea, or Monrovia, where the population has at least tripled to about 1.5 million.

There are many local initiatives to help war-affected children – and that means virtually all of them. For example, a small religious-based organisation called *My Brother's Keeper* is caring for a small group of war orphans in the Old Road/Sinkor part of Monrovia. They 'live' in a bombed-out building, next to a popular watering hole, where they receive some basic education and sleep under a tarpaulin. The Liberia Opportunities Industrialization Centres (LOIC) help to detraumatise former child-soldiers and to rehabilitate them socially. *Susukuu*, an old organisation run by veteran politician, Dr *Togba-Nah Tipoteh*, has sourced funds for an education scheme for ex-combatants. These are young, ambitious men and women, who want to make the best out of the rest of their lives. But they are not confident of the future. 'If the money runs out, some of us will go back into the bush', one of them says. 'I am afraid of that.' In spite of the *Susukuu/ECOMOG* weapons hand-in exercise, Liberia is still awash with arms. LOIC director Dillon puts the number at 16,000. 'Guns have been used by people who have carved themselves a career of armed looting.' They could choose that path again if the situation deteriorates. Indeed, this is precisely what happened in early May when former soldiers went on the rampage in Monrovia over pay. ECOMOG had to intervene to restore peace to a justifiably jittery city.

By any estimate, reconstruction will be hugely expensive. Pledges worth US\$ 220 million were made at a donor conference last April, and another meeting is planned for later this year. It would, of course, be wonderful if some of that money could be made inside Liberia. The national economy used to generate some US\$ 800m a year, principally from mining iron ore, logging and rubber tapping. But the war severely disrupted the national infrastructure, needed to bring the iron ore from Yekepa on the



The Courier

Voinjama – still no electricity but the mayor is optimistic about the future

Guinean border to the port of Monrovia. The same is true for the gigantic Firestone rubber plantation whose production is a lot less than it used to be. Traders have reappeared, repair workshops and small, but excellent, local restaurants – all run by women – are all around, but there are not enough signs that primary production is picking up. Some people have managed to settle into agriculture, a relatively risk-free venture since Liberia has largely escaped the scourge of landmines. One finds people selling palm-wine by the roadside and working a small rubber plantation on the side. But they are a minority. Street trade and transport appear the only really thriving sectors, besides the work that is available in the bloated security apparatus. Banks are working at a fraction of previous capacity. Most currency trading takes place on the streets, where the Liberian dollar has staged a recovery of some sorts since *The Courier* was here (up from 60 to 40 to the US\$). Plans for a unifying single currency have been announced by the government.

Another major factor slowing down any meaningful economic resurrection is the fact that the brains that could be in charge of this revitalisation are mostly abroad. Given the current levels of pay – if any at all – Liberian professionals are unlikely to return soon.

This country is fabulously fertile and should need no food aid. But let us briefly return to Voinjama and take a short 45-minute walk to a town called Malamai. It was all but destroyed in the fighting. It lost fully a third of its population. The once thriving gardens are overgrown. But the people who have returned are ambitious to revitalise it. As Chief *Kpadeh* puts it: 'We want to grow

our kola nuts again, our cocoa, coffee and bananas. All that has to come again. But we cannot do it without machetes.' Or indeed, without food. The people here survive on one bowl of rice with bush leaves each day, and have no tools to do the work, because everything was looted. This is a tragic situation and efforts by

the international community are desperately needed here.

The EU provides help to small-scale projects in various areas, as well as assistance on the national scene. The new EU Field Representative, *Alois Lork-eers*, explains: 'We have had our second plan approved, with a total value of ECU 27m. This will pay for resettling and rehabilitating people, and also the health care programme (rehabilitating health care centres), electricity, the port, roads and bridges. In addition, we have begun institutional strengthening and capacity-building. We will help some of the crucial ministries in Liberia with technical assistance.' The Ministry of Planning stands to benefit.

On August 12, the National Conference was concluded, much later than planned, with a flurry of well-meant closing speeches – which, on paper, looked very much like the opening ones. There were also more concrete proposals on political reform, security, education and health. The meeting proposed decentralisation, and the election – rather than the presidential appointment – of local leaders. Will these fine words be turned into reality? In all areas, there are clearly a lot of long hard struggles ahead. But JPC Director Woods is optimistic: 'There is something special happening in Liberia. The press, human rights groups and civilians are testing the promises the government has made. We are making progress.' The mayor of Voinjama is also upbeat. 'Come back in a few years,' he told us, 'and you will find it like it used to be.' ■

B.P.

## Guinea Light on the horizon



Open your atlas to the page showing West Africa and you will find the coastal nation of Guinea wedged between Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau. It is a country that you don't hear much about, though things are looking up as it now prepares to embark on the next century. Guinea's passage into the new millennium will doubtless not be quite as spectacular as its transition to independence in 1958. The resounding 'No' delivered by President *Sékou Touré* in response to General *de Gaulle's* plan for a 'Franco-African Community' still lingers in the African memory. Someone *had* dared to speak out. Many observers look back to that time for help in analysing and understanding the path the country has taken over the last 40 years. But today, the circumstances are very different.

Guinea's 26 years of dictatorship, isolation and dubious economic experimentation are all now just part of history. But the country was bled white by this painful experience, and the subsequent transition was punctuated with disappointments and false starts. This is one of just many countries that have tried to break free from the shackles of totalitarianism. Following the death of *Sékou Touré* in 1984, the country seemed initially to be seized by apathy, lacking any points of reference or a clear path to follow.

Admittedly, its people were weighed down by two sets of circumstances. First, their journey towards democracy resembled, more than anything else in the early days, a forced march. Second, they were struggling to turn what had been a highly centralised, Marxist-oriented economy into a more or less liberal one. In both cases, the learning process was extremely difficult. The country was ill-prepared for the demands of such radical change. However, with the passage of time, the light is now appearing on the horizon. This is almost certainly linked to a change in the attitude of the people. Their undoubted dynamism more than compensates for the fact that the country was, and still is, economically speaking, behind the times.

Guinea has always been a land of contrasts. In 1935, the celebrated British writer, *Graham Greene*, discovered this while on a trip to the West Africa. During a short sojourn in the south of the country, he was astonished to find men and women whose physical characteristics were peculiarly 'French'. It was their hairstyle, above all, which attracted his attention. Although typical of the area, this had a curiously modern look, strangely reminiscent of France. He had seen nothing comparable in neighbouring Liberia. The experience inspired him to devote an entire chapter of his book *'Journey Without Maps'* to

the evocative subject of *'Black Montparnasse'*.

Others visitors to Guinea were, in turn, struck by its geographical features. There is no doubt that the magnificent landscapes of the interior contrast starkly with the dowdy appearance of most towns and cities. Conakry, the capital, is a place where the phenomenon of urban degradation is all too obvious. But inland, you find plateaus, mountains and granite rocks covered, in places, with a carpet of silky, verdant vegetation. Now and then, you will catch a glimpse of a sparkling stream. There is the splendour of the *Fouta Djallon* Massif, rising to more than 1500 metres, which Nature itself has cut from the Earth's crust. And there are the *Simandou* and *Nimba* mountains (whose highest peak is 1752 metres high) in the forested regions. These areas of outstanding natural beauty in the heart of rural Guinea have inspired many fine artists, and suggest that the country has enormous unexploited potential for tourism. It is also a place which abounds in water, giving it a justified reputation as the 'reservoir' of West Africa. The region's greatest rivers – the Senegal, Niger and Gambia – all rise here. Despite this, 45% of Guineans do not have access to reliable drinking water supplies!

One of Guinea's most disquieting paradoxes, however, involves its poverty and wealth. 40% of the inhabitants live below the poverty line, yet they are sitting on a natural 'goldmine'. Gold, in fact, is just one of many mineral assets. Bauxite is the most important resource while there are also iron ore and other significant minerals. The rivers offer huge potential for developing hydroelectric power and agriculture, while the seas teem with fish. All of this counts for nothing, however, in the statistics published by the international organisations. The UNDP's Human Development Index, for example, which is a composite based on life expectancy (health), education and income indicators, places Guinea way down in 167th place out of 174 countries. The *per capita* income, estimated at \$520, is one of the lowest in the world.

In the former Zaire, the dichotomy of heavy natural resource exploitation and continuing grinding poverty gave rise to the expression 'geological scandal'. It



is a term commonly used in connection with Guinea as well, even by some of the country's political leaders (albeit circumspectly). The image that it conjures up (long years of economic chaos) is certainly depressing, but on the bright side, the upshot is that an inventory of the country's huge resources has been made. On the basis of this information, people are entitled to hope that development will be possible in future – and that Guinea's riches could play a part in the economic regeneration of the entire region. But perhaps there is too much talk about the country's 'potential' and not enough action. *Stefan Frowein*, the head of the European Commission delegation in Conakry thinks the debate is becoming stale and that what Guinea now needs is practical help in implementing a more effective policy aimed at exploiting its many assets. Most Guineans seem now to have understood what is needed. It is not just a question of putting in the work themselves: the key to success lies in the economic choices that are made, the way these choices are managed and the reliability of those who govern.

### Towards better budget management

Since the appointment of *Sydia Touré* to the post of Prime Minister and the installation of a new government in July 1996, the country appears to have regained its vigour. Hope is a sentiment which is undoubtedly on the increase, both within Guinea and among certain sections of the donor community. Before getting carried away by optimism, however, it is worth recalling that the reforms and development plans implemented between 1986 and 1996 were hardly unalloyed successes. Those in charge would naturally have preferred otherwise, but the blunt reality is that this period was marred by poor performance levels and frequent (not to mention unexpected) U-turns in public-sector management. The ten years in question were to have been the launch pad, enabling a once-moribund economy to achieve a stable orbit alongside the rest of the world's market economies. The disappointment today about this 'lost decade' remains palpable. By January 1996, state revenues were in decline and public spending was plunging into ever more serious

deficit. The resulting macro-economic imbalances inevitably sent the country into deep recession. The problems were exacerbated by certain reflex actions of a public service unable to break free of the old notions of centralised administration. Little had been done in practice to promote the policy of reform which everyone seemed to be espousing.

Donor confidence was badly shaken and this led to the suspension of a number of ongoing programmes. The impasse prompted a government reshuffle and specific objectives were then defined. These were to restore Guinea's credibility, underlining that the country was capable both of managing its own affairs and of conceiving and implementing a coherent economic recovery programme. Over the past two years, there have been distinct signs of an upturn. Those familiar with the situation in Guinea four years ago now confirm that the economic situation is beginning to improve and that things are starting to move. There is a lot to be done though. We were told by one person that until very recently, entire districts of the capital did not even have electricity, and insanitary conditions were commonplace.

The measures adopted by the new government were targeted first at the serious macro-economic imbalances. This meant implementing an emergency programme aimed at introducing stricter management of the budget and administration. Guinea's public service long had a reputation for inefficiency, and for being too large, but it is now undergoing profound change. The goals are to improve performance levels while stamping out sleaze (which means tackling the dishonest behaviour of certain public employees who have yielded to temptation). A huge anti-corruption campaign has been mounted against officials involved in shady dealings. The President himself went public on the issue, condemning corrupt civil servants as 'white-collar bandits'. The battle is likely to be long and complicated, and there is scepticism about how far it can succeed, but a lot of people are now more optimistic that the campaign will bear fruit. According to some of our informants, large-scale misappropriation of funds was rare in the Sékou Touré era and there may even be those

who, at least in this context, regret the passing of the dictatorship.

Measures have also been taken to generate more revenue. The drop in state income caused by the 33% fall in world bauxite prices between 1990 and 1994 exacerbated the existing deficit run up by Guinea's undiversified economy. The situation was made worse by the low level of domestic taxation. The government's response was to introduce fiscal reforms, the first step being to broaden the tax base. Value Added Tax (VAT) was introduced in July 1996 and looks set to be extended to sectors previously not within its scope. The government is also trying to generate a more secure income from customs duties and to improve the effectiveness of tax collection, while it is looking to privatisation to provide a revenue boost. Tax administration has been restructured and modernised. The system has also been strengthened with the creation of a special department for dealing with large companies. The big question is whether Guinea's taxpayers will adapt readily to the new fiscal policy. One thing is certain: their support will depend heavily on their appreciation (or otherwise) of how the income is actually spent.

Another aim of the authorities is to achieve a budget which is more balanced. The public finances have been a running sore in Guinea for many years, and a complete overhaul of methods is long overdue. This entails, among other things, the retraining of government employees. With a view to controlling public spending, the government has drawn up a 'spreadsheet' for medium-term expenditure – with which the various state agencies are now expected to comply. The new framework should introduce more transparency into the chain of state expenditure. One priority is to fulfil the country's financial commitments, but the government's main focus is on investments which will alleviate poverty and boost growth. Also singled out for special attention are consolidation of monetary policy and strengthening the banking sector. The thorny question of the country's external debt is still being negotiated with the Club of Paris and bilateral rescheduling agreements have been signed with several creditor countries. Domestic debt is being audited and it has

been possible to make some savings. However, the issue of these various debts, which continue to burden the state budget, is far from resolved. There are sure to be further long and complex negotiations on this subject.

### More emphasis on the private sector

Listening to some political leaders, one might be tempted to believe that everything that is needed is now in place to kick-start the Guinean economy. Growth is picking up again (4.7% in 1997), inflation has been held at around 2%, the balance of payments deficit is falling and there has been progress in a number of other areas. But although recent developments suggest there may be grounds for optimism, the situation should be seen in perspective. There are still serious structural constraints and even assuming policy continuity, it will take a minimum of ten to fifteen years for the benefits to work through in economic development. One only need cite the scarcity of financial resources and the 40% poverty level mentioned earlier to be reminded of the scale of the task facing the authorities.

In its ambitious economic development programme (*'Guinea towards 2010'*), the government says that its aim is to double the growth rate, creating wealth and jobs to alleviate poverty. Its emphasis is therefore on stimulating the private sector – which in turn means essential adjustments to the macro-economic environment and institutional framework. One of the big challenges is to curtail state intervention, making the administration more aware of its future managerial and support role *vis-à-vis* the private sector. A number of centralised management habits, bequeathed by the former regime, still have a lot of life in them, and changing attitudes will be a slow process. There are also numerous bottlenecks, in the shape of administrative formalities, and a more suitable legal and regulatory framework needs to be put in place. If something is not done at this level in the near future, the new policy designed to attract sustainable direct foreign investment will not produce the desired results.

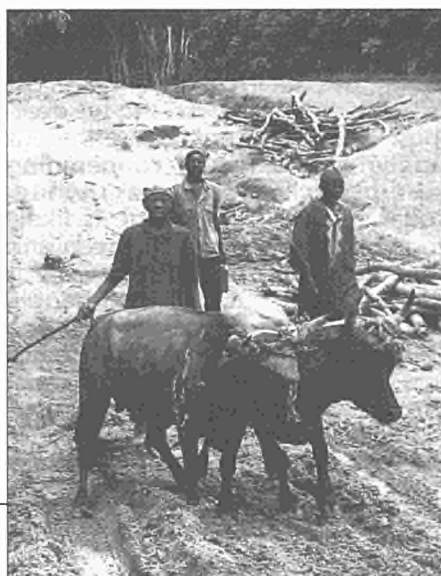
A first meeting of potential investors was held in Conakry in May 1998. This was essentially a

round table discussion, and for it to lead to something more concrete in the longer term, there needs to be an improvement in the country's general business climate. Developing countries are now involved in an intense struggle with each other to attract the eye (and cash) of overseas investors, and the mere fact that a country has the *potential* is no longer enough. Supported by donors, the Guinean government has entered the fray. Among other things, it has introduced investment-related measures dealing with infrastructures and the banking sector, as well as employment legislation and an investment code. The strengthened structural adjustment facility, concluded with the Bretton Woods institutions in October 1996, is geared mainly towards improving the education and health sectors. But it also stresses the restructuring of public undertakings, privatisation, the promotion of SMEs and the establishment of a stable and secure legal framework for investments.

### Relaunching agriculture

Other initiatives aimed at alleviating poverty in rural and urban areas have been adopted. The National Human Development Programme (PNHD) and the Village Community Support Project (PACV) have launched a variety of campaigns designed to meet people's basic needs and get them more involved in their own development. One area high on the list of government priorities is agriculture. The results of the country's past agricultural policies, which were based on the Soviet model,

Beasts of burden. The government gives high priority to promoting agriculture



were poor. Today, the farming sector generates a modest 20% of GDP. Of seven million hectares of available arable land, only a fifth are producing crops. Indeed, the country is even forced to import certain basic foodstuffs, such as rice. Despite these failings, there have been some signs of an upturn. Rice may still have to be imported but local production has nonetheless increased by 26% in recent years. Other basic crops intended for local consumption, such as cassava, groundnuts, maize, palm oil and fruit, have also performed better thanks to the expansion of areas under cultivation. Yields remain low, however, and the production of cotton, coffee, cocoa and rubberwood have remained below the volumes needed to boost agricultural export revenue.

The key guidelines and specific objectives for this sector were set out in the second 'Agricultural Development Policy Letter' (known as *LPDA 2*). The primary objective is to reduce the nation's dependence on mining by implementing a policy for the rational and environmentally sound exploitation of the country's agricultural assets. The policy is geared towards improving food-security through better productivity and crop diversification. Awareness campaigns to educate peasant farmers in the use of selected and improved seeds are currently under way, and professional agricultural organisations are being set up. The plan is for the latter to become more involved in programming and managing agricultural services. Also envisaged are an increase in farm exports and the better management of food imports. The long-term aim here is to achieve equilibrium in the commercial agriculture sector, which is still in deficit.

The process of progressively reducing state involvement in production and marketing is ongoing, with strenuous efforts being made to boost the development of a dynamic private agricultural sector. The task is not made any easier by the serious shortage of loans for farmers. Agriculture has the potential to generate new jobs, thereby reducing unemployment (or underemployment) and poverty in the rural areas. In fact, three-quarters of the country's working population above the age of seven is currently involved in farm-related work, but there is

a great deal of scope for boosting their productivity. As the Prime Minister, *Sidya Touré*, stressed, he is looking for vigorous economic growth based on agriculture, to enable farmers to benefit more directly from the fruits of their own labour.

Reviewing all the different reform efforts, Guinea seems to be setting off on the right foot. Unfortunately, external events beyond its control could put a brake on its new-found dynamism.

### Neighbours in conflict

Past and present conflicts in countries bordering Guinea are a continuing source of anxiety for the government. Armed confrontations in Senegal (Casamance), Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau pose a constant threat to the stability of the wider region. The cycle of conflict seems endemic and no one can reasonably predict where fighting will next erupt or what its outcome will be. This makes Guinea's relatively peaceful situation look all the more precarious. Indeed, Guinea has been unable to protect itself from the fallout of conflict in neighbouring states. For the past decade, it has provided a safe haven for huge numbers of refugees fleeing the atrocities of war. These unfortunate people are now thought to make up 10% of the total population of their host country – 700,000 men, women and children. The fact that the situation in Liberia has stabilised should ease the pressure somewhat – a number of refugees have already been repatriated – but at the same time, the conflicts in Sierra Leone and Guinea-Bissau have brought further waves of people.

Guinea has offered asylum to more refugees than any other state in the region, but notwithstanding its acknowledged tradition of hospitality, it now seems close to the limit. The government takes every opportunity to draw the international community's attention to the situation which, if not resolved, could undermine the country's stability and compromise the economic reforms of the last two years. The administrative and financial costs of managing all the refugees are enormous, despite support from international institu-



Guéckédou Camp.  
For the past decade, huge numbers of refugees fleeing the atrocities of war have found safe haven in Guinea.

tions and humanitarian organisations. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP), with funding support from the European Union, are responsible, in collaboration with the local authorities, for managing the day-to-day problems confronting the people in the reception camps. Guinea is seeking an increase in the volume of food distributed to the refugees and, to avoid local bitterness, it also wants a parallel aid programme for the host communities that have accepted these thousands of individuals in distress. It feels that a degree of compensation is due to the local population.

The government has criticised the WFP for not purchasing, inside Guinea, the food and farm tools destined for the refugees. Concerns have also been expressed about the effectiveness of operational coordination between the various bodies involved. The Interior Minister, *Zainoul Sanoussi*, who is responsible for refugee management, believes the entire system needs to be overhauled. He is not entirely happy, either, with the work of the UNHCR. In his view, they are only offering a partial solution to the refugee problem.

The human influx has sent food prices rocketing and the fact that so many people are forced to share limited natural resources is having a negative impact on the ecology in some places. There are acute deforestation problems, says

Mr Sanoussi. The amount of wooded area lost every year is three times greater than the amount replanted (with donor financing).

A related problem is that Guinea has suffered incursions on to its territory by heavily-armed rebels. The country's own forces are kept on maximum alert and this exacerbates an already tense situation. There have even been armed confrontations in some Guinean villages. It is becoming increasingly difficult to monitor all the borders, which stretch for hundreds of kilometres. Crossing points are often difficult to identify and there are not enough soldiers to go round. This continuing atmosphere of insecurity has led to a significant slowdown in agricultural activity in the affected areas. The Interior Minister says cryptically that 'certain people' view this as an ideal opportunity to destabilise Guinea.

Mr Sanoussi also points out that although they have sent troops to suppress conflict in the border areas, the country has had no financial assistance for this from the OAU, ECOWAS or any other international institution. The military deployments have not just increased pressure on the state budget. They have also become a bitter point of contention between the government (which sees them as necessary) and the opposition (which is extremely reluctant to involve the country's armed forces in its neighbours' disputes). In June, a joint US-Europe humanitarian mission led by *Julia Taft*, US Secretary of State for population, refugees and migration, visited Guinea to assess the economic and environmental impact of the refugees and the related security problems. Given the mission's conclusion that there was a serious problem, one might expect the international community to pay more attention to what is going on in this part of West Africa. ■

K.K.

## Interview with Prime Minister Sydia Touré

## 'The fight against poverty is our key priority'

*Summoned to form a government by President Lansana Conté on 9 July 1996, Sydia Touré can claim to have galvanised Guinea economically in a very short space of time. Two years after being appointed Prime Minister – a post for which the Constitution makes no provision – he is regarded by observers as having an exceptionally successful record, particularly given the precarious situation he inherited. International donors*

*have been won over by his programme and sound approach. The man himself is modest about his achievements but resolute in his determination to see the reforms through. We talked to Sydia Touré, a technocrat who has the unusual distinction of previously having been 'Directeur de Cabinet' (roughly equivalent to a Principal Private Secretary in the UK) to a Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire.*

■ *The foundations of the Guinean economy are looking rather healthier than in the past. You have a growth rate of around 5%, inflation is under control and budgetary discipline seems to be on the right track. What are the basic policy elements that have enabled you to begin putting the country back on its feet?*

– That's a good question! There are no basic elements as such. My aim has been to ensure better administration, especially as regards public finance, with a view to achieving a satisfactory macro-economic situation. Guinea's biggest problem has been the administration of the state finances. Only a few years ago, our public spending was rising exponentially while revenue, as a percentage of GDP, was barely 10%. Consequently, our priorities have been to ensure that revenues increase and that public spending follows the lines laid down in the budget. We also set aside resources for a

public savings fund to enable us to invest, and have brought our monetary base under better control. Once you have adopted measures like these, and provided you ensure that publicly-owned enterprises do not increase spending, you can achieve acceptable results – in terms of the national economy, the budget, and controlling inflation. But we have to recognise that this is not enough in itself. At the same time, you have to encourage exports to ensure a proper trade balance, and you need monetary flexibility to sustain competitiveness. That is what we have been trying to do – and do quickly – to put our economy on a more solid footing. I also believe that a national impetus has been generated during this period, which has undoubtedly made our work easier. This has been accompanied by careful supervision in the Civil Service to flush out imaginary names on the payroll and the unverified payments of certain types of compensation. That, in brief, summarises the emergency programme we set up to bring us in line with our obligations under our agreements with the IMF. There has been enthusiastic support for what we have done from many quarters.

■ *Is the implementation of this programme the reason why international donors now feel more confident about dealing with Guinea?*

– Guinea negotiated an extremely strict programme with the IMF. That programme was started less than three months after the government came to power in July 1996. That was really a bit quick for us, but the only way we could achieve results was by gaining the confidence of the donors. And we did so because we did things on our own initiative. We took action before the meeting of the IMF Board of Management, and without waiting for the Fund to send someone to tell us what to do. That helped



The Courier

to create a more relaxed atmosphere, and it also showed that the government was really determined to carry out radical reforms.

■ *Despite the considerable economic progress, there is still one sad statistic that gives cause for concern. More than 40% of Guineans live below the poverty line. Don't you fear that this situation may jeopardise your policy, and in particular, threaten your existing achievements?*

– It is indeed a sad statistic, and one that cannot be ignored. These poverty levels are what has forced us to institute an economic programme. Apart from the emergency programme I referred to just now, we also have a medium-term approach whose main emphasis is the fight against poverty. As part of our 'Guinea 2010' strategy, which is a longer-term perspective, we talk about the possibility of the country achieving an even higher growth rate – perhaps in double figures. That would enable us to deal effectively with the poverty problem. But, within the overall framework, we also have this medium-term programme, designed to achieve 6% growth by the year 2000. Here, we are putting emphasis on the high-growth sectors – agriculture, mining and infrastructure – as well as on

health and education. From a budgetary standpoint, the prospects for combating poverty, both through state channels and through the programmes we have drawn up with our international partners, look promising. So the fight against poverty is our key priority in the medium term. Our aim, through wealth creation, is to reduce the poverty rate by half within ten to fifteen years.

■ *The exact rate of unemployment is impossible to quantify, but everyone knows it is a major problem. What options are there for reducing it?*

– The fight against poverty is, in itself, a fight against joblessness. Unemployment statistics of the kind produced in the West are based on registered job-seekers. Here, the problem is more endemic. The fact that people are not directly requesting work and appearing on records somewhere as a result, does not mean there is no unemployment. It is a serious problem, and we believe that only healthy growth will enable us to tackle it. Growth driven by a new kick-start for agriculture, for example, which will reduce poverty and absorb some of the rural jobless. Improving investment is another element. With what we have obtained in loans and grants from international institutions like the EU, we have launched a wide-ranging infrastructure programme. The projects are in sectors which should help bring down unemployment. We have also set up a system for revitalising the private sector and are beginning to record some successes. Our aim is to persuade companies to begin operating in our country. In addition to what we contribute at government level, we would like to see a major part played by private investment, resulting in the establishment of companies and hence the creation of jobs. I am talking here about SMEs and the larger mining production enterprises. There has already been some progress on this front. So the strategy is a global one. At the same time, we are working on a revision of the Labour Code. We believe that by introducing elements of flexibility, and removing some of the existing constraints, we should be able to encourage businesspeople to contribute to job creation.

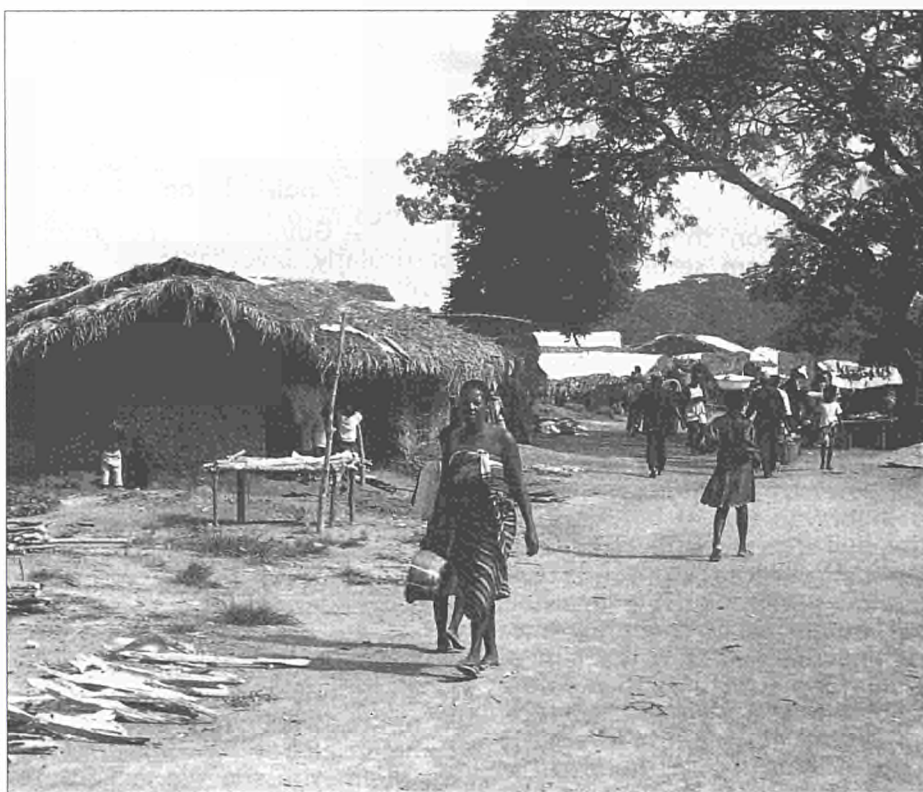
■ *One essential aspect of the fight against unemployment is the establishment of a rigorous education and training programme. Such a programme could also help promote the expansion of the private sector. What specific steps have you taken in this area?*

– In our long and medium-term strategies, education is a priority. We have set up an expenditure framework, in consultation with the World Bank, to ensure that key sectors receive the maximum of budget resources, and of course education is one of these sectors, for the reasons you mention. First, though, we want to

and trying to make the best possible use of structures like the ENAM (National School of Arts and Crafts), which is supported by the EU. These are some of the elements of the policy we are pursuing.

■ *You have mentioned the need to promote the private sector. That cannot be done overnight and it need some basic groundwork. What provisions have been adopted to make Guineans into businesspeople?*

– We began by creating a Ministry for the Promotion of the Private Sector, which must be one



The Courier

increase the school attendance rate. This would enable more Guineans to have access to education and better opportunities for training, and to perform more effectively in the sectors where they will be employed. In July 1996, we created the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training, whose remit is to work on raising standards of training and employment. The aim is to ensure that if we can get growth, and companies are looking for staff in the labour market, Guineans with the right technical qualifications and adaptability will be available to meet that demand speedily. We are also looking at our technical education policy, seeking finance for colleges of technical education,

'Our objective is to reduce poverty by half within ten to fifteen years'

of the few examples of its kind in Africa. We believe that Guineans need to be trained in the culture of private enterprise, as an essential condition for the establishment of companies. Then we turned our attention to the private investment environment, considering both administrative and legal aspects. We adopted measures designed to rehabilitate the banking sector and revised the Investment Code and Labour Code. All these activities are necessary inducements for establishing a competitive private sector. We have also emphasised the

sectors where we have a comparative advantage, such as agriculture and mining. We have passed a new Mining Code, established a Chamber of Commerce and a Chamber of Mines, and done what we can to allow mining companies to operate in Guinea with every possible advantage. And we are achieving concrete results: Ashanti Goldfields began operating here less than a year ago, and within eight months, it had completed a project that was originally intended to take sixteen. Now, it is producing more than five tonnes of gold a year – and it expects to double that figure. Several companies are now interested in Guinea, because we have shown our willingness to create the most attractive conditions possible for foreign investment. With the same idea in mind, we have set up a unique and restructured institution – the Office for the Promotion of Private Investment. This is intended to enable our countrymen to find the information they need, with a view to them setting up new companies.

■ *Are you satisfied with the results of the first forum on investment in Guinea, apart from the 300 letters of intent that were signed?*

– That forum had two essential purposes. The first was to show foreign private investors that Guinea is in the process of opening up, and that the aim of establishing structures to promote the private sector enjoyed political support at the highest level. The Head of State himself opened the forum. The second objective was to explain that the private sector is our ally, and that we need to work together to ensure that our growth ambitions are achieved as quickly as possible. As for the signed letters of intent, whether they result in anything concrete will obviously depend on factors like business opportunities and profitability, and also on whether we succeed in improving the business climate. I took the opportunity of the Forum to emphasise to the people of Guinea that we are competing with other countries in the sub-region.

■ *Do you think that Guinea offers the kind of political and social stability likely to reassure and attract investors?*

– We have a sufficiently stable government, with functioning institutions. Press freedom actually means something here, and we are making constant efforts to improve the situation. We are part of a system that is moving forward, introducing reforms, and giving our citizens freedom and the right of self-expression. Without wanting to draw comparisons with less-favoured states, I think I am justified in saying that Guinea is one of the most stable countries in the sub-region. Indeed, we are an oasis of stability if you look at what has happened in Sierra Leone, Liberia or Guinea-Bissau. Things would go even better if we were not surrounded by all these conflicts, over which we have no control.

■ *Indebtedness is another problem which you have to confront. What progress has been made in dealing with this?*

– Guinea does not receive particularly favourable treatment from the Club of Paris. Unfortunately, we are not eligible under the programme for heavily-indebted poor countries, because our debt is not sufficiently large: also because we have not convinced them that we have a programme that can be sustained for three years. But I believe these matters could be speedily resolved. For the present, although entitled to standard treatment from the Club of Paris, we have not been given the maximum possible allocation. Despite this, what we have received has brought some relief in terms of debt servicing. On the commercial front, we have set up a system with the World Bank to buy back private indebtedness, which is now 87% complete. This has been very helpful because it has enabled private banks to open new dossiers on Guinea, particularly in the mining sector. The Guinea Bauxite Company has just implemented a \$180 million operation under this arrangement.

■ *What about the Russian debt which your country contracted years ago?*

– Unfortunately for us, this business of the Russian debt was introduced at the Club of Paris. The sum involved is between \$450m and \$500m. The problem is that the exchange rate laid down for the rouble has no relation whatsoever to the market value.

■ *How do you plan to settle this Russian debt, which has been a millstone round the country's neck for so long? There is talk of continuing to use bauxite to pay it back.*

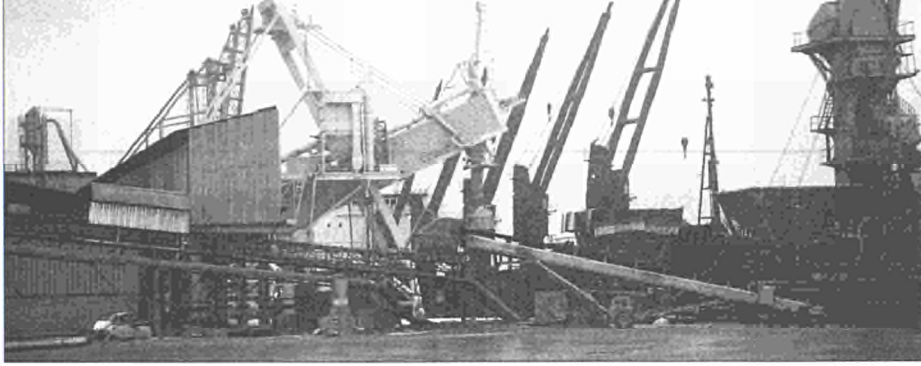
– The agreement we had with the former USSR was that the debt would be settled in bauxite. We have signed documents to that effect. But, when the USSR collapsed, we found that we were still in debt to Russia while our bauxite exports were going to Ukraine. Both parties then repudiated the document. I should say that we have never disputed the existence of this debt. I believe it must be the subject of intergovernmental negotiations rather than being settled through the Club of Paris like a normal debt.

■ *One of the main obstacles to the policy of economic reconstruction is corruption. How do you intend to deal effectively with this evil?*

– We are doing our best and have set up much more transparent management structures. Also, certain conditions imposed by donors offer an answer to your question. In the same context, we are working on the computerisation of the chain of expenditure. This will enable the Central Bank, the Finance Ministry and other ministries, to have a 'real-time' picture of how expenditures are being made. We have also set up a financial monitoring system to keep better track of the commitment and authorisation of public spending. We have revised our code of contracts, and now produce specifications for everything relating to the award of a contract. Everything is becoming increasingly transparent. Also, penalties have been imposed on certain civil servants who have failed in their duty, and we intend to continue along the same lines.

■ *The country's tax receipts are less than they should be. This is due, at least in part, to the fraud that flourishes at the ports and airports. What are you doing about this?*

– That was one of the first matters to which this government turned its attention. We signed an agreement to safeguard customs revenue. The conflicts taking place in surrounding countries are not particularly helpful to regional trade, from which we could have derived significant income. We made arrangements to improve



The Courier

The port of Conakry.  
*'The conflicts taking place in neighbouring countries are not particularly helpful to regional trade'*

the training of customs officers, and our tax authorities now have a reputation for efficiency. We are still working to improve our ratio of revenue to gross domestic product.

■ *Whole sectors of the Guinean economy could be described as 'grey' or 'informal'. This, no doubt, reflects the dynamism of many people but it presumably hinders government efforts and may even disrupt the emerging private sector. How do you hope to find a fair solution to this problem?*

– The first need, I think, is to help the official sector to operate in a more competitive framework. Some of those in the 'grey' economy will then gravitate naturally towards it, because they will discover the advantages in terms of tax arrangements or assistance. Structures which have no proper organisation or accounting system, for example, will not be able to recover VAT or benefit from the bank credit arrangements we have introduced or customs relief on certain imported products. All these incentives help those who work in the formal sector to escape the adverse effects of the grey economy. Some companies have doubled their turnover within two years. We have also been working with retailers to bring them into the tax system.

■ *The Guinean economy has long been regarded as highly dependent on bauxite. What plans does the government have to diversify into new areas?*

– Our recent growth has been based first on agriculture, and then on investment in basic infrastructure and other sectors. The contribution made by agriculture to the GDP will continue to increase. We have obtained some results with farm exports, especially rice, an area in which we have significant capacity. If we can manage to boost our growth rate through agriculture, people in the rural areas will benefit directly.

■ *Are there any plans for agricultural processing?*

– We need to produce the stuff first. After that, we shall see.

■ *Guinea borders the 'CFA franc zone' which is the subject of a lot of discussion at the moment because of the introduction of the Euro. How does Guinea view its monetary future. Is there any possibility that you will join the CFA currency area?*

– That is an issue we shall have to look at in due course. Politically, no decision has been taken. We have our own currency and are continuing our efforts to strengthen it. We have begun to put it on a sounder basis, with a view to making it an accepted convertible currency. Our policy is to prevent the guideline rate rising too high, to control inflation, to ensure more flexible access to credit and to reduce the budget deficit. And we are also endeavouring to meet the ECOWAS convergence criteria.

■ *Many people see you as the 'deus ex machina' who will enable Guinea to enter the third millennium in a much more optimistic frame of mind. What do you think of this assessment?*

– It is completely over the top! I try to do what I have been asked to do. If the Head of State saw fit to entrust me with a job, for which I didn't actually apply, he had his own good reasons for doing so. Of course, my experience in administration has been helpful, but the basic objective was laid down by the President. I am glad to be able to serve my country. Guinea has exceptional potential for development and growth, and more should be done to exploit that for the benefit of the sub-region as a whole. It would be a terrible waste to disregard our enormous potential in areas like mining, energy, agriculture and deep-sea fishing. Each of us, whatever his position, should make his own contribution.

■ *You said when you took over that your objective was to win the development battle. How long do you think it will take Guinea to get somewhere close to achieving that?*

– Frankly, if things progress at their current rate and we stick to the course laid down in the document 'Guinea 2010', then I can see us riding high by that time, with growth rates of 10%. That will enable us to bring about a fundamental change in our internal situation. We have had confirmation of that from the meeting of the donors' advisory committee. The financing we needed to raise our sights from 4.5% growth to 6% by the year 2000 was quickly obtained in the light of our economic programme and the results we have been able to demonstrate in recent years. So our vision for 2010 seems to me a feasible one.

■ *Are you satisfied with the co-operation between the EU and Guinea?*

– Without being totally satisfied, I would say that we have no real problems with the EU. It is, by far, our biggest source of multi-lateral funding. The funds agreed under the national and regional indicative programmes will enable us to create infrastructures that are essential to our development. So we are broadly satisfied with the way things are going between us and the EU, notably the favourable climate of cooperation. In just two years, we have been able to make real progress with schemes that had been blocked for many years. We hope this spirit of cooperation will continue. ■

Interview by K.K

# Profile

## General information

Area: 245,857 km<sup>2</sup>  
 Population: 7.2 million  
 Population growth rate: 2.8% per annum  
 Population density: 29 per km<sup>2</sup>  
 Capital: Conakry  
 Official language: French  
 Main national languages: Malinké, Soussou, Peulh, Kissi, Toma, Guéré

## Economy

GDP per capita: \$570 (1997)  
 Total GDP: \$3.9 billion  
 Annual growth rate: 4.6% (1997)  
 Inflation rate: 2.3%

*Main exports:* bauxite, aluminium, gold, diamonds  
*Currency:* Guinea Franc: 1 ECU = GF 1,377 (September 1998)

## Politics

*Political system:* Presidential. The President of the Republic is elected by universal suffrage for a five-year term. Independent political parties have been allowed since 1989. The first presidential election was held in December 1993 and the most recent legislative poll took place in June 1995. The National Assembly has 114 members, of whom 38 are currently from opposition parties.  
*Main political parties:* Parti de l'unité et du progrès (PUP) – the ruling party; Union pour la nouvelle république (UNR); Parti pour le renouveau et le progrès (PRP); Rassemblement du peuple de

Guinée (RPG); Parti démocratique de Guinée (PDG-AST).  
*President:* Lansana Conté  
*Prime Minister:* Sidya Touré

## Social indicators

Birth rate: 45/1000  
 Life expectancy: 45.5 years  
 Adult literacy: 35.9%  
 Enrolment in education: 24%  
 Access to drinking water: 46%  
 Human Development Index rating: 0.275 (167th out of 174)

Sources: UNDP, Human Development Report, Economic Intelligence Unit (The Economist), European Commission.





## The long haul to democracy

The first country in French-speaking Africa to shake off the yoke of colonialism and, in the eyes of the outside world, to have gained its freedom without bloodshed, Guinea's future as an independent nation looked relatively trouble-free. However, fate was to decide otherwise. For many years, the people suffered under a dictatorial regime regarded as one of the harshest and most cruel in Africa's history.

Despite having gained its independence, on the political front not much appeared to have changed. Nowadays, things are quite different. Gone is the dark period during which government opponents were tortured in the cells of the infamous *Camp Boiro*. Instead, for the past decade, the country has been grappling with the complex challenges of democracy.

Despite substantial progress in setting up a democratic system, there is still a great deal to be done. The pitfalls are many and very real. 1998 will undoubtedly be an important milestone in the process. In October, independent Guinea celebrates its 40th anniversary – a significant achievement. But the spotlight will be on the country for a different reason, because Guinea is going to the polls in December. For the second time since the end of the single-party system, citizens will be voting to elect their president. The first pluralist elections organised in 1993 saw the victory of General *Lansana Conté*. He replaced the military commission for national rehabilitation which had been handling the transition since 1984.

In the meantime, Guinea has acquired many of the attributes of a democracy. Various institutions hitherto unfamiliar to the country have been established, on a progressive basis. There is a National Assembly with 114 seats (38 of which are held by the opposition), an Economic and Social Council and, notably, a

Supreme Court (see the article which follows). 47 political parties have been registered by the state, although only five or six of them (most grouped within CODEM – the Coordinated Democratic Opposition) are much in evidence on the political scene. The government has also authorised the setting-up of a free



The Courier

Zainoul Sanoussi. Minister of the Interior and Decentralisation. *Guinea's politicians have come of age*

and independent press. These developments suggest that the foundations have now been laid and that a minimum level of freedom is guaranteed in the future for the country's inhabitants.

There are those who would like to have seen more rapid progress. Others, conversely, see time as their main ally. 'We have to proceed at our own speed and in our own way', commented *Zainoul Sanoussi*, Minister for the Interior and Decentralisation. Belonging to no political party and without an official 'label', he has been entrusted with the heavy responsibility of organising the forthcoming elections. However, the major opposition parties are sceptical about how much progress has actually been made. In their view, the republican institutions that have been set up are essential to the evolution of a democratic society in Guinea. But the way they currently operate does not inspire them with confidence. They regularly criticise certain members of the executive, claiming that their 'anti-democratic'

behaviour threatens to undermine the institutional system that has been created. This year's elections will doubtless provide another opportunity to assess who is right.

### Transparency at all costs

The apparent calm prevailing in Guinea at the time of our trip was a complete contrast to the upheavals and unrest which used to characterise pre-election periods in the new African democracies. Are the Guineans less restive than their neighbours? For some, the explanation lies in the lack of aggression (and political credibility) of the opposition, which has yet to reach full maturity. Others point to the resignation, or even disinterest, of a general population more concerned with day-to-day survival. And there are those who see the calm as misleading – arguing that recent events have bred an underlying, but unmistakable sense of resentment, which could lead to instability. There is no doubt, however, that the great majority of Guinea's people, of all political persuasions, want their country to progress in a climate of peace. Across the political spectrum, there are few who would dissent from this proposition, despite the fact that Guinea is located in a region plagued by numerous conflicts.

The first presidential election in 1993 generated a great deal of controversy. A number of political parties, including the majority party, went to the Supreme Court in Conakry to protest about the way the poll had been handled. Although some irregularities are virtually inevitable, the authorities hope, this time round, to learn the lessons from their last electoral experience and thereby minimise the risk of the poll being compromised. Consultations with all the key political personalities have already begun with a view to reaching consensus on the organisational aspects of the election. 'The situation is more stable in Guinea this year', Mr. Sanoussi told us. 'Our main concern is to ensure that the maximum number of the country's citizens can take part. We want them to express their wishes freely in circumstances that are totally transparent and which also comply strictly with the provisions contained in the basic law.' According to the Minister, the fact that they have 'learned the lessons of the past', and the 'increasing maturity of Guinea's politicians', will count greatly towards the success of the election.



Since 1984, significant areas of urban land had been illegally occupied by migrants from rural areas

The debate which arose in the wake of the opposition's request that a neutral electoral commission be set up to run the poll seems to have died down. The government initially felt there was no need to have a presidential decree establishing such a body, pointing to the wide-ranging guarantees contained in the existing electoral code. After much hesitation, they conceded the point and a High Electoral Council is now envisaged. This will be a forum for exchange between the administration, the political parties and the institutions of the Republic. In principle, it should facilitate consultation and, according to Mr. Sanoussi, prevent the recurrence of an *impasse* – which would do nothing to further democracy in Guinea.

Nowadays, the European Union takes a much greater interest in respect for democratic principles in the ACP states, as evidenced by the explicit reference to this in both the revised Lomé IV Convention and the Maastricht Treaty. The Union is therefore helping with the organisation of the presidential poll, providing technical and financial support. A technical assistance delegation has been sent to Guinea to monitor, from close quarters, the development of the preparatory phase and observers will be present when the actual voting and counting take place. Their task will be to ensure that everything is 'above board'. A pre-election awareness campaign on the subject of citizens' rights and duties is also being supported by the EU. The objective here is to get civil society more involved in the democratic process by providing information, educating, and encouraging people in their civic duty – against a backdrop of continuing social peace and respect for human rights. Other organisations such as the UNDP and the German *Friedrich Ebert* Foundation, in agreement with the authorities, have also

mounted awareness campaigns at various levels.

### Carried along by events

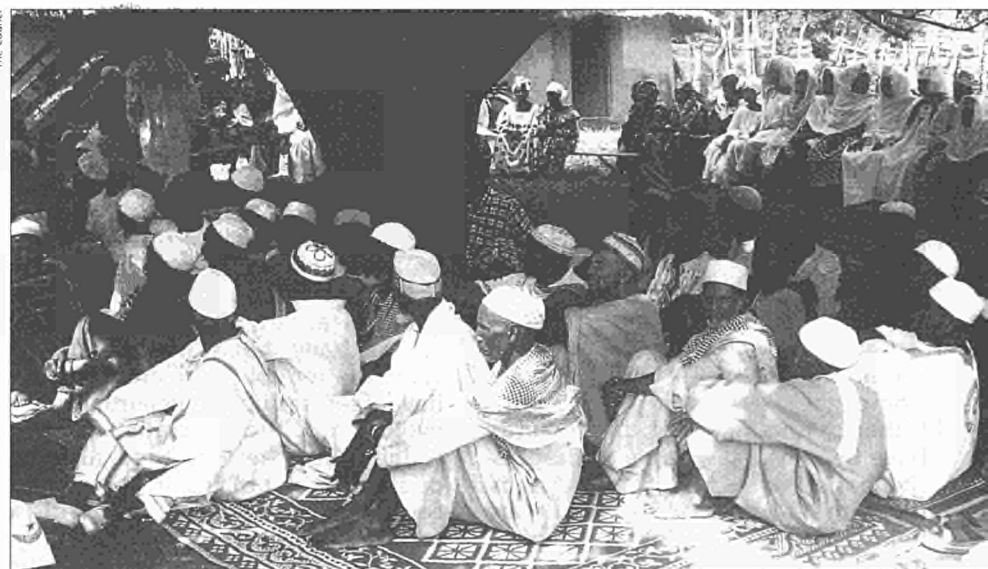
Although the transition to democracy in Africa now appears irreversible, there is still a long, drawn-out learning process for those countries that are newly embarked on the democratic path. The changes in attitude that are essential for democracy to be properly understood and entrenched are inevitably tied up with the frustrations and elementary economic needs of the people. Governments, for their part, have a responsibility for socio-economic development, but when it comes to democracy, they need to adopt a more flexible approach, underpinned by credible management of the economy. Meanwhile, those on the receiving end (the people) often view 'democratic progress' in a narrow and somewhat self-centred way leading to strained relations with the powers-that-be and to unnecessary unrest. Neither side in this equation will find it easy to come to terms with the challenges involved. Thus, in a number of countries, including supposedly advanced democracies, we have witnessed waves of popular discontent. Perhaps this is the price that must be paid for achieving change.

The revolt of a section of Guinea's army in February 1996, which rocked the country, has been the subject of detailed analysis elsewhere. The sparks that are said to have ignited the flames of rebellion were the non-payment of soldiers' wages and a more general discontent among military personnel about

their living conditions. But what seems to have started as a protest progressively took on the aspect of a *coup d'état*. Was it really a spontaneous eruption of anger, or was it a premeditated attempt to overthrow the legitimate government. This was the question being discussed at the rebels' trial, which was taking place during *The Courier's* visit (we were allowed to attend a morning's session). There are those who have questioned whether the special court set up to try the insurrectionists is legally competent to do so. But more important is the long-term impact of the revolt itself on the continuing democratic process. This is something that needs to be weighed up.

Some sections of society believe that democracy in Guinea has emerged stronger, as a result of the experience (and the fact that democratic principles prevailed). During the events, according to the government, the citizens of Guinea displayed their unshakeable commitment to peace and democracy. The episode also highlights another hurdle that needs to be overcome during the period of democratic transition, namely the 'redefinition' of the military's role. In the past, the army was often a tool of oppression in the service of autocratic rulers. It must now adapt to a new environment – one which might appear to be less favourable to it. The concept that a president's political legitimacy should be based on his performance at the polls, and that he should never, therefore, be ousted by military *coup*, is apparently still difficult for some people to understand, as recent events in Africa have illustrated. Campaigns to educate the police force and army, and to make

A number of pre-election awareness campaigns have been implemented



them more aware of the benefits that democracy can bring, together with a clarification of their new role, are now vital if the democratic process is to continue to run smoothly.

The people of Guinea will not quickly forget the tragic events of earlier this year at Kaporo-rail, a working-class district of Conakry, which sadly resulted in the death of about a dozen people. This area of state-owned land was due to be requisitioned by the authorities, along with a number of other parcels of land, as part of a country-wide redevelopment policy. This policy was instituted in the 1980s on the basis of a blueprint approved and financed by donors. But since 1984, significant areas of urban land were illegally occupied by migrants who had arrived in large numbers from the rural areas. The result was a highly complex situation. The Ratoma commune of Kaporo-rail was seen very much as a bastion of the opposition. Most of the people living there were of *Peul* origin and a number of them genuinely believed that they had acquired legal title to their properties on the basis of deeds procured from certain government officials. A first attempt to remove the district's inhabitants failed, being met with violent protests. A month later, the authorities tried again, with the tragic consequences already mentioned. According to the Minister of the Interior, 'The forces of law and order walked into an ambush and were obliged to react.' According to the opposition, 'we were not kept fully informed by the government and the deadlines given us by the authorities were too short.' The situation was not helped by the arrest of a number of opposition MPs and a party leader.

Five months after these events, opinions about their underlying cause remain divided. Was it a legal, a political or an ethnic problem (or even a religious one – fundamentalist strongholds were discovered in the locality). The whole area has now been bulldozed and plans to redevelop the site are due to be implemented soon. In the opinion of one international expert, the issue was not managed as well as it might have been by the government. His view was that measures needed to be taken to ensure that this kind of situation could not occur again in the future. ■ K.K.

## The Supreme Court in Conakry



### Guarantor of the rule of law under the microscope

Of the three institutions of the republic set up in Guinea in the post-dictatorship era, the Supreme Court is the one that attracts most attention (both its *modus operandi* and the decisions it has taken). The Court sits at the very heart of the democratic system, with the job of acting as arbiter in disputes between the executive and legislative arms of government. There are times when this is not exactly a comfortable position!

The Supreme Court which sits in Conakry is Guinea's highest judicial body and the forum for conciliation in administrative and legal matters. It began hearing cases in April 1992, following the enactment, in the previous November, of an 'organic' law which defined its powers, organisation and method of operation. Sitting at the pinnacle of the legal system, its special role is to bring together the country's various jurisdictions and rule on all key legal matters – whether private, administrative or constitutional. The Court is composed of three Chambers, a Principal State Counsel's office, a large Clerk's department and a number of administrative support departments.

More specifically, the Court has the job of making rulings on the interpretation of the Basic Law (effectively the Constitution) and

on relations between the government and the country's citizens. Private law issues such as family law disputes, and professional and property questions, are dealt with specifically by the Second Chamber, which has wide-ranging powers in the civil, criminal, commercial and social fields. The Court also plays a considerable part in the budgetary control process, with the responsibility for scrutinising the country's public finances once the annual accounts have been produced. Approximately 300 dossiers are referred to it each year. There are 17 judges altogether. The Clerk's department, which provides the necessary administrative support, has nine officials.

#### 'Proof of the evolution of the rule of law'

As Principal Presiding Judge of the Court, Maître *Lamine Sidibé* has had ultimate control over this prestigious institution since it came into operation. In his view, its creation is proof of the evolution of the rule of law in Guinea – an indication that the people see justice as an important concept. The country used to have a single and all-powerful executive arm of government but it is now possible for constitutionally-independent judges to keep it under scrutiny. According to Maître Si-

dibé, the government's acceptance that its actions can now be reviewed – and might be declared invalid – represents substantial progress in terms of the rule of law in Guinea.

The Supreme Court has already found itself having to intervene at crucial moments. Just a year after it began operation, the first presidential election thrust it into a significant leadership role. Having been petitioned on a number of occasions to declare the poll null and void, the Court issued an order aimed at clarifying certain ambiguities and easing tensions that could have jeopardised civil peace. It has been called on again this year to decide on issues relating to the organisation of the forthcoming elections and it is likely that it will have to deliver judgment on any complaints that are lodged. In terms of the Constitution, the Court has also issued major rulings revoking a number of ministerial orders which it held to be void. It has sometimes even declared that there has been an abuse of power. Hundreds of civil, commercial and property issues have also been resolved by it. The various decisions it has taken now form a corpus of case law which will be

Maitre Lamine Sidibé, the Supreme Court's Principal Presiding Judge  
*'The government's acceptance that its actions can now be reviewed, and might be declared invalid by an independent institution, represents substantial progress in terms of the rule of law'*

used as an objective basis for dealing with future legal disputes.

### Powers of consultation and information

It was mentioned that the Supreme Court also has powers of consultation and information. It regularly advises the government and the National Assembly, and other users of the legal system, when clarification is being sought on the various subjects within its jurisdiction. To help citizens gain a better understanding of the Court's role and significance, its holds 'open days' from time to time. Early this year, a large group of academics, students, trade unionists, journalists and NGO representatives was given a guided tour of the institution's premises. At the end of the visit, they took part in a session chaired by the Court's Principal Presiding Judge. This gave them an opportunity to put questions to the judges and obtain more detailed information about the workings of the Court.

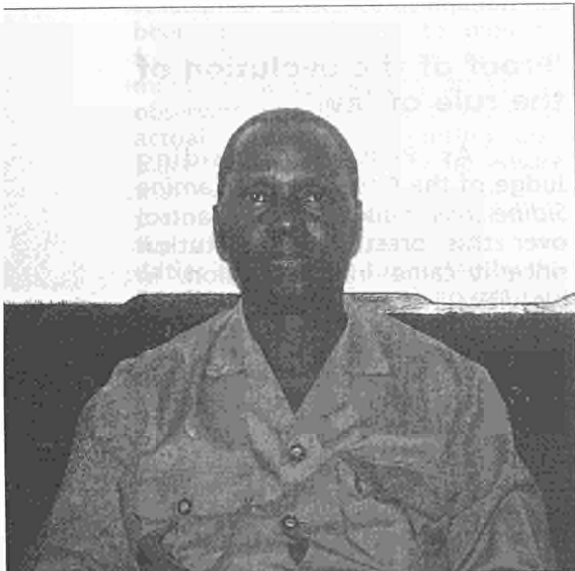
It is not uncommon, in democratic systems, for the institutions at the top of the legal tree to come under fire from critics. Sometimes, there are doubts about how 'independent' they really are and hence, whether the key principle of the separation of powers is actually being upheld. Guinea's Supreme Court is keen to stress the message that it is impartial. For some, the fact that the Principal Presiding Judge and the other members of the Court are appointed by the Head of State himself (this is stipulated in the Basic Law), means that, by definition, its margin for manoeuvre is restricted, and its autonomy curtailed. In response, Maître Sidibé points out that justice cannot be dissociated from human conflict (it comes into play to resolve conflicts). This is something to bear in mind when recalling cases that have done little to promote the credibility of the judiciary in western countries (such as the *Dutroux* case in Belgium or the *O.J. Simpson* case in the USA).

### 'Justice in Guinea is not subject to any political pressure'

Although Maître Sidibé would accept some of the criticisms levelled against the Court, he firmly rejects accusations of bias. To those who attack the institution he heads, he replies simply that the legal system in Guinea is independent and is not subject to any political pressure. He argues that it is not the way the officers are appointed that determines how far a legal system is autonomous. Rather, it is the standing of the appointees, once they have begun exercising their functions. Independence, he asserts, is guaranteed by people who are conscientious, responsible and professional.

Despite the inevitable tensions, the Conakry Supreme Court appears tireless in carrying out its difficult task. Since 1995, it has been located in a new building which has been entirely renovated by the government: further proof, in Maître Sidibé's opinion, of the authorities' commitment to the rule of law. However, the everyday operations of the Court are still plagued by practical problems. It has not been possible to circulate the Court's records widely enough and the documentation needed to keep pace with international legal developments remains insufficient. The amount of computer equipment available to the institution is also limited.

The Court would like to step up contacts with legal institutions in other jurisdictions, seeing this as necessary for it to continue improving its operations. Unfortunately, such contact with the outside is restricted because of financial constraints. A project aimed at boosting the Court's capacity is currently under examination, with World Bank support. Maître Sidibé also hinted that there was nothing to stop the EU making a contribution to remedying the Court's imperfections (referring to its programmes in support of democracy and the rule of law). ■ K.K.



The Courier

## Yaya Keita, Secretary-General of CODEM

### 'A long way from being a democratic state'

*Whatever the outcome, the elections to be held this year will allow one to form an opinion on the credibility of the democratic process in Guinea. It should also be possible to judge how much progress the opposition has made. Once fragmented, it now aims to make headway in the national political arena. Its five main parties have combined to form CODEM (Coordination of the Democratic Opposition), with a commitment to coordinate*

*their positions and unite against the party in power. We interviewed Yaya Keita, the CODEM Secretary-General, who acknowledged that the alliance faces some very real difficulties. And he believes that the 'anti-democratic behaviour' of the authorities restricts, even further, the opposition's room for manoeuvre.*

■ *The presidential elections are due in December, but there is an impression that the opposition is not doing enough to make its voice heard in the run-up to the polls. Why is this?*

– I do not share the view that the opposition is not doing enough to make its voice heard. It would be more accurate to say that it is largely cut off from the state media. Guinean radio and television, and the national newspaper, *Horoya*, never cover our political rallies. We do organise meetings. It is simply that our actions are not reported. We live in a country where everyone listens to the radio, but we are unfortunately denied access to this useful tool for explaining our views to the people. Our press conferences get less than a minute on television, while the party in power is featured for twenty or even thirty minutes. We are also picked on by the administrative authorities. For example, when we went to Beyla last August, the prefect threatened to arrest us



The Courier

together with all the party leaders whom we were meeting at the time. On 3 April, deputies belonging to the *Alpha Condé* RPG party were thrown into prison, together with about 50 local leaders, by the prefect of that city. I should also mention that prefects in the interior of the country exert constant pressure on our officials.

■ *Have you discussed these problems with the national authorities, and, in particular, arrangements intended to ensure a more balanced approach to media access and the organisation of rallies?*

– We met the Minister of the Interior on 29 May and discussed these problems with him in his capacity as head of regional administration. We placed particular emphasis on problems concerning the behaviour of the prefects and sub-prefects. We have not yet contacted the Minister of Information and Communication, but we have continually denounced such behaviour at meetings.

■ *What are the main measures that need to be taken to ensure a peaceful climate, and free and fair elections?*

– We have already informed the Interior Minister of our views. We have passed to him a document listing 30 points that we consider essential for elections that are credible and transparent. He promised us that he would act quickly, but no

action has been taken up to now. We consider the most important point to be the establishment of a National Electoral Commission made up of representatives of the government and of the political parties. This would oversee the elections, enable each party to express itself freely during the campaign, and ensure that the people can offer their opinions without being subject to outside pressure. A Commission of this type is also essential to ensure that the votes are counted fairly and that all the relevant documentation is properly handled. We would like such a structure to be created at national and local level (constituencies and sub-prefectures). This would entail our involvement at all levels. There also needs to be proper observance of the current electoral code.

■ *The provisions of the electoral code do actually provide for your full involvement at each stage of the electoral process.*

– Yes, that is true. Despite the fact that we had no say in its drafting, we consider it to be generally acceptable. The real problem is to ensure that it is applied properly. Judging by the pressure that the authorities are putting on parties and individuals, this doesn't appear to be happening. In principle, freedom of expression is guaranteed by the electoral code, and if even only 80% or 90% of its provisions were to be properly applied, we could resolve most of the problems. During the legislative elections in 1995, we found that our party workers were not allowed to participate in the work of the polling stations or in counting the votes. The way the results were transmitted was very mysterious. It was the prefects, not the members of the national electoral commission, who took the results from the villages to the constituency centres. Because of the way in which everything was arranged, we were, to all intents and purposes, excluded from vote monitoring activities.

■ *Does the electoral code explicitly provide for an independent structure?*

– The law does not specify any authority other than the Minister of the Interior in connection with the organisation of elections. Following pressure, a National Electoral Commission was set up by decree on 8 December 1993, to oversee the last elections, but this did not affect the Interior Ministry's predominance in this area. The polling took place just eleven days later, so the Commission did not have sufficient time to take matters in hand. That is why governments, civil society (especially religious communities) and African diplomats asked for the elections to be postponed, although their request was in vain.

This time round, we have proposed a law to establish a National Electoral Commission, but it has not been discussed. Our aim is to ensure the proper application of the electoral code and our actual involvement at all stages of the elections, without hindrance from the prefects. So we are wondering what is meant by the phrase 'the financing of a National Electoral Commission', which appears in election documents we have received from the Interior Ministry. This body was apparently due to be set up in June – that is to say, at least six months before polling day. Of course, we have asked the Minister about the Commission, which is said to have a budget of 500 million francs, but he has deferred his reply.

■ *Are you suggesting that the government is trying to buy time?*

– Yes. As in 1993, everything is being put off until the last minute. We also consider the involvement of foreign observers to be absolutely essential. The presence of these observers must be allowed at all stages of the election process and they must be given sufficient time to perform their functions. That is why their role and assignment must be clearly defined.

■ *You mention the difficulties associated with setting up an independent electoral commission. But doesn't the real problem for the opposition concern its ability to suggest a better alternative. In other words, does the alliance*

*have a social and economic programme capable of attracting widespread support from the people of Guinea?*

– We are an alliance of five parties and have been coordinating our positions on the main issues since January 1998. We have a common programme on which we have agreed. It is now necessary to formalise it and put it to the electorate.

■ *What does this contain?*

– The programme is largely unchanged. At the outset, we need to deal with the state of democracy in this country. Guinea is a long way from being a democratic State.

■ *But democratic institutions have nonetheless been set up and a number of the opposition's proposals have been passed by the National Assembly.*

– I don't agree at all. The creation of institutions is not sufficient proof of the existence of a good democracy. Take the Supreme Court for example. Its President and members are appointed, not by the Assembly, but by the Head of State, as laid down in the basic law. How can the Supreme Court be impartial in these circumstances. Or to take another example, the Assembly has 114 deputies, 38 of whom (a third), belong to the opposition. When it comes to administering the Assembly, there is a governing bureau of 12 members. Places on the bureau should be allocated to groups in proportion to their strength in the Assembly. In other words, four of its members should come from the opposition. In fact, the opposition has no members. The governing party has only offered us one place (two for this year), which we have refused. In democratic parliaments, the positions on such committees are allocated among parties in proportion to their representation.

Another problem associated with the state of democracy concerns the arrest of our deputies during the events at Kapororails. We proposed a law requesting the suspension of these arrests until the removal of their parliamentary immunity. This proposal was unanimously adopted by the Assembly on 8 May. It was claimed that the people in question had been 'caught in the act' but this was without foundation. The Assembly

asked the Justice Ministry to produce a document enabling it to pass judgment. It did not receive any such document. Despite this, the members of the assembly were judged. If parliamentary immunity, which is an inalienable right, is not respected, what hope is there for the rights of the ordinary citizen? The executive does not respect the decisions of the National Assembly. We consider that the institutions are not exercising their full functions. The bills that we have proposed have remained dead letters, even when they have been passed. We, on the other hand, have voted with the majority in favour of bills that we considered to be reasonable and in the country's interests.

■ *Would you accept, however, that in a country that was under a dictatorship for almost three decades, the democratic process is nonetheless making headway, even if fairly slowly?*

– I would not dare to claim that it is making headway. I can understand your question in connection with applying the concept of democracy to the general population. It is sometimes difficult to have democracy when most of the population is illiterate and only has an imperfect understanding of what it means to vote. But if we are talking about institutions such as the Assembly or involvement in political parties, then we have seen behaviour which does not make it possible to talk about democracy. I was dismissed from my post as director of a joint venture company because of my membership of a political party, and I am not alone in this. Progress in this area would entail acceptance of the fact that civil servants are entitled to belong to the opposition. They are obliged, under duress, to give their allegiance to the party in power. Most officials who support the opposition have had to give up their positions of responsibility. That is why I am very sceptical when you talk about democracy making headway. And as I said, we do not even have access to the state media.

■ *Many members of CODEM have dual nationality, which has naturally given rise to comments concerning the appropriateness of their candidacies for the top functions. What do you think about this?*



The Courier

– I do not see this as a crucial issue. This country has had many exiles in the course of its history. The two million Guineans who had to go abroad for political reasons are excluded because they have acquired a foreign nationality, and I find that exclusion rather offensive. But at the end of the day, it is not a real problem. Those putting themselves forward to lead a country must obviously be full citizens. This is actually a requirement. At a practical level, the Interior Minister has invited people with other nationalities to regularise their positions and to renounce dual nationality before the voting takes place, with the approval of the Justice Ministry. This debate has virtually been brought to an end, in my opinion.

■ *You referred earlier to the arrests following the unfortunate events that occurred in the poor district of Kapororails. Do you think that this matter was handled well by the authorities?*

– No. I was actually at work when I was informed that my house was going to be demolished within 48 hours. Even if such action was justified, it was done in a way that was not right. The people were not kept informed. Six months' or a year's notice should have been given. It is true that the area had been earmarked for demolition since 1988, but the actual timings should have been specified to enable the holders of official documents to re-register, obtain new accommodation and apply for compensation, as laid down by the code that covers public works. Some people think that this is an ethnic problem, as 90% of the people affected were from Central Guinea. I don't think this is the case. Nor do I believe that fundamentalism was the key issue though a few fundamentalist pockets do exist. I do not rule out political factors, however – the Mayor of the municipality is a

Regional differences in levels of investment are striking

member of the opposition. Driving 120,000 people, including 60,000 electors, out of the area, is a way of damaging the opposition.

■ *Do you think that the legal proceedings relating to the army mutiny of 1996 that are currently underway are being carried out correctly?*

– It's difficult to comment on the formal nature of the proceedings. But I have been informed that many of the accused have claimed they were tortured to make them denounce political leaders during the investigation. And furthermore, these proceedings do not fall within the jurisdiction of the current Special Court, which is anti-constitutional. The Constitution specifies that such matters should be dealt with by the ordinary courts.

■ *While there are signs of an upturn, Guinea is still very much in need of economic development. What do you have against the government's policies and, again, what alternative policies do you suggest?*

– We support, at least in principle, certain aspects of the current economic policy. This is the case, for example, as far as international cooperation, especially with the Bretton-Woods institutions, is concerned. But while structural adjustment is necessary, the sacrifices have not been shared out fairly. The most vulnerable sections of the population have suffered, while the well-off and the government have tended to profit. We also have some grievances concerning the fight against corruption and embezzlement.

■ *But the fight against corruption is surely one of the declared aims of the government!*

– The government has always paid lip-service to issues of good government during parliamentary sessions. Specific cases of misappropriation of public funds have even been reported by the administration, but these have never been followed up by concrete action. For example, civil servants have received unjustified bonuses and salaries worth billions. The list of individuals involved has never been published, and we know that the few repayments that were made went straight into private accounts. There was a lot of noise about misappropriation of large amounts through oil companies, but attempts are now being made to ensure that this is forgotten by the general public. There needs to be a genuine desire for a clean-up. Investment costs in this country are high, and the geographical distribution of investments within the country is unfair. The differences between regions are striking. Middle and Upper Guinea are the poorest areas of the country, and face fundamental problems associated with access to water.

■ *What do you think about your country's intervention in the conflict in Guinea-Bissau?*

– Guinea has already been involved in two other major conflicts, in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and account should have been taken of this. We should also recognise that considerable numbers of our citizens are located in these two countries and in Guinea-Bissau. In reply to your question, the National Assembly was not consulted about the intervention and I think that in the absence of any clear prior agreement to this kind of action, our involvement was ill-conceived. An attempt should first have been made to reach a peaceful solution on the basis of dialogue and negotiation. Above all, the matter should have been debated by the Assembly.

Interview by KK

# Impressive mineral resources

There is certainly no question of the Guinean authorities scaling down the mining sector (notably bauxite) as it seeks to promote the expansion of other potentially lucrative areas which are still unexploited. Indeed, mining will remain the cornerstone of the economy with government reforms aimed at developing the country's abundant mineral resources to the full.

The mineral potential here is second-to-none in Africa, and the resources will have an important part to play as Guinea aspires to join the economic vanguard on the continent. The country is also keen to eliminate the aura of 'geological' scandal which has affected the industry. In fact, since independence, mining has occupied a dominant position in the economy, generating more than a third of GDP and providing the state with at least 70% of its income. More recently, its relative significance has declined to more 'reasonable' proportions (reasonable in the sense that it is always risky to have all one's eggs in one basket). Bauxite, by far the main mining product, is predicted nonetheless to maintain its position as the top earner of foreign currency. Total deposits are estimated to be about 25 billion tonnes, which is about two-thirds of the world's known reserves. The conditions under which bauxite is exploited are relatively straightforward – a small number of companies share the market between them. *Société des bauxites de Kindia* (SBK), which is 100% state-owned, mines the Dèbèlé deposits situated some 100 kilometres from the capital. The company is in the process of being privatised and the credentials of possible purchasers are currently being examined. In the Boké region, the state-managed joint venture, *Compagnie des bauxites de Guinée* (GBG) and the multinational *Halco* consortium are the principal players. 20% of the world's alumina comes directly from deposits mined by the latter company. One interesting statistic is that 60% of the aluminium used to manufacture Boeing aircraft in the US is obtained from Boké bauxite. The regions of upper and central Guinea also provide their share of the precious resource, with reserves estimated at five billion tonnes.

Four years ago, the government initiated a programme to modernise the mining industry. This resulted in the sector being liberalised with private capital going into a number of companies. It has not all been plain sailing, however, as the experience of the *Friguia* company illustrates. For more than 20 years, this undertaking – jointly managed by the state and the *Frialco* group – converted bauxite into alumina at the Fria Kimbo site. But its operation went into decline and eventually it faced a major crisis. Its problems included significant operating losses, a large burden of debt, lack of investment and the deterioration of its industrial site. Serious disputes broke out between the various shareholders and the upshot was that some of them moved out of the business. A new director was then appointed

and a 'relaunch' plan adopted. If properly carried through, it should be enough to get the company back on its feet, notwithstanding continuing financial difficulties.

Guinea also has enormous reserves of iron, the potential being estimated at 12 billion tonnes. Virtually none of this ore has been exploited. Deposits found in the Simandou and Nimba Mountains alone should enable the country to capture an important slice of the world market. The quality of the ore, and its metal content, are said to be among the best in the world. With assistance from a number of foreign companies, analytical studies are currently being conducted into Guinea's other ferruginous deposits.

The authorities are now looking seriously at the potential in the precious metal sub-sector. There are 500 tonnes of proven gold reserves and perhaps 1000 tonnes altogether available for exploitation (alluvial deposits in watercourses as well as seams). The mining companies are showing considerable interest. Guinean gold has long been closely linked to the history of the region. It was coveted by Arab and Western merchants during the Middle Ages and was then used to

consolidate the power of the great empires of West Africa, such as the Mali Empire of the 13th Century. The main gold fields in Upper Guinea, in its forest region, and at Kindia, are operated by the *Guinea Gold Company* (SAG), the *Dinguiraye Mining Company* (SMD) and the *Ashanti Goldfield Group*, now the majority shareholder in SAG. Ashanti Goldfields came to Guinea in 1995 and now mines gold at the Siguiri site. The yields it has obtained are extremely encouraging. The amount produced by the mine has substantially exceeded initial forecasts and the government is now eagerly seeking more foreign investment. As for Guinea's diamond reserves, these are thought to be in the region of 25 to 30 million carats. The stones are said to be of good quality, not only in industrial terms but also for fine jewellery.

One problem is that, in certain regions, mining is non-industrial and uncontrolled, and there is considerable clandestine trade which needs to be regulated.

Other mineral resources include nickel, chromium, manganese and strategic metals such as titanium, cobalt, tin, uranium and zirconium. All in all, it represents a rich economic vein which has still to be tapped. Major institutional restructuring has been implemented and new management bodies set up with a view to profitably exploiting these natural assets. If these efforts are successful, then there is no reason why Guinea should not emerge as the main industrial power of the sub-region. ■

K.K.



Bauxite mining at Fria Kimbo



## Cooperation in focus



## Tackling the urban health challenge

It is generally accepted that a town dweller is more likely to get better health care than someone living in a rural district. This is a logical assumption which is usually correct, but in countries where there is extreme poverty, one finds that the situation is not always so clear-cut. Those who cling to the rigid view that health challenges in the developing countries are overwhelmingly a rural phenomenon should reconsider. The European Union has traditionally focused its efforts in the health sector on the countryside, but in Guinea, it has also turned its attention to built-up zones. For more than a year now, it has been implementing a programme which seeks to address health issues in an urban context. In financial terms, the urban health support programme may be modest – it does not compare with the large infrastructure and supply projects, structural adjustment, the education programmes or the assistance provided for decentralisation. Yet it is helping to make a real difference to people's lives.

We are in the very heart of *Dar-es-salam*. Those of you who are good at geography will immediately think of the capital of Tanzania, but you would be wrong. In

Arabic, 'Dar-es-salam' means 'the house of peace' and it is the name given to a quiet neighbourhood in the *Matoto* district of Conakry. It may be tranquil, but like many other parts of the Guinean capital, it suffers from social and economic deprivation. One clear illustration of this is the difficulties faced by the inhabitants in gaining access to the minimum health care needed for their well-being. Over the past decade or so, the government's policy has been to concentrate on extending health services throughout the country, thereby focusing more on problems encountered in rural areas. The cities seem to have lost out as a result. In fact, the urban areas of Guinea suffer serious shortfalls in terms of health provision. In both the cities and the interior, the population is increasing rapidly. In Conakry, access to health care is limited because of the prohibitive costs involved, and the lack of genuinely effective medical centres. The city's two national hospitals have only a limited capacity to admit patients and the services provided do not always live up to expectation. Private health services do exist but it hardly needs saying that these are the preserve of a tiny prosperous minority. Various associations and groups have been set up to make people more aware of, and help them manage, their health problems. Some of their programmes are highly relevant, reflecting actual conditions 'on the ground', but until recently, the organisations involved were largely left to their own devices.

Since April 1997, the EU has been running a major urban-health support programme covering the city of Conakry. The two-year project, implemented in collaboration with the country's Ministry of Health, is being funded with a grant of ECU 1.2 million. The basic aim is to improve health conditions for people living in the capital. More specifically, the EU is seeking to support public and private involvement in both preventive and remedial health care, and to increase health coverage for the urban population by placing special emphasis on primary care. A further objective of

the project is to encourage the emergence and development of alternative initiatives which could provide an effective supplement to state programmes. New players, such as those involved in associations and certain private individuals, need to participate more if the range of health care is to be expanded. In this way, the project's instigators hope to meet the growing demand from Conakry's million-plus inhabitants (the population is set to double over the next decade, according to some forecasts).

To gain an impression of the scale of the problem, *The Courier* visited *Dar-es-salam*. Our guide for the visit was Doctor *Emile Jeannée*, a technical assistant in urban health who works for the programme. What we saw was an enclosed urban area rife with poverty, where the basic social conditions mitigate against any improvement in the health situation. There are problems of access to drinking water, due to a lack of good-quality pumps. The system for removing waste-water, rainwater and domestic waste is also poor and unhygienic and this has an inevitable effect on the health of the population. Health coverage for the district is unsatisfactory and medical facilities – particularly medicines – are in short supply.

Supported by the urban health programme, the district's inhabitants are now organising themselves to address the situation. It is important for them to understand that they are not just part of the problem but, more importantly, part of the solution. Women have grouped together in an association known as '*Guinea is a family*'. The president, Mrs *Diallo*, confirmed to us that the community health needs were enormous, but she also acknowledged that the government could not solve the problem alone. The women have therefore set up a system of contributions based on the mutual-aid principle. They are also involved in income-generating activities, such as the dyeing of fabrics (that can get a good price on the local market). Some of the money earned will be ploughed back into income-generation but already, enough funds have been raised to renovate a building for storing medical equipment and medicines. It is only a temporary structure, but, in a short space of time, it has enabled health workers to check the spread of a number of diseases. Midwifery costs have also been substantially reduced.

A number of local NGOs, such as '*Fraternité médicale Guinée*', give help and information to

Members of a women's association pose in front of the Health Centre in *Dar-es-salam*



Guinea/EU cooperation (1990-2000)

Lomé Convention	7th EDF (MECU)	Priority Sectors	8th EDF (MECU)	Priority Sectors
National Indicative Programme (NIP)	127.6	Rural development Infrastructures Improvement of living conditions in the interior of the country Opening-up of the regions and development of secondary towns and cities Improvement of performance in the agricultural sector.	154.0	Infrastructure and equipment Help for peasant farmers and rural development Health Education Decentralisation.
Regional funds	4.3	PACIPE Fishing Roads		PRABV Kankan/Bamako road
Sysmin	80.2	Feasibility studies and expert reports on bridges and roads. Soguipah programme evaluation		
Support for structural adjustment	26.4		21.4	
EIB resources (Venture capital and loans with interest-rate subsidies).	68.24	Power (Enelgui and Garafiri) Water supply. Soguipah, Friguia, etc.	52.0	Power
Other Lomé funds	155.8	Emergency aid, aid for refugees.		
<b>Total of Lomé funds</b>	<b>309.8</b>		<b>175.4*</b>	
Other EU budget lines	8.6	Support for democratisation Ecological support Women and NGO development		

\* situation as at the 1st quarter of 1998.

the district's inhabitants. Some also provide the services of young, unemployed doctors. These are recent graduates from Conakry's Faculty of Medicine who are looking to get their foot on the first rung of the medical ladder. They usually work free of charge, hoping, in the process, to acquire professional experience. They may lack experience, but these volunteers, nonetheless, provide considerable medical and social assistance, ranging from the vaccination of children and the monitoring of pregnancies to dealing with the problems of the elderly. Other organisations, such as the 'Association for the promotion of friendly societies in Guinea' (APMG), work at educating people about the advantages of an insurance system to which they contribute regularly. The objective is quite simply to help people help themselves – with the aim of enabling them to have access to health care on a secure and economically viable basis.

The NGOs in question have received specific and well-deserved recognition of their work from the government.

A dream shared by all Dar-es-salam's inhabitants was for the district to have its own hospital. The local 'council of wise men' launched an appeal for funds and this brought in enough money to get the project started. Although the urban health support programme stresses the importance of local financial backing, it also attaches a lot of significance to local manpower and donations in kind. One example of the latter is the aggregates that some of the inhabitants were able to provide. This enabled the foundations of the future hospital to be built, the construction being done entirely by men from the district. An added bonus here was that it provided work for many young people in an area of chronic unemployment. For Doctor Jeannée, the use

of local labour is important for another reason: it gives future beneficiaries of the hospital a sense of ownership in it, which should make them more inclined to maintain the asset in future.

Another aspect of the urban health support programme is that it envisages local communities and associations being responsible for the poorest among them. Free emergency care is also offered, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Dar-es-salam is not the only part of Conakry where the programme is having an effect. Other districts of the capital to benefit include *Tombo, Landréah, Cobaya* and *Madina Marché*. ECU 175,000 was provided by the programme's budget for a study designed to identify the problems facing these areas. This was carried out in collaboration with the authorities and the people themselves. The aim is to obtain detailed information on social and sanitary conditions and on the demand for urban health-care services, enabling an approach to be developed that properly targets the specific problems encountered. At the institutional level, the urban health support programme is playing a part in the development of a regulatory and legislative framework – which should enable the country to better manage the problem of urban health. This entails strengthening the capacities of Conakry's regional and local health authorities. A document outlining a strategy for improving health in the towns and cities, and a blueprint for (public or private) health-service development, are currently being drawn up.

Both decision-makers and ordinary people whom we met during our visit were enthusiastic about the results of the EU-supported programme. The capital will obviously continue to face major public-health challenges in the coming years, and there are similar problems to be addressed in the country's other major towns and cities. But the programme has undoubtedly provided some very useful pointers on how to get to grips with the problem of urban health in Africa. In recognition of this, the EU has plans to monitor the project beyond the two years initially specified. Further financial assistance, amounting to about ECU 2 million, is also foreseen. ■

K.K.



The Courier

## Dominican Republic: the big clean-up

The years either side of the millennium could leave a lasting mark in the historical annals of the Dominican Republic. School teachers of the future may even refer to them as the *golden age of reform*, referring specifically to the modernisation of the state and economic reforms – that have been on the drawing board since the start of the present decade and have been expedited by the current government of Leonel Fernández. There is no denying that the reforms were needed. The machinery of state was and, in many ways, still is mired in the old ways of patronage, corruption and paternalism. It is also excessively centralised. Meanwhile, though most macro-economic indicators are set fair, there are a number of socio-economic shortcomings that need to be tackled, not least the unequal distribution of income. Getting to grips with this problem, however, is not proving simple.

The culture of the past, especially if that past was authoritarian, is not something that can easily be left behind. The Dominican Republic provides an illustration of this. Although the brutal dictatorship of *Trujillo* officially ended with his assassination in 1961, there are still a number of unpleasant historical aftertastes

that it is difficult to wash away. The absolute power of the megalomaniac *generalissimo* effectively lasted 30 years, and the subsequent 'transition' period took as long again. For a third of a century, the country has been groping its way towards democracy, from the firm and repressive authority that characterised the early administrations of *Joaquín Balaguer* to the election of *Léonel Fernández* in 1996. Re-elected for the seventh time in 1994, the nonagenarian Balaguer, leader of the Christian Social Reform Party (PRSC), was unable to complete his term in office, the poll having been widely regarded as tainted by malpractice. *Peña Gomez*, the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) candidate, had appeared to be in the lead in the election when a sudden power cut disrupted the data! It was agreed that new polls should be staged two years later, and this time it was Fernández, the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) candidate and spiritual heir of *Juan Bosch*, who topped the poll.

### 'Trujillo-style verticalism'

This country of more than eight million inhabitants, lapped by the Caribbean Sea, is undoubtedly a democracy. It has press freedom (with eight newspapers published every day), universal suffrage, numerous fora for public debate, trade unions and multi-party poli-

tics. The recent general election was conducted in a peaceful atmosphere. Having said this, the country was in need of a radical package of reforms. There were too many imperfections, mainly of an institutional nature, that needed to be tackled. Since the present government came to power, the central theme of its in-depth clean-up programme has been the creation of a lively, participative democracy and an end to the 'Caudillo' factor (the Spanish term for autocratic rulers), once and for all. It was really only in the early part of the present decade that any genuine effort was made in this direction. In 1994, the conflict that followed the disputed election led to the signing of the highly significant *Pact for Democracy*. As well as making it illegal in future for members of political parties to sit on the *Central Electoral Committee*, the main effect of the Pact was that it led to the possibility of a constitutional amendment providing for presidential contests mid-way between the four-yearly general elections. This confirmed the separation of powers as a key element in a wider policy of decentralisation, and it was one of the essential points on the agenda of the 'National Governmental Reform and Modernisation Programme' approved in June 1997.

But to paraphrase a Dominican journalist, 'Trujillo-style verticalism' (where power is heavily con-

centrated at the top) still dominates the machinery of government. The Republic is divided into 29 provinces and one national district (the capital), themselves subdivided into 111 municipalities and 56 districts. But despite this apparent devolution of authority, like many Latin American countries, the national government holds virtually all the reins of power. According to a study undertaken by the *21st-Century Foundation*, in 1995, 98% of the country's public spending was decided by the central government, with the local authorities sharing the remaining 2% between them. Similarly, the provision and administration of public and social services are firmly controlled by the Prime Minister, leaving very little for the town halls to do. The latter may have the theoretical status of local government, but this has little practical meaning. Lacking both authority and resources, they have gradually lost all say in the administration of local development, just as they have lost prestige with the public. The aim, then, must be to reverse the trend and bring government closer to the people.

Another institutional reform, and a corollary of decentralisation, is the elimination of corruption. More than ever this is a topical issue, at every level of the government machine. Ethics committees in every ministry, the monitoring of public administration, transparency and salary increases for civil servants, are all steps in the right direction. Other innovations have raised doubts in some minds, notably the 'Office for the Denunciation of Corruption', which now allows any citizen to report another on suspicion of misuse of government funds or property. A system of this nature presupposes the existence of an appropriate judicial authority, but in many ways, the judiciary is still at the behest of the executive. The reform of the court system is being widely debated and among the general public, there is strong support for the view that judges should be protected from dismissal. A first step was taken last year, when Congress approved

changes to the Supreme Court. The number of Supreme Court judges has been increased from 11 to 16, and the way they are appointed has been changed in favour of greater transparency and freedom from corruption and political favouritism.

It is clear that the 'reinstitutionalisation' of the Dominican Republic can only be a gradual process. It is equally clear that it must be accompanied by balanced economic consolidation, putting the economy on a sounder basis and reducing poverty levels.

### Strong growth and privatisation

According to the 1997 Central Bank Report, the Dominican Republic's economy is performing exceptionally well. For some time, growth has been around 6%-7%, peaking at no less than 8.2% last year. Most of the country's wealth

comes from activity in the duty-free zones and tourism, and from Dominican businesses abroad. Inflation, close to 50% at the start of the decade, has now stabilised at 8%. Foreign indebtedness is declining by 8% a year. It stood at 60% of GDP as recently as 1991 and had fallen to 26% by 1997. Unemployment is also going down, reaching 15% in early 1998 (although this takes no account of the very large illegal Haitian workforce), while foreign investment is growing, certainly as far as the duty-free areas are concerned. The country is also demonstrating a genuine desire to diversify relations with the rest of the world. Although President Fernández' trip to Japan and Taiwan, originally planned for late July, had to be cancelled, negotiations with Caricom and the Central American states on the establishment of free trade agreements are progressing well. In addition, sectors such as tourism (see box), communications and building are thriving. The duty-free zones, scattered across the country, include 30 new businesses set up since the beginning of 1997. Textiles are still the main activity in these areas (60% of business), but the greatest growth has been recorded by the tobacco sector, which now accounts for more than 20% of turnover. Agriculture has been somewhat less successful, with growth of just 3%. Eleven months of drought, followed by severe weather, has had a serious adverse effect on crops such as rice, tobacco and coffee.

Valdez Albizu, the Central Bank Governor, argues that the country's economic prospects remain bright, following year-on-year growth of almost 7% during the first half of 1998. But this dynamism should not be allowed to distract one from the fact that there are some underlying problems. There was unrest last autumn as people demonstrated against the shortage of credit in the economy and an increase in staple food prices (due to adverse weather conditions and, according to some, 'the absence of a consistent agricultural policy'). Another surprising and serious shortcoming is in the energy sector. Regular power cuts,

### The paradise of the Todo incluido (all inclusive)

*The Dominican Republic is a strange country. As the leading tourist destination in the Caribbean it welcomed more than 2.5 million visitors in 1997 (55% of them European – mainly German, British and French). But the streets are not exactly teeming with tourists! The reason is simple: the country's great speciality is the 'all-inclusive' holiday, though Félix Jiménez, Secretary of State for Tourism, says that the objective now is to diversify. Once you enter a resort and put on your plastic bracelet, everything is free – from a piña colada after your swim to personalised windsurfing courses and the international buffets available all day-long. Even your evening's entertainment is laid on, often in the shape of local dancers persuading even the most reluctant to take the floor. All this comes at a highly competitive price, so there is no point in leaving the hotel premises. And there is no doubt that the tourists seem to prefer their hotels to the reality of Dominican life. There are, of course, two sides to every coin. The extremely low cost of accommodation is sometimes reflected in unpleasantness on the hygiene front (water, food, waste disposal, etc.) This can attract adverse publicity, as happened a few months ago, but it must be stressed that such problems are not widespread and the hotels seem to be making every effort to improve the quality of their services. It is also worth making the point that there is a lot more to the Dominican Republic than the beaches of the two or three areas where the holiday resorts are concentrated. This country has a great many other attractions and sites of interest which are worth a visit.*



The Courier

Cane cutters. The publicly-owned sugar companies suffer from a chronic lack of productivity

technical problems and other inadequacies have already forced many industrial companies into bankruptcy. There is also said to be widespread fraud, reflected in excessive bills for government institutions. The state-owned Dominican Electricity Corporation (CDE) is reported to have suffered from catastrophic management. The newspaper headlines tell their own story: 'CDE wastes 55% of its energy output', 'CDE's monthly losses top 152 million pesos'... Unsurprisingly, then, one of the major reforms proposed by the government involves privatisation, or at least the sale of holdings in state-run enterprises. The CDE is not the only parastatal to come under fire. The publicly-owned sugar refineries are also said to be suffering from 'a chronic lack of productivity and failure to renew equipment, meaning that structures are frequently obsolete'.

Fraud, alas, extends well beyond the electricity bills. It also affects all forms of taxation on a gigantic scale. Between 1991 and 1995, according to a study undertaken by the Central Bank, tax evasion rose from 54.8% to 56% –

equivalent to more than 15 billion pesos! The currency itself is thought to be vulnerable to further devaluation, many industrial commentators believing that the official exchange rate is still too high. In fact, the peso has come under heavy pressure during 1998, and in July, the monetary authorities announced an initial devaluation of 8%, bringing the official rate closer to the market one. This measure, incidentally, followed the introduction of a more flexible exchange system.

Other reforms are being implemented – a budget austerity policy, enhancement of the role of the private sector and the reduction of export tariffs. But for the Dominican people, and in particular, the 60% who live below the poverty threshold, there are much more serious concerns. These are related to the often chronic lack of basic services in key social sectors such as education and health. President Fernández has said he is determined to rectify this situation, and indeed, the 1998 budget priorities reflect such a commitment. Reducing poverty is undoubtedly the biggest challenge for the Dominican Republic. According to Eduardo Garcia Michel, President of the 21st Century Foundation, 'the economic reforms may help, but their short-term aim is to open up the country economically. They are essentially commercial. We cannot be sure that they will enable more jobs to be created, or that they will lead to poverty reduction. So we have to look elsewhere. The emphasis must be on education and health. Public spending has to be diverted towards those sectors, and to social security too. We believe there is currently a political will to achieve this among those in power.'

The political will may well be there, but no-one knows yet how the calculations will turn out in practice. It is too early to say with certainty whether the current reforms are progressing well or badly, and a variety of factors must be taken into account.

### Younger leaders for future initiatives

First, it must be emphasised that the economic, social and institutional reforms are not a panacea, especially since they are not sufficiently strongly established to guarantee against backsliding. A national agenda does exist and has been recognised by everyone,

but it has still to be translated into legislative and administrative measures and specific development projects. As Eduardo Garcia Michel has himself said, 'We have shown in recent years that we are good at diagnosing the illness and finding the cure, but not so good at administering the medicine.' It appears that he is not alone in his opinion, especially in economic circles. The Chairman of the National Private Enterprise Council, Celso Marranzini, recently stated in this context, that there was still a lack of overall policy and clearly defined objectives. Similar statements have been made by the Governor of the Central Bank. Moreover, the reforms already instituted will not necessarily produce the desired results. For example, private investors have still to respond to the sale of shares in the CDE, despite the enactment of an *ad hoc* measure to allow the process to get underway.

There are those who believe that the proposed reforms do not go far enough, and some who question whether they go anywhere at all. This is a particularly common view among members of the PRD, the opposition party with which the government is now compelled to negotiate. In last May's elections, notable for their record low turnout (49%), the PRD swept the board in both Houses of Congress and at municipal level, thus demonstrating that it currently has the strongest popular support. For the PLD presidency, the election changed little, since it was already in a minority in Congress, but the polls strengthened the hand of the PRD, which is now in a far better position to impose its views and adopt a more aggressive stance – as indeed it does, at every opportunity. The changed political balance could soon have an impact on policy. The government is arguing that, in the current circumstances, taxes ought to go up, while stressing that this should be done on a consistent basis in the interests of justice and equity. The opposition, however, strongly opposes any new taxes. Another likely source of future discord is the drafting of the 1999 budget, which will require the assent of Congress.

The rapid approach of the 2000 presidential elections is adding to the bitterness of opposition criticism. This, indeed is the main stumbling block to the efficient continuation of the reforms, and harmonious cooperation between



Facing the future?

the government and the opposition-dominated legislature. Economic and political considerations may not point in the same direction. The PRD victory in May was not necessarily a foretaste of what will happen in 2000. Under the present rules, each of the three main parties will have to nominate relatively new candidates and thus, no one party has an advantage in this respect. Nor are there any fundamental policy differences between them. One does not need a great deal of insight, therefore, to recognise that the outcome of the Presidential election is likely to be heavily influenced by how the government performs over the next two years. In blunt terms, successful and popular reforms may not be unambiguously welcomed by the PRD.

A second aspect which complicates the issue is the risk of internal party splits. This is particularly worrying for the PRD, which has five or six possible candidates for the presidency. Barely a week after the party's victory in May, the national press was already announcing that 'the battle is on for the presidential candidacy'. *Suberví Bonilla* and *Hipólito Mejía* declared in May that they would be throwing their hats into the ring. At the same time, *Hatuey Descamps* indicated that he would not rule out the possibility while *Ortiz Bosch* was calling on everyone to wait until the party had drawn up the selection rules. The PRD, it must be acknowledged, having experienced many years of internal division, seems aware of the need to present a united front for the year 2000. Not surprising, therefore, that it has accused the PLD of seeking to exacerbate any internal differences of opinion it may have.

Frustratingly for the governing PLD, opinion polls confirm that their best prospect of victory would be to have President Fernández himself as their candidate. The trouble is that, since the constitu-

tional revision of 1994 (at the time of the Pact for Democracy), re-election has been prohibited. There has been a lot of discussion, particularly within the governing party, about the possibility of reversing this provision to allow incumbents to stand again (this was a major theme of the President's address to the nation in late July). Predictably, the PRD is against while the PLD is in favour. The view of the third major party, Balaguer's PRSC, is that while the rule should be changed to allow re-election of incumbents, the amendment should not be retroactive. In other words, it would not apply to President Fernández. Not surprisingly, some opposition members accuse the President of being more interested in his own succession than with the everyday problems of the Dominican people.

The political tension is heightened further by the inevitable speculation about possible future alliances. This is certainly true in respect of Mr Balaguer who, informed sources told us, is still 'impossible to ignore'. President Fernández met the former president on 14 July, though no information has leaked out about the topic of their conversation. Many political commentators assume that the meeting was about what would happen on 16 August, when the new Congress was sworn in. A week later, on 22 July, it was the turn of the PRD leadership to meet with Balaguer. The content of this meeting has proved equally elusive – so anything might happen!

Notwithstanding these uncertainties, it seems highly likely that the modernisation of the state and the economic reform programme will benefit from the arrival of a new generation on the Dominican political chessboard. The days of political leaders 'with emphatic authority' have ended, and a

new style has come into being – a style which is modelled on President Fernández. He is a relatively young leader (45) with a modern vision of what public institutions should be. He is aware that the present global situation requires his country to be more open towards the rest of the world and that priorities for taking development forward must be defined. But there is still Balaguer's PRSC. Members of the party's Central Executive Committee, and its senators, members of the lower house and provincial leaders, reaffirmed their full support for him, with a view to restructuring the party after their election *débat* in May. Some predict that he will stand again (despite being in his nineties) in the 2000 presidential election.

There appears to be a generally-held feeling among people in all walks of life that the country needs to embrace reform and move forward. With a view to achieving some kind of consensus and avoiding future conflict, there are those who hint at the possibility of a pact between the three main parties. This would be a historical development. In the 25 years of the PLD's existence, it has never reached any kind of understanding with either the PRSC or the PRD. One way of achieving an accommodation might be through the good offices of the Church, which has always played a vital role as mediator in the Dominican Republic. In recent years, the mantle has usually fallen on *Monseñor Agripino Nuñez*, who, when we met him, had just issued a clarion call for all political, social and economic forces to work together. At the same time, he forcefully made the point that politicians must look beyond their own personal interests or those of their parties. It is a view which is doubtless held by many Dominicans, who have other priorities. ■ T.G.

## Poverty fuelled by ignorance

He is nine or ten years old at the most, but that does not stop him from handling his baseball bat (the game is known as *beisbol* here) like a pro. It is a talent not to be sniffed at in the Dominican Republic ever since *Pedro Martinez*, a native of these parts, became one of the highest paid players in the prestigious American League.

A small group of young girls, with coloured ribbons in their hair, play a little further on. Some are pretending to be hairdressers, while others arrange pebbles in patterns on the ground. Above them, electric cables and clothes lines link the houses together, a mishmash of clapboard and concrete, all covered with the ubiquitous corrugated iron. The roads under their feet are still just stone-strewn dirt tracks. But they won't be like that for long because work to tarmac the roads and lay pipes

is due to start very soon. We are at Los Guandules, one of the many *barrios marginales* (slum districts) in the capital. In 1975, there were 300,000 people living in Santo Domingo, explains *Ana Selman*, Director of *Ciudad Alternativa*, an NGO working to promote new forms of social relations in urban areas and to encourage popular participation. '25 years on, the population is nearing 2.3 million, and 70% of these people live in crowded "working-class" districts - which only cover a third of the urban area. But irrespective of where you live, the disparity between the demand for and supply of basic services is huge.'

In the Dominican Republic, as in too many other countries, growth and poverty exist side by side. What is more, the contemporary trend is for higher growth to go hand in hand with increased poverty, resulting in a dual society of deepening social inequalities. Although official figures are extremely unreliable, it is generally estimated that the number of poor has risen from 47% of the population in 1985 to 57% today, with a fifth of these people living in conditions of extreme poverty. Rural areas are most affected, especially where there are very

large families and the head of the household has had no education. There are also between 300,000 and 800,000 Haitians (estimates vary considerably depending on the source) living in the Dominican Republic and this group is particularly badly-hit by poverty and social exclusion. Most of them have no legal status and are not therefore entitled to any health care or education.

Irrespective of region or nationality, however, it appears that the main problem is the wholly inadequate provision of



The Courier

basic services. The lack of drinking water, for example, is particularly acute. 'The country has almost enough drinking water to supply the entire population,' says *Mariano German*, Director of the National Institute of Water Resources. 'But it still doesn't have the infrastructures that it needs. In many regions, there is either no infrastructure at all, or what there is doesn't work.' In 1995, it was calculated that 88% of the urban population had access to clean water as against only 55% in rural areas. Similarly, far too many Dominicans do not have proper housing, sanitation, electricity or road drainage systems.

Finding a job is a big preoccupation. The same old vicious circle repeats itself time and again. People cannot get work because they have no experience or training. In the most extreme cases, they do not even have basic education. According to 1996 figures, nearly half of all children do not finish primary school education and only 41% go on to secondary level. Admittedly, there are signs that the statistics are improving significantly, but illiteracy levels still range between 10% and 45% in the poorer districts of Santo Domingo. And while the official unemployment rate fell to 14.3% in July 1998, casual work still accounts for almost half the jobs in the country, with this figure rising to 80% in some districts. The kinds of job that are involved here include *motochronos* (motorbike taxis), sugar cane and maize sellers, day labourers, shoe-shiners and other '*micro-empresas*'. Prostitution is also becoming increasingly prevalent in the tourist areas.

Educational institutions, including universities, have tended to lack both facilities and the necessary human resources (teachers and support staff). As a result, the overall quality of courses has been poor.

This was confirmed to us by *Monseigneur Agripino Nuñez*, who is the Director of Education at the PUCMM (*Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre y Maestra*). However, the measures taken following the national teachers' strike in 1992, together with steps taken by the current government, have led to visible improvements. Teachers' salaries have gone up and better teacher training is on offer. It is a step in the right direction. ■ T.G.

Max Puig, Lomé Secretary of State and National Authorising Officer

## 'If we are to nurture democracy, we need to have more democracy!'

*The only minister in an ACP country to have as his primary responsibility, the Convention linking the EU with his country, Max Puig is a member of what might be called President Fernández' 'inner circle'. Like the President, who was elected in May 1996, and most other government ministers, this sociologist is a member of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD). We began by asking him to describe the process of state modernisation, instigated by the government, which features prominently in the 8th EDF National Indicative Programme.*

– The Dominican Republic needs to create a state structure which is both democratic and modern if it is to face up to the challenge of development and take advantage of the opportunities offered to us in today's world. A more modern and democratic state is the only way to fulfil our people's needs. Up to now, the political system has always been authoritarian and paternalistic, with centralising tendencies. The people received few favours from the government and played no part in decision-making. Decisions taken in the past benefited only a tiny section of the population. So we needed a state which would reflect the opinions and interests of the majority and, at the same time, be more effective and efficient. There were those who tried to set up a more modern state by authoritarian means. Others wanted to create a democratic structure without modernising at the same time. We in the Dominican Liberation Party have no doubt that the two concepts are inextricably linked.

Fifty years ago, the Dominican Republic was a rural society which had only limited contact with the outside world. Its people were poorly-educated and ill-informed. Nowadays, all that has changed. 60% of Dominicans live in towns and cities, our contact with the outside world is increasing, we receive two and a half million visitors each year and there are nearly a million Dominicans living abroad. Major changes have been made to the country's economic and social system, but the political structures have not been overhauled at the same rate. What we need now is a major effort to strengthen these structures – a new system of democratic institutions allowing more people from all sections of society the opportunity genuinely to take part in national life.

■ *The new legislature, with its opposition PRD majority, met for the first time in August and the political landscape is now quite different from what it was before. Can you comment on this in the context of the government's reform programme?*

– The world is changing amazingly quickly and all countries need to equip themselves to survive in these new circumstances. A number of economic reforms were implemented for this very purpose during the 1990s, but the Dominican Republic is not yet ready to accept all the challenges offered at world level. It needs to be able to export quality products and become competitive on international markets. Before that can happen, certain essential reforms must be completed, such as administrative restructuring and an overhaul of the tax system, not to mention the matter of citizens' rights and guarantees. We have



The Courier

not yet succeeded in building a state with institutions that are sufficiently reliable to guarantee that there will not be a return to past practices.

The entire nation must strive, on a daily basis, to achieve this ability to live as a democratic society. The government has a firm commitment to this new road. Indeed, we made enormous progress in 1996 and 1998, when we held presidential and legislative elections which everyone acknowledged as being free and fair. The fact that last May's result was not exactly favourable to the government is less important than the fact that the elections themselves were another step on the road to a democratic structure. It is now quite clear that all those involved have to act responsibly. I am not just talking here about the government, but also about the opposition and civil society. Like the rest of my colleagues in government, I hope that all of society's main players are aware of the opportunity that is being offered to them and that they will not let it slip. They need to act upon it. The democratisation of the Dominican Republic involves all of its citizens and both the government and the opposition must accordingly work together to draw up a long-term national agenda through mutual dialogue. This, incidentally, is what President Fernández intended when he set up the 'national dialogue' which entailed the participation of hundreds of



thousands of people. This process went on for several months. He wanted to arrive at certain conclusions. The government has already taken account of the results of this dialogue in its decisions, and it sees them as extremely important when it comes to drawing up a national agenda, particularly where legislation is involved. The new Congress will have to take this into account.

■ *You mention the recent legislative elections which, for the first time in the country's history, were held separately from the presidential poll. The outcome was a victory for the PRD and a defeat for your own party, but there was also a very poor voter turnout. Does this mean that the average Dominican has not understood the importance of separate elections, or that he does not support the new system? Alternatively, is there a lack of interest in politics more generally?*

– Although the elections were a great success in that everything went very smoothly, the fact that half the electorate chose not to vote has set alarm bells ringing. Voter participation has been healthy in the past, even when the situation was extremely complicated. Until the most recent poll, the turnout always topped 70%, but this time, it didn't even break through the 50% mark. In addition, preliminary analysis suggests that the abstention rate was particularly high among women and young people. Turnout was also noticeably lower in the towns and cities than in the provinces that are predominantly rural. This is particularly worrying from a sociological standpoint because, as we all know, the amount of information available to, and the educational level of, the voters, tends to be higher in urban areas. So there is certainly cause for concern. As to the reasons for this phenomenon, I believe that some people have understated the problem. One reason they put forward is that it was raining heavily in Santo Domingo on polling day. Alternatively, they suggest that the electoral system may have been too complicated. I think that such statements are more excuses than explanations. Then there are

those who argue that this kind of thing happens all over the world – in other words, that mid-term elections are always less well supported. I cannot help wondering if people might be losing interest in politics and in those who embody it. There may even be a growing distrust of those who are engaged in politics. If this is true, then the message of the high abstention rate is that all parties lost the election.

■ *What remedy would you propose to tackle this problem?*

– The only way to nurture democracy is to have more democracy! If people distrust the democratic instruments that are available to them, it is because these are insufficient or inadequate, or both. There are also those who think that elections should not be separated into presidential and legislative ballots, but I feel they should be separated further. For example, in May, there were municipal and legislative contests, but both involved closed lists. We voted for mayors in every town, but all the councillors were on lists for which we had to vote *en bloc*. The same was true for the legislative election. All the provincial candidates for the Senate and the House of Representatives were on regional lists and it was not possible to change the order. I think that the system itself has to be refined and perfected, and that the electorate needs to be given greater freedom of choice.

■ *So citizens are demanding greater democracy. But they also want an improvement in their living conditions and a fairer distribution of income. What are the government's priorities for responding to these demands, particularly in budgetary terms?*

– First of all, without growth there can be no reduction in poverty, and I am well aware that the growth rate is too low. Second, the government wants to use the budget as an instrument for development, a tool to promote social solidarity and a mechanism for redistributing income. I should perhaps point out in this connection that, since 1996, the government has, for

the first time, kept within budget and respected the constitutional provisions regarding the submission of the budget to parliament. To achieve this, priority is given to less-privileged citizens. Social spending – health and education – are now our major concerns.

Mind you, for many years, spending on capital goods and construction was very high, and this has given the country an infrastructure of a quality that is superior to that of other states in similar economic and demographic circumstances. But this was done at the expense of other budget items, which were neglected. These included civil servants' pay and the result has been that corruption is now a cancer which goes right to the nation's core. Before allocating a budget to the social sectors, we had to eliminate the roots of corruption, or at least embark on this effort. We had to take action on civil service wages which were far too low. This is why one of the first measures implemented by the current government was to increase salaries in the public sector. At the same time, we developed a whole series of measures to combat corruption – for example the setting up of ethics committees in each ministry and at every level. The government was not able to act as it intended initially because it first had to tackle the problem of corruption. We recognise, however, that social spending is the basic instrument for reducing imbalances in society.

■ *For there to be spending, there has to be income. How does the government intend to widen the tax base? The PRD has made it very clear that it opposes any new taxes.*

– The Dominican Republic is a country where very little tax is paid (the taxable base is just 14%). It is a vicious circle which is all too familiar. People do not pay their taxes because the state does nothing in return. And the reason for this is that the money trickles away through corruption. It is a circle that needs to be broken.

This problem aside, tax income has greatly increased over the last two years. This is because



The Courier

It rained heavily in Santo Domingo on the day of the legislative elections

management has been more honest than in the past, since the anti-corruption campaign was implemented. Unfortunately, the resources available to the state to combat the poverty which undeniably persists are still insufficient.

■ *A further obstacle to development, which the government will inevitably have to deal with, is the serious energy crisis that you are facing. What do you have to say about that?*

– The government confirmed that it was in favour of private sector participation in public undertakings. This participation is the Dominican form of privatisation, but it all takes time. President Fernández himself addressed Congress – although he was not obliged to – to speak in favour of a privatisation bill, which was later passed. The electricity supply system has had operating problems for the last 30 years and the situation has been getting worse. But in the run-up to privatisation, the government has been investing directly in this sector. It was unwilling to do so at first, because it did not want to jeopardise the privatisation process, but as it was taking too long, the administration did what was necessary to increase the state electricity company's capacity. The situation is much more favourable today than it was than two years ago.

Another point I think worth mentioning is that we cannot hope to be competitive – to have aspirations to produce or export – without electricity, or indeed, when our electricity costs are too high.

■ *The government has also become heavily involved in a major programme of regional integration. I believe that free trade agreements with Caricom and the countries of Central America are in the process of negotiation.*

– I should like to emphasise, above all else, that for our country, the Lomé Convention represented an opening up to the wider world. When the Dominican Republic entered the system of ACP-EU cooperation, we benefited enormously. It wasn't just the doors of Europe that were thrown open to us but also those of all the ACP states. The latter included some of our closest neighbours – the Caricom nations and Haiti. To some extent, it is thanks to this arrangement that the Dominican Republic is now in a position to discuss the establishment of free trade accords with the countries in question, along the lines of what we are discussing with the Central American states. In more general

terms, the aim is to propose a strategic alliance between the Caribbean and Central America, in order that we can position ourselves more effectively to meet the challenges of the modern world.

Having said this, we are faced with a dilemma. We have a historical and cultural relationship with Latin America, which includes Central America. We also have very cordial links with our neighbours in the Caribbean notably since we signed up to Lomé. But we cannot 'get into bed' with everybody. Ideally, what we would like is to have good ties with both of these groups. That is why we have opted for a less-than-complete form of integration.

In the longer term, we should like to see the development of a 'Greater Caribbean' with ourselves as the 'hinge' connecting the two groups – perhaps, indeed, between the North and South of the continent. It isn't just a question of economic interests. There is also a political motive involved here, which is to overcome as far as possible the disadvantages of insularity. ■

Interview by T.G.

## Profile

### General information

Area: 48,430 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 8.2 million (1997)

Population density: 170 per km<sup>2</sup>

Capital: Santo Domingo (pop. approx. 2.3 million)

Langue: Spanish

Religion: 95% Catholic

### Political structure

*Presidential democracy.* In 1998, for the first time, multi-party legislative elections were held separately from the Presidential contest. Elections for the Presidency and Congress are held every four years with (from now on) an interval of two years between the two polls.

*President:* Leonel Fernández

Reyna

*Current composition of Congress (bicameral):*

**Senate** (30 seats)

PRD (Partido Revolucionario Dominicano) – 24

PLD (Partido de Liberación Dominicana) – 4

PRSC (Partido Reformista Social Cristiano) – 2

**Chamber of deputies** (149 seats)

PRD – 85

PLD – 40

PRSC – 22

Others – 2

The most recent legislative elections were held on 16 May 1998.

### Economy

*Currency:* Dominican peso. ECU 1 = approx. 16.5 pesos (July 1998)

*External debt:* \$3.5 billion (1997)

*Annual GDP per capita* \$1,400 (1995)

*GDP growth* 8.2% (1997)

*Inflation rate:* 8.3% (1997)

*Main economic sectors:* Communications, construction, tourism, trade.

*Main trade partners (1995):* USA, EU and Canada for exports, USA, EU and Venezuela for imports.

*Trade balance:* Exports: \$4.8bn. Imports: \$6.6bn. Deficit \$1.8bn (1997)

### Social indicators

*Life expectancy at birth:* 70 years (1994)

### Hurricane Georges

A few weeks after our visit, *Hurricane Georges* struck the Caribbean region. The Dominican Republic was particularly badly hit by the ferocious winds and high seas. Tragically, the death toll was more than 300, and many thousands of people were left homeless. The material damage was extensive.

*Adult literacy:* 81.5% – roughly the same for men and women (1994)

*Unemployment rate:* 15.9% (1997)

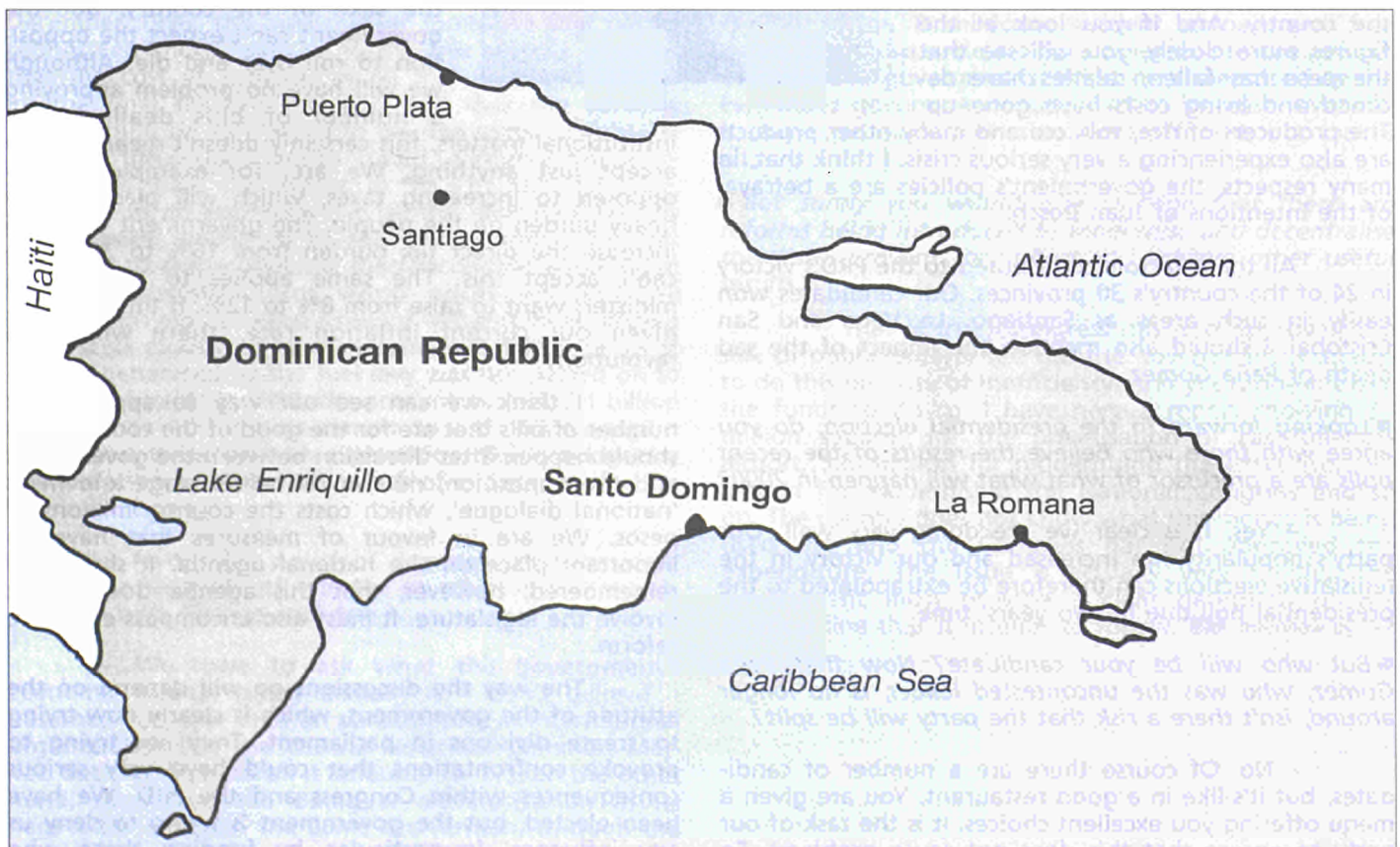
Population with access to clean water: 65% (1990-1996)

*Population growth rate:* 1.7% (estimate for 1994-2000)

*Infant mortality:* 38‰ (1994)

*Human development index rating:* 0.718 (87th out of 175)

*Sources:* Economic Intelligence Unit, UNDP Human Development Report (1997), Central Bank of the Dominican Republic.



## Interview with opposition leader, Hatuey De Camps, Secretary General of the PRD

### 'The opposition will not roll over and die'

*The Partido Revolucionario Dominicano, of social democrat persuasion, was founded in 1939 by Juan Bosch, then in exile in Havana following Trujillo's takeover of the government. It split into two parties in 1973, when Bosch left to found the PLD, the party of the current president, Fernandez. PRD candidates won the presidential elections in 1978 (Antonio Guzmán) and in 1982 (Salvador Blanco), after which President Balaguer held the reins of power for ten years. José Francisco Peña Gómez, the previous charismatic leader of the PRD, only just failed to win the presidential contests held in 1994 and 1996 (with fraud strongly suspected in the first of these). Although his death a week before this May's legislative polls undoubtedly contributed to his party's decisive victory, internal feuding seems likely when the question of the succession arises, as it already has to some extent. In our interview with the Secretary General of the PRD, we asked him first to explain his party's victory in the recent elections.*

– It was due to various factors. First, to the strength that our party has acquired at national level and second, because of the government's mis-conceived economic policies.

The latter involve increasing the cost of living, keeping the minimum salaries of Dominicans too low, and making massive use of state resources to undermine our party – attempting to buy off the leaders of the PRD and the PRSC. The macroeconomic indicators show that the GDP has grown by more than 7%. This is all well and good but, at the same time, poverty has increased across the country. And if you look at the figures more closely, you will see that the peso has fallen, salaries have declined and living costs have gone up. The producers of rice, tobacco and many other products are also experiencing a very serious crisis. I think that, in many respects, the government's policies are a betrayal of the intentions of Juan Bosch.

All these factors contributed to the PRD's victory in 24 of the country's 30 provinces. Our candidates won easily in such areas as Santiago, La Vega and San Cristobal. I should also mention the impact of the sad death of Peña Gomez.

■ *Looking forward to the presidential election, do you agree with those who believe the results of the recent polls are a precursor of what will happen in 2000?*

– Yes. It is clear we are doing very well. Our party's popularity has increased and our victory in the legislative elections can therefore be extrapolated to the presidential poll due in two years' time.

■ *But who will be your candidate? Now that Peña Gomez, who was the uncontested leader, is no longer around, isn't there a risk that the party will be split?*

– No. Of course there are a number of candidates, but it's like in a good restaurant. You are given a menu offering you excellent choices. It is the task of our party to ensure that this does not cause problems. So



The Courier

there is a choice of candidates – and I am one of them. The party is now very much a force to be reckoned with. We must focus all our attention on that and not on possible disputes.

■ *The new legislature, where your party has a majority, will begin work on 16 August. Is the PRD ready to support the reforms introduced by the government since 1996?*

– There is no doubt that cohabitation between Congress and the government must continue for the sake of the country. But the government can't expect the opposition to roll over and die. Although we will have no problem approving a number of bills dealing with institutional matters, this certainly doesn't mean we will accept just anything. We are, for example, totally opposed to increasing taxes, which will place a very heavy burden on the people. The government wants to increase the direct tax burden from 16% to 30%. We can't accept this. The same applies to VAT, which ministers want to raise from 8% to 12%. If this happens, given our current inflation rate, there will be a revolution!

I think we can see our way to approving a number of bills that are for the good of the country. This should happen after discussion between the government and the opposition, not on the wider stage known as 'national dialogue', which costs the country millions of pesos. We are in favour of measures that have an important place on the national agenda. It should be remembered, however, that this agenda doesn't just involve the legislature. It must also encompass executive reform.

The way the discussions go will depend on the attitude of the government, which is clearly now trying to create divisions in parliament. They are trying to provoke confrontations that could have very serious consequences within Congress and the PRD. We have been elected, but the government is trying to deny us any influence, in particular, by funding those who

oppose us. This creates an attitude of confrontation that we do not wish to see.

■ *You mentioned poverty, which is still very much in evidence among the Dominican people. What are the PRD's policies for reducing, if not eliminating, poverty?*

– I think we need to turn your question round. It is a question that should be answered by the executive rather than the legislative power. In fact, it is us who should be asking the question: 'What reforms does the Fernández government propose to reduce poverty?' One of their 'answers' is to increase taxes!

What is the government's economic development policy? What are its priorities? Is it public works such as the renovation of the National Palace, or spending millions of pesos on national dialogue? I don't think these are proper priorities for a government that is supposed to be concerned with the people's welfare! Aren't there more pressing problems? The public hospitals, for example, are desperately short of essential medicines. And what measures have been taken to protect industry, which is shrinking alarmingly? The state has decided to embrace economic globalisation and wants to impose this policy immediately, without taking the necessary time to adapt. What will be the result? It will cause bankruptcy in industry. Peña Gomez told Fernández before he died that a policy of this type can only be implemented step-by-step. The PRD has adopted this approach which is aimed at maintaining peace and stability in the country. We intend to prepare for the future with a carefully thought-out industrial restructuring policy covering the period up to 2005. Reducing customs duties to make the country competitive is a sensible strategy in the longer term, but we need to find other sources of tax revenue, which takes time.

Efficient fiscal management, which we haven't had up to now, is also essential. You will recall that in December 1996, the government increased fuel prices. Leonel Fernández tried to justify this on the grounds that the cost of a barrel of oil had increased on the international markets. He also said that the revenue raised would be earmarked to pay the external debt. At the time, the government promised to lower retail prices as soon as there was a drop in the international price, and gave us an assurance that all the revenue raised by this measure would go to the central bank. This was supposed to ensure that the macroeconomic equilibrium was not disrupted. But world prices fell and the government did not keep its word. What is more, during the first six months of its term, some 600 million pesos of income generated by the fuel levy was not passed on to the central bank. In 1997, the amount exceeded 1 billion pesos. What did the government do with this money? It really owes the people an explanation. This is budgetary manipulation which reveals a lack of any respect for the legislative branch.

■ *Do you favour the policy of openness that President Fernandez has pursued with the countries in this region, and also with Europe and Asia?*

– We have to ask what the government's economic foreign policy actually is. I don't believe it has one. True, it is keen on participating in international organisations like the Central American Common Market. But that is about all it amounts to. We, on the other hand, supported the Balaguer administration in its negotiations to join the Lomé Convention, through the good offices of Felipe Gonzalez' PSOE (*in Spain*).

I think it is absurd to be isolationist. But the government has made no real effort to pursue a policy of openness. In the case of Asia, for example, it received an invitation that was subsequently withdrawn. As far as Europe is concerned, I have heard that the President intends to go to Italy. There is no doubt that he wants the country to participate in international organisations, and he has our complete support in this. But let us not forget that we were the first to establish links with the socialist states (Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland, etc.). We went on to initiate the process of releasing all political prisoners in this country and encouraging dissidents to return. It is true that we did not immediately establish links with Cuba, because circumstances did not permit this. And in 1962, we were thrown out of the government and accused of being communists.

■ *Isn't it the case that the country is experiencing significant change, but that any change takes time and that is why the government cannot achieve a drastic overnight transformation of the economic, political and social situation?*

– Of course that is true. But in a time of change, you need to have the right policies – not the increases in basic costs we have seen because inappropriate economic measures are being implemented. What economic model do they propose for the country? Neoliberalism? In some respects, yes, but in other areas, they still cling to the old paternalistic recipes. An example of this is providing food aid during political campaigns.

And what is the government doing for chicken producers? Almost 80,000 families rely on this for their livelihood. Its policies are completely incomprehensible. It does not keep clear accounts. Take the internal deficit of the central bank, which stems from its remuneration of civil servants. You can't pursue a policy of economic redistribution in a country that is financially bankrupt! We have a great deal of income from tourism, the mining sector, Dominicans resident abroad and free zones. But these successes have been due to the policies of successive governments. What new measure has the Fernández government introduced to increase revenue? It may have made collection more efficient, but that is all.

■ *But surely you would acknowledge that there are reforms being introduced to modernise and decentralise the state, prevent corruption and achieve other useful results?*

– That is true. Congress has also approved the sale of public enterprises, but the government is unable to do this because of inefficiency. And yet it doesn't lack the funds to do so. I have here a report showing \$4 million support for the privatisation of Las Americas airport, \$20 million for modernising the executive, \$20 million for modernising the National Congress and so on. The country does not know what this money is being used for, and the Congress has not approved the expenditure. The issue is actually very simple. The government must provide a clear definition of the political line that it intends to follow. ■ Interview by T.G.

## Digging for a deeper blue

Whether on the fringes of the Parque Colón, on the El Conde or in the Modelo market, the souvenir shops of Santo Domingo offer a very similar range of products. The same is true of cities on the tourist trail such as Puerto Plata and La Romana. On the shelves, you will, of course, find cigars – which some say are better than the famous Havanas – as well as coffee, rum, compact discs of merengue and bachata music, a wide range of handicrafts (mostly from Haiti) and amber. You will also come across *larimar* – a semiprecious turquoise blue stone found only in the Dominican Republic. Its name is a hybrid of *Larissa*, a girl's name and *mar*, which means sea in Spanish.

Those without a mule or robust motorbike will greatly appreciate an off-road vehicle as they climb the narrow rocky path to the Los Checheses *larimar* mine. You reach it by leaving the Barahona to Pedernales road, on the Haitian border, on the coast a few

kilometres after Bahoruco. The trip takes perhaps an hour, giving you time to discuss the rugged geography or the extremely harsh living conditions of the Haitians in the *bateyes*<sup>1</sup> that you pass on the way. You might also ponder how the *larimar* stones, discovered buried in the sand by a man called Miguel Fuentes, actually got there. No four-wheel drive was involved in their journey. In fact, they were swept down the Filipinas valley by river or stream only to be thrown back by the sea. As a result, people naturally assumed they had come from the sea – which explains part of the name they were given by the first craftsman to work with them. (*Larissa*, his daughter, was the inspiration for the other part).

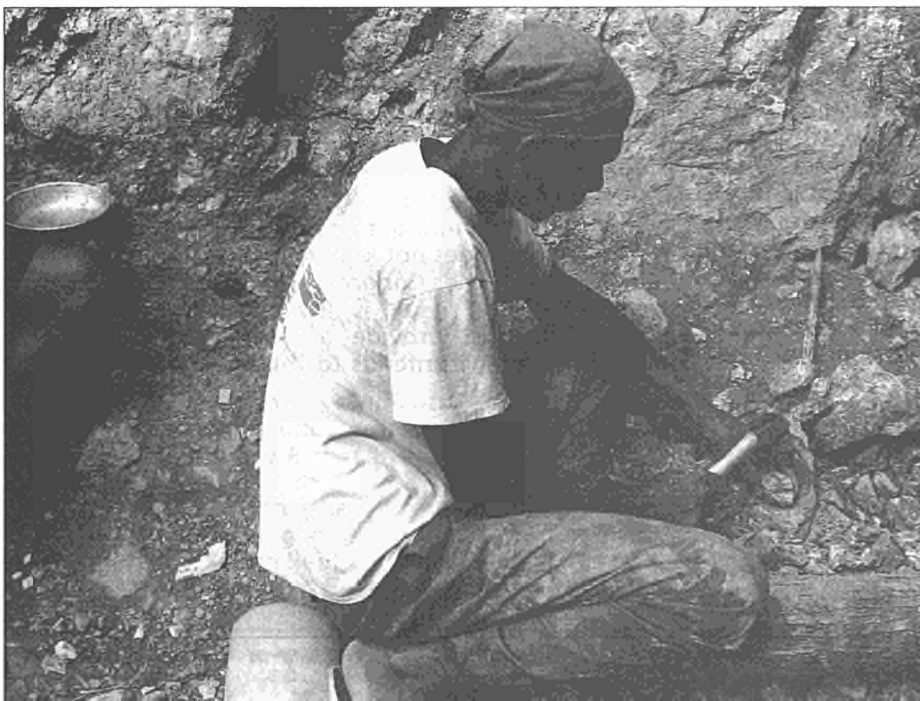
Having passed some coffee plantations and parked your car next to a huddle of small houses, you notice the shafts, each enclosed by a log structure, that are used to extract stone from the ground. One of the shafts is sealed

<sup>1</sup> The term *bateye* originally referred to enclaves constructed outside the towns by the Dominican Government for Haitians working on the sugar cane plantations. It is now used more generally to describe any settlement inhabited by Haitians and their descendants.

off with two sheets of corrugated iron, held tight together by a large padlock, to keep out thieves. Another, which is open to the sky, is already 70 feet deep. A little further on, work has just begun on a third excavation. Six or seven miners stand barefoot on the stones surrounding the hole, watching one of their workmates furiously attacking the rock with a pick axe. He stops for a moment to bale out the water and clear away the soil and grit that continually obstruct the opening. An enormous rock overhangs the cliff about twenty metres above them, acting as a natural umbrella for the present, though it looks as if a heavy downpour could cause it to fall and crush them. Accidents are rare, according to the miners, although two of their fellow workers were killed a few months earlier.

It is here, in the remote mines of Los Checheses, that the *larimar* you find in the tourist shops of the capital is extracted. Operations are carried out by two separate organisations – which means that the labour market is not very favourable for the miners. The *Coopérative*, which employs perhaps 200 men, is an informal organisation. The other, smaller body (employing about 100 miners) is the *Association of Producers of Larimar*. The latter is a private company and has, therefore, been given an authorisation from the Mines Department. The two coexist in the same area, and though they operate at different localities, disputes between them are not unknown. They are, effectively, cottage industries. According to a study recently carried out by the Spanish Geological and Mining Institute, there is 'no planning, either as regards distribution of the revenue earned or as regards occupancy of the land available'. In practice, miners work in groups of 10 to 15 and dig a shaft on their own initiative. They always work under a leader, who is normally responsible for monitoring production and negotiating prices with purchasers.

The men we met under the rock are members (*socios*) of the cooperative. Like all their fellow workers, they are represented on a committee that is democratically elected. The youngest are just 13 or 14 years old, while the oldest is approaching 70. They all start work at seven in the morning and finish at about five in the afternoon. The earnings from each day's production are shared out equally. This means that everything produced therefore belongs



The Courier



The Courier

qualities are sold at around 150 pesos and 50 pesos respectively. Of course, the specifications are somewhat arbitrary, since the stone is traded in a rough state (*hubo*). This means that it is often covered in other materials, and it is not inspected in detail by either the dealers or the group selling it.

The larimar is then taken to the workshops. The rocks are first cut longitudinally to produce blocks a few centimetres in thickness. These are then cut into figures that are polished separately. It has been argued that larimar cannot be properly valued until the blocks have been produced. By that stage, only 50% of the material originally mined is left. When fully worked, each gramme of larimar is sold at a price between 30 and 40 pesos. In other words, each 'useful' gramme will have increased in value by a factor of more than thirty. And the retail price is even higher. Tourists pay up to 1000 pesos per gramme in the souvenir shops.

On average, the miners of Los Checheses earn about 2000 pesos per month, which is roughly equivalent to the national minimum wage. Although the larimar provides a living for them and their families, they could get a much better deal if they could find ways of improving their marketing. Another possibility would be to rework the larimar themselves by setting up small workshops. They would then be in a position to boost their incomes significantly.

In this part of the Dominican Republic, there are few other sources of income. There is some fishing, and local people will sometimes resort to this if the money runs out before the end of the month. It is also the choice of some young people who dislike the idea of working in a mine. But on our trip to Los Cheseses, all those to whom we spoke said they preferred the blue of the larimar to that of the Caribbean Sea. ■

T.G.

to the group as a whole. 5% of the earnings are paid into a fund managed by a treasurer to deal with community problems. Another 5% is set aside for the repayment of a debt to a private investor. This debt dates back to 1988, when a Dominican company negotiated an agreement with the cooperative. In addition to the money needed to pay back the loan, 40% of the total output goes to the company, which invested 4 million pesos. This was used mainly for the purchase of heavy machinery and picks. The company also undertakes to supply power and promote larimar at national and international trade fairs.

### The price that must be paid

A few paces uphill of the shaft, another miner, who appears to be the leader of the group, is engaged in removing a large block of larimar from a jute sack. While doing this, he is deep in conversation with the 'middleman' who

comes almost every day to negotiate the purchase of the rough stone. The dealer lives in the village beside the road, like many of the miners from whom he purchases the larimar. Other middlemen make the trip to and from the capital or other towns and regions of the country. All act individually, as there is no organised group of purchasers.

According to the study, three factors determine the quality of the larimar: its grade, whether it has any fractures, and, of course, its colour. Turquoise blue is the most sought-after, and the more intense and uniform this colour is, the greater the value. Gentler tones tending towards white attract a lower price, as do tones tending towards green. Three larimar qualities and therefore three price categories have been specified on the basis of these factors. The best quality is the homogeneous stone of an intense blue without internal fractures. The miners get about 300 pesos per pound for this. The two other

## Dancing in the streets

A huge advertising mock-up of a *Presidente* beer bottle, made of thick green plastic, dominates the highway known as the *Malecón* at the point where it passes a fine square skirted by the Calle Atarazana (the *Malecón* runs along the Caribbean shore and appears on maps as *George Washington Avenue*). Skilfully capitalising on the evening's gentle wind, the bottle seems to take on a life of its own. It rocks on its pedestal, shifting left and then right. Perhaps it is imagining the foam left long ago by the wake of the three vessels commanded by a certain Christopher Columbus – a name that keeps cropping up in Santo Domingo. Huge speakers fill the still-warm air with *Kinito Mendes'* latest hit. It is an ideal opportunity for men and women to swing their hips, following a rhythm that they probably learned before they could talk and have cultivated ever since. A seller of corn cobs from the area around San Diego port leans on his elbows on his battered tricycle, and seems to look on mockingly. He has seen it all before. So too have the *pica-pollo* stallholders, who serve fried chicken on cardboard plates. The customers wash down their meal with mouthfuls of Brugal rum, with almost patriotic fervour.

Like every Sunday evening, the square gradually fills up. There are, of course, a lot of young people. The girls are usually dressed in chic, tight-fitting costumes, while their male companions generally go for traditional jeans, and t-shirt or checked shirt. Pushing their way through the crowd, four or five young men display their American *Chicago Bulls* gear, from the Nike trainers to the bull insignia on the cap, even though none of them is even six feet tall. With his back to them, an old man improvises, tap dancing, fencing and then singing, using an empty bottle as a microphone. His movements grow fre-

netic, and then suddenly become slower and more gentle. It is all completely out of context. He seems no longer to hear the pulsating sounds blared out by the huge loudspeakers, and looks as if he is offering homage to *Marcel Marceau*, who will perform his mimes at the National Theatre in a few days time.

Tonight, as so often before, people from the better-off districts rub shoulders with their neighbours from the poor outlying areas. To get to the square, they may already have sat side-by-side in shared taxis and *guaguas* (the small buses connecting every corner of the capital), the odour of their brilliantine and eau de toilette intermingling. There are some people attracted to the annual merengue festival (which began in 1967), who are not normally nocturnal, but most Dominicans seem naturally to regard weekend evenings as the time for music and dancing. The styles are merengue, merengue and merengue, punctuated just occasionally by salsa and bachata.

### Music of dubious paternity

Although regarded as the national music, there is a great deal of uncertainty about merengue's origins. No-one knows exactly when or where it was born and various theories have been put forward. Some think it came from outside, based on old Spanish or West-Indian rhythms, or brought by slaves from far-off Dahomey, or developed from a Cuban music known as *upa*. Others, fewer in number, argue that it is of indigenous origin, coming from the region of Cibao. Then there are those who believe that it can only be a combination of African, Creole and Spanish rhythms. The dance associated with it is just as mysterious.

There seems no doubt, however, that merengue already existed when the country snatched independence from Haiti in 1844. A different form of music, the *tumba*, was then in fashion. Ac-



The Courier

Güira player with a *tambora* performer in the background

ording to *L. M. Brito Ureñ*, it was only in 1954 that the term 'merengue' was first recorded in print – in a newspaper called *El Oasis*. Initially, when educated people referred to it at all, they did so disparagingly, using terms such as: 'worthy of the devil', 'insult to modesty', 'shameful', and 'indecent'. This may have been due to its closeness to the rhythms of African music, but also to the vulgarity which, more often than not, permeated the lyrics. At that time, openly singing about women, the 'liberties they take' and their physical attributes was regarded as smutty. Even worse, many of the songs were about *cueros* (prostitutes).

Campaigns against merengue were mounted, both within and outside the Dominican Republic. *E. Rodrigue (Lengua y folklore en Santo Domingo, UCMM, 1975)* tells us, for example, that the governor of Puerto Rico completely banned it 'for the good of all'. Anyone unfortunate enough to be caught listening to it was fined 50 pesos, and those who dared to play it could spend ten days in prison! The campaign against merengue proved futile. The Dominican people increasingly used it as



an outlet expressing their views about events which affected them.

In fact, a number of attempts were made to introduce merengue into the drawing room at the beginning of the 20th century, backed by the popular musicians of the time. The real change in attitude came in 1930 when *Trujillo* came to power. The future dictator made effective use of numerous *pericos ripiaos* (trios of musicians) in his election campaign and promoted merengue as a form of popular expression for the people. He took this style of music to regions where it had previously been unknown.

High society would not accept it, however, until one of the grand aristocratic families of Santiago invited *Luis Alberti* and his orchestra to sing a merengue with a 'decent' text at a major celebration. He composed '*Compadre Pedro Juan*' for the occasion. The song became all the rage and soon emerged as the anthem of merengue. Helped on its way by radio broadcasts, the triumph of this musical style was assured. When it was adopted by the 'righteous' (or 'self-righteous'!), merengue took on derivative forms that frequently bore the stamp of foreign influence. *Bolemengue*, for example, is a bolero melody reworked using typical merengue instruments. The same is true of the *jalemengue*, which is a sort of Creole mambo. Two distinct forms of merengue gradually emerged: the authentic sound of the people, which survived in the countryside, and the merengue of the drawing room, which originally imitated the original style but was modified by outside influences. Oddly enough, according to *Brito Ureña*, it was the latter which quickly came to be regarded as 'typical' merengue.

The instruments have changed in the same way. Although, at first, the music was performed on popular instruments to which people had relatively easy access (Dominican mandores, the *tres* and the *cuatro*), three instruments were to emerge as the basis for traditional merengue. Thus, a *perico ripiao* came to consist of the *tambora* (a double drum, one part being made of the



The Courier

skin of an old billygoat, the other of kidskin), the *güira* (a sort of cylindrical brass grater-like instrument that is played with a scraping implement) and the accordion.

*Julio Hernández* (*Música tradicional dominicana* 1969), tells us that the third of these was actually added later, perhaps at the end of the 19th century. The characteristic rhythm of the merengue, he says, is really produced by the *tambora*. The rôle of the *güira*, which is of Creole origin, is simply to accompany this rhythm. Other instruments such as guitar, saxophone, trumpet and piano are used to provide an accompaniment nowadays.

The subjects dealt with in merengue have not changed much. Although the music covers all aspects of Dominican life, from local eating habits and dress styles to religion, the favourite subjects more than ever today are love (in general) and women (in particular). It is fair to say that romance and sentiment have moved in to replace some of more salacious lyrics, but *machismo* remains very much in evidence. A number of songwriters have become famous for their polished work, combining poetry and protest. As a result, even as late as the 1980s, some

Women – of all ages – are the favourite subject of merengues

writers (including *Enriquillo Sánchez*), found themselves hauled before the authorities. Works were banned and removed from the airwaves because they 'undermined morality and the status of politicians and the military'. The best-known current lyricist with a social bent is undoubtedly *Juan Luis Guerra*. This songwriter and performer, with his group *4-40*, has given a new slant to today's merengue, by providing both finely wrought texts and orchestrations of an increasingly piercing nature. Young Dominicans, or those who live in urban centres at least, are now turning towards merengue techno and, in particular, merengue rap (or *merenrap*), played by groups such as *Proyecto Uno*, *Los Ilegales* and *Sandy y Papo*. Local *boy bands* have also started to appear. The performers leave their shirts open to reveal sculpted pectorals, and have their hair cut short in the military style favoured by *Ricky Martin* from neighbouring Puerto Rico.

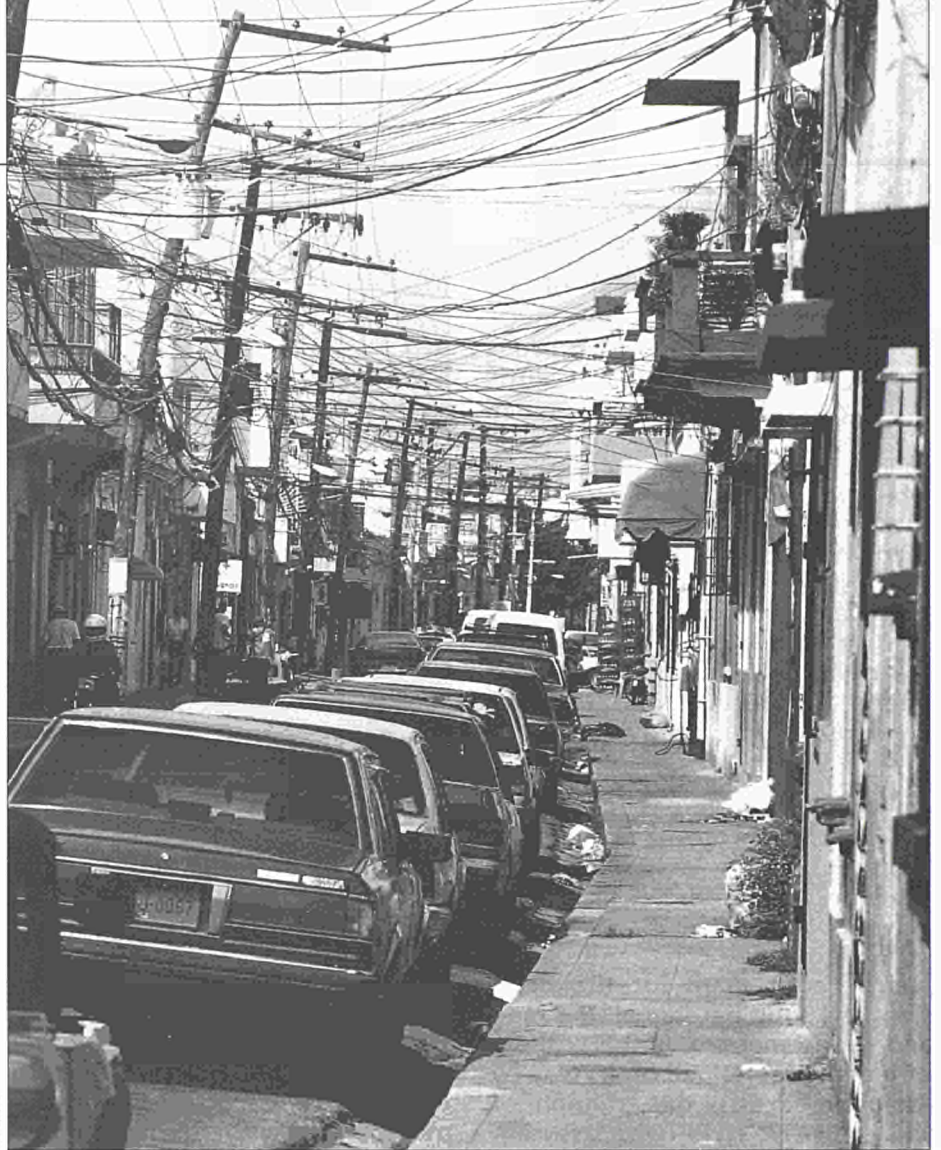
### Illuminated by the Columbus lighthouse

Merengue is a music to be danced to, and its *aficionados*

seem to prefer to display their dancing skills in the street rather than shut away in stuffy salons or dreary interiors. The weekly session at the Malecón is the most important item in any merengue fan's diary. The four-lane highway has often been described as an open-air discotheque and this is no exaggeration. It really is a people's disco, open to everyone without distinction. It even has lighting on an appropriate scale now that the Columbus lighthouse has been built on the other bank of the Ozama River. And the crowds are not just attracted to the part of the Malecón surrounded by the colonial quarter, at the mouth of the river near the harbour. The terraces, stalls and low walls in the area at the end of Máximo Gómez Avenue, or the *Playa* as it is known here, are also packed with people, especially on weekend evenings.

Further on, where lovers walk arm-in-arm, the demented rhythm that is characteristic of merengue is provided mainly by car radios. The driver double-parks, or even triple-parks his vehicle (which might well be an old shiny chrome American car), switches off the engine, opens the windows and turns up the radio to maximum volume. A much-favoured alternative involves taking two speakers from the back seat – they are too big to fit in the boot – and placing them on the pavement. All one needs for the party to carry on until dawn is a cool box full of ice, some *Presidente grande* beer and rum, some friends and passing acquaintances, and a few dance steps.

Music retires late in the Dominican Republic, but it clearly has remarkable powers of recuperation and needs little sleep, blaring forth with renewed vigour in the morning. The cocks have hardly finished crowing before merengue starts coming at you from every direction. No grocer's shop, taxi, bar or stall is without it. In many streets, vendors of (often pirated) cassettes act as unofficial disc jockeys for two or three blocks of houses. The sight of a couple furtively trying out their steps to the latest *Cocoband* or *Tito Reya* single, as one turns into an aisle in an ordinary supermarket while



The Courier

quietly going about one's shopping, is not out of the ordinary.

Elaborate trceries of electric cables in a Santo Domingo street

Music is an integral part of life in the Dominican Republic. In Santo Domingo, other elements contribute to the frenetic rhythm of the city – the incessant hooting of car horns, the striking colours of the houses, the indescribable rush hours, the elaborate trceries of electric cables, the rhythmic movements of the *mesedoras*, (the rocking chairs found on every porch), and the roar of motorbikes (which are called *motoconchos* when they are used as taxis). There is less traffic in the countryside, though merengue is still to be heard. Its omnipresence reflects the extrovert and vital character of the Dominican people. Indeed, it is true to say that one is rarely out of earshot of the music that spills out from every village and doorway. The same is true on the beaches (*balnearios*), where Dominicans congregate at weekends to play dominoes, bathe, drink rum and beer, and dance.

thusiasm for dancing. And it is true that when glistening asphalt reflects the clouds back to the darkened sky, only the most determined merengue fans come out to party, even during festival time. We should be grateful that it did not rain when we visited. The people kept coming into the square and they kept on dancing. As you watched the hips swaying into a blur, you could even imagine that the outsize bottle of beer was joining in! ■ T.G.

It is said that only the rain can dampen the Dominicans' en-



## Cooperation in focus

### A wide-ranging project for wide-ranging problems

One hand resting on her precious concrete cube, Georgina thinks back to the time when her son would spend hours going down to the river to bring back two huge jerrycans of water on the donkey's back. Like hundreds of other families who live in this north-west coastal region, her daily water supply at that time came from lagoons – the same lagoons that provided the watering place for animals, the bathing water for the inhabitants and washing water for the laundry. All that is in the past, however. Today, the water tank which has been built behind the house provides all the family's drinking water. Georgina, who contributed to the cost of the installation and helped in its construction, is also involved in education programmes on the sensible use of water.

The construction of water tanks is just one of the many aspects of the huge, four-year *Prolino* (Nor-oeste-Line Integrated Rural Development Project) project. Set up in June 1994, with funding of ECU 23.6 million, its basic aim has been to improve the living conditions of marginal communities in the four provinces of the Noroeste region (Valverde, Santiago Rodríguez, Montecristi and Dajabón). Some 120,000 people are thought to have benefited from the project. The region, which is regarded as the country's poorest, has scant supplies of water for household use and farming, and a poor social infrastructure. It suffers from deforestation and environmental degradation. Over half the popu-

lation lives in the countryside, although the area has attracted many immigrants and there is extensive urbanisation. The rural exodus from certain zones between 1981 and 1993 meant that some communities lost up to 3% of their labour force every year. The cause is simple: people are seeking higher wages. The consequence is a diminishing labour force and moribund agriculture. The main crops are rice, maize and tobacco. There is also some stock-rearing, of cattle, chickens and goats.

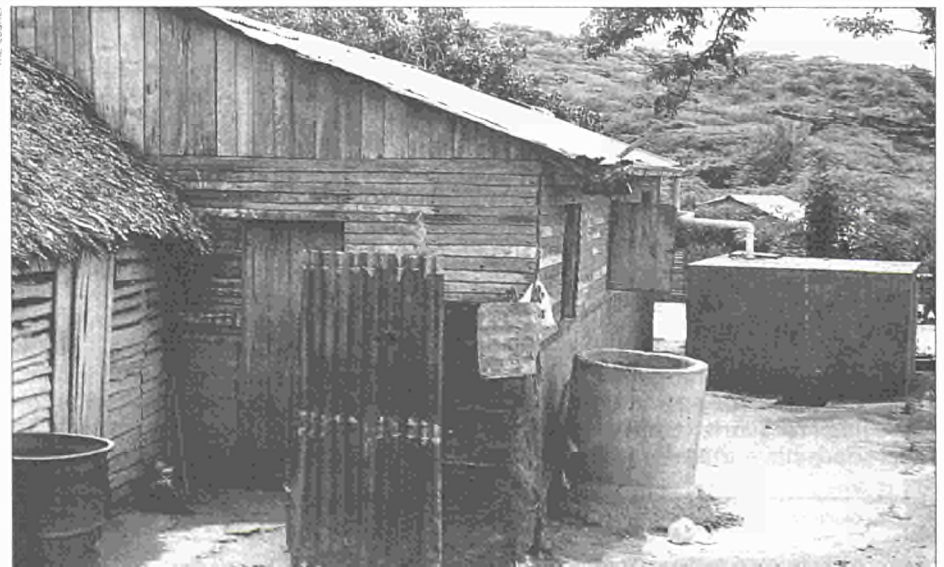
The project concentrates on two major aspects. The first is to boost farm production, thereby helping producers, while the second is to improve social infrastructures and the living conditions of the target groups. *Alexis Batista*, the project's organiser, places particular emphasis on the latter: 'We are involved especially on the services side, because this is where people really need help. It is a critical area in terms of tackling poverty. The health, education and electricity systems are in crisis, and there is a huge demand for adequate basic infrastructures'. The main concern of the region's

population, both rural and urban, is undoubtedly the installation of a drinking-water supply. In addition to the 1400 water tanks provided in the coastal region, which were necessary because the water tables were either in poor condition or non-existent, *Prolino* has built eight aqueducts and 15 wells equipped with mills and pumps. 'This has had a significant direct impact on people's lives,' *Alexis Batista* told us. 'There has been an improvement, particularly in reducing the incidence of infant diseases and cases of dehydration.'

Electricity distribution is also a major component of the project. Most houses in the rural area covered by *Prolino* have no electricity supply. 82 kilometres of primary electric lines and 45 km of secondary lines have been installed, bringing power to more than 1000 homes in 17 communities. However, this element of the programme, implemented jointly with the CDE (Dominican Electricity Corporation), cannot benefit everyone. 20% of the region's population lives too far from any existing line and the cost of connection would be far too great. This is especially true of the most mountainous areas. To overcome the problem, *Prolino* has run a scheme to instal solar panels.

Under the same programme for providing basic services, the project initiated a 'gas-stove-distribution' campaign in 1995. 70% of the region's forest territory (over half the land) is degraded because of high demand for firewood and charcoal. As a result, the amount of tree cover has fallen and the environment has suffered. 3500 stoves and their accessories were distributed, with recipients also receiving a 50-litre gas cylinder (enough for a month and a half's use, on average). Because the costs involved were relatively high – the average price of a stove is between 800 and 900 pesos – the target group was limited to families that are slightly better off than the

A rural dwelling with its watertank



The Courier

Table 1. Lomé Conventions and other EU budget lines

Lomé Convention	7th EDF (mECU)	Priority Sectors	8th EDF (mECU)	Priority Sectors
National Indicative Programme (NIP)	85.0	Conservation and development of natural resources Support for social sectors Provincial development Support for the private sector	106.0	Improvement of the quality of and access to basic social services (health and education) Water and sewers in marginal areas Support for institutional reforms and modernisation of the State Modernisation of the economy, support for competitiveness and cooperation with Haiti
Regional funds	[Total budget under the 7th EDF for the Caribbean regional indicative programme – mECU 105.0]	Development and regional integration in the following sectors: trade, environment, cooperation between universities, tourism and culture. Dominican Republic/Haiti cooperation	[Total budget under the 8th EDF for the Caribbean regional indicative programme – mECU 90.0 (initial)]	Dominican Republic/Haiti cooperation Integration and regional cooperation Human and institutional development Decentralised cooperation projects
Sysmin	23.0	Research into mining and seismic phenomena, development of mining resources and environmental protection		
Structural Adjustment Support	23.0	Support for the balance of payments with a view to supporting the economic stabilisation programme and state reform		
EIB resources	34.0	Electrification, funding for SMEs in the industrial, agro-industrial, tourism and transport sectors	30.0 (indicative)	Funding for SMEs Productive infrastructures in the energy, water, telecommunication and transport sectors
<b>Total of Lomé funds</b>	>165.0		>136.0	
<b>Other EU budget lines (after 1990)</b>	5.6 3.7 1.5	Food aid NGO cofinancing Meteorological radar system		
<b>Total</b>	>175.8		>136.0	

average in marginal areas. A 'stove committee' was set up in each recipient community. These are responsible for the smooth running of the project, particularly regarding payments. As Alexis Batista explained: 'The involvement of local communities is extremely important if the project is to be viable. It is essential for people to be able to continue on their own, without Prolino.'

Another problem facing people in Noroeste is the lack of communication infrastructures. While the drop in farm production means that there is less need for good roads to transport produce, effective communications are still required for social reasons – maintaining family ties, having access to essential services, travelling to work, etc. 110 km of rural roads have therefore been built,

of which 67 km are metalled. Five bridges have also been constructed. Another 'essential service' that Prolino has been working on is rural schools. It has restored 34 of these and built 15 new wings. A rural clinic has also been set up in Santiago Rodríguez province.

As mentioned earlier, this wide-ranging project includes an important agricultural/stock-rearing development programme. Prolino's role is not to implement a major expansion or publicity campaign, but, rather, to invest in identifying and adapting new technologies. As with the social infrastructures, this element of the project has many different facets including dam construction, the development of irrigation systems, testing and demonstrating new farm technologies, soil conserva-

tion, animal feed diversification and setting up new types of loan.

The Prolino project is now drawing to the end of its four year implementation period. The obvious question which must be asked is: has it made a real impact. Alexis Batista says that there will be an in-depth study later to find the answer. But in the meantime, he stresses, 'there has clearly been an improvement in people's quality of life, particularly in terms of children's health. In everyday life, you see signs of improvement – a fridge here, new toilets for a school there...' He points out, in addition, that all the changes have undoubtedly had an effect on rural drift. 'There hasn't exactly been a mass return to the countryside,' he admits, 'but at least the situation has stabilised'.

T.G.

# Solomon Islands

## Grasping the nettle of reform

Solomon Islands celebrated its 20th birthday in July this year (having gained independence from the UK in 1978). A turning point seems to have come in the country's affairs when a new, reform-minded government under Prime Minister *Bartholomew Ulu-fa'alu*, took over in August last year.

Prior to that, the country's dominant political personality had been *Solomon Mamaloni*, who held the post of Prime Minister on three occasions, spending a total of ten years in the top job. During his last term in office, which took the country up to the 1997 election, the economic situation of the country became progressively more untenable. There were recurrent budget deficits, fuelled by excessive government expenditure, particularly on salaries. This drove up the levels of government debt, both domestic and external, and made it increasingly difficult for the local private sector to gain access to domestic credit. In 1994 the authorities reached the legal limit on borrowing from the Central Bank. Relations with donors deteriorated as the government defaulted on its external debt servicing. It is estimated that by the end of 1997, arrears were in the region of SI\$170 million. As Finance Minister *Manasseh Sogavare* put it in his 1998 Budget speech, 'with around one billion dollars of debts we were, and are, insolvent'. Later on in the same speech, he graphically outlined the situation his government had inherited. 'When (we) came to power and looked in the cupboard, we did not find it empty. No, when



the door was opened an avalanche of bills fell out, some dating back to 1995'. Among these was an estimated SI\$52 million of arrears on external debts, and SI\$41 million of domestic security arrears.

For a time, the structural problems of the economy were masked because of the revenue earned from forestry. This sector has been the source of up to 40% of government earnings. Between 1990 and 1997, there was a 50% increase in log exports, leading to fears that the resource was being managed in an unsustainable way – and thus depleted. According to some estimates, logging was being carried out at two to three times the sustainable level. In addition, the government was not getting all the revenue it might have expected on wood sold abroad, as certain companies had been granted remissions on export duties by previous governments. Reform in the forestry sector had proved very difficult to tackle, not only because it was an important source of revenue, but because of opposition – from vested interests – to any attempts to reduce the amount of tree-felling taking place. One government, under Prime Minister *Billy Hilly*, was toppled in 1994 just a year after taking office, over its attempts to impose a moratorium on log exports.

A review of the forestry sector is part of the present government's plans, and it is seeking to eliminate the duty remissions enjoyed by some logging companies. It has also taken tentative steps in the direction of monitoring the

The shell of the Finance Ministry building in Honiara which was badly damaged in a recent fire.

sector, by accepting an external specialist to review the situation and provide advice to the government. In the meantime, however, external events have intervened, in the form of the Asian financial crisis. This has been a major setback to the logging industry in Solomon Islands, as prices for round logs have dropped dramatically on the world market. The main markets for Solomon Island logs were Japan, Korea, and the Philippines (these countries took 93% of round logs exported in 1996). With the price collapse and a drastic contraction in the market, many logging firms have been forced to close down. Needless to say, this has had a serious impact on government revenue, putting additional stress on an already financially strapped economy – which some fear is at crisis point.

The finance minister, Mr Sogavare, however, has suggested there may be a silver lining to the crisis. 'Perhaps it is a good time to stop logging' he told us, to 'give us the opportunity to come up with more transparent policies'.

### A daunting challenge

When the general election was held in August last year, there was widespread support for change prompted by disillusionment with the previous administration's economic management. The governing coalition which was formed following the elections is called the Solo-

mon Islands Alliance for Change (SIAC). Facing formidable challenges, the new government has put in place an extensive programme of reform, the 'Policy and Structural Reform Programme' (PSRP). The objective of the programme, which has been endorsed by the IMF and the World Bank, is to establish the foundations for sustainable growth. It is based on four key 'pillars', one of which is reform of the public service, or 'rightsizing' as the Prime Minister has dubbed it. 'Previous governments used substantial resources to keep a large bureaucracy going', we were told by Mr Sogavare. Unions might not be happy with the new proposals, he acknowledged, but the public service had to be reduced in size and made more efficient. The government has already imposed a wage freeze, cut down on allowances and frozen recruitment in the public sector.

Another pillar is privatisation, with the government now actively examining candidates for sell-off among state-owned enterprises. Fred Fono, who is the Minister for National Planning, cited Telekom (the telephone company) and Solomon Islands Plantations Ltd (SIPL) which are now on the market. The government plans to retain 10% of the stock. Mr Sogavare told us that, by privatising, the government would broaden its revenue base. 'If we can achieve the objectives of these reforms, I am confident that we will come out of this situation. It has given us the opportunity to look inwards, and to reorganise ourselves.' He believes that Solomon Islands has the potential to be a strong economy, with all the essential features – a rich resource base, a democratic government system, stability and a free media. 'It just boils down to management', he stated.

The government places great importance on 're-establishing confidence with our development partners', according to Fred Fono. With regard to EDF projects, he believes that disbursement needs to be speeded up. He suggests that the Japanese project funding system, which is 'less bureaucratic', is a good model. EC delegates, he believes, should be authorised to make financial allocations up to a certain amount, in order to speed things up.

A government spokesman said they had been 'humbled' by the level of public support for the

reform programme. It remains to be seen if this support will stay firm when the harsh measures begin to bite.

### Increasing private sector confidence

The private sector has traditionally been squeezed out, and the government has been the dominant player, Mr Sogavare informed us. He also believes that the administration needs to be more proactive in attracting foreign capital, by putting in place a range of investment policies and tax incentives. In December 1997, an official decision was taken to devalue the Solomon Islands dollar by 20%. 'There was a hue and cry from the private sector', according to Janita Radford, President of the Chamber of Commerce. But the government immediately reacted by explaining its position, she said, and this action 'gave the private sector confidence'. After last year's election, but before the new government had been formed, the private sector launched the idea of creating an open forum, which would serve as a channel of communication between the authorities and local business. 'The politicians who turned up at the first meeting were those about to join the new government', explained Mrs Radford, 'and this was an encouraging indication of their intentions.' Further evidence of the emerging relationship between entrepreneurs and government came in April this year, when the opposition tabled a vote of no-confidence in Parliament. 'Many private sector groups, including the Chamber of Commerce, said openly that it would not be in their best interests for there to be a change of administration at that point'. The Chamber has since organised an open forum, attended by both officials and businesspeople, to consider privatisation policies and methods. The private sector would also like to have more representation on parastatal boards, she told us.

Solomon Islands is a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Some people we spoke to felt that the country's accession to this body had been premature, believing that the economy was not yet strong enough. They were also concerned about the impact of the WTO obligation to reduce import tariffs. A large proportion of the

government's revenue comes from customs tariffs, and the only feasible substitute for this will be internal taxation. Opponents of WTO membership cited the case of Vanuatu, which, they said, had not joined the global trade body but nonetheless received assistance from it.

The National Census which is planned for next year will provide valuable data on the labour market in Solomon Islands. The last census was held in 1986.

### Fisheries

Fishing, the second major source of income in Solomon Islands, has also been hit by the Asian crisis. Some communities are particularly dependent on this sector and there is a big local market for canned tuna. 'Solomon Islands has the second highest *per capita* consumption of fish in the world', according to Transform Aqorau of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) – the South Pacific organisation that promotes regional cooperation in fisheries, which has its headquarters in Honiara. The country's tuna resources, he said, are substantial, and could be a major source of revenue. But, in his view, they were not getting as much as they could from the resource. Fisheries could also offer more opportunities for female employment.

Mr Aqorau believes that legislation in this area provides a good basis to improve the management of the resource and put the industry on a more sustainable footing. He spoke approvingly of legislation adopted in April of this year, explaining that this did indeed offer a framework for sustainable management. The provisions include the introduction of a vessel monitoring system, which would be compulsory for foreign boats. The new rules are among 'the major achievements of the new government', he argued, although he believes that there is scope for even more stringent measures.

Our interviewee told us about a practice which had resulted in a loss of revenue to the government. The previous administration had issued quotas to Solomon Islanders, who paid lower fees than foreigners. Some of the quota-holders then chartered boats and entered into agreements with foreign businesspeople, allowing the latter to avoid the higher charges.



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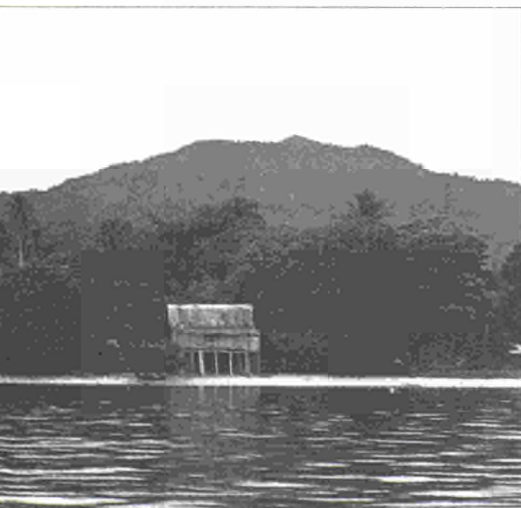
The government signed a contract in 1997 to build the country's first gold mine

Transshipment is an area with potential for development, but facilities such as slipways and locations where nets can be repaired, need to be improved. If this can be done, it should be possible to encourage the establishment of more local companies. The government is also trying to strengthen the rules that apply to ships using Solomon Islands ports and operating in its waters.

The biggest employer in the private sector is *Solomon Taiyo Ltd*, the fish canning plant. It has 2086 employees, 500 of them women. At the time of our visit, the enterprise was in the process of registering as a locally-listed company. This, we were told, would give them access to EU markets, and allow them to benefit from trade preferences.

The collapse of the logging industry in Solomon Islands may prove to be a 'blessing in disguise' for agriculture. This view was expressed by *Frank Wickham*, who is project manager of a Stabex-funded Farmer Support Programme, which concentrates on assisting small farmers. In rural areas where logging took place, people tended to turn

Isolated coastal dwelling. In some cases, the only way to reach a health clinic is by canoe



The Courier

away from farming, because of the easy gains to be had from selling logs. Mr Wickham believes that there will now be a shift back to cultivation and cash crop production. 'Commodity prices for copra and cocoa are at high levels', he said. The evidence of this can be seen along the coast, where there are 'heaps of coconuts ready to be sold'. In his opinion, the injection of Stabex funds has come at just at the right time.

## Mining

In March 1997, the government signed a contract with an Australian company to build the country's first gold mine. This is now being constructed on Guadalcanal (the most populated island, where the capital, Honiara, is situated). The expectations are that 'Gold Ridge' will produce about 100,000 ounces of the precious metal a year, with the first gold being extracted some time towards the end of 1998. Gold prices have been depressed for some time now and since the contract was signed, they have fallen even further on the world market. This is obviously a disappointment to the government but the hope is that the slump is nearing its end and that prices will rebound in the not-too-distant future.

## Human resources

85% of the Solomon Islanders live in rural areas, most of them involved in subsistence farming. We spoke to Dr *Jackie Fagan*, Director of Health and Medical Services on Guadalcanal, about some of the challenges she encountered. She explained that basic health care is free, and that there is an excellent vaccination programme, on a par with that found in developed countries.

The main areas of concern are the high incidence of malaria, and an unacceptably large number of maternal deaths (1 per 500 births). Fertility remains high, estimated at 5.6 births per woman. One of the problems is that family planning training is not easily available in Solomon Islands, and people often have to go abroad for training. In addition, the rural clinics do not have access to a complete range of family planning materials. Dr Fagan also told us about emerging medical problems which, she said, are 'lifestyle-related'. These include ailments resulting from alcohol and tobacco consumption, and obesity due to a combination of over-eating and a more sedentary lifestyle.

One difficulty with such a geographically dispersed population is that access to rural clinics is not always easy. People living 'in the bush' may have long distances to travel (without roads) to reach medical care. In some cases, the only way to reach a clinic is by canoe and when weather conditions are bad, the journey can be difficult and even treacherous. One particularly difficult area is the south coast of Guadalcanal – the so-called 'Weather Coast' – where the seas are generally higher and there may be problems in landing. The Weather Coast has thirteen clinics, and getting supplies to them all can be a real challenge.

The same difficulties face those who are responsible for supervising the clinics. Each facility gets a two-monthly visit to check on how things are going. More frequent visits are not possible for logistical reasons – for some of the more isolated locations, the trip can take up to three days! ■ D.M.

## Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu

# 'Carrying out a reform programme will be very painful'

*A new government was elected in Solomon Islands in August 1997, and Bartholomew (Bart) Ulufa'alu, leader of the Liberal party, was elected Prime Minister by parliamentary vote. It was a difficult time to take up the reins of government, with rising government debt, and the logging industry traditionally the country's primary revenue earner, very badly hit by the Asian crisis. Mr Ulufa'alu has made economic and structural reform the cornerstone of his policy. When we met him in June, he talked about the difficulties facing the country, and the support of the people for these aims. First he outlined how he came to be elected.*



The Courier

– Basically the country went to the polls demanding change. My group, which is made up of six small groups – five political parties and 18 independent members – got together and decided to form the government, and bid for the leadership. We were fortunate in that the people were tired of the errors and mismanagement of the previous administration, which had been in place for almost a decade. They were determined, through the democratic process, to influence the MPs to vote for a change in leadership. Not just in leadership, but in direction too, in terms of the way the country has been governed. And that is how I became Prime Minister.

■ *It has been said that the change of government has brought about a transformation in the atmosphere of the community. What is the reason for this?*

– The whole community was geared up for change. They knew that the government in the past had been managing the affairs of the country in a way that was neither viable nor sustainable. As a result,

there was this feeling among the people that the time had come for something new. The change is essentially the way in which the country has been pursuing its development strategy. In crude terms, this had largely been of the 'resource extraction' type. And the beneficiaries were mainly foreigners. Although the country was recording record growth rates, the benefits of that growth were going to the foreign investors and were not felt by the ordinary people, or the resource owners. As a result, people were agitating for change. They could see that their resources, especially in the area of forestry, were being depleted at a very fast rate. They could see the severe damage being done to the environment. The fishing industry is also dominated by foreigners, with some local middlemen. This is not ideal in terms of development. It means the people do not optimise their benefit from the use of these resources.

■ *What are the principal challenges facing the Solomon Islands at the moment? Is the size of the public debt a source of concern?*

– The main challenge can be described in two ways. One is that the economy and its resources have been mismanaged over the last decade. While the country was experiencing a higher growth rate, none of the gains were put aside in any kind of reserve, nor were they

used to service debt commitments. So the debt was allowed to accumulate over the last five years. It has reached a point where the owners of the assets were asking very serious questions about the capability of the government to service its debt, let alone its commitments in terms of supply of goods and services to run the country. On top of this debt-servicing problem, we are now confronted with a new dimension which is making the problem more acute, and that is the crisis in Asia. That has blown a hole in our foreign exchange earnings. Round logs have been the top income earner for this country. About 50% of our national income is derived from the logging industry, and this is also the source of about 40% of government revenue. With the collapse of the round log market in Asia, especially Japan and Korea, the effect is quite severe. This is compounding a difficult situation in an economy that is already debt-driven. It means we must have an adjustment – a reform programme aimed at creating a sustainable economic base. Carrying out such a programme will be very painful. We are asking our development partners, both bilateral and multilateral, to assist us, using the various facilities that are available. We need these programmes to see us through.

In terms of the medium and long-term planning of our economy, what we need to do is to reach a viable sustainable base and this, as I have said, will be painful. If the pain is not tolerable, then it could create instability. If our development partners help us to minimise the pain, socially and culturally, it will be a relief.

Having said this, the external shocks we are still experiencing are very worrying. Japan is on the verge of collapse, and that will affect the second major national income source, which is fishing. Australia and New Zealand are al-



ready on the downturn. These are our major trading partners, for both exports or imports, as well as our major bilateral aid assistance partners. A further external shock, brought about by what is happening in these three countries, will certainly have a knock-on effect on the Solomon Islands.

■ *Other than logging and fisheries, what other economic sectors offer prospects?*

– There is some hope in the mining sector, though gold prices have dropped since the beginning of the year. So, while mining would be a new venture, the current market price for gold is not good. We are hoping that this will prove to be just a typical market cycle, and not a permanent feature. There has also been a delay in mining production because of the weather. This year, we are going to be badly hit, but we are hoping that in the last quarter, things will start looking brighter.

the challenges when that moment comes.

■ *How would you describe the relationship between Solomon Islands and the EU at the moment?*

– Previously, the relationship was strained, but since coming to office we have restored good links, and are quite happy with the situation at present. However, we would like the process of getting assistance to our country to be speeded up. The EU is a complex institution, its procedures are lengthy, and it will be some time before we begin to harvest assistance related to our reform programme. We see it as a partnership, but our country has not got all the technical capacity it needs. So we require some support from our development partners to improve our technical capabilities, in order to draw up an economic reform programme that meets the essential criteria.

can then take advantage of these cheaper currencies in terms of sourcing imports. This is something that will take time to work through. But in time, it should help bring down inflation even further.

■ *You have mentioned the structural reform programme. Can you give some more details as to what exactly this will involve?*

– The programme is based largely on four pillars. The first is macro-economic stabilisation, and the appropriate fiscal and monetary policies have now been adopted. Second, there is reform and downsizing of the public service. Perhaps I should not use this word 'downsizing'. 'Rightsizing' is more appropriate, by which I mean ensuring that the excesses are removed, and that what is left is deployed more efficiently than in the past. The third pillar is privatisation. Our wider public sector includes statutory authorities, company portfolios and the Solomon Islands Investment Corporation. We have been looking at some of the services currently performed by government to see whether they could be done better by the private sector. The fourth pillar is 'good governance'. We have to ask whether the country can afford the present three-tier government system. So far, we have taken a decision to suspend the third tier – the area council – and we are now left with the national and provincial governments. We are currently reviewing the provincial level to see whether a two-tier set-up would be the best way to run the country. A review committee has been established to look into this.

■ *You say that the changes that are necessary will cause 'considerable pain'. How has the electorate been reacting?*

– The good thing about these reforms is that they have been widely publicised, so the voters have been expecting it. They know it has to be done, and that is a good thing, because when people are aware of the need for reform, they will accept it and participate. Another aspect is that the economy still has a large subsistence sector – what is often called the informal sector. This acts as a cushion during an economic crisis of this nature. It is a



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The Asian financial crisis has had a severe effect on the logging industry

The other area we are looking at is tourism. Most of our tourists come from Australia, New Zealand and Japan, with some from other parts of Asia. Since these economies are also facing problems, we might not get the influx we would like to see. Then there is Europe, America and Canada. We don't expect too much from these places because of the distances involved. But we will continue to develop the tourist industry. People have a lot of resilience, and I am quite confident that there will be a turnaround in the Asian economies, once we have all sat down together and addressed the problems. We have to prepare ourselves, so that we will be in a better shape to meet

■ *Inflation now seems to be stabilising, after an unsteady period at the beginning of this year.*

– We decided last year to devalue the Solomon dollar by 30%. It is something which should have been done many years ago. The previous regime could not do it because of its political unpopularity. Inflation went up in January but because we held other things constant, it now seems to be coming down to the normal level of about 8% per annum. We are asking our importers to look for alternative sources of supply, especially from countries whose currencies are in an even worse state than ours. They



bleasing in disguise, as people can always go back to that level of economic activity and ensure their livelihood. However, we must not work on the assumption that the subsistence economy will always exist in its current form. That attitude, in itself, can be a hindrance to advancement. So we have to embark on a policy of improving the informal sector.

■ *Moving on to social policy, with such economic problems facing the country, how will you ensure that health and education are not left behind?*

– The aim of the structural reform programme is to maintain the core functions that we believe are the responsibility of government, namely law and order, education, and health services. These are the government's basic tasks. Everything else should be done by small units performing regulatory functions. What this means is that even in the current stringent conditions, we have been able to increase budgetary resources this year to these three essential sectors.

It is our view that education is the key area. According to UNDP statistics, about 48% of our population is literate. This may not be completely accurate, because over the last four years, in an unplanned kind of way, the country has built about 65 community high schools. This has substantially improved the

situation, though we have a problem keeping the schools in day-to-day operation. Because they were not planned, it is difficult to finance their recurrent commitments. We are also looking at ways of promoting informal kinds of education after primary school, through community involvement. It is important to have skill-oriented education for our young people. This reflects the fact that traditionally, in our society, we were fishermen, craftsmen, gardeners and house-builders. So in the long run, the future of the country lies more in self-employment than in the creation of investment to provide formal employment. The effect should be to achieve greater growth than we have at the moment. It should also help us to defuse the time-bomb that is ticking – where about two-thirds of the 'output' at primary level have no secondary school to go to. At the same time we will continue to provide the kind of academic and professional schooling necessary to meet the requirements of the country.

■ *Since taking office you have supported the peace initiative for Bougainville, which is part of Papua New Guinea, though it is geographically part of the Solomons archipelago. How important was this issue to Solomon Islands?*

– It was crucial. It was one of the factors that blew a hole in our debt-servicing programme. We spent more than SI\$100 million dealing

The Prime Minister emphasises skill-oriented education, reflecting the country's traditional craftsmanship and skills

with the crisis and our debt arrears are SI\$170 million, so you could say that up to two-thirds of our debt problem is due to the conflict on Bougainville. Also, the war there has generated social problems in this country which are likely to need a lot of resources. First, we now have organised crime. Of course, we had crime before, but never on an organised base. Second, we have a growing drug problem. Dealers from Asia use the Solomon Islands as a transfer point for trafficking. And during the nine-year war in Bougainville, drugs started to be grown here.

When you have a war, three things tend to happen – arms smuggling, drug trafficking and organised crime. And now we have all three. I fear that they may become permanent features in our society, and it will certainly take a lot of resources to rid ourselves of the problem. Fortunately, none of the country's public authorities have been drawn in. For example, they don't rely on arms or drug sales for revenue. So there is still a possibility that we can stamp out the problem. But we have to tackle it quickly, before people start to believe it is a good way of making money. ■ Interview by D.M.

## Profile

### General information

Area: 29,785 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 285,176 (1986 census) 400,000 (1997 estimate). A new national census will shortly be held, funded by the EDF.

Population density: 13 per km<sup>2</sup>

Population growth rate: 2.8%

Major islands: Guadalcanal, Choiseul, Santa Isabel, New Georgia, Malaita, San Cristobal.

Capital: Honiara

Languages: English, Pidgin. It is estimated that there are 87 distinct local languages in use.

Climate: Tropical, maximum temperature 31°; cooler season April to November. From November to April, temperatures are higher with occasional cyclones.

### Politics

Head of State: Queen Elizabeth, represented by a Governor-General, who must be a Solomon Islander, and is nominated by Parliament (currently Moses Pitakaka)

Prime Minister: Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, since August 1997.

System of government: Parliamentary democracy, with a unicameral legislature. The National Parliament has 47 seats, elected for four-year terms. There are nine provinces, and local government is administered through elected councils.

Political parties: The ruling coalition is the Alliance for Change, which consists of six parties.

### Economy

Currency: Solomon Island Dollar (SI\$) 1 ECU = SI\$ 5.24 (September 1998)

GDP: SI\$ 1294.9 million (1996)

Annual economic growth rate: 6% (1996)

GNP per capita: US\$ 910 (1995)

Natural resources: timber, fish, palm oil, copra, cocoa.

Main exports: fish and fish products, timber, copra, palm products.

Total external debt (1995): SI\$ 157.5m

### Social indicators

(1900-1995 figures unless otherwise stated)

Life expectancy: 71 years

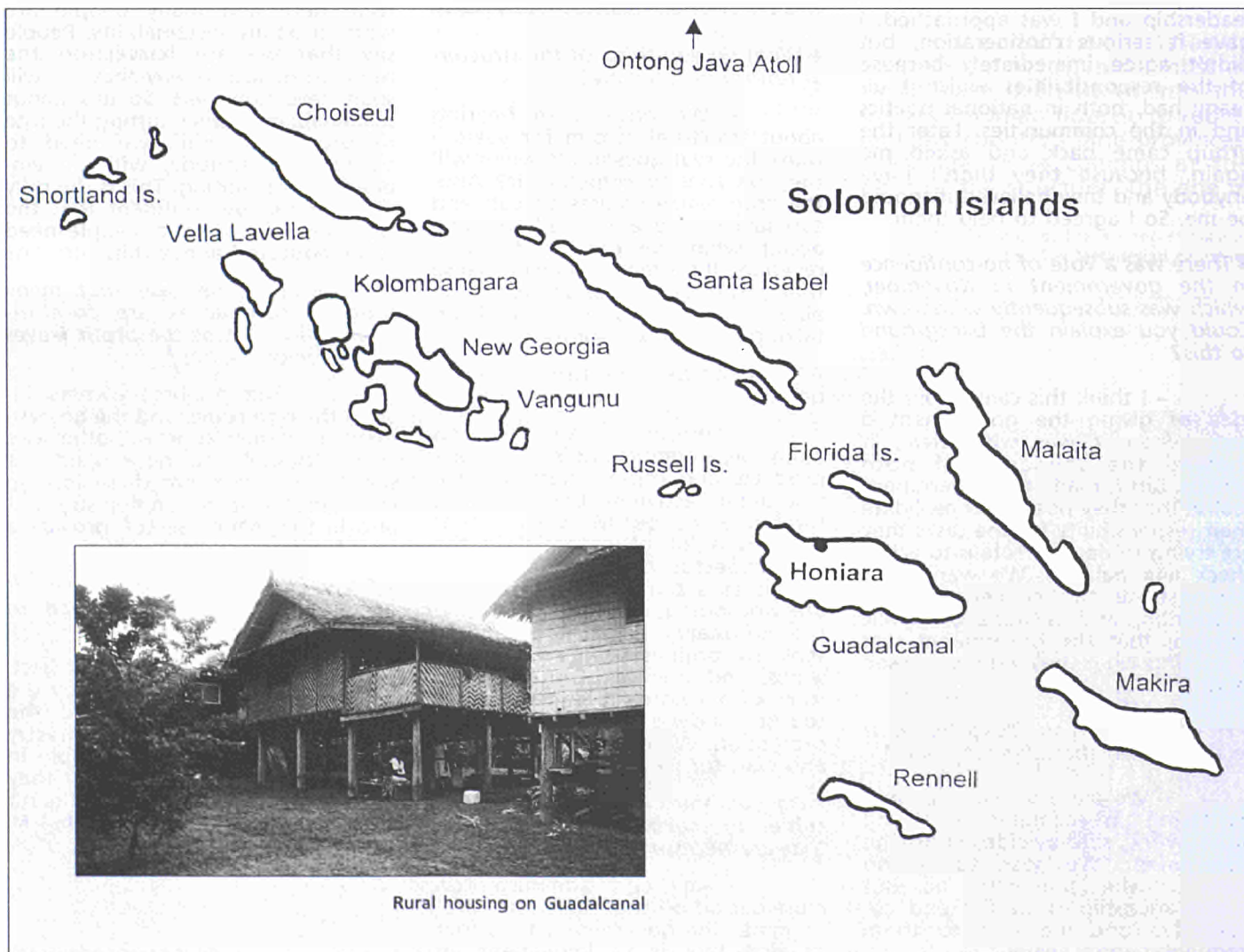
Infant mortality: 25 per 1000

Adult literacy: 62%

Enrolment in education (all levels ages 6-23): 47%

Human Development Index rating: 0.560 (123rd out of 174)

Sources: Economic Intelligence Unit, UNDP Human Development Report (1998). European Commission.



Rural housing on Guadalcanal

## Opposition leader Job Tausinga 'You have to raise money to be able to spend it'

*When the present administration took over in August 1997, there was a groundswell of support for the change, with the electorate feeling that it was time to put the house of government in order. How easy is it to lead the opposition at such a time? We spoke to Job Tausinga, who has this task, first asking him how he became opposition leader.*

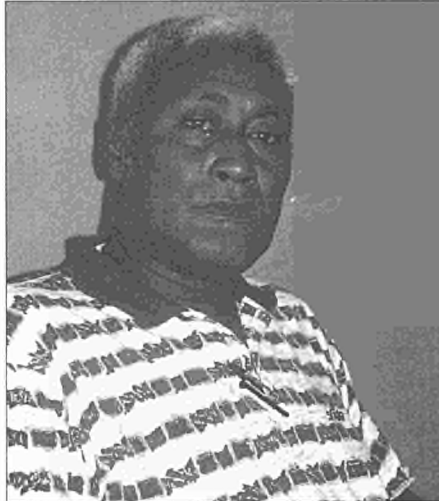
- About five months ago, the opposition decided to change its leadership and I was approached. I gave it serious consideration, but didn't agree immediately because of the responsibilities which I already had, both in national politics and in the communities. Later the group came back and asked me again, because they didn't have anybody and they believed it should be me. So I agreed to help them.

■ *There was a vote of no-confidence in the government in November, which was subsequently withdrawn. Could you explain the background to this?*

- I think this came from the idea of giving the government a test. When it was withdrawn, it showed the solidarity of both groups. But it made the government realise that they need to consolidate their responsibility for the tasks they are trying to do. Our role is to act as check and balance. We wanted to demonstrate the concern of the opposition, and sections of public opinion, that the government was not doing what they were supposed to do.

■ *How would you describe your relations with the administration?*

- We are a very small country facing an economic crisis, and must work side-by-side with the government. We need to remind them of what they must do. But our relationship is cordial and co-operative and we talk to them frequently about issues.



■ *What do you think of the structural reform programme?*

- We have been hearing about structural reform for years. I think the real question is when will they be able to complete it? Also, the programme focuses on cuts and cost-saving. We also need to think about what we can do to raise revenue. It's simple common sense that you have to raise money to be able to spend it. So we have been talking about tax reforms.

■ *What can be done to raise revenue?*

- Previously, we relied on palm oil, logging, timber, marine products and copra. These are the traditional activities that bring in foreign exchange. My view is that there is a lot of potential in the tourism sector, and we should look at this as a source of revenue. We are not doing enough to develop the hospitality industry. We could seek to organise seminars, workshops, and training. The service in some of our hotels is inadequate for tourists. And we could do a lot more promotion. We can't just sit around and wait for people to come.

■ *Do you think there will be difficulties in making the adjustments that are necessary?*

- Any new administration must decide on their particular programme. The government feels that its first task is to implement an

adjustment programme. Only time will tell whether this is achievable. Reform of the public sector will mean some job losses and families will be disadvantaged. But if they believe that this is the only way to put the country on a proper footing, then it is an exercise that can't be avoided. If they succeed, they will be able to service the country's debts. The people are feeling the pinch, but we can't avoid this if we are to make changes.

I think we should be exploring ways of encouraging production. If we produce more, we earn more. I am very interested in a smallholder rice project that has started here. We import all our rice, but it can grow very well in this country. This is a way to cut down our food import bill. So import substitution needs to be looked into. Employment opportunities are very limited nowadays, and encouraging small industries could also provide employment for young people leaving school.

■ *The logging sector has been the country's biggest source of revenue, but it has been badly hit by the Asian crisis. What do you think is the future for this industry?*

- It is quite a controversial issue here and many people are worried about sustainability. People say that we are harvesting the resource in such a way that we will soon have none left. So talk about sustainability implies cutting the rate of growth. I think we need to change our attitude, with an emphasis on replanting. This is the only way we can be confident that the resource will continue. People need to be educated about this.

■ *But isn't it the case that many logging companies are foreign-owned, so a lot of the profit leaves the Solomon Islands?*

- The resource owners invited them to come, and the government gave their approval, otherwise they wouldn't be here. And we should recognise that these foreign companies, not just in forestry, but also in the marine sector, provide a lot of jobs.

■ *Do you think the government is adopting the right approach in managing the resource?*

- They are doing their best. But the trees are not owned by the government. They belong to the people. One difficulty in forestry management is that it is people in the communities who decide. They can say: 'This is my forest - don't interfere'. ■

Interview by D.M.

## Frank Haiku, wood carver and artist

During the *Courier's* short visit to the Solomon Islands, energetic preparations were being made for the Melanesian Arts and Cultural Festival, which the country was hosting. It was a significant occasion, as it was the first time this event was being staged. The idea was that it should be a showcase for the art and culture of the five Melanesian countries – Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia. These countries already have strong trading links, through the Melanesian Spearhead Group. It was during one of the regular economic meetings of this regional organisation that the idea was mooted to move into the area of cultural cooperation and exchange.

An organising committee was set up to plan the festival. The government approached *Frank Haiku* to be a member of this committee. Already well-known for his involvement in organising the annual Trade Fair, and staging exhibitions in the region, Frank is also a renowned woodcarver and artist. We sought him out at the 'Festival Village' where the cultural events were due to take place. There, we found a veritable building site, with prodigious work going on. Typical houses (the local Pidgin word is *kastom haus*), which are representative of the style found in each participating country, were under construction. These were to house the art and crafts exhibitions, as well as the dance and music which would be per-

formed by artistes from the individual countries. The site was teeming with craftsmen and builders. For our interview with Frank, we sat under a large tree, shaded from the hot sun. Our conversation was punctuated by the hammering noises of work in progress.

'I was put in charge of the art exhibition and the Festival village', he told us, 'because of my experience of attending regional festivals. At first, we thought of putting up some temporary sheds to house the exhibitions and demonstrations. But some members of the organising committee felt that we should be providing something more permanent and decorative. It was this idea which led to what we are building here today'. As well as the *kastom hauses*, there will be a VIP house, where visiting

dignitaries will sit, and five enormous carved wooden totem poles, representing each participating country. Most of the carving has been done by Frank himself, or by his sons and brothers. It was also Frank who came up with the designs and did the first rough cuts of the carvings. Research was carried out with the help of the museum in Honiara, which lent him books. With these, he was able to draw up plans for the buildings, following the traditional style found in each country.

The Solomon Islands house has nine columns, most of which have been hewn into the shape of human figures, to represent the country's nine provinces. There are three columns at the front of the structure. The one in

A showcase for the art and culture of the five Melanesian countries



the centre represents the Chief. The other two are warriors; one holding a shield and the other a staff. Another of the carvings shows a character pounding pudding in a bowl. This represents the practice of crushing taro and coconut together. 'For some provinces', Frank explained, 'we weren't able to find anything suitable in the museum, so we had to develop stories from legends, and put that into pictures.'

The Papua New Guinea building is a spectacular *haus tambaran*, or spirit house, from the Sepik province.

How did Frank get into wood carving, we asked him? 'I am self-taught but my father is also a carver and I watched him while he worked'. He was born in Bellona, and educated in Catholic primary schools, run by nuns. One event stands out in his memory, which was to influence his future path.

'In those days, the nuns ran the Brownies (young girl guides) – so-called because of their brown uniforms. They had a tradition of dancing around a carved wooden owl. They asked my father to craft an owl for them. It was an embarrassing situation, because he was very busy doing other things. I kept reminding him of the Brownies' owl. It got to the stage where I was embarrassed to meet the Sisters. So I took some wood and decided to do it myself'. The finished article was a great success, and it was to be his first 'public' piece, recognised for its quality. He was only about 10 years old at the time.

Frank Haiku went on to secondary school, where his talent as a wood carver was also recognised. He recalls the support that was offered by the Principal, Archbishop *Norman Palmer*, who is now retired, but still lives in Solomon Islands. 'I must pay tribute to him because he gave me a lot of encouragement. He said to me 'If this is God's gift to you, and your talent, you must pursue it'. Archbishop Palmer encouraged him to take part in art competitions, and Frank often brought honour to his school, winning prizes for his work.

When he left school, Frank joined the police force, where he stayed for five years. He then moved on to work in the provincial press as a graphic artist. After that, as he recounted to us, 'I joined up with my *wontoks* and we started an arts and crafts business. Later, I left to do my own thing'.

International exposure came in 1976, when he represented Solomon Islands at the South Pacific Festival of Arts in New Zealand. He repeated the experience four years later and, in

side native Americans (Indians) on the west coast of the United States, and their influence on his work is to be found in the Festival Village. 'The Indians have a tradition of carving totem poles,' he explained. 'We also have totem poles in the Solomon Islands but they are not as large'. So Frank decided to add a native American flavour to an existing local tradition – and the result, as was mentioned earlier, is a carved Totem pole representing each of the participating countries in the festival.

Wood is not the only medium for Frank Haiku's artistic expression. He also paints and works with stone. One example of his work is to be found in the Central Bank in Honiara – where there is a panel of contemporary relief work, in three-dimensional pieces. As he explained, 'I did this carving for the Expo. I didn't want it to be sold even though there was a lot of interest. Instead, I wanted it to be displayed here. So I brought it back to the Solomon Islands. It was such an intricate piece – I wouldn't want to go through that again!'

A lot of his carvings are to be found in Holy Cross church, in Honiara, to which he has contributed a great many wooden artefacts and figures. Some of these are utilitarian items such as candlesticks. He is also responsible for the Crucifix and the Stations of the Cross. The latter are particularly striking, appearing almost three-dimensional, with the figures carved in relief (see photo). They are framed with an inlay of cut and polished shell, a decoration traditionally used in Solomon Islands. Frank likes to work mainly with kerosene wood and rose wood, because these are available in large sizes. He tends to do very big pieces, such as life-size statues, which require substantial blocks of wood. 'Also, kerosene is very durable', Frank pointed out, 'and this is important when exhibits have to be taken abroad, where climatic conditions may be different'.

The tourist market has had a considerable impact on the development of wood carving here. It has become more creative and more modern. Tourists also



The Courier

One of the Stations of the Cross, in the Holy Cross Church in Honiara. It is carved in wood, with figures in relief

1988, he 'flew the flag' for his country at the World Expo in Brisbane. This was followed by a series of trade promotions all around the world.

The next stage in Frank's artistic career was when he won a Fellowship from the Commonwealth Art Foundation. This gave him the opportunity to go and study in London and Canada, and there is no doubt that all the international exposure has been a major influence. 'I believe it helped me a great deal,' he affirmed. 'Talking and sharing with other artists has inspired me.'

He also had the interesting opportunity to work along-



want items that are not too heavy and can be easily transported. What sort of artefacts are available, we asked our interviewee? Frank told us a story about *Nguzunguzu*, which is the god from the Western Province. Carvings of this god used to be attached to the prow of a war canoe. A *nguzunguzu* holding a bird is a sign of peace, but beware if you are approached by a vessel whose prow is adorned with one holding a skull. This signifies war! Miniature versions of these figures are available.

There are also contemporary bowls which use the traditional shell inlay, or mother-of-pearl as an embellishment. Frank explained that the fruit of the *Tita* tree, which is the size of an apple, is crushed until it takes on the consistency of putty. Crafts-

men in the Solomon Islands use this as a binding material in their carvings. 'People from Santa Ana island have ceremonial bowls decorated with motifs of birds and fish. These are the true traditional bowls. The round bowls you find in the markets are contemporary pieces. Such a bowl would have a ritualistic use. For instance, before a meal, the priest might have some specially blessed food. The use of the ceremonial bowls would be reserved to certain people of importance'.

For the first Melanesian Arts and Cultural Festival, the organisers were expecting about 850 participants from the five countries. During our visit, two weeks before the event was due to take place, people were already beginning to arrive in Honiara. This reflects the fact that the

On the left, the Solomon Islands *kastom haus* with its carved columns representing the nine provinces. On the right, the finishing touches are being put to the *haus tambaran*, representing Papua New Guinea

South Pacific is a big place and its inhabited islands are few and far between. 'You come when you can get the transport,' Frank observed, 'and this may be a long time before you actually have to be here.'

Large numbers were expected from Solomon Islands itself, with reports of up to 70 performers from each of the nine provinces. The island of Malaita was expected to send the largest contingent. The Second Melanesian Arts and Cultural Festival is due to be held in Vanuatu in the year 2000. ■

D.M.



## Cooperation in focus

### Applause for forestry project

by Peter King\*

Applause resounded in the Mablosi rest house as Paul Vahia was officially declared elected as Chairman of the Community Advisory Council. Nicknamed 'Pineapple Paul' by some of us who visit his settlement and devour the delicious fruit he grows there, he is a hard-working family man with five children. Paul, at 35, is already the leader of the local East Boghotu Church Committee and chairman of his community's long-running cattle micro-project. He provides an example for other Isabel people of the meaning of community spirit, and the potential of a sustainable and varied approach to resources.

As staff of the EU-funded Isabel Sustainable Forestry Management Project (ISFMP)<sup>1</sup>, we felt he deserved the applause. His leadership had pulled together his community, and he had encouraged them to embark on a new and self-controlled approach to development. At the same time, Paul had worked with the community to make it one of the best-performing in the project. The latest shipment of eco-timber from

Paul's village in June netted the community more than SI\$ 14,000 (ECU 2650), a valuable contribution to a local economy dominated

Willie Feitei, Project Manager, tallying the timber, ready for export.

by copra production and a dwindling supply of marine resources.

Historically, it was the looming crisis in the Isabel people's natural resources that was the catalyst for the ISFMP back in 1991. Local government planning officers touring the sparsely populated island discovered what was really happening in the scattered small coastal villages. The message they got from the people was loud and clear... and worrying.

They were told that traditional money earners like copra and the more recent cocoa brought poor returns, and required high labour inputs, while the plantation system they engendered destroyed the forest. Women complained of the increasing distances they had to walk to their gardens as these failed agricultural projects used up much of the fertile land. The women also pointed out that their water supplies were either becoming dirty or drying up because people were cutting the forests around the small streams that supply the villages of Isabel with fresh water.

More recently-introduced money spinners like diving for



\*Technical assistant. Project Manager with ISFMP from 1995-1997 and from May to September 1998.

<sup>1</sup> ISFMP is now in the process of becoming a Trust, owned and governed by Isabel people and resource owners. The Community Advisory Council is the backbone of the Trust, and will be very influential in its future.





Peter King

beche-de-mer and trochus shells on the island's many reefs initially proved highly lucrative. But the approach to harvesting was disastrous. As one old chief put it: 'People went mad. They were out on the reefs all the time. Community work was ignored as everyone raced to make the most money, and people dived at all times of the day. Luckily for me, the shells ran out before I got pneumonia from all those night dives.'

There was another spectre on the horizon creating division and causing anxiety. Agents of Malaysian logging companies had appeared in the province, and were approaching communities

Eileen Sopomana on the training course at Kava. Eileen went on to mill timber with her community at Kava

for permission to log their land. Torn between the need for income to pay ever-increasing school fees and spiralling prices for basic necessities, and the desire to hold strongly to their culture and way of life, the Isabel people seemed to have reached an impasse.

But from their despair and their complaints came the idea of a possible way forward. What if they could protect their marine resources, water supplies, and rain forest? What if they could make money from milling their own

trees themselves? The ideas for ISFMP had germinated, but it would be a long time before the project would come to fruition.

At the same time as the project documents were in their initial stages of preparation, the Rio Conference was being held, and the European Community was deciding to increase its commitment to rainforest communities through the budget line 'Action in Favour of Tropical Forests'. This change came at a vital time for the people of Isabel. At the end of 1992, one logging company had already begun operations on the island and, from there, it hoped to spread its influence. Communities wavered.

By the end of 1993, with the help of the *Maruia Society* (a New Zealand NGO), the Isabel Provincial Government had passed three conservation laws; to protect water catchment areas, to preserve marine resources, and to enable communities to declare part of their lands as reserve areas, thereby preventing destructive development. The local Government also committed itself to sustainable development through fully supporting the ISFMP.

The ISFMP looked at previous experience with small-scale milling and intended to address the problems of local milling in

Timber ready for shipment to New Zealand



Peter King

Isabel. Communities would be trained in sustainable forestry and simple silviculture techniques. Tree selection, and quality and safety in felling and milling, would be stressed. Problems of money 'getting lost' would be addressed by simple bookkeeping techniques and the opening of local bank accounts. Shortage of markets would be overcome by targeting overseas high-price buyers. Alternatives to timber as a form of income would be investigated.

These were good ideas, and a well-supported. Agreement was reached in 1994 by all parties, and at the end of 1995, funding arrived. By this time, however, the loggers were entrenched in the province. Hopes that communities from around the island would join the project had evaporated. However, one side of the 'long island', as Isabel is known, was relatively free from logging company operations, and it was there that we concentrated our work.

For some, the project started just in time. *Davis Vihu*, the leader of the Koligua clan based at Varaghia, admitted how close he came to allowing the loggers to come in. 'I had already signed the agreement. The logging company agents said it was just to allow a road through our forest to another community's land. They promised to pay for all the trees they cut down. The next thing I knew, they were saying I should give them a bit of land for logging. 'Just for one shipment', was how they put it. When the members of my community heard, they were really angry with me. 'We should join the *Sustainable*', they said.

So the Koligua clan joined the project, and went through a community land-use planning exercise, declaring conservation areas of nearly 4000 hectares, forest management areas of 800 hectares, a water catchment protection area, and garden and agricultural areas. The community regularly produces eco-timber, which the project exports to New Zealand. With the proceeds, it has started a beach-trading business and a small fuel depot for out-board motors. Members of the clan are so good at sustainable forestry and milling that they have now become trainers in their own right.

Undoubtedly the greatest success of the project has been in

## Solomon Islands – EU cooperation 1990-2000

Lomé IV EDF 7	(ECUm)	Focal sectors
Lomé National Indicative Programme	19.0	Development of rural sector
Regional funds	1.5	Human resources development Agricultural programme
Stabex	8.3	Palm products Copra Cocoa
EIB Funds	2.0	Private sector loan
<b>Total Lomé funding</b>	<b>30.8</b>	
<b>Other EC budget lines</b>	<b>1.5</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>32.3</b>	

Lomé IV EDF 8	The National Indicative Programme has not yet been signed. ECU 19m has been earmarked.
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its ability to fit into Isabel life and culture. The conservation laws, for example, were designed by the people themselves, and follow traditional law and practices. So far, project communities have declared nearly 19,000 hectares of land as reserve areas, and put nearly 7000 hectares under forest management. People in Isabel already have many commitments to schools, clinics and the church, and consequently, timber production has had to be at a pace to fit in with local life. Frustrating sometimes perhaps for target-driven project managers, but appropriate for local people.

One of the most remarkable achievements of the local communities has been their ability to start from a position of virtually no experience of timber production, and be able, within a very short time, to produce export timber of such quality that very little is ever rejected. Sustainable forest management rules are followed, and pride is taken in the growth of replanted wildlings. Project communities have become eco-timber experts.

But worries and challenges remain. Although the project trained women in every part of sustainable forestry, men continue to dominate the production side, and therefore receive wages from the community for their work. Part of the problem is that Isabel people, men and women, still see forestry as a male activity. Another is that it remains difficult within the local culture for women to take up this work. To counteract this, the project is now beginning to market woven pandanus mats,

produced by Isabel women. Successful trials have been undertaken, and it is hoped to develop this part of the project fully in the second half of this year.

Communities themselves have also faced problems, which they have had to overcome. But as Paul Vahia said to the project staff and Community Advisory Council after his election: 'We can only thank you for helping us in our struggles. But you must realise that we have our own frustrations and difficulties. We do our best to follow the path we have decided upon, but sometimes disagreements come up amongst ourselves. Such is the nature of life in Isabel. Within these meetings, however, we can discover our own solutions to our common, shared problems. Let us look to the future together, and live together peacefully, thinking not only of ourselves, but of our children and grandchildren.'

P.K.

# Desertification



Over the past 30 years, drought has worsened in the dry regions of the world, and desertification has accelerated threatening the livelihood of over a billion people. Famine, poverty and mass migration have become widespread and the capacity of the drylands to support increasing growths in population is being called into question. With deforestation, overgrazing and over-cultivation continuing to undermine land productivity, urgent solutions need to be found.

These were among the problems in the minds of world leaders when they met in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 for 'the Earth Summit'. The Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity emerged from the summit under the banner of sustainable development, and a negotiating process was launched to produce a convention on desertification.

Two years later, in June 1994, the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), which contains a comprehensive strategy for a global attack on the phenomenon, was signed in Paris. The Convention focuses on Africa, the most affected continent, with an elaborate annex. It also has annexes for Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Northern Mediterranean.

The CCD offers a wider definition of desertification to mean 'land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human

activities'. This puts the number of people most affected directly by desertification at over 250 million.

The First Conference of the Parties to the CCD (COP-1) was held in Rome in October 1997. As the second conference (COP-2) will convene in Dakar, Senegal, this December, we examine the problem of desertification from different angles and look at possible solutions.

The close link between the climate change, biodiversity and desertification conventions are obvious. The need for synergy among all three has never been greater. The CCD lays emphasis, among other things, on a 'bottom-up' approach and on strong participation of communities in decision-making, the role of women and NGOs, and on the use of science and technology, in particular traditional knowledge and techniques.

External resources are recognised as vital for developing countries, especially the poorest and the most affected, if they are to mount an effective campaign against desertification. Agenda 21 provides for common but differentiated responsibilities under which developed countries agree to provide financial and technical assistance to the developing countries in return for the latter establishing the enabling environment for sustainable development to ensure the survival of our common heritage, the Earth. ■

A.O.

# The Convention to combat desertification

## A code of good practice

by Camilla Toulmin\*

The Convention to Combat Desertification provides a valuable opportunity to address the problems faced by drylands people around the world. It sets out an approach to be followed by governments, development agencies, researchers, NGOs and others aimed at better coordination of activities, a strong local level focus, and innovative funding mechanisms.

Many affected countries are currently drawing up programmes aimed at meeting their commitments under the Convention. Their success will depend on keeping certain key principles in mind (see box).

Drylands make up a third of the world's land surface and provide a home to some 900 million people. These regions have always been subject to variable rainfall and drought – bringing years of plenty followed by years of want. But since the 1970s, there has been rising concern about longer term environmental degradation in dryland regions which has been termed 'desertification'. Such concern has received added impetus given the expected impact of climate change on dryland areas in future decades. While the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) expects overall levels of rainfall to rise, the moisture available for plant growth is predicted to fall, due to increasing temperatures and evaporation, and to the increased frequency of higher intensity storms, provoking increased runoff and erosion. Hence, problems of dryland de-

gradation may well become more intractable in future.

Countries affected by desertification are frequently among the poorest in the world, and the most reliant on development assistance. At the same time, these countries are particularly dependent on the sustainable use of land to generate food, incomes and employment for their populations. While Africa has tended to receive most attention in the desertification debate, problems are also evident elsewhere, such as in the Central Asian states around the Aral Sea, in parts of China and South Asia, and in the drier regions of Latin America. In the developed world, parts of the US are subject to heavy pressures of use and associated degradation of soils and vegetation, while even Iceland has announced its intention to draw up a programme to address soil erosion and desertification within its own shores.

The term 'desertification' first gained prominence in the 1920s and 1930s when unfounded fears arose that the Sahara Desert was advancing into the better-watered Sahel and Savannah lands of West Africa. The terrible drought years of the early 1970s in the Sahel and Horn of Africa revived worries of a drying climate and the damage to life and livelihoods associated with this. As a result, the UN Environment Programme called a Conference on Desertification in 1977 to assess the extent of the problem and to draw up action plans at national, regional and global levels in an attempt to tackle it. However, such plans were rarely more than a list of projects, rather than a coherent strategy for addressing drylands management, and they received support from neither donor agencies nor governments of affected countries. At the same time, confusion

over the term 'desertification' and how to measure it added to the hesitation of the donor community to support a global approach through UNEP.

Desertification came back onto the global agenda in the run-up to the Earth Summit in Rio, during which African governments felt their particular needs had not been addressed, that there was too great a focus on the environmental concerns of rich countries, and too little on the development needs of the poor. Hence, governments at Rio agreed to draw up an international convention which would focus on dryland degradation, or desertification, particularly in Africa.

Five sessions of negotiations, spread over a year, were brought to a close in Paris in June 1994, with agreement on the text of a Convention by the International Negotiating Committee. A resolution on urgent action for Africa was also tabled in Paris and agreed, as were four Regional Annexes covering Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Northern Mediterranean Region.

The Convention was opened for signature in October 1994, and entered into force at the end of 1996, following ratification by the requisite 50 signatory governments. The first Conference of the Parties (COP1) was held in Rome in autumn 1997 and COP2 is due to be held in Dakar, Senegal from the end of November 1998.

### What is desertification?

The term 'desertification' had spawned more than a hundred definitions at the last count. The main areas for disagreement concern the extent to which climate or humans are attributed the main responsibility for land degradation, and how far such processes are easily reversible. The definition of desertification agreed at the negotiations of the CCD recognises the importance of the linked impacts of human land use, and climatic factors on the problem.

*Desertification means land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities (CCD, article 1(a))*

Desertification includes a range of problems such as loss of soils through water and wind

\* Director, Drylands Programme, IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development).

## Ten key principles of the CCD

### I. Learn from the past

The Convention text is based clearly on lessons from past experience, and represents a code of good practice for drylands management. There is now much clearer understanding of what has worked well and why. This sharing of information and ideas needs to continue and broaden to ensure that knowledge is disseminated among farmers and herders, and among the agencies responsible for supporting this work.

### II. Focus on dryland areas

The dry areas of the world tend only to receive the world's attention when there is drought and famine. Yet debate during the CCD negotiations has shown that dryland areas (and their people) do not have to be imprisoned in a cycle of famine and impoverishment, but can be productive and sustainably managed.

### III. More money is not the answer

The Convention text recognises that the amount of money devoted to drylands development is much less important than how it is used. Existing funding sources could be used more effectively, and a greater share allocated and used at grass roots level. National Desertification Funds have been proposed as a means of providing access to credit for local initiatives, and several promising examples exist where development funds have been made the responsibility of local committees.

### IV. Decentralise decision-making

It is now recognised that governments have tried to do too much, and intervene in many fields where it is not appropriate. Instead, they need to devolve considerable power and responsibility to lower levels, to build on the initiatives of farmers and herders, and to strengthen local organisations.

### V. Work in partnership and collaborate

All interested parties – NGOs, community-based organisations, governments, donor agencies, and researchers – are urged to work together, avoid competition, and help build longer term programmes.

### VI. Drylands are part of the broader economy

While the main focus of the Convention is on resource management in rural areas, this cannot be separated from opportunities to develop and diversify economic activities in other sectors. Opportunities for farmers to earn cash by sale of animals or crops often depend on the operation of very distant markets and prices, while the sums available for farmers to invest in land improvement may depend on migrants' earnings gained thousands of miles away in European capitals.

### VII. Don't make new plans!

Parties to the Convention are committed to develop a National Action Programme to combat desertification. However, rather than instituting a new plan, with new organisations, staff etc., parties to the Convention must take account of existing environmental initiatives, and build on these wherever feasible. Where a country is already half way through preparation of a National Environment Action Plan or a National Conservation Strategy, the NAP can be added to such a process to ensure that drylands issues are tackled within the existing framework.

### VIII. Participation matters!

The Convention argues strongly in favour of a participatory approach to dryland development, whether in the process of elaborating a National Action Programme, or in the design of local development plans. Participation is valued for several reasons: as a means to build on local knowledge and priorities, ensuring that programmes and interventions are well-designed for local circumstances; and providing some chance of longer term interest and sustainability.

### IX. Build on local knowledge & skills

The text recognises that local people have a lot of relevant knowledge about their environment, on which interventions and technical improvements can be developed. Indigenous technologies are often well-suited to local conditions, although they may need adaptation as circumstances change. Researchers need to work more closely with local people to identify ways of improving the performance of existing technologies.

### X. Legal binding commitments

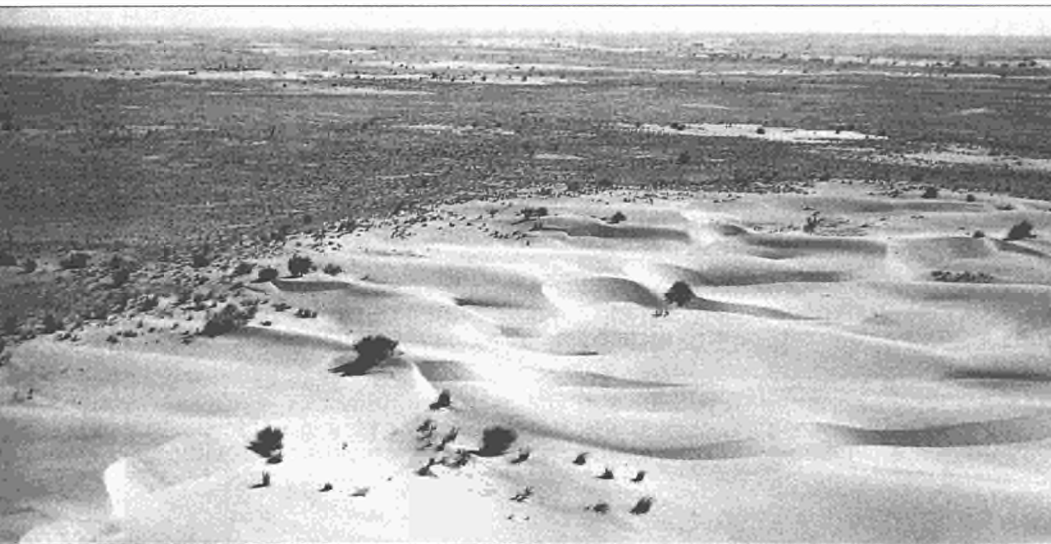
In this Convention, affected country governments and donors admit the need for a legally binding text on the promises made by each party. In the past each side has recognised the need for changes in practice, but has not been willing to follow these through. The Convention provides a means to check whether the parties are taking their commitments seriously.

erosion, declining soil fertility, a loss of vegetative cover, decreasing water availability, and a general reduction in the diversity of plant and animal life. Together, these processes increase the vulnerability of dryland people to drought, food insecurity and longer term risks to livelihoods. Such a definition also leads to a focus on areas of relatively dense settlement and land use, where the impact of human activity is sufficient to cause concern.

Desertification is often associated in the public mind with the idea of 'desert advance'. In the 1970s, there was great concern that the Sahara desert was steadily marching southwards – some said at five kilometres a year, others claimed the figure was more than ten kilometres. A number of green belt schemes were developed to try and halt this inexorable process, involving, for example, the planting of trees along the southern edge of the desert. Recent research shows,

however, that there is no evidence of a persistent process of desert advance occurring around the Sahara. Rather, the desert frontier can be seen as shifting over time, advancing in a year of poor rainfall, and receding when good rains return.

Many dryland systems are now recognised as being remarkably resilient to wide extremes in rainfall and resource use. The incidence of dryland degradation and the success with which people manage to make a living



© Earthscan/Mark Edwards

The Saharan fringes, Sudan. Recent research shows no evidence of persistent desert advance around the Sahara

under such conditions vary greatly from place to place. This local variability is the reason why new approaches to combating desertification are focused strongly at the local level, building where possible on promising local techniques and institutions for managing resources. Yet, such a local focus will only bear fruit where supported by a framework at national and international levels assuring land users a reasonable and secure return from investment in their lands. The CCD aims to provide such a framework.

### Commitments under the CCD

The text of the CCD runs to 71 pages, covering 40 articles, and 4 annexes. If the commitments are fully met by affected country governments and donor agencies, it provides a radical agenda for achieving more sustainable drylands development, but this will require far-reaching changes in government policies and practices.

The primary focus of the CCD rests on steps taken by the authorities of affected countries to initiate action at national and local level to combat desertification. The text calls for governments to demonstrate the priority which they place on tackling dryland degradation, by allocating sufficient resources and by appropriate policy and institutional changes, such as ensuring greater security of tenure over land, and devolution of power to local communities. Commitment to support such processes is pledged by developed country parties, both directly in bilateral agree-

ments and indirectly through the support provided to multilateral organisations, sub-regional and regional bodies. The NGO community is also requested to take part in the development and implementation of National Action Programmes.

Affected country governments are committed to establish a central body to coordinate activities at national level and develop partnership agreements with external donors, and internal stake-holders. The first step is to draw up a National Action Programme, through a participatory process to identify priorities in areas most affected by the risk of degradation. Support for improved management of soils and vegetation at local level is the centre piece of National Action Programmes, which are expected to achieve this through a variety of mechanisms. These include:

- *policy and institutional changes:* to establish clearer rights and incentives to land users to manage and invest in their land;
- *economic and financial measures:* to provide economic benefits and increased incomes from better management and investment, and;
- *technical support:* to support farmers to develop methods for more sustainable practices, based where possible on traditional systems, skills, and priorities.

Negotiations are continuing on certain parts of the text, such as what is meant by the Global Mechanism, and how it

will work. Many developing countries want this mechanism to provide funding for projects. Developed countries are strongly against this, believing that it would duplicate existing channels of funding and not be sufficiently under their control. However, the pressure is on donor governments to try and come up with more money than is currently pledged.

### Assessing the Convention

The negotiation of the CCD has provided an opportunity for governments to discuss common issues, and develop a degree of consensus on the nature of the problems faced by dryland peoples and on ways to address them. It is some achievement to have had a text agreed by the nations of the world on a set of problems as diverse as those falling under the desertification heading. The text itself is also strong on the rhetoric of more sustainable and fairer development, with a focus on participation, the needs of marginal areas and groups, building on indigenous knowledge and skills, and so on. It also emphasises the need to bring about changes in policy at national and international levels, rather than just getting projects funded. The latter will not bear very much fruit unless they occur in a broader economic and institutional context that is more favourable.

As with all initiatives, the CCD will only be as good as people wish to make it. A number of affected country governments and donor agencies have demonstrated a strong interest and commitment to the convention, by starting work on its implementation and providing support to a range of activities. Despite the pessimism often expressed about drylands development, particularly in Africa, the CCD process provides a sense of direction, of hope, and a code of good practice to follow. ■ C.T.

# Desertification, biodiversity and climate change – the path to sustainable development

by Sálvano Briceño\*

The Convention to Combat Desertification has a great deal in common with its sister Rio Conventions on Biological Diversity and Climate Change. While each addresses a specific environmental issue, all three share a common *sustainable development* approach recognising their interaction and interdependence with political, social, economic and cultural factors. In addressing subjects that are, in many ways, different, these treaties can contribute to each other's objectives in important ways. This can be achieved through closer collaboration, not only between the secretariats of the three Conventions, but also in their political processes at both national and international levels.

The basic interconnections between biodiversity, climate change and desertification are now well understood. Climate change will affect the drylands by influencing water supplies, heat extremes, the humidity and temperature of soils, and agricultural production. It will also threaten biological diversity on land and in the sea. As climate zones shift poleward, the composition and geographic distribution of ecosystems will change rapidly. Species unable to migrate rapidly will not survive. At the same time, deforestation and dryland degradation are influencing local climates, the global carbon cycle, and the albedo (reflectivity), of the earth's surface.

Biodiversity and desertification are also influenced by dryland degradation which affects agricultural productivity, natural vegetation, wildlife and soils. The loss of biodiversity likewise undermines the environmental health of drylands and makes them more vulnerable to human and natural pressures.

Fortunately, the three issues are also linked by common solutions. For example, combating deforestation reduces net carbon dioxide emissions, land degradation and the loss of biodiversity. Similarly, the introduction of renewable energy technologies can cut greenhouse gas emissions while easing pressure on land and forests by providing an alternative to unsustainable biomass fuels.

While the exorbitant emission of greenhouse gases is a consequence of a specific type of development (extremely wealthy) which favours the excessive consumption

of fossil fuels, desertification processes are a consequence of an opposite type of development (extremely meagre) requiring intensive consumption of fuelwood for basic survival. The former could be possibly overcome by intensive educational effort, but the latter requires, in addition, substantial investment in capital and technology to create the basis for sustainable economic development.

The linkage between environmental quality and economic growth is widely recognised and understood as an absolute priority for sustainable development. However, the need for connecting the institutional arrangements – organisations, legislation and programmes – that conduct and support the various processes involved are insufficiently understood. While a great deal of institutional interaction, co-operation and networking is indeed underway, these linkages remain, to a large extent, superficial. A new approach for developing synergies among programmes and organisations – and their staff – would need more substantive and systematic inputs, and this is gradually becoming a precondition for sustainable development.

## Why is sustainable development a new approach?

Increasingly, people are identifying the legal texts that emanated from the Rio process (UNCED or Earth Summit – see first box) as a new breed of convention that are intimately related to each other due to their wider scope in addressing sustainable development objectives and their linkage to a common global strategy, the *Agenda 21*.

Previous conventions dealing with environmental issues (transboundary movement of hazardous

waste, trade in endangered species, migratory species, ozone protection, natural heritage, air pollution, wetlands, and others) have been recognised as conservation or environmental instruments that deal with their subjects in a more specialised manner<sup>1</sup>. Further development was therefore needed to integrate sustainable development approaches, giving broader consideration to connections with the social, economic, political and institutional causes and consequences of the issues addressed.

In looking at a number of new issues – biodiversity, climate change and desertification – the governments at Rio were not simply adding a few additional subjects to the international institutional framework dealing with the environment. They were doing something more important which was to initiate a new process, addressing environ-

<sup>1</sup> Environmental conventions usually refer to either 'sustainable management' or 'wise use' of the resources involved. Many people interpret these as references to sustainable development. However, although the intention is clearly an integrated approach to the management or use of the resources, thus implying linkages with other socio-economic factors, this does not match the wider scope of *sustainable development* which calls for a more comprehensive or integral understanding of development. This is explained in more detail in 'Our Common Future', the Report of the Brundtland Commission (1987) and in UNCED's *Agenda 21* (1992). The Law of the Sea Convention was a highly comprehensive international legal instrument signed in 1982. But states were very slow to ratify and implement it and this prompted the development of other instruments (for example, by the International Maritime Organisation in respect of shipping activities, and by the UN Environment Programme relating to regional seas). The result was a fragmented situation. A new integrating process is now needed to address ocean management in a systematic and effective manner, thereby contributing more effectively to sustainable development.

\* Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

## The Rio Conventions

The term *Rio Conventions* is usually regarded as covering the two texts signed in Rio de Janeiro at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), namely:

- *the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*; and,
- *the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)*, together with;
- *the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)* which resulted from a recommendation made in Rio.

Occasionally, the term is employed to refer to other types of agreement that do not have the same legally-binding effect as the Conventions. These can also be sub-divided between those adopted at Rio:

- *Agenda 21*;
- *the Forest Principles*; and,
- *the Rio Declaration*,

and those following a Rio recommendation such as:

- *the agreement on straddling and highly migratory fish stocks*; or,
- *the Global Programme of Action on protection of the marine environment from land-based activities*.

Other agreements are still in the negotiation phase and are expected to be adopted shortly - for example, the further implementation of the prior informed consent (PIC)

ment and development from a different angle (that of sustainable development). This requires, among other things, a global and comprehensive understanding of development needs as a prerequisite in managing the environment and *vice versa*.

The fact that economic institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF and the World Trade Organisation, have included these subjects on their agendas is a clear signal that policies in this field are moving beyond the traditional environmental perspective (pre-Rio). They are now gaining a wider policy status which is increasingly recognised as inseparable from other economic and social issues. There is still a lot of ground to be covered, however. To achieve sustainable development, concepts and approaches need to be translated into practice and behaviour, and this will require a great deal of educational effort.

Furthermore, although the Rio Conventions, and the entire UNCED process, represent a step further in the global consideration of sustainable development, it does not mean that there is a clear concept or understanding of it. On the contrary, there are numerous areas where confusion or shortcomings need to be tackled. Despite addressing more social, economic

and political matters than previous 'conservation' and 'environmental' strategies, Agenda 21 is still a text that is weighted towards the natural resource side. This is understandable given that it was largely a product of discussions and negotiations among environment ministry representatives.

The trend towards sustainable development is set and irreversible. It still requires systematic consideration, however, and the integration of issues such as economic growth, trade, human rights, poverty, disarmament, education, health, agriculture, industry and culture. For this to happen, concerted efforts are needed from international organisations, governments, official agencies and NGOs.

Sustainable development involves more than just creating a new identity. It aims at developing new ways (entailing often a struggle with traditional methods) of addressing 'development' and 'environment' issues. It involves, for example, new approaches in conducting international business, an increased understanding of negotiation and conflict-resolution techniques, improved management and leadership capacities in organisations and the building of partnerships.

It also requires a different type of education involving a special

vision of society where the values of tolerance, solidarity and team-building are stronger than those of material consumption, competition and the ability to make money. It needs to be a society where governments are more focused on what they can do best and are more effective in managing the resources at their disposal, while the private sector becomes more socially and environmentally responsible<sup>2</sup>.

## Political and historical processes

In recognising the role of the Rio Conventions in building sustainable development, an understanding of the political and historical processes is essential. The three treaties that are the tangible products of the Rio process have many legal and political principles in common, but they were, in fact, initiated and promoted by different political interests.

The climate change negotiations received their impetus from a group of developed countries and from the Association of Small Island States. The desertification talks were pushed mainly by African nations concerned about the impact of dry-land degradation on their economic and social development. The groups in question need each other's support to address their respective priorities in the face of climate change and desertification.

Biodiversity negotiations, carried out under the auspices of UNEP, included as key actors both small developing nations that are rich in biodiversity and industrial powers with advanced biotechnologies.

Fortunately, governments succeeded in turning all three Rio Conventions into truly global instruments. This is clearly shown by their rapid entry into force (about two years after signature) and the wide geographical spread of the participating state parties.

The fact that the three instruments have common links, both historical and substantive, is not a guarantee in itself that the intergovernmental processes created by

<sup>2</sup> There is a real need for approaches designed to engender greater social and environmental responsibility on the part of the private sector. This needs to be thought out carefully - and nurtured. By their nature, private businesses are not prepared to integrate such issues into their corporate strategies. It must be done in a way that encourages businesses to address the issue (or makes it difficult for them not to do so).





(often officials responsible for assistance to African nations). Those from developing countries are largely from environment or agriculture ministries. Only a handful of governments include the same delegates in the three negotiating processes. Most do not have an integrated approach to the Rio Conventions at the national level. Not surprisingly, this extends to the international level, where contacts between the Conferences of the Parties to the three Conventions, and their subsidiary bodies, are minimal.

The three Convention secretariats need jointly to develop systematic exchanges of information and to plan their involvement in any technical cooperation activities so as to assist governments in a coordinated manner. Likewise, there needs to be more interaction among national delegations to the three negotiating processes, where there is currently relatively little overlap.

Governments need to develop integrated approaches to the Rio Conventions by forging closer links among the ministries involved. Such cross-fertilisation would not only enrich activities under the three Conventions, but would make assistance projects more attractive for multilateral and bilateral sources of funding.

Protecting biodiversity, combating desertification and addressing climate change are different aspects of the same issue: sustainable development. Lack of knowledge is the underlying cause of behaviour leading to climate change, the thinning of the ozone layer, the loss of biodiversity, land degradation and many other problems. There are huge opportunities for addressing these problems jointly through coordinated policies, projects and education. ■ S.B.

them will remain closely aligned. They could go their separate ways, making it difficult to collaborate to improve understanding of the problems and implement common solutions.

A look at the type of delegate who is attracted to each forum suggests that the problem starts at national level. Climate change has mobilised interest and resources from ministries of foreign affairs, energy and the environment, as well as large numbers of NGOs particularly from developed countries. These include NGOs that represent

Desertification, biodiversity and climate change.  
*Diverse issues but common solutions*

business and private sector interests. And like biodiversity, it has been identified by the Global Environment Facility as a priority issue, thus gaining access to significant financial resources.

Desertification, on the other hand, has drawn the attention of two different sets of ministries. Delegates from developed countries come mainly from agencies responsible for development cooperation

# Lessons from the Sahel

by Augustin Oyowe\*

The 1990s have, so far, been a very good decade for the Sahel in holding back desertification and increasing agricultural output. As parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) arrive at the effective implementation phase of the Convention, the Sahel provides valuable lessons on common but differentiated responsibilities as envisaged under Agenda 21 – the impact of external resources, macro-economic reforms, democratisation, participation of civil society and, above all, validation and use of local knowledge, practices and techniques.

Since the 1973-74 drought, which killed thousands of people and animals, international interest in the Sahel has not waned. The European Union, FAO, UNDP/UNSO, UNEP and IFAD have all been involved in helping the region overcome the effects of drought and desertification. Organisations such as the OECD's *Club du Sahel* and *Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel* have also come into being specifically to assist. Although there are no accurate figures, billions of dollars are believed to have been spent on programmes and projects in the region over the past 25 years whether bilaterally with individual countries or through the CILSS (*Comité Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Secheresse dans le Sahel*) which was founded by eight countries of the region in 1973 following a drought (see box).

External funding and international cooperation alone, however, would not have enabled the Sahel to make significant progress had the enabling environment not been created by government action and by fortuitous developments.

The drought of the early 1970s, it should be recalled, was the severest the Sahel had ever experienced. Indeed, it began in 1968 and continued unbroken for six years, devastating the region, not just through the massive loss of human and animal life, but also in terms of environmental degradation and socio-economic dislocation. There was a loss of soil fertility and vegetation cover, including certain plant and animal species, over large areas. There was an acceleration of wind erosion and desertification. And groundwater levels were drastically

reduced (by as much as 30 metres in places), evidence of the phenomenon of global warming which, at that time, was not at the forefront of international concern.

Over 1.6 million Sahelians migrated, mainly to urban areas, leaving behind mostly women and children (remittances from these migrants have since become an important source of funding for the region, particularly for agriculture and construction). One result of this migration was that a large number of women became heads of household overnight. The tension that had existed between farmers and nomadic herdsmen worsened as the latter were forced in large numbers to abandon centuries of the transhumance tradition and settle down. Because the population in general depended heavily on food aid, feeding habits also changed. Poverty and malnutrition worsened. The Sahel, which had hitherto produced enough to feed its people, became heavily dependent on imports.

On the economic front, the overall situation was depressing. Traditional exports fell in both volume and earnings while the debt burden increased (to around \$7.2 billion by 1986). Short of

money, governments were unable to pay the wages of their oversized civil services. Another bout of drought in the early 1980s dealt a further blow to the region. Although significant numbers of animals were lost, the livestock population was still large enough for overgrazing to continue. Fuelwood gathering also intensified. The Sahelian environment was on a knife-edge.

## Reforms

Despite the redoubling of efforts to control desertification, it was clear that fundamental political and economic reforms were necessary if the Sahel was to recover. Several unforeseen developments helped to bring about these reforms. The first was the wind of democratic change which swept across Africa early in the decade, and which took a strong hold in the Sahel. In Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, governments were democratically elected and the rule of law established. The second was the economic liberalisation which those governments undertook – freeing up agricultural prices, privatising loss-making public enterprises, reducing the size of the civil service, etc. The third was the devaluation of the CFA franc, which made the region's main agricultural exports more competitive.

The hyper-inflation, caused by the rapid rise in import prices following the devaluation, has since been tamed in almost all the Sahel countries. Inflation now ranges from 3-5% in Senegal to 7-9% in Chad. The debt burden has also been reduced. France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Canada and Italy have either cancelled their ODA loans or arranged debt conversions.

## Civil society involvement

Since the 1980s, experts have considered the Sahel an appropriate testing ground for various ideas on development emerging from the international scene. Community participation, particularly of women, in the design and implementation of programmes and projects was one of these novel ideas. The Convention to Combat Desertification<sup>1</sup>, with its bottom-up strategies, brought a new dimension to this approach. Most programmes and projects on drought and desertification control in the Sahel thus have community participation as a central theme. This has

### The CILSS

The member states of the CILSS are Cape-Verde, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad. The organisation's objectives include coordination of emergency aid, definition of development policies and promotion of cooperation among its members. The Sahel Institute in Bamako is an arm of the CILSS – an instrument of North-South cooperation in research into anti-desertification measures such as water and soil conservation, reforestation, solar power and energy-efficient stoves.

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become easier to achieve because of the increasing involvement of NGOs, which have become true and effective partners of beneficiaries, international donors and national governments alike.

Women in the Sahel have always played an important role in agriculture and rural development. With a large number left behind following the droughts, their increased participation in the sector was inevitable. In the event, they have not only become efficient farmers, but have also moved into areas traditionally regarded as male preserves such as the cultivation of cotton and grain. They are primarily responsible for widening the base of production from the traditional crops of sorghum, millet, maize, beans and cowpeas, to include tomatoes, cassava, sweet potatoes, peppers and okra.

Agricultural output in the Sahel has, not surprisingly, increased<sup>2</sup>. *Per capita* food supply since 1983 has risen by an average of 48% in Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad, Mauritania and Cape Verde. These countries have consequently reduced their food imports. Burkina Faso and Mali have even become exporters of grain.

## Improving the Sahelian environment

The fact that the Sahelian environment has improved so remarkably is not so much due to the return of the rains, the levels of which are still well below those of the pre-1973 era, as to the intensification of soil and water conservation. This has occurred both through large-scale projects, funded by international donors, and through the actions of local people who have resorted, with considerable success, to traditional methods and practices.

The priority from the very beginning has been to harvest and harness the scanty water resources of the Sahel and apply the most efficient methods to improve soil

fertility and regenerate badly degraded lands.

After the experience of the colonial period, when traditional methods of soil and water conservation were gradually discarded in favour of imported technologies – which have since failed throughout Africa – a different approach was adopted. This involved the use of improved local techniques, which varied according to soil types (clay-like, brownish-red, barren crusted, stony or sandy). These techniques were used both in large-scale projects, initially favoured by most donors, and on individual farms by farmers wishing to cash in on the improved environmental and economic conditions.

Large-scale projects involve mainly the development of several thousands of hectares of land for villagers. The soil is ploughed with hired bulldozers and contours are constructed with stone or earth. Individual farmers, on the other hand, apply various improved planting techniques which they have learned either from neighbours, NGOs or extension workers. The most popular are pit techniques<sup>3</sup> which have proved very effective in recent years in boosting farm yields. These include water pockets, known as *tassa* in Niger or *zai* in Mali – a series of pits dug in lines on barren crusted and clay-like soils. The work is usually done with hoes during the rainy season when the ground is easy to work, with the aim of preventing run-off and retaining water. Traditionally, the pits are small, but improvements have been made in recent years by digging them wider and deeper. Then there are the *half moon basins*, which are large holes protected by moon-shaped mounds. These are usually dug over large areas of sandy soil in which crops such as millet and maize are planted. The latter plants help stabilise the sand and provide greenery in landscapes otherwise covered by dunes. Other methods include *contour bounding* with stone and earth, *trash lining* (using stalks of millet and sorghum, tree branches etc) to retain water, prevent sheet erosion and the formation of gullies, *grass barriers* along gullies to check further erosion,

*mulching* to conserve moisture, *moulding* to bring up rich organic matter and *terracing* to prevent run-offs on hillsides.

Another important technique is *tree planting* to provide brakes and shelters, and stabilise the soil so that it can absorb water faster and become enriched with nitrogen. The main species planted on farms are *acacia albida*, *butyr-osperrum parkii* (shea) and *parkia biglobosa* (nééré).

Most of these water and soil conservation techniques are low-cost. Their application, combined with the use of a variety of improved seeds and manure, have enabled Sahelian farmers not only to increase farm output but also to restore fertility to abandoned lands.

The outlook, however, is not all rosy. These water and soil conservation activities, together with numerous small-scale reforestation programmes, have brought significant improvements to the environment, but the Sahelian ecosystem remains extremely fragile. Rainfall is scanty and unpredictable. Global warming will almost certainly have very serious consequences for the Sahel if not effectively checked. Conflicts between farmers and herders are still frequent. Achieving a balance between agriculture and livestock continues to be a major challenge even though the close link between sustainable human development and environmental protection is now increasingly being understood, especially by rural people. And worst of all, the Sahel's population, currently estimated at 50 million, is growing at 3.1% per annum. According to some estimates, this is far beyond the capacity of the local environment.

These challenges notwithstanding, the achievements over the past fifteen years in the fight against drought and desertification in the Sahel show that strategies adopted in the CCD, which have been applied in this region, are valid and effective. They also show that if partners to the Agenda 21 keep to their side of the bargain, humanity can achieve the objective of sustainability sought at the Rio Earth Summit. ■ A.O.

<sup>1</sup> The CCD was signed in Paris in 1994. It was accompanied by a resolution on Urgent Action for Africa which led to a variety of awareness-raising campaigns, the holding of national desertification forums and the establishment of several national and regional action programmes to combat desertification.

<sup>2</sup> Half the population is still employed in agriculture. Agriculture (including livestock) accounts for 40% of the Gross Domestic Products.

<sup>3</sup> Most of the information on these techniques has been drawn from the book 'Sustaining the Soil: Indigenous Soil and Water Conservation in Africa', (Earthscan Publications), edited by Chris Reij, Ian Scoones and Camilla Toulmin.

# The European Community approach

## In the forefront of the fight against desertification in the developing countries

by Athanassios Theodorakis\*

In March 1998, the European Community ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD). This paved the way for the Community to intensify its efforts in the fight against a scourge that has brought poverty and hunger to millions of people throughout the developing countries.

The Community is now a Party to all the three Conventions that have emerged from the Rio process – Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification – which provides it with opportunities for dealing with each in the broader context of sustainable development.

The Community and its Member States had been key players in the negotiations which led to the signing of the CCD in Paris in 1994 and to the First Conference of the Parties in Rome in October 1997. These negotiations were entered into in the firm belief that only through concerted international actions can the effects of drought be minimised and desertification held in check.

To ensure that particular attention is paid to this problem, the Directorate-General for Development (DG VIII) of the European Commission, which has a long experience in combating desertification in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, has been given the responsibility of leading the Community on CCD matters.

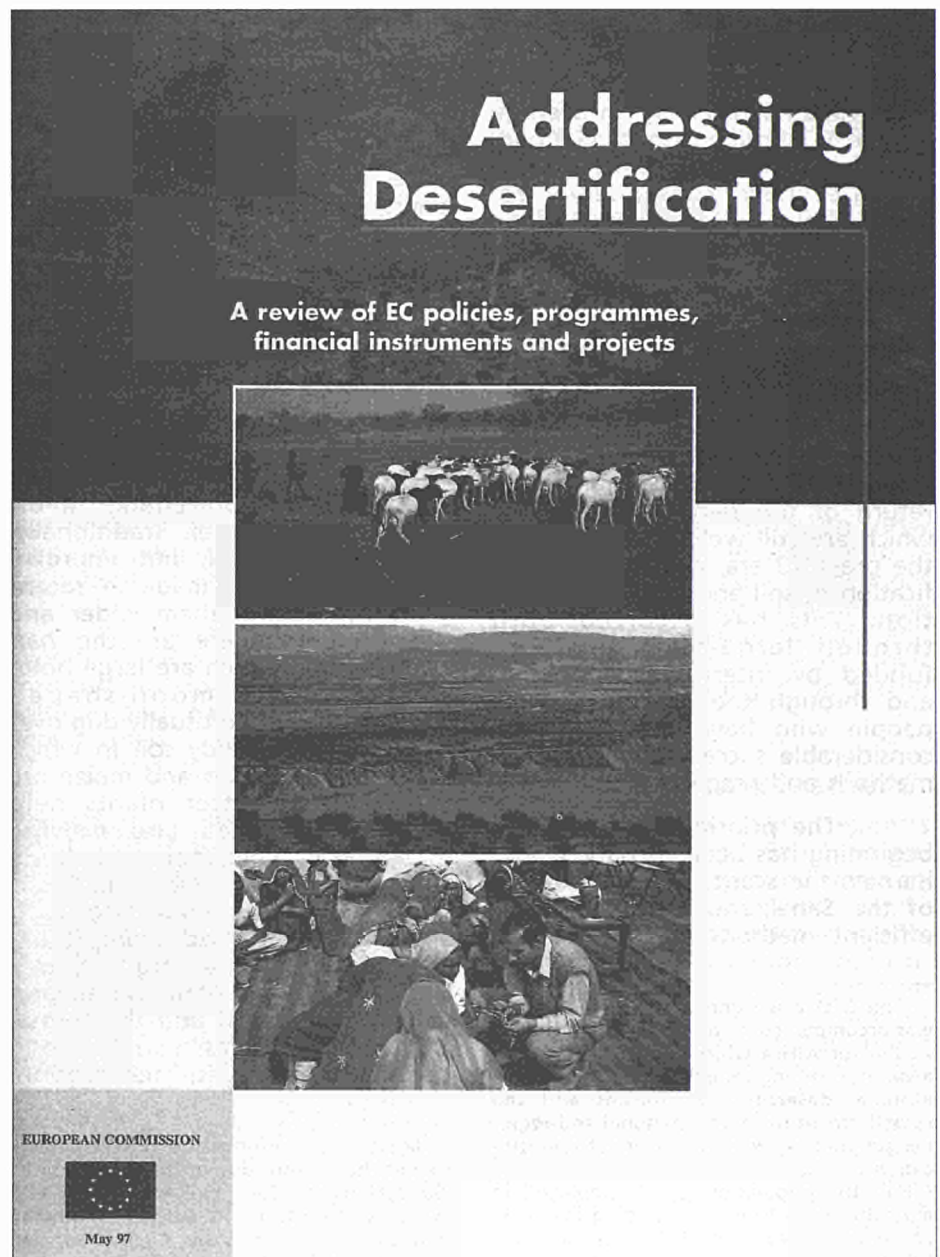
The Community has an excellent record in this area, thanks mainly to the various instruments of development co-operation which it has put in

place over many years, notably, the Lomé Conventions, the ALA (Asia and Latin America) Agreements, the Mediterranean Agreements and several other thematic budgetlines.

In the wake of the CCD, the Commission has carried out a comprehensive review of Community policies, programmes, and

financial instruments as they relate to desertification. The outcome is contained in a report which was distributed by the delegation of the European Community to the First Conference of the Parties.

*A brochure detailing EC policies and actions on desertification was published last year*



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As Africa is the most affected (witness the severe droughts and famine of exceptional proportions in the Sahel and Ethiopia in recent years), the Community's actions have been focused mainly on Africa. Indeed the Lomé III Convention, which was signed in 1984, reflected the EC's concern. It concentrated on rural development and on safeguarding of natural resources. In the subsequent Lomé IV Convention, the Community and ACP States undertook to make 'the enhancement of the environment, the halting of deterioration of land and forests, the restoration of ecological balance, the preservation of natural resources and their rational exploitation' basic objectives of their partnership.

### Biggest donor

Several billion ECUs have been spent over the years on operations of different kinds whether specifically anti-desertification, such as soil and water conservation and afforestation, or rational development of agriculture and livestock. Between 1986 and 1989 alone, ECU 1.7 billion was committed to 230 projects dealing directly or indirectly with desertification control under a special 'EC Action Plan for the Protection of Natural Resources and Combating Desertification in Africa', which the Community launched in 1986. The Community remains by far the biggest donor and actor in the fight against desertification.

### The CCD and the Lomé Convention

The similarities in the key principles of the CCD and the Lomé Convention have often been noted, and the Community sees both as mutually reinforcing. The Lomé Convention, for example, gives pride of place to decentralised cooperation and development at the grassroots level, and the CCD advocates bottom-up approaches to combating drought and desertification, emphasising decentralisation of decision-making and participation of communities, not only in the design of local development plans, but also in the elaboration

of National Desertification Action Programmes.

The Community has made ECU 14.6 billion available to the ACP states under the revised Lomé Convention for the period 1995-2000. Each country has been given a substantial financial envelope for the five years. This has provided the ACP states, especially the most affected ones, with opportunities to integrate their regional and national desertification action plans with their regional and national indicative programmes. Some countries did indeed take the CCD into consideration during the programming exercises of Lomé IV bis, but not sufficient numbers. As the European Commission indicated in its statement to the First Conference of the Parties, it stands ready to enter into dialogue with its partners in this regard. Africa is losing its fertile lands much faster than it is regenerating. It must intensify efforts at water conservation and harvesting, regeneration of degraded lands and tree planting. It must make more use of alternative sources of energy and reduce dependence on fuelwood.

### Actions in other developing countries

As shown in the report to first Conference of the Parties, the Community intervenes in significant ways against desertification in Asia and Latin America and the southern Mediterranean within the framework of financial and technical agreements with those regions. Furthermore, there is a special budgetline on the environment set up by the European Parliament through which a variety of schemes on livestock management, protection of forests and natural habitats, preservation of bio-diversity, etc. are financed.

Conscious of the increasing effectiveness of the non-governmental organisations, the Community provides NGOs with funds through which local communities are assisted in combating desertification in the developing countries.

The Community also has programmes of scientific and technological cooperation with developing countries as a whole

under which activities such as remote-sensing, research into soil fertility, collection of seedlings, etc. are undertaken.

### Creating the enabling environment

The Community, however, subscribes to the notion that it is not necessarily the amount of money that matters but how well it is spent. More funding will not provide the answer to desertification as the CCD recognises. Of utmost importance is the creation of the enabling environment: the provision of incentives to those who grapple daily with drought and desertification to invest their time, money and skills on conserving and improving their land. Security of land tenure, access to credit, markets, health and educational facilities, etc. are important.

With the Community placing more and more emphasis on poverty alleviation and food security, desertification control will continue to be a major component of its development policies in the years ahead.

Its commitment to this cause is illustrated by the measures the European Commission has taken since COP-1 to ensure the effective implementation of the CCD. In November 1997, just one month after the conference, the Commission organised a donors' conference in Brussels to mobilise funding for the 'survey and evaluation of existing networks.' This was one of the projects approved by the Conference under the work programme of the CST (Committee on Science and Technology).

As well as ensuring that the Convention itself was ratified by the Community, the Commission has been instrumental in the establishment, in May 1998, of an EC/Member States Experts Group on Desertification. The aim is for the Community and member states to capitalise on their collective knowledge and experience in furthering the cause of the CCD. ■

A.T.

# Women tackle desertification in Kenya

by Rosemary Okello\*

Women are known for their hard work, energy and courage in the communities of the hard, semi-arid lands in Kenya's North-Eastern Province, such as Ngurunit. Small babies, carried on their mothers' backs, are shaken at every blow of the machete chopping firewood. Younger girls, already counted as women, come along to help. Meanwhile, the fittest climb trees and scramble bare-foot up sharp scree rock, in search of water and fuel.

In the past, it took a trip of about four hours for the women of Ngurunit to reach their water sources – and they used to do this two or three times a week. Then the community identified a water catchment area which they decided to use as an experimental site – to be protected as a water point for domestic and livestock use. The process began in 1994 when the women formed traditional management committees without outside help and set out rules for managing the catchment area. Recognising their lack of access to water, low agricultural production and the under-representation of women in decision-making forums as stumbling blocks to their development, they decided to do something about their status.

Unlike in other parts of Kenya, the sight of women herding livestock is common in Ngurunit. Women traditionally manage water resources and livestock. The time used to search for water and the problem of resources drying up fell squarely on their shoulders. They began to trap water from the Ndoto Mountains and pipe it to three tanks for drinking. In so doing, they launched a successful collective effort to combat desertification.

The long road to implement the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) in Ngurunit links with the effort started in Rio de Janeiro six years ago, when leaders of more than 150 countries called for an international treaty to combat desertification. The Convention recognises that communities like Ngurunit are often marginalised, even in their own countries, with little influence on the nation's development priorities.

Like many communities in semi-arid areas in Kenya, the women of Ngurunit felt the need to be involved in the fight against desertification because they were the ones suffering its consequences. Before the community water project started, each dawn would bring with it a long march in search of fuel, livestock fodder and water. Now such hardship is history. Ngurunit's work was recognised during the world day to combat desertification which was marked recently in Kenya and around the world. Their hard work earned the community US\$ 3333 to help them upgrade their water project.

According to *Ruth Abraham*, who heads the National Office to Combat Desertification (UNSO), Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa, the aim is to ensure that women in every community participate in decision-making and water conservation. Speaking during a workshop on desertification held in Kenya, she said that it was important to focus on community development officers who provide a critical link between the people, NGOs, government officials and community-based organisations (CBOs). 'These people are expected to raise awareness, build consultative mechanisms and facilitate community participation in planning and decision-making,' she said.

Though the problem of desertification is directly relevant to the development of the African continent, and its solution will contribute greatly to eradicating poverty, it has been difficult for donors to channel resources towards affected regions as there were often no visible returns. But in Kenya, with more than 300 CBOs directly involved in

desertification, the Sub-Committee on Desertification has been established under the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Environment (IMCE). This is seen as demonstrating the Government's commitment to combating desertification, and offers opportunities for communities, and especially women, to get involved and follow-up the recommendations of the Convention. In this regard, the Convention recognises the importance of traditional knowledge and of indigenous knowledge systems – of which women are custodians.

The role of women and of youth is clearly important in combating desertification. Yet these two groups are often left out of decision-making. It is worse for women living in dryland areas, whose communities are often marginalised from development in the first place, and who are then further marginalised as women by the traditional patriarchal system. Though the process of building partnerships between government, NGOs and CBOs with respect to CCD has begun, more needs to be done at national level.

*Ilse Marks* of the Environment Liaison Centre (ELCI), an organisation which has set up a network for negotiation on the CCD with the aim of influencing the outcome, believes that implementation should be left to the community and must involve women. 'There is a need for awareness programmes for women on how to combat desertification', she argues.

The concept of community participation is not new in Kenya. The Harambee (self help) movement has existed since independence and has greatly contributed to development activities initiated by women. One of the most famous is the Green Belt Movement, started in 1977 by *Prof. Wangari Maathai*, which aims to prevent destruction of forest areas. As well as conserving trees, many women are involved in planting in areas where the forest has been destroyed or where desertification has set in. One strategy of the Movement has been to mobilise women to take charge of their environment and meet their needs and those of their families. 'The success has given women a positive image of themselves', says *Prof. Maathai*. 'They have gained economic power which has enabled them to raise standards of living for themselves and their families and consequently that of the nation.'

Women living in traditional settings have extensive indigenous knowledge of their natural environment, which has been taught from generation to generation. They know the best trees for fuel-wood, which plants have medicinal uses, where to find water in the dry season and the best conditions for growing local crops. 'When we go to the field, especially in the semi-arid parts, we find that women are the invisible managers and practitioners in combating desertification. That is why our programme targets them' says *Martin Orlale*, coordinator of the National United Nations Volunteers.

The small efforts that dot the landscape indicate that combating desertification in the semi-arid areas in Kenya has been embraced by women. These efforts are recognised both locally and internationally. ■ R.O.

\* AWC Feature.

# Community-based woodland management in Botswana

by Carlo Carugi\*

It is increasingly recognised that the most effective way to face environmental problems such as desertification is to encourage the adoption of participatory approaches at local level, and to improve accuracy and comparability in the collection of physical, socio-economic, cultural and political data. In many respects, such approaches provide some of the most encouraging signs of progress in environmental management in developing coun-

tries, where issues of participation, communication and empowerment are particularly important. In this process the role of NGOs, both of North and South, is increasingly important in getting issues on the political agenda. An example is the project 'Community-based woodland resources management and improvement in Serowe District - Botswana'.

According to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), desertification is one of the major environmental problems of our time. 35% of the world's land surface is currently at risk and annually more than 20 million hectares are reduced to near or complete uselessness. The prevailing view of desertification as a mainly man-made phenomenon, deriving from population growth and the resulting increased pressure on the environment, has been seriously challenged (Hellden 1991). Researches on the Sahel region of Africa have revealed that it is difficult to determine the relative roles of human activity and climate change in desertification. However, there is no doubt that, against a background of resource management failure in dryland regions, climate change will ag-

gravate the problem (Hulme and Kelly, 1993). There is a need for better data collection through the use of modern technology (such as satellite images) and a need for a change in human behaviour through the adoption of participatory approaches with rural communities, if sustainability is to be achieved.

Botswana is a typical dryland country, with scarce and erratic rainfalls. The country is plagued by frequent droughts and desertification problems are present in most of the rural areas around the Kalahari Desert.

Prudent utilisation of natural resources is a concern for the Botswana government. Programmes focusing on more equitable spatial development, that help to reduce the pressure on urban areas by increasing productivity in the rural areas, have been attempted (Silitshena 1982). The approach followed by the government recognises that the most appropriate information on development and environment problems, and the most relevant solutions to these problems, are best considered at the local community level.

As a country affected by desertification and drought, Botswana designated the Ministry of Agriculture as its National Focal Point (NFP) for implementing the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (CCD) - which the country ratified in September 1996. The resulting National Action Plan (NAP) includes elements such as boosting links with NGOs involved in combating desertification, identifying and involving key stakeholders, public awareness-raising and capacity building. Although it is a promising political framework, there are some shortfalls. Two main examples are:

- the establishment of a National Desertification Fund (NDF) to channel resources to the local level has not yet been approved;
- the formulation of the 'National Policy on Natural Resources Conservation and Development -

Botswana National Conservation Strategy (NCS)', a policy approved by the National Assembly in December 1990, is still to be followed by official action implementing the policy.

Among the donors operating in Botswana, the European Commission is one of the most active in promoting action on desertification. One way of doing this is by supporting NGOs, of which the above-mentioned project in Serowe district is a good example. This was recently approved by the Commission under its budget line 'Environment in the Developing Countries'. The implementation phase is to commence shortly. The project will be implemented jointly by an Italian development organisation, *Comitato di Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario* (COSV) and the Forestry Association of Botswana (FAB), which is one of the most effective conservation organisations active in the country. This collaboration aims at forging a strong example of the effectiveness of the partnership between southern and northern development organisations in promoting sustainable human development.

Traditionally, Serowe is the tribal headquarters of the *Bamangwato* tribe, an amalgam of many different groups. The town, which has a population of about 30,000, is the administrative centre for the Central District Council. It is surrounded by cropping areas, traditionally termed *masimo* (fields/lands) which spread out a considerable distance.

In spite of rapid economic growth over the past two decades, the rural population has continued to depend largely on woodland for energy, and this situation is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. 87% of the energy used in the rural sector is obtained from wood. In areas such as Serowe, the demand for wood has increasingly impinged on surrounding settlements, causing serious desertification problems. The expansion of Serowe, coupled with population growth in the hinterland, have led to competing demands for wood resources - for fuel, fodder, construction materials, veldt products, and so on.

The project will concentrate on helping communities in identifying, designating and allo-

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Deforestation around Serowe village...  
and the reasons why!



Participatory rural appraisal in Paje  
village

cating 15 woodland management sites in the three villages of Serowe, Paje and Mogorosi. The maximum land allocation from the Land Board for forest purposes is 20 hectares. After the third year of the implementation phase, the communities will be managing 300 hectares of forest area. The project will assist with the formation of five groups per year of 10 people each. These groups will manage the sites and will be homogeneous – consisting of people with the same interest in managing and sustainably exploiting the forest and non-timber forest products.

At the time the project identification phase was executed, the above-mentioned *adoption of participatory approaches* and *appropriate data collection* were both addressed. The participatory approach that was chosen is explained in the final report of the 'Serowe survey and participatory planning workshop', conducted in 1996 by FAB in collaboration with the Remote Sensing and Cartography Section of the Botswana Ministry of Agriculture. During this survey, conducted in the villages of Mabeleapodi, Paje, Serowe, Mogorosi and Thabala, 500 people were interviewed about issues such as the role of trees on cropland, natural woodland use on cropland, tree and livestock production, household energy consumption and the use of trees for construction. A participatory planning workshop was then organised in the five villages to present the results of the survey and discuss the matters covered. A considerable amount of up-to-date information was collected through the survey, which also involved important 'approach' work with the Serowe population. All of this is extremely useful for the project implementation phase.

A second detailed technical study was conducted in 1997 to obtain accurate data on the project area. The 'Serowe Woodland Inventory' had the objectives

first of setting up an inventory of indigenous species in the District and then of trying to identify the endangered ones. The Ministry of Agriculture's Remote Sensing and Cartography Section produced cartography work using Landsat TM satellite images, with accurate descriptions of tree densities in each woodland area and precise geographical delimitations. Like the previous survey, this study is essential for implementing the Serowe project. With the information it contains, COSV and FAB will assist the woodland management groups in preparing a management plan for each site. This, in turn, is the tool that will lead the groups to sustainable management of their sites.

A strong feature of the Serowe project is its adherence to two crucial environmental management principles: *social learning* and *empowerment*. Social learning means taking account of the Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) relating to environmental problems: in other words, the knowledge of people who live in direct contact with the problems. This principle applies here because the project was identified, formulated and prepared with the people of Serowe. Historically, local people had an established practice of resource-management, but the older generation feels this is gradually diminishing because of population growth and development pressures. Research on the traditional use of resources shows that, in some areas, conservation was practised to avoid the depletion of woodlands and grazing areas. These traditional systems of controlling the utilisation of resources have lapsed since the Land Act of 1968 which led to the introduction of Land Boards. The latter have increasingly taken over the traditional role of chiefs (who previously regulated the resource use), without adequately assuming responsibility for conservation. Nowadays there is a lot of concern among the people of Serowe about woodland depletion, but practical knowledge about sustainable management and possible improvements is

lacking. The effective management and conservation of woodlands depends on public participation. Involvement of the people from the early stages and the decentralisation of management are particularly important since these factors greatly influence the measure of success that will eventually be achieved. From this standpoint, the people of Serowe have demonstrated, by their awareness and interest, that they are a key asset in the future success of the project.

Meanwhile, the empowerment principle stresses how important it is that those directly concerned are given responsibility and control over their own interests. The Serowe project is very much about empowering people and giving them back the property of their woodland areas in a different form. The Land Board will allocate the sites to the groups – thus handing responsibility to those who are genuinely concerned – about the woodland areas *per se*, and about how to make best use of them. The local authority will ensure that the property rights regime established as a result is adequately enforced.

A participatory approach and accurate data collection are two ways suggested to face the problem of desertification. NGOs have an important role to play here. They act as catalysts/facilitators to achieve goals of sustainable development and environmental management, both because of their intimate knowledge of and links with the communities and because of their growing professionalism, in technical, socio-economic and cultural terms. NGOs should be supported and a wider use of their experience could be very helpful for effective policy formulation. ■

c.c.



# Combating the creeping sands in northern Mali

by Niarga Keita\*

The long drought affecting the Sahel countries in general, and northern Mali in particular, has contributed to a deterioration of natural resources which were already under pressure from humans through overgrazing, agriculture and demand for wood.

The unpredictable changes in climate, which have made life difficult for those living in northern Mali, have led to a concentration of human activity in the Niger valley and around the lakes and pools fed by the river. Such pressure has hastened environmental degradation: water courses, springs, pools and lakes are threatened with silting or even drying up altogether, and the phenomenon also places dwellings, roads and all the infrastructures for promoting sustainable development in these areas at risk.

Faced with such problems, Mali's government sought funding from the European Community to implement a programme to combat desertification and to develop forest resources in the north of the country. The sum involved under the 7th EDF was ECU 7.4 million. The various activities undertaken have led to a significant improvement in the living conditions of people in the area.

As regards protection of infrastructures, 3413 ha of dunes have been stabilised around urban areas (including, in particular, Timbuktu and Gao), along the River Niger and alongside roads. The work has enabled these areas to grow green again and to remain protected. It has also allowed market gardening to resume by making new areas available to women's associations and groups. Production for the 1997 season was 33 tonnes of vegetables, all types taken together. In addition, drinking-water-supply problems have been solved due to the

drilling that was carried out and the wells that were sunk, initially to provide water for trees.

The sowing of seed has restored dune pasture which is now mown by hundreds of adults and children. They sell the sheaves in the towns for CFAF 250 each. Remarkably, more than 30 plant species which had disappeared have recolonised the area and wildlife numbers are on the increase (birds, reptiles and small rodents).

Work aimed at stabilising the dunes has been supported further inland, in the areas where *Acacia sp.* have naturally resprouted, having been fenced off against grazing animals. Such fenced areas have been enriched by the sowing of ligneous and graminaceous species.

To protect and manage the doum-palm plantations, 2160 hectares of young trees have been fenced off by local people. This is to prevent access by grazing animals. The aim is to control exploitation of the resource and encourage women who, in the past, cut the buds for craft activities, to turn to other, more remunerative tree species. Seven classified doum-palm forests have been listed, and development plans are envisaged, once rural community structures have been established.

In the area of community forestry, where the aim is to help people protect and restore their ecosystems, a number of actions have been carried out, including the following:

- More than two million plants have been produced under nursery conditions;
- 148 kilometres of quickset hedge have been planted around market gardens to replace dead hedges. The exploitation of the latter played a part in the destruction of trees, and more importantly, promoted the formation of dunes and their shift inland;
- 1362 hectares of ground have been planted. The list includes windbreaks (170 ha), protection for riverbanks (104 ha), consolidation for dunes (153 ha), orchards (192 ha), village and urban plantations (63 ha)



Sandstorm. Unpredictable changes in climate have made life difficult for those living in northern Mali

and plantations for wood production (680 ha).

The wood plantations have taken off, due to the income they provide for local people (CFAF 3.5 million per hectare after four years).

To ensure that these various activities are successful, the project trains local people and provides small nursery and plantation equipment. It has also distributed 80 motorised pumps (for use in rice cultivation), seeds for market-garden crops and other inputs, and has sunk 87 wells.

The project has made it possible to reverse the trend towards desertification in the relevant areas and has led to increased and more diversified agricultural activity and productive forestry. The actions supported by the project have succeeded because of the commitment of those involved to pass on their skills but also – and more significantly – because of spontaneous reforestation initiatives. ■ N.K.

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## Attacking desertification

# The contribution of some EC programmes in Namibia

by Patrice Pillet\* and Martin H. Fowler\*\*



The Courier

The Namibian Programme to Combat Desertification (NAPCOD) grew out of Namibia's Green Plan, the Government's post-independence framework environmental policy document, which was prepared for the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

A national workshop held in 1994 to consider the progress made by NAPCOD defined the goal of the Programme as being to combat the processes of desertification<sup>1</sup> by promoting the sustainable and equitable use of resources suited to Namibia's variable environment, for the benefit of all Namibians – both present and future. A total of eight subsidiary objectives were identified, the realisation of which would contribute to this overall goal.

Technical assistant planners employed under the EC-supported project, *Institutional support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development*, have worked closely with NAPCOD members since that date, provid-

ing them with advice on strategies to be adopted if the objectives were to be successfully addressed, and on other issues relating to the Programme's components and activities.

One of the identified subsidiary objectives was that, 'the social, economic, legal and political environment – and policies – which affect natural resource use should be identified and, where possible, improved'. Given the wide range of policy factors which affect the ways in which natural resources are used and managed, a working group was constituted to explore all aspects of this objective. It commissioned a study to research the existing policy framework so as to identify those policies which were at odds with sustainable use and the impact of policy instruments on desertification. Martin Fowler, the EC project's team leader, a policy and planning adviser, served as a member of this working group. He provided assistance and advice to the consultant and reviewed early drafts of the study report. The report, *'Policy factors and desertification – analysis & proposals'*, was published in 1996. It analysed, in some depth, the various policies impinging on natural resources, including land, water, agriculture and forestry. It also considered broader policy factors such as poverty, population and national economic policies, where the impact on desertification is somewhat removed.

A number of proposals were made as to how policy modifications and reforms could reduce or even reverse the decline in land productivity, and how they might enhance the sustainable use of Namibia's natural resources. The report has been used widely, both to guide the continuing work of NAPCOD and to provide decision-makers with an analysis of the impact of their actions on the natural resource base of the country.

The EC-supported *Rural Development Support Programme (RDSP)* has been in the course of implementation in the poorer northern communal areas of Namibia since early 1995. This part of the country includes virtually the only area with potential for rainfed crop production and is home to 60% of Namibia's population (approximately 800,000 people). The Programme is seeking to develop more productive and economically- and environmentally-sustainable farming systems so as to guarantee improved household food security and increased incomes. Its target group comprises a quarter of all farm households in the regions in which it is operating.

The primary objective of the RDSP has been to increase the productivity of staple food crops – pearl millet, sorghum and maize, in particular, although legumes and vegetables, are also covered. Activities have focused on supporting the extension service in its efforts to encourage farmers to adopt improved techniques and appropriate technology which have been tested and proved under local conditions. These innovations include: more productive crop management practices, the use of improved seed, the diversification of crop mixes, intercropping, low-cost and sustainable technology for improving soil fertility, the use of fertilisers where cost-effective, and interventions to improve the performance of draught animal power for cultivation and transport. Other activities of the Programme which have had a direct positive impact on the declining productivity of the natural resource base, have included carrying out applied research and extension on suitable species of trees and bushes for agro-forestry purposes, and working closely with those junior schools which place a high priority on agriculture in their curricula.

The other principal component of the Programme, which is being supported through an

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\*\* Directorate of Planning, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Windhoek.

<sup>1</sup> Which, in Namibia, has been defined as land degradation resulting mainly from negative human impact combined with difficult climatic and environmental conditions.

# Using traditional knowledge and modern science in the drylands

by Dirk Pottier and Tilak Viegas\*

ECU 7.7 million grant, has been the provision of funds to augment the loan capital of the country's agricultural bank, *Agribank*, so as to enable it to meet the needs of smallholder producers in the north. With the credit funds thus supplied, farmers have been able to enhance the productivity of their farm enterprises through such investments as improved seeds, fencing of crop land (to avoid encroachment by livestock) and draught oxen.

Through its support – in a number of different ways – of the operations of the extension service, the RDSP has enabled these public servants to work more closely and in a more cost-effective manner with both individual smallholders and farmers' groups. An important emphasis of the work of the extension staff has been and continues to be, training farmers to adopt practices which result in improved soil and water conservation, thus directly countering the threat of desertification.

A request has been presented by the Government of Namibia for funding from Eighth EDF resources for the *Research Extension Management Programme (REMP)*, the successor to the RDSP. A financing proposal will be submitted for possible implementation of the new programme in early 1999. It is proposed to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry to implement, nationwide, its Farming Systems Research/Extension strategy. A large part of the funds sought from the EU would be in the form of technical assistance to support those involved in managing the strategy. The Programme aims to support farmers and rural communities to ensure that their husbandry practices are sustainable – both environmentally and economically. In this way, degradation of crop land will be reduced while, at the same time, increased crop output on existing arable land will reduce the rate at which cultivation expands on to less productive areas – which are best suited for extensive livestock grazing. If it is able to achieve this, the REMP will make a valuable and immediate contribution to the overall goal of the Namibian Programme to Combat Desertification. ■ P.P. & M.H.F.

Developing countries as a whole are faced with tremendous challenges: not only are their basic needs not yet satisfied and their economies yet to be fully integrated into the global economy, they are also far from establishing the rule of law and democratic principles necessary for societal progress.

Africa, in particular, stands out in this development challenge. With decreasing *per capita* agricultural production, the continent's food insecurity is likely to worsen dramatically over the next 25 years, during which time, according to some estimates, the population will double. Today, poverty, food insecurity and environmental degradation, which are interlinked, are common features in sub-Saharan Africa. This is particularly true of the drylands, where pressures on land for crop production and livestock grazing, extraction of fuelwood and wildlife hunting are most intense.

While political instability, ethnic conflict, deficient agricultural policies, poor performing markets and services, and climatic instability are largely to blame in some cases, lack of access to improved technology is clearly a contributory factor to this situation throughout the continent.

## Boosting productivity without harming the drylands environment

In most remote arid areas, where living conditions are tough, the environmental carrying capacity appears to have already been reached. This is reflected in the large number of conflicts involving migrating

herdsmen and sedentary farmers, and in the fast rate of rural exodus to urban centres. Migration, by itself, is an indication of a hidden imbalance with nature.

After several decades of development cooperation in the drylands, targeted in particular, on the poor and the small farmer, rural people remain caught up in a vicious circle of poverty. Overpopulation, extreme poverty and low land productivity make it extremely difficult for farmers to make the best use of the best practices resulting from development projects. Better-adapted farming techniques, usually offered in failing market systems, cannot be exploited due to lack of finance. Indigenous knowledge and methods by themselves cannot contribute significantly to increasing agricultural output, since they evolved as survival strategies. They are, therefore, not always suited to breaking the vicious circle of poverty.

External knowledge and technologies, on the other hand, are difficult to integrate into existing local farming systems as they entail significant reappraisals, in particular as regards their market orientation. This should be borne in mind given that one of the principles of the Convention to Combat Desertification is a participatory approach with stakeholders, making use of local knowledge.

Increasing productivity remains the primary goal if local people are to be persuaded to take part in the fight against land degradation. The problem is to ensure that this is done without too much stress being placed on the environment, leading to a loss of biotopes and biodiversity.

## The use and limits of local knowledge

Farmers have a remarkable knowledge of their direct natural and human environment. Making good use of this is a precondition for the success of

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any development or research project. Often, planners employ the consultative approach at the project identification stage, abandon it when it comes to the feasibility study, and then return to it during the evaluation phase. Participation must be ensured at all stages to guarantee success. Land-use projects (*projets de gestion de terroirs*), credit schemes and policy impact assessments are all examples of actions that can routinely be undertaken and successfully concluded by continuously calling on local knowledge. Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) is the commonly-applied technique of investigation in problem diagnosis and evaluations. Although research is still needed to assess the utility and feasibility of interactive bottom-up approaches, PRA experiences indicate that small-scale farmers' attention is drawn more towards resolving immediate problems than participating in long-term processes. In short, they are too busy surviving to look much beyond the short term.

Local knowledge should be put to use whenever possible but it has its limits. Knowledge is a function of education and of education policy. Farmers in rural areas are mostly illiterate, which is a serious handicap when it comes to absorbing improved farm management techniques for development. In addition one should keep in mind that the dryland farmer's natural habitat is often so merciless that, even with the best-acquired local knowledge and the best interactive bottom-up strategy, development actions may only lead to marginal increases in production. Scientific publications illustrate that the more significant knowledge-induced increases in farm output have been obtained under favourable rainfall conditions. As we all know, water is a crucial but uncertain factor affecting crop productivity in dry areas. This is why, in conditions of inadequate rainfall distribution, good farming practices do not necessarily lead to higher productivity. The fact is that some dry-lands have such low productivity that it would be better to concentrate cropping efforts only on areas with potential for improvement. This would allow the poorer lands to be put to alternative use, involving the introduction of new products and services with a high knowledge content, identi-

fied on the basis of research (for example, eco-tourism, medicinal plant cultivation, wildlife conservation and management).

### Strengthening scientific collaboration

Producing more and in a sustainable way is every farmer's wish, but farmers will point out that to do this, they need a reliable rainy season, good land and outlets for their produce. There is little that can be done about the first element, but there is more room for manoeuvre with the second and third factors. One solution is to take part in dialogue with extension workers and researchers. Quite a number of new farming techniques or improvements to traditional ones (such as compost making, 'fosse fumier', cover crops, intercropping, mineral fertiliser applications and integrated nutrient management) have been suggested to farmers in recent decades and have been tested in the field. All these techniques were appraised on the basis of whether they boosted output. To a certain extent, their acceptance or otherwise also depended on whether they fitted in with the norms of the household or community. Because farm incomes are so limited, many of the activities mentioned have only led to a modest increase in production, but the main benefit is that farmers, development practitioners, scientists and extension workers can meet and listen to each other. Farming organisations can bring their problems, and useful information based on their own experience, to the attention of the scientific community. Conversely, they can distribute scientific results to their members. Researchers can do their work in real farming conditions, and more importantly, get acquainted with the environmental realities and decision-making criteria that have an influence on technology requirements. Such collaboration could bring to an end the oft-expressed criticism that science ignores, and sometimes even rejects, traditional knowledge, thereby provoking conflict between the old ways and modern technology. It would show that science can be used to complement local knowledge rather than replace it.

A great deal of scientific work has been and is being done on soil fertility and on strategies to restore the productivity of African soils. Plant breeding is another field which can give an important boost to agricultural output. Compared with traditional varieties, today's new food-crop varieties have superior yields, are more resistant to disease and insect attacks, and are better-suited to their agro-ecological environment. However, these varieties are mainly developed for agro-climatic zones with a high farming potential. Nowadays, through genetic engineering, there are new possibilities to develop cultivars that are better suited to conditions of water stress. As such, they are of potential benefit to small-scale farmers.

From the above, one might easily deduce that research should not be restricted to the biological aspects of production, but should be extended to the economic and policy aspects as well. Development issues are interrelated in their causality and in terms of the solutions needed. Interdisciplinary research, and closer collaboration between research institutions, administrators, policy makers and farmer organisations may not be enough to overcome the menace of natural resource degradation. But it is the best way of ensuring that research results are exploited, of bringing science closer to economic reality and of promoting science for development.

The European Commission's International Cooperation Programme with Developing Countries (INCO-DC), administered by the Science, Research and Development Directorate General (DG XII), offers an opportunity to bring Southern and Northern research institutions closer together, promoting scientific knowledge as a driving force for development<sup>1</sup>. ■ D.P. & T.V.

<sup>1</sup> EC (April 1997), Scientific and Technological Research – a Strategic Part of the EU's Development Cooperation with Developing Countries, COM (97) 174.

# Desert, water and war

by François Grunewald\*

People can only take so much – newspaper and television images showing sun-baked earth and withered crops or war-scarred villages and the effects of famine ultimately blunt readers' and viewers' feelings. Initial sympathy and generosity tail off and donor fatigue sets in. The dramatic pictures become just another news item, with reporting on one event replacing that from another location. A drought in Southern Africa gives way to a flood in Asia. This, in turn, disappears from view when a civil war breaks out in Central Africa. People grow tired of simplified images and preconceptions, they becoming less likely to react and consequently less generous. This dynamic has to be reversed, and its place taken by genuine strategies whose aim is to teach and explain. Surely this is the key to solidarity in the next millennium. On an even more serious note, the welter of information and the never-ending appeals for charity divert attention from the real issues of development and crisis prevention. Interest in questions such as the campaign to combat desertification, into which so much energy was channelled in the aftermath of the 'great Sahel drought' (1973-74), has evaporated.

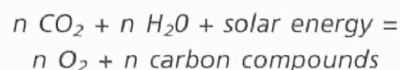
'Desert and famine', 'war and famine': the words are linked together in humankind's collective subconscious. Although recent decades have demonstrated the indis-

putable links between aridity, conflict and food-supply crises, a much more profound analysis of the subject is needed.

## Planet of water... and deserts

Paradoxically, the greater part of the earth's surface is covered by water. Despite this, a map published by UNESCO's MAB (*Man and Biosphere*) programme reveals the extent and diversity of the world's arid regions. These extend over inhabited areas of Africa, Eurasia, Australasia and the Americas. Aridity is a complex issue. It is not just a question of an 'absolute' deficit of water, the situation characteristic of deserts. It also involves frequency of risk of deficit, which is the principal concern in 'peridesert' regions. An increasing number of areas are drying out and although global climate evolution must be central to our analysis of the problem, agricultural practices and, more generally, man's action also have a direct effect on the local consequences of this evolution. The distribution and extent of arid regions are the result of man's activity over recent millennia, the phenomenon corresponding in strategic terms to 'the increased scarcity of a vital factor'. This, then, is the key to understanding certain aspects of global evolution.

Water is vital to man's survival. It is essential for the process of production and is the key to photosynthesis, the very basis of food production:



When plant water requirements exceed rainfall, it becomes necessary to set up an irrigation system. Most civilisations around the Mediterranean, from the Egypt of the Pharaohs to the plains of the Tigris and Euphrates in Babylonia, via the Mozabite communities of Gardaia, the extraordinary Afghan system of 'kharezes' and the oasis systems of the great ergs (not to mention many societies in Asia), have developed around and because of irrigation. Such systems have either a depression for collecting water or patiently dug access to deep water tables. Water is transported from these by canals and then distributed via a network of smaller channels. The construction or digging-out of these infrastructures,

their maintenance and the distribution and management of the water, are all pivotal points of social and political organisation and socio-economic differentiation.

The creation of oases was the first way in which the desert was 'humanised'. Intensively cultivated areas within the world's most arid regions, they are the embodiment of man's ingenuity in managing scant resources. A whole society is organised and mobilised to use the resource in the most appropriate way. Efficient techniques for managing water, fertility and limited space have been developed, with oases often becoming major trading centres. Since the dawn of time, these have given a structure to the transcontinental economic flows across the dry regions of the globe. We can cite, in this context, the major arteries formed by the gold or salt routes such as the Azalai Caravan which linked Algeria, Mali and Burkina Faso, and the Silk Route from China, which extended as far

## The key questions

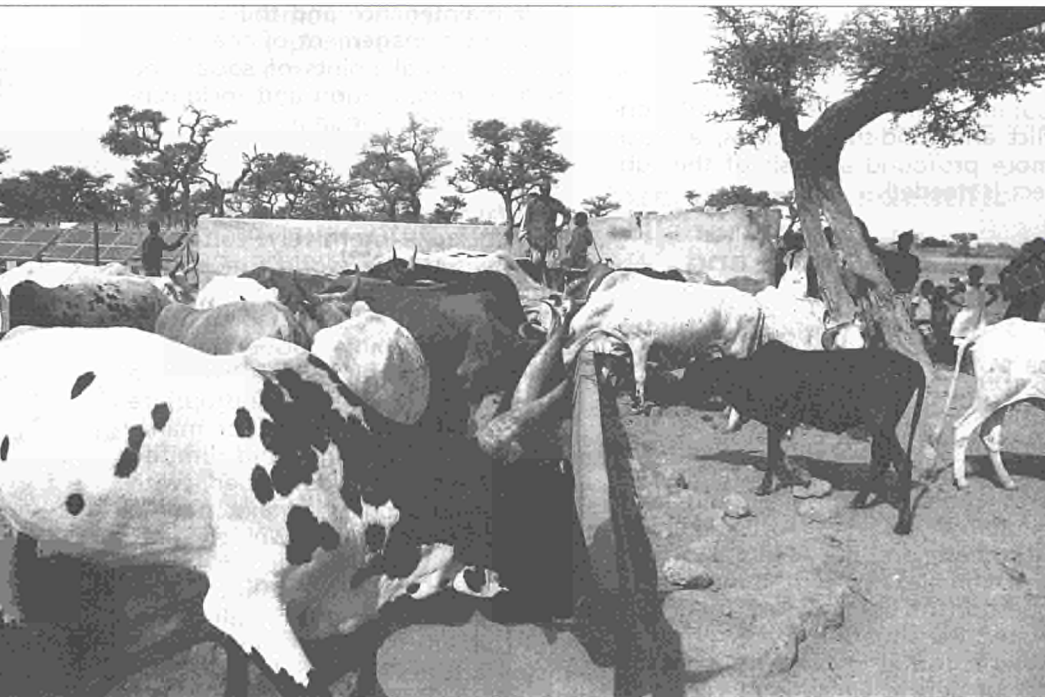
*How can the increasingly crucial problems of access to resources, which underlie most conflicts, be solved? This is obviously of particular importance in arid environments, where the 'waterland for irrigation/available pasture' combination looks set to become a major factor in survival – for which men are prepared to kill.*

*How can one boost the resilience of people living in zones potentially 'at risk' from drought, given the advancing deserts? How can such 'at risk' regions be prevented from turning into 'conflict-generating' zones?*

*How can we intervene more effectively in the field, given that the world's food resources are perhaps not as elastic as is claimed by some major international institutions?*

*How can international human rights be developed and given the necessary respect in a world that is increasingly forgetful of the most fundamental rules by which humankind should live?*

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Livestock in Mali.  
Seasonal migrations follow the changing balance between the availability of fodder and the possibility of finding a watering place

as the Mediterranean region through Mongolia, Afghanistan and Iran. In talking about trade, you cannot avoid the issue of who controls the flow of goods. It is no surprise, therefore, that oases became focal points of conflict and negotiation between communities. And of course, it is recognised that everyone benefits if systems of trade and distribution are able to operate smoothly.

Peridesert regions are often more complex, because it is not so much scarcity itself, as the random nature of that scarcity which is the key. In some dry areas, the only systems that have any chance of being viable are grazing and agriculture/grazing. The supply of grass and its proximity to water sources have always been determining factors in the movements of herds and pastoral peoples. Seasonal migra-

tions follow the changing balance between the availability of fodder and the possibility of finding a watering place. Traditional, often highly sophisticated laws regulate access to these essential resources. But environmental degradation is forcing herds southwards and taking herdsmen into areas where such laws do not apply – and indeed, have never been heard of. These are the lands of non-migrant farmers.

Arid regions may also be cold deserts such as the high plains of Afghanistan and Central Asia. These are places of few resources that receive a significant proportion of their precipitation in the form of snow and depend on mountain

meltwater, taken either from rivers or from the water table.

In dry regions, life is precarious and solidarity is therefore the watchword. Despite the fact that conflict over resources is common, the customary laws in operation are often complex but nonetheless precise. Until recently, they were also respected, because the survival of all (whether winner or loser in any particular dispute) depended on them. The strategies that people living in arid regions have developed over time to limit the effect of disasters are highly varied. There are, for example, the community grain stores of the Sahel communities. In lands occupied by the *Bobo* and *Hausa* people, granaries are built to store many years' of reserves. In most of the world's arid regions, there is the 'four-legged' savings and insurance represented by flocks and herds of livestock kept in grazing and agricultural/grazing systems. In Somalia or the Yemen, you find clan cohesion and, as a result, strong ties of solidarity. In the dry ecosystems of Southern Mozambique, people know how to make best use of the available wild food resources. Around the major rivers in the Sahel (the Senegal and Niger), communities have developed different ecosystems to offset the impact of apparently random climate events. Then there is migration, also seen in the Sahel, particularly among the *Soninkes* and the *Toucouleurs*. Almost all of these systems are based on two foundations: risk limitation and giving the future priority over the present (a kind of savings/insurance concept). It is essential that these complex mechanisms, which are now in the limelight on account of recent interest in food-security issues, be understood and strengthened.

Given the pressure of population growth, certain forms of economic development, the mining of natural resources and climate change (as yet poorly understood), things are changing. The desert has advanced several hundred kilometres southwards from the Sahara, pushing back the Sahelian regions still further. Sand-laden winds have occurred in areas where they were hitherto unknown. Recent decades have seen the progressive deterioration of rural village farmland. The system of mutual aid and solidarity in such villages is now increasingly being replaced by wage-earning. Wild food resources are depleted and the social fabric, which was so

## Pastoral peoples and ways of adapting to crisis

When nomadic people living in arid regions start selling their livestock, it is a sign that a crisis is on the way. The first animals to be sold are generally old females and young males. When lactating or pregnant females are seen being sent to market, then you know that the crisis is serious – and that it has been going on for some time. Generally speaking, the terms of trade between meat and cereals are highly unfavourable to stock-breeders. Action may have to be taken in the commercial sector, either by putting cereals on to the market, to lower the price and re-establish equilibrium, or by stabilising the animal and meat markets by setting up livestock-purchasing systems.

## Northern Mali: an arid land of war.. and peace

### ***A restricted agricultural and ecological context***

The climate in the Sahel/Sahara and Saharan regions is characterised by very low rainfall. In addition, the amount of rainfall fluctuates significantly from one area to another and one season to the next. In some agricultural systems, use is made of land in depressions exposed by falling water levels around pools (these normally fill up again during the winter). Such zones can be cultivated when the waters recede – but even these are at risk. The extent to which the pools fill up varies considerably from one year to the next. Depressions are also progressively filled in by sand and alluvium as a result of wind erosion. The only 'secure' agricultural systems are those that make use of what irrigation possibilities exist, but the cost of pumping water is extremely high. The Niger River and its various tributaries locally offset the harshness of conditions in these vast desert areas and provide important opportunities for agriculture: irrigated field perimeters, rice-growing when water levels rise, lake systems in the Goundam (Fagibine) region, etc. In the dry season, this network of supply systems provides water resources and grazing land. These, in turn, determine livestock movements and, through filtration, resupply the region's water tables. The movements of livestock will follow routes perpendicular to the river, moving away from the river banks towards Hausaland (left bank) or the Gourma (right bank) during the rainy season and returning to the flood plain and its 'bourgoutieres' during the dry season. The dispersion of wells and boreholes scattered over the region, within complex land regulation systems and feedstock management arrangements, determines the distribution of the animals as they move further away from the river banks.

### ***Complementary and contradictory elements***

The Touareg, Arab, Bellah, Sonray, Peulh and Bozo communities have always had an ambiguous relationship. We find among them antagonisms that stem from differences in culture and land management – often exacerbated by history. But there are also complementarities, especially when it comes to trading in animal products and crops, and the management of rural farmlands. The presence of the Niger River has a significant impact on day-to-day life in the Sahel/Saharan or Saharan context. This is true of the regions to the east in Niger, to the west in Mali, and in Mauritania. The river has a fundamental role in the human geography of the region. The trade in salt across the Sahara, with the Azalai caravans which transport Taoudenit salt southwards and return from Dogon lands and Burkina Faso with cereals, are an economic highway which shapes trade in the region. It is worth noting that the diversity of ethnic and social groups reflects an ancient 'division of labour' which also entailed a particular division of space. The crises that have affected the region for more than 20 years have, however, greatly affected socio-economic structures and have altered the balance of economic power between the various groups of people who inhabit this harsh terrain.

### ***A region and people hit by successive crises***

In Northern Mali, there were severe droughts in 1973-74 and 1984-85. With the situation already in steep decline, further blows were sustained as a result of the conflict that took place between 1991 and 1995. The result was profound changes in natural and human environments – which are continuing to occur. Some population groups have experienced exile in refugee camps while others have tried to eke out an existence in the towns and cities. The increasingly sedentary way of life of formerly nomadic communities is reflected in an unmistakable modification in social relationships. There has been a redistribution of roles between high castes and a former servant class, and a transformation in the position of women. Finally, the succession of crises has meant that the inhabitants of Northern Mali have been exposed to the practices of the humanitarian agencies, with all the positive and negative aspects that that implies. So the impact of the recent conflict is both significant and visible. Psychological wounds remain to be healed, despite efforts to achieve a rapprochement.

To understand the current situation, it is important to look back over the history of the conflict in Northern Mali. Too often, it is still described simplistically as a confrontation between 'white' nomads and 'black' farmers. In fact, the situation is a great deal more complex. At the beginning of the hostilities, all the northern ethnic groups coexisted within the Azawouad Front. Their focus was not on ethnic issues but on a common demand for a genuine development policy to be implemented in Northern Mali. It was only afterwards, when the time came to divide and rule, that the various groups and factions were set against each another. The crisis will undoubtedly have some major consequences for the people in this area who have long been cut off from the world. The drift of huge numbers of people to urban areas, migration abroad and an exodus towards refugee camps are inevitable. In their new environments, nomads will learn other ways to live. They will become accustomed to the harsh reality of urban employment and become familiar with the way in which humanitarian aid functions. These factors of social change must be taken into account by anyone wishing to take action in the region. The phenomenon has already been seen among the legendary *Blue Men*. Their lives changed dramatically once they came into contact with the humanitarian 'circus' that set up camp and remained long after the drought. After generations of peripatetic existence, many members of this ethnic group have spent years in one place – in refugee camps during the recent fighting, being exploited on the Lagos shanty town labour market, or begging near the big hotels in Niamey. And since the peace agreement, the deterioration of the economic situation has highlighted the loss of trust between the potential partners of civil society and the state in a region which overall, is still a long way from achieving stability. Everyone is waiting for the peace dividend – of which there is no sign. This situation remains extremely delicate and inter-community conflict over land and water resources, access to grazing land or to protect agricultural areas, could easily flare up again.



## The period before, during and after a crisis

Above all, the concept of 'prevention' needs to be rehabilitated and the roots of conflict and crisis must be extracted from the political maze. The popular saying, 'prevention is better than cure' still applies. It is also still the case that preventive action is highly cost-effective. It is essential to combat desertification and thus restrict the expansion of regions where increasing natural resource shortages are likely to generate conflict. Programmes such as those of the ICDCS (Interstate Permanent Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel) need to be stepped up. The combination of 'early warning/rapid response' must make it possible to get to grips with a crisis in hand before it escalates. The information and early warning systems such as those of the FAO (GIEWS) or USAID (FEWS) must remain at the top of the international aid agenda.

Next, there is the damage to be repaired. We must not return to the situation where access to rare resources which is inherently unjust generates violence. However, this noble sentiment has to be reflected in practical measures which genuinely push back the desert, or at least keep it at bay. The new 'Double Green Revolution' has been hailed by research institutes. But it is just a drop in the ocean and does not constitute a directly applicable set of solutions.

Having said this, technical or logistic measures can only be part of the solution. To combat desertification, war and famine, people will have to relearn respect for their neighbours. If we are to hold back the desert, the driving forces of society must be mobilised. We need to draw on the imagination of those directly affected by crisis. Decision-makers must demonstrate the required wisdom, and there must be greater generosity. This is one of the challenges for the next century. ■

F.G.

strong in these arid regions, has all but broken down. With this breakdown, many of the keys to survival are lost. The rural oasis structure has been greatly affected by such changes. The *bayoud* epidemic, which is killing thousands of date palms in a great many oases, and changes in water table levels, are only the tip of the iceberg in a crisis affecting an area extending far beyond the oases themselves.

## War and aridity

The evolution of conflict in recent years shows a return to the oldest of man's struggles – the struggle for control of resources. The increasingly limited supply of the latter exacerbates tension between communities. In arid regions, wars have often been fought for control or destruction of irrigation infrastructures. In the former Yugoslavia, in certain dry areas (Dalmatia, Krajina), the water is on one side and the land to be irrigated on the other. Between the two are human hatred and minefields. When Soviet forces bombed or mined the Afghan *kharezes*, they did so principally to starve out civilians and destroy a society based on the management of this scarce resource. The crisis in the Middle East is itself a 'war over water': a dry land between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean, Israel obviously needs to secure access to water, but in so doing does it have to reduce the Palestinians to wretchedness and despair? On the West Bank, the average daily consumption of a Palestinian is 70 m<sup>3</sup> of water, whilst that of an Israeli is 260 m<sup>3</sup>. And so the bombs rain down in the water war.

More than elsewhere, the conflicts affecting the civilian populations in these arid regions have an

Installing a water-supply system in Somalia.

*Conflicts affecting civilian populations in arid regions have an adverse impact on the existing, fragile balance*

adverse impact on the existing, fragile balance. Groups which have become extremely vulnerable through climate change and economic developments are rapidly losing a number of their so-called safety nets. Although such matters as clan solidarity are not at issue, daily access to nourishment is no longer assured. The acute food crisis is just around the corner. Unfortunately, by the time the evidence of malnutrition is noticeable, impoverishment and destitution have already set in.

There is no miracle cure for these extremely diverse situations. Food aid is only one part of the response. What is primarily needed is to optimise biological use of the remaining food resources, particularly by guaranteeing access to water, in order to restrict nutritional loss due to diarrhoeal diseases. At the same time, assistance strategies must be identified and implemented to slow down the process of destitution and, if possible, carry out survival-strategy support actions.

Given these first bases, it will then be possible to work towards re-establishing secure food supplies and promoting agriculture, stock breeding, craft activities, the informal urban sector, etc. Behind such activities, which can sometimes be in the form of development actions, there is the conviction that helping someone stay alive today and enabling him to survive tomorrow are of equal importance.



## 'Send-a-Cow' celebrates its tenth birthday

by David Blair\*

*Fred Katende put it this way: 'Receiving a cow has an impact on every part of a family's life. We are seeking to empower people and give them real skills.' Mr Katende was talking about the success of a scheme he manages in Uganda which is celebrating its tenth birthday. It is called Send-a-Cow.*

In 1988, a group of British farmers decided to help Uganda recover from the civil war. The country's livestock herds had been decimated. So they formed a charity that would donate pregnant cows to poor families. A decade on, the project has helped thousands of people by distributing 450 cows. And it no longer relies on imported animals. Send-a-Cow has a simple criterion for selecting families to receive a heifer. Fred Katende explains: 'We choose the very poorest and the woman of the family is always entrusted with the animal.' For an African village society, where ownership of livestock is a status symbol and often the sole source of income for a family, this has far-reaching consequences.

Rosemary Lukholo, a social worker with Send-a-Cow, says: 'We are empowering women and giving them real confidence. Since receiving a cow, many women have stood for office on local councils or taken up positions in other civic organisations.' Inevitably, this sometimes causes tension. Husbands may resent the responsibility given to their wives. 'One woman broke down and wept in front of me as she described her problem,' says Ms Lukholo. 'She spends all her time tending and

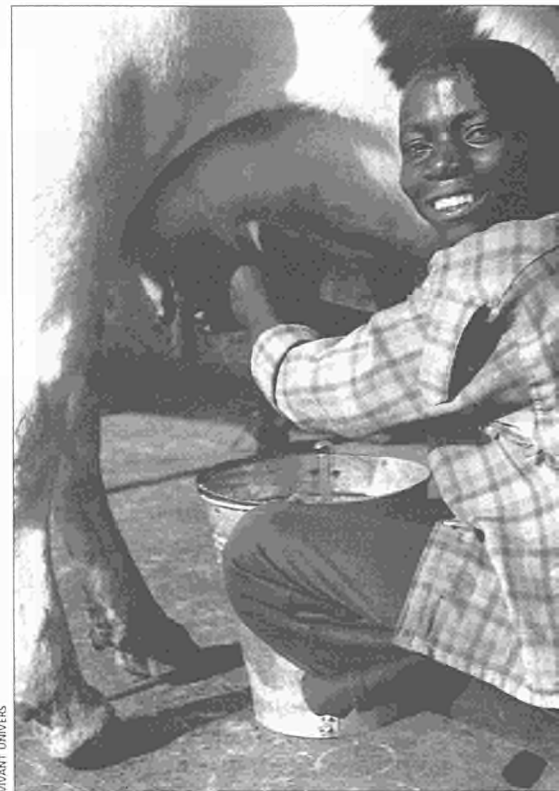
milking the cow and then her husband takes the income. The rest of the family is deprived of the money.'

How does Send-a-Cow cope with this problem? 'We have a continuous programme of training, visits by project managers and counselling. Whenever we give a family a cow we retain joint ownership, so we can intervene if a husband is behaving badly.' As a last resort, the cow can be removed, but this has only happened twice since 1988. 'We also help family life. Once a cow arrives, a family is more secure and many problems are avoided,' points out Rosemary Lukholo.

Before a cow is delivered to a family, they receive extensive training, tailored to their own needs and experience. 'The training can last as long as six months,' says *Lubuye Aloysius*, a veterinary officer working in Luweero District. 'We ensure that the family have all the skills necessary to make best use of the asset we give them.'

They learn about far more than livestock management. *Herbert Lumu*, working for Send-a-Cow in Namirembe District, explains: 'We use the cow as a bait to persuade people to protect the environment. The training covers measures to prevent soil erosion and promote organic farming techniques.' *James Mutayitwako*, also from Namirembe District, stresses: 'The training does not end after the cow arrives. We continue to visit people, to improve their skills and offer refresher courses.'

Send-a-Cow began by transferring heifers from British farms to Uganda. But in 1995, the threat of BSE – so called Mad-Cow disease – led the Ugandan government to impose a ban on the import of cattle. Fortunately, by this time, Send-a-Cow



A cow may be the sole source of income for a family

had already introduced enough heifers to allow the project to sustain itself. 'We altered our strategy in response to the BSE crisis,' says Mr Katende. 'We now buy heifers from the farmers we gave cows to in the early days of the project and pass them on to other villages. Provided we continue to receive an income, Send-a-Cow is now self-sustaining.' Funding comes from Britain's Department for International Development (DFID). Comic Relief and the Rotary Club have also given donations.

Send-a-Cow's emphasis is on self-sufficiency – managing Uganda's own livestock to improve the numbers, quality and distribution of the herd. A village bull scheme has placed healthy bulls in five remote areas of the country, where breeding would otherwise be difficult.

Send-a-Cow's artificial insemination scheme has revived a service that civil strife had virtually destroyed by the mid-1980s. As Uganda's herd continues to recover, other African countries emerging from conflicts may find this a model project to aid their own reconstruction. ■ D.B.

\* Freelance journalist living in Uganda. Article from Gemini News Service, 9 White Lion Street, London, N1 9PD.

## John Corrie, Rapporteur for the Working Group on Regional Cooperation

### 'Bigger economic units are better able to compete in world markets'

*Regional cooperation and integration have moved up the agenda of ACP-EU relations now that the European side is pushing for a larger regional dimension in any future agreement with the ACPs. The Joint Assembly also takes the issue seriously and has appointed a working party to consider the matter. The person responsible for drawing up the draft report is British MEP, John Corrie, who is a member of the European People's Party (EPP) group. We had the opportunity to quiz him when the Assembly met in Brussels in September. Why was regional cooperation getting so much attention?*

– There is no doubt that though we have poured something like £40 billion (ECU 55 bn) into the developing nations in the last 25 years, many of them are worse off today than they were then. Something must be wrong. Perhaps they are not spending the money properly. We now have to reassess the whole situation before the year 2000, because we are moving into yet another agreement of some kind. I think the feeling has been that many developing countries on their own simply could not cope with the funding coming from Europe. They have not been getting the advantage that they should have had. The Commission feels that one way round this would be to have more regional cooperation and integration. This would lead to much bigger economic units, better able to compete in the world market, and thus, with a better chance of survival.

■ *You have visited ACP countries to get accurate information for your report. What conclusions would you draw from these visits?*

– The big thing that struck me was their enormous variety. I went to the Caribbean which is well-developed and obviously way ahead of many African nations. On the African continent, you see that West Africa is moving rapidly towards cooperation and integration. They already have a single currency with the CFA franc, they are looking at a single judicial organisation, and are moving quickly ahead. This is obviously having quite a positive impact. In Central Africa – places like Chad and Mali – you come across really desperate poverty. These countries genuinely need help – and quickly. But we will be unable to do it unless they get some capacity in from the outside. If you go to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, which I also visited, again there is this drive to do something together. But there also seems to be a political blockage – perhaps among the Presidents themselves – which prevents them from



The Courier

moving in the same direction. Then, of course, there is Southern Africa and SADC. There, you have one highly efficient nation – South Africa – which is much more industrialised than its neighbours. This means that there are strains between South Africa and some of its neighbours because the

latter find it difficult to compete. I was also in Mauritius and the Comores. Mauritius is a highly organised country which is thriving because of all the private investment it has had. Then you go to the Comores and you find the poverty is absolutely frightening. So, as I say, the thing that struck me most as I went around was the enormous diversity and complexity across the 71 ACP nations.

■ *Do you think regional cooperation will help prevent conflicts?*

– I sincerely hope so. But what we are seeing at the moment is not very encouraging. I had hoped, for example, that all African countries could decide on a single policy towards the Democratic Republic of Congo, and move forward. Sadly, we have got different countries taking different positions. I think it is absolutely essential that we leave the sorting out of these problems to the African nations themselves. I do not think that we, as the European Union, should be interfering. So I hope that the leaders of these nations can find a way of working more closely together to prevent the conflicts that are taking place. If that doesn't happen, then there simply won't be any investment. No Western European business will go into a country where there is no stability. And if you don't get investment from outside, you don't get job creation or economic growth.

■ *In what way can your report contribute to the coming negotiations?*

– In the first place, I hope that we can help convince the ACP nations that there is no question of Europe trying to divide and rule. At the end of the day, we want to see the ACP as one large strong unit. What I am trying to say is that I am disappointed that 71 nations can come together and yet not achieve the economic and political strength that their size merits. I think developing states have to accept that it is only by coming together in regional groupings they will be able to compete in the future. ■

Interview by A.K.

## The science of words

A new millennium dawns, and we step into the twenty-first century. This highly symbolic transition is all the more fascinating because it will soon be upon us. An opportune moment, then, for the International Poetry Society, a Belgian cultural association, to organise its twenty-first biennial event around this theme, launching a 'call to visionaries'. Throughout September, poets from all over the world met in Liège to consider the role of poets, men and women of the future, with reference to the phenomenal advances in the world of science. For three days, *The Courier* shared their reflections and questions, and sampled the often lively debates that were a feature of the evening lectures. It was also a chance to meet some of the ACP countries' creative talent.

Arthur Haulot and his team, who organised the biennial event, chose to ask participants to reflect on the radical changes that have so fundamentally altered and challenged our day-to-day lives in the course of this century. Quality of life, social structures, economic and poli-

tical development, philosophical reflection and cultural awareness: all have been revolutionised and all will be subject to further upheaval in the future.

Poet-astrophysicists, poet-economists, poet-theologians or simply poets – they all came together to work. Their meetings were chaired by the biologist and UNESCO Secretary-General, *Federico Mayor Zaragoza*, who professes himself embarrassed to be called a poet. He prefers to speak of his writing as 'descriptions of feelings and emotions'. When asked if, in his opinion, young people will have greater access to culture in the next century, his response was suffused with emotion:

'More than ever before, and this is one reason why I am hopeful. The latest figures we have show that, as a result of education, there has been a decline in illiteracy. Young people are our hope for the future, since now they must assume responsibility for this powerful world from a scientific and technical point of view. We must recognise, however, that there is an enormous imbalance in the distribution of wealth and knowledge; a huge discrepancy, also, between the sexes. So it is a worrying world, characterised by the globalisation of poverty. I support the idea of globalising economies and markets but this is not what is actually happening! There are a few, very rich, globalisers, and a vast number of 'globalised', who have no hope of strong



Participants at the 21st poetry biennial in Liège

markets. In short, we must face reality, and know that, as ever, hope lies in mankind's endless ability to devise alternative systems and philosophies of life. We cannot blindly accept the principle of a market society. If reality is complex, we must say to the young people: "we will help you, and you will end up living in a different world". For we shall never allow ourselves to be guided by prices and bargaining. We wish instead to be guided by values, by the light of brighter stars.'

If you feel that inside you there beats the heart of a poet, then you should note that the next International Poetry Biennial, in the year 2000, will take place under the auspices of the International Year for the Cultivation of Peace. UNESCO is offering a prize, and plans to publish an anthology of 'poetry for peace'. The power of a poem can sometimes persuade politicians to act. If the idea appeals to you, why not put pen to paper and become a 'poet for peace'? ■ A.K.

### Sihmbie Osseni, Benin

*'Poets must come down from their ivory towers'*

*I am an artist and a poet. I also teach in an American school, having studied English and communication at Cotonou University. A female poet is still an oddity in Africa: there aren't very many of us. As for me, I began seven years ago, while I was still in the sixth form, in a small group of about 20 people called the Kpanlingan Artistic and Cultural Complex. It is not easy to make a living from writing. To try to make a name for ourselves, we give poetry recitals. What do I think of the connection between culture and development? The culture specific to each society should be harnessed and made exportable so that it contributes to economic growth. Once a country is known elsewhere, this is a great step forward towards global development. The role of the poet in the third millennium is clear. Instead of remaining on the fringes of society, she or he needs to become increasingly integrated. In order to share their visions, poets must come down from their ivory towers, for the more cut-off they are from society, the less people will listen to what they have to say.*

### Antoine Tshitongo Kongolo, Democratic Republic of Congo

*'Development without culture is pointless'*

*I am a writer, poet and essayist. My work has been published in the Congo, Belgium and France, and I am currently preparing an anthology of Congolese poetry. All we see in the media is a negative image of my country. Yet there is a great deal of culture there. The people are highly creative, be they sculptors, painters, poets or writers. Development and culture should go hand in hand, because development without culture is pointless. It is from within our traditional cultural systems, using the contributions of colonisation, that we can progress. The Congo's real wealth lies in its people, not in its mines.*

*In my view, there is no contradiction between the oral tradition and the written word. We must write, because it is easier to preserve what is written down; we can make records and teach our own languages to future generations. In the Congo, we have no difficulty leading multilingual lives. I may have spoken French at school, but I won't be using French to mourn the death of my mother!*

# Livestock research in the developing world – where is it going?

by Dr Alan Duncan\*

The production of food from animals has undergone a revolution in the developed world over the last 40 years. Meat and milk production has developed into a precise and technically complex industry. At the heart of this revolution has been the development of our scientific understanding of animal nutrition. European scientists have made a significant contribution to this process and many European countries are now in a position where they are producing surpluses of a number of animal commodities. The British Society for Animal Science (BSAS), the professional organisation of the animal science community in the UK, has provided an important forum for the discussion of animal nutrition issues over the years. Its membership of 1300 includes professionals from the worlds of farming, teaching and research. Having met the challenges of increasing production from animals in the European context, which was the primary focus of the animal science community during the 1960s and 1970s, members of BSAS have diversified their interests. Certain members have long had an involvement in animal science research in developing countries, but in the last two or three years, this area of research has received an even higher profile.

Last year's President of the BSAS, *Prof. Margaret Gill*, chose as her Presidential theme 'Setting agendas for animal science in a global context'. In keeping with this theme, BSAS and the

Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, in collaboration with CTA, organised an international conference in Nairobi in January, 1998<sup>1</sup>. The conference, entitled 'Food, Lands and Livelihoods – setting research agendas for animal science', was attended by over 200 delegates from 28 countries. Participants having had time to reflect on the conference, now is a good time to draw out some of the major themes which emerged.

## Food and livestock

One thing which is clear as we enter a new millennium is that there is an escalating global demand for livestock products. *Chris Delgado* and colleagues at the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, using their IMPACT model<sup>2</sup>, have been investigating the way in which global demands for meat consumption over the next 20 years are likely to change. The model predicts rapid growth in demand in developing countries, particularly in South-East Asia and China. For example, the model predicts that the total consumption of meat in the developing world will more than double by the year 2020. This contrasts with a fairly stable predicted demand in the developed world (Fig. 1). Breaking down the data by region, the model predicts that the bulk of the growth in demand for meat products, particularly for chicken and pork, is likely to be in China and South-east Asia. The comparatively low

demand for meat products in sub-Saharan Africa is striking and may be an underestimate. Despite this low overall demand in sub-Saharan Africa, the model does predict a two-fold increase by 2020, due more to population growth than to increases in *per capita* consumption (Fig. 2). Since we live in a global marketplace, the trends in meat consumption in China predicted by the IMPACT model are likely to have a marked effect on world cereal prices. Whether the latter are likely to have a significant influence

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*The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was established in 1983 under the Lomé Convention between the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Group of States and the European Union Member States. CTA's tasks are to develop and provide services that improve access to information for agricultural and rural development, and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise information in these areas.*

### Livestock and natural resources management at CTA

In 1996 and 1997, CTA organised conferences in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and Mbabane, Swaziland on livestock development policies for the humid and sub-humid zones of sub-Saharan Africa and for Eastern and Southern Africa, respectively.

A CTA seminar being held in November 1998 in Mali will address experiences in community-based land use management in sub-Saharan Africa. It will focus on the need to exchange experience of wholesystem approaches to the sustainability of soil conservation projects between West Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa.

CTA will continue to develop its approaches to the strengthening of information and communication strategies for ACP policy-making in natural resources management. A meeting will be held early in 1999 in order to emphasise the role and appropriateness of information in formulating policies for managing natural resources and to identify areas which require further study.

<sup>1</sup> For more information email BSAS@ed.sac.ac.uk.

<sup>2</sup> Delgado, C.L., Courbois, C.B. & Rosegrant, M.W. (1998). Global food demand and the contribution of livestock as we enter the new millennium. Market and Structural Studies Division Discussion Paper 21. International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC, USA.

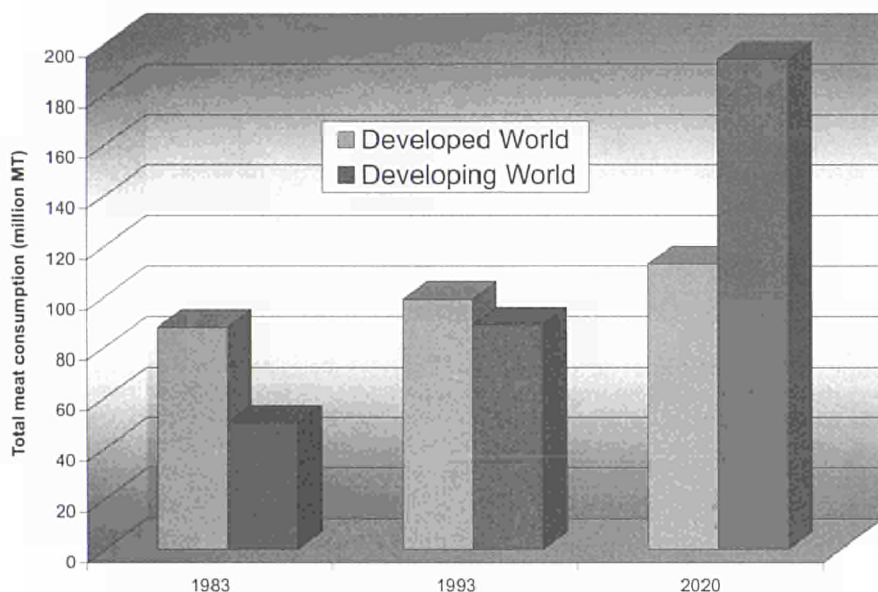


Figure 1: Past and projected consumption trends of various meats, to the year 2020. (Data from Delgado et al, 1998 – see footnote 2)

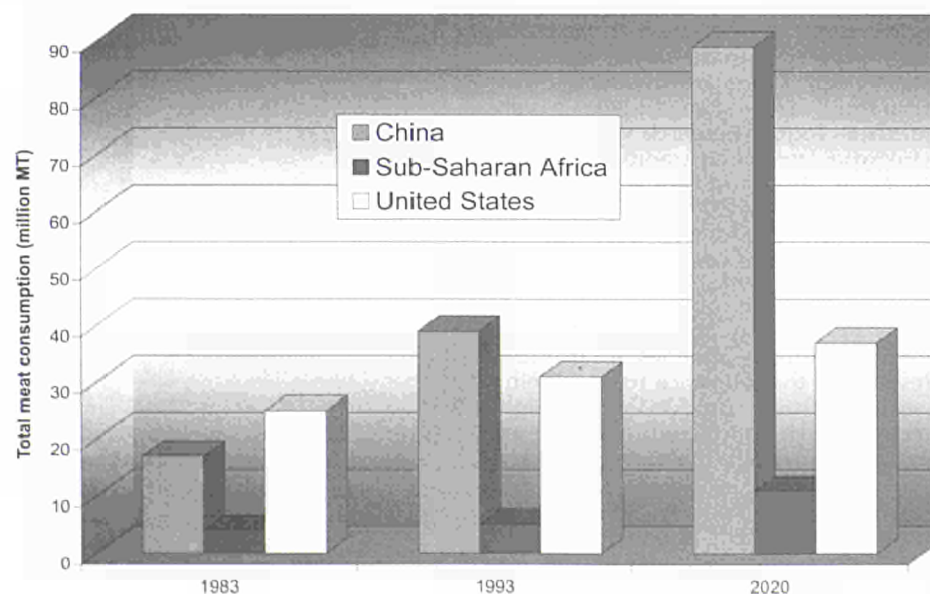
on the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, whose reliance on purchased feed is currently minimal, is less clear. Although governments (and NGOs pressuring governments) can affect production costs through policy change, they are not likely to be able to affect consumption trends.

### Livestock and livelihoods

Are livestock the answer to the growing global demand for food? It could be argued in purely biological terms that production of animal protein is not the most efficient solution. However, this argument ignores the

fact that livestock play a central role within agricultural systems in the developing world. It is useful to remind ourselves that animals have multiple purposes; their contribution to the overall system in terms of draught power, manure, storage of capital etc. may not be immediately obvious to the uninitiated. Furthermore, livestock are often used to exploit resources which are unsuitable for cultivation and may subsist on crop by-products which would otherwise go to waste. There is, therefore, a need for a continuing emphasis in developing world livestock research on quantifying the positive contribution which livestock make to crop production.

Figure 2: Past and projected consumption trends of various meats in different geographical zones, to the year 2020. (Data from Delgado et al, 1998 – see footnote 2)



Because of the multiple roles of livestock and the inter-relationships between livestock and crop production, the need for multi-disciplinary research, considering all components of the system, is paramount.

It is clear from the foregoing that there is a growing demand for food in the developing world, that livestock have a crucial role to play in alleviating the problem and that multi-disciplinary, demand-led research has an important role in facilitating increased production. But what about the environmental impacts of such increased production? To the European scientist, there seems to be a notable lack of emphasis on the environment in current livestock research in the developing world. This may partially be explained by the generally lower intensity of livestock production there compared to the highly intensive systems in the West. However, a further factor seems to be that, in the face of poverty problems across much of the developing world, given a choice between alleviating poverty and protecting the environment, poverty alleviation always wins through. We must begin to ask ourselves whether this phenomenon is storing up poverty problems for the future as resources are degraded due to over-exploitation. Cees de Haan, Henning Steinfeld and colleagues at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation have recently conducted a study in which the so-called 'hotspots' of environmental degradation have been pin-pointed<sup>3</sup>. This identifies geographical areas where issues such as degradation of grazing resources and animal waste problems are particularly critical. There are undoubtedly enormous technological opportunities for increased production but a stronger research emphasis on the environmental costs of particular innovations is essential if increased livestock production is to be sustained in the long term. Too often, scientists focus on increasing production without taking account of the sustainability of the interventions they propose.

### Setting research agendas

It may be that this diminished emphasis on the environment and sustainability is a result of a growing emphasis on 'participatory research' methods where research agendas are set by farmers whose needs are immediate and local. The danger in moving too far in this direction is that no one is left considering issues that are more long-term and global. There

<sup>3</sup> De Haan C., Steinfeld H. and Blackburn, H., (1997) Livestock and the Environment; Finding a Balance. European Commission Directorate General for Development, Development Policy, Sustainable Development and Natural Resources.



Delegates to the Foods, Lands and Livelihoods conference discuss management of cattle on a large farm outside Nairobi

is much talk these days of *Participatory Rural Appraisal* (PRA) and this reflects a recognition that, for research to have impact, it must take account of the constraints that exist in the developing world. There has been a marked change in recent years away from research in which scientists imposed Western technology on developing world problems, oblivious to local constraints, towards a more contextually appropriate research. As a reaction against historical mistakes, and because of very poor adoption success in the past, there has been a marked shift in the last decade to PRA and on-farm research in which the farmer is seen as a participant and a driver of the research process.

We see examples of both the old school and the new school of research among research studies currently being reported and the limitations of both approaches are readily apparent. An example of the adoption of Western style criteria to a developing world context is seen in some recent work from the University of Zimbabwe on the grading of goat carcasses<sup>4</sup>. Grading criteria developed for temperate breeds of sheep were applied to tropical goats and found to be poor predictors of carcass quality. The conduct of the work was good but the work poses some questions about the relevance of the grading system to Zimbabwean conditions. Another recent study from the same university, that demonstrates the potential success of PRA approaches, reports a dramatic improvement in adoption of progressive husbandry techniques among smallholder dairy farmers in Zimbabwe<sup>5</sup>. The impact of such research on local livestock productivity is well demonstrated in the study,

<sup>4</sup> Simela, L., Ndlovu, L.R. & Sibanda, L.M. (1998). Grading of goat carcasses in Zimbabwe and implications for communal area producers. In *Foods, Lands and Livelihoods; setting research agendas for animal science*, KARI, Nairobi, Kenya 27-30 January, 1998. pp. 7-8: British Society of Animal Science.

<sup>5</sup> Francis, J., Sibanda, S. & Pirikisi, J. (1998). Researching with farmers in Nharira-Lancashire smallholder dairy farming systems in Zimbabwe. In *Foods, Lands and Livelihoods; setting research agendas for animal science*, KARI, Nairobi, Kenya 27-30 January, 1998. pp. 173-174: British Society of Animal Science.

although the technologies introduced were certainly not new. The impression gained from such work is that participatory research is potentially very successful in terms of high adoption success but that the type of research that can be conducted does not lend itself to 'pushing back the frontiers of knowledge'.

### Widening the view

Despite the current strong emphasis on a participatory approach as an essential component of successful research, we need to consider the dangers of moving too far in this direction. On-farm research can impose such strong constraints on the degree of control that it is possible, when conducting experiments, that the results are ultimately of little value. It is probable that before long the pendulum will begin to swing back to more strictly experimental research. While the move towards demand-led, participatory research is undoubtedly a positive one, the lack of rigour and the short-term nature of participatory research must be a cause for some concern. Scientists and specialists do have a responsibility to take a wider view and to determine what is possible or researchable. The Nairobi conference was a positive forum in which to take a wide view, not just of the issues being researched, but of the whole approach to research that is currently being adopted. Reductionist, top-down research does seem to be politically incorrect these days, while research which uses words such as 'participatory' and 'demand-led' is very much in vogue. Research which draws strengths from both traditions is likely to have the most impact, and the conference was a useful forum in which to explore the best way of conducting good research.

Another concern we must address in thinking about the development of future agendas in livestock research is the relevance to developing world livestock production of high-tech research conducted in specialised institutes in both the developed and the developing world. Some of the research conducted in these institutions seems esoteric in nature but such work does have a place in the 'research chain'. Although it may not

have immediate benefit, it may be important in underpinning more applied research in the future.

One unique feature of the Nairobi conference was the strong representation of animal scientists from both the developed and the developing world. The conference set out to foster interaction across the North-South divide with an emphasis on what we, as Western scientists, can learn from our colleagues in the South to make our involvement in research in tropical environments more effective. In conclusion, I would suggest that we can learn three things: First, a more participatory approach to our science. Perhaps we need to become more aware of who our clients are and to involve them in the process of setting research agendas. Second, I think we might benefit from a more multi-disciplinary or 'systems' approach. We need to consider the whole system including the biological, social and economic issues surrounding any research problem. Historically our tendency has been towards mono-disciplinary research – perhaps we should be taking a leaf out of the book of our developing world colleagues and involving social scientists and economists in our research. Finally, if we are to combat problems of global poverty in a sustainable way, we need to give more emphasis to the environmental consequences of any proposed interventions. We must ensure that the true environmental costs are included in any assessment of economic benefits.

A.D.

## Establishing CTA's partnerships

The establishment and development of effective partnerships between CTA and ACP countries will become one of the main thrusts of the Centre's interventions in the future. This is an outcome of the strategic planning exercise undertaken in 1996 which resulted in the elaboration of the current Mid-Term Plan (1997-2000).

CTA interprets the term 'effective partnership' to imply a mode of long-term cooperation with national and regional organisations in ACP countries in which the parties involved share goals and interests, strategies, resources, risks and benefits. In addition, attitude to partnerships, compatibility of programmes, organisational structure and functioning, transparency and mutual accountability are taken into consideration.

CTA seeks to harmonise its activities with the evolving features of National Agricultural Systems (NAS) in ACP countries, which are themselves embedded in substantially changing civil societies. Two major elements, amongst others, are part of the new cooperation context: the widely accepted development concept based on local capacities and the emergence and rapid development of non-public organisations and networks.

Most of the organisations with which CTA is in contact belong to the public sector. Nonetheless, as a result of the recent evolution, NGOs, private enterprises and farmers' associations in ACP countries have also become CTA partners.

### Objectives

The objectives of CTA's partnership programmes are to improve the effectiveness and impact of the Centre's programmes and to strengthen the capacities of ACP partner organisations to manage agricultural information.

### State of progress

The following programmes are planned or currently in progress:

#### 1. Cooperation with regional structures

##### 1.1 Caribbean and Pacific Regional Branch Offices

In 1997, CTA signed Memoranda of Cooperation with CARDI (Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute) and IRETA (Institute for Research, Extension and Training in Agriculture), which are now CTA's Regional Branch Offices (RBO) in the Caribbean and the Pacific respectively. CTA's assistance to the RBOs includes financial support to the secretariat, supply of publications and support for the publication of regional newsletters and seminar proceedings. The RBOs provide CTA with

relevant information on agricultural and rural development in these regions through articles, audio-visual material and other services. They also direct to CTA, requests for information to which they are unable to respond.

##### 1.2. West and Central Africa

In these regions, CTA is linked to CORAF (Conférence des Responsables de Recherche Agricole en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre, based in Dakar, Senegal) and INSAH (Institut du Sahel, based in Bamako, Mali) on the basis of framework agreements. The areas of cooperation between CORAF and CTA include: information needs assessment, dissemination of research outputs, training, research information systems and networking and involvement of non-public sector organisations. The objective is to strengthen agricultural research systems in Western and Central Africa.

Although there is no formal framework agreement, the CMA/AOC (Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of West and Central Africa) acts as a regional interlocutor for CTA in two major fields: market information and policy analysis.

##### 1.3. Regional integrated information programmes

There are regional integrated information programmes in the six ACP regions. The collaborating structures are respectively: ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), UDEAC (Union Douanière des Etats d'Afrique Centrale), ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa), SACCAR (Southern Africa Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural Research), CARDI and IRETA. CTA is assisting these regional structures in preparing technical and financial proposals to be submitted to the EDF (European Development Fund).

### 2. Partnerships with non-public organisations and networks

Pilot studies, started at the end of 1997, are aimed at identifying partners with a view to initiating partnership pilot programmes from the non-public sector. The studies were carried out in six countries in West and Eastern Africa: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Madagascar, Ethiopia and Uganda. Thereafter, drawing on the experience and lessons from the current pilot programmes, additional studies will be undertaken in other ACP regions.

## Encouraging the development of local skills

In its field activities, the CDI is making increasing use of local skills. The CDI accomplished this by calling on local consultants, encouraging the creation or consolidation of local professional associations, transferring know-how among the ACP regions and enhancing the multiplier effect generated by the training of ACP instructors.

In its report, 'Guidelines for the Negotiation Agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries', the European Commission stresses the need to develop local capacities through institutional bodies and activity programmes. This is precisely what the CDI is attempting to accomplish through its cooperation agreements with the ACP private sector and through its current and future mandate. The ultimate objective is to reinforce the ACP private sector's human, financial and technological capacities by using local skills, by backing professional organisations, chambers of commerce or manufacturers associations and by making use of the

EU-ACP or intra-ACP networks established by the CDI over the years.

This use of local skills can take various forms. First, it can be accomplished by sub-contracting to local consultants, antennae or representatives belonging to the CDI network. It can also be in the form of joint programmes with local or regional manufacturers' associations as well as direct support to ACP institutions whose vocation is to help create, maintain and improve the performance of small and medium ACP industries. Last, but far from least, is the importance of transferring know-how among EU-ACP companies through commercial, financial and industrial partnerships as well as through twinning and increasingly frequent contacts between EU and ACP professional associations.

The advantages of using local skills are numerous. First of all, the local consultants and con-

Following a joint seminar, 22 Pacific companies benefited from technical assistance. The objective is to improve timber drying techniques.

tacts are close to the companies and can act directly in a regional manner. Next, they well know the environment in which they operate.

CDI's contribution to the development of local know-how is illustrated by numerous examples in various ACP regions and in a wide range of industrial sectors.

### Transferring know-how on a large scale

The examples of transmitting know-how between European consultants and ACP companies are legion. But they become especially interesting when they involve an entire sector, as is the case of East African rose growers (see box), of the Pacific timber sector or of the non-metal minerals in SADC and ECOWAS countries.

In the Pacific, and following the industrial partnership meeting held in September 1997 in Nadi (Fiji), 22 companies from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu followed a seminar this year to acquire the technical know-how required to enhance the quality of timber drying. The seminar's objective was to enable the participants to reduce waste during drying, to reduce energy consumption through improved kiln performance, to produce higher quality timber and to apply for ISO 9000 certification.

### Calling on local consultants

By organising its industrial partnership meetings, the CDI not only encourages the creation of



# CDI

The Centre for the Development of Industry (CDI) is a joint ACP-EU institution created in the framework of the Lomé Convention linking the European Union with the 71 ACP countries (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific). Its objective is to support the creation, expansion and restructuring of industrial companies in ACP countries. To this effect, the Centre promotes partnerships between ACP and European companies. These partnerships may take various forms: financial, technical and commercial partnerships, management contracts, licensing or franchise agreements, sub-contracting, etc.

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## Rose growing: the development of local know-how

The growing of roses in greenhouses for export to Europe began in the mid-1980s, primarily in Zimbabwe and Kenya. The European specialists, above all Dutch and French, that gave their support to the first operations had, at the time, to adapt to climate conditions very different from those in Europe (temperatures, length of day, etc). Today, Kenya has become the leading exporter of ACP roses to Europe while Zimbabwe has remained a large producer and the number of rose growers has increased in both countries as well as in Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda and Ethiopia. In 15 years, European know-how has largely been transferred to local growers – in particular, Kenyans – and local businesspeople now lead the majority of Kenyan operations. Sound know-how in the

Sound know-how in growing roses now exists in Eastern Africa and can be used for new projects in the region.



growing of roses now exists in East Africa and can be used for new projects in the region. For example, in 1996, the CDI gave financial backing to a company in Tanzania that enabled it to cover part of the cost of a Dutch operations manager brought in to start up production. After 18 months of company training by the specialist, the company was able to hire a Kenyan specialist to take over from the Dutch manager and pursue its development with an entirely East African team.

The advantages of this new situation are numerous and are not limited to a reduction of management costs. The local specialists' familiarity with the region's natural conditions is, with comparable technical know-how, an advantage in terms of productivity. In this region and sector, the CDI encourages the use of local managers for farming operations and local consultants for the studies that thus make even better use of the mastery of advanced know-how.

various forms of partnership among EU and ACP companies as well as the transfer of EU-ACP know-how, but also makes use of local skills or, at least, contributes to their development. On this level, the follow-up of the Agro-Industrial forum organised in Dakar in 1995 is exemplary. For the preparation of the meeting and the follow-up of contacts that took place during the forum, more than 50 ACP consultants were solicited. The twofold objective was to select West African companies for an eventual partnership with an EU company and to assist them in the preparation of their projects. Approximately 40 projects have benefited from a know-how transfer backed by the CDI, a fact which demonstrates that the consultants serve as genuine links between the CDI and the local companies thanks to their knowledge of the sector and its local development conditions.

The same scale of follow-up was organised for the Lusaka (1994) and Accra (1998) Mining Forums. The main objective was to work towards the creation of African expertise in the field of mine operations by using consultants trained to monitor the devel-

opment of the 120 projects generated by these meetings.

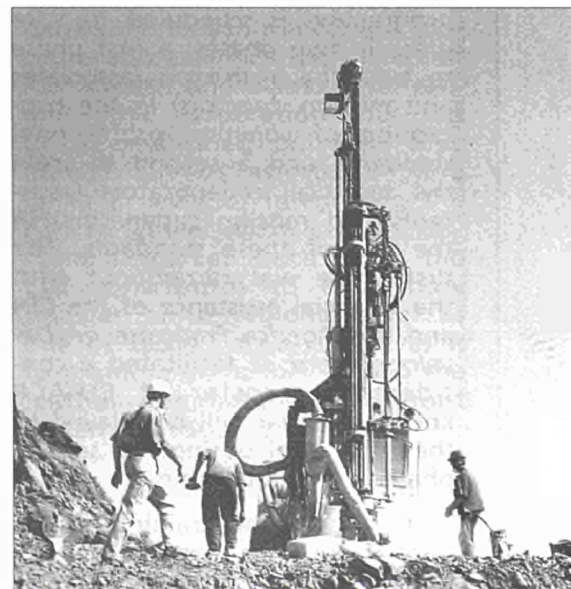
### Promoting the creation of professional associations

Another result of the forums and industrial partnership meetings is the creation of professional associations in a number of countries. In the poultry farming sector (see box), the CDI encouraged the creation of four professional structures in Senegal, Guinea, Togo and Cameroon. Be it during the emergence of new structures or the consolidation of existing structures, CDI's objective is always the same: to reinforce the sector, promote exchanges among member companies and transfer know-how among the various regions. Moreover, all these associations have fully understood that the long-term development of their sector is dependent on the reinforcement of local skills in terms of knowledge and know-how. For this reason, they increasingly insist on training their members, on the organisation of study missions and on their participation in specialised meetings and other international forums.

Another sector has benefited from the accomplishments of industrial partnership meetings: the dimensional stone sector. Dur-

ing the Carrara (Italy) Fair held in May 1995, a group of some 20 African stone sector companies recognised the need to create an association that would enable them to promote natural stone from Africa. A businessman from Ghana was appointed to prepare the creation of *Afristone* (African Association of Dimension Stone). To facilitate the rapid establish-

Following the Mining Forums in Lusaka (1994) and Accra (1998), the CDI contributed to the development of African know-how in the field of mining operations.



ment of Afristone, the CDI allowed the local consultant to undertake an operations and evaluation study of the European and African dimension stone federations. On this basis, he drafted the statutes that should lead to the official creation of Afristone next year.

### Training instructors

Another example of CDI's backing a professional association and thus encouraging a large-scale transfer of know-how is *NETFORCE* in Dakar. A technical association of West African auditors and certified accountants, *NETFORCE* is affiliated with the Network of Companies in West Africa (REAO). Its objective is twofold: to reinforce the technical capacities of the member firms and to improve the management capacities of REAO companies. *NETFORCE*'s contribution to improving the management capacities of REAO companies paved the way for a pilot project designed to assist companies in elaborating their five-year strategic action plans based on the clear identification of their strengths, weaknesses and potential. Initiated in Dakar, the pilot experiment should spread to include the other REAO countries, according to results. The reinforcement of the member firms' technical capacities is currently the object of a three-stage training programme: (1) the harmonisation of work standards in the member firms on the basis of international standards; (2) continuous professional training of the member firms' personnel; (3) the implementation of a quality control system. The implementation of this programme is scheduled to take place in two phases: a first phase to train the instructors (associates and mission directors) in the conception of common professional standards and a second to train the technical collaborators (assistants and mission supervisors) in the use of these standards. The first phase was carried out with the financial assistance of the CDI and the *Agence Française de Développement*. It facilitated a considerable transfer of EU-ACP know-how that will be relayed to the local level during the second phase of the programme.

The same training procedure for business experts through a professional association was used

## Poultry Farming: four professional associations created following CDI-organised forums

*The CDI actively contributed to the creation of four professional associations and continues to encourage the other existing national associations.*



The **House of Senegalese Poultry Farmers (MDA)**. The first sub-regional meeting in Saly-Portuda (1993) strongly recommended the birth of this type of association in Senegal. This association has increased the professionals' negotiation capacity with regard to the public authorities, notably in terms of softening tax laws and the consideration of the profession's specific interests (use of corn as a transformation product rather than as a final consumption product, facilities offered by the railways between Dakar and Bamako, etc.)

The **National Union of Poultry Farmers of Guinea (UNAG)** was born a few years ago following a study mission made by a professional to the region. During the CDI sectoral evaluation missions, this structure was re-launched and invited to become professional. Moreover, Guinea was cited at Abidjan as having to be part of the south-south exchange mission of lesser developed poultry farming countries with those having greater and more successful experience.

In Togo, the **National Association of Poultry Producers (ANPA)** is in the planning stage at the insti-

gation of the CDI. In fact, during the 1997 mission to evaluate the sector, the CDI united for the first time all the professionals to explain the advantages and impact of a representative and effective professional organisation. During this historic session, a fund was set up and a task force created. During the Abidjan meeting in 1998, a draft of statutes was transmitted to the CDI and its completion is scheduled for the near future. Togo is, as are Guinea and Benin, invited by the CDI to carry out a study mission in reference countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon and Senegal, which each possess a dynamic and effective association in the sector.

The **National Interprofessional Union of the Poultry Sector (SI-FAC)** in Cameroon was born during the industrial partnership meeting on poultry farming in Central Africa that was held in Yaoundé in June 1996. Since then, this union has won a number of battles in favour of the sector and, in particular, in the field of total tax removal on inputs and the regulation of the entry of competitive imported products that are often subsidised and of poor quality.

## Training Instructors in ISO 9000 standards and in the HACCP Procedure in the Dominican Republic

By enrolling along with five Dominican companies in a CDI-backed seminar on HACCP standards, an association and an institute, the *Junta Agroempresarial Dominicana (JAD)* and *INDOTEC*, will also become capable of know-how transfer.

Founded in 1985, the JAD is a non-governmental association whose objective is to encourage technical assistance, market information and professional training in view of modernising companies in the national agro-industry sector. Financially independent since 1992, the JAD includes no fewer than 1300 direct members and 22,900 indirect members.

For its part, *INDOTEC* is a public institution dependent on the Central Bank. Its mission is to contribute to the country's technological development by providing qualified services in response to the national industry's needs. As a consequence, *INDOTEC* provides assistance to companies of all sizes in four areas: analysis, investigation and development services, technical and consulting services, technical information and training. The institution also runs three permanent programmes: integrated technological assistance, the development of small and medium companies and the training of hotel and food service personnel.



By following the HACCP seminars given with CDI assistance, a professional association and an institute in the Dominican Republic will become capable of know-how transfer.

Taking part in the training now being provided by CDI experts, the two organisations soon plan to include the seminar on HACCP standards in their training programmes. Their objective is to be able to train workers according to HACCP standards and to enable Dominican companies to obtain their certification. As we can see, the CDI will have contributed to achieving a multiplier effect on know-how transfer through local organisations.

in the implementation of the HACCP standards in the Dominican Republic (see box).

### Providing information on available know-how in a sector

An effective means of transferring know-how to ACP companies is to provide them with information on the available know-how in the region. Following the Lusaka Mining Forum (1994) the CDI is currently taking part – along with the European

Commission – in financing a brochure on dimension stone in SADC countries. The brochure's aim is to present the stone potential in the SADC countries and some 30 company projects. It also provides a list of some 30 geological and mining exploration offices established in the region.

The same process is taking place in the leather sector. The CDI is actively backing *ESALIA* (Eastern

In the leather sector, the CDI contributes to making regional skills known through a brochure published jointly with Esalia.

and Southern African Leather Industries Association), the regional association that regroups the professional associations from some ten countries. The CDI notably finances the printing of a brochure that includes the country-by-country analysis of the region's leather potential as well as the addresses of the tanneries located in the member countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Uganda, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Printed in Kenya, the brochure also provides the names of ACP experts and makes more tangible the cooperation that has been established between *Unic* (Italian tanners association) and *Esalia* in view of integrating the African leather sector in the international market. Once again, the CDI contributes to know-how transfer on a regional level as one of *Esalia's* main objectives is to promote exchanges among the leather companies throughout Eastern and Southern Africa.



## Regional analysis

# Zambia gives priority to the private industrial sector

A country in the midst of profound economic change, Zambia encourages the privatisation and rapid diversification of its industrial activities. In this context, the CDI plans to play an active role in a number of key sectors.

Zambia is one of the world's leading copper exporters. The mining sector and quarries account for 80% of exports, or 5% of GNP, and employ 10% of the national labour force. Agriculture generates 20% of GNP and 17% of employment. Industry constitutes 14% of exports of goods, uses 11% of the labour force and generates nearly one-quarter of GNP. Last, 60% of the labour force worked in the service sector, which accounts for half of GNP.

A multi-party democracy since 1991, Zambia ushered in, from that moment, a series of economic reforms encouraging the creation of a private industrial sector. In March 1992, the first structural adjustment programme was implemented to stabilise the economy and promote growth. A privatisation programme was drawn up, and its main phase involved ZIMCO, a state holding company that held control over a large part of the Zambian economy. In 1994, exchange regulation was lifted. Finally, interest rates were liberalised and are now determined by the market. The government also reduced most entry tariffs (which now range from zero to 25%) and lifted most export regulatory measures.

The national economy's response to the reforms has been encouraging. A substantial improvement of the economic indicators has been noted: inflation has fallen from 200% in 1992 to 35% in 1996 and 25% in 1998; interest rates for loans from commercial banks have dropped from 140% in 1992 to an average of 55% in 1996 and 36% in 1998.

### Industrial diversification

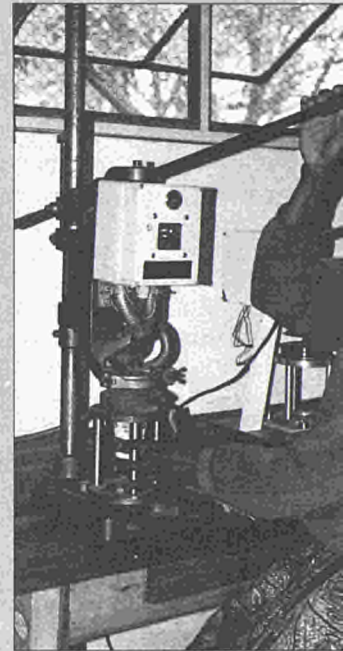
To strengthen the structural weakness caused by the significant proportion of export income generated by mining products, the Zambian government favours all initiatives that enable the private sector to develop diversified industrial activities. Private foreign investors (mainly from South Africa and the Commonwealth) were quick to realise this. A growing number of multinational companies plan to set up businesses or have already done so. Numerous joint ventures are in the process of being created, and the industrial future appears promising.

To aid in accelerating private sector development, the Zambian government is counting on the EU, among others. One of the chapters of the National Indicative Programme concentrates on direct assistance to local private companies, which is the CDI's preferred field of activity and which has led to its being called upon to play an active role. The CDI is currently carrying out studies in four sectors: dairy products, cereals, fruits and vegetables and timber. The results of these studies will enable the CDI to adopt a programmed and systematic approach to these sectors in Zambia and to

achieve complementarity with the National Indicative Programme's objectives.

### A very promising dairy sector

Prior to 1991, pasteurised milk was mainly produced by the Dairy Produce Board, a public company whose finances constantly had to be subsidised by the state. In spite of this support, the company could not manage to meet the daily demand for dairy products, and the country was obliged to import large quantities. Starting in 1991, certain local farmers began building their own pasteurisation units – causing damage to the state monopoly – and producing cheese, yoghurt and ice cream. In 1996, the Dairy Produce Board was privatised and bought by the South African company, *Bonita* (68% holding) which had become the leading milk collector, by local farmers (27%) and by the Board's employees (5%). As the holding company to which *Bonita* belongs had just been bought (66% holding) by the Italian group of *Parmalat International*, the Zambian company benefited from fresh capital that enabled it to modernise its equipment and diversify its production into UHT milk and fruit juices. Today, other national and international operators are taking greater interest in the expanding sector. The dairy sector has become self-sufficient, but most of the derivative products are still imported, a fact that encourages local producers such as *Diamondale* and *Brand Alice Farm Ltd* (operating under the *Maplehurst* brand) to accelerate their development in this market segment. In light of this, the CDI has a growing interest to oversee the implementation of a programmed sectoral approach.



Production of yoghurt and cheese under the Maplehurst brand.

#### Zambia Facts and figures\*

Area	752,614 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	8.6 million
Growth rate	3.5% per annum
GDP per capita	US\$ 260 (1993)
Main imports	Crude oil, chemicals, machinery
Main exports	Copper, cobalt, fresh fruits and vegetables, cut flowers, semi-precious stones, textiles, building materials, animal products and by-products and processed foods.
Official language	English
Major cities	Lusaka (capital), Ndola, Kitwe, Livingstone
Currency	1 Zambian Kwacha (K) = 100 ngwee 1 ECU = 2,295 Zambian Kwachas (Oct. 1998)

\* All figures on Zambia and its economy come from its Internet site that you can visit at the following address: <http://www.zamnet.zm>

## In the sectors

### Botswana

#### Rotex Spinners: integrated cotton thread production

*Beginning operations in October 1998, Rotex Spinners will produce 3000 tons of cotton thread per year with technical assistance from the CDI.*

Faced with growing international competition that obliges them to reduce their production costs, an increasing number of Europeans are seeking to produce cotton thread in Africa. For this reason, a consortium of Italian and British investors created Rotex Spinners (Pty) Ltd and installed their facilities in the buildings of a former garment maker in Selebi Phikwe, Botswana.

The CDI intervened at the start of the project by assisting the investors in structuring the project and preparing a feasibility study. Thanks to this preliminary stage and with CDI backing to obtain financing, the consortium was able to present its project to the Botswana Development Corporation (BDC) and obtain a loan for the purchase of the building and for working capital. The second type of CDI assistance came in the form of evaluating second-hand equipment, mainly from Italy.

The Rotex Spinners' building.

Since October 1998, the spinning company has been capable of producing 3000 tons of thread per year, mainly for export to Europe, generating initial annual sales of ECU 7 million and a welcome input of foreign currency.

For the moment, the raw material is imported from Zimbabwe, but Rotex plans to purchase all its cotton in Botswana. To do so, it has not only acquired an interest in a major cotton farm located near Selebe Phikwe but also plans to build a cotton spinning unit to enable it to process cotton grown in the north west region of the country.

Although cotton spinning does not require considerable labour because of the automation of the production process, Rotex will employ nearly 200 workers by the end of 1998 and plans to hire an additional 150 workers next year. Most of them will be assigned technical tasks and will have to be trained, most likely with CDI assistance. Many have already had the opportunity to practice assembling and dismantling the spinning equipment, and this has given them valuable technical know-how. ■

CDI Contact: Eckhard Hinzen



### Cape Verde

#### Creation of the Condeções Atlântico Joint Venture

*Encouraged by the excellent investment climate in Cape Verde's textile sector, the Portuguese company Textestilo is creating a joint venture with Cabo Atlântida, a local textile company.*

The textile sector is given priority in Cape Verde, and the government grants enormous advantages to potential investors. Because of this, the CDI, in collaboration with ICEP (Investments, Trade and Tourism of Portugal), organised in 1997 a mission of Portuguese industrialists specialised in the field of textiles. Made up of representatives from some ten companies, the mission paid a business visit to Santiago and San Vicente in Cape Verde from November 19-26, 1997. Its goal was to establish contacts with local promoters in order to conclude industrial, commercial and financial joint venture projects in the textile sector.

On the whole, the mission's results were encouraging. In total, eight letters of intent or protocol agreements were signed during the mission between the Portuguese businessmen and PROMEX, Cape Verde's Centre for Investment and Tourist Development.

Following the signing of a letter of intent between the partners, a joint venture company, *Condeções Atlântico*, was recently set up by *Textestilo*, a Portuguese company specialised in the fabrication of high-quality women's garments, and *Cabo Atlântida*, a Cape Verde company. ■ CDI Contact: Sebastiao Ditutala

### Kenya

#### Training of Rosavie's technical personnel

*Kipmat Holdings Ltd. (Kenya) and Compagnie du Nord (France) create a joint company, Rosavie, specialised in the preservation of flowers, leaves and other plants by means of unique and effective processes.*

The western markets show great interest in the new processes to preserve flowers, leaves and other

plant matters. By means of a process of dehydration (the plant matter is frozen then vacuum-dried), of eternalisation (absorption of a liquid through the stem), of preservation by immersion or of sublimation (a patented process for the processing of flowers, especially roses and carnations), the bouquets are far better preserved than if they were simply dried. These processes are commonly used by a French company, *Compagnie du Nord*. *Compagnie du Nord* has agreed to transfer its technology to *Rosavie*, created together with *Kipmat Holdings Ltd*, a family-owned holding company active in cosmetics, insurance brokerage, real estate and small-scale flower growing.

Even though the flowers could be grown in other countries – notably Ecuador, Columbia and Israel – Kenya was chosen because of its potential to grow a wide range of flowers throughout the year, its ideal level of humidity for preserving flowers and the satisfactory quality of available accessories: baskets, pottery, etc. Furthermore, the promoters chose to locate the new company in the Sameer Industrial Park, a free zone offering infrastructure, services and tax advantages. In addition, labour is abundant and of good quality: a strong advantage when one learns that *Rosavie* plans to hire 350 persons over the next three years.

Having installed the necessary equipment, *Rosavie* began production in two separate buildings. The first processes the fresh flowers that are sent to a number of countries. The second produces finished bouquets and decorative accessories including greenery. The company does not grow its own flowers but buys them from small local producers on the basis of annual contracts.

The CDI is currently providing six months of training assistance involving two programmes: on the one hand, the implementation of the various production processes and, on the other hand, the bouquet arrangement techniques. This type of intervention is a must because Kenya does not have a training centre in this sector, and a similar course in Europe lasts two years. ■

CDI Contact: Anani Adade-Helledy



## Mozambique

### Minco, the country's first private equity fund

*In late September, Mozambique's first venture capital fund was created in Maputo.*

Coming into the world under the name of Minco, the fund will provide venture capital to investors operating in Mozambique who wish to modernise their company or increase their production capacity. The Minco fund will also focus its attention on management buy-outs (the purchase of a company's equity by its management team) as they will become more and more prevalent given the current context in which public companies are being privatised and the growing number of foreign investors. In the medium term, Minco also plans to take an active part in the creation of new companies.

As opposed to a bank that charges interest on loans, Minco will invest as a full partner by acquiring part of the target company's stock. Its revenues will depend on the financial health of the companies in its portfolio. To comply with current practices in other countries, Minco is established in the form of two distinct companies: the fund itself, *Mozambique Investment Company Limited*, and a management company named *Mozambique Capital Partners Limited*. The main objective of this dual structure is to facilitate the raising of capital once the initial fund of US\$ 19 million has been invested.

Minco is a joint initiative of *Banco Mello de Investimentos* (Por-

tugal) and the *Commonwealth Development Corporation* (UK). *Banco Mello* is expected to play an important role in introducing business to Minco, especially through its interest in *Banco Commercial de Moçambique*, Mozambique's largest commercial bank. CDC will bring to bear its experience of managing private equity funds in countries such as Zimbabwe, South Africa and Tanzania. The CDI has already been closely involved in the fund's preparatory stage and took part, along with CDC, in the market and feasibility studies prior to the creation of the fund. Furthermore, CDI has a wide knowledge of the companies operating in Mozambique. ■

CDI Contact: Eckhard Hinzen

## In brief

### Annual meeting of CDI's European Institutional Network

As was the case last year (meeting of November 18, 1997, in Brussels), the CDI will organise a work session with the member institutions of its European network on November 5, 1998, on this occasion at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Rouen (France). Before this event, the French regional association, *Entreprises et Développement*, will organise a forum for French companies or partnership and industrial twinning in ACP countries. The member institutions of CDI's European institutional network will also be invited. ■

CDI Contact: Paolo Baldan

### Seminar on the role of ACP operators in the tuna industry

The CDI organised, in collaboration with the European Commission, ICEP (Investments, Trade and Tourism of Portugal) and the FCE (Economic Cooperation Fund of Portugal), from 20 to 23 July 1998, a seminar on the involvement of ACP operators in the tuna industry. In the prestigious setting of the EU Pavilion at Expo '98 in Lisbon – dedicated to the oceans – the seminar enabled some 30 companies from West Africa, the Indian Ocean and particularly, the Pacific, to review together with some 20 European companies the technical trends and market prospects of the sector, which is becoming increasingly concerned with resource preservation, value added to the raw material and favouring development of the ACP countries controlling the region.

Regarding fishing techniques, a trend towards more selectivity was observed, particularly in the Pacific where small and medium scale long lining is developing and in the West African countries where pole and lining is becoming more effective. As for the canneries, supply alternatives such as involving the artisanal sector in West Africa and the Pacific and product diversification towards increased added value were the main features emphasised by the participants. Many commercial deals were concluded parallel to the meeting on fresh and frozen products. These deals involved whole fish or loins as well as more elaborate products such as sliced and smoked tuna.

Many participants requested that the CDI support commercial partnerships, as collaboration between European importers and ACP fisheries and processing companies seems to be the most appropriate manner to adapt products to market requirements in that sector.

The seminar was considered to be particularly timely by the participants as, from 1 July 1998, the EU adopted strict sanitary regulations for imports from third countries and, in mid-July, negotiations began between the EU and the Pacific countries with a view to concluding a tuna fishing agreement.

The Pacific countries' wish to intensify trade with Europe, the availability of resources in the region and the strong interest shown by European companies in operating in the Pacific require that the CDI devotes more resources to the tuna industry in West Pacific countries. In this regard, an industrial partnership meeting on the tuna sector will be held in the Pacific in early 1999. ■

CDI Contact: Paul Chotard

### Textile industry: Third Trend Forum in Mauritius

The Export Processing Zones Development Authority (EPZDA) in Mauritius recently organised its third Trend Forum on October 13-15. This meeting enables professionals from the textile and garment industries to gather information on the latest market trends, fashion, yarns and the latest technological developments. They were also able to establish contacts with raw material and equipment suppliers, meet buyers from leading clothing brands and discuss the factors influencing competitiveness with industry experts. This year, for the first time, the meeting took on a regional character because it enabled regional operators – garment manufacturers and suppliers of raw materials, accessories, and equipment – to exhibit their products. They were also able to follow various seminars on key topics given by leading specialists, that is, the latest trends in terms of products, markets, production, management and even regional markets. Having taken part in organising the meeting, the CDI financed the travel and registration expenses of some 20 companies from Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. CDI either knows these companies well or has provided assistance to them, and they export to Europe and/or the USA. These companies were delighted to be able to exhibit their products alongside the Mauritian products as the island has long been a regular and reliable supplier for Europe. ■

CDI Contact: Mary Jane Caudron

### Milk in East and Southern Africa: seminar on the 'white gold' boom in Kampala

In less than ten years, thanks to the liberalisation of the economy, milk production and processing have experienced remarkable growth in most East and Southern African countries. Two identification missions conducted in those regions on behalf of the CDI in 1997 and 1998 show that about 50 new dairy plants have been created in recent years. The dynamism of this sector can be illustrated by Uganda whose milk industry has grown from producing 5000 litres

of milk a day in the late 1980s to more than 250,000 litres of milk processed daily by the country's ten or so dairy plants. In spite of this spectacular growth, current processing only represents 15% of the milk production in Uganda. In Kenya, the 40 dairy plants opened over the past eight years only process 12% of national production.

On the basis of this information and the sector's enormous development potential, the CDI has decided to play an active role, notably in the field of improving the quality of products collected, processed and sold to consumers. With these goals in mind, the CDI invited some 40 companies from the East and Southern African sector to take part in a seminar. There, they met with 15 European companies and dairy specialists in raw materials, equipment, packaging materials, quality management and improvement. Besides the perspectives of North-South cooperation, the CDI actively encouraged the creation or consolidation of national and regional professional associations as well as active cooperation among the southern operators. During the seminar, the participants also visited numerous companies and made contacts that, in time, could lead to technical, commercial or financial partnerships. ■

CDI Contact: Cherif Touré

### Implementation of an environmental strategy for industry in the Dominican Republic

Environmental protection in ACP countries is a key part of the Lomé Convention. In view of sustainable development, of protection and preservation of natural resources but also in a social context to improve living and working environments, the CDI and the German Development Bank (DEG) have launched an environmental project in the Dominican Republic. The project aims to encourage and aid small and medium companies to prevent or reduce the negative impact their activities can have on the environment: waste water, atmospheric emissions, waste products, etc. In this regard, and in partnership with local associations and bodies, the CDI will provide technical assistance to implement an environmental protection programme in SMEs that will be completed by an awareness campaign including a seminar organised for the same companies. In the first phase, the CDI proposes to proceed with a preliminary evaluation of the environmental impact of the activities in order to be able to establish an environmental action plan. Once the priority interventions have been clearly identified, the CDI will provide the companies with the appropriate experts. The companies will have to pay for the necessary investments. Along with this CDI procedure, a credit-granting programme by the local financial institutions will be developed. One bank, *Banco Gerencial & Fiduciario*, is already closely involved in this procedure that will enable the SMEs to carry out the required investments. ■

CDI Contact: Orlando Pérez

## Directory of Advanced Training Opportunities

The 1998 edition of the Directory of Advanced Training Opportunities in ACP countries (DTOACP) is now available. 170 tertiary training institutions in ACP countries met the standards for inclusion. This is an increase of 75% over the 1997 edition. The number of study programmes listed has also increased substantially (by 73%) to 1477.

The information is presented in English, French and Portuguese. The Directory is available in printed form and on CD-ROM. If you have an Internet connection, you can also access

it at the following site:

<http://dtoacp.kub.nl>

The printed and CD-ROM versions of the DTOACP are available for reference at EU delegations in the ACP countries, as well as at EU Member States' embassies, major national libraries and university libraries.

The institutions and study programmes in the DTOACP had to meet a set of objective criteria that provide an indication of their quality. This makes the DTOACP different from other training directories. The Directory is intended for the use of students in one ACP country wishing to continue their post-secondary training in another. It provides sufficient information to enable users (students, government officials involved in making scholarship decisions, EU delegations and other providers of training funds) to make a choice on the basis of their specific requirements. The information is listed alphabetically by country, institution and programme.

For every programme, the Directory presents information on its duration, admission requirements, programme objectives, courses to be taken, instruction methods, the basis on which final marks are calculated, fees (in US\$), current and past enrolment (including a separate figure for foreign students), admission rate (percentage of applications accepted for the

programme) and a breakdown of the academic staff. Also provided are the next starting date for the programme and the deadline and address for applications.

Institutional information provided includes the objectives of the institution, its history, the length of the academic year and number of semesters, campus facilities and services, the number of books in the library, the accommodation available on campus, specific services for foreign students, a breakdown of the staff by position and gender, a breakdown of the student population by nationality and gender, the admission rate and contact addresses.

The DTOACP has been compiled and produced at the request of the European Commission to foster South-South cooperation in the field of human resource development. It is the product of a partnership between the following institutions located in the Netherlands and in the ACP countries:

*Association of African Universities (AAU), Accra, Ghana.* This was established by African universities in 1973 to promote inter-university cooperation. Its objectives include collecting, classifying and disseminating information on higher education.

*Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), Pretoria, South Africa.* This is a national agency which aims to improve the quality of life of all South Africans through research, research development, and research-based services. Its programmes include the compilation of education statistics for national planning purposes.

*Institute of Social Studies Advisory Service (ISSAS), The Hague, Netherlands.* This has extensive experience of advisory and consultancy work in more than 60 developing countries. ISSAS is part of the Institute of Social Studies, one of Europe's foremost centres for development research and training.

*Development Research Institute (IVO), Tilburg, Netherlands.* IVO has wide experience of consultancy work involving higher education in developing countries and

is the focal point of ICCDA's International Development Information Network (IDIN). It is attached to the Katholieke Universiteit Brabant.

*Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (NUFFIC), The Hague, Netherlands.* This has implemented more than 180 educational projects in 35 countries and has experience in compiling directories of advanced training opportunities.

*University of the South Pacific (USP), Suva, Fiji.* The USP is jointly owned by the governments of 12 island countries. Based in Fiji, it has a campus, university complex and non-campus centres on other islands.

*University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona, Jamaica.* This serves 14 countries in the Caribbean region. It has three main campuses in Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados, and non-campus centres in other countries in the region.

## Human Development Report – more doesn't necessarily mean better

In the preface to the 1998 Human Development Report, the authors define 'human development' as the process of enlarging the range of choices available to individuals. This happens when they have the opportunity to live longer, healthier and more constructive lives. The 1998 report looks at the subject of consumption from the point of view of human development. During the course of the 20th century, global consumption has increased at an unprecedented rate and now stands at \$24,000,000,000,000 (24 thousand billion dollars). However, just 20% of humankind is responsible for no less than 86% of this total.

Despite the spectacular jump in consumption, the situation for many remains critical. More than a billion of our fellow human beings do not even have the opportunity to consume what they should to meet their basic needs. By contrast, others are consuming in a way that conflicts with the planet's long-term ecological and



social imperatives. Consumption trends and methods are beginning to damage human development. One finds, for example, that renewable resources are being depleted even more speedily than non-renewables. The main responsibility for this lies with the rich countries who do most of the polluting – with a negative impact on the poor nations. So we are consuming more, but not necessarily better! According to the report's authors, this means that we face a dilemma. An increase in consumption is required for more than one billion souls, to enable them to fulfil their needs and escape from their poverty.

The 1998 report is a useful focus for discussion about possible solutions. It concludes that the question is not so much whether there should be more or less consumption, but how to find a different way of consuming which aids the process of human development. It puts forward the possibility of a redistribution between rich and poor consumers. It suggests the abandonment of products and production processes that damage the environment together with positive incentives to purchase goods produced by the poor. And it argues for a different form of consumption in the rich, high-growth countries. To sum up, the Human Development Report proposes the adoption of a consumption system which is shared, 'dynamising', socially responsible and viable in the long term.

The report is a vital tool for anyone interested in global development issues. In addition to the analysis described above, it contains useful information and statistics about more than a hundred countries and about the regions of the world. ■ A.K.

## Trade and Development Report

Another important annual publication launched recently is UNCTAD's Report on Trade and Development. This is an essential document for both political decision-makers and researchers. It proposes new approaches to preventing and managing financial crises, analyses the world's economic performance in 1997 and considers

the prospects for 1998 (including the trade implications of Asia's economic troubles). It also considers how best to stimulate growth and investment in Africa. UNCTAD suggests the establishment of a financial safeguard mechanism for currencies that fall victim to speculative attack, and also highlights the growth potential of the African continent. To prevent the world economy from plunging into recession, it proposes the creation of an independent agency which would be given the task of assessing sustainable levels of indebtedness and recommending policy changes that might be needed. ■ A.K.

## Africa Centre redevelopment gathers momentum

Over 200 friends and supporters of Africa attended a special fundraising event in London on 8 August, as part of the Africa Centre's redevelopment (featured in issue 171 of *The Courier* at page 76). The occasion was also part of the celebration of 35 years of the Organisation of African Unity. Commonwealth Secretary General, *Chief Emeka Anyaoku*, was guest speaker for the evening. Other guests included African High Commissioners, ambassadors, business-people and NGOs.

In his speech Chief Anyaoku spoke of Africa's 'tremendous achievements' over the last few years, particularly in the fields of democratisation and economic liberalisation. He acknowledged that the continent sometimes had difficulty making its voice heard, and that its 'relatively low economic leverage' undermined its 'potential for influence on the world stage'. He stressed: 'We have a responsibility to look at ourselves, and to continue to seek ways of improving this situation.'

*Dr Adotey Bing*, Director of the Africa Centre, provided the audience with some detailed information about the Centre's redevelopment requirements and plans. He thanked the organisations and individuals who had already assisted in fund-raising efforts, and appealed for further support to

## ACP-EU talks get under way

Talks between the ACP Group and the EU on the post-Lomé IV relationship opened in Brussels on 30 September. In his speech at the first formal session. Development Commissioner, *João de Deus Pinheiro*, expressed the belief that there was an encouraging negotiating basis to begin work on talks that would 'doubtless be long and complex'. He continued: 'We are all aware of the need for a fundamental renewal' of the ACP-EU framework. He referred in particular to the lively debates that had taken place in the European Parliament and the Joint Assembly, as well as the extensive discussions involving a broader range of economic and social actors, over the past two years. These, he said, had 'helped us to build a consensus on the guiding principles for our new partnership'.

ensure the basic targets would be reached.

The Africa Business Forum, an initiative of the Africa Centre, was also discussed. The Forum aims to produce a comprehensive *Africa Business Profile* covering all countries on the continent. This would be a regular publication, providing up-to-date information for prospective investors and people looking to engage in trade with African countries.

## Nevis referendum result

In the recent referendum on Nevis, held to determine whether the island should break the constitutional link with St Kitts, a majority of those voting opted for independence. The 'yes' campaign did not, however, gain the required two-thirds majority under the Federation's Constitution to enable secession to go ahead. The full result was as follows:

*For secession* 2427 (61.8%)

*Against secession* 1498 (38.7%)

*Turnout* 58%



### An accident waiting to happen?

I would like to draw attention to the tragic loss of life caused by the tidal wave which struck northern Papua New Guinea on 17 July. Why? Because many of your readers are in a position of influence and may be able to bring pressure on the powers-that-be to site buildings and dwellings away from low-lying coastal areas, thus minimising the effects of *tsunamis*.

Some say that the risk is small and that it is pointless to relocate. Obviously, the time-gap between these sad events may be large, but it is worth pointing out that a similar tidal wave struck the Schouten Islands not so long ago – and they are only 700 km to the west.

Some years ago, as the civil engineer on an EU-funded community project in the Philippines, I was asked to advise on the location of a new office block. The 'political' site was at the existing government secretariat in a provincial town, sited on low land. I argued against this because of its exposure to a possible future tsunami, suggesting a greenfield location about a kilometre out of town (some 20 metres above sea-level). My proposal was rejected because the officials would be less accessible to the politicians. Of course, the whole secretariat should have been moved, in stages, to the new site, but that was too 'foreign' an idea, and it was said, would be too expensive.

To me, it seems to be an accident just waiting to happen. ■

*James O. Robertson (retired engineer), Alicante, Spain.*

### Tourism in Uganda – a lot more than just wildlife

I was disappointed by the rather pessimistic attitude of Shaun Mann's article on 'Plans to rebuild tourism' in the Uganda country report (issue no. 170). He concentrates solely on wildlife. But Uganda has so much more going for it. It is one of the most interesting countries culturally and historically in Africa. There are many people who love to see and

meet people of a different culture, to learn what they do, how they amuse themselves and how creative they can be.

What is needed is a much broader-based approach to tourism. Brochures on the country's culture, history, crafts, food and music should be produced and distributed as widely as possible. Tourists must be shown that there is more to Uganda than depleted game reserves, birds, gorillas and the wooden figures one finds in airports all over Africa. ■

*Merrick Posnansky (Curator, Uganda Museum 1958-62), Encino, California, USA.*

### Plea for ban on anti-personnel mines

Like other African countries, Senegal is facing hard times. For more than 16 years, a bitter conflict has been going on in the Casamance region in the south. The government has long failed to give sufficient priority to this problem and the situation is becoming increasingly worrying. Casamance, regarded as the 'breadbasket' of Senegal, due to its huge crop potential, is now experiencing unprecedented insecurity. In addition to the inhuman methods employed by the rebels, we now have the dreadful and devastating effects of anti-personnel mines. A hundred people have already had their lives destroyed by these devices buried in the ground. The regional hospital at Ziguinchor treats the victims, who emerge with severe physical handicaps. In one sense, these people, most of them children, have had a miraculous escape because they have survived. But helping them, and dealing with their social needs, entails a major effort on the part of the Senegalese authorities. And despite this effort, the scale of the task is such that it can only be a drop in the ocean.

Faced with this tragedy, the involvement of organisations like the European Union is desirable. Funding for socio-economic projects designed to reintegrate landmine victims into the productive sectors should be envisaged. The EU, with its many international contacts, should also be giving its full weight to the campaign known as the 'Ottawa process', which aims to get these weapons banned worldwide. ■

*Assane Ndiaye, Mbacké, Senegal.*

### Dangerous to make predictions!

On page 5 of issue 168 (March-April) 1998, you published an article entitled 'Economic and monetary union and the ACP countries'. In the middle of the page, you have a

graphic representing the Euro, as a kind of 'sun', surrounded by ten 'planets' (the currencies expected to participate in the single currency from its launch). This shows how dangerous it is to make predictions.

We note that, despite the Italian nationality of the authors, the lire is not included in the graphic. Wouldn't it have been better to await the outcome of the decision on which countries would join the Euro at the outset. ■

*Ferdinando Carbone, Rome, Italy.*

*Ed. Our apologies for the omission of Italy. This was a genuine oversight and was not intended to be a prediction about which countries would participate in the Euro from the beginning. The authors had nothing to do with the graphic, which was added by The Courier editorial staff.*

### The easy option?

On reading issue 170 (July-August 1998), it occurs to me that Courier journalists are tempted by the easy option, rather than tackling fundamental issues. Of the three countries featured, only one genuinely meets the criteria which underpin the EU's relations with groups of countries in the various continents.

I have no doubt that St Kitts and Nevis has some good quality hotels and fine beaches. But why do these islands, which are no more important than large villages (populations of 35,000 and 9,000 respectively), merit a visit from The Courier and no fewer than 13 pages in the magazine? They are hardly representative of the ACP group.

Mauritius is admittedly more significant, in both size and population terms, and given this country's achievements. But even the opposition leader, *P. Bérenger*, points out that they are in no way representative, in terms of EU-ACP relations. In fact, he put his finger on what I see as the crux of the problem. Success on such a small scale does not justify the efforts made by the EU *vis-à-vis* the ACPs.

The two countries I have mentioned are well-placed on the Human Development Index. Could it be that there is a direct link between population growth and other favourable factors?

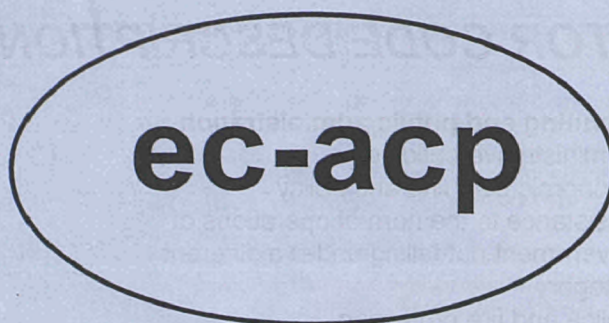
I hope that, in future, I will have the chance to read contributions that address more directly the huge needs of the ACP countries, and that assess to what extent the EU's efforts deliver something better to them, when compared with countries outside the Lomé system. ■

*E. Geurden, Oude Heverlee, Belgium.*

# Operational summary

## n° 105 - November 1998

(Position as at 5 August 1998. We regret that a full update of projects was not available at the time of going to press due to the reorganisation of the Commission's services.)



## European Development Fund schemes

The following information is aimed at showing the state of progress of schemes funded by the European Community under the EDF (Lomé Convention).

### Geographical breakdown

The summary is divided into three groups

- Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) country projects.
- Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) projects.
- Regional projects

The information within each of these groups is given by recipient country (in alphabetical order).

### Information given

The following details will usually be given for each development scheme:

- The title of the project.
- The administrative body responsible for it.
- The estimated sum involved (prior to financing decision) or the amount actually provided (post-financing decision)
- A brief description of projects envisaged (construction work, equipment supplies, technical assistance etc.)
- Any methods of implementation for example, international invitations to tender).
- The stage the project has reached (identification, appraisal, submission for financing, financing decision, ready for implementation)

### Main abbreviations

Resp. Auth.	Responsible Authority
Int. Tender	International invitation to tender
Acc. Tender	Invitation to tender (accelerated procedure)
Restr. Tender	Restricted invitation to tender
T.A.	Technical Assistance
EDF	European Development Fund (e.g. EDF 7 = 7th European Development Fund)
mECU	million European currency units
Est.	Estimated

### Blue Pages on the INTERNET

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/dg08/pabli-en/introbp1.htm>

Correspondence about this operational summary can be sent directly to:

Mr Franco Cupini,  
European Commission  
B28 6-108,  
200, rue de la Loi  
B-1049 Brussels

Please cover only one subject at a time.

Note: Participation in EDF schemes is strictly confined to ACP or EU firms.

## SECTOR CODE DESCRIPTION

### **AAz Planning and public administration**

- AAa Administrative buildings
- AAb Economic planning and policy
- AAc Assistance to the normal operations of government not falling under a different category
- AAd Police and fire protection
- AAe Collection and publication of statistics of all kinds, information and documentation
- AAf Economic surveys, pre-investment studies
- AAg Cartography, mapping, aerial photography
- AAi Demography and manpower studies

### **ABz Development of public utilities**

- ABa Power production and distribution
- ABai Electricity
- ABb Water supply
- ABc Communications
- ABd Transport and navigation
- ABe Meteorology
- ABf Peaceful uses of atomic energy (non-power)

### **ACz Agriculture, fishing and forestry**

- ACa Agriculture production
- ACb Service to agriculture
- ACc Forestry
- ACd Fishing and hunting
- ACE Conservation and extension
- ACf Agriculture storage
- ACg Agriculture construction
- ACH Home economics and nutrition
- ACi Land and soil surveys

### **ADz Industry, mining and construction**

- ADa Extractive industries
- ADai Petroleum and natural gas
- ADb Manufacturing
- ADc Engineering and construction
- ADd Cottage industry and handicraft
- ADe Productivity, including management, automation, accountancy, business, finance and investment
- ADf Non-agricultural storage and warehousing
- ADg Research in industry technology

### **AEz Trade, banking, tourism and other services**

- AEa Agriculture development banks
- AEb Industrial development banks
- AEc Tourism, hotels and other tourist facilities
- AEd Export promotion
- AEe Trade, commerce and distribution
- AEf Co-operatives (except agriculture and housing)

- AEg Publishing, journalism, cinema, photography
- AEh Other insurance and banking
- AEi Archaeological conservation, game reserves

### **AFz Education**

- AFa Primary and secondary education
- AFb University and higher technical institutes
- AFbi Medical
- AFc Teacher training
- AFci Agriculture training
- AFd Vocational and technical training
- AFe Educational administration
- AFf Pure or general research
- AFg Scientific documentation
- AFh Research in the field of education or training
- AFi Subsidiary services
- AFj Colloquia, seminars, lectures, etc.

### **AGz Health**

- AGa Hospitals and clinics
- AGb Maternal and child care
- AGc Family planning and population-related research
- AGd Other medical and dental services
- AGe Public health administration
- AGf Medical insurance programmes

### **AHz Social infrastructure and social welfare**

- AHa Housing, urban and rural
- AHb Community development and facilities
- AHc Environmental sanitation
- AHd Labour
- AHe Social welfare, social security and other social schemes
- AHf Environmental protection
- AHg Flood control
- AHh Land settlement
- AHi Cultural activities

### **Alz Multisector**

- Ala River development
- Alb Regional development projects

### **AJz Unspecified**

## ACP STATES

New projects and updated information in existing projects appear in italics

### ANGOLA

**Reconstruction support programme.** 55 mECU. Relaunch of economic and social activities. Improvement of basic social services and living conditions, poverty alleviation, increase of production and of basic communication possibilities, amelioration of basic infrastructures, participation in mine-clearing operations, support for demobilisation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ANG/6036/001 - AGz, AHZ.

**Support for training of lawyers and academics in the Law Faculty of Agostinho Neto University (FDUAN).** 0.8 mECU. Training, supply of equipment. Project in execution.

EDF ANG/7018/000 - AFb

### BAHAMAS

**Road Rehabilitation of Queen's Highway on Acklins Island.** Est. cost 5.2 mECU. EDF 2.2 mECU. Government of the Bahamas 3 mECU. Construction/infrastructure, T.A. incl. studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF BM/7001/001 - ABd.

### BELIZE

**Improvement of Hummingbird Highway (2nd segment - Sibun River Bridge to Belmopan).** Resp. Auth.: Govt. of Belize. Est. cost 13.7 mECU. Construction, T.A., studies. Project in execution. EDF 8.

EDF BEL/6001/002 - ABd

**Drugs Demand Reduction Programme.** Est. cost 1 mECU. EDF part 0.3 mECU; Government of Belize 0.7 mECU. Training, T.A., supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF BEL/7004/000 - AGc

### BENIN

**Improvement works on the Sémé-Porto Nova road. (12.711 km).** Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux Publics et des Transports. 20 mECU. Infrastructure works and installation of road signing. Work supervision by KfW (D). Works by int. tender. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7132 - ABd

**Support programme for structural adjustment (PAS - 1997/99).** Resp. Auth.: Ministre des Finances. 27,5 mECU. Strengthen the country's macro-economic policy. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF BEN/7200/003 - AAC

### BOTSWANA

**Sysmin - support to base metal industry (Copper-Nickel-Cobalt).** Resp. Auth.: BCL Ltd., 33.7mECU. To deepen the shaft of the Selebi-North mine, to reach a new ore-body, equipping it and carrying out new prospective drilling to identify new ore-bodies. Works, supplies and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF SYSMIN/BT 9999/001 - ADa

**Botswana Tourism Development Programme (Foundation phase).** Resp. Auth.: Dept of Tourism (DoT), Commerce

and Industry. 1.91 mECU. Short- and long-term T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF BT 5019/001 - AEC

**Trade Development Programme (Phase I).** Resp. Auth.: Department of Trade and Investment Promotion. Est. cost 1.7 mECU. To support trade diversification and export promotion. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF BT/7008 - AEe

**Vocational training programme, Francistown.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Education. Est. cost 17 mECU. Vocational Teacher Training College and Vocational Training Centre (VTTC/VTC). Construction, supplies of equipment, T.A., works, feasibility study. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF BT/7004/001 - AFd

**Wildlife Conservation and Management Programme.** Est. cost 7 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8

EDF BT/6001/002 - ACz

**Community forestry development.** Est. cost 2 mECU. Supplies of equipments; T. A., incl. studies; training, NGO and community co-operation. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing: July 1998. EDF 8.

EDF BT/6021/001 - ACc.

### BURKINA FASO

**Support project for the reform of the pharmaceutical sector.**

Resp. Auth.: Ministère de la Santé - Direction des Services Pharmaceutiques (DSPh) and CAMEG 1.6 mECU. Line of credit, works, equipment and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF BK/7017 - AGc

**SYSMIN - Rehabilitation of the Poura mine.** Resp. Auth.: I.G.R. International Gold Resources Corporation. 11 mECU. Works by direct agreement. Supplies and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF SYSMIN BK/9999 - ADa

**Ouagadougou dam classified forest development.** Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Eau. Est. cost 1.200 mECU. EDF part 0.300 mECU. Cofinancing with CFD (F), The Netherlands (possible). Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF BK/7023 - AHf

**Support for decentralisation.** Resp. Auth.: Ministère Administration Territoriale et Sécurité. Est. cost 2 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A., training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF BK/7024 - AAb

**Support for the structural adjustment programme 1996-1997.** General import programme. EDF 6.4 mECU. T.A. foreseen. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF BK/7200/004 - AAC

**Support for the judicial system.** Est. cost 1 mECU. Training of magistrates and improvement of judicial services. Project on appraisal. EDF 7

EDF/BK/7027 - AAz

**Support for rural development.** Est. cost 24.2 mECU. Financing of action for rice-growing, for support action, financing the rural environment and for information about markets. T.A. works and supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8

EDF BK/7032/000 - ACa.

**Periodical maintenance of asphalt roads (594 km).** Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Infrastructures, de l'Habitat et de l'Urbanisme. Est. cost 44 mECU. T.A., Works. Financing decision taken in July 1998. Project in execution. EDF - 8

EDF BK/6017/002 - ABd.

### CAMEROON

**Support for the People of Lagdo.** esp. Auth.: MINEPIA. 3 mECU. Preservation and improvement of the social-economic situation around Lake Lagdo. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF CM/6002/002 - ACa

**Regional economic integration programme in Central Africa - regional infrastructures.** 98 mECU. Building of the Bertoua-Geroua Bulai road. Project in execution. EDF 6,7 and 8.

EDF CM/7002/001 - ABd.

**Rural development project in the Lagone and Chari regions.** Food supply security. Combatting poverty. Est. cost 9 mECU. Construction, T.A., studies, supplies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF CM/5004/002 - ACh

**Programme of road maintenance (PERFED II).** Resp. Auth.: MINTP. Est. cost 55 mECU. Construction, T.A., studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF CM/6031/002 - ABd

**Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme 1998-1999.** Est. cost 25 mECU. Budgetary support. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF CM/7200/002 - AAC.

08.06.98.

**Urban Development Programme (FOURMI II).** Est. cost 3.5 mECU. Construction, T.A. incl studies, supply of equipment, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF CM/7006/001 - AHb.

### CAPE VERDE

**Maio island rural electrification.** Est. cost 1.945 mECU. Improvement of living conditions. Supply of electricity, Works, supplies and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF CV/7009/000 - ABa,i

**Santo Antao water supply and sanitation.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Economic Coordination. 1.4 mECU. Works, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF CV/7011 - ABb

**Water distribution and sanitation in Praia - Phase 2.** Est. cost 6.5 mECU. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Economic Coordination. Construction - infrastructures; T.A., including studies. Project on

appraisal. Date foreseen for financing: September 1998. EDF 8.

EDF CV/5002/001 - ABb, AHc.

**Road Infrastructure for Santo Antão Island. Construction of the Janela road at Porto Novo.** Resp. Auth.: NAO. Est. cost 12.7 mECU; EDF part 9.6 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF CV/7010/000 - ABc.

**Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme.** Est. cost 9.4 mECU. Budgetary support, T.A. incl. studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.  
EDF CV/7200/000 - AAb.

#### CHAD

**Restoration of bridges that fall within the framework of the Second Transport Sectoral Programme.** Resp. Auth.: MINTP Chad. Est. cost 4 mECU. Urgent work to be carried out to restore 15 bridges under the Transport Sectoral Programme. Works, T.A. Project in execution. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen in September or October. EDF 7.

EDF CD/6001 - ABd

**Support for Health Programme in Mayo Kebbi** 1.98 mECU T.A. Training of doctors, medical supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

**Support for Water Policy.** Est. cost 17 mECU. Construction/ infrastructure, supply of equipment, T.A. incl. studies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7-8.

EDF CD/7003/001 - ABb

**Support for National Health Policy.** Est. cost 35m ECU. T.A. incl. studies, supply of equipment, training, construction/infrastructure. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF CD/5011/003 - AGz

**Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme 1998-1999.** Est. cost 16.8 mECU. Budgetary support. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF CD/7200/002 - AAc

#### COMOROS

**Sea-access to Moheli island.** Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Équipement - Direction Générale des Travaux Publics. 3.250 mECU. Works, by int.tender.T.A.for further investigations, tender dossier and works supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF COM/6006/7003 - ABd

**Technical Management Unit for the NAO for managing and coordinating Community aid.** 1.7 mECU. Financing decision taken in June 1998. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF COM/7009/000 - AAz.

#### CONGO (REPUBLIC)

All projects suspended

#### CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)

**Rehabilitation Support Programme.** Resp. Auth.: Coordination and Management Unit. Est. cost EDF 84 mECU. and an indicative amount of 6 mECU from the Commission's budget under heading B7-5076 'Rehabilitation and

reconstruction measures for developing countries'. Regions selected: Kinshasa's economic hinterland, the Greater Kivu and the two provinces of Kagai. Rehabilitation and maintenance of roads and farm access roads. Support for production and marketing, support for basic social infrastructure. T.A. and evaluation. Project suspended. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF ZR/6033 - AAc

**Strengthening of the provisional health support programme.** 45 mECU  
Rehabilitation of health service structures in Kinshasa, Kasai and Kivu. Support for the health service at the basic and intermediate levels. Reinforcement of basic juridical services. Works, supplies and T.A. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing 1st half 98.

**Support programme for the preparation of elections.** Resp. Auth.: Commission Nationale des Elections (CNE). 30 mECU. T.A., support for democratisation. Project suspended. EDF 7.

EDF ZR/6034/00 - AAc

#### COTE D'IVOIRE

**Support for the structural adjustment programme (GIP V).** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 25.5 mECU. General import programme. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF IVC/7200/004 - AAc

#### DJIBOUTI

**Support for the structural adjustment programme.** General import programme. 4.100 mECU. T.A. foreseen. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF DI/7200/001 - AAc

#### DOMINICA

**Eco-Tourism Site Development.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism (MTIT). Est. cost 0.558 mECU. Works, equipment and training. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF DOM/6002/001 - ACa

**Agricultural Diversification Programme.** Resp. Auth.: Diversification Implementation Unit. (DIU). 2.25 mECU. Production Credit Scheme. Abattoir Project, Citrus Processing Study, Shipping and Transportation System Project, Quality Assurance, Market Information Service, Export Credit Programme, Monitoring Evaluation, T.A. Works by acc. tender. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF DOM/7002 - ACa

**Elimination of solid waste.** Resp. Auth.: Min. of Communications, Works and Housing. 1.65 mECU. Restoration of two depots for household waste. Installation of a new waste disposal depot. T.A. by restricted tender; works by acc. process. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF DOM/7003 - ABz.

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**Support programme to prevent STD/HIV/AIDS.** EDF part 1.350 mECU. Training, T.A., supplies, evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF DO/7016 - AGz

**Water supply and sanitation in the poorest areas of Santo Domingo.** Est. EDF part 26 mECU.

Construction/infrastructure, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.  
ABb, AHc.

**Project for the improvement of technical and professional education.** Est. EDF part 13 mECU. Construction/infrastructure, supplies, T.A., training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

AFd

#### ERITREA

**Sector study on national water and irrigation potential.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Water resources 4.5 mECU. Assess the various demands for those resources, determine the potential for their sustainable development, present strategies for their development, and lay the foundations for their management. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ERY/7002 - ABb

**Upgrading of the Nefasit-Dekemhare-Tera Imni road.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Construction. Est. cost 20 mECU. Road works. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF ERY/7004 - ABd

**Rehabilitation of transmission lines, substations and distribution system in Massawa area.** Resp. Auth.: Eritrean Electric Authority. Est. cost 10-12 mECU. Works, supplies and T.A. Feasibility study: INYPSA (Sp). Financing decision foreseen in July 1998. Int. tenders no. 4320 and no. 4321 for supplies and tender no. 4318 for works launched with a conditional clause. Respective deadlines for submission: 22.07.98. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF ERY/7001 - ABa,i

**Livestock Promotion, support for the Improvement of the Sanitary Environment of the National Herd.** Est. cost 1.2 mECU. Equipment, infrastructure, vaccines, training of veterinary services personnel. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ERY/7005/000 -AGz, AFd

**Short-term assistance programme for reconstruction and restoration.** 20 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ET/7001/000.

#### ETHIOPIA

**Rehabilitation of the Addis Ababa-Jima road, Addis Ababa-Abelti (180 km).**

Est. cost 80 mECU. Improvement of the road network. Works and supplies. T.A. Feasibility studies and dossiers projects preparation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ET/7005/002 - ABd

**Support programme for the transport sector (TSSP).** Resp. Auth.: Ethiopian Road Auth. 2 mECU. Works, equipment, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ET/7005/001 - ABd

**Addis Ababa's water supply and sanitation.** Resp. Auth.: Addis Ababa Water Supply Authority. AAWSA. Est. cost 35 mECU. Works, equipment, T.A., Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF ET 5006/002 - ABb

**Higher education development support.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Education, NAO. Est. cost 1.999 mECU. Equipment, works. Project in execution. EDF 6, 7.

EDF ET/7016/001 - AFz, AFb

**Rehabilitation of the Addis Ababa/Desse/Weldyia road.** Est. cost: 120 mECU. Construction/infrastructure. Project on appraisal. EDF 8. EDF/7020/000 - ABd.

## FIJI

**New Rewa River Bridge and Town Bypass.** Est. cost 12.3 mECU; EDF part 10 mECU. Construction/infrastructure; T.A., incl. studies. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen in September 1998. EDF 6, 7.

EDF FIJ/7012/000 - ABd.

## GABON

**Support for the rehabilitation of the territory.** Construction of the Lalara-Mitzic road. Auth. Resp.: Ministre de l'Equipement et de la Construction. 23.4 mECU. Mainly works, some supplies and service contracts. Project in execution. Tender for works to be launched in May 1998. EDF 8. EDF GA/7006/000 - ABd.

## GHANA

**Human resources development programme.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. 3.8 mECU. Supply of equipment, T.A., evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7 EDF GH/7003 - AFz

**Western Region Agricultural Development Project.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Food and Agriculture. 12 mECU. T.A., buildings and training, supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GH - ACa

**Woodworking Sector Development.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Lands and Forestry. 4.85 mECU. Training and equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF GH - ACc

**Transport Infrastructure Programme Phase II.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Roads & Highways. 54 mECU. Works, supplies, supervision, training. Axle load control equipment, consultancy studies, training of Highway Sector Staff. Project in execution. EDF 6 and 7.

EDF GH 6001 ABd

**Small towns water supply project.** Resp. Auth.: Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation. Est. cost 15 mECU. Construction of water supply systems. Strengthening of institutions responsible for operations and maintenance. Consultancy services, including community mobilisation, preparation of tender documents and supervision of works, works contracts. Works. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GH/6006 - ABb

**Decentralised Cooperation Programme.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 1.5 mECU. Equipment, construction, training and current inputs of grassroots programmes. TA for implementation and evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF GH/7008 - AJz

**4th Microprojects Programme, 2nd tranche.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 4 mECU. Improvement of health, water and educational facilities. T.A., evaluation and contingencies. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF GH/6102/000 - AHb

**Support for Structural Adjustment Programme, GIP V.** 15 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF GH/7200/005 - AAc

**Rural electrification programme.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Mines and Energy. 9.5 mECU. Supply and erection of electricity lines, supervision, training. Project on appraisal. Financing decision expected in May 1998. EDF 7.

EDF GH - Aba,i

**GRATIS (Ghana Regional Appropriate Technology Industrial Service), Phase III.** Est. cost 3 mECU. Project on appraisal. Financing decision expected at the beginning of 1999. EDF 7.

EDF GH - ABai

**Support to the Ghana Audit Service.** Est. cost 3.6 mECU. T.A. incl. studies, supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF GH/7020/000 - AAc.

## GUINEA

**Pilot programme for the development of secondary towns.** Resp. Auth.: Direction nationale de la décentralisation. 1.91 mECU. Technical cooperation, TA and training. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF GUI 7008/000 - AHa,b

**Diversification Aid. The Agriculture Component.** Extension of the Family Plantation Programme in Soguipah. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forests. 5.5 mECU. Cultivation of rice fields and rubber plantations and the development of transport infrastructures. Works, supplies, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7

EDF SYSMIN GUI/9999/000 - ACe, AGe, AHf

**Diversification Aid. The Road Infrastructure Component.**

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Public Works and the Environment. 74.5 mECU. Works, T.A., supervision, studies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF SYSMIN GUI/9999/000 - ABd.

**Urban health support project.** Est. cost 1.2 m ECU. T.A., studies Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF GUI/6005/000 - Agz

**The Dabola-Dinguiray Programme (High Guinea).** To increase the revenues of agricultural producers. 13 mECU. Training, construction/ infrastructure, T.A. incl. studies, supplies, support fund. Project on appraisal. EDF 8. EDF GUI/6002/002 - ACa.

## GUINEA BISSAU

**Bridge construction in Sao Vicente.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Public Works. Est. cost 27 mECU. Works and works supervision. Project on appraisal EDF 8. EDF GUB/7014/000 - ABd

**Support for road maintenance.** Est. cost 8 mECU. Construction, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF GUB/6013/001 - ABd

**Institutional support for the road sector.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Public Works. Est. cost 1.950 mECU. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 8.

EDF GUB/6003/002 - ABd

**Construction of Municipal**

**Slaughterhouses at Bissau, Gabu, Bafaté.** Est. cost 1.91 mECU. Construction, supplies, T.A. incl. studies, budgetary support. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

ACH

**Rural and Semi-Urban Hydraulics Project.** Est. cost 4 mECU. Construction, supplies, T.A. incl. studies, budgetary support. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

ABb

## GUYANA

**Rehabilitation of sea defences and shore zone management.** Est. cost 20 mECU. Construction, T.A. studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF GUA/6003/004 - ABd

**Support Programme for Economic Reforms.** 5.29 mECU. T.A., feasibility study, training. Financing decision taken in June 1998. Project in execution. EDF 8.

EDF GUA/7200/003 - AAb.

## HAITI

**Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme II.** 10.800 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF HA/7200/001 - AAc

**Support for the structural programme.** Utilisation of satellite imagery for the exploitation of Haitian territory. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de la Planification et de la Coopération Externe (MPCE). Est. cost 1.8 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF HA 7007/000 - AAz

**Support for decentralised cultural initiatives.** Resp. Auth. Ministry of Culture. Est. cost 0.75 mECU. T.A., supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF HA/7155/000 - AHi

**Road rehabilitation in the western area of the South Peninsula.** Est. cost. 47.36 mECU. Works, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7,8.

EDF HA/7012/000

**Support Programme for Local Initiatives.** Est. cost 1 mECU. T.A. incl. studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF HA/7013/000 - AAb.

## JAMAICA

**Northern coastal highway improvement project. Segment 3 (Ocho Rios - Port Antonio - Fair Prospect - 116 km).** Resp. Auth.: Government of Jamaica. Est. cost 80 mECU. Construction, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7, 8.

EDF JM/9999/000 - ABd

**Regional project - University of the West Indies.** International tender no. 4268 already launched for supply, in four lots, of

electronic equipment for administration. Project in execution.

**Institutional strengthening and road rehabilitation.** Auth. Resp.: Ministry of Transport and Works. Cost 13.5 mECU. Works, supervision and supply of vehicles and equipment. International tender no. 4279 already launched for supply, in ten lots, of various equipment.

**Public sector modernisation.** Est. cost 1.95 mECU. Feasibility study, T.A. and training; institution building Project in execution. The feasibility study is currently being prepared. EDF 7 - AAb

**Savanna-La-Mar waste water project.** Est. cost 15 MECU. Feasibility, works and supervision. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen in 1999. EDF 8 - AHb

**Rural water supply - Phase 2.** Est. cost 10 mECU. Feasibility, works, supervision and T.A., incl. studies. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing: 1st half of 1999. EDF 8.

EDF JM/6003/001 - ABb

**Trade and Investment Promotion Programme.** Est. cost 6 mECU. T.A., incl. studies; training. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing: end of 1998. EDF 8. EDF JM/5021/001 - AEe

**Small and Micro Enterprise Credit Scheme, 2nd Programme.** Est. cost 5 mECU; EDF part 4 mECU. T.A., incl. studies; training. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing: 2nd half of 1999. EDF 8.

EDF JM/5020/001 - AAb.

**Poverty Reduction Programme (Social Investment Fund/Micro Projects Programme).** Est. cost 53.6 mECU; EDF part 6 mECU. Supplies of equipment/inputs; T.A., incl. studies; training. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing: end of 1998. EDF 8. EDF JM/7001/001 - AHe.

## KENYA

**Farming in tsetse infested areas.** Est. cost 14.6 mECU. Refine the techniques to trap the tsetse fly and develop better technologies to prevent infections. Monitor the environmental impact of the techniques. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF KE/7011 - AGa

**Family Health Programme.** Est. cost 28.710 mECU. Reproduction health status of Kenyans family planning services broadened. EDF 14.81 mECU, ODA (UK) 13.9 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 6 EDF/KE 7015 - AGb

**Technical Education.** 5 mECU. Raising the level of performance of existing teaching institutions. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF KE 6005/001 - AFb

**Trade Development Programme.** Resp. Auth.: Export Promotion Council and a Special TDP Committee of private and public sector members and the European Commission. 4 mECU. Trade Promotion and Marketing Programme, Training, Equipment, T.A. and Monitoring and Evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF KE/7008 - AEz

**Small scale and informal sector enterprises.** Est. cost 10 mECU. Development of micro-enterprises and informal sector of the economy. Project in execution. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF KE/7009 - AEe,f

**Sultan Hamud-Mtito Road rehabilitation.** Est. cost 30 mECU. To rehabilitate priority roads and establish sustainable maintenance organisation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7

EDF KE/7010/002 - ABd

**Mai-Mahiu/Naivasha Road rehabilitation.** Est. cost 25 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF KE/7010/003 - ABd

**Community development. Poverty alleviation.** Est. cost 12.5 mECU. Financial facility aimed at priority activities identified by local communities. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF KE/7018 - AHb

**Support for the establishment of key functions and programmes at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA).** Resp. Auth.: Ministries of Planning and National Development and Finance and Office of the President. 1.993 mECU. Training, Consulting and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF KE/7016/00 - AAb

**Establishment of sustainable tourism development.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife. 1.97 mECU. Advice on and design of a financially self-sustainable Tourism Board. T.A., equipment, training. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF KE/7014 - AEc

**Support Services Programme (SSP).** Resp. Auth.: NAO - Ministry of Finance. 1.795 mECU. Ad hoc support and project preparation, monitoring and evaluation facility. Framework contract. Support to the Office of the NAO of EDF. Training and equipment. Framework contract by restr.tender after short-list. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF KE 7012.

**Agriculture/livestock research programme.** 8.3 mECU. Works and supplies. Project in execution. EDF 6.

EDF KE/6003/001 - ACa

## LESOTHO

**Urban Water Supply and Sanitation.** Resp. Auth.: Water and Sanitation Authority. Est. cost 4 mECU.

Implementation of urgent water-supply and sanitation systems in the urban and peri-urban areas. Feasibility study and contract document. Preparation for urgent water supply and sanitation intervention. Short-lists to be done. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF LSO/7002 - ABb, AHa

**Transport infrastructure programme, phase I.** 18 mECU. Construction, supplies, T.A., studies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF LSO/6016/001 - ABd

**Transport infrastructure - axle load control.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works.

0.850 mECU. Construction, evaluation. T.A., equipment - restricted tender. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF LSO/6016/000 - ABd.

**Urban water supply for six towns.** Resp. Auth.: Government of Lesotho; Water and Sewage Authority (WASA). Est. cost 1.996 mECU. Works, T.A. Project in execution.

EDF LSO/7002/000 - ABb

**Assistance for the 1998 General Election.** Resp. Auth.: Government of Lesotho; Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). Est. cost 0.5 mECU. Supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF LSO/7009/000

## LIBERIA

**Freeport of Monrovia emergency rehabilitation.** Resp. Auth.: Government of Liberia. Est. cost 1.95 mECU. Supplies, engineering services and works. Project in execution. EDF 6.

EDF LBR/5019/001 - ABd

**2nd Rehabilitation Programme for Liberia.** Resp. Auth.: European Commission on behalf of the Government of Liberia. 27 mECU. Works, supplies, services. Resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees and rehabilitation of infrastructure. Project in execution. EDF 6.

EDF LBR/7001/002 - AAc.

## MADAGASCAR

**Road infrastructure rehabilitation.** Resp. Auth. Ministère des Travaux Publics. 72.5 mECU. Rehabilitation works, supervision. Project in execution. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF MAG/7004 - ABd

**First decentralised cooperation programme.** Resp. Auth.: National Authorising officer and Head of EU Delegation and authorised NGOs. 1.9 mECU. Works. Purchase of equipment by direct agreement, restr. tender or int. tender. Project in execution EDF 7

EDF MAG/7022/000 - AGz, AHz

**Support-training for rural development.** Resp. Auth.: Ministère du développement rural et de la réforme foncière. 1.200 mECU. Developing the farmer's organisations role. Training, supplies and technical cooperation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAG/7029/000 - ACb

**Decentralised training programme for regional private tourism operators.** Resp. Auth.: Ministère du Tourisme. 1.900 mECU. T.A. training, evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 1, 2, 3 and 4.

EDF MAG 6039 - AEc

**Professional organisation of rural sector and agricultural loans.** Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Dév. Rural. 1.910 mECU. T.A., training, evaluation. Works, supplies, T.A. and services. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAG/7003 - ACa

**Support for Training Programme (FORMFED) Phase II.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 0.900 mECU. T.A., equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF MAG/7028 - AFd



**Support for the Structural Adjustment programme 1997-98.** 27 mECU. General Import Programme. Project in execution. EDF MAG/7200 - AAc

**Improvement of the income of the coastal population in the South-Western region.** Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural. Est. cost 0.613 mECU. Increasing seaweed production. Recruitment, shipbuilding, T.A., equipment and training. Project in execution. EDF 6.

EDF MAG/7024/001 - ACd, AHd

**Priority Health Action Programme.** Support for a national health policy to alleviate poverty. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health. 1.95 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 6.

EDF MAG/6041/000 - AGe

**Priority health project.** Support for a national health service to alleviate poverty. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health. Est. cost 15 mECU. EDF 8. Project on appraisal.

EDF MAG/6041/001 - AGE

**Rehabilitation of the customs system.** Resp. Auth.: Direction Générale des Régies Financières. Total cost 0.42 mECU. T.A., supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAG/7200/001 - AAc

**Support for Structural Adjustment Programme II.**

Est. cost 43.4 mECU. T.A. including studies, budgetary aid. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing: September 1998. EDF 8.

EDF MAG/7200/002 - AAb

## MALAWI

**Soil conservation and rural production.** Resp. Auth.: MOALD. 23 mECU. EDF 15.5 mECU, local 1.3 mECU, counterpart funds 5.7 mECU. Water supply, sanitation, supply of fertilizers, T.A. and training. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI/5001/002 - ACa

**Support to the Forestry Department.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Natural Resources. 4.4 mECU. T.A. and supply of equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7

EDF MAI/5001/003 - ACa

**Health Programme. Strengthening Health Ministry capacities in the framework of planning, decentralisation and equipment maintenance.** Training, infrastructures, equipments and T.A. 18.7 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI/6009/002 - AGE

**2nd Lomé IV Micro-project Programme.** Improvement of infrastructures in the farmer framework with the EC participation. Building, school's rehabilitation, health centres, water points. Est. cost 6 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI/7012/038 - AGz, AHz, ABb

**Land Utilisation Study.** 1 mECU. Studies. T.A. survey. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI/6029 - AAg

**Karonga-Chilumba-Chiweta Road.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works and Supplies. Est. cost 25.2 mECU. Construction, supervision of works, training of technical staff. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAI/6022 - ABd

**Physical assets management in the health sector.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works and Supplies. 6.45 mECU. Construction, supervision of works, training of technical staff. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI/7018/000 - AGE

**Rehabilitation of Chipoka Port - Lake Malawi.** Est. cost 3 mECU. Construction, supplies of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF 6022/001 - ABd

**Urgent maintenance to roads and bridges.** Resp. Auth.: Government of Malawi. 1,994 mECU. Works. Supervision - restr. tender. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI/6022/002 - ABd

**Programme for the prevention of HIV/AIDS among high risk groups.** 0.780 mECU. T.A., equipment, training. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI/7001/000 - AGz

**Community education programme.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and Community Services (MOWCAS), Ministry of Information, Broadcasting, Posts and Telecommunications (MOIBPT). Est. cost 1,55 mECU. Training, workshops, equipment, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI/6009/003 - AGb, AGc

**Feeder Roads Rehabilitation Programme.** Est. cost 30 mECU. Construction/infrastructure, T.A., incl. studies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAI/6021/004 - ABd.

**Safe Motherhood and Child Welfare Initiative.**

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health. 1.52 mECU. Works, supervision of works, supplies of equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI/6009/004 - AGz.

**Private Sector Development Programme.** Est. cost 1.8 mECU. T.A. incl. studies, training, supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAI/7024/000 - AAb.

## MALI

**Geological and mining sector survey.** Adm. Resp: Ministère de l'Energie et des mines. Est. cost 15 mECU. Aerial geophysical prospecting, geological mapping, mining prospecting, sector-based survey. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MLI/9999 - ADa

**Support for the Planning and Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Rural Development and Environment.**

Est. cost 0.8 mECU. T.A. Financing decision taken in June 1998. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MLI/7024/000 - AAc.

**Support for the Transport Sector Programme.** Est. cost 85 mECU. Construction/infrastructure, supplies, T.A. incl. studies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MLI/7004/001 - ABd.

**Support for the Coordination of Development Activities in the Northern Regions.** 1.85 mECU. Supplies, T.A. incl. studies, training. Financing decision taken in June 1998. Project in execution. EDF 8.

EDF MLI/7025/000 - Alb.

**Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme V.** 29.4 mECU. Financing decision taken in July 1998. Project in execution. EDF 8.

EDF MLI/7200/004 - AAc.

## MAURITANIA

**Kaédi and Mederda water supply.** Est. cost 2.2 mECU. Improvement of the living conditions. Works and T.A. Rehabilitation, strengthening and improvement of water systems. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAU/7012/000 - ABb

**Support for the programme to strengthen institutional capacity (PRCI).** Resp. Auth. Ministry of Planning and Finance. 1.865 mECU. T.A. to strengthen the effectiveness of administration. Supply of equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAU/7200/002 - AAc

**Rural development in rainy areas.** Est; cost 4 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAU/7014/001 - ACb, ACg

**Oasis rural development in the Atar region.** Est. cost 5 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAU/7025/000 - ACb, ACg

**Diversification of irrigated agriculture.** Est. cost 4 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAU/7015/001 - ACa

**Support for Structural Adjustment (Phase III).** Est. cost 11.2 mECU. T. A., incl. studies; budgetary aid. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAU/7200/003 - AAb.

**Coordination Unit for Programmes financed by the EU.** Est. cost 1.9 mECU. T.A. incl. studies, supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAU/6007/004 - AAc.

**Support for Population Censuses.** Est. cost 3 mECU. Supplies, T.A. incl. studies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAU/7200/004 - AAI.

**Gold Survey.** Est. cost 2.75 mECU. Construction/infrastructure, T.A. incl. studies, supplies, budgetary support. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAU/7002/001 - ADa.

## MAURITIUS

**Irrigation of the Northern Plains.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture. 9 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A. Restricted tender for T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7

EDF MAS/7002 - ABb

**Mahebourg market.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Local Government. Est. cost 1.85 mECU. To promote agricultural diversification, and also to upgrade the city centre. Feasibility study. Works, supplies, TA. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAS/7008 - ACE

**Phoenix-Nouvelle France road.** Est. cost 4 mECU. Upgrading the existing Phoenix-Nouvelle France road to a dual carriageway. Works, T.A. Financing decision taken in June 1998. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAS/7010/001 - ABd

**Upgrading of sewerage infrastructure of housing estates.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works. Est. cost 7.4 mECU. Rehabilitation/provision of sewerage infrastructure to 10 housing estates. Works. T.A. for supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAS - AHa

**Training of police officers.** Est. cost 0.43 mECU. T.A. and training. Project in execution. EDF 7

EDF MAS - AAa

**St. Martin sewage treatment plant.**

Provide adequate treatment of sewage from the Plains Wilhems area. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Environment and Quality of Life. Est. cost 15 mECU. T.A., services. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDFD MAS/7005/000 - ABz

**Technology Development in Private Firms.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Est. cost: 2.9 mECU. T.A., monitoring and evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAS/7013/000

**Anti-Erosion Programme in Rodrigues.** Est. cost 5 mECU. EDF part 3.3 mECU; Government of Mauritius 1.7 mECU. Construction, T.A., supplies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAS/6003/002 - ACb

**Support for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises.** Est. cost 7 mECU. Budgetary aid, T.A. incl. studies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAS/7011/001 - AAb

## MOZAMBIQUE

**Socio-economic reintegration of young people.** Est. cost 1.95 mECU. Supplies, T.A. and pilot actions. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.

EDF MOZ/7017 - AHb

**Rehabilitation of the rural health system.** Est. cost 22 mECU. Rehabilitation and renovation of 3 rural hospitals and 2 health centres. Supply of essential medicines and equipment, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MOZ/7018 - AGa,e

**Social reintegration in Zambezia and Niassa provinces.** 5.6 mECU. Health, education, rural life (farming, fishing, setting up of micro-enterprises), urban economic development. The projects will be carried out by NGO's and the provincial authorities. Project in execution. EDF 7.

**Support for the structural adjustment programme GIP II.** 15 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7

EDF MOZ 7200/001.-. AAC

**Support for the judicial system.** Est. cost 2 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MOZ/7022 - Ajz

**Computerised system for the population register and issue of identity cards.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Est. cost 1.995 mECU. Supplies, T.A. Int. Tender. Project in execution. EDF 6.

EDF MOZ/7024 - AAz

**Private sector development.** Resp. Auth.: Mozambican Government, NAO. Est. cost 1.98 mECU. Studies, training, TA. Project on appraisal. EDF 6,7,8.

EDF MOZ/7023/000 - AEe

**Support for municipal elections.** Resp. Auth.: National Electoral Commission. Est. cost 9.5 mECU. T.A., equipment and materials. Tender no. 4298 already launched. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MOZ/7027/001 - AAC

**GIP III - General Import Programme.**

Resp. Auth.: Government of Mozambique. Est. cost 60.9 mECU. Structural adjustment support. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing: June 1998. EDF 8.

EDF MOZ/7200/002

## NAMIBIA

**Namibia Integrated Health Programme.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health and Social Services. 13.5 mECU. Infrastructures, equipment, training and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NAM/7007 - AGz

**Expansion of NBC transmitter network and production facilities for educational broadcasting.** Resp. Auth.: Namibian Broadcasting Corporation. Est. cost 5.7 mECU. EDF 5 mECU, local 0.7 mECU. Works, supply of equipment, technical training and technical consultancies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NAM/7005 - AFi

**Rural Development Support Programme for the Northern Communal Areas.**

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development. 7.7 mECU. Strengthening of the agricultural extension service, training of extension officers and establishment of a rural credit system. Supply of office equipment, vehicles, agricultural inputs, T.A., training, evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NAM/7011 - ACA

**Rural Towns Sewerage Schemes.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Local Government and Housing. 1.88 mECU. Works, supplies and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NAM/7015 - AHc

**Namibia Tourism Development Programme.** (Foundation Phase). Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Environment and Tourism. 1.882 mECU. Implementation of programme. Staff training. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NAM/7010 - AEc

**Livestock Marketing Project.** Resp. Auth.: Directorate of Veterinary Services - Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Dept., 3.75 mECU. Construction of buildings, water and road infrastructure, provision of equipment materials, tractors for quarantine farms in the Northern Communal Areas. All by acc. tenders or restr. tenders. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NAM/7020 - ACa

**Support for the regional control programme against the Tsetse fly and trypanosomiasis (RTTCP), phase II.**

Resp. Auth.: Dept. of Veterinary Services, Min. of Agriculture, Water and Rural Devt. 3.9 mECU. Construction of buildings and infrastructures, provision of equipment, vehicles, tractors. All by acc. tender or restr. tender. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NAM/7020 - ACa

**Support for implementation of the Cross Border Initiative.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Trade and Industry. 5.370 mECU. To promote an strengthen Namibia's economic integration. T.A., supplies and line of credit. Project in execution. Int. tender no. 4319 for supplies launched. Deadline for submission: 07.07.98. EDF 7.

EDF REG/70012/22 - AEd,e

**AIDS Programme.** Est. cost 1.5 mECU. Reduction of sexual transmission of HIV/AIDS. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF NAM/(REG)/8000/003 - AGz

**Seed production project.** To support the establishment of an efficient, sustainable staple crop seed production system. Est. cost 2 mECU. Feasibility study to be carried out. Project on appraisal. EDF 8

EDF NAM/7011/002 - ACa

**Rural development support programme (RDSP), Phase II.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development. Est. cost 7 mECU. T.A. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen at the end of 1998. EDF 8.

EDF NAM/7001/001 - ACa

**Education programme.** Est. cost 12 mECU. Construction, supplies, T.A., training. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen in July 1998. EDF 8.

EDF NAM/7001/001 - AFa, AFb, AFd, AFi

## NIGER

**Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme 1997-98.** Est. cost 15.8 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7,8.

EDF NIR/7200/004 - AFe, AGe

**Institutional support for the NAO.** Assistance to maximise the effectiveness of Community aid. Sectoral reforms and macro-economics. Est. cost 1.3 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NIR/7110/003 - AAb

**Strengthening basic education in the Tillabéri department in the framework of the large-scale irrigation programme in the Niger valley.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of National Education. 1.77 mECU. Construction, training, equipment, T.A., evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NIR/7011/000 - AFa

**PROFORMAR II.** Resp. Auth. Ministère de l'Artisanat. Est. cost 1.85 mECU. T.A., supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NIR/7101/011

**Support for Structural Adjustment.** Est. cost 15.8 mECU. Budgetary support, T.A. incl. studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF NIR/7200/005.

AFz, AGz, AHz.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Human resources development programme, phase II (HRDP II).** Est. cost 20mECU. Construction of and improvements to educational buildings.

Scholarships, training and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.  
EDF PNG/6008/002 - AFb

#### RWANDA

**Return and social reintegration of students currently still in the central and east European states.** Est. cost 0.996 mECU. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7  
EDF RW/7012/002 - AAc

**The First Priority Programme for of Employment Creation (PPGE).** Est. cost 1.99 mECU. Construction/ infrastructure, T.A. incl. studies, supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.  
EDF RW/7012/003 - AHb

#### SAMOA

**Rural water supply programme.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. Est. cost 16.7 mECU. Preparatory study, works, supplies, project management. Project on appraisal. EDF 7 and 8.  
EDF WSO/7002/000 - ABb

#### SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

**Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme.** 0.9 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.  
EDF STP/7200/001 - AAc

#### SENEGAL

**St-Louis regional development programme.** 22.5 mECU. Job creation, lines of credit, T.A. to the S.M.E's, training studies. Health centres, clinics, medical equipment and consumables, training, information, T.A. to the Direction Régionale in St-Louis and to the Service des Grandes Endémies in Podor. Drainage network, sanitation. Environmental protection with wind breaks. T.A. Study of a water-engineering scheme in Podor. Works by acc. tender. Supplies by int. tender. T.A. by restr. tender. Project in execution. EDF 7.  
EDF SE/6002/7002 - ACa

**Support for the PNLS-MST (Phase III).** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Economics, Finance and Planning. Est. cost 3 mECU. T.A., works. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing end of 1998. EDF 8.  
EDF SE/7003/001 - AGz

**Direct Budgetary Support for Structural Adjustment.** Est. cost 27.9 mECU. T.A., including studies, budgetary aid. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing: June 1998. EDF 8.  
EDF SE/7200/003 - AAb

**Rural Development in Podor. Transitory Phase 1998.** Est. cost 0.7 mECU. Resp. Auth.: NAO. Formation, travaux, A.T. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.  
EDF SE/6002/002 - ACa, Alb

#### SEYCHELLES

**Victoria market rehabilitation.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture. Est. cost 1 mECU. EDF 0.770 mECU, local 0.230 mECU. Works and improvements. Project in execution. EDF 7.  
EDY SEY/7011 - ACb

**Anse Royale landfill.** 2.85 mECU. Construction of a fully-engineered landfill. Works, supplies, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 8.  
EDF SEY - AJz

**Le Niol water treatment plant extension.** 1.35 mECU. Rehabilitation and extension of water treatment works. Works. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 8.  
EDF SEY - AFh

#### SIERRA LEONE

(All projects suspended)

**Improvement of Freetown - Conakry road link.** Est. cost 30 mECU. Reconstruction of about 120 kms of road from Masiaka in Sierra Leone to Farmoreah in Guinea. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.  
EDF SL/7004 - ABd

**Sierra Leone roads authority (SLRA) support programme.** Resp. Auth.: SLRA. 22.5 mECU. To strengthen SLRA's management capacity, to support maintenance operations, rehabilitate 160 km of road, provide training and equipment to enable local private contractors to increase their role in road works. Rehabilitation works, equipment, T.A. to SLRA. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.  
EDF SL/7002 - ABd

**Management and protection of wildlife in Outamba Kilimi National Park (OKNP).** Resp. Auth.: NAO. Est. cost 1.98 mECU. Development of sound management plan for sustainable protection of wildlife and ecosystem in park. Improvement of local infrastructure and community development. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF SL/7003 - AEi, AHi

**North West Artisanal Fisheries and Community Development Phase II.** 1.98 mECU. Technical cooperation in fisheries. T.A. and training. Financing date January 97. EDF 7.  
SL/6004/001 - ACd.

#### SOLOMON ISLANDS

**Guadalcanal road: Aola-Matau.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Transport, Works and Utilities. Est. cost 6 mECU. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. Tender for a study expected to be issued in June 1998. EDF 7.  
EDF SOL/7001 - ABd

**Population Census 1997.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 1.885 mECU. T.A. and training. Project in execution. EDF 7.  
EDF SOL/6001/000 - AAI.

**Programme Management Unit.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Development Planning. Est. cost 1.2 mECU. Institutional support. Supplies, works, services, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.  
EDF SOL/6022/000 - AAz

#### SOMALIA

**2nd rehabilitation programme.** 47 mECU. Inter-sectoral approach. The project will be implemented by NGOs and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.  
EDF SO/6029 - AAC

#### SURINAME

**Timber Institute.** Control of logging and reforestation activities. Est. cost 3.5 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7  
EDF SUR/7005 - ACc

**Road from Nickerie to the Suriname-Guyana ferry terminal.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Public Works. Est. cost 8.4 mECU. Construction of 29.5 km road. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.  
EDF SUR/5602/001 - ABd

**Sysmin programme to upgrade and expand the electricity and telecommunications sectors.** Est. cost 20.72 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen in June 1998. EDF 7.  
EDF SUR/9999/000 - Abai, ABc

**Rehabilitation and extension of the Port of Paramaribo, the 'Nieuwe Haven Terminal'.** Est. cost 20.5 mECU; EDF part 13.5 mECU. Construction/infrastructure; supplies of equipment/inputs; T.A., incl. studies. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen in January 1999. EDF 7, 8.  
EDF SUR/7013/000 - ABd.

#### SWAZILAND

**Maize Marketing and Storage.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. 1.555 mECU. Rehabilitation and expansion works by acc. tender. Project in execution. EDF 7.  
EDF SW/5005/02 - ACa.

**Support for implementation of the Cross Border Initiative.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Commerce and Industry. 1.5 mECU. T.A., training, supply of equipment. EDF 7. Project in execution.  
EDF REG/7012/024 - AAz

**Development of smallholder irrigation in the Lower Usuthu River.** Est. cost 16 mECU. Construction, supplies, studies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.  
EDF SW/7007/001 - ACa

#### TANZANIA

**Mwanza-Nyanguge Road and Mwanza urban roads rehabilitation, and Nyanguge-Musoma overlay.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Transport and Communications. Est. cost 55 mECU. Rehabilitation of 67 km of trunk roads (Nyanguge-Mwanza and Mwanza airport) and rehabilitation of Mwanza sewerage system (main works). Design study on-going. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.  
EDF TA/6021 - ABd

**Mwanza Water Supply. Phase II.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Water energy and minerals. Est. cost 21 mECU. Works, pumping equipment, studies and supervision. Short-list done. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.  
EDF TA/5005(7) - ABb

**Iringa Water Supply.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals. Est. cost 22 mECU. Pumping, treatment, storage and distribution. Works, equipment, design and supervision. Short-list done. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.  
EDF TA/7009 - ABz

**Mwanza/Shinyanga-Nzega road rehabilitation.** Resp. Auth. Ministry of Works. Est. cost 70 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 6, 7 and 8.

EDF TA/7012 - ABd

**Institutional strengthening for the education sector development programme.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Education and Culture. Est. cost 1.91 mECU. T.A. (short term), training and equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF TA/7023/000 - AFd

**Special programme for refugee-affected areas.** Resp. Auth.: Prime Minister's office. Est. cost 22 mECU. Rehabilitation of the Mwanza Airport runway, contribution to the Kagera road maintenance programme, improvement of the Kigoma-Nyakanasi gravel road (335 km). Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF TA - ABd

**Institutional strengthening for improved water supply and sewerage services in four towns.** Est. cost 1.985 mECU. T.A., training, works and supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7

EDF TA/7014/000 - ABb

**Support for the introduction of Value Added Tax.** Resp. Auth.: Government of Tanzania. Est. cost 1,945 mECU. TA (restr. tender), training, taxpayer education, publicity, testing of procedures. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF TA/7200/003 - AAz, AAb

**Rehabilitation of the Mwanza Sewerage System.** Est. cost 2.5 mECU, EDF part 2 mECU. Construction/infrastructure; supply of equipment/inputs; T.A., incl. studies; training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF TA/7014/001 - ABb.

**Emergency (El Nino) Road Repairs.** Est. cost 10 mECU. Construction/infrastructure, T.A. incl. studies. Financing decision taken in June 1998. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF TA/7027/000 - ABd.

**Structural Adjustment - SAF IV.** Est. cost 61.9 mECU. Budgetary aid, T.A. incl. studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF TA/7200/004 - AAz.

## TOGO

**Aid for the voluntary reintegration of refugees from Togo.** Resp. Auth.: Min. Du Plan. Est. cost 0.43 mECU. Project under the direction of CARE Togo. Socio-economic contribution for the reintegration of 17,000 Togo refugees in their place of origin. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF TO/7006 - AHn

**Support for a group of producers in the Savanes region.** Est. cost 1.8 mECU. Construction, supplies, T.A., training. Project in execution. EDF 5.

EDF TO/6003/002 - ACa

**Development of basic mining information.** 1.11 mECU. Resp. Auth.: Ministère du Plan et de l'Aménagement du Territoire. Studies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF SYSMIN/TO/9999 - ADa.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**Training project for young farmers (AYTRAP).** Assistance for the young farmer to create rural enterprises. Est. cost 7.3 mECU. EDF 5 mECU. local 2.300 mECU. Line of credit, T.A. and monitoring. Project in execution. EDF 6 and 7.

EDF TR/7002 - ACa

**Support for Caribbean Business Services Ltd. (CBSL).** Resp. Auth.: NAO. Est. cost 0.347 mECU. Support for SMEs through management advice and the transfer of technology. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF TR/7006/000 - ADe

**Rehabilitation of the L'Anse Fourmi - Charlotteville road.** Est. cost 3.5 mECU. Construction, T.A., feasibility study. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF TR/5013/000 - ADc

## UGANDA

**Water supply in Hoima, Masindi and Mubende.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Natural Resources. Est. cost 12 mECU. Rehabilitation of catchments, treatment plants and water distribution network. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF UG/7010 - ABb

**Third structural adjustment support programme (SASP 3).** Resp. Auth. Ministry of Finance. Est. cost. 51.06 mECU. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7,8.

EDF UG/7200/002

**Uganda Blood Transfusion Service. Phase 3.** Est. cost 2.5 mECU. Supplies, T.A. incl. studies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF UG/6012/004 - AGz.

**Human Resources for Health.** Est. cost 12 mECU. Construction/infrastructure, T.A. incl. studies, supplies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF UG/6012/002 - AGz.

**AIDS and Reproductive Health.** Est. cost 8 mECU. Grants to NGOs and costs of Project Implementation Unit. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF UG/6012/003 - AGz.

## VANUATU

**Education development programme.** Est. cost 7.5 mECU. To increase enrolment in junior secondary school and to improve the quality of education delivered. T.A., supplies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF VA/7005/001 - AFa.

## ZAMBIA

**Forestry Support Programme.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Environment. Est. cost 1.6 mECU. Training supply of equipment, studies and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF ZA/7009 - ACc

**Rehabilitation of the Kabwe-Kapiri Mposhi and Chisamba Road.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works and Supply. Est. cost 26 mECU. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF ZA/6014/001 - ABd

**Capacity building in the Bank of Zambia.** Strengthening of the banking and financial sector. Macroeconomic management and planning. Resp. Auth.: Bank of Zambia. 1,15 mECU. T.A., supplies and training. Project in execution. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/7020/000 - AEh

**Technical assistance to the Roads Department.** Resp. Auth.: Dept. of Roads. Est. cost 1.9 mECU. Provision of long-term T.A. to the Roads Department and implementation of a formal training programme for the department's professional and technical staff. T.A., studies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/7022/000 - ABd

**Educational capacity-building programme.** To plan and deliver effective and relevant education and training. 10 mECU. Feasibility study, T.A., construction, budgetary aid and training. Project in execution. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/7003/003 - AFz, AFh, AFi

**Urban Market Development.** Est. cost 1.9 mECU. Construction, T.A. including studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/7011/000 - ACf

**Private sector development programme.** Trade and enterprise support facility/micro-credit project. 8 mECU. T.A., studies and training. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/7010/001 - AEz, AEe

**Export Development Programme Phase II.** To increase exports of non-traditional goods. Est. cost 6 mECU. T.A. and training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/5017/002 - AEd

**Assistance to the wildlife sector, phase II.** Improvement in management of wildlife resources. Est. cost 10 mECU. Feasibility study. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/7002/001 - AEc

**Agricultural private sector development (SME) - microprojects.** Est. cost 0.5 mECU. T.A., study, credit facility. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/7023/000 ACa

**Economic management support programme, phase II.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Est. cost 4 mECU. T.A., feasibility study, financial aid, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/7018/001 - AAC

**Rehabilitation of the Monze-Zimba road.** Est. cost 37.5 mECU. Construction, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF REG/7323/001 - ABd

**Improvement of the Zambian Safe Blood Transfusion Programme.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health. Est. cost 3.735 mECU. T.A., equipment, training. Project in execution. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/7003/002 - AGd

**Drugs Master Plan Implementation.** Est. cost 1.100.000 ECU. Supplies of equipment, T.A., miscellaneous. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZA/7019/000 - AGz

**Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF IV).** 53.69 mECU. Financing decision taken in July 1998. Project in execution. EDF 8.  
EDF ZA/7200/005 - AAc.

## ZIMBABWE

**Minefield clearance in N.E. Zimbabwe.** 10 mECU. Rural development, clearance of landmines. Minefields survey. Works, supervision. Project in execution. EDF 7.  
EDF ZIM/7004 - ACa

**Trade development programme - import/export.** Est. cost 9 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZIM/6001/002 - AEe, AEe

**Tourism development programme - master plan.** Resp. Auth.: Government of Zimbabwe. Est. cost 1 mECU. Feasibility study. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZIM/6008/002 - AEc

**Health sector development programme.** Est. cost 14 mECU. Feasibility study. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZIM/7002/000 - AGe

**Education sector support programme.** Improvement of education system. Est. cost 14 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZIM/7009/000 - AFa, AFe

**Natural resources project.** Est. cost 2 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZIM/7012/000

**Agricultural services and management project (ASMP).** Est. cost 25 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZIM/7011/000

**Decentralised cooperation programme.** Est. cost 5 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF ZIM/7013/000

**Support Services Framework Contract.** Est. cost 1.2 mECU. T.A., incl. studies. Improved effectiveness of NAO's office. Financing decision taken in June 1998. Project in execution. EDF 8.

EDF ZIM/7016/000 - AAC

## OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

### BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

**Beef Island airport terminal.** Est. cost 16.84 mECU. Works, supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.

EDF REG/6631/001

**Hamilton Lavety Stoutt Community College Learning Resource Centre.** Resp. Auth.: Territorial Authorising Officer, Road Town. 2,484,200 ECU. Works. Construction of a learning resource centre for the existing HLS Community College. Project in execution.

EDF 7.

7 OCT VI/005/6 - AFb

### FRENCH POLYNESIA

**Management of land and hydraulics to install young farmers.** 1,234 mECU. Study. Project in execution. EDF 6.

EDF POF/6010/000 - ACg

### MAYOTTE

**Water supply.** Est. cost 7.2 mECU. Works, T.A., study. Main works completed. Supervision completed. Study on remaining works in execution. Project in execution. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF MY - ABb

### NETHERLANDS ANTILLES - ARUBA

**Tourism development programme.** 5 mECU. Training, T.A., marketing in Europe. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7835 - AEc

**Technical Assistance to the National Authorising Officer.** Technical assistance will be given to promote sound and effective management of external aid. 1.3 mECU. T.A. supplies Restricted tender. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NEA/7012/000

**Netherlands Antilles social action programme.** Est. cost 13.2 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7,8

EDF NEA/7011/000

**Small Enterprises Stimulation Programme in the Netherlands Antilles (SESNA).** 7.488 mECU. Financing decision taken in July 1998. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NEA/7009/000 - AAb.

### NEW CALEDONIA

**New aquarium.** To increase the capacity and improve the infrastructure of the aquarium. Est. cost 4 mECU. Construction, T.A. and supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NC/6009/001 - AEc

### ST. HELENA

**Wharf improvement project.** Resp. Auth.: Public Works and Service Department. Est. cost 1.743 mECU. To increase the safety and efficiency of Jamestown Port by upgrading wharf facilities for passenger and cargo handling. Works, supplies. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen at the end of 1998. EDF 7.

EDF SH/7001 - ABd

### TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

**Water and sewerage in Providenciales.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works, 3.7 mECU. Water supply works and pipes. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF TC/7001 - AHb,c

### WALLIS AND FUTUNA

**Creation of improved structures for pig-rearing.** Resp. Auth. EDF authorising officer for the territory. Est. cost. 0.11 mECU. To establish viable production structures adapted to market conditions. T.A., training, follow-up. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF WF/7009/000 - ACa

## REGIONAL PROJECTS

### AFRISTAT

**Support for AFRISTAT (economic and statistical control).** 0.9 mECU. Improvement in the quality of statistical information. T.A., supplies and equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7106/004 - AAc, AFd

**10 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF AGM - BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, COTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, MALI, NIGER, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, CHAD, TOGO**

**Promotion of a regional grain market in West and Central Africa.** Resp. Auth.: NAO-Mali. Est. cost 12 mECU. Creation of a regional grain market. Promotion and strengthening of initiatives by private operators. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.  
EDF REG/6175 - ACf

### INTRA-ACP

**Strengthening of fisheries and biodiversity management in ACP countries.** Resp. Auth.: ICLARM, Manila (Philippines). 5mECU. T.A., management, supply of equipment, data base creation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/70012/016 - ACa

**COLEACP, Interim Project.** Commercial development in exports and in the field of horticulture. Est. cost 1.86 mECU. Training, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/6900/002 - AEe

**Business Assistance Scheme for Exports (BASE)** Est. cost 30 mECU. To expand receipts from exports and tourism by improving enterprises' export competitiveness and trade facilitation skills. T.A. training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.  
EDF REG/70001/020 - AEd.

**Support to regional cooperation for HIV/AIDS control.** Est. cost 20 mECU. T.A., studies, supplies, equipment, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF REG/8000/004 - AGz, AGc, AGe

**Interuniversity support programme - Level 3 - in French-speaking sub-Saharan countries.** Est. cost 1.976 mECU. Training, equipment and educational material. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7004/014 - AFb

**Support for Regional Economic Integration.** Est. cost 1.75 mECU. T.A. incl. studies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/6929/003 - Alb.

**Installation of the African Virtual University (AVU).** Est. cost 1.1 mECU. Institutional capacity building, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF REG/70012/35 - AFb.

### CARIBBEAN REGION

**Caribbean Postal Union.**

Resp. Auth.: S.G. Cariforum. 0.5 mECU. T.A. and other action necessary for the creation of the Caribbean Postal Union. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7605 - ABc

**Caribbean Telecommunications Union.** Resp. Auth.: S.G. Cariforum. 0.5 MECU. T.A. for the accomplishment of the C.T.U. and the harmonisation of legislation on telecommunications within the Cariforum member states. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7605/001 - ABc

**Education policy and dialogue.** Resp. Auth.: Cariforum S.G. 0.45 MECU. T.A. for regional common policies in three education areas: basic education, technical and vocational training, language teaching. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7607 - AFa,d

**Cultural Centres.** Resp. Auth.: S.G. Cariforum. Est. cost 1.965mECU. Promote cultural identity and foster mutual knowledge of the rich cultural panorama. Restoration of buildings, supply of equipment, T.A. in artistic fields and management. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7610 - AHi.

**Tertiary level programme.** Est. cost 5.946 mECU. Upgrading tertiary level education and teacher training. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/6628/001 - AFb

**Cariforum Regional Environment Programme.** Resp. Auth.: SG Cariforum. Est. cost 11 mECU. Environmental management action, programme for protected areas and community development, management and expansion of marine and coastal park and protected areas. Terrestrial parks. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7613 - AHf

**Programming Unit Cariforum Secretariat.** 0.725 mECU. Equipment, office supplies, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7615 - AAc.

**CARIFORUM Programming Unit.** Resp. Auth.: CARIFORUM. 3.94 MECU. T.A. to the Secretary General of CARIFORUM to help in the allocation, preparation and implementation of regional funds under Lomé IV. T.A., supply. Project in execution. EDF 7 and 8.

EDF REG/7615/001 - AAb

**Caribbean News Agency Development Programme.** Resp. Auth.: Regional Authorising Officer. Est. cost 4.179 mECU. Establishing a CARIFORUM Information Network by setting up a coordinating centre and mechanisms and archives and increasing radio, TV and Cana wire services. T.A., supply. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7605/003 - ABc

#### COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CBI

**Standardisation and quality assurance.** Resp. Auth.: COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa). Est. cost 2,543 mECU. TA and training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7321 - AEe

**Regional Integration in Eastern and Southern Africa.** Assistance to COMESA Secretariat. 1.95 mECU. Training, supply of

equipment, evaluation and services. T.A. short-term. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7316 - AAc

**Regional Telematics Network Services (RTNS).** Trade development. Est. cost 1.93 mECU. T.A. short-term by restr. tender. Publicity for the project, network implementation, maintenance and evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/RPR 517 - AAc.

#### CENTRAL AFRICA

**CIESPAC, Public Health Education Centre in Central Africa.** 1.98 mECU. Student accommodation, equipment, scholarships. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7205 - AFb

**ECOFAC II, Forest ecosystems.** Resp. Auth.: Ministère du Plan. Rep. of Congo. Est. cost 16 mECU. Develop national and regional capacities for good management of forest resources. Works, supplies and T.A. Project in execution EDF 7.

EDF REG 6203/001 - ACc

#### CHAD-CAMEROON-CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Ngaoundéré-Toubo-ro-Moundou Road.** Est. cost 85 mECU. Construction, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF REG/7203/001 - ABd.

#### EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

**Statistical training centre for Eastern Africa in Tanzania.**

Resp. Auth.: Secretariat of the centre. 5 mECU. Widening of capacity. Construction of class-rooms, offices and housing. Project in execution. EDF 5.

EDF REG/5311(7) - AFb

**Combatting the tse tse fly in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda).** 20 mECU. Evaluation, training and research. T.A., equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/736 - ACa, ACe

**Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project (Phase II).** Project headquarters in Jinja, Uganda at FIRI-Fisheries Research Institute. EDF part 8.4 mECU. T.A., supplies, training, monitoring and evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/5316/001 - ACd

**Tanzania rehabilitation programme for refugee affected areas and related infrastructure.** Est. cost 20 mECU. Rehabilitation of roads and conserving the environment in refugee areas. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7322/001 - ABd

**Uganda - Kampala by-pass.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works. Road construction. Est. cost 35 mECU. T.A. works. Project on appraisal. EDF 7,8.

EDF REG/6304/001 - ABd

**Support for economic integration.** Est. cost 1.95 mECU. T.A., incl. studies; training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7162/000 - AAb.

#### MEMBER COUNTRIES OF ECOWAS

**Guarantee Fund for Private Investment Financing in Western Africa. FGIPAO, Lomé.** Creation of a Guarantee Fund to cover partially credit risks given by Banks to the private sector. Est. cost 22.5 mECU. EDF 3.8 mECU, Others: France, Germany, EIB., Commercial Banks (E.U.). Development Agencies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7115 - AEz

**Regional programme to combat drugs.** Est. cost 5.1mECU. Elaboration of training programmes and national plans. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7135 - AGz

#### MEMBER COUNTRIES OF IGAD

**IGAD Household Energy Programme.** Resp. Auth.: IGAD Executive Secretary. Est. cost 1.9 mECU. T.A. to initiate pilot projects in the area of household energy, define the role and organize the setting up of a regional unit to coordinate activities, and develop working relationships with national and sub-region institutions in IGADD's member countries. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG - ABa

**Development of the artisanal fisheries sector.** The promotion of artisanal fisheries and fisheries trade. Improvement of the level of services available in the post-harvest field of artisanal fisheries in IGADD member states. Est. cost 7.8 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7314/000 - ACd, AFd

**Grain marketing training programme.** Resp. Auth.: IGADD Executive Secretary. 1.99 mECU. T.A., equipment, evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/5359 - ACa

#### MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION (IOC) - COMORES, MADAGASCAR, MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES

**Integrated Regional Programme for Trade Development (PRIDE).** Resp. Auth.: I.O.C. Secretariat. EDF 9.3 mECU. T.A. training, management. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7503 - AEz.

**Indian Ocean University.** Resp. Auth.: IOC. Est. cost 1,925 mECU. Training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7506/000 - AFd

**Technical Unit for the Management and Coordination of Community Aid in the Indian Ocean Region.** 1.3 mECU.

Financing decision taken in June 1998. Project in execution. EDF 8.

EDF REG/7509/000 - AAz.

#### PACIFIC ACP STATES

**Pacific regional agricultural programme. Phase II.** Resp. Auth.: Forum Secretariat - Fiji. 9.265 mECU. Improvement and dissemination of selected crops, agricultural information and techniques to farmers. T.A. and supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 6704/001 - ACa

**Pacific regional civil aviation. Phase II.** Resp. Auth.: Forum Secretariat. Fiji. 4.9 mECU. Supply of security, air traffic control, navigation and meteorology, and training equipment. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 6 and 7.

EDF REG/7704 - ABc,d

**Pacific Regional Waste Awareness and Education Programme.** Resp. Auth.: Forum Secretariat. 0.600 mECU. T.A. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7714 - AHf

**Air communications - upgrading of Fua'amotu Airport in Tonga.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works. Est. cost 0.340 mECU. Construction, supplies of equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7704/001 - ABc

#### MEMBER COUNTRIES OF PT.A

**Regional integration in East and Southern Africa.** Assistance to PTA Secretariat. (Preferential Trade Area). Short and long-term. T.A., studies, training. Est. cost 1.5 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7316 - AAb.

#### SADC

**SADC Intraregional Skills Development Programme.** Est. cost 12.5 mECU. Training. Skills development through specialised courses. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen in May 1999. EDF 8.

EDF REG/7435/000 - AFb, AFd.

**SADC Water and Land Management.** Est. cost 4 mECU. Training, T.A. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen early 1999. EDF 8.

EDF REG/6415/001 - AFci.

**SADC Regional Vegetation Project.** Est. cost 1.8 mECU. T.A., supplies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF REG/7410/000 - ACb.

**SADC - Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Tanzania.** Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of Fishing Activities. Resp. Auth.: SADC - Sector Coordinator for Marine Fisheries. Est. cost 13.3 mECU. To improve national and regional management capacity of marine fishery resources. Feasibility study, T.A., supplies. Project on appraisal. Financing decision foreseen by the end of 1998. EDF 8.

EDF REG/6406/000 - ACd.

#### SADC - ECOWAS - ECOCAS

**Pilot project for sectoral industrial Forums: EU - SADC. Mining Forum - MAT-CONSTRUCT-AGRO-IND.** Admin. Resp.: CDI, Brussels. Monitoring and follow-up. 0.5 mECU. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7428 - ADb.

#### ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA AND TANZANIA

**SADC monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) of fishing activities.** Resp. Auth.: SADC - Sector Coordinator for

Marine Fisheries. Est. cost 13.3 mECU. To improve national and regional capacity to manage marine fishery resources. Feasibility study, T.A., supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF REG 6406/000 - ACd

#### SAHEL COUNTRIES

**Support to strengthen vaccine independence in Sahel Africa.** 9.5 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7012 - ACa

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**Bertua-Garoua Boulai Road.** Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux Publics (Cameroon). Rehabilitation and improvement of transport infrastructures between Douala and Bangui. Est. cost 50 mECU. Prequalification for services. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.

EDF REG/CM/CA/7002/001 - ABd

##### MALI-GUINEA

**Flood forecast and control, hydrological simulation for the Niger upper basin.**

Est. cost 6 mECU. EDF, 5.175. mECU. France (foreseen) 0.375 mECU. Denmark (foreseen) 0.15 mECU. Mali-Guinea (foreseen) 0.3 mECU. Flood forecast system, hydrological model of local simulation with parametric regionalisation. arning system via telecommunication and satellite teletransmission. Statistical studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG. 6181 - AHf, AHg.

##### BURKINA FASO, CAPE VERDE, GAMBIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, SENEGAL, CHAD

**Regional environmental training and information programme.** Resp. Auth.: Institut de Sahel in Bamako. 16 mECU. T.A. training, supply of equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/6147/001 - AFz, AHz

##### BENIN, BURKINA FASO, COTE D'IVOIRE, MALI, NIGER, SENEGAL, TOGO

**Support for the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).** Promotion of regional economic integration. Resp. Auth. UEMOA Commission. 12 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7106/02 - AAf

**Support for the ENAREF.** 0.900 mECU. T.A., training, equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7106/003 - AAc, AAf, AFd

##### BENIN, CAMEROON, COTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, GUINEA, TOGO

**Regional Programme to relaunch pineapple production in West and Central Africa.** Resp. Auth.: Execution unit composed of one senior expert, T.A. and one junior expert. 1.995 mECU. T.A.

studies, evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7138 - ACa

##### GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, SENEGAL, MALI

**Support for the Rational Management of the Natural Resources of the Niger and Gambia Basins.** Est. cost 23 mECU. T.A. incl. studies, construction/ infrastructure, supplies, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF REG/6137/001 - AHf.

##### ETHIOPIA, KENYA, TANZANIA, UGANDA, BURKINA FASO, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**African Wildlife Veterinary Project.** Resp. Auth.: OAU - Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources. 1.6 mECU. T.A., training, evaluation, contingencies. Financing decision taken in June 1998. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/5007/004 - AHf.

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Tel. (266) 313726  
Fax (266) 310193

### Liberia

EC Aid Coordination Office,  
UN Drive, Mamba Point, Monrovia.  
Tel. (231) 226273  
Fax (231) 226274

### Madagascar

Immeuble Ny Havana,  
B.P. 746 Antananarivo 101.  
Tel. (261 20) 22 242 16  
Fax (261 20) 22 645 62  
E-mail delcemad@bow.dts.mg

### Malawi

Europa House,  
P.O. Box 30102, Capital City, Lilongwe 3  
Tel. (265) 783199 - 783124 - 782743  
Fax (265) 783534

### Mali

Avenue de l'OUA, Badalabougou Est,  
B.P. 115, Bamako.  
Tel. (223) 222356 - 222065  
Fax (223) 223670  
e-mail: eudelmlmli@cefib.com

### Mauritania

Ilot V, Lot 24,  
B.P. 213, Nouakchott.  
Tel. (222 2) 56396 - 56384  
Fax (222 2) 53524

### Mauritius

8th floor, Batiment St. James Court,  
Rue St. Denis,  
Port Louis, B.P. 1148  
Tel. (230) 2116295 (6 lines)  
Fax. (230) 2116624  
E-mail. Europe@bow.intnet.mu

### Mozambique

1214 Avenida do Zimbabwe,  
C.P. 1306, Maputo.  
Tel. (258 1) 490266 - 491716 - 490271  
Fax (258 1) 491866  
Telex (0992) 6-146 CCE MO



**Namibia**

4th Floor, Sanlam Building, 154  
Independence Avenue,  
9000 Windhoek.  
Tel. (264 61) 220099  
Fax (264 61) 235135

**Niger**

B.P. 10388, Niamey.  
Tel. (227) 732360 - 732773 - 734832  
Fax (227) 732322

**Nigeria****Lagos**

Knorr House,  
Ozumba Mbadiwe Avenue (opposite 1004  
flats)  
Victoria Island  
P.M.B. 12767, Lagos  
Tél (234 1) 2617852, 2610857  
Fax (234 1) 2617248  
E-mail: ecnig@infoweb.abs.net

**Abuja**

Tel. (234 9) 5233144 - 5233146  
Fax (234 9) 5233147

**Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati, Western Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu)**

4th Floor, Development Bank Centre,  
Victoria Parade,  
Private Mail Bag, Suva.  
Tel. (679) 313633  
Fax (679) 300370  
e-mail: eudelfiji@eu.org.fj

**Papua New Guinea**

The Lodge (3rd Floor), Bampton street,  
P.O. Box 76, Port Moresby.  
Tel. (675) 3213544 - 3213504 - 3213718  
Fax (675) 3217850

**Rwanda**

Avenue Député Kamuzinzi 14,  
B.P. 515 Kigali.  
Tel. (250) 75586 - 75589 - 72536  
Fax (250) 74313

**Senegal**

12 Avenue Albert Sarraut,  
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Tel. (221) 8231314 - 8234777  
Fax (221) 823.18.83

**Sierra Leone**

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Fax (232 22) 225212

**South Africa**

P.O. Box 945, Groenkloof 0027, Pretoria.  
Tel. (27-12) 464319  
Fax (27-12) 469923

**Sudan**

3rd floor - AAAID Building,  
Osman Digna Avenue,  
P.O. Box 2363, Khartoum.  
Tel. (249 11) 775054 - 775148  
Telex 23096 DELSU SD  
Fax (249 11) 775393

**Suriname**

Dr. S. Redmondstraat 239,  
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Fax (597) 493076

**Tanzania**

38 Mirambo Street,  
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117475 - 117476  
Fax (255 51) 113277  
Telex (0989) 41353 DELCOM TZ

**Togo**

Avenue Nicolas Grunitzky 37,  
B.P. 1657 Lomé.  
Tel. (228) 213662 - 210832  
Fax (228) 211300

**Trinidad and Tobago**

The Mutual Centre,  
16 Queen's Park West,  
P.O. Box 1144, Port of Spain.  
Tel. (1 868) 6226628 - 6220591  
Fax (1 868) 6226355

**Uganda**

Rwenzori House, 1 Lumumba Avenue,  
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Tel. (256 41) 233303 - 233304  
Fax (256 41) 233708

**Zambia**

Plot 4899, Los Angeles Boulevard,  
P.O. Box 34871, Lusaka.  
Tel. (260 1) 250711 - 251140  
Fax (260 1) 250906

**Zimbabwe**

6th floor, Construction House,  
110 Leopold Takawira Street,  
P.O. Box 4252, Harare.  
Tel. (263 4) 707120 - 707139 - 752835  
Fax (263 4) 725360

## OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION IN ACP COUNTRIES AND OCTS

**Antigua and Barbuda**

Upper St George's Street,  
P.O. Box 1392, St. John's.  
Tel. (1 268) 462 2970  
Fax (1 268) 462 2670

**Bahamas**

2nd floor, Frederick House, Frederick  
Street,  
P.O. Box N-3246, Nassau.  
Tel. (1 242) 325 5850  
Fax (1 242) 323 3819

**Belize**

1 Eyre Street,  
P.O. Box 907, Belize City.  
Tel (501-2) 32 070  
Fax (501-2) 72.785

**Comoros**

Boulevard de la Corniche,  
B.P. 559, Moroni.  
Tel. (269) 732306 - 733191  
Fax (269) 732494  
Telex 212 DELCEC KO

**Equatorial Guinea**

Route de l'Aéroport,  
B.P. 779, Malabo.  
Tel. (240 9) 3284  
Fax (240 9) 3275

**Netherlands Antilles and Aruba**

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P.O. Box 822, Willemstad (Curaçao).  
Tel. (599 9) 4618488  
Fax (599 9) 4618423

**New Caledonia (OCT)**

19 avenue du Maréchal Foch - 6th floor,  
98845 Noumea.  
B.P. 1100, 98845 Noumea Cedex.  
Tel. (687) 277002  
Fax (687) 288707

**Samoa**

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P.O. Box 3023, Apia.  
Tel. (685) 20070  
Fax (685) 24622

**São Tomé and Príncipe**

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Telex 224 DELEGFED ST  
Fax (239-12) 22683

**Seychelles**

P.O. Box 530, Victoria, Mahé.  
Tel. (248) 323940  
Fax. (248) 323890

**Solomon Islands**

2nd floor, City Centre Building,  
P.O. Box 844, Honiara.  
Tel. (677) 22765  
Fax (677) 23318

**Somalia**

EC Somalia Unit,  
Union Insurance House (first floor),  
Ragati Road, P.O. Box 30475, Nairobi,  
Kenya.  
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Fax (254 2) 710997

**Swaziland**

Lilunga House, 4th Floor, Gilfillan Street  
Mbabane.  
P.O. Box A.36, Swazi Plaza, H101  
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Fax (268) 46729

**Tonga**

Mailetaha, Taufa'ahau Road,  
Private Mailbag n° 5, Nuku'Alofa.  
Tel. (676) 23820  
Fax (676) 23869

**Vanuatu**

Moore Stephens House, Ground Floor,  
Kumul Highway, Higginson Street  
P.O. Box 422, Port Vila.  
Tel. (678) 22501  
Fax (678) 23282

**THE EUROPEAN UNION**

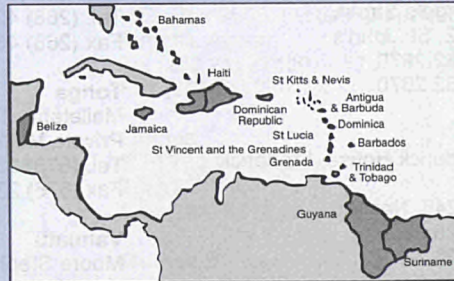
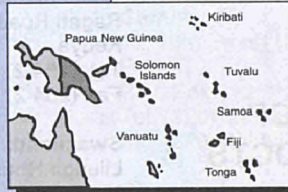
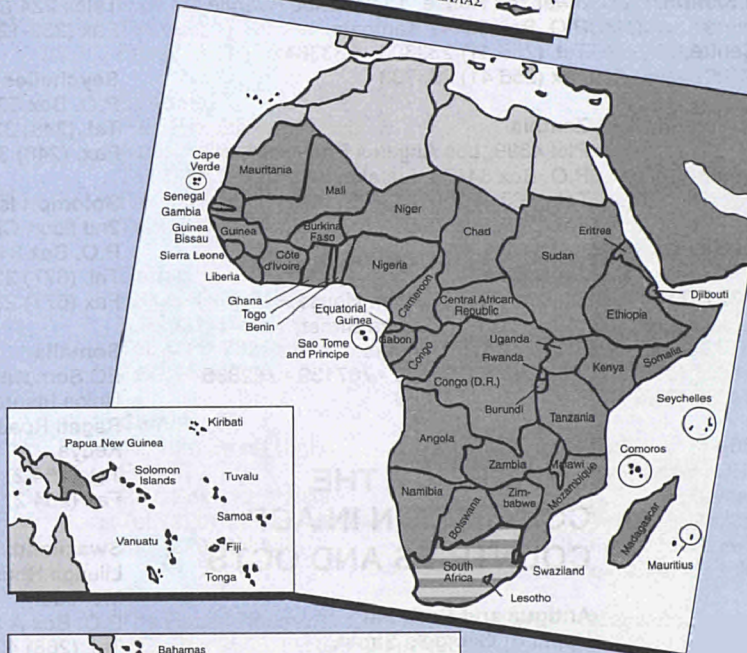
- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

- France**  
 (Territorial collectivities)  
 Mayotte  
 St Pierre and Miquelon  
 (Overseas territories)  
 New Caledonia and dependencies  
 French Polynesia  
 French Southern and Antarctic  
 Territories  
 Wallis and Futuna Islands

- Netherlands**  
 (Overseas countries)  
 Netherlands Antilles  
 (Bonaire, Curaçao,  
 St Martin,  
 Saba, St Eustache)  
 Aruba

- Denmark**  
 (Country having special  
 relations with Denmark)  
 Greenland

- United Kingdom**  
 (Overseas countries and  
 territories)  
 Anguilla  
 British Antarctic Territory  
 British Indian Ocean Territory  
 British Virgin Islands  
 Cayman Islands  
 Falkland Islands  
 Southern Sandwich Islands  
 and dependencies  
 Montserrat  
 Pitcairn Island  
 St Helena and dependencies  
 Turks and Caicos Islands



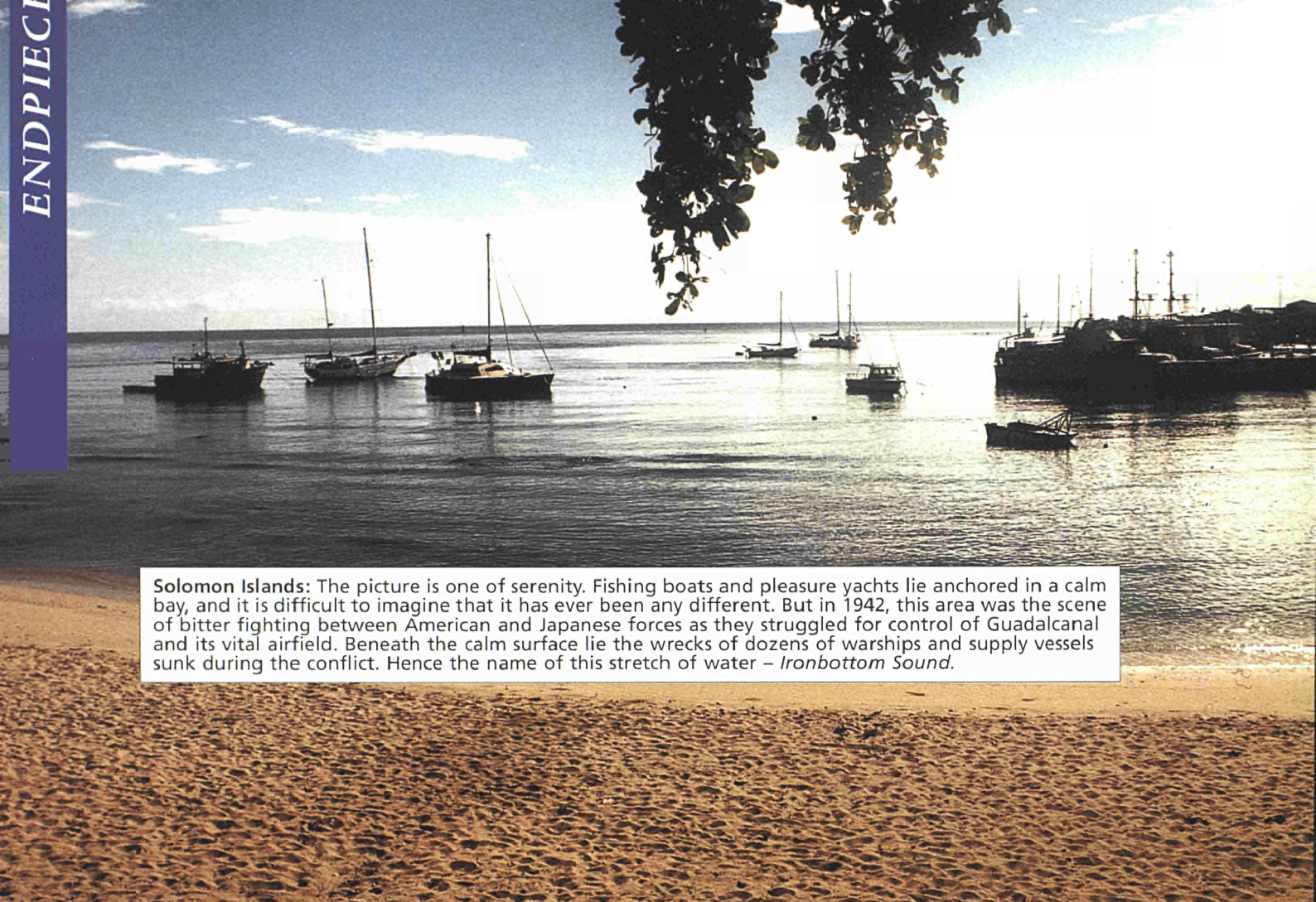
**THE 71 ACP STATES**

- Angola
- Antigua & Barbuda
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Cape Verde
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Comoros
- Congo
- Congo (ex-Zaire)
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Papua New Guinea
- Rwanda
- St Kitts and Nevis
- St Lucia
- St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- Sao Tome & Principe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa\*
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Tonga
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Vanuatu
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

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This list does not prejudice  
 the status of these countries and territories  
 now or in the future.  
 The Courier uses maps from a variety  
 of sources. Their use does not imply  
 recognition of any particular boundaries  
 nor prejudice the status of any state  
 or territory

\*Not all provisions of the Lomé  
 Convention apply to South Africa



**Solomon Islands:** The picture is one of serenity. Fishing boats and pleasure yachts lie anchored in a calm bay, and it is difficult to imagine that it has ever been any different. But in 1942, this area was the scene of bitter fighting between American and Japanese forces as they struggled for control of Guadalcanal and its vital airfield. Beneath the calm surface lie the wrecks of dozens of warships and supply vessels sunk during the conflict. Hence the name of this stretch of water – *Ironbottom Sound*.



**Guinea:** Chimpanzees are under threat as humans increasingly encroach upon their forest habitats. These monkeys should have a more secure future, however, thanks to an EC conservation project. *Janis Carter*, a primate expert based in the Gambia, is drawing up an inventory of the chimpanzee population in the country. The scheme also involves strengthening local legislation on capturing and trading in these animals, establishing protected areas for them, and offering environmental education to local people.

A photograph of a traditional wooden sculpture from the Solomon Islands. The sculpture depicts a standing human figure with a large, rounded, dome-shaped head. The body is carved with simple, angular lines, showing a torso and limbs. The sculpture is positioned in a lush, tropical garden setting. In the background, there is a structure with a thatched roof made of dried palm leaves. Various tropical plants, including ferns and a plant with long, dark, pointed leaves, are visible in the foreground and midground. The lighting is natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

# Solomon Islands