

the Courier

Africa - Caribbean - Pacific - European Union

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Dossier
Water
Country reports
Haiti
Burkina Faso



DOSSIER

Water

In Africa, it is estimated that 65% of the rural population and 25% of urban dwellers are without the clean water that is essential to their health and hygiene. By the year 2000, 300 million Africans could face severe water shortages. We look at some of the new ideas surfacing from governments, donors, non-governmental organisations and individuals on how to go about securing more clean water.

Pages 49 to 71



COUNTRY REPORT

Haiti

Renowned for its political somersaults, Haiti is a country where history weighs heavy and is replete with symbolism. The only nation to revolt successfully against slavery, its culture is based on two elements which foreigners often misunderstand — voodoo and the Creole language. The economy is emerging painfully and it is expected to take 18 years for Haiti to get back to its 1991 GDP level.

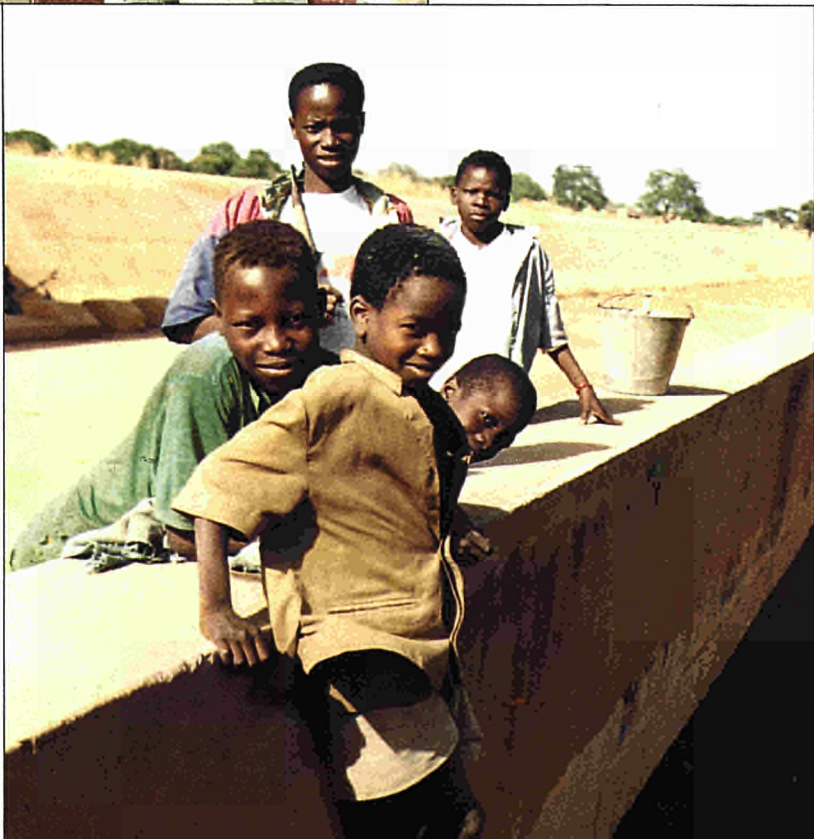
Pages 31 to 48

COUNTRY REPORT

Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso, according to the UN's Human Development Index, is one of the poorest countries in the world. With few natural resources, it has a rapidly growing population and formidable development challenges to overcome. Despite this, it is viewed favourably by the international community for its commitment to democratic principles. Ouagadougou, the capital, is acknowledged as a major cultural centre in Africa. And as *The Courier* discovered on its recent visit, there is a 'buzz' in the air, as the people strive to improve their economic and social conditions.

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Address:
Postal address
(mail only)
'The ACP-EU Courier'
Commission of
the European Communities
200, rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels
Belgium

**The Courier office
address (visitors)**
First floor
Astrid Building
1, rue de Genève
Evere - Brussels
Belgium

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Steffen Smidt
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Director of Publications
Dominique David

Editor
Simon Horner

Assistant editor
Jeanne Remacle

Associate assistant editor
Hégl Goutier

Journalist:
Debra Percival

Production Manager:
Dorothy Morrissey

Secretariat:
Carmela Peters
Fax: 299-30-02

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Interior of the Anglican Cathedral 'Sainte-Trinité' in Port-au-Prince. The building contains numerous paintings and sculptures by renowned Haitian exponents of the naive style. This is part of 'Le miracle de Cana' by Wilson Bigaud (1951).

The ACP-EU Courier

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Elisabeth Guigou, MEP

Hope and concern for Europe's future

Elisabeth Guigou is one of the two European Parliament rapporteurs on the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) at which political leaders from the Fifteen are to map out the future of the EU in the twenty-first century. Back in her own country, France, where she was deputy minister for European affairs in the last socialist government, she is a member of the opposition. In the European Parliament, she is a leading light in the majority group, and this gives her an excellent position from which to monitor Europe's progress.

For a top-ranking public servant, she is still very young, with a career profile typical of senior members of the French administration. She holds a

coveted diploma from the Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA — College for senior civil servants) which opens doors to ministerial posts, and has already served the obligatory term in a major embassy (London) as financial attaché. Moreover, she is proud of her family's background in farming, a fact which does no harm to her reputation as a socialist. She first came to notice as an adviser to François Mitterrand, for whom, according to some commentators, she skilfully did the preparation work for a number of summit meetings. She thus established a reputation as a tireless worker. Her strength (or perhaps weakness) may lie in the fact that, despite having received the education of a high flyer in French government circles, she is not afraid to speak her mind. In the interview which follows, you can judge for yourself.

— First of all, my concern is that a great deal is at stake at the Intergovernmental Conference — we will be preparing the EU for further major expansion. We cannot be content with a minimum of reform, but in order to institute genuine reform these days, you have to be able to do two things: first to make the concept of Europe more acceptable to the Community's citizens — it is currently seen as rather a distant entity — and, second, to strengthen its institutions to enable it to cope with expansion. These are the two major challenges for the future. In order to bring Europe closer to its citizens, objectives must be clarified. Many people have no idea why 'Europe' exists: it just does. At the outset, 'Europe' meant something to people and they were reassured by its principal aim of abolishing war between Europeans. In that respect it has been successful. Today, however, the principal concerns of most people are unemployment and poverty, both at home and elsewhere. These two subjects should be the IGC's two main topics for discussion. It must be stressed though that Europe cannot do everything alone and that, basically, the solution lies with the Member States. But Europe should do whatever it can. In particular, we need a social chapter in the Treaty to guarantee better coordination in economic policy and ensure that we are not left simply with a monetarist vision of economic and monetary union — where the countries



are competing with one another and the effect is deflation. This is a very bad idea both for Europe and its partners. My other concern lies in the fact that in order to expand, the Union must be given more muscle and the means — particularly institutional — to achieve its aims. As for the financial means, we shall have to wait and see, because that is a subject for special negotiations after the IGC. From where I am sitting, although the main issues are now well-defined (such as majority voting, which is obviously essential if the European structure is to grow beyond 20 Member States), there is a lack of political will regarding the European Parliament's power of codecision — in other words, over the legislative powers of the Parliament and the distribution of responsibility between the EU and its Member States.

■ Some would say that, given the current economic climate, we should move ahead first on the currency and then turn our attention to wider issues.

— I don't agree. Obviously it is essential to create the single currency and I certainly don't want to see it undermined, but it would be very dangerous to content ourselves with just that. The currency is not the answer to the problem of growth, still less the problem of unemployment. If the single currency is dealt with in isolation, European citizens will reject the resulting monetarist and ultra-liberal vision of Europe. Nor will the single currency be sufficient to create closer political union or government. It is absolutely essential to supplement the move towards a single currency with smoother operation of the Treaty in economic terms. If we wanted to, we could already set up what Pierre Bérégovoy called an 'economic government', but we do not wish to.

■ Doesn't this choice of liberalism and monetarism simply correspond to the line of thinking which is dominant in today's Europe — even for governments on the left of the political spectrum?

— I believe we have reached a point at which no more can be tolerated. Simply drifting is far too costly in terms of jobs and unemployment. Fortunately, people are becoming aware of this fact, and this gives me grounds for optimism. I am concerned but no more than that. For the first time in a conference of this

type, we are seeing progress in discussions about the public services, for example. That used to be totally impossible, despite all the efforts put in by myself and Jean-Louis Bianco, one of my colleagues in the previous French government, to gain acceptance for a public service charter. These efforts, I should add, were in vain. As regards the social chapter, together with my co-rapporteur on the IGC, Elmar Brok, I have just submitted a text on behalf of the Parliament in favour of a social chapter in the Treaty which would make it possible to achieve better coordination in economic policy. There are five other texts on the table dealing with the same subject, from Ireland — which

currently holds the presidency — Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and Austria, and a majority of countries favour the idea. The only problem is that three big Member States — France, Germany and the United Kingdom — are against it. Despite this, I haven't given up hope, particularly since the Conference has just started. There is no reason to throw in the towel. It is not my wish that governments should simply come to a consensus.

■ *The two driving forces in Europe are currently France and Germany. Their governments have come out in favour of the introduction of a major social element in Europe's future structure.*

— These countries were the driving forces in Europe but that is unfortunately no longer the case. The existence of social legislation does not mean that the fight against unemployment will be won. In fact, 14 of the 15 governments — the UK government is the exception — are saying that the social protocol should be incorporated into the Treaty, but they have to actually demonstrate that they are in favour. There is one aspect of the unemployment problem where it is possible to exert an influence, and that is in the area of economic growth. Europe is currently stagnating below optimum growth levels because national economic policies are still just that and

Some key terms in the structure of the future Europe

Maastricht convergence criteria: These are the rules which countries must comply with by 1997 to be in the first group of Member States joining the single currency on 1 January 1999. The main elements are that the public-sector deficit should not exceed 3% of GDP, public debt should be less than (or at least moving towards) 60% of the annual state budget, and the inflation rate should be no more than 1.5% above the average inflation in the three Member States with the lowest rates. These are stringent criteria but, according to the most recent analyses by the European Commission, the majority of candidates will meet them. The European Monetary Institute, which is the forerunner of the Central Bank, is less optimistic.

IGC (Intergovernmental Conference): The IGC is the forum in which the fifteen Member States (and others) are discussing the future structure of Europe. The process of European integration is like a multi-stage rocket. The Single Act was an advance on the Treaty of Rome, creating a single market and setting a new objective of European union. This led in turn to the Maastricht Treaty (on European Union) which went on to elaborate further ambitions in the shape of full monetary union by 1999, the setting-up of a common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and cooperation in justice and home affairs.

Enlargement: the European Economic Community, set up by the original six Member States, has been enlarged four times, bringing the number of members to fifteen. Candidates in the list of those wishing to join include Malta and Cyprus (although Malta recently elected a Euro-sceptic government which does not augur well for its accession). The major enlargement expected in the medium term involves the accession of a number of countries from the former Eastern bloc, in particular Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, alongside perhaps Slovenia and Slovakia. There are a number of other putative members in the pipeline. Enlargement implies reforming and strengthening the European institutions, if the system is to continue functioning. Already, the 15 existing members often have difficulty in agreeing what line to take.

Major networks: These are huge and costly actions in the fields of infrastructure and communications technology. In 1994, the European Council (the heads of government of the EU countries) agreed to these in response to global competition, and with a view to reducing unemployment in Europe. The works, involving both public and private sectors, are to be financed or supported by the Community budget and the budgets of Member States.

They include a European high-speed train network and a grid of information highways.

Institutions: A large number of decision-making, management and consultative bodies are involved in running the European Union. The most important are the *Council* (of Heads of State/Government or of Ministers) which has most of the legislative power, the *Commission*, which proposes laws and ensures the rules are implemented, and the *Parliament*. The last-mentioned was initially a consultative body but with successive Treaty amendments, it has acquired considerable authority in legislative and budgetary matters and institutional control. This leading group will soon be supplemented by a European *Central Bank*. Other institutions include the Economic and Social Committee (representing the interests of employers, workers and consumers), the Committee of the Regions, the European Investment Bank and the Court of Auditors.

Treaty: When preceded by the definite article and spelt with a capital 'T', this usually refers to the 1957 Treaty of Rome which established the European Economic Community (EEC) and which has been modified on numerous occasions. The most recent changes were introduced by the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty) which entered into force on 1 January 1993. The term 'Economic' was dropped from the title of the Community and the term European Union was introduced to encompass the activities of the Community together with two further 'pillars' (Foreign and Security Policy, and Justice and Home Affairs) which are based on intergovernmental cooperation. The other constitutive treaties in the system are the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) Treaty of 1952 and the 1957 Euratom Treaty (cooperation in the field of civil atomic power).

Qualified majority voting: A decision-making mechanism used in the Council of Ministers in certain fields to allow laws to be passed without the need for complete unanimity. Unanimity is still required in many important areas, thus enabling a single Member State to block an important decision. It is argued that more majority voting is needed to prevent institutional paralysis. However, some Member States wish to preserve their 'veto'. The IGC has the task of defining those areas where majority voting should be applied in future.

are competing against one another in a way which is deflationary.

■ *Is this not the myth of Nemesis? To achieve European unity, many governments believe there has to be a single currency. But the criteria set for achieving this appear to be based on the opposite of what you say should be the foundations for Europe.*

— I would question your interpretation. This is simply what right-wing and liberal governments would have us believe. When Pierre Bérégovoy, who was then Finance Minister, and I, as Minister for European Affairs, negotiated economic and monetary union with Mr Waigel, there were two points on which we stood firm and actually gained ground: that the criteria should be reference values and not accounting values. That is what it says in the Treaty. You should reread Article 104(c). And, when the time comes, they should be evaluated in the light of more general structural data relating to the economic situation. I cannot put it more clearly than that. Secondly, our requirement was that any single currency should be managed in its relations with other world currencies by politicians and not by the Central Bank. Our request was granted. This is a fundamental point because, nowadays, many regard the Deutschmark as overvalued and this is something the *Euro* should not be, compared with the dollar, for example. There are two ways of obtaining a reduction in the percentage of the public debt *vis-à-vis* GDP. The most intelligent way is to increase GDP rather than attempting to reduce public spending. The latter seems to have become the prevailing view, however, and we should recognise that people are trying to use the screen of Treaty requirements to obscure what are, in fact, ideological choices.

When Finance Ministers take time to interpret the Treaty, they do so while unaware of either its subject-matter or spirit. This is not the first time they have demonstrated a lack of discipline. The same applies to the financing of major projects — which they would like to curtail, and this is a major institutional problem.

■ *Let us move on to the common foreign and security policy. The*

difficulties involved in giving it concrete expression are obvious, as recent events in eastern Zaire have shown. Yugoslavia and the Middle East are other examples. Is this not a case of 'Europe in retreat': the fact that in a crisis, European nations look inward or adopt a defensive attitude?

— Yes, of course, there is a tendency for this to happen, and it is worrying. We should be honest enough to acknowledge the fact that Europe is not going to achieve a common foreign and security policy overnight — nor even in a year, or two or three. All the examples you mention show that Europe is currently incapable of adopting a common foreign policy and, in my opinion, this is a matter for particular concern in terms of development aid. When there is no political impetus — when Europe is at a standstill and political integration has come to a halt as at present — circumstances make it very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain increased finance and to gain budget agreements for priority objectives. You only have to look at how the most recent Lomé agreement was concluded. For the first time, there was a reduction in the real value of aid. I was involved in negotiating the previous accord with *Roland Dumas* and it was just as difficult but, as there was a climate of political dynamism, we were able to persuade our partners, particularly the Germans, that it was just as important politically to have an appropriate development policy as it was to move towards a single currency. France is no longer able to provide this kind of impetus. Europe is at a standstill. All countries are looking inward and those contributing most to the Community budget are again becoming financially egocentric. The absence of political dynamism is most evident in relations between the ACP countries and the European Union.

■ *When François Mitterrand was first elected as President, he said that when France has a good idea, it travels around the world with it. Although circumstances are different, has the idea of a united Europe lost ground? It used to be extremely popular.*

— Everyone knows there is no shortcut to a common foreign and security policy, so we have to start

straightaway and be even more ambitious. I would say that the fundamental idea behind a united European structure is that of restoring a global balance.

We need such a policy precisely because the Berlin Wall no longer exists, and there is only one superpower these days. We cannot allow the rest of the world to be directed by this single power which inevitably has its own interests which are not necessarily those of other countries. We are friends with the United States and this friendship must be preserved but, as Europeans, we have a concept of civilisation and society which is not that of American society. European citizens have to assert this on their own behalf and perhaps also for those who are in favour of a society which shows greater concern for the weak.

That is the concept at the core of European philosophy and the European dream. We must be able to choose something other than unrestrained liberalism, which is the law of the jungle where there are no rules or regulations. If we are to construct a united Europe, which is to rise above self-seeking interests and solve the problems of unemployment, security and so on, we must follow through this dream of giving globalisation a human face. We must not allow ourselves to be shunted around, as we are today, by financial power bases and technological innovations which no-one can control any longer.

■ *And what is your view about the specific problem in eastern Zaire?*

— I am extremely worried. All I can see is a lack of will on all sides. Europe must get used to the idea of having its own policy. Military intervention is always a very tricky subject but it is unthinkable that we should allow the kind of humanitarian disaster that has been predicted for some weeks to actually happen. I am very concerned about this. ■

Interview by Hégel Goutier

Development Council discusses the Great Lakes and Green Paper

The pressing situation in the Great Lakes and the much-awaited 'Green Paper' on the future of European Union cooperation with African, Caribbean and Pacific states at the dawn of the twenty-first century topped the agenda of the bi-annual meeting of EU development ministers in Brussels on November 22.

An ECU 169 million emergency aid package was agreed from reserve EU funds, mainly to help refugees still in Eastern Zaire to return home to Rwanda — by providing temporary shelter, and tools and seeds to plant for the next harvest. As a first step, ministers agreed to release ECU 10 million immediately with a further ECU 15 million in the following weeks. There was a further pledge to 'mobilise rapidly' an extra ECU 144 million for humanitarian needs.

European Development Commissioner, *João de Deus Pinheiro*, said that a 'comprehensive plan of action' covering emergency and relief efforts, reintegration of refugees and displaced people, social and economic rehabilitation, the reconstruction of independent and equitable justice systems,

rebuilding and strengthening of administrative and constitutional systems, and regional peace-building efforts, would be drawn up by mid-December with the aid of the EU's envoy to the region, *Aldo Ajello*. At the development ministers' meeting, concern was expressed about the large numbers of refugees and displaced Zaireans in Eastern Zaire who are out of reach of humanitarian assistance, the situation in Burundi, and Tanzania's growing refugee problem.

Presiding at the meeting, *Joan Burton*, Ireland's Secretary of State for Development indicated that the EU was planning to dispatch 300 human rights monitors to the region as part of the comprehensive plan: 'These people will fulfil an extremely useful role in the future and they must be properly trained and briefed,' she stated. Encouragement for the democratic process in Zaire is also on the agenda. According

to the minister: 'We want to underpin the EU's commitment to democracy and eligibility for voting. It is important that all Zaireans can vote in an election.'

Commissioner Pinheiro strongly endorsed the need for a political settlement in the Great Lakes region. The statement issued by ministers backed United Nations resolutions 1078 and 1080 on the establishment of a temporary multinational force for humanitarian reasons and called for reconciliation and dialogue. It also gave backing to the Arusha peace conference and requested the convening of an international Conference under joint UN/OAU auspices.

Refugees in the Great Lakes region
Ministers pledged further aid to help displaced Rwandans in Zaire



Post-Lomé

There was brief general discussion on Commissioner Pinheiro's 'Green Paper' on the future of EU cooperation at the dawn of the twenty-first century (see article which follows). Minister Burton said that the 15 member states had 'warmly congratulated' the Commission, finding the paper a very good basis for talks on future EU/ACP relations. The Commission has to place a negotiating document on the table for cooperation beyond Lomé IV by Autumn 1998. Having just received their copies of the 90-page document, ministers did not engage in a detailed debate on the issue but numerous seminars and gatherings are scheduled over the next few months. Dates for the diary include an informal meeting of EU Development Ministers in Amsterdam on March 1 1997, to be hosted by the Dutch Presidency of the EU, (bringing in NGOs, academics and other interested parties) and a meeting in Maastricht, Netherlands, on April 17 with ministers from the 70 ACP and 15 EU countries. ACP

Heads of State plan to meet in Libreville, Gabon in November 1997. NGOs will be discussing the issue with their ACP partners at a major meeting in Brussels in April.

An ECU 30m plan to help prevent drug addiction in developing countries was approved by ministers and there was considerable backing for a Conference planned by the Belgian Government next year on a ban on the export of anti-personnel mines, and an 'integrated (EU) strategy' to any problems raised by their use. Beyond the loss of life and limb, these lethal devices have a profound effect on the social and economic fabric of affected communities. There is an enormous imbalance between the cost of producing and laying mines and of clearing them.

The regulation on aid to South Africa, which provides ECU 500m in grants (January 1 1996 — December 31 1999) was waved through by Ministers. Projects will cover many fields and actors; general democratisation, protection of human rights, education, and training, health and rural development,

urban development, support for the private sector (in particular SMEs), the strengthening of local communities, regional cooperation and environmental protection. Money can be channelled through national, provincial or public bodies, NGOs and community-based, regional or international organisations.

A draft regulation on support for population policies and programmes, including information on reproductive health, family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, and reliable, legal contraceptives, was sent for the European Parliament's consideration. The programme is expected to make available ECU 35m (1998-2002). Efforts to make development projects 'people-oriented' were recommended in a resolution. This restates the EU's commitment to policy areas such as good governance and civil society, employment, health and education and training. Human and social development indicators should be at the core of development cooperation, it stressed, notably in the design and assessment of projects. ■

Debra Percival

Commission launches Green Paper on future ACP-EU cooperation

'Differentiation, privatisation, competitiveness, good governance, civil society and effectiveness'. These were the key words articulated by Development Commissioner, *João de Deus Pinheiro*, when he talked about future cooperation between the ACP states and the EU at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

Successive revisions of the Lomé Convention have taken place since the first one was signed in the Togolese capital in 1975, but the Commission is now looking at a complete overhaul in its Green Paper foreseeing cooperation beyond the year 2000: 'It is absolutely necessary to revitalise development cooperation. In some quarters the reason why we are giving aid has almost been forgotten,' stated Prof. Pinheiro at the launch on November 20.

Explaining the need for a major rethink, the Commissioner spoke of a

political earthquake — the ending of the Cold War and the shock wave of democracy that had spread from Eastern Europe around the globe. Over the past few years, an economic earthquake has shaken up international trade too, the Uruguay Round Agreement having significantly opened up world trade. At the same time, it poses a threat to some of the ACPs' traditional non-reciprocal trade preferences. Lomé's waiver from the international trade rules expires on the final day of the fourth Lomé Convention (February 29, 2000.) And as the Commissioner observed, 'privati-

sation, democracy and human rights were excluded from the (ACP) lexicon 10 years ago.'

In addition, changes are taking place in EU itself. There is a possibility of a single currency in a few years time and the Union is expected to expand with many Baltic and Eastern Europe states, as well as Cyprus and Malta, currently sitting in the waiting room. A Common Foreign and Security Policy, entailing closer coordination between EU member states' foreign policies and those of the Union, is being nurtured.



The Courier

Trade failures

The paper also admits disappointment at Lomé's record to help the economic take-off of the ACP economies. Despite the Convention's array of non-reciprocal trade preferences, which are better than those offered to many of the world's other developing regions, only a few countries (notably, Mauritius, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Benin), have significantly expanded their economies. The paper states that commodities still make up more than 80% of ACP exports to the EU. And whereas ACP nations took 6.7% of the EU market in 1976, their exports to the Union accounted for only 2.8% (of a bigger market) in 1994.

Several new scenarios are advanced in the paper for organising trade relations in the future, and to help the ACPs 'go global'. One option is to maintain the *status quo* of non-reciprocal preferences, at the same time including new areas of trade liberalisation pushed by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) such as standards certification and intellectual property rights. Alternatively, trade preferences to ACP states could be accorded under the EU's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for developing nations. Another possibility would be a system of reciprocal treatment for EU goods and produce, after a transitional period — which would be in line with WTO rules. Differentiated reciprocity between groups of countries is a further poss-

ibility, with the degree of reciprocity depending on the level of development of the ACP country in question. Again trade cooperation in new areas would feature.

Geographical scope

The design of any future trade regime is related, to some extent, to the geographical framework for future relations. The Green Paper states that the ACP countries are, strictly speaking, neither a political grouping nor an economic body. Again several scenarios are foreseen. These include maintaining the present ACP grouping, albeit with different procedures and priorities or perhaps with a series of bilateral arrangements under an umbrella agreement containing general commitments. The possibility of splitting the Lomé Convention into different regional agreements is also mooted. The EU has already shown enthusiasm for regional cooperation, notably with Caricom, the West African Economic and Monetary Union and, particularly, the Southern Africa Development Community. In this respect it has hinted that its current free trade talks with South Africa could eventually be extended to the whole of SADC. Another option is for a separate agreement with the least developed countries notably in the context of a trade framework, although the paper observes that 'this option seems less attractive from the political and financial cooperation standpoint.'

Despite the Convention's trade preferences only a few countries have significantly expanded their economies
This is Cotonou port in Benin

Competitiveness

The need to generate more ACP competitiveness, assisted by privatisation, is stressed. The paper says that EU-ACP cooperation should focus on stable non-inflationary growth and a macro-economic framework — flanked by measures to boost private investment, restructure state-owned enterprises, open international trade and encourage private capital investment (particularly in infrastructure and the telecommunications sector). Emphasis is also placed on assisting democratic institutions and encouraging civil society in its broadest sense.

The Green Paper is not 'neutral', according to the Commissioner, even if it is intended to offer a series of options. Thus, the arguments for improved trade flows, more privatisation, competitiveness, support for civil society and for a differentiation between ACP regions are all stressed. But as the Commissioner remarked, 'all contributions to the coming debate are welcome'.

D.P.

Social partners look beyond Lomé

'For too long, the development debate has focused on policy content and cooperation principles. Diversification is needed instead of standardisation, a multiplicity of partners instead of exclusive relations with governments, a concern for action rather than rhetoric and for flexibility rather than red tape.'

This expresses, in a nutshell, the prevailing view of participants at the annual meeting of ACP and EU economic and social interest groups which took place in November. The citation is taken from a discussion document prepared by Seydou Elimane Diarra, who is President of Cote d'Ivoire's

Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

It is perhaps not surprising that the 'social partners', who represent business, labour and consumer interests, should advocate a more diversified approach, focusing on decentralised cooperation. They have long complained about the limited role of economic and social actors in the Lomé

process. The big difference is that today, this view has moved into the mainstream. As the debate on the future of ACP-EU relations gathers pace, voices on all sides are raised in support of a reduced role for the state, greater emphasis on the private sector, more involvement by civil society, and less bureaucracy.

The social partners' gathering, hosted by the Economic and Social Committee of the European Community at their Brussels headquarters, was addressed by a number of important figures in the 'post-Lomé' debate including EC Commissioner João de Deus Pinheiro, the two co-Presidents of the Joint Assembly (Sir John Kaputin and Lord Plumb) and the recently-appointed ACP Secretary-General, Peter Magande.

The meeting's own keynote speakers for the occasion were the aforementioned Mr Diarra and Jan Jacob Van Dijk of the Dutch National Christian Union (CNV) whose introductory papers formed the basis for the discussion.

A view commonly expressed was that the modest results (one speaker even talked of the 'failure') of the existing arrangements were at least partly due to the primacy of state actors and institutions in the system. By necessity, the Convention is an instrument created by state parties, but there was a widespread feeling that businesses, NGOs and others should be given a more prominent place in the implementation.

While the various aspects of decentralised cooperation featured heavily in the debates, representatives also considered a number of other important issues. These included the impact of globalisation, democracy and good governance, and the key sectors of education and health. Significantly, both ACP and EU authorities attracted criticism for their alleged 'failure to ensure transparency' in the implementation of the Convention. On a related theme, there was a call for a 'resolute policy' to remedy the information deficit in the ACP states and 'the lack of sound, objective facts' about ACP countries in the Member States of the EU.

In the concluding session of the meeting, representatives adopted a final declaration on; 'The future of ACP-EU relations and the position of the economic and social interest groups'. The key points of this text are summarised in the box. They also passed two resolutions on topical issues. The first called for action by European institutions to mediate in the crisis in Eastern Zaire and Rwanda. The second condemned 'any attempt by governments to intervene' in the process of nominating representatives to the social partners' meeting. This was aimed, in particular, at Ethiopia, which had reportedly prevented the country's 'free trade union movement from enjoying its due representation.'

Simon Horner

The shape of future ACP-EU relations?

Key recommendations from the Final Declaration of the Social Partners

- a new, sustainable Convention based on principles of equality, cooperation and partnership;
- a flexible and more differentiated approach to cooperation, reflecting varying levels of development in the ACPs;
- promotion of good governance, respect for human rights, the rule of law and gender equality;
- providing a boost to the private sector by giving businesses access to local sources of finance, and implementing capacity-building programmes;
- establishment of national liaison committees to guarantee the role of civil society in the process;
- practical measures (notably by the Commission) to facilitate effective implementation of decentralised cooperation;
- consistency and coordination of EC policies (notably between development and agriculture policy).
- active participation of economic and social interest groups in development programmes.

An X-ray of Nigeria's transition to democracy

by Fred Ohwahwa*

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is in the middle of yet another transition to democracy. It was timely, therefore, that a workshop on 'the Nigerian Democratisation Process and the European Union' should be held in Bordeaux on September 12-14. Organised by the Centre D'Etudes d'Afrique Noire of Domaine University, it brought together Nigerian and EU scholars, journalists and civil rights activists.

Many Europeans present were keen to know why such a richly-endowed nation seemed to have lost its bearings. For Nigerian participants, it was a chance for some soul-searching, away from the oppressive environment back home. The EU's abiding interest in Nigeria is easily explained. The country has a huge population, is of strategic importance in the sub-region, and is a focus of major European economic interests. Europe's concern has grown in the wake of the current political crisis.

Francois Misser, a journalist who has worked in Nigeria, concentrated on the crucial links with the EU. He underlined Europe's enduring interest in the country: 'Nigeria remains the Union's first market and supplier in sub-Saharan Africa, after South Africa. Conversely, the EU is Nigeria's number one trading partner, both for imports and exports'. In 1994, Nigeria represented 20% of all Europe's imports and about one-sixth of its exports to the ACP zone. The crucial role of European oil companies was also acknowledged. Furthermore, \$19.4bn of the country's \$37bn debt is owed to the Paris Club of creditors. It is in this context that one must view the measures recently taken by the EU against Nigeria. These have included an arms embargo, certain visa restrictions and suspension of aid.

The workshop dwelt on the efficacy or otherwise of sanctions, and concluded that, to have the desired impact, these had to be faithfully applied. And whilst oil sanctions seem remote at the moment, EU countries were urged to consider freezing the European assets of Nigeria's ruling elite.

Civil society

Participants appeared less than happy with the present state of democratisation in Nigeria. *Dr Rauf Mustapha* of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, examined the role of civil rights and pro-democracy groups both within and outside the country. He spoke of 'gun-powered democracy' - a reference to military regimes in West Africa which manipulate political processes and then reconstitute themselves as 'elected democratic governments.' He then warned: 'It would be a mistake to accept the simplistic argument that the Abacha regime will hand over in 1998'. He also cast doubt on the transition process, citing cases of arbitrary implementation.

The EU was urged to look beyond the Nigerian government and structures if it really wishes to help the country achieve sustainable democracy. Foreign governments and international bodies were advised to assist community-based organisations to inculcate democratic tenets among civil society, outside the charged atmosphere of actual election campaigns. Nigerian politicians, after all, have always demonstrated their capacity to campaign, even under the most restrictive circumstances.

If members of the Nigerian political class expected any plaudits from the conference, these were not forthcoming. *Dr. Attahiru Jega*, of the Bayero University, Kano, argued that the people concerned only desired democracy 'if it can facilitate access to power, create a window of opportunity to loot the public treasury and keep the people in check'. It is hardly surprising with this mind-set, that the politicians have been unable to rise to the challenge of democracy, when given the chance to rule. *Professor Bjorn Beckman* of Stockholm University believes that all Nigeria's democratic transitions have failed. Evaluating the performance of the civilian political elite, he concluded that a transition can only be viewed as successful if it sets up an enduring democratic system.

Michèle Maringues of 'Reporters Sans Frontières' presented an in-depth study on the state of the Nigerian press which concluded that the authorities had impaired the media's work in seeking to advance the democratic project. Ms Maringues, who worked in Nigeria from 1992 to 1996, argued that unless the military regime frees the press from its clutches, 'guerrilla journalism' and other unorthodox means of disseminating information will continue. Ultimately, the government will be the loser.

Options for stabilising the federal system were explored by *Professor Alex Gboyega* of Ibadan University. He argued that, given the multi-dimensional nature of the Nigerian crisis, the only guarantee of political stability is 'a genuine dialogue coupled with a willingness on all sides to compromise in the national interest.' He continued: 'This will go a long way to restoring in all Nigerians — regardless of their ethnic, religious or political persuasion — a sense of belonging to a common nation'.

However, given the confrontational style of the present regime, in the face of problems both real or imagined, it is doubtful whether calls for dialogue (or workshops such as the one held in Bordeaux) will be taken seriously by Nigeria's current decision-makers.

* Journalist with 'The Guardian', Lagos, Nigeria.

Fighting drugs in the Caribbean

A regional approach

by P.A. Penfold*

To the Latin American drug trafficker, the Caribbean simply represents an area through which his merchandise must pass to reach the lucrative US and European markets. He ignores the region's territorial boundaries and national differences — indeed he exploits them. By using various routes through different countries, he spreads the risk of detection. But also, because of the spill-over effect of drug trafficking, he spreads the problems associated with drugs more widely throughout the region.

The view held by most Caribbean states in the past was that drug trafficking was not their problem, but one for the Latin American producer countries and the North American and European consumer countries. They just happened to be on the route through which the illegal substances passed. The traffickers began to pay those who helped the flow of drugs through the region — in kind as well as in cash. A local demand was thus created, drug abuse and drug-related crime increased, and governments came to realise that drug trafficking was in fact a problem for them. Some countries, often with external assistance, particularly from the USA and Britain, took measures to counter the trade. But the traffickers continued to exploit the weakest links in the chain. Many of the small island states continued to turn a blind eye, either to

benefit from the boost to their economies through the injection of drug money, or because they felt powerless to act individually against the vast resources available to the traffickers.

Past attempts by Caribbean countries to cooperate more closely have generally met with limited success, even within common language groupings. Cross-language cooperation (for example, between English-speaking and Spanish-speaking states) has been virtually non-existent. The Caribbean abounds with regional organisations, but apart from odd exceptions such as the West Indies cricket team and the University of the West Indies, few have been much more than fora for meeting and talking. But the regional approach offers the only effective way of fighting drugs in the Caribbean.

EU initiative

This was the approach pursued by a team of eight European Union drugs experts in a report published in April this year. Their proposals formed the basis for the Plan of Action adopted at the drugs meeting organised by the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) which was hosted by the Barbados Government in May. More than 250 delegates from every Caribbean country attended, alongside delegations from North America and Europe. For more or less the first time, the Caribbean countries themselves

have adopted a raft of practical proposals to strengthen the regional effort against the drugs trade. This is an encouraging step in the battle to turn the tide against the flow of drugs.

The EU team comprised experts from Britain, France, the Netherlands and Spain — the countries with the closest traditional links with the region. Its collective anti-drugs experience covered all aspects of the drugs problem, from police and customs interdiction, prosecution and money laundering, to demand reduction and rehabilitation. The group included a French professor of toxicology, a Dutch prosecutor, a Spanish police officer, and a former Governor of a British Caribbean territory. The coordinator, representing the European Commission, had been the UNDCP's representative in the region for the three previous years. This range of interests and expertise gave the team unprecedented access and cooperation from all the countries of the region.

Gaps and weaknesses

Set up by European heads of government, at the initiative of Prime Minister Major and President Chirac, the team highlighted a number of significant gaps and weaknesses in the regional effort to combat the drugs problem, and made specific practical proposals on how to fill the gaps and overcome the weaknesses. For example, they noted that, in spite of a plethora of drugs intelligence-gathering systems throughout the region, it was still not possible for all countries to exchange intelligence and information directly, quickly and securely. This was highlighted when, in the absence of such a communications network, members of the team themselves had to facilitate a link between Jamaica and Curaçao. With regard to law enforcement and interdiction measures, the team advocated the establishment of sub-regional coastguards, as a way of strengthening the maritime effort against drug trafficking. The Regional Security System (RSS), and the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba were commended for the moves they have already made in this direction.

* The British Government's special adviser on Drugs in the Caribbean and member of the EU Drugs Experts Group which produced the report 'The Caribbean and the Drugs Problem'. This is an abridged version of his text.

Weak implementation

The different legal jurisdictions which operate in the Caribbean, based on English, French, Dutch and Spanish law, mean that legislation in this area is not uniform. But as the EU itself shows, there is much scope for closer harmonisation of anti-drugs legislation, thus allowing for bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements on anti-drugs cooperation. In general, the team found that it was not so much the legislation itself, but its implementation that was wanting. All too often, drug offenders fail to get convicted in Caribbean courts because of weaknesses in the prosecution system. When a drug trafficker is caught in a Caribbean country, the first thing that happens is that a highly-paid, experienced lawyer appears on the island to defend him. Such lawyers can move from one jurisdiction to another without any difficulty, and have acquired expertise in drug cases, which the overworked and underpaid prosecuting counsels of governments are often unable to match. The EU experts proposed putting the boot on the other foot by developing a regional cadre of experienced drug prosecutors, who could be made available to assist any Caribbean country.

Nowhere is the ineffective implementation of legislation seen more clearly than in drugs confiscation and money laundering cases. Adequate rules exist in many countries although they could be strengthened further. But all too often, it is easier for the police and courts to pursue merely the drug possession offences rather than go for the more complex confiscation of assets and money laundering crimes. This is a pity, because one of the most effective ways of fighting drugs is to attack the profits. The EU team has proposed establishing a team of experts from within and outside the region to advise and assist governments.

Precursors and essential chemicals

The coca leaf on its own is relatively harmless. It is only with the use

of precursors and essential chemicals that it can be transformed into the evil cocaine. Located alongside the world's major cocaine producing area, the Caribbean is particularly vulnerable to the illegal transit of precursors and essential chemicals, and yet the EU team found that virtually nothing is being done to establish effective control mechanisms. Legitimate use of precursors and essential chemicals must be strictly monitored and enforced. For example, a company which manufactures paint requires acetone to dilute colour pigments when producing its products. If national authorities do not know the exact amount of acetone required by a manufacturer for legitimate use, how can they control the total that is imported or prevent the chemical from being resold for the illegal production of cocaine? Another problem concerns re-invoicing, a common practice in the import-export business.

Precursors and essential chemicals, normally shipped by sea, are described and quantified on the original shipping manifests and invoices at the port of loading. However, these can be modified or changed once the vessel is at sea.

The ship may then head for a different destination, with a 'modified' cargo under a different description and with revised quantities. Unless the original manifest and invoices are forwarded by customs at the port of loading to customs at the port of discharge, which is not usually the case at present, then no effective control is possible.

In the Caribbean, responsibility for the control of precursors and essential chemicals is usually given to ministries of health or industry, which rarely have the necessary investigative or enforcement powers to control movement of these products. The one exception which the EU team encountered, where efforts are being made to exercise effective control, was in the Netherlands Antilles. Thanks to the activities of a determined and dedicated official, local legislation appropriate to the needs of the Caribbean has been enacted with adequate control powers entrusted to the relevant official bodies.

Links with Latin America

Given that Latin America is the source of most of the Caribbean's serious drugs problem, the team found it surprising that there are virtually no links between the two regions specifically related to fighting drugs. Adopting the method by which EU member states maintain links with the region, the team proposed the establishment of Drugs Liaison officer posts manned by Caribbean officials in key Latin American countries such as Colombia and Venezuela. To be really effective, such officers, wherever they come from, would need to act on behalf of all Caribbean countries. This will require much closer cooperation and coordination than hitherto displayed.

The ganja dilemma

It is, of course, impossible to address the drug problems of the Caribbean without addressing the marijuana problem. Ganja is the most widely abused drug (although there are reports of poppies being grown in remote areas of Belize and Guyana). Ganja abuse reportedly dates back to the introduction of indentured workers from India following the abolition of slavery. The word ganja is itself a Hindu word. It has acquired an accepted socio-religious use throughout the region, primarily connected with the Rastafarian movement, the socio-religious sect identified with the late Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie (one of whose titles was Ras Teferi). It is important to stress, however, that it is not just Rastas who use ganja.

The EU experts' report put paid to the myth that marijuana is not harmful, or at least no more harmful than, for example, alcohol or tobacco. Medical opinion shows that one cannot generalise on its effects. It all depends on the toxicity, which can vary greatly. Drug rehabilitation centres in Jamaica are constantly dealing with problems of marijuana abuse — and for many addicts, it has been the 'gateway drug' to more harmful substances such as cocaine and heroin. The health risks of marijuana should not, therefore, be ignored. Somewhat controversially,



United Nations International Drug Control Programme

however, the team supported the view that the eradication of ganja and arrests for ganja possession should be given a lower priority in law enforcement efforts. They believe the main emphasis should be on tackling drug trafficking. This recommendation was made in the light of presentations by Caribbean Commissioners of Police, and others, who complained about having to tie up large numbers of their forces on eradicating cannabis. The EU team also supported the call for a study on alternatives for dealing with the problems of the growing and smoking of ganja. This call was made in a recent paper entitled 'Drugs and Democracy in the Caribbean' by Dr Trevor Munroe of UWI and Professor Ivelaw Griffith of the Florida International University.

Demand reduction/rehabilitation

Most people in the Caribbean do not associate marijuana with the evils of other drugs such as cocaine and heroin, and demand reduction/public education programmes are undermined because of this. Although every government has some form of public information campaign against drugs, the message is not getting through, especially to young people. As one reformed addict in the Turks & Caicos told members of the EU team, 'the message against drugs has to be as powerful as the drugs themselves.' The EU team

*The misery of addiction
The message against drugs has to
be as powerful as the drugs
themselves*

advocated stronger, more targeted, campaigns. Merely copying the messages given in North American and Europe is not the answer. Each Caribbean country needs to devise its own campaign, learning from the experience of others, but taking account of its own cultural and sociological identities. In this context, I am convinced that highlighting the street value when publicising drug seizures does not help. The fact that X amount of drugs has a street value of Y millions of dollars may actually encourage young, uneducated, uninformed minds to engage in drug trafficking. The real value of seized and confiscated drugs is in the potential number of lives that may have been saved, and the number of families which may have been spared misery, deprivation and hardship.

Rehabilitating drug offenders is a worthwhile, but expensive, difficult and time-consuming task. It is an activity which lends itself to closer regional collaboration, and the EU team recommended the establishment of a network of rehabilitation/detoxification residential centres spread through the region, based on facilities such as Sandilands in the Bahamas. These would complement the necessary out patient centres on every island. It noted the particular need to rehabilitate drug offenders in prison.

Other than in Cuba, most inmates in Caribbean prisons have drug convictions. Sadly, after six months in cramped cells, living cheek by jowl with drug traffickers and murderers, many young offenders imprisoned for simple possession offences emerge more prone to follow a life of drugs and crime.

No matter how successful rehabilitation or interdiction efforts may be, all they can do is to curb or contain the drug problem. To make a serious impact one must reduce the demand. All governments that the EU team spoke to claimed that drug demand reduction had a high priority in their programmes. However, when asked what percentage of revenue was actually channelled towards demand reduction programmes, the answers were invariably disappointing.

Conclusion

The drug issue is not merely one of law enforcement or of health. The problems that stem from drug trafficking and abuse represent the greatest single threat to the stability, and economic and social development of the Caribbean. And they threaten to undermine democracy in the region. Drugs feed corruption, and corruption is voracious. Drug money can buy governments, finance political parties and purchase votes. It can influence national elections, parish councils, civic committees and tender boards. The corruption that flows from this eats away at the fabric of society until democratic institutions collapse.

In the Caribbean, the seeds of democracy are deeply embedded, making it one of the most democratic areas in the world. Until now the region has been able to withstand the odd incidence of instability and economic depression. But in places, the plant of Caribbean democracy is now beginning to wither in the face of the drug menace. The region needs to come together, as never before, to fight this problem. ■

P.A.F.

The potential of the CFA franc zone

by Laurence Francqueville and Hassan Ziady*

Do we have to keep listening to the defeatists who describe Africa in clichés or should we focus on the economic realities? For whether we like it or not, there are now clear indications that Africa's economy is experiencing a revival. International financing is again in evidence, to the tune of tens of billions of dollars a year, if bilateral aid is included. And the continent's relations with the Bretton Woods institutions (the International Monetary Fund and World Bank) are improving. In recent years, these bodies have made considerable sums available to Africa, and particularly, to countries in the CFA franc zone.

Admittedly, 'pockets of misfortune' persist here and there — notably in Liberia, the Great Lakes region and Somalia — but the plain fact is that more than 40 African countries have rediscovered the road to economic growth, and have decided to implement structural adjustment programmes. Focusing in particular on the CFA franc zone, there is clear evidence of economies being rehabilitated and public finances stabilised. Privatisation is on the agenda, together with increased support for the private sector. Unfortunately, as is often the case, Central Africa appears to be lagging behind. Discouraging signs include the near-bankruptcy of Cameroon's economy, political and military conflict in Chad, and economic neglect in the Central African Republic.

There are a number of important elements in the revival process. These include the firm attitude of donors who are committed to stringent adjustment programmes, the reawakening of 'civil society', and widespread economic renewal. We see progress in Africa's 'heavyweights' — South Africa, Mauritius, Egypt, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. But there are also examples of genuine localised growth in places such as Mali, Burkina Faso and even Gabon.

Those seeking public assistance for development projects (particularly in France) are finding it an uphill struggle. The excuse they are given is that we are in a difficult economic environment. But the reality is that Africa has been freed, at least partially, from the burdensome presence of the former colonial powers. It has, in effect, become a market in its own right — to be treated like any other, with risk criteria which are now universal.

The contrast with South-East Asia's economic miracle should not be allowed to detract from the progress that *has* been made in Africa. The rule of law, good governance, and improved economic and social management can all now be seen. In this context, we need to consider the role to be played by foreign investors and Africa's partners. Above all, this involves taking a high-profile in consolidating the rule of law and infant democracies, encouraging regional integration and supporting the social demands of the poorest sections of the population. In the final analysis, the African market offers great opportunities. It is worth more than \$45 billion a year.

The continent also attracts large amounts of bilateral funding and presents some highly attractive partnership opportunities.

So why does there still seem to be a 'wait-and-see' policy in operation? Is it because Africa receives a bad press? Perhaps people believe it would be futile and too expensive to mobilise resources to restore its image? It is true that Africans themselves have lost faith in their leaders, so the way ahead will be hard. But the truth is that Africa is back on the world economic scene. With the new global division of labour, its strength lies in primary products — minerals and agro-industrial raw materials — as opposed to technology products with a high added value. But the strength of its socio-cultural values, combined with pressure from the young who want a better standard of living, mean that Africa is undeniably an emerging market — and its foreign partners would be well advised to recognise this.

The scale of the opportunities that are available can be illustrated by looking at the privatisation process in the franc zone. This covers a variety of different activities — straightforward corporate relaunches, delegated management of public utilities, changes in the urban transport, railway and shipping sectors, and new possibilities for running anything from a major company to a simple rural SME. It all involves the state relinquishing some control — thereby gaining the approbation of international donors. But it must be backed by foreign capital if it is to bring growth and a long-term revival of the local private sector. Otherwise, it may be little more than a flash in the pan. And the process must take place against a background of transparency — something which has been lacking for many years in West and Central Africa. The stakes are high. If the 13 franc-zone countries can be reintegrated into the world scene, and the people are able to regain control over their future, we could see the emergence of a new zone of prosperity sandwiched between Southern Africa and the Maghreb.

All parties must carefully weigh up the political, economic and — above all — social consequences of the programmes they are proposing (or imposing!) Privatisation may or may not be a panacea but we have to recognise that it is now an integral part of the global economic landscape. There are big differences in the cultural context and this is likely to present one of the biggest pitfalls in the drive for successful rehabilitation. And finally, there is the task of creating a responsible political élite in Africa. This will be no mean task.

* Journalist and deputy editor, respectively, of *La Lettre Afrique Expansion*, 17, rue d'Uzès, 75018 Paris Cedex 02.

Burkina Faso: a buzz in the air

The first-time visitor to Burkina Faso comes armed with statistics. This is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 170th out of 174 countries according to the UNDP's 1995 Human Development Report. Social indicators are amongst the lowest on the planet, with 45% of the population living below the poverty threshold, an average adult literacy rate of 18% and a life expectancy of just 47.5 years. There is a rapidly growing population of almost 10.5 million, and population density is higher than any other country in the Sahel region. Yet there is a buzz in the air. Streets are filled with movement and colour, as the people go about their business.

The most common mode of transport is two-wheeled, and the roads are crowded with cycles and cars. Mopeds will sometimes carry whole families, with baby strapped on mother's back. Everywhere you look, you see people working. Roads are being tarred and buildings constructed — and the work seems to go on for seven days of the week. The streets are lined with small businesses — craft and bicycle shops, food and vegetable stalls, sellers of musical instruments and antiques. In short, an air of industriousness abounds.

Part of this can be explained by the position that Burkina holds, as a centre for forums and conferences. When *The Courier* visited in November, Ouagadougou was hosting a forum for the Global Coalition for Africa and an international exhibition of arts and crafts (SIAO). It was also preparing for the Francophone summit to which 49 countries have been invited, which was due to take place the following month. In 1998, Burkina will host the Africa Cup (football). All of this gives rise to the need for infrastructure, buildings to house the visitors, well-maintained

roads and so on. But there is also a sense of an industrious, dignified people — it is rare that someone will approach to beg, although there are plenty of people willing to sell you their wares — perhaps a delicately carved wooden animal or some hand-crafted jewellery.

Landlocked, and bordering six countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Togo), Burkina Faso has few natural resources and is very de-

pendent on agriculture. But the agricultural sector is increasingly under pressure, because of the growing population (+2.7% annually) and the vagaries of the weather. The climate is arid and the country is prone to severe drought. There is a short rainy season, generally falling between mid-May and mid-September, and a long dry season. The rainy period has not been dependable of late, neither in its timing nor in the amount of rainfall. In 1996, there were almost no rains during June, and the cotton planting was disrupted as a

An air of industriousness abounds



result. In 1994, there was excessive rainfall, which took farmers by surprise and caused flooding. The rivers which flow through Burkina Faso (the two Voltas, the Camoé) dry up during the dry season. And there is little potential for traditional tourism, with no coastline.

Increasing access to education

Primary school enrolment, at about 34%, is one of the lowest in Africa. The figures vary enormously from one province to another, and the rates are generally much lower among girls. Minister for Primary Education and Literacy, *Seydou Baworo Sanou*, told *The Courier* that the government has set itself the objective of reaching 60% enrolment by the year 2005, and a literacy level of 50%. A special programme has existed since 1993 to promote female participation in education. A system of 'satellite schools' has been set up in isolated rural areas, with the philosophy of bringing the school closer to the community. Here, children of 6-8 years follow a curriculum of reading, writing and counting in their native language. There is a 'school canteen programme' in operation in about 60% of schools, providing one meal a day.

One major problem in the sector is insufficient numbers of qualified staff. This has led to the recruitment of untrained teachers, who make up at least 40% of total primary school instructors. The problem is particularly acute in rural areas, which face the additional



The Courier

difficulty of teachers who fail to return to their posts after holiday periods. Lists of these teachers, including their names and addresses, are often broadcast on the radio!

An attempt is made to ensure that each school has at least one trained member of staff, and graduate teachers are obliged to spend a number of years teaching in a rural school. Resources for education, which Mr Sanou admits are insufficient to meet the needs, come from four sources: parents' associations, NGOs, allocations from the national budget, and the donor Community (particularly the World Bank and the EU).

Health

Most social indicators are below the averages for sub-Saharan Africa. Life expectancy is less than 48

Barber shop in Ouagadougou

years, compared with an average of 52. This is influenced by high infant mortality and significant rates of maternal death. A number of factors contribute to the situation, notably the extreme poverty in which a large part of the population lives. The main reasons for infant mortality up to five years (187 per 1000) are malnutrition, and poor access to hygiene and medical services.

There is just one doctor per 32 000 inhabitants (1993 official figure). There is also the scourge of contagious diseases.

A recent meningitis epidemic had claimed 4000 lives up to May 1996. The government accords priority to this area and part of the strategy involves decentralising the health care system. In this context, 53 new health districts have

Burkina Faso's ethnic make-up

Mossi	52.0%
Peul	11.0%
Bobo	7.0%
Bisa-Samo	6.9%
Gourounsi	5.3%
Gourmantché,	
Senoufo, Marka	4.5%
Dioula	4.7%
Others	8.6%

Source: Les Atlas Jeune Afrique, Burkina Faso.

been created. In the field of pharmaceutical supplies, a centre for purchasing essential and generic drugs (Cameg) has been set up. The use of generic drugs in Burkina is among the highest in sub-Saharan Africa.

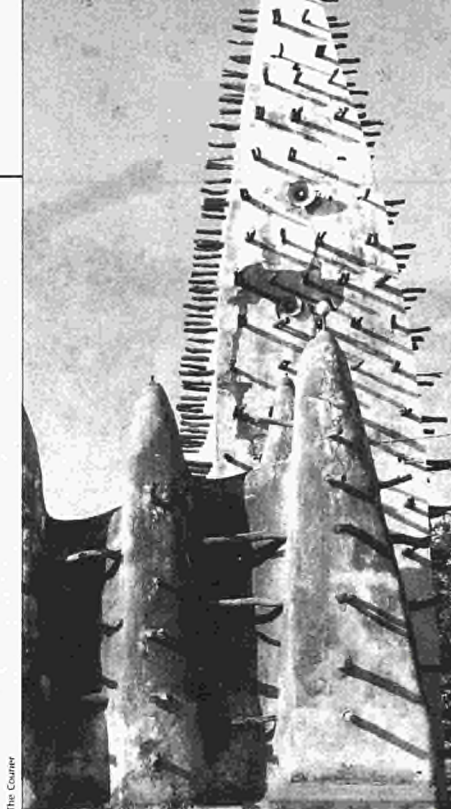
Transport

For Burkina Faso, landlocked and bordering six countries, transport infrastructure is of paramount importance. As there is only one railway line, linking Burkina Faso (Kaya) to Côte d'Ivoire (Abidjan), road transport takes on a particular significance. The road network consists of about 13 000 km of classified priority roads. We spoke to *Sidiki Sidibé*, coordinator of *Pasec-T*, the sectoral adjustment programme for transport, which was established in 1992. The programme is divided into five areas (roads, urban transport, rail, civil aviation and administration). Of these, roads absorb the lion's share of *Pasec-T*'s budget. Mr Sidibé told us that priority was given to maintenance of the existing network rather than new construction. Privatisation of road maintenance has been rapid in recent times, with 95% of the work now carried out by the private sector. To facilitate this process, the government has instituted more efficient payment procedures.

In the railway sector, CFAF 16bn has been made available by the donor community for a programme to rehabilitate the line between Abidjan and Kaya. The railway, which was privatised in 1994 and is now run by *Sitarail*, is used predominantly for goods transport.

In the airline sector, devaluation of the CFAF in January 1994 had a severe effect on Air Burkina, as all payments were in foreign currency while all receipts were in CFAF. A decision has been taken to part-privatise the company.

As mentioned, Burkina is a member of the CFA franc zone and the halving of the value of this currency against the French franc three years ago posed one of the biggest challenges the country has had to face. The resulting fall in purchasing power had repercus-



'Grande Mosquée' at Bobo Dioulasso

sions at all levels, with many imports doubling in price. The key pharmaceutical sector was hit particularly hard, and it became essential to move towards much more widespread use of generic drugs.

Burkina Faso is a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), whose headquarters are in Ouagadougou. The other member states are Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo, while Guinea-Bissau was due to join in January 1997. This trading bloc has 60 million people using a single currency, and with common institutions. January 1 1998 has been set as the date for introducing a full customs union, with free circulation of goods, people and services. Before this date, the aim is to achieve fiscal and legal harmonisation.

Decentralisation proceeding apace

Burkina Faso is in the process of decentralising its political system, with a gradual devolution of responsibilities to locally elected authorities. *Antoine Sawadogo*, who is the director of the 'Commission nationale de la Décentralisation' (CND) explained to us how decentralisation, which is enshrined in the constitution, had always been viewed as a corollary to the democratisation

process. Good governance at a local level, he believes, provides the basis for regional and national democracy, respecting the multicultural character of the country. Historically, there has always been a tradition of decentralisation in Burkina, even before independence in 1960. The commune of Bobo Dioulasso was created in 1929 and the commune of Ouagadougou in 1955, both with legal and financial autonomy. In a similar vein, the principle of power-sharing between different ethnic groups has a long pedigree. This means that Burkina can draw on a rich experience when it comes to different communities exercising responsibility at local level. In February 1995, there were elections in 33 communes, followed by the establishment of municipal councils which each then elected a mayor.

Decentralisation, of course, involves a financial outlay, and a publicity campaign is being carried out so that the population is made aware of the cost.

An approach has been made to the EC to support this. At the end of 1996, a report will be presented to the government, clarifying the medium and long-term philosophy of decentralisation, and defining the practicalities of delegation to the local level.

With parliamentary elections coming up in May 1997, and the presidential poll foreseen for December 1998, Burkina can look forward in the immediate future to a period of intensive political activity.

Burkina Faso is also renowned for its vibrant artistic and cultural life and this aspect will be featured in more detail in a future issue of *The Courier*.

Dorothy Morrissey

Interview with President Compaoré

'A fruitful ongoing dialogue'

The Courier had the opportunity to interview President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso in November. Since 1991, in agreement with various donors, his government has been implementing a structural adjustment programme and now, after the shock of the 1994 currency devaluation, the

country's economy is showing signs of stabilisation. GDP growth in 1995 has been estimated at 4%. The forecast is for this to rise to between 5% and 6% over the next few years. A second structural adjustment programme was approved in June, demonstrating the IMF's approval of the way Burkina Faso is managing its economic affairs.

The country's poverty is one of President Compaoré's major concerns and he is counting on economic growth to enable him to implement social measures aimed at improving the living standards of his compatriots.

*In view of his position as President of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) *, The Courier naturally sought his views on the significance of regional cooperation. We began, however, by asking him to outline what he sees as the decisive factors that have brought political and economic progress to Burkina Faso over the last five years.*

— I think one of the main reasons is the mass support from the people of Burkina Faso for the democratic ideal. Ever since the country pledged its support for the drawing-up of a constitution, until the recent municipal elections, the population has dis-



played a strong commitment to the future of the country. This has enabled us, in political terms, to set up republican and democratic institutions in our country, and these are running smoothly. Our liberal laws afford our citizens a great deal of freedom in terms of fundamental values and the rights they are entitled to exercise. At the same time, there is a high degree of collaboration between political leaders and the country's population, together with a fruitful ongoing dialogue, which has brought the social peace Burkina Faso enjoys today. In economic terms, government efforts, communication and a spirit of partnership with the international community have all enabled us to overhaul our country's macroeconomic framework and to undertake reforms of public finances, the banking system, investment arrangements and so on. We have also been able to implement social and educational projects, with the result that, over the last two years, we have had an average growth rate of 5%,

allowing for inflation. So you can see that the situation is fairly positive.

■ *A number of people have expressed doubts as to the advantages of structural adjustment. In your country, however, it seems to yield good results. Are there specific conditions applying to Burkina Faso?*

— In this connection, I would say that, historically and culturally speaking, the various peoples of Burkina Faso prefer moderation and balance, and have always set great store by achieving acceptable standards. This means that both psychologically and sociologically, the principle of adjustment has never been particularly out of the ordinary for our people. Ours is also a country whose citizens value transparency and clarity. In addition, our approach has helped people to understand that, as the country does not have a great many resources, they have to make good use of what they have — and cannot go beyond that. Burkina Faso's currency has been subject to fluctuation and adjustments were necessary. I would therefore say that it is first a matter of educating people so that they can fully understand what is going on, before involving them in reforms. More importantly, we have had in-depth consultations in this area. When specific reforms had to be implemented, we entered into discussions with the interested parties and this enabled them to gain a better understanding of the situation. You have to understand that in our country, as in many others, structural adjustment measures have given rise to redundancies and job losses in certain sectors. But if you take a broader view, you see that other sections of the population have reaped the benefit of this. This is particularly true of

* President-in-office of the Conference of UEMOA Heads of State and Government.

the agricultural sector, cotton producers and stock-breeders. We have also seen a number of sectors coming to the fore, particularly mining. However, the essential thing is that we have been able to overhaul our economy's macroeconomic framework and this has enabled us to guarantee more sustainable growth. Nowadays, our concern is the level of poverty in the country. 40% of our population earns only \$85 per inhabitant per year, which means that we must implement measures to alleviate the situation. If we don't, violence and instability will inevitably ensue. This is why we are committed to a process of organising the poorest people so that they will be better able to take part in the production process and assume responsibility for their needs. This is something we are pursuing energetically in terms of our overall strategy.

■ *Moving on to the subject of the CFA franc zone, what are the advantages and disadvantages of Burkina Faso's belonging to this structure?*

— The principal advantage has been the liberalisation of trade — with a common currency through the UEMOA region — and also access to the world market through the free convertibility

we enjoy with the French franc. Overall, in economic terms, I would say this has been extremely useful for Burkina Faso and has enabled it to export and purchase what its economy needed. It has also taught us a great deal, I must say, in terms of budgetary and monetary restraint. The very fact of working within a restricted framework with limits set on credit policies and so on, means that we have had to stick to a set of rules. This has been to our benefit and has enabled us to profit from the ongoing fight against the negative effects of inflation. Generally speaking, I would say that during this historic period of change, the CFA franc has made a major political and economic contribution.

■ *Given your key position within the UEMOA, as President of the Conference of Heads of State, one might assume that you attach great importance to regional cooperation. How far do you think such cooperation should go?*

— Regional cooperation is extremely valuable, because we see how the world is developing these days. The fact is that the most successful governments are those which have set up economic groupings with others. It is no

longer possible to take on, alone, the international market and world competition. For us, therefore, the choice is a realistic one — the setting-up of an economic region for a country such as ours, which already enjoys a historic link, where free trade between regions and societies existed well before colonial times, creating the conditions we need at this particular juncture. As we see it, this is the basic principle behind the UEMOA and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) Treaty. It is based on the assumption that economic areas allowing free movement of people and goods have to be created, and that legislation should be harmonised so that, within the area, consumers and producers of wealth can develop freely within a familiar framework where they know what the trade and business rules are. We believe that this is important. Indeed, we have experienced it with customs union and with the abolition of tariff and non-tariff barriers, though we are aware that to organise the region in economic terms, we also have to have sectoral programmes: we need to consolidate our telecommuni-

At least 80% of the population is involved in farming



cations, roads and inter-regional transport and to concern ourselves with human resources, health issues and other matters of common interest. For us, support for regional structures and groupings means achieving everything which allows us to create a unified economic area — such as you have in Europe.

■ *Has the European Union been an inspiration?*

— Absolutely. It is undoubtedly the world's most advanced integrated organisation, not only in terms of its duration but also the concrete results achieved, which are there for all to see. Outside of Europe, we have witnessed how this Community has inspired other regions, the ACP group of countries, for one.

Our cooperation arrangements with the EU are most satisfactory. They include bilateral cooperation and regional programmes, but also specific powers to support our efforts at integration. The European integration process, therefore, is of great interest to us, despite the fact that the process we are involved in has its own specific features. I don't doubt that, when we move on to talks on customs union, and consultations about multilateral surveillance mechanisms, we will need Europe's experience to light our way.

■ *What are your expectations of the conference being held here in Brussels on the future of the UEMOA?*

— As I have stated, we already have a working relationship with Europe. But we feel that as far as our current integration ambitions are concerned, we still have to explain in Europe what we want so that we can receive the best support, and in order that investors and European companies fully understand the opportunities on offer to them in our integration process. That is why we have come to speak to the citizens of Europe.

We have also come to show them that not everything in Africa is going badly and that there are regions which are on the move — or which could be on the move if they were given the

benefit of global solidarity and complementarity. This is the message we have come to put across.

■ *Burkina Faso has limited natural resources. Which sectors do you think offer the best potential for the country's prosperity?*

— Our resources are indeed limited, but what I can say is that land remains available and, as throughout history, agriculture is still needed in countries like Burkina Faso. We must endeavour to organise the agricultural sector but, at the same time, we are now witnessing the emergence of other sectors, such as mining. Given the potential of this industry, that may be where our future lies.

A number of studies have been carried out, there has been some prospecting, and it looks certain that we will be able to exploit these resources to our advantage. However, agriculture still makes up almost 40% of our GDP and at least 80% of our people work in farming. As resources go, we therefore have to bank on these human resources and on agriculture.

We have to organise production better, preserve the environment better and also improve producers' growing methods, for example by ensuring that certain seeds which might afford an advantage in terms of productivity and soil yield are used. In the area of development, we also have to harness water supplies.

■ *One aspect of the current debate on development is conditionality, as it applies to democracy and human rights. Do you feel that these two factors, democracy and development, are linked?*

— Undoubtedly, within our historical context, it is not possible absolutely to guarantee development if, in addition, there is no area of freedom and if there is no space for free-enterprise initiatives. If the citizen and producer cannot view the world with equanimity and enjoy political security, they will not be productive. This is a basic point.

Development can be guaranteed only if you set up conditions which allow citizens to take part fully in organising development. At the same time, I have to say in the context of Africa at the moment, that if we suffer setbacks in respect of our standard of living, or if we do not achieve rapid results, after all our efforts at monitoring the freedoms we have created, we will slip into a cycle where these freedoms will be lost. With them will go our development initiatives and endeavours.

In short, poverty has a direct effect on instability, disorder, conflict and stalled development. Poverty and the denial of human rights go hand in hand and are a brake on everything we might undertake towards further development. Underprivileged, poor people have to be guaranteed a certain minimum as soon as possible — material progress has to take place before one can enjoy the freedom needed to consolidate development. The two therefore interact and it would be wrong to seek to address one without addressing the other. ■

Interview by Dorothy Morrissey

Profile

General information

Area: 274 000 km²

Population: 10.248 million

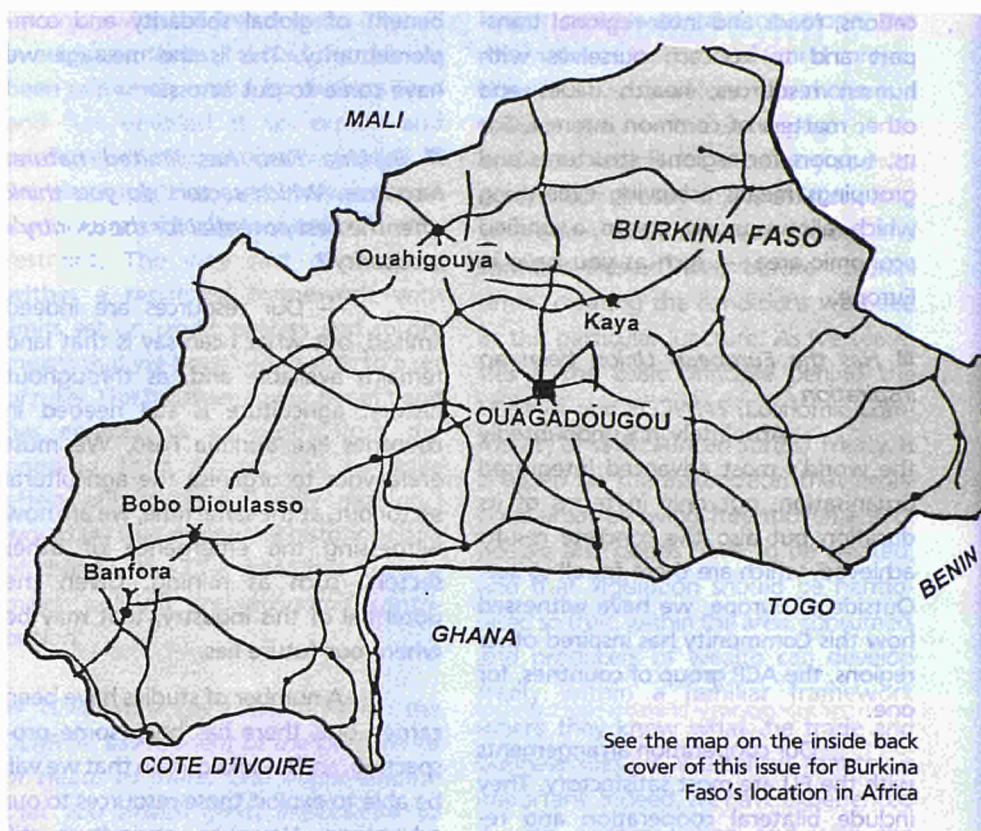
Population growth rate: 2.8 %

Population density: 37 per km²

Capital: Ouagadougou (second city: Bobo-Dioulasso)

Main language: French is the national language

Currency: Member of the CFA franc zone (devaluation in January 1994). 1 ECU equals approximately CFAF 649 (October 1996)



See the map on the inside back cover of this issue for Burkina Faso's location in Africa

Politics

Government: Constitutional democracy with a President and bicameral Parliament. The Parliament consists of an Assembly of People's Deputies (107 members elected by universal suffrage) and a Chamber of Representatives (178 nominated members). The last Presidential and Parliamentary elections took place in 1991 and 1992 respectively. The next legislative election is scheduled for 1997 with the Presidential poll due to take place the following year.

President: Blaise Compaoré

Prime Minister: Kadré Désiré Ouedraogo (since February 1996)

Main political parties: Congrès pour la Démocratie et le Progrès (CDP), Parti pour la démocratie et le progrès (PDP), Rassemblement démocratique africain (RDA), Alliance pour la démocratie et la fédération (ADF).

Representation of parties in Parliament: CDP 87, PDP 9, RDA 5, ADF 5.

Economy

GDP per capita: 112 820 CFAF

Annual GDP growth rate (1995): 4%

Breakdown of GDP by sector (1995): primary sector — 38.4 %, secondary sector — 19.3 %, tertiary sector — 42.2 %

Main exports (1995): cotton CFAF 49.2bn, livestock CFAF 35.5bn, gold CFAF 14.7bn.

Main imports (1995): food products CFAF 37.9bn, consumables CFAF 26.5bn, petroleum products (official imports) CFAF 18.9bn, equipment CFAF 64.4bn

Main trade partners (in order of importance) 1991:

Exports: France, Côte d'Ivoire

Imports: France, Côte d'Ivoire

Trade balance (1995): exports \$267.6m, imports \$482.8m, deficit \$215.3m

Inflation rate (end 1995): 4%

Total external debt: \$1532m

Government budget (1995): revenue CFAF 225.18bn, expenditure CFAF 246.91bn, deficit CFAF 21.73bn (about 13% of GDP in 1994-1995)

Social indicators

Life expectancy at birth: 47.5 years

Adult literacy: 18%

Enrolment in education (all levels for age 6-23): 19%

Human Development Index: 0.225 (170th out of 174)

Sources: Burkina Faso Economics Ministry, Economic Intelligence Unit, UNDP Human Development Report 1996, EC Commission (EU-ACP Cooperation 1995).

Joseph Ki-Zerbo — key opposition leader

'There are more than just crocodiles in the water...'

During The Courier's recent visit to Burkina Faso, we met with Professor Joseph Ki-Zerbo, renowned historian and writer who leads the country's biggest opposition party in Parliament, the Party for Democracy and Progress (PDP). We began by asking him whether the image people abroad have of Burkina Faso — that of a country with a stable government, at the centre of international events — actually coincides with reality.

— According to an African proverb, 'He who lies on a mat knows which type of bugs it contains'. In other words, things can be viewed in a simplistic way from afar, but it is those who experience day-to-day life in a country who know when everything is far from rosy. We have another apt saying — 'There are more than just crocodiles in the water'. We feel there has been progress in Burkina Faso, just like in many other African countries. We have moved from an emergency government to a formally democratic regime with elections, a constitution, codes and institutions. All this does exist and the same change has been triggered in the majority of countries in Africa, with greater or lesser success. But it all depends on one's point of departure. For some countries, the road ahead is a long one and they will obviously not be able to achieve democracy as quickly as others. In Burkina Faso, we thought we were going to achieve genuine democracy very quickly because we had experience. One shouldn't rely solely on the current situation but also on one's past experience. The citizens of Burkina Faso have fought for democracy for

many years — we are governed by our Fourth Republic now. Progress towards democracy is not something that has only just started. The *Burkinabè* have striven for it and must take the credit. Looking at it this way, you could say we are lucky to have people suitable for democracy, who are hard-working and accustomed to facing up to hardship. They do not want to live beyond their



means, are tolerant, open, have a sense of justice and believe in freedom for all. They could achieve miracles in terms of democracy and this is what they are currently working on. All this is 'taken as read' but it is, in fact, the result of an evolution, the culturing of a people, and that helps the leaders a great deal. As we see it, our leaders have emerged from a very harsh system of emergency government under which many people died. Under the new government, we believe that, given the people we have, we should be able to achieve democracy, and we have already had a measure of success. But there are many political and economic areas where there is still a shortfall to be made up. As you implied

earlier, we take our instructions from the IMF and World Bank like the good pupils we are, but the results are far from tangible. When they published the most recent list of countries ranked in terms of human development, our country was 170th out of 174, despite our having done all our homework. So, you see, we don't really have anything to rejoice about in this area. Formal institutions *do* function on a political level, but economically we are paupers. And, in political terms, we are sliding slowly but surely towards a *de facto* single-party system. In 1991, the opposition boycotted the presidential election and that was perhaps a mistake. The President went on to be elected with the support of 25% of the electorate. It was all perfectly legal, but legitimacy has proved to be a problem. In the 1992 legislative elections, there were irregularities and also fraud, which the Supreme Court itself has acknowledged: 78 out of the 107 MPs belonged to the party in power and a further 10 have just joined them, making 88 in total. And on top of that they want to improve their 'score' at the next election! At last year's municipal elections, 32 of the 33 mayors elected belonged to the party in power. That is no longer democracy. If decentralisation means that power falls into the hands of the dominant party at the centre, then that is not true decentralisation.

■ *How does your party distinguish itself from other groups?*

— First of all, we insist on development beginning at home. It is not possible to speak of an overall programme, but we *do* concentrate on four important areas. By home-grown development, we mean mature, well-thought-out development to our own design, implemented, as far as possible, by us and based on our situation, interests and values. We want to promote development which is appropriate to our current situation. So, first of all, we have to consider the reality of the situation — who we really are. Then we can move on to interests and values — our identity will serve as a basis for any society-oriented programme or project we may set up. Such a project is our

raison d'être. A society's life is dependent upon culture — what we have received, our heritage and what we plan to do and be! If you take that project and culture away from the poor in Burkina Faso, what have they left? They will have no life, no reason to exist, nothing. According to documents drawn up by the Finance Ministry, 46-47% of the people live below the poverty line, and 27-28% live beneath the threshold of extreme poverty. Their living conditions are utterly wretched. As you can see, the situation is a grave one but these people need a project, some hope, and a direction. That's what I mean by development beginning at home.

We are also in favour of democracy on a day-to-day basis, by which I mean that democracy should not be only in the Constitution or be written about. For example, we voted on a law bringing in decentralisation at provincial level.

We wanted each Provincial Council to be able to elect its own president from amongst its members — there are 45 provinces — and we eventually achieved this in the Assembly. So far, however, nothing concrete has actually happened! Why is that? Day-to-day democracy means that laws have to be applied and obeyed.

The third important aspect we are concerned with is training and education. If you watch television or listen to the radio, you will notice there is no education in civic issues. That is not how things should be done! Hundreds, even thousands, of hours are devoted to broadcasting music, but we do not offer our citizens any education. If the term 'citizen' is to be meaningful, you need to have received an education. There may be a few small-scale programmes here and there, but there is nothing concrete or systematic on offer to the people. We believe that these aspects are extremely important — the cornerstone of democracy, in fact. You need to have democrats at every level for democracy to work. At the top end, people can decide for themselves whether they want to get an education. At the bottom, they don't have that luxury.

Finally, the fourth aspect which interests us is our campaign for genuine African unity. I am not talking here about summits, structures, institutions and mechanisms at the top which are costly and non-productive. When VIPs travel around, they are given red-carpet treatment. As far as they are concerned, African unity has already been achieved! But if you look at the great mass of the population, and see their suffering, you see how they pay dearly for all this travelling. These days, everyone has to pay an entry fee when they go to a dispensary or hospital. If they don't pay, the doctors won't examine them, even in serious cases. People are completely helpless and are now saying that you have to be rich to receive treatment. This is a product of the current system.

We believe that the people have long been ready for African unity — there will be no industrialisation in Africa without it. It's all quite feasible but, so far, almost nothing has happened. These are the things which set us apart from the party in government.

■ *There were some changes within your party at the beginning of this year...*

— There used to be four parties making up the Union of the Democratic Left. We entered into negotiations with the Union and came to the conclusion that the best thing was for us all to merge. The PDP name and programme has been retained and the merger has taken place at all levels throughout the party, with the four former leaders being integrated into our own executive group. The others were not mass-appeal parties like the PDP, but they have people in the provinces and managers who are well-trained. Overall, the combination is a good one and the party has been strengthened in both quantitative and qualitative terms. In addition to the merger, we set up a front with two other parties: a 'Sankarist' party, the BSB (Burkina Faso Socialist Bloc), and the UVDB (Union of Greens for the Development of Burkina Faso). This combination of parties has now become a focus of support and is the only major opposition

to the government. We also have links with the RDA — contacts for ad-hoc activities, action units. So there are three levels: the merger, the front and the action units.

■ *Do you think that the economic reform programme being implemented in Burkina Faso is capable of forming the basis for sustainable economic development?*

— There is much one could say on this topic. It's highly complex. The problem is that countries in Africa, not just Burkina Faso but others south of the Sahara, have not yet worked out what the basic conditions are for bringing about a change in their economies. If we negotiate first on a bilateral basis with institutions and countries abroad, we will never get the conditions right. Negotiation is a relationship of strength and no African country is likely to be able to win satisfactory terms because they are too weak. For example, Burkina Faso has ten million people but, in terms of purchasing power, we represent the equivalent of only 100 000 or 150 000 people in Belgium or France. That doesn't represent enough power to change things. We have to tell people the truth about this and Africans have to understand what is possible before we attempt anything.

It should also be stated that structural adjustment programmes will never yield spectacular results because some structural conditions have not been achieved. For example, regarding the price of raw materials, we come up against exchange inequalities or a non-existent domestic market. There will be no results as long as these conditions are not achieved. Democracy is one condition and African unity is another and we would prefer the IMF and World Bank to impose genuine conditions on us, not those requiring us only to cut down and balance public finances, to devalue the CFA franc, to pay off our debts and so on. Virtually everything is based on economics. If the World Bank were to say to us: 'Achieve African unity or you will receive no money', I would welcome this move with open arms. Instead, it tells us: 'Pay your debts and



'We are lucky to have people suitable for democracy, who are hard-working'

balance your budget or you will receive no money'. The basic structures which determine African development are unaffected by such conditions. Quite the reverse. For example, we are told: 'You have to devalue, then you will be able to export. You have to grow cotton to sell abroad and that will provide you with foreign currency so that you can firstly pay off your debt and then invest'. But someone who grows a lot of cotton often gives up food crops, and has to buy rice. Rice, however, has to be paid for in dollars, so we sell our cotton to bring in dollars, which we use not only to pay off our foreign debt but also to buy rice. Why not grow rice instead of cotton? All this demonstrates is that we have to set up a large-scale African domestic market and then we will have different prob-

lems to solve. At local level, the rural population is told that it should grow cotton, sweet potatoes, rice and so on. The farmers do so but there is no market for their produce, demand is low and money in short supply. There is no sense in this. The best thing to do is to first set up the framework of an African common market, based on the European model. Why are we not advised to follow the same route as European countries? What is the use of being a producer and being unable to sell? These are fundamental problems we have to consider before tackling economic matters. Personally, I am in favour of the African countries' foreign debt being written off completely, but if that were to happen today, the debt would start to grow again tomorrow because the structural conditions would still be the same.

■ *What are your views on the privatisation policy?*

— There have been many irregularities here as well. The advice from abroad, from the international financial institutions, was to privatise and reduce the state's influence. But it was applied purely mechanically. These days, we are shown the example of Korea and Japan but they forget to tell us that these countries owe their economic success to the state; that the state was the instigator of their economic relaunch. People only show us the results, not the ways and means or the institutions which played a part in obtaining such results. There can be no development, nor even growth, in the world, without far-reaching actions by the state. Europeans protected themselves in the past and continue to do so. So do the Americans. That's the state for you. Moreover, to advise 'less state involvement' is to deliver our country up to multinational interests. There is no other solution. With minimal state involvement, you will always have a maximum of power for the multinational companies. In fact, if we rush into privatisation, as has happened in the past, we sell off our national heritage at cut-price rates. Even so, some companies have been able to

function successfully and make a profit. But the basic principle was that we should privatise, and when this was done, the companies fell into the hands of 'rescuers' with money, which are often the multinational companies.

■ *Could you give me a few examples?*

— Yes, the Sobbra Brewery, for one. A multinational with interests in many other African countries bought it out. That company now controls and dominates a big market. We have to ask ourselves who the winner is in this situation. Also, on occasion, privatisation has taken place by transferring state enterprises to people who owe the government money. I am not against the principle of privatisation, because there are things that need to be sold off. But there are also things which are so important to people's daily lives that they should not be placed in the hands of private individuals in countries where there is no counterweight. Privatisation is not so bad in societies which have ways of counterbalancing the multinationals — things like civil society organisations, the press, intellectuals, a middle-class, well-organised trades unions, the Church and so on. They are well-structured societies which have the capacity to defend their people. But when there is no organisation for the people, who will defend them? In terms of principles and methods, therefore, we have not supported privatisation. If you read the report by the Commission of Enquiry — led by the chairman of the governing party's parliamentary group — you will see all the criticisms levelled at privatisation in Burkina Faso: they themselves are critics! As I said to you at the beginning of this interview, 'There are more than just crocodiles in the water'.

Interview by Dorothy Morrissey

Prospects and constraints for the agriculture sector

by Pascal Gbikpi and Pasquale Raimondo*

A detailed examination of all the components (including environmental aspects) of the agricultural sector reveals a number of underlying trends. One key finding is that the growing imbalance between population growth and natural resources is straining the interplay of needs and resources almost to breaking point.

Major obstacles

Although a vital sector of the economy and society in Burkina Faso (40% of the GDP, 90% of jobs and 50% of export income), agriculture is nevertheless precariously balanced. It accounts for a level of poverty which is still significant and places Burkina Faso among the world's poorest countries, with a *per capita* income of \$180 per year.

To be able to improve significantly the living standards of the population, whose growth rate is still high (2.7% per year), the agricultural sector must make a qualitative leap. In short, it must increase its productivity.

Despite notable progress in several areas (freeing agricultural land of *Onchocerca* infestation, construction of dams and reservoirs, building country roads and so on), there are still major obstacles to be identified and overcome.

Degradation of natural resources

Rapid population growth places great pressure on all natural resources (soils, forests, water, fauna, flora), leading to the collapse of traditional systems for managing these resources. Local communities face huge

problems in arresting the negative impact of their agro-pastoral practices and in defining new rules to govern access to their natural heritage.

Degradation of natural resources affects the soil: the average loss of arable land is 15 tonnes per hectare per year. It also hits the forests and water resources. In 15 years, Burkina Faso has lost nearly 60% of its trees through drought, over-grazing, brush fires and unregulated felling, while the water table has fallen by around 20 metres in the last two decades. In addition, the diversity and number of wild animals has diminished.

The socio-economic constraints facing the rural environment prevent it from halting this downward spiral, which is exacerbated by the absence of a land-ownership system favouring investment to conserve and improve the land. What income is generated has to cover the population's day-to-day subsistence requirements. There is no surplus left to make the investment needed to protect the environment, still less to renew natural resources.

Lack of financial resources

On the basis of data from 1993, 1994 and 1995, the financial resources available to the rural sector, including the national budget, Stabex funds and the estimated contribution from NGOs (but excluding the self-financing of farms for which information is unavailable), represent an average annual sum of CFAF 50 billion in programming terms. This means in practice that about CFAF 40 billion is actually deployed.

In turn, this represents approximately CFAF 4500 per head of population in the agricultural sector and about half of this sum may be regarded as investment expenditure. The fact that

this notional *per capita* allocation is so small amply illustrates the shortfall of resources compared with the sector's needs.

The funding shortage is further accentuated by the fact that, although it contributes 40% of GDP, the agricultural sector receives barely 2% of the loans granted by the commercial banks.

Human resource shortages

The precarious existence of most rural people is illustrated by a variety of social indicators. In the area of health, the average distance to a clinic is 30 km, and the ratio of doctors to inhabitants is around one per 35 000. Looking at nutrition, one finds that between 30% and 50% of pre-school-age children are chronically malnourished and 19% of the population suffers acute food insecurity. The statistics for education and poverty paint a similar picture. 87% of family heads in the agricultural sector are illiterate and boys and girls do not enjoy equal access to schooling. Life expectancy is just 48 years and approximately 55% of the population lives below the poverty threshold (estimated at \$380 a year).

Suffering from poor health, malnourishment and a lack of education, the rural population's productivity rate is low and looks set to remain so on account of the lack of tools and machinery on farms.

Precarious food resources

After dropping considerably during the long drought which lasted from 1968 to 1974, cereal production has made major advances in recent years. But this is due more to the fact that larger areas of land are being used for crop production than to an increase in yields.

Between 1984 and 1994, there was a 73% increase in the area sown with cereals. Burkina's population rose by 25% during the same period. All things being equal, if these trends were to continue, the country would have a

* Respectively, Technical Assistant at the PASA Coordination Unit and Advisor to the Commission's Delegation in Ouagadougou.



population of about 16 million and some 9 million hectares in use for cereal production by the year 2020 (in other words, in the space of a single generation). This would mean that all of Burkina Faso's arable land would be given over to cereals, to the exclusion of export crops. The effect would be that foreign currency inflows would dry up depriving the country of funds needed to buy inputs and intensify agricultural production.

Bringing more and more land into production leads to a rapid reduction in the availability of arable land for the inhabitants. The end result is over-exploitation — already the critical threshold of 50 inhabitants per square kilometre has been exceeded in many parts of the country.

Sustainable development

It may be stating the obvious, but it is worth reiterating that if the constraints and problems are to be tackled, a pragmatic and realistic policy for sustainable agricultural development needs to be drawn up. Such a policy must, of necessity, include:

- decentralisation and the effective participation of civil society in planning and implementing actions which affect it;
- a renewed state commitment to its responsibilities (design, monitoring and

assessment of a motivating and competitive framework);

- a rapid 'take-over' by the private sector of all development operations and the associated services;

- the opening-up of economic circuits;

- poverty alleviation through labour-intensive investments (in areas such as country roads, and other development actions);

- skilled management of natural resources to balance intensive farming and soil fertility;

- taking account of the regional dimension in the framework of the UEMOA (West African Economic and Monetary Union) to help set up complementary and synergistic national economies.

These guidelines for an agricultural policy should, in turn, be examined in terms of medium- and long-term strategic options, of which the following should be mentioned:

- analysis of needs and potential based on the identification of growth areas and comparative advantages;

- the implementation of sectoral and sub-sectoral studies using data banks containing economic, social, financial and other indicators, as well as new technologies (thematic cartography, telematic information networks);

- programming public and parastatal investment to provide effective support for economic growth and for the private sector in areas where the national

Irrigated crops
To improve the population's living standards, the agricultural sector must increase its productivity

economy has genuine comparative advantages;

- conducting prefeasibility and feasibility studies with strict interpretation of the results and effects of programmed activities;

- systematic and regular external monitoring, audit and evaluation, with budget, financial and technical controls and analysis of the socio-economic impact of development projects.

When putting people back at the heart of the development problem, there are various horizontal functions or policies (programming, training and information, rural financing, professional agricultural organisations, decentralised cooperation, land management), to which the principles of decentralisation and privatisation should be applied. These have an essential role in interactively supporting all production sectors.

Programming

Given the scale of agriculture's needs, the amount of public spending channelled towards the development of the sector should be increased and put to more efficient use. This means that programming of priorities and management of projects, through the PIP (Public

Investment Programme), should follow a rational and rigorous approach. Improved programming would, in the long term, increase the country's absorption capacity and boost its eligibility for aid at a time when it is important to make optimal choices.

Overall vision and programming using PIP-type tools must, however, be followed up by key strategic procedures such as institutional support and the use of methods for rational management of projects and programmes. The latter include computing, statistics, office automation, telematics, accounting in line with national regulations, stricter achievement flow charts, rapid payments and disbursements, audits, and evaluations.

Training and information

Development analyses confirm that one element essential to Burkina Faso's economy — which is experiencing rapid growth — is an increase in the productivity of the factors of production and, in particular, of human work. This is brought about chiefly by training and information.

If training is to provide a better match for requirements, urgent consideration must be given to broadening the scope of practical and vocational programmes. They should be backed by technologies adapted to the national and regional dimension and intended especially for the rural and secondary (crafts and trade) sectors. These, together, are the foundations on which the national economy is built. The programmes must lead to the emergence of genuine trade associations capable of further strengthening the private sector's capabilities.

Information on rural matters also needs to be developed in a more integrated way. It must no longer be limited to technical aspects, but should be extended to cover other socio-economic topics which have an influence on agricultural and rural development, such as commercial opportunities, national and international prices, suppliers and market trends.

Building on the spirit of solidarity

Poverty alleviation in Burkina Faso is a major challenge given the high numbers of those living below the poverty threshold. To combat this problem effectively, there is a need to develop decentralised financial systems such as village-based savings banks and self-managed loans. The main virtue of such mechanisms is that they treat the poor as micro-businesspeople. If they can gain access to financial services, they then become economic players capable of providing the incentive for local and national trade.

For this to happen, the connection, based on refinancing the savings collected, between decentralised credit institutions and the CNCA (National Agricultural Credit Bank) and other establishments, must be developed and strengthened.

National structures

The increased significance accorded to rural organisations, against a background of reduced state involvement and structural-adjustment policies, means that genuine OPAs (Professional Agricultural Organisations) can be structured, from top to bottom, as unions or federations governed on the basis of consensual and representative rules. These must be capable of becoming the profession's champions, representing its interests *vis-à-vis* the other parties in the partnership (government, private operators).

In order that they can play a galvanising role in the development and organisation of rural communities, the OPAs will have to set up an agricultural and rural information-dissemination programme (telematic network for market prices). They also need to evolve to take on a regional dimension within the framework of the UEMOA.

Secure in the ownership of his or her land, the producer is better able to embark on sustainable development. Land is one area where national and local institutions have a major role to play — notably in the implementation

of a land-registration scheme which allows for the issue of individual title. Land is clearly an essential part of the sustainable development equation. It underpins the owner's ability and aspirations to embark on the acquisition of skills in land management, which will lead to increased production and yields.

Adapting aid to the requirements of the rural sector

In considering how Burkina Faso's agriculture can break free from its vicious circle of over-population, degradation of natural resources and poverty, one must look more closely at the problems in public aid and how it is deployed and spent. In simple terms, there is a need to bring it closer to the requirements of the rural sector. This is the basic thrust of the European Community's intervention in rural development in Burkina Faso under the revised Lomé Convention. ■

P.G. & P.R.

Cotton — the white 'gold'

The cotton industry is one of the brightest hopes in Burkina Faso, representing 50% of total export receipts and 35% of GNP. But the figures for the last five years have been erratic, with production failing to reach the record levels achieved in 1990-91, when Burkina was one of the top producers in French-speaking West Africa. There are various reasons for this which include the drop in the market price for cotton in 1992-93 and excessive rainfall in 1994-95 which damaged the crop.

During *The Courier's* visit to the principal cotton-producing area in the centre-west of the country, we met Célestin Tiendrebeogo, general director of Sofitex (Société des fibres textiles — the cotton company partially owned by the state).

He spoke of an ambitious plan to revive the cotton industry, with the target of more than doubling production by the year 2000. Prior to the launching of the programme, research was carried out and meetings were held with cotton farmers to encourage them

to expand production. The farmers voiced a number of concerns. Their organisations (*groupements villageois*) were not well-managed and were suffering from debt problems and late payment for crop deliveries. Part of the new programme will be to cancel some of these cotton debts, to create small

1994 would have a positive effect, making cotton exports more competitive. However, 1995-96 production was disrupted because of crop damage caused by the cotton bollworm ('chenille'), a particularly lethal insect, which also affected crops in Mali, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. This reduced Burkina's

Cotton production in Burkina Faso

Year	Surface area (hectares)	Production (tonnes)
1994-95	184 000	143 080
1990-91	166 274	189 543
1991-92	185 750	167 170
1992-93	176 900	163 301
1993-94	152 100	116 598
(forecasts)		
1995-96	160 000	147 000
1996-97	200 000	200 000

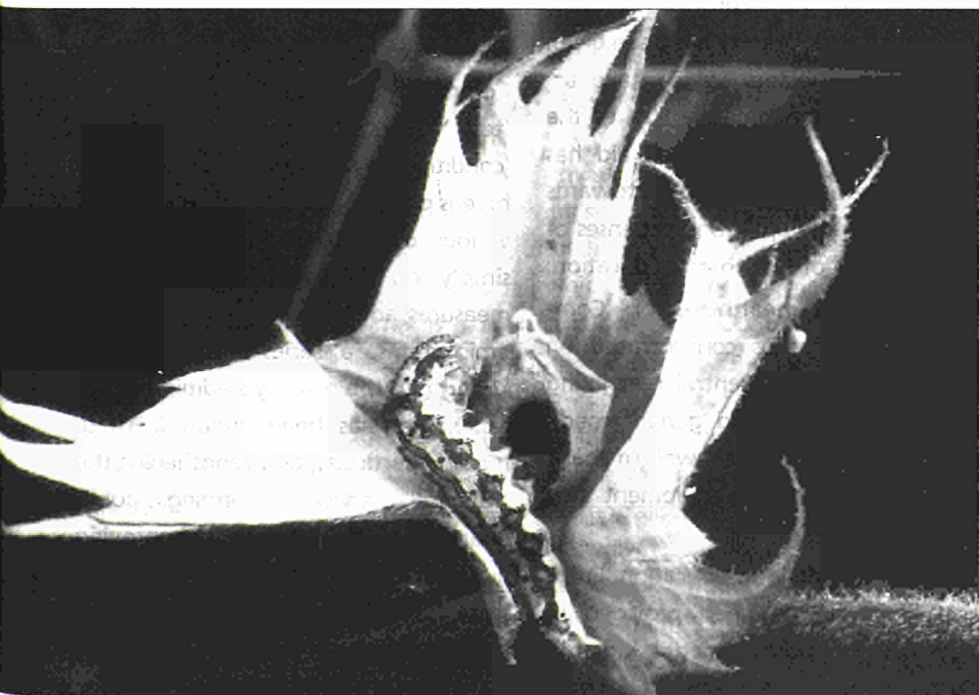
homogeneous groups of cotton producers, and to speed up payments. In addition, the purchase price of cotton was raised by Sofitex for the 1995-96 crop.

It was expected that the devaluation of the CFA franc in January

The voracious cotton bollworm

overall output by 20%. George Yameogo, an agronomist at Sofitex, explained that cotton is one of the most vulnerable plants, being susceptible to attack by 150 different varieties of insect. He told us that climatic conditions had been particularly favourable for bollworm infestation this year. Planting is usually carried out between May 15 and June 20, but the 1996 crop was not planted until the end of June as there had been insufficient rainfall previously. This meant that the plants were young and therefore more vulnerable when the bollworm attacked in September. As the insecticide used for treatment is very expensive, the farmers tended not to follow instructions correctly. Some watered down the insecticide while others waited until the insect had appeared before treating the crop.

Despite its vulnerability, Mr Yameogo is convinced that cotton is highly suitable for Burkina Faso. Production can be undertaken by small groups, organised locally. In addition, to maximise the use of the soil, cotton can be rotated with maize and sorghum.



D.M.

EU/Burkina Faso cooperation

A dynamic and exemplary partnership

by Pierre Protar*

Cooperation between Burkina Faso and the European Union began in 1959 and has continued to grow over the last 30 years in a dynamic partnership which sets an example for others to follow. Since the beginning of the 1990s, it has been incorporated systematically within the major economic and structural reform programme undertaken by Burkina Faso. Support has been provided for the macro-economic adjustment policy and sectoral policies currently being applied. European aid is implemented in close collaboration with other donors and, in particular, with the bilateral aid from EU Member States operating in Burkina Faso, in order to promote complementarity and consistency between the various contributions.

All instruments under the Fourth Lomé Convention are applied to Burkina Faso (programmable aid, structural adjustment funds, Stabex, Sysmin). These are supplemented by funds from a number of specific budget lines (covering human rights, the fight against AIDS, NGO co-financing, food aid, etc.). The European Investment Bank's (EIB) contribution is essentially in the field of venture capital.

Overall Community aid granted during the period covered by Lomé IV amounted to ECU 320 million (CFAF 157 billion), representing an annual commitment of about ECU 60 million. In 1995, after a Sysmin contribution and a major road repair programme, funds granted rose to ECU 100 million. To date, payments under Lomé III amount to 85% of commitments. The equivalent figure for Lomé IV is 52%.

Support for structural adjustment

The agreements signed between Burkina Faso and the Bretton Woods institutions in March 1991 meant

that Burkina Faso was automatically eligible for EC resources specifically allocated in support of structural adjustment. Since then, five financial support programmes, and various forms of technical support have been set up, representing an overall sum of ECU 123 million. Structural adjustment is therefore the main area to benefit from Community cooperation.

In accordance with the undertakings made by the European Commission in this area, priority has been given to the social sectors, which have accounted for approximately 50% of the total contribution. Budgetary aid has been targeted, in particular towards helping with the operating expenses of the Ministries of Health and Education.

In the health sector, Community support has concentrated on creating CAMEG (a central purchasing point for essential and generic medicines) and on the renewal of basic infrastructures and the equipment they need.

In the field of education, European support has been provided in support of the policy aimed at expanding the primary-school sector. It has paid

for supplies and school equipment, and for the training and temporary remuneration of 7300 newly-recruited teachers (out of a total of 11 500).

A series of actions has been launched in the two social sectors, with a view to improving programming and management of expenditure, in line with the policies to decentralise health services and expand primary school provision.

In 1993 and 1994, structural adjustment support also helped in operations to re-establish the cotton and cereal sectors. In 1996, it contributed to ongoing road maintenance.

Finally, since 1994, the Commission has played a major role in tackling domestic public debt arrears — a *sine qua non* for improving management of public expenditure and restoring government credibility. The EC contribution in this field represents 20% of the total support given to the Structural Adjustment Programme, (SAP) and it has been provided on the basis of the conclusions of an audit which set out to identify and eliminate the factors giving rise to such arrears.

Five years after the launch of the SAP, the country initiated a process designed to make Burkina Faso more directly responsible for its programme. Additionally, in the context of the Special Programme for Africa (SPA), the Commission proposed Burkina Faso as a 'test' country for the trial of a new 'conditionality' approach. The emphasis here is placed on *results* obtained under various domestic policies rather than simply on the *adoption* of certain measures and reforms. In macro-economic terms, a series of projects to strengthen the country's administrative capabilities has been initiated. These focus, in particular, on strengthening the statistical service, reforming public finance procedures and improving budget programming. As regards social sectors, 1993 saw the launch of technical support based on a work programme implemented in partnership with the

* Head of EC Delegation in Burkina Faso.

relevant ministries. The requirements that need to be met for the release of funds are set out in objectives of this programme.

Programmable aid

The value of the national indicative programme under the 7th EDF (ECU 124m in 1991) was increased to ECU 145.5m at the end of 1996. The full sum will be available assuming satisfactory performance in the framework of the Burkina Faso-EU partnership. This figure is supplemented by ECU 28m managed by the EIB which is principally involved in the electrical energy, transport and industry sectors.

The rural sector, the environment and food security are the main areas covered by the 7th EDF, accounting for 40% of available resources. All contributions are made in the context of the Agricultural Sector Adjustment Programme (PASA).

As regards policy on cereal crops and food security, support (also provided as an alternative to food aid) has been allocated to the setting-up of a national security stockpile of 35 000 thousand tonnes of cereals, together with a financial reserve. It has also permitted the creation of a new institutional mechanism for managing food security. Specific actions are currently being prepared in the field of maize conversion and development and in the area of decentralised credit, on the basis of support for specialised financial institutions involved in this sector.

In the stock-breeding sector, the Community programme is conducted against a post-devaluation economic background which is more buoyant now than in the past and is marked by increasing exports of cattle and reduced imports of dairy products. The principal areas covered by this scheme relate to the promotion of private operators and professional organisations, the setting-up of a structure to support development of the dairy industry and the

implementation of a dairy-sector pilot programme in rural and periurban areas.

Support for development of natural resources has concentrated on the production of a map to help in the management of rural areas and 'listed' forests, and the planting of trees to form a cordon around the boundaries of ten listed forests, with the intention of promoting their preservation.

Secondly, since 1992, the European Union has been one of the Government's principal partners in implementing the Transport Sector Adjustment Programme (PASECT). This accounts for 32% of resources available under the 7th EDF. It is a wide-ranging programme focusing on maintenance and repair of the existing transport network and the privatisation of the work involved. European aid contributions have been channelled essentially into the repair of regional routes (for example the road leading to Togo and the Tougan-Ouahigouya-Mali border route). As for regular maintenance, work is being prepared for the Ouagadougou-Ghana border, Bobo Dioulasso-Côte d'Ivoire border and Bobo Dioulasso-Mali border routes. In the secondary sector, development programmes have been carried out in connection with 300 km of dirt roads and tracks in the provinces of La Sissili, Le Sourou, Le Yatenga and Le Passoré, under integrated projects for these regions.

Finally, the EU is involved in the private sector through a project providing support for the creation of small and medium-sized businesses (PAPME), which independently manages a line of credit worth ECU 6.5m provided for financing SMEs.

In parallel, an initiative with an innovative approach has, since 1994, been receiving a contribution under the 'decentralised cooperation' budget line. It involves support for the Foundation for the Promotion of Enterprise and Employment (FEE). This is an association which has come into being at the initiative of a group of entrepreneurs

who demonstrated a willingness to take part in the debate on economic and statutory reforms, and to build up their government-lobbying skills.

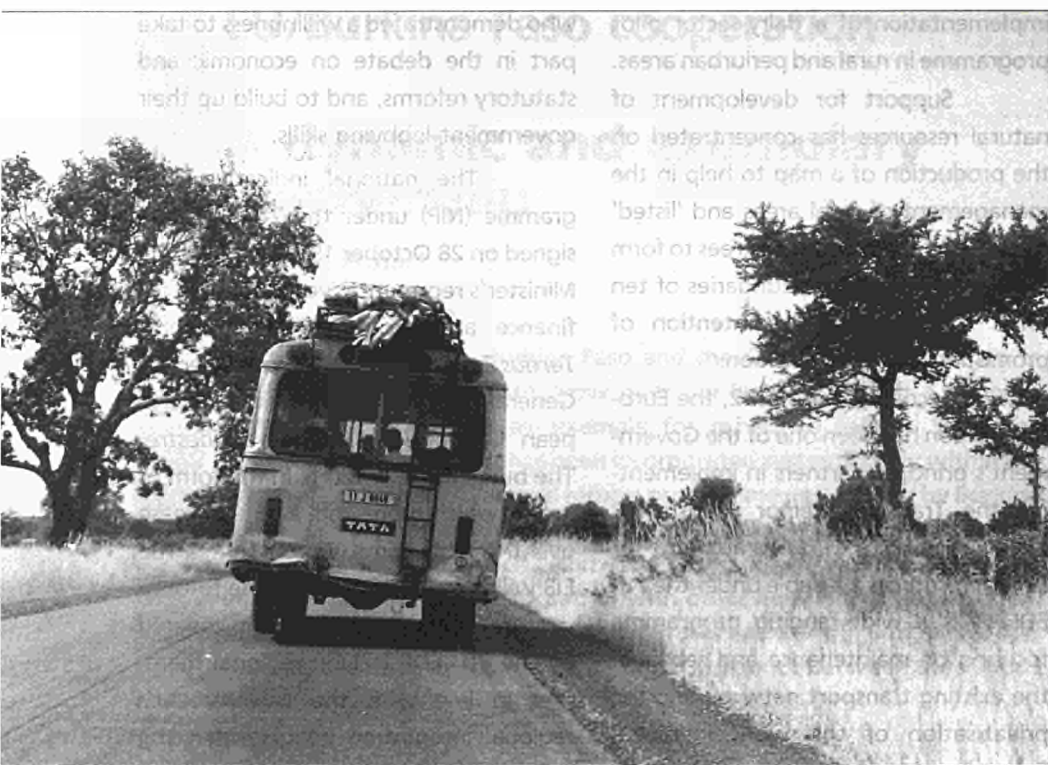
The national indicative programme (NIP) under the 7th EDF was signed on 28 October 1996 by the Prime Minister's representative responsible for finance and economic development, *Tertius Zongo*, and the Deputy Director-General for Development at the European Commission, *Philippe Soubestre*. The budget is ECU 180m, in the form of grants which represents a 45% increase over the initial Lomé IV programme. The EIB will provide ECU 25m in the form of venture-capital loans. Actions covered by the 7th EDF include regional measures in line with the Government's regional integration policy within the framework of the West-African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

The NIP is a consolidation of initiatives taken under the Lomé Convention and concentrates on two areas: road infrastructures and rural development.

Support for roads takes the form of completion of repairs to the primary road network (essentially major regional routes), the strengthening of secondary networks in areas offering agro-pastoral potential, and their regular maintenance.

Help for the rural sector is covered by the second phase of the PASA. The aim of this is to continue the work of easing restrictions begun during the first phase and to support implementation of an action plan and strategy aimed at relaunching growth. Community cooperation will focus on:

- implementing a policy to provide supporting finance;
- developing of the scope of action of bodies representing producers and private operators, through the provision of services to rural areas;
- support for the management of natural resources through the drafting of a real-estate plan; and,



— continued financing of water-resources and agro-forestry management programmes.

The EC's involvement in the last-mentioned sector should be seen in the context of the search for opportunities arising from the devaluation of the CFAF and the integration process implemented by the UEMOA.

A number of other sectors may also be included in the so-called 'concentration' areas. These include ongoing support in the framework of structural adjustment in health, basic education, decentralisation and public administration. Particular attention will be given to cultural cooperation, with a cultural-initiative support programme, the emphasis being placed on decentralisation, and cinematographic production.

Lastly, given the particular importance of the problem of water supply in Ouagadougou, a contribution from the Community may be possible in cooperation with the Member States, the EIB and other, relevant sponsors.

Non-programmable aid

In addition to the above-discussed structural aid, non-program-

PASECT — a major programme which focuses on maintaining and rehabilitating the road network

mable assistance is provided to the tune of about ECU 71.5m. This arises particularly from Stabex transfers generated by the drop in export income from cotton, oil seeds, leather and hides and from Sysmin transfers in the gold-mining sector. Other sources of funding under this heading include food support and NGO funding.

Stabex transfers in 1992-1993, amounting to ECU 2.2m, were allocated for the repair of cotton industry routes in La Sissili province, with a view to opening up this area and improving the primary marketing system.

In 1994 and 1995, Stabex transfers amounted to approximately ECU 15m. Some CFAF 5bn was allocated to development of the cotton industry (support for basic organisations, infrastructures, loans), refurbishment of the Ouagadougou abattoir, small-scale processing of leather and hides, and the reorganisation of the oil-seed sector following a reduction in state involvement. There was also a contribution of

CFAF 4.5bn to the structural adjustment programme.

Sysmin funds were made available to Burkina Faso after the 1992 mining-sector crisis. In October 1995, ECU 10m of support was allocated to refurbish of the Poura gold mine. A second ECU 15m allocation went to finance the 'geological mapping' project covering the west of the country.

Involvement in co-financing schemes with the NGOs is fairly significant, having increased from ECU 295 000 in 1976 to ECU 2.3 million in 1995. This involvement is focused on the sectors of health (60% of the total), basic education and agriculture.

Future prospects

Five years after the implementation of structural adjustment, the Government is moving away from a short-term approach, and is now looking to implement a policy based on long-term prospects, concentrating on the concept of human security. What this means for Burkina Faso is that the country's own resources — and particularly its human potential — have to be used to the best advantage within a decentralised administrative and political system, and a more efficient management and institutional framework. This means accepting the challenge of both consolidating democracy and implementing structural adjustment programmes whilst adhering to a sustainable development policy. ■ P.P.

Haiti: a defiant past

It was an English historian who observed that Haiti's independence posed a challenge and a threat — a blow to the colonial powers. It was the site of the only successful slave revolt in human history leading to the defeat of an expeditionary force sent by Napoleon. This battle, the culmination of the war of independence, has entered the annals of a history replete with heroes and villains — perhaps too many, for which Haiti is still paying the price.

At the end of the 14th century, the Carib Indians, who came from South America, began to conquer the islands to the north. In the course of their migration, their fiery temperament moderated. Among other places, they established themselves on the island of Ayiti also known as Kiskeya and Boyo. This was the home of the *Tainos*, a sub-group of the Arawak Indians. The place names signified 'high or wide, and populated lands' implying notions of grandeur, openness and fraternity. One of the Carib leaders who ruled on the island at the end of the 16th century was *Caonabo*, one of the first heroes of Haitian history. It was the Spanish who described Taino culture as refined. They had little taste for violence or 'barbaric' sacrifices, preferring instead, samba poetry and music. Columbus came ashore in the Caribbean region on 12 October 1492, on the small island of San Salvador in the Bahamas. Sailing onwards, he reached Cuba a few days later but it was at his next stop —

on the island of which Haiti now forms a part — that he decided to set up base (on 6 December 1492). It is said that he was attracted by the beauty of Môle Saint Nicolas Bay. A week later, he officially claimed the island for Spain, naming it *Hispaniola*. A cross was planted near the Baie des Moustiques on what is now the territory of the Haitian Republic, and *La Natividad*, the first Spanish fort in the New World was built.

Near total genocide

At the time, the island of Kiskeya was a kind of federation with five kingdoms linked together in a solidarity 'pact'. Spanish writers have recounted how Columbus was received as an honoured guest by the chief *Guacanagaric* — and how his men began mistreating the Indians in order to obtain their gold. *Caonabo*, the intrepid chief of Maguana in the centre of the island came to the defence of his neighbour and massacred the Spanish

garrison. His wife *Anacaona* (the name means 'golden flower'), who ruled Xaragua in the south-west, also became a symbol of the resistance. Renowned as a poetess and warrior, her name is still venerated by the people of the island, both Haitian and Dominican. Her fate was to be burned alive after an act of treachery. She was seized during a visit of 'friendship' to Governor Ovando.

Historians have estimated that there were between one million and three million people living on Ayiti in 1492 (which explains the reference to 'peopled' in its name). The figures may not be precise but by 1525, the population was down to between 25 000 and 50 000. In short, the island suffered near total genocide. The first big battle with European forces took place in 1495 at Vega Real. Thousands of Indians — who had never before encountered 'modern' firearms — perished on the field. The Arawaks were then enslaved and made

The National Palace on the day of Aristide's return (with the 'unknown Maroon' in front).



to work in the gold mines. 1503 saw the arrival of the first black slaves from Africa.

The reserves in the gold mines were speedily exhausted and round about 1545, the conquerors began to cast their eyes elsewhere. The French and English then began to appear on the scene. An historical footnote deserves to be mentioned here if only because it is so unusual. The first French adventurers started out by 'employing' white serfs — people who had volunteered to spend three years in what were effectively conditions of slavery in return for their passage. In 1697, Spain ceded the part of their island territory (which they called Santo Domingo) to France under the Treaty of Rijswijk. In 1724, the colony was placed directly under French control with the royal administration represented by a governor and a financial controller.

During the first few decades of French rule, the colony was not widely settled. But with the coming of the 'sugar revolution', which had already begun in Brazil, the 'Sun-King', Louis XIV — another of whose titles was 'Protector of Letters and the Arts' — laid down the 'Black Code' (Code Noir). Henceforth, the slave would be regarded as moveable property. He or she had no legal personality and hence no rights. Indeed, slaves were deemed to have no soul and their masters held the power of life and death over them. They were forbidden to assemble, even for births or marriages. Living together as a couple was all but banned, family life was against the law, and children were taken away from their mothers at an early age. Slaves coming from the same area had to be kept apart. The tambour, the African cults — indeed anything which served as a reminder of Africa — were prohibited. And those who broke the rules suffered severe penalties — perhaps the amputation of a limb, being stretched on the rack, or death by hanging. The only obligation placed on the masters was that they should *not* show any kindness in applying the Code. Any displays of such 'weakness' were severely punished!

Santo Domingo was a laboratory of a form of cruelty which would

soon be exported to other countries in the region. In 1680, the territory had 2000 slaves. By 1700 there were ten times that number and a quarter of a century later, the figure had multiplied a hundred-fold. By 1789, there were no fewer than 600 000 slaves. Half of these had been 'imported' while the remainder were Creoles who had been born on the island. The system did not allow for the population to replenish itself in the usual way, the slaves being forced to work up to 18 hours a day. The life expectancy of a slave on a Santo Domingo plantation was estimated at ten years. Meantime, the arrangement brought great wealth to the owners. Towns began to grow in size and very soon, Cap Français, (now Cap-Haïtien) would rival the major French cities in its opulence and social life. Santo Domingo was responsible for at least one third of France's external trade: it produced more than half of the world's sugar, indigo, cotton, leather and coffee, as well as a range of precious woods. It was also the major stimulus for the growth of France's Atlantic ports — Bordeaux, Le Havre, Nantes, La Rochelle and Saint-Malo.

French Revolution

The development of more advanced forms of production in the 17th and 18th centuries gave rise to a number of contradictions. At the lowest level, a difference emerged between house slaves, who enjoyed relatively good conditions, and other slaves. There was a distinction between slaves and 'freedmen', the latter being divided between freed blacks and mulattos (who themselves were often slave-owners). And there was a dichotomy amongst the white rulers between the *grands blancs* (top officials and plantation owners) and the *petits blancs*. Within the former group, further dividing lines could be identified — between colonials and royalists, big plantation owners and their intermediaries back in metropolitan France. On the eve of the French Revolution, a new schism emerged to add to an already complex picture involving sup-

porters of the republic and the monarchy respectively.

One might imagine that the suppression of slaves as individuals would have turned them into 'zombies'. In fact, this did not happen altogether. Captives were ready to fight for their freedom from the moment of their seizure in Africa. There were uprisings in the holds of the slave-ships. As early as 1522, the home of *Don Diego Colomb* was captured in a slave revolt. And in their refusal to be cowed, some chose suicide, or to have their babies aborted rather than be born into such a life. Guerilla action by escaped slaves (Maroons) was speedily organised. The first great Maroon chief, *Mackandal*, was captured and executed in 1758 after several years of fighting. The preferred weapon of the slaves was poison: they poisoned their masters, livestock — and, sometimes, other slaves. It was a measure of the huge gap between rich and poor in the colonies that slaves were sometimes able to find allies among the lower classes. Over a period of time, freedmen, and even some Maroons could join militias and some even made it into the regular army. On occasion, they fought for wider causes. In 1774, the Count d'Estaing, former governor of the island, enlisted 1500 mulattos and freed slaves to fight in the decisive Battle of Savannah during the American War of Independence. Future heroes of Haitian independence, such as *Christophe*, were among their number.

The above-mentioned contradictions were stretched to breaking point as a result of the French Revolution. There was the question of whether mulattos — as free men — were entitled to enjoy the 'Rights of Man'. Among the great revolutionaries of 1789, only a few, such as Abbé Grégoire and (above all) Robespierre, took the relatively broad view in favour of recognising mulatto rights as against the interests of the French slave-owners. Things began to move fast in 1791, beginning with a mulatto revolt. Then on the night of 22 August, there was a general slave uprising led by the Maroon chief *Boukman* and his lieutenants, *Jean-François* and *Biassou* (the latter was the inspiration for Victor Hugo's novel *Burg-*

Jargal). Eight days earlier, the plotters had sworn that they would live free or die in the attempt to gain their liberty. They did this at the Voodoo ceremony of *Bois Caïman*, the defining moment in the founding of the Haitian state. Beginning in the north, the revolt spread throughout the colony, growing in intensity. In 1793 the town of Cap was set alight and the colonists fled. The breakdown of the colony was seized upon by Britain and Spain, and former slaves who had revolted offered their services to these countries. *Sonthanax*, the French commissioner appointed by the Convention to retrieve the situation announced freedom for the slaves of Santo Domingo on 29 August 1793. It was then that *Toussaint Louverture* entered the scene. He was the genius who rose to lead the heroic but often tempestuous and argumentative group that staged the revolt. Born into slavery, this descendant of *Gaou Ginou*, (king of the Aradas) had been a house slave with the attendant opportunities to acquire an education for himself. Step-by-step, he succeeded in climbing the ladder to the highest levels of the French army and, in so doing, to achieve the dream of Spartacus. Toussaint exploited all the contradictions of the slave state, colonial society and the French Revolution. His aims were simple — independence for Haiti and greater prosperity. He began by placing himself in the service of Spain where he earned his first stripes. When France extended the abolition of slavery to all its territories, in February 1794, Toussaint felt the time was ripe to switch tack. In the name of the French Republic, he reconquered the territories which he had been instrumental in seizing from them. At times, he was forced to fight former brothers in arms who lacked his own adaptable spirit. In so doing, he approached the top of the ladder. He was appointed Lieutenant Governor (second in command of the colony) in 1796. The following year, Toussaint became a divisional general and Commander-in-Chief of the French forces in Santo Domingo. In 1800 he set out to reconquer the eastern part of the island which had been ceded (on paper) to France by the 1795 Treaty of Basel. He achieved this feat without difficulty on

28 January 1801 and the island was reunited for the first time in more than a century. Toussaint proved to be as good at administration as he was at war and prosperity returned to the country. He even encouraged the old landowners to return to their properties and employ their former slaves who were obliged to stay there under his strict Rural Code. And step-by-step, he pushed aside the representatives of the French Republic leading to the entry into force of his 1801 Constitution which marked the *de facto* independence of Santo Domingo. The Constitution conferred on Toussaint the post of Governor-General for life, making him the sole official metropolitan representative. Throughout this long process, he succeeding in marginalising his mulatto rivals in the French army.

A forerunner to Vietnam

Once peace was established between France and its enemies, Napoleon was in a position to mobilise his forces. He speedily sent an expeditionary fleet to Santo Domingo under the command of General Leclerc, the husband of his sister Pauline. The force consisted of 40 000 men plus all the troops that Spain had sent to subdue the independence movement. This was the first time that such a large force had been sent such a long distance. Indeed, given that the island's population numbered just 600 000 former slaves, the expeditionary force was proportionately larger than the half-million strong force of GIs sent to Vietnam a century and a half later. Napoleon aimed to swamp the country with superior forces. In response, and given his limited human resources, Toussaint opted for a scorched earth policy, entailing great sacrifices for his people. Whole towns were destroyed in the face of the approaching enemy. The first French attack came at Cap on 4 February 1802. Christophe gave the signal by setting fire to his own palace and the jewel in the French crown disappeared in flames. Maurepas, Dessalines and Vernet did the same thing in Port-de-Paix, Saint Marc and Gonaïves respectively. Anything which could provide supplies for the invaders was put to

the torch. Following the signature of a peace agreement, Toussaint was captured as a result of treachery and sent to France. He died at the Fort de Joux in the Jura. Fighting erupted again with the 'rebels' now under the command of Dessalines. It was a life and death struggle against Leclerc's fierce repression and Napoleon's desire to re-establish slavery. It has even been claimed that the revolutionary army tried to spread yellow fever in the French ranks. If true, this was the first recorded instance of bacteriological warfare. The war of independence culminated on 18 November 1803 with the Battle of Vertières. It was here that Leclerc's successor, *Rochambeau* (renowned for his cruelty) briefly halted the fighting to present an honour to the black general, *Capois-La-Mort*. The latter, it was reported had 'covered himself in glory' by resuming his position at the head of his troops despite a bullet wound to his horse — and to his hat!

A permanent coalition of enemies

Independence was officially proclaimed on 1 January 1804. In 1820, France formally recognised Haiti's sovereignty. The Haitian government agreed to indemnify the former colonists to the tune of 150 million gold francs and although the sum was subsequently reduced to 60 million, this was nonetheless equivalent to billions of dollars in modern terms. The debt and accumulated interest were to prove a burden on the Haitian economy for more than a hundred years. Throughout the nineteenth century, the new nation lived in a state of alert, allocating the bulk of its resources to defence. The country was frequently bombarded by foreign cannons. This would happen on the slightest pretext: to back up the indemnity claim, to defend the interests of a particular European citizen, and sometimes simply in pursuit of extortion (as happened three times with Germany). One such attack, in 1902, forced the Haitian Admiral *Killick* to beat a hasty retreat to avoid his vessel being raked by German guns.

The French forces based in the eastern part of the island were involved in this strategy of permanent threat, prompting Dessalines (the 'founder' of the nation) to campaign in the east. However, while besieging the town of Santo Domingo, he was obliged to abandon the attempt for internal security reasons. Dessalines took the view that this was not a campaign of conquest but of reunification. The situation was very different when the east was occupied by the forces of the Haitian dictator *Boyer*, who controlled the whole island between 1822 and 1843. It was during this time — and for good reason — that the enmity of the Dominican nationalists was aroused. The Dominican Republic gained its independence from Haiti (and not, as one might have expected, from a colonial European power) in 1844.

The heroes of Haitian independence took the view that freedom for a single country was not enough. It was this principle which lay behind President Pétion's support for the Latin American freedom fighters, Miranda and Bolívar. In 1815-16, the latter twice visited Haiti where he received weapons and ammunition. Quite a number of Haitians joined his army. However, when the independent states of the continent held their first ever meeting in Panama in 1825, pressure from the United States ensured that Haiti did not receive an invitation.

US occupation

Broadly speaking, the history of Haiti as an independent country may be divided into five distinct periods. The first was from 1804 to 1822, the 'time of heroes' when the bayonet reigned supreme. This period saw the assassination of Dessalines (1806) and a schism between the northern kingdom of Christophe and Pétion's republic. One of the reasons which lay behind Dessalines' murder was his proposal to divide up territory for the benefit of the landless poor — a recurring issue in Haitian history. The time from 1822 until the American invasion in 1915 was characterised by fumbling and instability, with the consolidation of democracy pitted against militarism. The American occupa-

tion lasted from 1915 to 1934 and led to the effective dissolution of the country. Although the US had gained a military victory over the *Cacos* guerilla movement, resistance to the occupation finally induced the Americans to withdraw, leaving behind them a form of constitution, an army and a 'made-to-measure' political class. The said politicians, who were viewed by the people as straw puppets (the French term was '*poupées de toile*') then held power for most of the time until the fall of Duvalier on 7 February 1986. One exception was the populist government of *Estimé* (1946-1950) who took the reins at the head of a revolution staged by young people and the 'indigenous' movement (which bore a similarity to the Jamaican *Rasta* movement of the 1960s). The fifth phase brings us up to the present. It is seen as a period of transition which began with four years of ups and downs in the struggle for democracy, leading to the election of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as President. His term of office was interrupted by a bloody military coup: the *tontons macoutes* returned and were joined by a new military mafia. We then had the contortions of the international community as they struggled to maintain the UN position, followed by the dispatch of an international military force to guarantee the return of a President whose term of office was due to end just a few months later. Finally, there was the election of René Préval. There was a vote on the Constitution in 1987, which was preceded by a campaign to mobilise the people, but in historical terms, the election of Aristide was probably more significant. He was the first Haitian leader to be chosen by universal suffrage in a truly democratic poll. It is worth noting that the definitive text of the 1987 Constitution is in Creole which is now an official language alongside French. It has, gained moreover, the status of 'national language'. Meanwhile, Voodoo has been recognised as one of the country's religions.

During the 19th century, power often lay in the hands of those who were able to mobilise the peasants. They were armed at the time of independence and remained so until the country was occupied. Having said this,

there were some polls during the period 1847-1880 which were reasonably democratic, even if those elected had a tendency to adopt dictatorial attitudes or to find themselves summarily dismissed. For example, under *Boisrond Canal* (1876-1879), electoral freedom, press liberty and judicial independence were all scrupulously respected. Just as in a number of European countries, there were people were striving for democracy. In development terms, the gap between Haiti and the world's richest countries was far narrower than the chasm which opened up following the American occupation. In 1820, the Royal Armoury of the North was casting its own cannons. Under *Geffrard* (1859-1867), there was a coastal steamship service which functioned smoothly. In 1899, Port-au-Prince had an operating tram system and railways connected a number of key towns. The monetary reforms introduced by *Saget* (1870-1874), and subsequently consolidated, gave the country a relatively stable currency.

It was the anarchy that reigned between 1908 and 1915 that gave the Americans the pretext to occupy Haiti. But the USA had been intervening for decades prior to this. They sought to control the Haitian customs and excise system, transfer the gold reserves held in the National Bank to the US, acquire property, and obtain the concession for Môle Saint Nicolas in order to build a military base. Other than the case of the long-term concession over part of Haiti's territory, which was granted to the Americans, the latter owed all their other 'achievements' to the Marines. *Charlemagne Peralte* was the hero of the resistance to the American occupation. His fate was to be crucified on a door. With the (US-assisted) return of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, it was decided that homage should be paid to Peralte's memory. A touch impertinent perhaps — but today, his face can be seen on some of the country's new coins! ■

Hégl Goutier

Voodoo and Creole in a culture of survival

However one chooses to define the word 'culture' - whether as the structure of a civilisation and its people, or as aesthetic understanding — Haiti's culture is surprising. Like a compulsive gambler who wins against all the odds, it has managed to progress.

It was *André Malraux* who succeeded in opening the eyes of Europe's art experts and intellectuals to the fact that an artistic revolution was taking place in this small country. He viewed it as more significant than the country's much vaunted reputation for independence, coming at a time when European painting was in decline. For Malraux, Haitian art offered a response to the aesthetic paradox of the West which insists on artistic originality but simultaneously seeks to impose style and an academic underpinning. Before him, in the 1940s, the American painter *Dewitt Peters* had opened an art centre in Port-au-Prince prompting collectors to go on pilgrimage to Haiti. He displayed a rare talent for analysis and risked his reputation by asserting that the school of Haitian painting was one of the most important in the history of art.

A cultural 'big bang'

In the 19th century, more than 90% of Haitians were illiterate. Today, the figure is still about 65% and it is a lot higher if one is talking about functional literacy in the French language. Yet up until the 1950s, Haiti was the richest source of 'overseas' French literature. The American critic, *Edmund Wilson*, (cited by *Léon-François Hoffman* in *Littérature d'Haiti*) claimed in his work *Red, Black, Blond and Olive* that since independence in 1804, Haiti had produced more books per inhabitant than any other in the New World with the

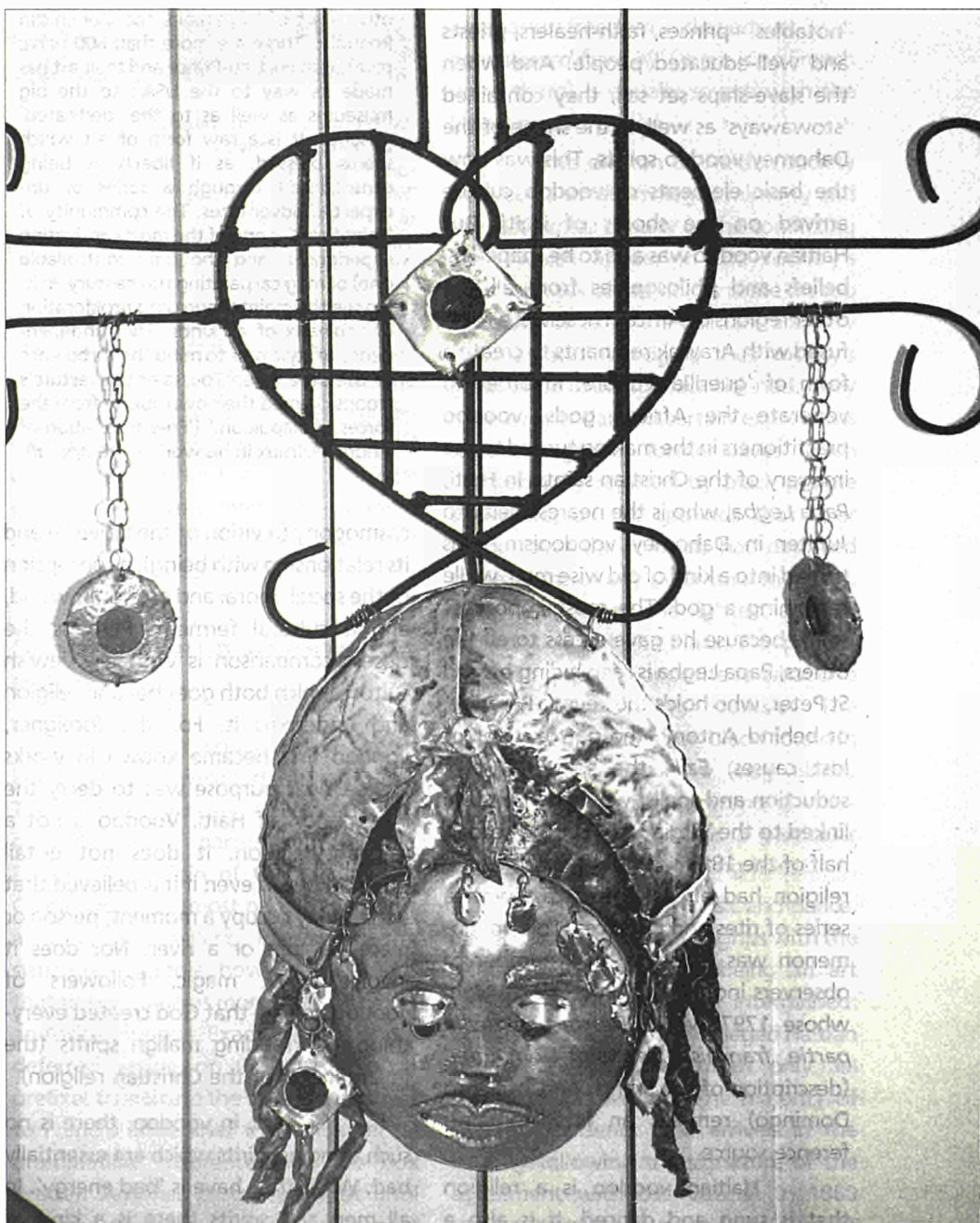
exception of the USA. In the field of music, the range is very wide indeed — classical composers such as *Frantz Casséus* and *Amos Coulanges*, 'ethnic' music groups, and exponents of Voodoo jazz such as *Boukman Eksperyans*. And at the pinnacle of today's world Rap scene, we find *The Fugees*.

During the 17th century, when Santo Domingo's population was rising sharply, Louis XIV's 'Code noir' sought to

stamp out anything which encouraged the continuation of African culture. The vocabulary of European 'civilisation' was heavily weighted towards prohibition. Even the moral justification advanced in support of slavery, based on the need to convert the pagan, rested on a fear of the egalitarianism implicit in Christianity. The only religious ritual in which slaves

Sculpture of Ezili by Lionel Saint-Eloi

Ezili is the spirit of beauty and seduction. There are no icons in voodoo — the spirit is represented by geometric designs allowing for a special kind of artistic independence



took part was anointment with holy waters. Other than the tiny Indian legacy, however, there was a common cultural denominator — the quintessential spirit of Africa which resided in the souls of the Wolof, Fon, Mondongue, Congo, Caplaou and Bambara brought over as slaves. It may not have been much, but it was enough to set off a cultural 'big bang'.

Spirits and stowaways

Admittedly, the slaves came from many different places, but those from the Gold Coast (Gulf of Guinea) were in the majority. Some of the *Fon* and *Arada* who were seized were 'notables' - princes, faith-healers, priests and well-educated people. And when the slave-ships set sail, they contained 'stowaways' as well, in the shape of the Dahomey voodoo spirits. This was how the basic elements of voodoo culture arrived on the shores of Haiti. But Haitian voodoo was also to be shaped by beliefs and philosophies from all the other regions of Africa. These were to be fused with Arawak remnants to create a form of 'guerilla' culture. In order to venerate the African gods, voodoo practitioners in the making turned to the imagery of the Christian saints. In Haiti, *Papa Legba*, who is the nearest deity to Jupiter in Dahomey voodooism, was turned into a kind of old wise man, while remaining a god. The most important spirit, because he gave access to all the others, Papa Legba is seen hiding behind St Peter, who holds the keys to Paradise, or behind Antony, the patron saint of lost causes. *Ezili*, the spirit of love, seduction and spells, would come to be linked to the Virgin Mary. In the second half of the 18th century the basis of the religion had already been cast with a series of rites and practices. This phenomenon was reported by a number of observers including *Moreau de St-Méry* whose 1797 work, '*Description de la partie française de Saint-Domingue*' (description of the French part of Santo Domingo) remains an important reference source.

Haitian voodoo is a religion that is sung and danced. It is also a

Malraux and Haitian painting

'Ironically, the twilight of one of the great periods of European painting has coincided with a new outburst of artistic creativity in that birthplace of painting — the

distant Caribbean. And in the only country which has always disdained this art form, the United States, people are now avidly following the events unfolding so close to Florida's shores. It is a phenomenon; a shadow of the east, which no amount of tourism can swamp. The US, the richest sub-continent in the world, became Africa's 'jazz-genie'. But America, in turn, has found its 'colour-genie' in poor little Haiti — and only there. This painting explosion is not found elsewhere in the Antilles, nor even in the other part of Hispaniola, the Dominican Republic. There are more than 800 naive painters in Port-au-Prince and their art has made its way to the USA: to the big museums as well as to the 'dedicated' galleries. It is a raw form of art which seems blessed, as if liberty is being consolidated through a series of unexpected adventures. The community of 'Saint Soleil' is one of the most captivating experiences (and the only controllable one) of magical painting this century. In it, we see the maintenance and proliferation of tableaux of all kinds. Their independence of style calls to mind the turbulence of the time when Toussaint Louverture's troops claimed their own liberty from the forces of Napoleon.' (Free translation of André Malraux in his work, *l'Intemporal*).

cosmogony (a vision of the universe and its relationship with being), a conception of the social, moral and economic world, and a cultural ferment. Perhaps the closest comparison is with the Jewish culture which both goes beyond religion and underpins it. For the foreigner, voodoo first became known in works whose clear purpose was to decry the new nation of Haiti. Voodoo is not a fetishist religion. It does not entail object-worship even if it is believed that a spirit may occupy a moment, person or place: a tree or a river. Nor does it involve black magic. Followers of voodoo believe that God created everything — including malign spirits (the fallen angels of the Christian religion).

In fact, in voodoo, there is no such thing as spirits which are essentially bad. What they have is 'bad energy'. In all men and spirits there is a kind of

duality between good and evil. *Ezili*, the spirit of beauty, can also be *Ezili Freda*, the spirit of seduction and perfect love or *Ezili Je Rouj*, the spirit of concupiscence, and venal love. The element that strikes most strangers to voodoo is *zombification*, a process of poisoning which apparently leads to death. After the interment, an 'antidote' is administered to bring the individual out of his cataleptic state. The idea is that the victim then becomes a slave. Zombification is said to be a form of 'capital' punishment imposed by the 'people's tribunals' of secret societies. Scientific research into the alleged zombie phenomenon has been carried out by Professor Douyon and other Haitian, and Canadian academics. This suggests that while there are not many cases of zombification, the phenomenon nonetheless exists. The existence of secret societies has been proven, but it should be stressed that the usual voodoo ceremonies are open to the public.

In the voodoo religion, God (*Granmèt*) is a unique being who is both close to and distant from humans. This conception accords with the African one. From the mythical place of Africa-Guinea through the *Ville aux camps* (another mythical spot in Haiti), the *Iwa*, (spirits, mystics or angels) follow a path that leads to the human being — to whom they transmit energy. This is said to come via the cosmic axis symbolised in the temple (*hounfò*) by the 'potomitan'. All voodoo ritual revolves around this core belief in the existence of a transcendental and spiralling path. When a person is being 'ridden' by the *Iwa*, the fact is easy to identify in his behaviour. Through various means, including initiation and the acquisition of knowledge, any person can capture enough energy to travel up the path — which allows them to become *Iwa*. But few are actually successful. Normally after death, the spirit of the community of mortals will, at best, become an 'ancestor' who is capable, in exceptional cases, of communicating with the living.

The great *Iwas* are divided essentially into two main groups or nations (*nanchons*): the *Iwa rada*, originating in Arada in Dahomey and the *lois*



Petro. The latter are often portrayed as Creoles but a large number also come from Africa. Each has different rites, ceremonies and greetings and the distinction extends to the composition of their orchestras, their musical instruments and so on. There are also a number of other smaller 'nanchons' such as the Congo and all are classified further into sub-groups. Associated with each Iwa is a type of music, a dance, one or more colours, a behavioural profile, a history and a series of minor escapades — just as in the Greek pantheon. No portrait exists of the Iwa, however. He is represented by a geometric design traced either on the ground, in a temple or in a place close to the *poto mitan*. The designs, made from powdered substances such as flour, talcum powder or ash, are highly developed and artistically sophisticated. The lines and curves used go to make up an original heraldic form. It is tempting to believe that the people who use abstract geometric designs to represent their gods have an infinite capacity to imagine what they look like. And there is no doubt, as far as Haitians are concerned, that Ezili is the most beautiful woman in the world. Never having seen her, other than in the form of a geometric design, they are free to invent her beauty. Could this be the source of the independence of spirit referred to by Malraux? Despite the

A poster in Creole and French advertises condoms in Port-au-Prince. Until recently, teaching in Haiti was almost entirely carried out in French — a language which very few Haitians speak fluently

absence of hierarchies, voodoo priests practice largely uniform rituals. The priests play a central role in Haitian society — in the political, social and cultural spheres. Each priest is the focal point for a whole community — known as a '*lakou*' in a system which resembles the extended rural family.

Schizophrenia among the elite

As with voodoo, the Creole language has developed very speedily. The local tongue, however, is often misunderstood, particularly *vis-a-vis* French. The origin of the majority of Creole words led most people to view it as a French dialect. Examining the structure of Creole, however, one finds that the grammar is more akin to that of an African tongue. Examples such as the deferred article or the use of verb prefixes to indicate the tense (in contrast to French) underlines the fundamental grammatical difference (see the box article). Another problem is that until recently, teaching in Haiti was almost

entirely carried out in French — a language which few Haitians speak fluently. This resulted in a kind educational schizophrenia. Most children spoke Creole at home and learned the local names of plants and animals. They were then obliged to learn the French equivalents, parrot-fashion, without any context being offered. As a result, from a psycho-sociological standpoint, a Francophile risked being seen as something approaching a 'traitor'. Even Haitians for whom French was a first language were inhibited from using that tongue in private when speaking with their compatriots. The expression 'pale franse' in Creole means quite simply to lie or invent things. A Dutch expression that emphasises freedom and openness '*Erist geen woord frans bij*' (there is no French word there) is equally severe with the language of Voltaire.

The division of Haitian society between a small privileged minority and the rest explains many of the conflicting ideas which appear in the country's literature. Social prejudices come on top of colour ones — the Haitians are very good at acknowledging their society's great pride in being black-skinned. They have even reclaimed certain expressions such as 'negro' or 'former slaves' which are generally rejected by black people elsewhere, on the grounds that their victory over the colonists had deprived these terms of any pejorative meaning. As a result, even the lightest skinned mulattos claim to be black. This phenomenon is quite the opposite to what one finds in neighbouring countries. The number of gradations of 'black' found in Creole — including *nwè* (very black), *nwa* (black), *griffe*, *grimmelle*, *marabout* and *chabin*, shows a particular preoccupation with defining hues.

In the field of music and dance, it is not so easy to come to grips with the basic impulses — music being an art which is too sensual and internalised. One might add that in privileged Haitian society, intellect was often only associated with writing. The majority of the Breton clerics who arrived in the country following the signature of the agreement with the Vatican in 1860 were certainly in no position to offer an

Creole and its disconcerting grammar

In Creole, the definite article always appears after the substantive. Thus, we get:

liv la — 'the book';

liv mwen — 'my book';

liv mwen an — 'my book' with a possessive and definite article signifying that it is not just any book but the one under discussion;

liv mwen sa a — 'this book, which is mine', where the noun is followed by a possessive, a demonstrative and a definite article;

liv ki sou tab la epi ki dechire a — 'the book which is on the table and which is torn'. The definite article comes after the word group to which it belongs (i.e. after *tab* — 'table', not after the substantive (*liv* — 'book'). One

might mention that *a* and *la* are two different forms of the same definite article, agreement being based on phonetic considerations linked to the word which precedes the article (which is not necessarily the substantive). Another key grammatical point relates to verbs. The tense is always determined by a form which precedes the verb. Thus:

mwen manje — 'I eat'

mwen te manje — 'I ate'

mwen ap manje (contracted to *mwap manje*) — 'I am eating'

mwen te ap manje (contracted to *mwen tap manje*) — 'I was eating'

mwen tapral manje — 'I was about to eat.'

artistic education to the young people put in their charge. The level of illiteracy among the population also meant that Haitian writers addressed themselves in the first instance to foreign audiences. The main market, not surprisingly, was French — at least after relations between the two countries were normalised in 1825.

racist government (1941-1946) backed up by American Protestant sects. This involved savage repression of voodoo followers and the pillage of Indian and African archaeological artifacts. *Father Riou*, who was one of most enthusiastic participants in the witch-hunt, left us with a description of how the campaign was conducted in his book *Adieu La*

Tortue (Farewell to the Tortoise). The way voodoo has been treated in the literature has always been tainted with hypocrisy. At best, it has been portrayed as a set of ancient practices which were bound to disappear with the march of 'progress'. The use of the Creole language, in addition to being handicapped by prejudice, is hindered by a basic practical limitation. The potential Haitian readership, always supposing that they can read Creole, is still very small.

Despite numerous appeals from writers such as *Emile Nau*, in February 1839, for a literary revolution involving a return to popular language and culture, it was not until 1906 that a Haitian novel (*Mimola* by *Antoine In-*

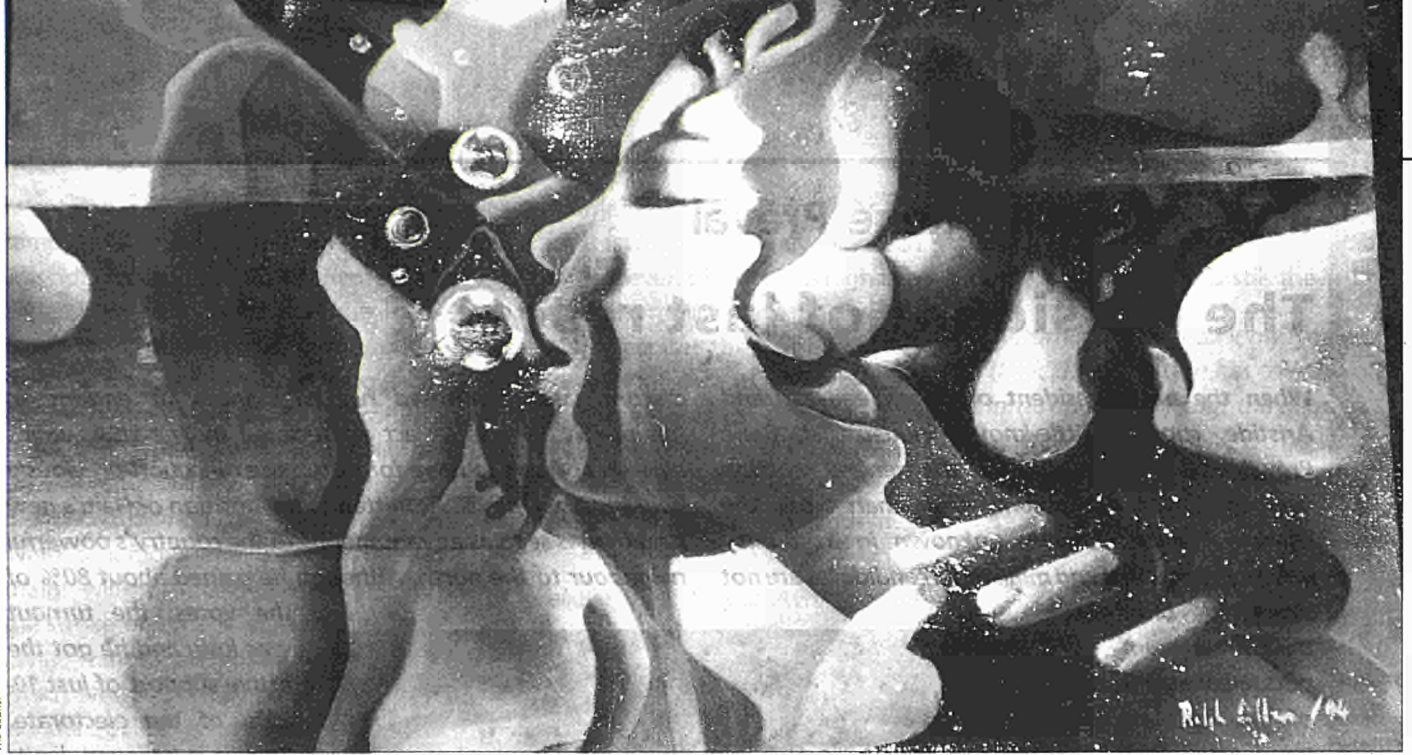
Cayes Cathedral

The 'anti-superstition' campaign against voodoo, waged by the Breton clergy with the support of Lescot's government (1941-1946), involved savage repression - and the pillage of Indian and African archaeological artifacts

Political recovery

Despite the fact that Haitian literature in the last century did not conform to any particular pattern or school, it was always a source of discussion. It had the task of countering the campaigns of denigration mounted by foreigners. There was a kind of 'Haitiphobia' abroad based on a desire to prevent the revolutionary 'disease' being exported. Thus, the problems experienced by Haiti were deemed to be due to an congenital incapacity on the part of black people. The Western obsession with Africa was invoked to portray voodoo as a sinister form of sorcery. Meanwhile Haiti's politicians, moulded by the complexes of the minority in which they had been brought up, constantly vacillated between open rejection of the popular religion and embracing it for electoral purposes. The most serious attempt to stamp out voodooism came with the 'anti-superstition' campaign waged by the Breton clergy in the early 1940s. They were supported by Lescot's openly





Painting by Ralph Allen

nocent) was published depicting voodoo positively. This was an exceptionally erudite work which covered the rituals, liturgy and vocabulary of the religion. In the world of theatre, with its emphasis on dialogue and the spoken word (often with local usages) Creole made advances somewhat earlier. In 1818, *Juste Chanlatte* began a piece (*L'entrée du roi en sa capitale*) with a scene in Creole. Since the 1980s, there has been significant progress in expanding Creole as a written language. A range of works has been published including novels (most notably *Pèlin tèt* by *Frankétienne*) and essays. The omnipresence of Creole in political life and the audio-visual media, the introduction of the language into schools, and the development of a Creole press, all add up to a new lease of life for Haiti's 'native' tongue. It is important to stress that important influences lay behind Haiti's second era of literature — the so-called romantic period between 1830 and 1930 — when efforts were made to defend the French language. It was, in effect, being employed as a 'rampart' against American ambitions.

'Treasures of Negritude'

During the American occupation, and following the defeat of the *Cacos* resistance, it was the intellectuals who took up the struggle with their pens. In 1927, the *Revue Indigène* launched the literary revolution that Emile Nau had pleaded for a century

earlier. This was the *Mouvement Indigéniste* of Jean Price-Mars, whose book *Ainsi parla l'oncle* (Thus spake uncle) could be viewed as the movement's literary manifesto. He was to gain worldwide recognition. In his tract, *Hommage à l'oncle* (Homage to Uncle) published for the 80th birthday of the Haitian writer, Léopold Sédar Senghor said Price-Mars had made known 'the treasures of Negritude that he had unearthed in the Haitian soil. In so doing, he helped me to discover the same values... in the soil of Africa.' The negritude of Price-Mars, Senghor and Césaire would be claimed by François Duvalier who also indulged in some scribbling. He exploited the friendship of the great poet Carl Brouard to feed off the literary group known as 'Les Griots', transforming it into an instrument of 'noirisme' - a kind of tropical fascism.

The first major example of the so-called 'peasant novel' was 'Les gouverneurs de la rosée' by Jacques Roumain (published in 1950). This was translated into some 20 languages and screened in the USA, Cuba and France. It was from this genre that the '*Réalisme merveilleux*' of Haiti emerged. Jacques Stephen Alexis, the progenitor of this type of literature, was the first Haitian writer to achieve such fame that even 30 years after his death, his books are still being reissued (by the Gallimard publishing house). Caught up in the guerilla movement on account of his romantic idealism, Alexis was arrested on his return to Haiti and subsequently killed

by Duvalier. Several Haitian authors are now identified as central figures in this apparently enduring movement, including René Dépestre (who won the 1988 Renaudot Prize with *Hadriana dans tous mes rêves*), Emile Ollivier, and Anthony Phelps. Haiti's *Réalisme merveilleux* has allowed the country's literature to make Price-Mars' dream come true. That is to say, it incorporates popular culture, voodoo mythology, authenticity and the use of rich Creole imagery and colours in the language, whether the medium is French or Creole. It also reflects the artistic baroque of Latin America which Haitian writers have often flirted with. It manages to be universal without sacrificing its authenticity. It is the triumph of a dream — the dream of the young rebels of 1946 who wanted to break down the barriers. It was in that year that Dépestre offered an unprecedented democratic spring — drawing in foreign artists and intellectuals such as André Breton, Sartre and Annaïs Nin. Price-Mars wanted to open up a form of aestheticism which would cure the Haitian people of its wounds. For Stephen Alexis, the aesthetic choice was akin to a political engagement. Those disillusioned with Communism and (often the same people) pained by long exile from their native land, such as René Dépestre and Emile Ollivier, preferred perhaps to portray it more simply — as a mature literature born out of a painful labour. ■

H.G.

Interview with René Préval

The President of last resort

When the new President of Haiti, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, chose a little-known industrialist, René Préval, as his Prime Minister, the general reaction was one of astonishment. This 'man from the shadows' was relatively unknown in a country where presidential and ministerial candidates are not

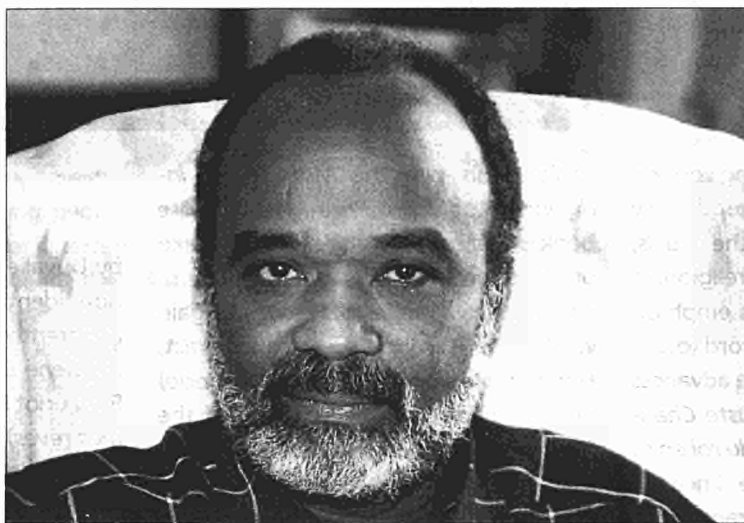
slow to blow their own trumpets. He was one of the first left-wing activists in the early 1970s to state publicly

that the main opposition to the tyranny of the Duvalier family would come from the grass-roots and not from intellectual circles. He began to work for the young priest who was starting to become a

popular symbol. He rapidly attracted enmity from those who portrayed him as an Aristide 'yes-man' - someone too close to the over-charismatic leader and to Latin-American liberation theology. This was to misjudge Préval. His devotion to Aristide was based on political realism. He might well have remarked, like a former French Prime Minister on the subject of his President: 'He is him and I am me'. His first actions as President revealed the differences. His visit to Joaquín Balaguer was regarded by the media in the Dominican Republic as a 'revolutionary' act which ended 150 years of

discord, and confirmed his willingness to engage in 'realpolitik'. It was an act appreciated by the USA, which already appears to have forgotten the rancour it previously held towards Préval. Admittedly, the position of Haiti's new president is seen as advantageous to the country's powerful neighbour to the north. Although he gained about 80% of

the votes, the turnout was low, and he got the active support of just 10-25% of the electorate. This, it is believed, limits his room for manoeuvre in terms of independent policy-making. The people see his position as one of benevolent neutrality and appear prepared to take to the streets to protect him. This is probably more to prevent the return of the 'tontons-macoutes' than



through any sense of devotion. Also, given the predicament of the Haitian economy — which was wrecked by the putschist regime — Préval is, for many Haitians, their only hope. But the idol of the poor is still Aristide. If it is true that Aristide is seeking to distance himself from current government policy, there is a danger the latter may be weakened. To prevent this happening, President Préval's pragmatic approach needs to deliver rapid results in terms of his compatriots' living standards. This was the first point we raised with the President.

— Firstly, results have to be gauged against the diagnosis. Throughout my campaign, I warned the people of Haiti that the situation was extremely difficult. We were living in a country in tatters after 200 years of exploitation and 40 years or so of a particularly harsh and rapacious dictatorship — which prompted most of our educated people to leave, which reduced the country's education system to almost nothing and which dismantled the nation's infrastructure. Let me give you an example connected with education. This year, we have had a success rate of about 10% in our *baccalauréat* results. In parallel, we made 1500 teachers sit exams. Only 400

of them were able to put ten words in alphabetical order and just 41 were able to list ten fractions in increasing or decreasing order. This kind of legacy has repercussions for the nation as a whole — its justice system, public administration and so on. During our first seven months in office, we have been trying, first of all, to stabilise the economy and the disastrous financial situation we inherited. We took over the presidency midway through the financial year and the budget deficit forecast for the year had already been exceeded, after just six months. There was also galloping inflation. We implemented budget restrictions and have been careful not to spend

any more on one day than we earned the day before. We have also succeeded in substantially reducing the rate of inflation.

■ You paint a very bleak picture and present yourself as a ruler without resources. How, then, do you intend to achieve the objective you have set yourself?

— I am simply being realistic. You have to be clear-thinking, patient and aware that the task ahead will be difficult. The other day, in Le Limbé, the local people cut off road links to add weight to their demands for immediate permanent electricity supplies and a

telephone network. During my election campaign, I explained to them that this was not possible. I reminded them of this and asked them to remove the road-blocks. They did so. Given the situation, my view is that the wisest strategy is to tell the truth — not to make promises that cannot possibly be kept. Haitian citizens have had 200 years in which to grow accustomed to their wretched living conditions and they know that things will not change overnight with the stroke of a magic wand. What they really want is an honest government which works tirelessly to improve their standard of living and which implements appropriate, albeit stringent, measures.

■ *So what have you done in practical terms?*

— We have been working on a package of proposals for reforming public administration and the economy, and will very shortly be signing an agreement with a number of donors who will give us financial support to enable us to implement specific measures. Give us 18 months to two years and I would expect to begin to see the fruits of the actions we are taking today. What we want to do is lay good foundations for development, not implement measures just for show. This means setting up road, communications and energy infrastructures and creating the appropriate financial and commercial instruments to attract foreign and local investment.

■ *Doesn't the problem of lack of security discourage private investment? The impression is that your new police force is outside democratic control, given its unsanctioned acts of rebellion. I am referring here to recent events in Les Cayes.*

— The lack of security is the same whether you are in Haiti, Washington, Miami, Mexico or Russia. Obviously certain factions will attempt to destabilise the government but the important thing that is lacking here is political security. Fortunately, it has not reached an alarming level but it is perceived. Also, there is the lingering effect of the last three years of crisis, which has to be erased. As regards the new police force,

it takes time to set this up and ours has been in existence for barely eighteen months. However, security is as high as it is because the police have been fairly successful despite their meagre resources. Most importantly, the principal element in the equation — the Haitian army — has been removed and we now need to spend time making our police force more professional and efficient.

■ *I believe that Prosper Avril (one of the putschists during the transition following Duvalier's departure — Ed) has written to you recently. Do you think it is a good idea to announce an amnesty for political crimes or do you agree with those who believe that democracy without justice is impossible?*

— President Aristide signed an amnesty decree covering all those involved in the *coup d'état*, but it applies only to politics, not human rights. Those who killed, pillaged and laid waste during that three-year period can and must be brought to account by those who regard themselves as their victims. Prosper Avril, I might add, has been served a summons. If he is innocent, he should have nothing to fear. He just has to come forward and give himself up.

■ *So has he actually written to you?*

— As things stand, a fugitive has had an open letter published in the newspapers. As I do not know his address, I cannot reply to him.

■ *Former President Aristide recently criticised your government's policy. How do you interpret his distancing himself from you?*

— President Aristide described the economic programme as a risk which had to be finely calculated with a great many precautions being taken regarding its implementation. We are in complete agreement on that. He also said that there were always some corrupt elements within government and, once again, we agree with him. He stated that the Haitian people felt that they played no part in the running of the country — for a third time, we agree.

■ *There are different ways of saying things.*

— The truth is still the truth.

■ *Returning to the economy, you seem to think that the state has to limit itself to infrastructures so that the people can begin to help themselves. This implies that you want the private sector to guarantee the country's development. Doesn't this put you on the road towards a 'non-social' state?*

— In our economic reform law, we have made room for the redistribution of company profits towards CASEC members (rural people at the district level). We have also provided for a pension fund for the poorest in the population, and are arranging for investment in agriculture, health and education. The government wants to ensure that the profits from state enterprise transfers are spent on society's needs.

■ *In terms of its diplomacy, Haiti appears to be treading carefully. When it signed the Lomé Convention, many expected that Haiti would emerge as leader of the Caribbean group but this appears not to have happened. Can I also ask about your relations with those that supported you in times of crisis — the Caricom countries, Canada and black people in the USA — your 'friends in difficult times', to paraphrase Nelson Mandela.*

— We are going to carry out a complete overhaul of our diplomatic corps. During the three years of the *coup d'état*, it was important to have a broad outlook and gaining support was one of the major objectives of our embassies abroad. We are now going to cut spending and steer our diplomatic efforts towards seeking cultural cooperation and support but, above all, trade. We intend to strengthen our Foreign Ministry and enable it to gather commercial and political information, and information on economic opportunities: in fact, all kinds of information which might be useful to our representatives and which we will enter in a databank so that the Ministry can process it correctly. As regards relationships with specific countries or groups of countries, my first trip as President was to the Dominican

Republic. As you are aware, this has a special position *vis-à-vis* Haiti under the Lomé Convention. At yesterday's meeting of the Joint Haiti-Dominican Republic Commission (*this interview was conducted on 19 September 1996 — Ed*), which was set up during my visit to the Dominican Republic, I met *Max Puig*, the Lomé coordinator. We had a very fruitful discussion during which we defined a common strategy on the subject of the opportunities which exist under Lomé both for our two countries and for Caricom. I also visited Jamaica and, probably around December, I will be going to Argentina, Brazil and other countries with whom our diplomatic relations have traditionally been on the prudent side. As you may know, we now have diplomatic relations with Cuba and hope to have them soon with South Africa.

■ *I would like to talk a little more about Haiti's domestic situation. The many roadblocks erected by Haiti's disillusioned people bear witness to their concerns in the face of poverty. Surely they are waiting for a clear signal from your government, to give them a little hope?*

— I would say that the signals I have given already are clear ones. Last March, I was in the Artibonite Valley, a rice-growing area, and we set up an evaluation committee composed of local farmers, CASEC members, local councillors and others. I asked them if they could draw me up, in a couple of weeks, an evaluation report on the ODVA's administration. This is the state body responsible for development in the Artibonite area. They told me they would need at least six months to write a proper report. This was a lesson for me. Since then they have been working non-stop. When you give people the chance to think for themselves, they share their problems and propose their own solutions. At the moment, we are working on the budget and next week we will be meeting all the regional representatives and local councillors to discuss the allocation of public funds and explain to them what we believe is within our means. We have 5.7 billion *gourdes*

available. We have to explain priorities to them, and also our proposals on the allocation of funds to each local community. There will then be a week of 'think-tanks' during which the people taking part can themselves discuss what each region and sector ought to receive. They will be able to tell their 'constituents' just how difficult the situation is, but they will also recognise that this is not the parable of the loaves and fishes. We cannot work miracles. We have to be open and involve people. In that way, we will reduce the level of tension.

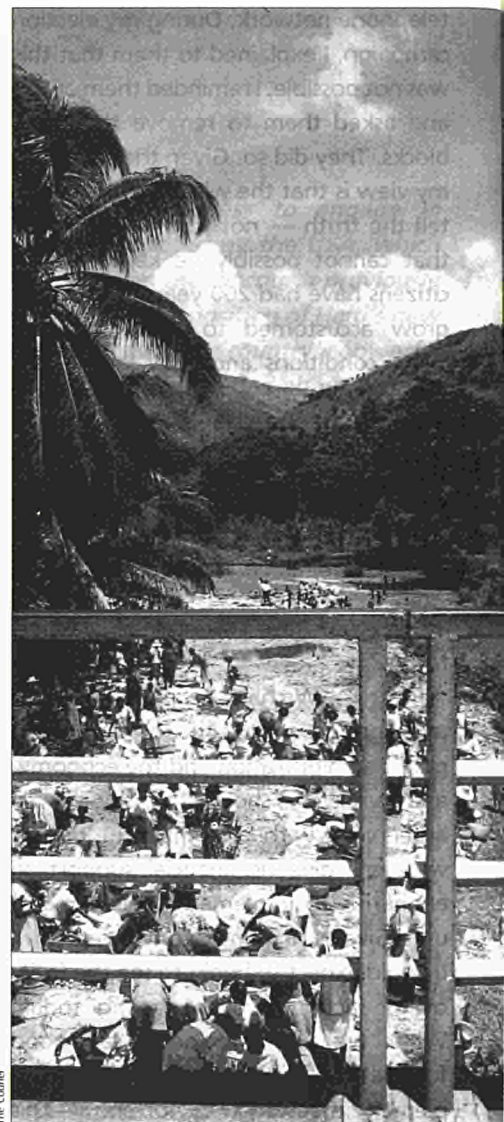
■ *You appear to be spreading yourself fairly thin. How can you possibly keep on going like this, dismantling roadblocks when you are President?*

— With the roadblocks, there was always a risk that events would take an unexpected turn. If we had allowed the situation to deteriorate, the people would have turned against those who set up the roadblocks in the first place. In the case of Le Limbé that we spoke of earlier, the people were reclaiming the roads in order to develop their region. How can we not be sympathetic? However, Parliament has before it a \$50m IDB (Inter-American Development Bank) infrastructure project, which is to be adopted.

■ *So why haven't MPs voted on it?*

— During the dictatorship, Parliament did no more than approve executive decisions. Now, MPs are working under difficult conditions, without specialised technical staff to help them and without the usual secretarial support. Furthermore, these men and women are new to the post and are only now serving their apprenticeship. They have to learn about Parliament's mechanisms.

As for my role, the people's views cannot be changed overnight. The constitution has reduced the powers of the President and decentralisation is becoming a reality. In spite of this, voters are rather apathetic regarding regional elections. We are currently in a period of transition and our ministers are new at their job within the state machine. I am a realist, however, and do not subscribe to the idea that a fuse will blow whenever



Open-air market by a river in the south of the country
People are accustomed to wretched living conditions and know that things will not change overnight. What they really want is an honest government which works tirelessly to improve their standard of living

there is the least little hiccup in the mechanism. Ministers receive no help and ought to be given time to get to know their ministries. Our high-flyers are leaving to work in international organisations because state pay is so bad.

■ *Even so, you're still optimistic?*

— If I set myself a reasonable goal, I'll be able to attain it. If I aim too high, I am bound to be thwarted — and pessimistic as a result. ■

Interview by Hégel Goutier

Profile

General information

Area: 27 750 km².

Population: 7.2 million

Population growth: 2.01%

Population density: 260 per km²

Capital: Port-au-Prince

Other main towns: Cap, Gonaïves, Cayes, Saint-Marc, Port-de-Paix, Jacmel

Main language: Creole (French, also an official language, is widely spoken)

Currency: The gourde. In December 1996, 1 ECU was worth approximately 19 gourdes. (\$1 = 15 gourdes)

Politics

System of government: Part presidential, part Parliamentary. There is a Senate of 27 members and a House of Assembly with 83 members. A considerable degree of decentralisation has recently been introduced. Under the new law, the country has 133 mayoralities and 565 local councils.

President: René Préval

Prime Minister: Rosny Smarth

Main political parties: OPL (Organisation populaire lavalas), Panpra (parti national progressiste révolutionnaire), Konakom (Comité national du congrès des mouvements démocratiques), RNDP (Rassemblement des démocrates nationaux progressistes), MID (mouvement pour l'instauration de la démocratie), PDCH (Parti démocrate chrétien d'haïti), PAIN (parti agricole et industriel national), FNCD (Front national pour le changement et la démocratie).



See the map on the inside back cover of this issue for Haiti's location in the Caribbean.

Representation of parties in the National Assembly: OPL — 66, others (mainly independents) — 17

Economy

GDP: \$7.6bn (GNP dropped by 26% between 1991 and 1994)

Annual GDP per capita: approx \$1050 (income per head is \$260)

GDP growth rate: 4.2% (estimate for 1995)

External debt: \$773 million

Main trade partners (in order of importance):

Exports: USA

Imports: USA, Dominican Republic

Inflation rate: 25% (estimate for 1995). The figure for 1994 was 50%.

Government budget: 1995 — 5.7 bn gourdes (of which 66% was external aid), 1996 (projected) — 13.4 bn gourdes (of which 70% is external aid)

Employment in the formal economy: 10%

Social indicators

Life expectancy at birth: 56.8 years

Infant mortality: 85 per 1000

Adult literacy: estimated to be about 43%

Enrolment in education (all levels from age 6 to 23): women 28.7%, men 30.6%

Human Development Index rating: 0.359 (145th out of 174)

Sources: Economic Intelligence Unit, UNDP Human Development Report, 1996, EC Commission, Statistical Institute of Haiti.

Serge Gilles gives an opposition viewpoint

'Those in power reject the need to work together'

■ *You are a senior figure in PANPRA, one of Haiti's largest opposition parties. But does the opposition today have any power or significance?*

— It is difficult, currently, to talk about power in this context, given that the most serious and representative parties involved in Haiti's politics over the last ten years have been driven out of the parliamentary system. I should mention here the organisation of the elections on 25 June, because that is when the difficulties began.

■ *What problem did you have with those elections?*

— Our problem is that they were not elections but *selections*. The Election Council which organised the poll was the result of a bad, or perhaps I should say improper, compromise. For a whole week, President Aristide met with political parties at the National Palace. Everyone agreed that the most representative groups should each present lists of 25 credible people chosen from across the country. But President Aristide drew up his own list. That was the basis upon which the election went ahead. Of all the parties that took part, six, including PANPRA, put up candidates in all nine departments. One of those, according to observers from two American NGOs, was close to the USA's own Democratic Party. So we took part in the poll but the electoral law was not respected.

■ *Aside from this particular complaint, do you agree with the foreign observers who reported that the elections were*

fair — notwithstanding the fact that Aristide's movement was certain to win?

— No. We say that the results were rigged; made up by the Election Council. It is easy to explain. The parties that took part in the election asked to be involved in the control and surveillance unit. This was refused and as a result, we had no means of verifying what was going on. Every party that stood condemned the outcome except for the Lavalas organisation and a certain 'international community'. Again for the Presidential poll, we sought to achieve certain conditions. We argued for training to be given to a control and surveillance unit. But all they did was to replace the old President of the Election Council — and that without consulting us. That is what happened and the international community doesn't talk about it. The turnout was less than 10% though some say it was 15% and the US Ambassador claimed 17%. Fine. Mr Préval was elected with 80% of what?

■ *Did the opposition in Haiti — and I am thinking particularly here of your own party — not lose out because it failed to take a strong stance at the time of the coup d'Etat? Even if you yourself condemned the takeover from the outset, you were not always backed up by your members.*

— It is true that I condemned the coup. In fact, just two days after it happened, I was the first senator in the Republic to declare my opposition in the national and international press. I sought the negotiated return of President Aristide. Following that, all our

MPs — we had 20 at the time, representing about a quarter of the electorate — argued in support of Article 148 of the Constitution which referred to the continuing in office of the President. In doing this, they opposed the adherents of Article 149 which provides for the recognition of a Presidential vacancy. From first to last, we pleaded for negotiations between the two protagonists (President Aristide and General Cédras). And in the final analysis, Aristide's return was the result of just such talks. We support the concept of democratic socialism so we could nothing other than uphold the principle of negotiation as a way of resolving political and social conflicts. That is the sole basis for the criticism directed at us, and I think we see now that it has little foundation. It is just that in respect of a number of key issues, the talks were badly conducted. At the time, there was a very highly-charged atmosphere. So when we had the good sense to seek negotiations between the two sides, we were accused of all sorts of sins.

■ *Would you not accept that your party, which had an opportunity to achieve something, made a mistake in reaching the agreement with Bazin during the 1990 elections?*

— We have been criticised for establishing an alliance with someone who was seen as representing part of the *bourgeoisie*. But it isn't possible alone to govern a country in the throes of democratisation and facing so many political, economic, social and environmental problems. We felt that a compromise was necessary after 30 years of dictatorship, misery and disruption, and when all the economic and social indicators were 'at red'. Today, the compromise has been reached but it is informal and lacking in transparency, which is bad. In passing, I should mention that when President Aristide suggested a pact with the army, we rejected this.

■ *What do you think are the prospects for this compromise?*

— I believe that we are still up against a block. That is one of our criticisms of the government. The President must recognise the deficiencies

surrounding his election. Currently, we are facing serious problems and formidable challenges. We proposed the formation of a broadly-based government but, in the event, we got one which is monopolised by the OPL. It is not possible to advance democracy if the institutions are not well-founded, or with a President who tries to be everywhere, damping down the fires which keep springing up. I recognise that this is a courageous thing to do but it isn't the way to move things forward. Let's take a look at our ecological problems. In 1804, 100% of this country was covered by forests. Today it is not even 20%. This isn't a 'Lavalas' problem or a 'PANPRA' one — it is something that concerns Haiti as a whole.

■ *Other than the fact that the President appears to be dashing around in an attempt to tackle various problems, what basic criticisms do you have of the government?*

— How would one sum up the present situation? In two words — general discontent. At the Haiti Electricity Company, the trade unions are unhappy. At the general hospital, the housemen are on strike. People are blocking the secondary roads at the slightest pretext. The population is tired and discouraged. To reassure them, we need to re-establish the authority of the state and that can only happen when the population regains confidence in its leaders. Those in charge must display a certain ability to bring people together and negotiate. As for the economy, the people are now being led to believe that simply by privatising nine or ten state companies, we are going to resolve all the country's problems. This is plainly not true. In addition, a confusion is beginning to creep in between the micro- and macro-economy. Privatisation is only an aspect of the former. We believe that some enterprises are suitable for privatisation while others — those which have a strategic significance — are not. It is vital that privatisation be undertaken in a transparent way and with the full involvement of those who are directly concerned. I think we could have avoided many of the mistakes.

At the macro-economic level, there is the problem of production. It doesn't do to have a government which isn't even able to feed its people. We are told that there is going to be agrarian reform but nobody understands it. This has to be done in accordance with a set of principles and rules. We need to mobilise the population, explain what is going on and get them involved. In short, it is a matter for the people — not just institutions. Let me mention another problem. Everyone recognises that we no longer live in a bipolar world. Many things have changed and we have to take account of this. We are going to privatise and move into the capitalist system but to do it properly, we must place private property in the hands of the majority. People have been talking about this for ten years but today, 90% of Haitians find themselves in the informal system. We must regularise the position of the owners of small houses, and give them the official title to their property. That would allow them to raise loans at the bank and set up small enterprises.

■ *Another point of discord in Haiti relates to the presence of foreign soldiers. What is your party's view on this?*

— The talks leading to the return of President Aristide were badly conducted. The participants negotiated their own security and not that of the people as a whole. The proof of this is the fact that while the military forces are in place, the people still have no security. I need to recall here the context in which the mandate of the UN mission in Haiti was extended. The political background was one of disenchantment, discouragement and discontent. So why are the foreign forces here? It is to create a secure and stable environment and to help in training a national police force. It isn't realistic to suggest that the troops will leave at a snap of the fingers. But nor can one seriously argue that they should stay here for the next ten years. What happens in practice is that every time the UN mandate comes close to expiring, people start getting excited.

■ *How would you assess the current human rights situation in the country and, more specifically, what is your attitude to the new police force and justice system?*

— It is clear to us that there has been an improvement in this area but the government doesn't deserve *all* the credit. It is thanks to everyone who has fought for this over the last 40 years. We have all been involved in the struggle (I myself spent time in prison) and it is something of which we should be proud. Having said this, we still have some criticisms. There have been wrongful arrests and political assassinations — between 20 and 30 cases. Unfortunately, we do not at PANPRA have a unit to monitor what is happening. But we know that political assassinations have occurred — foreign newspapers have highlighted the fact and have referred to the likely perpetrators.

■ *Do you mean incidents like the killings of Durocher-Bertin and Pastor Leroy? In these two cases, the State Department absolved the government of any responsibility, attributing them to isolated actions by individual policemen.*

— Yes, I am talking about the murders of Mireille Durocher-Bertin, Pastor Leroy and his companions, and Mr Gonzalez. There have been others as well. This is well known and has been reported in the American press. The State Department has offered explanations. But speaking as a representative of a political organisation, our problem is that there have been political assassinations which are still unsolved and unpunished. There is no serious effort at detection and I sense an unwillingness to seek out the criminals. Having said this, the overall progress made in the field of human rights is undeniable. The very fact that I am giving you an interview here today is proof of that. I certainly couldn't have done this a few years ago! ■

Interview by H.G.

Economic tremors

The full force of *Hurricane Hortense* was expected to hit Haiti in the second week of September. But having struck Antigua and ravaged Puerto Rico, it changed course and headed north to lash the Dominican Republic. In Haiti meanwhile, the political barometer was showing a slight risk of a *coup d'état*, but not much in the way of high tides or turbulence.

The only sign of restlessness came from the American Embassy. It announced the arrival of US marines to protect President Préval from his own guards, some of whom were allegedly involved in the murder of an opposition leader. The US President was hoping to forestall attempts by conservatives back home to tarnish his Haitian 'success story' on the eve of the American elections.

The atmosphere in Haiti was far-removed from the euphoria surrounding Aristide's election. Before, there was a strong sense of anticipation: of a country emerging from repression and embarking on democracy. This time, the bustle was tinged with just a *frisson* of anxiety. Among many, the sense was more of resignation than outright despondency — a feeling which stemmed from a realisation that the longed-for 'revolution' was not going to happen. Aristide, the great popular hero and focal point of so many aspirations had earlier had to compromise to cut short his compatriots' suffering. Close on his heels came the new government made up of former left-wing activists. They too had to grit their teeth and make the best of a difficult situation.

The IMF had decreed that liberalisation measures had to be adopted by 30 September at the latest. Despite various setbacks, most of the legislation was ahead of schedule. To paraphrase a Haitian proverb, the country was having to 'plug its nostrils in order to swallow foul water.' Mid-September also saw the first meeting of the Joint Haiti-Dominican Republic Commission. Government supporters were critical of this attempt at reconciliation, seeing it as weighted in favour of their neighbour. The Dominican Republic, it

was claimed, was gaining markets without having to make any concessions over the situation of Haitian workers. But realism prevailed. 'We are placing a lot of hope in President Lionel Fernández' (of the Dominican Republic), Haiti's Chancellor *Friiz Longchamps* announced. 'Consider the symbolism of his inauguration which was held exactly 30 years after the death of Trujillo. This is the end of a long period of transition'. At about the same time, ministers were attending seminars on the forthcoming budget. Municipal leaders had also been invited in an attempt to demonstrate decentralisation at work. A political and trade mission from Martinique had recently visited and another from Guadeloupe was expected.

The economic tremors are most apparent in the private sector, parts of which are reputed to be hostile to Aristide, if not to democracy itself (hence the accusation that finance for the *coup d'état* came from this source). The people's bitterness towards the country's 'dominant families' has become more muted of late. Indeed, *Patrick Victor*, who chairs the Franco-Haitian Chamber of Commerce, believes that employers are now showing some social sensitivity. 'These days', he asserts, 'what is happening makes us optimistic, though not euphoric. A left-wing majority has voted strongly in favour of liberalisation. Significantly, this came

after wide-ranging talks among the social partners. We have seen consistent dialogue.' And it is true that there has been a marked upturn in trade. Some thousands of jobs have been created with the aid, admittedly, of structural adjustment programmes.

Another sign of progress is that fewer people are emigrating. It is not known whether the country is still suffering a net loss, but a downward trend is generally assumed. The Ministry of Public Works has launched programmes to rehabilitate roads, telecommunications and airports. The Tourism Ministry has devised a master plan to increase the number of hotel beds from 500 to almost 15 000, over a nine-year period. The agreements with the IMF have been signed and donors, who seemed to be playing for time in anticipation of the worst, are loosening their purse strings. Haiti is emerging from autarky.

For economic and political leaders, 2005 is now a key deadline. This is when the Free Trade Area of the Americas, of which Haiti plans to be a member, is due to come into being. A date of perhaps greater significance in the minds of the average citizen is 2004, the bicentenary of independence. Yet a left-wing president has just made a request for foreign troops to remain for a further eight months. Haiti, it seems, does not want to end its second century of independence (and 300 years of slavery before that), with yet more conflict and uncertainty. This may explain why the country has apparently reined in its old dreams of epic glory. In short, the people do not want to give up what they have already achieved — and so pragmatism prevails.

H.G.

An advertisement for *Barbancourt* rum, a major export product



Beautiful despite everything

A thousand metres up, the car moves along the mountain road to Jacmel like a tightrope walker. It is enveloped in an oily fog and the sun appears to rise below it, in the void separating the ridge from the far-off sea. At a bend in the road, a shaft of light penetrates the fog revealing a bustle of activity and people. The crowd parts to allow the motorised intruder through. This is the morning market and nostrils are assailed by a range of perfumes and odours — a harmonious combination of mango, papaya, vetiver, citronnella, leather and household soap.

Mountains and bluffs

In Haiti, it is the mountain which sublimates the Caribbean Sea's divine beauty. When Isabel, the Catholic Monarch, asked Christopher Columbus to describe the island, the great navigator simply crumpled a sheet of paper and placed it on a table. The country has a series of mountains and bluffs which unfold and arch away, leaving beautifully-shaped curves, folds, creases and sheer cliff-faces. A wise Haitian proverb, reflecting the need for humility, states that behind the bluffs there are yet more bluffs. It is thanks to the mountains that Haiti can boast such a variety of scenery. From Port-au-Prince to Kenscoff, Furcy and Forêt des Pins, it takes little more than an hour to get above 2000 metres. The highest peak is almost 3000 metres high. From the bottom of the Pétionville road, you can admire the magnificent villas hidden behind their magnolia, hibiscus, bougainvillea and flowering-liana screens. Then the steep slope becomes gentler and you enter an increasingly temperate zone, with pine and spruce, pear trees, kitchen gardens and flowers. In the cold air, the peasants who are climbing look exhausted. Those descending with huge bunches of flowers on their heads are more animated. The hot tropical plain and the sea are always in sight. Now a child approaches and almost secretly gives you a posy of crimson bougainvillea flowers. You are not being asked to make a purchase. It is a gift which is offered — indeed two gifts. For while the flowers will fade and wither, you will always remember the child's face.

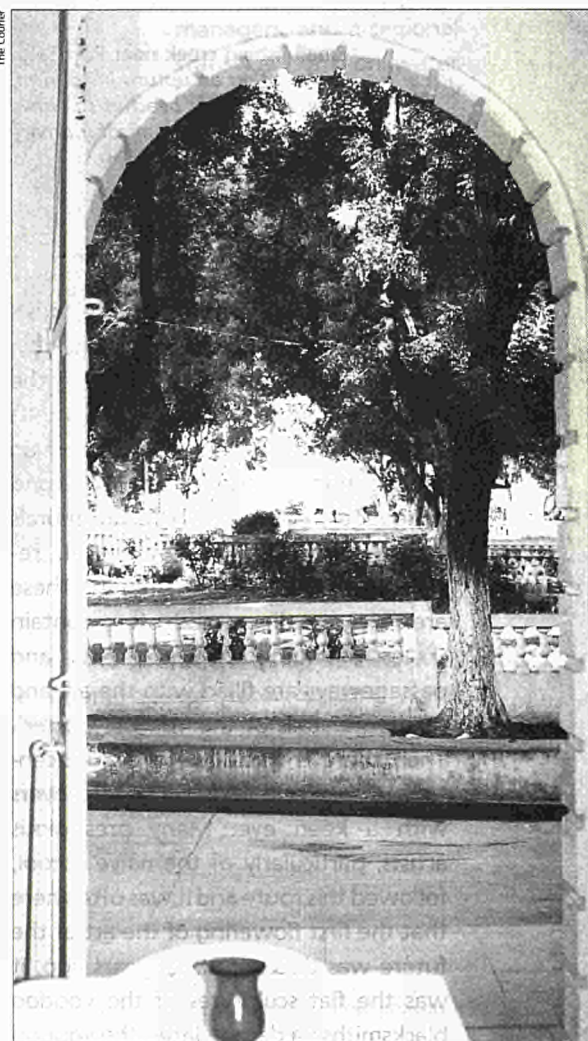
We visit a beach with no name which is too small to provide a haven for anything other than intimacy. The inquisitive visitor can find many such beaches. It is tiny, like a village church, a fisherman's creek in the hollow of a rock, with crevices which offer comfortable repose. At the foot, there is a small arc of

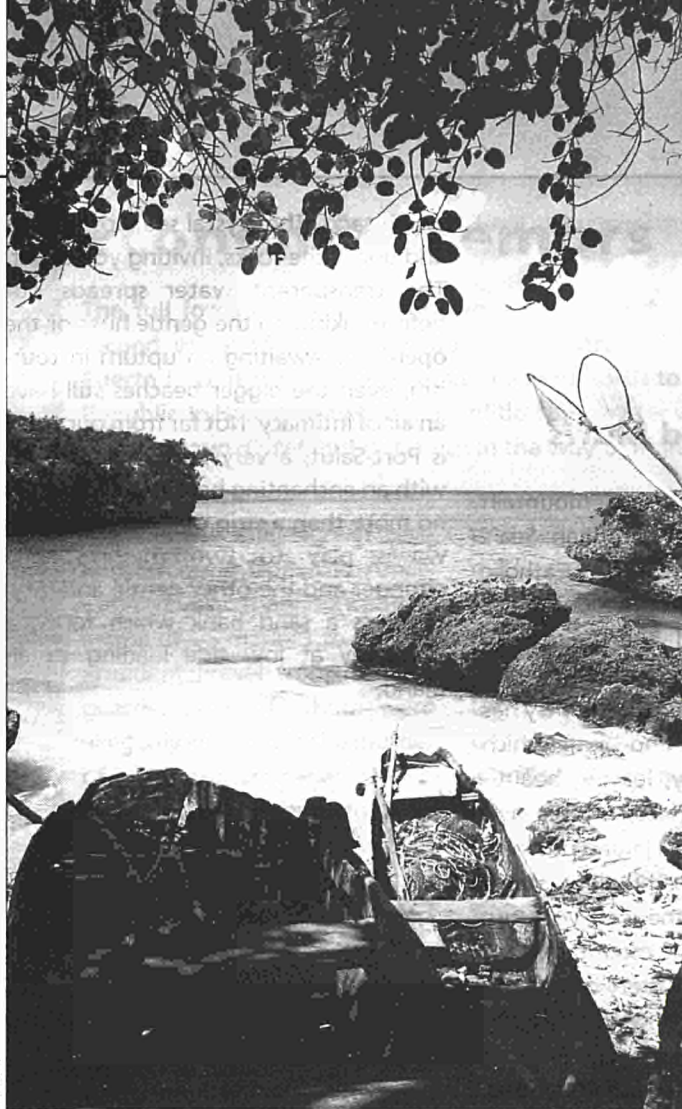
white sand. The crystal sea laps against and under the rocks, inviting you closer. The transparent water spreads out before taking on the gentle hues of the open sea. Awaiting an upturn in tourism, even the bigger beaches still have an air of intimacy. Not far from our creek is Port-Salut, a very pretty small town with an enchanting beach. In fact, this is no more than a strip of sand where the waves play to two rhythms, one stronger and the other gentle and lazy. There is a sand bank which forms a causeway at low tide leading to an island.

View of the 'Place de Jacmel'
Everything exudes an air of nostalgia and magic and the place seems to be smiling. Many people from other parts of Haiti visit Jacmel, as if on pilgrimage

A town of dreams

Just before reaching our destination, the road twists and drops away steeply, revealing the river channels. Then we see Jacmel — reminiscent of times gone by, with its colonnades, arcades, gardens and alleys. Local associations, district committees and youth clubs are trying to preserve this heritage despite meagre resources. Late 19th century buildings clash with their neighbours. The styles are classical and colonial with a touch of Moorish influence here and quaint 'gingerbread' houses there. Everything exudes an air of nostalgia and magic and the place seems to be smiling. This is the town of dreams and the supernatural which was immortalised in Dépestre's book *'Hadriana dans tous mes rêves.'* Many people from other parts of Haiti visit Jacmel, as if on pilgrimage, to stimulate their feelings of nostalgia for their own towns as they once were. Other settlements which are still attractive, such as Le Cap or Les Cayes, do not have such an air of remembrance.



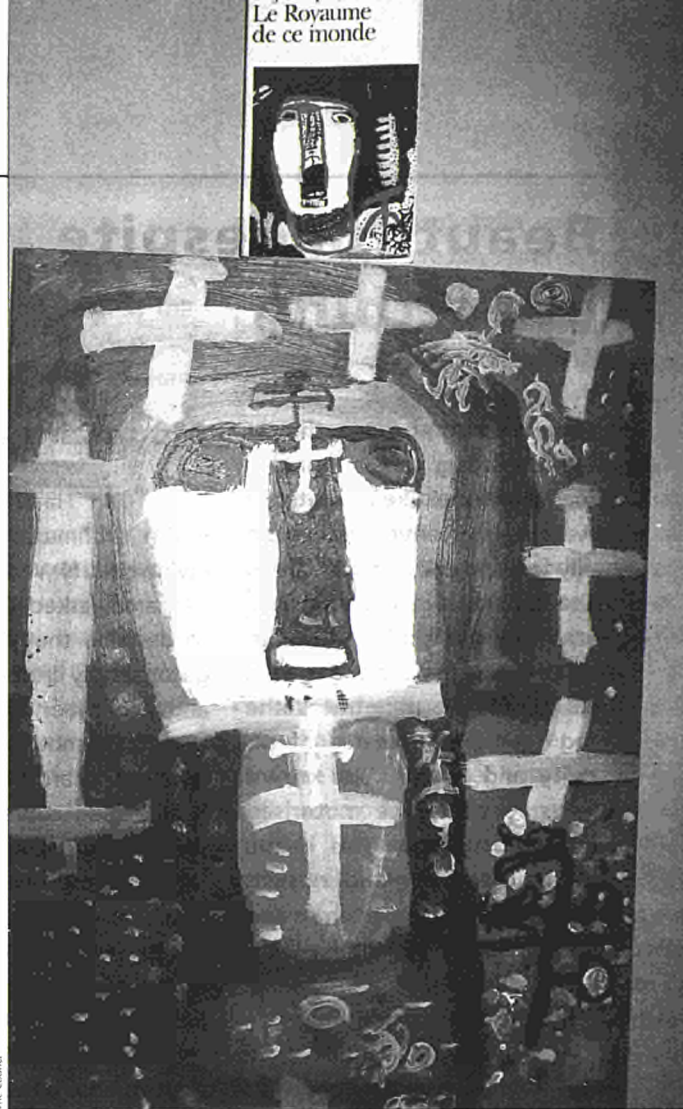


Small fishing creek near Port-Salut
Awaiting an upturn in tourism,
even the bigger beaches still have
an air of intimacy

Painting as a second 'language'

Port-au-Prince has the dust, overcrowding and pollution of any city, but also other essential features: the people, crowds, colours and vitality. Its artistic graffiti offers the visitor an introduction to the country's second 'language'; painting. There are murals whose themes may be political, revolutionary and full of anguish. These are rarely mediocre and often contain traces of humour. The streets and passageways are filled with the art and craftwork stalls of the '*Marché en fer*'. Then there is the boulevard du Bicentenaire — a real godsend for art-lovers with a keen eye. Many prestigious artists, particularly of the naïve school, followed this route and it was often here that the first flowering of the art of the future was discovered. 20 years ago, it was the flat sculptures of the voodoo blacksmiths; a decade later, the voodoo

flags. Today, we find granite sculptures and rope tapestries. Leaving the streets behind, the best way to familiarise oneself with the great names of Haitian naïve art is to visit the Anglican Holy Trinity Cathedral. In the 1940s it had the courage to offer voodoo artists, *Pré-phète Duffaut*, *Philomé Obin*, *Wilson Bigaud* and *Castera Bazile*, a place in which to work. And they went on to create a veritable artistic manifesto — a sharp contrast to this small country's often worn-looking image. The Arts Centre set up by *Dewitt Peters*, the first person to exhibit Haiti's works to foreign art-lovers, is an admirable little museum near the Champs de Mars. It has a permanent collection of rare works in all styles from the last 50 years and is a focal point for many young artists. Here, we find the impressive works of *Luce Turnier*. Still near the Champs de Mars, there is the Mireille Jérôme Gallery which is a tribute to the exuberant creativity of *Jean-René Jérôme*, a painter and sculptor who died young. We see him through the works of young artists such as *Vermeil*, who creates rope carpets and displays the same kind of



Painting by Ti Ga, creator of the
Saint-Soleil Movement, for a novel
by Alejo Carpentier

flair and spirit which made Jérôme such an exceptional artist.

Social life is focused on Pétionville, the former well-to-do residential suburb of the capital, with its luxury shops, bars, up-market nightclubs, art galleries and studios. One of the richest galleries is the eclectic and bold *Bourbon Lally*. It succeeds in giving the impression that its main function is to trade not in art but in passion and enchantment. It is one of those magical places, such as the Ville Bonheur waterfall, a sacred voodoo site, or Jacmel's Cyvadier beach, which, it would appear, are what brings visitors back to Haiti. ■

H.G.

Water: tides of change

Much of the world's population does not have enough clean water — which is vital for health and well-being, food security and ultimately, economic growth. As resources are forecast to diminish further in the new millennium, calls for new approaches and a more rational use of this precious resource are coming from international donors, NGOs and individuals. Our dossier puts in the spotlight some fresh ideas on efficient water use and re-use, payment methods, local maintenance of water schemes, improved infra-structures and strengthening of institutions.

The European Union is currently providing various types of support in the field — from pumping water by sunlight to strengthening institutions in order to achieve better management. And the trend is towards a more integrated approach which requires that water-related projects benefit all actors, and which targets improved management and environmental protection.

Since many regions rely on common surface or underground water reserves, another theme to emerge is the regional management of resources — an area which already has substantial donor backing. One key meeting coming up is the gathering of ministers of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) planned for Maseru, Lesotho next Spring. The talk here will be about sharing water resources. More voices are being raised in favour of greater global water management as well.

At the grassroots, many NGOs have mounted projects to provide clean water for drinking and sanitation systems and they are increasingly working with government authorities.

Some of the leading NGOs express their views on the way forward.

Over the years, water has also been a source of political conflict. For example, the Golan Heights and the West Bank were strategically occupied for water (among other things) in 1967. New multilateral efforts, involving the EU and other international donors, are now focused on promoting

greater regional cooperation by sharing water flows. So-called 'bottom up' projects are already off the ground with sights set on a regional water authority for the Middle East at some time in the future.

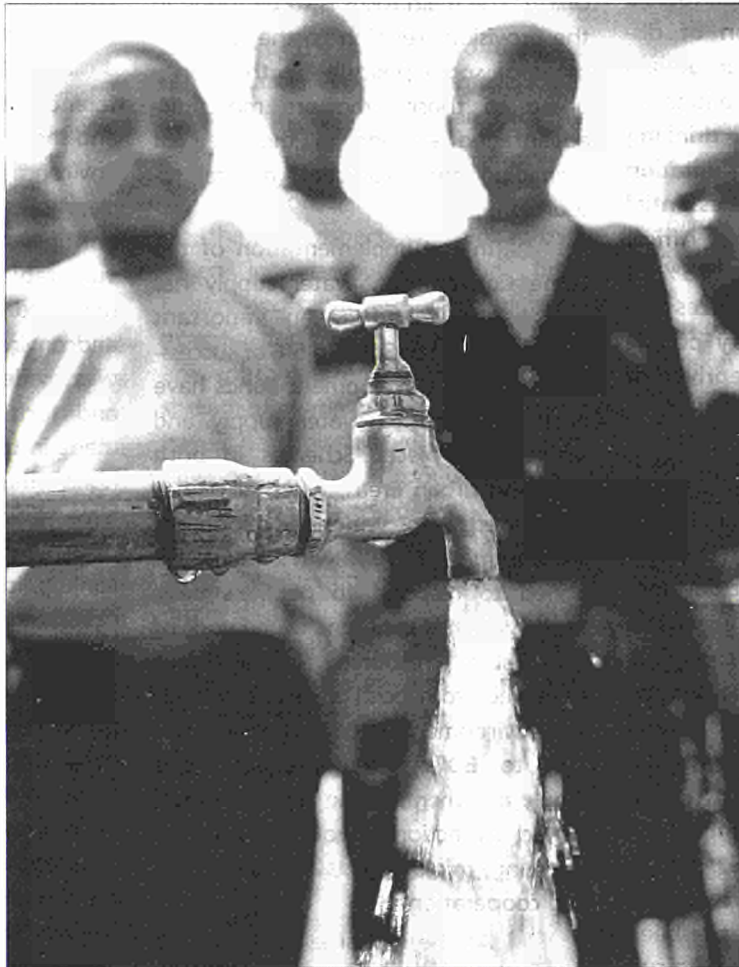
There are also regional training programmes for potential planners, policy-makers and managers, and a regional statistical bank on water resources. * Germany is also currently considering a project assessing water demand and Norway, a regional water legislation harmonisation project.

A call for greater cooperation over the Nile's management is also made in the dossier.

The EC's domestic water policy, traditionally focused on environmental issues like water quality, is also changing,

with a New Water Framework Directive in the pipeline. A special Community Task Force has been set up to deal with pollution control, the rational use of water, fighting water deficits and managing crises. ■

Debra Percival



(WaterAid/Sean Hubson)

* The European Commission administrator responsible for these projects is Bernard Brusset, Technical Unit, DG 1B.

European Commission policy

Helping the ACPs to 'go with the flow'

by André Liebart*

A regular and sufficient supply of water is one of humanity's basic requirements — necessary indeed for its very survival. In developing countries a significant proportion of disease and mortality can be laid at the door of contaminated water. Access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation is obviously therefore essential to people's health. Today in Africa, some 65% of rural people and 25% of city dwellers do not have access to clean water. 73% of country people and 43% in the towns are deprived of suitable sanitary arrangements.

In addition to the health aspects, water is essential for food security and general economic development. Managing the sector thus entails taking account of economic, social and environmental factors. Population growth, agriculture extension and industrialisation — together with the pollutants generated — lead to increased pressure on this diminishing natural resource. In general, surface waters and subterranean sources which are easily accessible have already been exploited and it is increasingly difficult and costly to tap new supplies. It is estimated that by the year 2000, some 300 million Africans will be living in areas facing a structural water deficit.

All of this underlines the importance of protecting supplies in the wider context of sustainably managing our natural resources. It is one of the biggest challenges of development pro-

grammes both for today's population and for future generations.

The water sector features as a key objective in the *Treaty on European Union*. The main focus is to be found in the provisions relating to the development of social policy — with priority going to those who are most disadvantaged — and in the area of managing and protecting natural resources.

In the implementation of the Lomé Conventions, water supply has also been viewed as an important subject. Between 3% and 5% of successive European Development Funds have been allocated to water supply and sanitation projects. Schemes in both rural and urban areas, whether or not integrated into wider development programmes, have always been designed to respond to people's basic needs within a coherent framework of sustainable resource management — viewed from both a socio-economic and environmental perspective. In addition to EDF-financed projects, one should also mention the important part played by actions involving NGO co-financing, microprojects and decentralised cooperation.

At the global level, the *International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade* that was proclaimed for the 1980s provided the basis for sustained action. The aim was to provide everyone with access to drinking water and sanitation of sufficient quantity and quality to meet their essential needs. There was a strong accent on the role of local communities and, in particular, the key part that should be played by the actual consumers in decision-making, formulating projects and carrying out operations. But despite the progress that has been made, the needs are still very great indeed. At the end of the

'Water Decade', responsibility for international coordination in this area was assumed by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council. Every two years, this brings together most of actors involved in the sector.

The Dublin international conference on water and the environment, and the Rio de Janeiro gathering on the environment and development in 1992, clearly established the fundamental principle that water is a limited and vulnerable resource which must be managed in accordance with economic and environmental criteria. An appeal was made for a political engagement and for institutional decisions to be made in this context. It was also recognised that integrated management aimed at making optimal use of water resources (covering all users), running in conjunction with an integrated approach to pollution control, is vital for conserving ecosystems.

In Dublin, considerable emphasis was placed on capacity building, enhancing public awareness, and technological developments oriented towards ways of saving water (particularly in sectors such as agriculture and industry, where consumption is very high).

The participants at the Rio Conference stressed the importance of integrated water management for socio-economic development as well as the links between this sector and other issues relating to the environment and development. (see box). The Rio principles were based on the action plan of the 'Ministerial Conference on Drinking Water and Sanitation' organised by the Netherlands in Noordwijk in 1994.

Integrated management

Integrated management needs to cover all aspects ranging from plan-

* Principal administrator in the Development Directorate-General of the European Commission (Unit dealing with infrastructures in East and Southern Africa).

ning and development to the utilisation and protection of water resources. Consideration must be given to all sectors which make use of or have an impact on the resource including technical, institutional, social and economic aspects, and there must be a regard for the protection of natural ecosystems.

In sub-Saharan Africa, 80% of water resources are devoted to agriculture. The remaining 20% is divided between the public supply system, industry and the energy sector. Well-balanced demand management is essential, and it is vital to avoid over-exploitation by gearing consumption to the speed of replenishment. This is needed to ensure the long-term viability of water resource access. Equally, flood and drought prevention are priority areas when applying integrated management.

An approach covering the whole watershed is most appropriate for the management of water supplies — beginning at the head of the hydrographic system and encompassing the entire river basin downstream. Given that the most important basins cross frontiers, this approach implies joint management involving a number of countries — something which can be a source of conflict. Water has acquired strategic importance in a number of the world's regions — notably in the Middle East and the Nile Basin.

Another fundamental element in good water management is access to proper hydrological data. This is an area that has often been neglected, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and it is something that should be encouraged and promoted.

Principles and main themes

At the end of the 1970s, the services of the EC Commission established a set of basic principles for the drinking water supply sector. In doing so, they took into consideration evaluations of projects financed by EC aid which had been approved by the ACP-EEC Council. The principles have evolved progressively since then, taking account

of later project evaluations together with recommendations made by the above-mentioned international conferences. They are currently being updated, and other sectors of water use are being brought into the equation, in the framework of new guidelines for the water sector that are being elaborated.

The main objective is to facilitate the access of people — and, in particular, the most disadvantaged — to regular water supplies (which are sufficient in both quantitative and qualitative terms) and to adequate levels of sanitation. The way to do this is to rehabilitate and build systems which are adapted to their needs and to their technological and financial capabilities.

In order to achieve this objective, the main aspects which need to be taken into account include, firstly, *quality and sanitation*. Water quality is essential for human health. If supplies are contaminated, the result is the spread of water-borne diseases which have a particularly severe impact on the most disadvantaged groups, rural areas and above all — the densely populated shanty towns on the fringes of cities. In these last-mentioned, the lack of sanitary facilities has the effect of exacerbating health problems. Poor quality water may also result from industrial or agricultural pollution.

Experience shows that the full potential health benefits of investments aimed at improving water supplies cannot be achieved without accompany-

ing actions in the fields of hygiene and medicines. Thus, there also needs to be education about sanitation issues, preventive and curative medicine, better disposal of waste water and sewage, and efforts to improve the living environment. The opposite is also true. Attempts to improve people's health status (including action against endemic illnesses, epidemics and child mortality) or to boost their productive capacity, will be of little avail if proper water supplies cannot be assured.

The education sector also needs to be involved in any hygiene programmes. The health 'environment' and personal hygiene should be included systematically as components in schooling programmes.

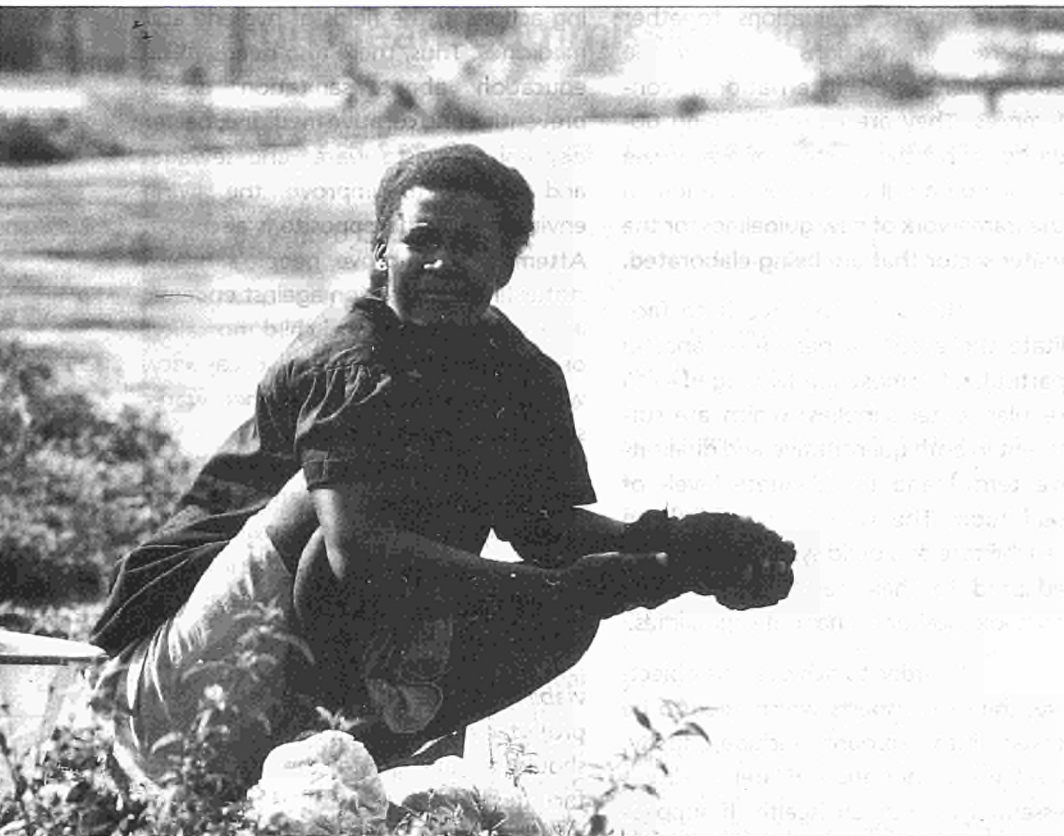
The next area concerns the *viability of water installations*. Recent project evaluations stress that priority should always go to the viability of facilities already installed and that provision must be made for the management and maintenance that is needed. Improving the operation of existing installations, and in particular, reducing water losses from the network, must be given preference over new investments.

The active participation of local communities is essential if proper maintenance is to be assured. When communities are mobilised and beneficiaries come to understand the importance of maintenance, they will act accordingly. And where maintenance is based on local participation, it is important to improve

The Rio de Janeiro declaration

Chapter 18 of the Rio Declaration on the environment and development (Agenda 21) entitled 'Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources', focuses on seven areas:

- Integrated water resources development and management;
- Water resources assessment;
- Protection of water resources, water quality and aquatic ecosystems;
- Drinking water supply and sanitation;
- Water and sustainable urban development;
- Water for sustainable food production and rural development;
- Impacts of climate change on water resources.



(Antonio Bruno-Hall)

the current situation regarding availability of spare parts and essential equipment. One way of doing this is by promoting the involvement of private sector operators. Finally, if the beneficiaries are to pay for these services, there must be a system of cost-recovery.

Economic management of water is another important element. Supplies are frequently exhausted or exploited in an unsustainable way. But water has a wide range of applications and it should be recognised as an economic asset. Thus, for example, there should be an appropriate tariff structure — which takes account of users' ability to pay and of social inequalities. When conceiving or choosing technologies, one must ensure that the system agreed upon is adapted to the means and resources available. Cost recovery is essential if services are to be maintained and people will be more willing to pay if the service is reliable and cost-effective. Additionally, in tackling water pollution (which has such direct and serious consequences for consumers) the 'polluter pays' principle must be applied.

In other words, the development of water resources must

Women in developing countries have a central role in providing, managing and conserving water resources

be based on a participative approach involving all the 'actors' in the system — planners, decision-makers and beneficiaries alike. And particular attention needs to be focused on training — developing and strengthening capacity at all levels.

The significance that is attached to the *participation of the local community* in devising, installing, exploiting and maintaining the system is based on the conviction that decentralisation — down to a level as close as possible to the beneficiaries — is one of the keys to better management. It should result in better-targeted programmes designed to meet genuine needs. In this way, the community can itself move to assume responsibility for a matter which directly concerns it.

This willingness to participate can be developed by awareness-raising and training actions. Carried out in close collaboration with the health services, awareness-raising is intended to underline the importance of clean

drinking water and good sanitation — leading to a 'hygiene reflex' as well as recognition of water's value as something more than simply a 'gift from the heavens'. This way of proceeding should also make it easier to gain acceptance of the cost-recovery principle which is necessary if a project is to be financially viable. As regards beneficiary participation, one question that needs to be addressed is 'who owns the system'. Should the state simply transfer its responsibilities and ownership to local communities? This is a complex problem which can only be tackled on a case by case basis, taking account of the specificities of individual regions, including their culture and traditions.

The success of water supply and sanitation projects has particular significance for the lives of women in developing countries — given their central role in providing, managing and conserving water resources. Successfully executed projects, particularly relating to the siting of water points, will have a direct positive effect on the level and quality of life of women — freeing them up for other socio-economic and family-centred activities.

The environment

The environmental aspects give rise to a number of issues discussed earlier involving the integrated management of water resources. Water supply and sanitation projects generally include the aim of limiting ecological damage caused by either contamination or the exhaustion of supplies. But while there may be a genuine desire to protect the environment, it remains imperative to monitor projects closely in order to ensure they do not have a negative impact on the ecological balance or on the quality and diversity of the environment.

Boreholes, schemes to capture water and small distribution systems may not present any great threat to the environment but larger schemes can sometimes have damaging effects on the quality of surface and subterranean waters, not to mention the wider

ecological balance. Such projects should be subject to environmental impact studies and ought to focus on optimising local water resource management with proper account being taken of the environmental problems.

The role of governments

Frequently, problems in the water sector are more political than technical. In the dialogue with governments, the emphasis should be on establishing a national water policy whose aim is to satisfy the most fundamental needs of the population (particularly, the most disadvantaged groups). This involves creating an environment which encourages health improvements, which reduces the spread of water-borne diseases, and which fits in with the general framework of sustainable resource management. A national water management policy must take account of the resources that are actually available, of their real cost, and of the essential needs of the population in various sectors.

Efforts in this area should concentrate on creating a legislative, administrative and economic environment which supports the implementation of projects and the exploitation of water services. They should focus, more particularly, on:

- Setting up ways for local communities, the public and private sectors, and NGOs to collaborate closely, with actions that complement each other. In this way, it is hoped, they can provide the level of service sought by the people. The latter, in turn should then be happy to mobilise in support of schemes and to be involved in funding them:

- Improving the conditions for the functioning and maintenance of water installations, through decentralisation and capacity-strengthening at the most appropriate levels — including participation by the private sector:

- Mobilising financial resources through an adapted tariff structure which balances social needs with the requirements of sound management:

- Protecting water resources and their ecosystems.

Evaluations of village water and urban development schemes underline the importance of some of these themes. Thus, for example, an assessment of village water projects in West Africa led to the conclusion that it was necessary to define better the respective roles of governments and other actors (beneficiaries, private sector and NGOs). Their activities are complementary and it is not possible either for them to operate independently or to seek to substitute the work of each other. In addition, more attention needs to be given to water quality and sanitation aspects — which are essential factors in improving the health status of the population.

Urban development evaluations confirm the importance that should be accorded to maintaining networks. The key recommendation is that all components of the urban challenge (socio-economic, institutional, cultural and environmental) should be included. The overall urban environment is determined by a range of complementary services which must be operated in a balanced way.

Another significant aspect concerns the linking of urban and rural development measures. Support for the urban sector complements what is being done in the rural areas — it is not at the expense of the latter. Finally, one must emphasise the priority that should be given to the urban peripheries. For the most part, these are the least-favoured areas with the fewest structures in place.

Water supply projects in urban areas have been studied in Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guyana, Uganda, Senegal and Tanzania. Taking an example from Uganda, Kampala's water supply scheme demonstrates how complementarity can be achieved between different donor interventions on the one hand, and political and institutional decision-making on the other. The works designed to increase supplies (an EDF project), are taking place alongside the extension of the distribution network, action to reduce losses and a strengthening of capacity in the field of financial management. The result should be a

significant improvement in the functioning and viability of the entire system.

In Tanzania, account has been taken of experience gained in previous projects carried out in various secondary population centres. Coordinated action by the different parties involved has resulted in a political decision to move towards decentralisation of responsibilities. In this connection, new councils for water management and sanitation have been established at the local level.

One should stress here that coordination between the various actors is an important element. This is particularly true for external partners. In the water sector, the coordination takes places at different levels. In the European Commission, there is a Task Force 'Environment-Water' which provides a framework for the various services involved to come together. The Task Force is charged with defining the focal areas relating directly to the objectives of integrated water resource management. This complementarity permits the best use to be made of European knowledge and experience within the framework of international cooperation.

Coordination with the Member States of the EU is also foreseen in the Treaty on European Union. A water sector working group, bringing together the Commission and the Member States, will be directly involved in preparing guidelines for the water sector.

Finally, at the international level, we should emphasise the recent launch of the 'Global Water Partnership'. This should help to improve coordination and bring about better utilisation of the available resources — notably as regards helping developing countries in the management of their water supplies. ■

A.L.

EC policy charts a course

by Paul Campbell*

As the European Community's water management moves further up river with a New Water Framework Directive on the horizon, other regional groupings who have ambitions to map out their own water management policies perhaps have something to learn from its progress.

The Inland waters chapter of the *Dobris* Assessment on the state of Europe's environment, published by the European Environment Agency in 1995, begins with the following words: 'Human health and development are threatened in many places because of insufficient or poor quality water. Flooding is a serious problem in some countries, and destruction of aquatic habitats by channelisation, rough maintenance schemes and damming of rivers can lead to an overall impoverishment of native plant and animal species.'

The section on coastal waters and regional seas adopts a similar tone. Globally, mankind's current levels of use and abuse of the aquatic environment are quite simply unsustainable. Both the European Community and its Member States have taken many of the necessary steps to improve matters, but as the *Dobris* Assessment makes clear, more needs to be done.

A call for a fundamental review of Community water policy came in June 1995 from the Council and the European Parliament's Environment Committee. In February 1996, the Commission went on to adopt a Communication on European Community Water Policy, based on EU Treaty principles and the contents of the Community's Fifth Environment Action Programme, 'Towards

Sustainability'. Above all it recommended that the Commission make a proposal for a comprehensive Water Framework Directive.

Discussion on the Communication has confirmed the crucial nature of local measures to assess and improve the situation — in short, it is Member States and local authorities that will have to implement most of the measures if the environment is to be adequately protected. But the call for a European framework to achieve policies more effectively and efficiently was also made loud and clear. Now in the pipeline, such a framework should set high standards and establish the basic principles of water protection, allowing measures to be taken at a European level, where necessary, but which should concentrate on establishing effective and efficient local management. It should provide for the overall coordination of emission controls and environ-

mental quality objectives in the so-called 'combined approach'. It should also assist the integration of water protection into other policy areas.

Far-reaching proposals

The proposal for a Water Framework Directive which the Commission plans to adopt in the near future sets out to establish a framework for Member State management of surface and groundwater. It will be based on the natural unit for water management; the river basin. Designed to protect and enhance both the quality and quantity of aquatic ecosystems and terrestrial ecosystems, it will thus augment both supply and quality of water for sustainable development and will formalise the so-called 'combined approach' to pollution control.

Three principal environmental targets for 2010 will be set out: good

Still waters in Belgium
The New Framework Directive is designed to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of aquatic ecosystems



* Administrator, DG XI (Environment) Unit D.1, European Commission.

surface water status in all surface waters; good groundwater status in all groundwaters, and compliance with all standards and objectives for areas requiring special protection including water for the abstraction of drinking water.

What is meant by 'good surface water status'? The Directive will set out that the water body must have a rich, balanced and sustainable ecosystem, and must respect established environmental quality standards. 'Good groundwater status will require that abstractions and alterations in the natural rate of recharge are sustainable in the long-term without leading to loss of ecological quality in associated surface waters or damage to associated terrestrial ecosystems. Conformity with

environmental quality standards will also be a requirement. Standards and objectives set for areas to be known as 'Protected Areas' under the Directive are already part and parcel of Community, national and local legislation. The best known of EC provisions relate to; Bathing Waters, Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, Nitrate Sensitive Areas and the 'Natura 2000 sites'. The New Framework Directive will also stipulate identification and introduction of quality standards for all surface and groundwaters to be used in abstracting drinking water.

Implementation

There are four watchwords here; coordination, measures, data collection and transparency.

River basin management will involve cooperation between different regions and Member States sharing the same waters, and development of common goals within 'River Basin Management Plans'. The emphasis of the planned Directive will be on coordination of Community legislation relating to water — a framework into which the existing pieces of legislation can be slotted. It will also provide *coordination* of the European Community's 'legal requirements' with those of national and local authorities and a feedback mechanism enabling local authorities to inform national and Community authorities of issues which need to be resolved. Water policy will also be coordinated, to some extent, through dialogue with policy-makers in other areas like agricul-

Task Force Environment-Water

by David Musco*

Water is vital both to give and sustain life, but also for economic good. Partly in recognition of water in a global context, the European Commission has created a *Task Force Environment-Water*. Its objectives and activities are set out below.

The aims are threefold: definition of research priorities in consultation with socio-economic actors; reinforcement of coordination between the European Community and national and private research activities, and a stimulus to innovation.

The Task Force can be seen as an open network of European Commission Directorate-Generals and a range of socio-economic actors — water utilities, off-stream water-users, technology and service providers, government and non-government bodies and research organisations. The interests of the European Commission are presented by the Inter-Service Group whilst a range of different actors may be involved in the Task Force either individually or through their professional associations. The Task Force Secretariat manages and provides the links between the different parties.

One of the core objectives of the Task Force is to develop an 'agenda for water research' through extensive consultation. This involves contributions from different socio-economic actors, primarily sourced through three main strands — a request for written contributions (the 'Call for Ideas') from over 1000 potentially interested bodies (deadline December 1996), a request for position papers from the so-called Mirror Task Forces (deadline January 1997) and regular interactions with the National Contact Points.

The National Contact Points are government representatives that are nominated by countries to act as a focal point for communication with the European Commission. The Mirror Task Forces have been set up at an international national and professional level to respond to the preliminary report prepared by the Commission and generally involve structured discussions amongst a large number of organisations.

Also essential are contributions from the Inter Service Group of the European Commission. This has formed five working

parties, including one on the role of international cooperation to manage the Commission's contribution to the Task Force.

Research priorities

Some twenty specific research activities have been provisionally prioritised by the Task Force in its preliminary report (published in March 1996) and this list forms the basis of our consultations with relevant parties at all levels; international, Community and national. The priorities identified fall under four broad axes that reflect the principle preoccupations of EU citizens and the rest of the world:

— *The Fight Against Pollution* (for example, developing knowledge on water pollution, the validation and harmonisation of measurement and test methods, preventing pollution through technology development, and research on social and economic instruments).

— *The Rational Use of Water* (for example, encouraging reduced leakage from the water transport system, promoting water re-use and recycling, and encouraging water conservation through technology developments in agriculture and industry and development of economic, fiscal and statutory instruments).

— *The Fight Against Water Deficits* (for example, improving tools for water supply and water demand management and diversification of water supply).

— *Prevention and Management of Crises* — including pollution incidents, floods, droughts (for example, establishing preventive practices and developing management tools and emergency systems).

D.M.

* Visiting scientific expert to the Task Force.



Yannis Sotiriou/Ansa

A tourist beach in Greece
The EC has rules aimed at ensuring
the quality of bathing waters

ture, industry or regional policy. There will be a possibility of developing cross-sectoral strategies to deal with specific issues.

A single 'programme of measures' will group existing legal requirements under a range of Community, national and local legislation, notably the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (96/61/EC). The Framework Directive will also set up its own *measures* including the imposition of controls over the abstraction of surface and groundwater and provisions to charge for all water use at 'full economic cost'.

The Directive will also stipulate that further 'supplementary measures' must be taken to attain the Directive's environmental objectives.

Data collection will be an important factor in the new EU legislation. It provides, in particular, for a comprehensive set of data on the state of the aquatic environment and includes monitoring programmes and economic analysis of the pressures. This will constitute a vital information bank to enable the authorities, including the Commission and the European Environment Agency, to develop sensible and sustainable policies.

Transparency, public consultation and information dissemination are also cornerstones of the new Draft Framework. Extensive consultation at all stages of development of water policies, and publication of a great deal of information about River Basin Management Plans, will become the norm. A network of water professionals will also be organised to compare and contrast working methods and to exchange information and ideas.

The Commission will publish its final proposal for the Framework Directive in early 1997. At the time *The Courier* went to press, finishing touches were being put to it.

The overall stated objective will be good water status requiring; river basin management, assessment of the characteristics of the river basin, monitoring of the surface and groundwater of the river basin and programmes of measures to achieve the objective.

All these will be part of a 'River Basin Management Plan' on which there will be public consultation.

It will further contain requirements to ensure that water use is paid at full economic cost, a feedback mechanism to inform the national authorities and the Commission of particular problems, action to combat accidental poll-

ution and simplified reporting procedures and coordinated strategies for dealing with pollution by individual pollutants or groups of pollutants. ■

P.C.

The Global Water Partnership

Building cooperation and sharing experience

by Klas Sandstrom*

The Stockholm-based Global Water Partnership (GWP) is a new initiative focusing on global solutions to questions like sustainability of water resources, their efficient use and environmental degradation. Its mandate is explained below.

Not long ago, water was thought to be an unlimited resource, always available in adequate amounts and of good quality. If a need for new supplies developed, it was provided for by building a dam or pipeline. Problems were essentially technical — how to increase supply and satisfy demand. Today this is no longer the case. Water worldwide is scarce and quality degraded. People and the environment are suffering and fundamental questions are being raised about the role of this key 'commodity' in development. Water, or rather the lack of it, has become a major international concern. And it not just water *per se*. Water for food production, environmental sustainability, sanitation, and transport are all now in focus. Although the current global picture is rather bleak, there are also tremendous opportunities. We are in a time of transition — politically, economically and culturally — giving us a rare chance actually to decide the development path we want to tread — preferably one which involves sustainability, equity and efficient use of available resources.

Water-related problems have many aspects and an interdisciplinary approach is generally required. By way of example, in northern Ethiopia, water beggars have appeared in recent years. These are mainly old women who are unable to walk for hours to faraway streams, many springs having dried up following severe land degradation. In

other places, big pipeline schemes are planned to ease the lack of water, but without proper consideration of aspects such as recycling the resource, demand management, ground water supplies and the development of a national water policy framework.

Large international rivers raise the question of how to share a common water source. Who owns the water? Does it belong to the land where the rain falls, where the water is mainly used, or to all the riparian states? There are few case studies to look to for guidance on water and law. Finally, the cost of water is an increasingly debated issue. What should the consumer be charged; only the maintenance and operational costs, or also the capital, opportunity and environmental costs of a new scheme? And how are these costs internalised in an integrated river basin scheme.

It quickly becomes apparent that water management requires a comprehensive approach, drawing on experience from many fields and

professions. Knowledge from around the world needs to be shared and cooperation facilitated between individuals, organisations and countries. The need for a worldwide perspective is easily explained. When demand for water outstrips availability, demand management is eventually required to establish a balance. In other words, it is no longer feasible, in a long-term, cost-effective and environmental friendly manner, to increase water supply by building new dams, pipelines and wells. Future solutions must be found at the user-end of the pipe: by improving water use efficiency, reducing conveyance system losses, reusing water, and optimising allocation. Supply management must be replaced by demand management. The well-known Dublin principles (see box) are a demonstration of this realisation.

The GWP was formed out of an understanding that water has an interdisciplinary nature, covering both natural and social science and that the days of solving problems with concrete and steel are over. \$800 billion-worth of investments — in water supply, sanitation, irrigation and power schemes — are foreseen over the next ten years. This figure alone points to the need for new solutions to old problems.

GWP is a partnership of equals, its members being national governments, NGOs, professional associations and academic institutions. The partnership will not succeed without the support of those that set it up. Nor can it be successful if it is dominated by northern development

The Dublin principles

The Dublin Conference on Water and the Environment, held in January 1992, produced four guiding principles for action:

- Freshwater is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment;
- Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving all users, planners and policy-makers;
- Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water;
- Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognised as an economic good.

Source FAO

* Network Officer/Hydrologist, GWP Secretariat, Sveavägen 20, Stockholm, Sweden, S-105 25.

agencies, or if it exists without a strong sense of ownership and responsibility in the south. It is an open partnership. Any organisation can apply to join or to withdraw at any time. Hence, it is an international network whose purpose is to convert the Dublin principles into specific services where they are needed — and as close to the users as possible. The GWP offers a systematic approach for building cooperation and sharing experience on how to solve water supply and sanitation problems around the world

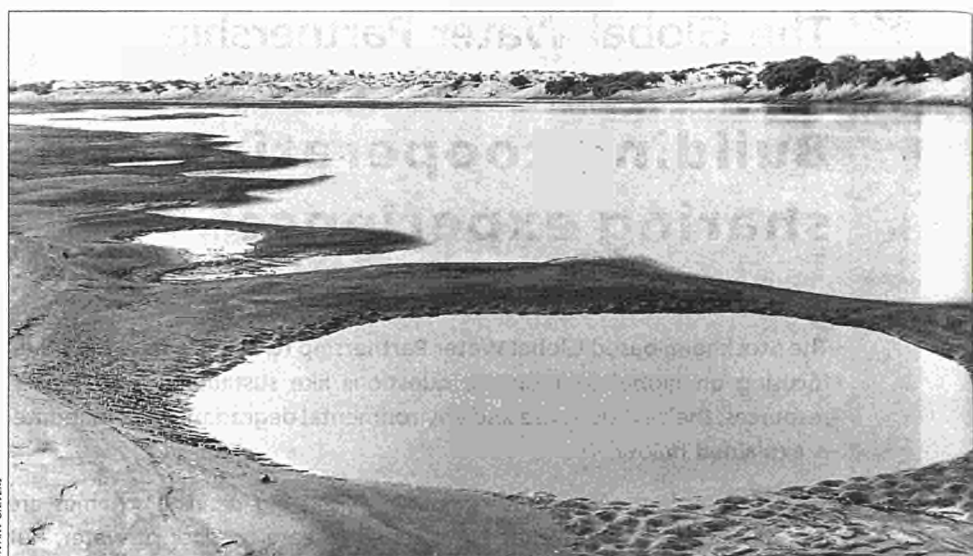
GWP governance

The partnership has four components. The highest, policy-making body of the network is the Consultative Group (CG), comprising all network members. The Steering Committee consists of representatives of the GWP constituent groups, and assists the Executive Secretary in the operations of the partnership between the annual meetings of the Consultative Group. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consists of internationally-known professionals and scientists in disciplines related to water use. A small Secretariat is presently hosted by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). It supports the CG and the TAC, facilitates implementation of CG decisions and is responsible for monitoring the partnership network's programmes. This provides a lean and largely informal structure, best described as a 'reinforced network.'

Objectives

The GWP will:

- support integrated water resources management programmes by collaborating with governments and existing networks as requested;
- encourage governments, aid agencies and other stakeholders to adopt consistent and complementary policies and programmes;
- build and reinforce mechanisms for sharing information and experience;
- develop innovative and effective solutions to problems common to integrated water resources management;



- suggest practical policies and good practices based on these solutions;
- help match needs to available resources.

These objectives will be met by implementing a number of schemes. One is the establishment of specific sub-sectors or 'windows' where different types of organisation (focused, for example, on research, implementation or networking) can cooperate and pool their joint experience. The TAC will initiate regional meetings (bringing together international and regional experts), support the establishment of regional TACs, function as a source of state of the art knowledge, and support donor coordination. Some schemes focus on training, spreading new knowledge and relevant case studies, or providing data bases on the world of water. Others have more concrete objectives. Following a TAC meeting, regional stakeholders will be invited to develop new activities. The GWP Secretariat will support this process by helping to develop ideas into fundable projects for presentation to donors, engaging experienced consultants, or initiating studies of key importance. However, regional stakeholders must take the lead in implementation. It is they who are most aware of the issues, and who are thus best suited to identify and execute solutions.

The TAC convened for the first time in a developing country when it met in Namibia in November 1996. The focus here was on sustainable water

The water dries up
This picture, from Sudan, shows how dams can cause environmental damage downstream

resource management in Southern Africa. Further TAC meetings are planned in Asia in June 1997, and in Latin America in the second half of 1997. The Namibia meeting was a success. Many participants felt that the partnership concept — of being members with a joint responsibility for their own region — was the right approach.

There is a growing understanding that water problems are solved mainly by demand management practices, that economic and political considerations are fundamental to any water-related issue, and that the vision of developing these ideas in partnership highlights future opportunities rather than past problems. In addition, a lot can be achieved by cooperation between the GWP and the World Water Council. The two organisations complement each other, the former focusing on translating the global consensus into field activities in developing countries, while the latter concentrates on water-awareness and gaining political support and understanding for water and development issues. A lot can be achieved together.

The GWP invites all organisations concerned with water and development to join as members — on an equal footing and with equal responsibilities. ■

K.S.

Africa's data drought

by T.E Evans*

In many developing countries, notably in Africa, the quality of national hydrological records is deteriorating at a time when water demands are exceeding supply. The author, a water consultant, argues here that hydrology should be a global, rather than national activity.

Water policy is the set of principles or guidelines by which water resources are allocated, developed and managed. Before a national policy can be prepared, future availability and demands need to be determined with a reasonable measure of accuracy. J.C Rodda,

in his paper, 'Guessing or assessing the world's water resources' (1995), highlighted the problem when he wrote: 'It is something of a paradox that, at this time when global demand for water is rising faster than ever before, knowledge of the world's water resources is waning.'

World Bank studies have confirmed a worrying deterioration in the collection of hydrometric and hydro-meteorological data despite the need for reliable assessment of current and future availability and demand. In many developing countries, information collection is on the verge of collapse. In Africa, large river basins spanning the territories of many countries (numbers in brackets) include the Zambezi (8), Nile (9), Chari (8), Niger (9) and Zaire (7).

In many regions, and again Africa is a good example, there have been major shifts in rainfall patterns over the past three decades. As a result, the standard accepted procedures for evaluating the reliability of yields from water resource systems is under question. The need for global assessment is underlined by the changes in the world's

rainfall patterns which are linked, it is suspected, to global warming. This, in turn, highlights the interdependence of water 'runoff' between continents, and demonstrates the inadequacies of hydrology conducted solely at the national level.

There have been past efforts to assess global water resources. The 1972 and 1984 droughts and famines in Africa, and the sequence of dry years in the Sahel (which has now lasted, almost unbroken, for three decades), prompted the UN General Assembly in 1986 to call for a concerted effort to find solutions to the growing number of water resource problems. The sub-Saharan African Hydrology Assessment project (1987-1992), was set up by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Its purpose was to prepare inventories; evaluate the status of existing hydrological data, networks and collection systems; and make recommendations for improving data quality and enhancing the capa-

bility to measure, retrieve and process information. The emphasis changed slightly as the work proceeded. Initially, most of the work involved preparing inventories and hydrometeorological maps, but following the first regional study for the Inter-Governmental Agency for Drought and Desertification (IGADD), the onus was put on identifying potential future projects to prevent further decay in water resources assessment.

Scarcity

The key reason for the growing pressure on water resources in African countries is demographic. The population of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is likely to double in the next 30 years, while the number of people living in the countries of IGADD, Central Africa and West Africa is expected to rise by more than 250%. These estimates assume that average fertility will fall from 6.5 to 3 over the period. If lower fertility rates are not achieved, the population increase and the resulting pressure on water resources will, of course, be higher.

Little research has been undertaken to evaluate the problem of water scarcity in Africa as a whole, although an attempt was made by M. Falenmark in 1989, in a paper entitled: 'The massive

Sub-Saharan Africa and its key rivers

Grouping	Number of countries	1994 population (millions)	Projected 2025 population (m)	Main rivers/lakes
IGADD	7	137	339	Nile
SADC (exc. Mauritius)	11	135	276	Zambezi Orange
West Africa	23	229	582	Niger Lake Chad Senegal Volta
Central Africa	3	55	131	Zaire
Madagascar	1	12	34	Betsiboka Tsiribihina
Total	45	568	1362	

Source: T. Evans.

* Water Resources Consultant in Ely, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom. This is an abridged version of his text, 'Water Resources — the need for regional, continental and global assessments — an African perspective,' presented at the seminar, 'Water Policy Allocation and Management in Practice', Cranfield University, Silsoe, September 23-24 1996.

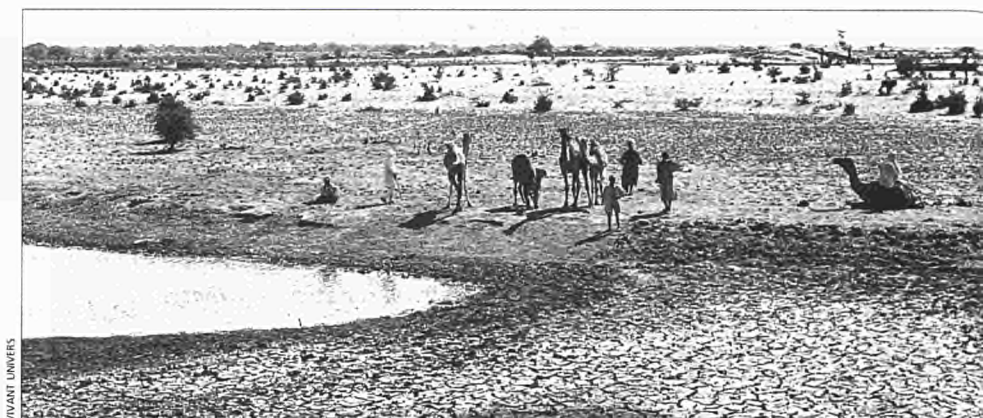
water scarcity now threatening Africa'. The analysis was simplistic and rather crude, but in spite of these reservations, his approach does highlight the serious problems that lie ahead for African development. Of the major surface water basins on the continent, only the Zaire has resources which exceed the expected demands of the riparian states. A reliable assessment of the continent's water resources is needed, together with an assessment of how far it is able to meet the increasing demands which will be placed upon it in the next few decades.

In the past, hydrological data has been grossly undervalued. All countries have data collection agencies which have to struggle with unrealistic budgets and inadequate resources. Many agencies are barely able to function and few can do so efficiently. In contrast to meteorological services, hydrological services are now very much the poor relation, and there has been a significant deterioration in their effectiveness.

Water assessment agencies are invariably small units within large sectoral ministries, such as Agriculture or Works. Consequently, they have little control over their budgets. They are a common target for budget cuts, since they are often seen as having limited importance. In many agencies, continuous records are no longer being collected. Once a hydrological record has gaps, its value reduces to a point where it can no longer provide information on which sound development plans can be based. Yet because of the physical and political boundaries within Africa, international river basins should be seen as a key element in the continent's economic development.

Global links

The interdependence of water resources between the different regions of the world is now becoming better understood — and the evidence points to the need to treat hydrology as a global science. The global interconnections of hydrology are highlighted by the fact that the world's precipitation



and runoff are influenced by the Southern Oscillation. *Folland et al*, in their 1986 study: 'Sahel rainfall and world-wide sea temperatures', have shown that a high proportion of the variance in Sahel rainfall can be explained by differences in sea surface temperatures on a hemispherical scale. Higher sea temperatures in the southern hemisphere relative to the northern hemisphere are largely responsible for the Sahelian drought. A map has been prepared by *Hulme et al* which shows the percentage changes in rainfall between the periods 1931-1960 and 1961-1990. The two most prominent features were a big increase in precipitation over northern Russia and a big decrease over the Sahel. However, significant changes were recorded across all the continents.

Higher precipitation over northern Russia, falling mainly as snow, has led to increased flows in the river Volga leading to fears of flooding. It has also impeded drainage around the Caspian Sea, despite extensive developments put in place to exploit the water.

The 1992 'Hydrology assessment studies' carried out by the World Bank, EU and UNDP included a brief review of available water resources, water developments, and forecast demand in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The results showed that much of the published information contained anomalies.

For many years, research into the world's 'water balance' was dominated by the former Soviet Union. The UNESCO publication prepared by the Hydrometeorological Service in St Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), is still a standard reference, while the World

Drought in the Sahel

Resources Annual Reports continue to rely heavily on Russian sources from the 1970s and 1980s. However, much of the information published on regional water resources, particularly for Africa, is of doubtful reliability. Because collecting river flow data is a national responsibility, the information is often jealously guarded. Scientists who wish to undertake studies using this type of information often have to rely on data published in text books or international publications.

The most comprehensive attempt to collate hydrological data has been made by *P.H. Gleick* in the paper, 'Water in crisis — a guide to the world's freshwater resources' (1993). But a serious 'health warning' needs to be issued about possible errors in the published data. Part of the problem appears to be that no acceptable standards are in place for collating and comparing information.

As with climatic parameters, river flows are related on a regional, continental and global scale. Hydrology should, therefore, be treated on this basis and not nationally in isolation. All measures designed to promote a global approach to the subject should be supported by governments and international agencies. After all, world-wide climatic change may well exacerbate the differences between water-rich and water-poor areas. Water transfer will thus assume increased urgency and this will only be possible using a comprehensive, global strategy. ■

T.E.E.

Working with government *and* local partners

by Jon Lane*

Working with partners is a prerequisite in the project work of many European NGOs. Partners provide the foundation for sustainable development by undertaking the direct, day-to-day management and implementation of projects.

The trend in recent years has been to move away from working with government and to identify partners amongst indigenous NGOs or project beneficiaries. These organisations have the skills and knowledge to establish strong links with local communities and have the advantage of working directly with communities at the grass roots level. However, the experience of WaterAid, a London-based water and sanitation NGO, is that very effective relationships can still be built with government in the pursuit of locally managed and maintained community water and sanitation improvements.

WaterAid has supported work in Tanzania since 1983. Work has most recently been concentrated in the Dodoma Region and, since 1990, the principal partners have been the Tanzanian Government and Ministries of Water, Health and Community Development. This partnership is known collectively as WAMMA and is supported by WaterAid at both the district and regional level. A similar programme of work has now begun in the Tabora region involving local NGOs. In 1996, another new programme opened in the Kiteto District of the Arusha Region working with semi-nomadic pastoralists.

For all projects, sustainability at village level is a key factor. Before any project can proceed, villages must have a properly functioning water committee,

made up of at least 50% women, as well as a water fund which is kept in a dedicated bank account. Training of the committee is essential so that they understand their responsibilities and feel confident about carrying them out. Villagers must decide on ways of operating and maintaining their water schemes, although partner staff and WaterAid offer advice and assistance. Training of village pump attendants is available for all villages where required. The key technologies employed in Tanzania include the rehabilitation of boreholes, small gravity schemes and shallow wells, while work is also under way to strengthen the sanitation and hygiene education components of all projects.

In the village of Chololo, in the Dodoma Urban District, a community-led project is under way which will soon bring safe water to the 3300 residents. The villagers identified the lack of access to safe water as a major problem. Women and children had to walk three kilometres to the nearest borehole to fetch water every day. The water was unsafe and diarrhoea and dysentery were commonplace. The local people therefore approached WaterAid and the Tanzanian Government's Ministry of Water.

A project was established to enable villagers to build a water supply which they will manage in the future. Everyone contributes to the project, taking part in community mapping (a process to determine village priorities rather than those of outsiders), digging trenches and collecting aggregate to build a water tank. The villagers also visited completed projects in the neighbouring village of Ng'omai where they were able to ask questions and learn from their peers. The people of Chololo have set up a water fund to pay for major maintenance and repairs of their new water system. As a result, they will



Children using a handpump in Mbabala, Tanzania

soon have access to safe, clean water close to their homes. They can look forward to positive results in terms of both improvements to health and financial savings. Before the Ng'omai water supply system was completed, the villagers there paid for a bucket of water with a bucket of maize — the equivalent of 80 Tanzanian shillings (ECU 1). Now a bucket of water costs just 10 shillings and the money collected will be used to pay for the long-term maintenance of the scheme.

WaterAid has been able to complement the work and skills of three government departments in Tanzania to ensure that communities are successfully reached by development programmes. ■

J.L.

* Director of WaterAid, an independent charity based in the United Kingdom.

Non-governmental cooperation and water management

by Christophe Le Jallé and Pierre-Marie Grondin*

Nowadays, the harnessing and management of water supplies can clearly be included amongst the most obvious and urgent problems facing the people of the world's poorest countries. Water is a vital resource forming the basis of any sustainable development and any enhancement of other natural resources compatible with safeguarding the environment. The efficiency of international cooperation in this field has already been widely debated and grandiose projects have been devised and set up at great expense. In many cases, they are subsequently found to be more costly than they are useful. Monumental dams, huge irrigation schemes and other imposing works have not always met the immediate needs of the inhabitants of vulnerable regions.

Gradually, however, new approaches to water-supply management — more directly inspired by experience and the deliberations of rural communities and town councils — have been established.

We have seen the contribution from the developed countries taking on a different dimension when the initiative for such actions emanates from the people affected: dialogue more in touch with field conditions, willingness to take part in the common action, and human benefits which transform the way in which one side views the other.

In response to this, non-governmental cooperation between Europe and developing countries now involves both cooperation between

communities themselves and collaboration with NGOs.

The input of European organisations focuses mainly on identifying and supporting local partners — who are usually associations and groups managing the resources — and ensuring the sustainability of the work that is undertaken.

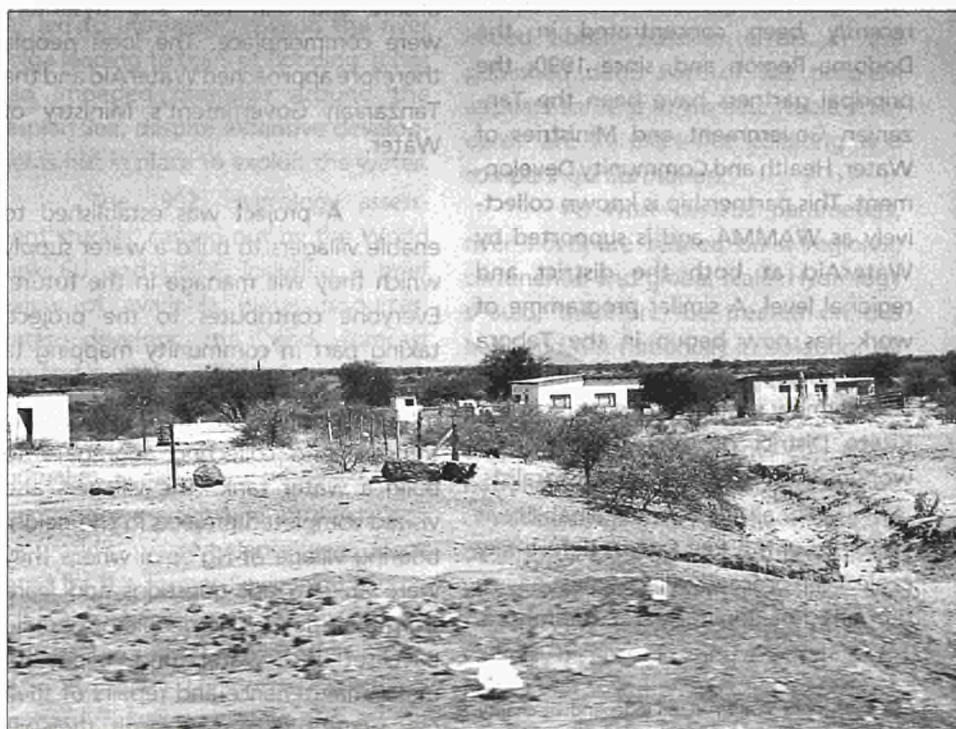
With their many and varied professional skills in the field of water-supply planning and management, European bodies are often the preferred partners of their counterparts in developing countries.

The former's involvement in North-South cooperation generally begins on an *ad hoc* basis, responding to requests from associations or individuals, and it is only later that they feel the need to develop a more formal policy-oriented approach in this field.

In addition, local communities in the developing countries are increasingly organising themselves to harness their water resources, while governments are gradually waking up to the importance of such organisations in terms of educating users in the more sensible use of water and better environmental management.

Local NGOs, whether or not they specialise in the field of water supply, are now therefore implementing programmes in this field. In order to build up their capabilities and share experiences, local operator networks are being set up and NGOs in developed countries are entering into direct cooperation relationships with partners

A sparsely populated periurban district where there are not enough funds to extend the supply network



* Members of pS-Eau.

in developing countries, bringing them technical, financial and human support.

From specialising in water treatment, they have progressively adopted a global approach to local development. Their years of experience of development initiatives, conducted in collaboration with local people, have enabled them to acquire technical expertise in rural water supply, drinking-water supply and clean-up programmes in rural and periurban regions, as well as practical skills in ways of promoting and managing cooperation projects. They now concentrate on three aspects crucial to the success of an operation:

— taking the time and creating the means necessary to make a close study of the inhabitants' actual requirements;

— involving local inhabitants at all stages of the design and setting-up of a project;

— ensuring, at all stages, that the local people take over complete control of equipment.

The various forms of non-governmental cooperation therefore make it possible for small-scale projects meeting people's specific expectations to be implemented. It was in order to support such local international cooperation initiatives that the pS-Eau (Water

Solidarity Programme) was set up in 1984.

Managed by a group consisting of NGOs, local communities, water-supply professionals and representatives of the authorities, its aim is to enhance the impact of the actions which are undertaken through consultation, development and the publicising of each party's experiences. To help associations and local communities better publicise their viewpoint and coordinate their efforts, a number of support mechanisms have been developed.

The Programme also covers specialised areas of cooperation (such as water and health in poor urban areas, water chlorination in developing countries and so on) and those set up on a geographical basis (for example, covering the Senegal River Basin, the Mediterranean Basin and North East Brazil). pS-Eau receives support from the French Ministries of Cooperation, Foreign Affairs and the Environment.

C.L.J. & P.-M.G.

Drinking water and clean-up operations

In semi-urban districts and the smaller population centres in African countries, improvement of water supply and clean-up operations are among the major challenges facing those who seek to raise the local inhabitants' living standards.

Although the technical solutions exist, and financial support in the drinking-water sector has been granted during the last decade, either by African governments or by donors, these programmes have been targeted principally at major cities. Few programmes have been undertaken to help rural population centres (ranging between 3000 and 20 000 inhabitants). These are generally too large to take part in village-based water supply schemes but too small to be of interest to water-distribution companies. The same is true of somewhat larger towns (20 000 to 50 000 inhabitants) where the public water-supply reaches only a minority of the population, and of the shanty-towns in the cities, where the unregulated urban fabric makes the installation of large community networks particularly difficult. There are also problems in less populated areas close to cities where there are not enough funds to extend the supply network.

In response to this problem, the Water Solidarity Programme* has, with the support of the French Cooperation Ministry, implemented a drinking-water and clean-up programme in periurban districts and small population centres in Africa. It involves pilot actions which are designed to test hypotheses which have not yet been validated in the field and a research component concentrating on:

- the analysis of the economic parameters of water distribution for low-income urban populations;
- ways of managing the drinking-water service in collaboration with the local inhabitants;
- the impact of drinking-water supplies and clean-up operations on public health;
- institutional and relational matters (nature of services provided and typology of relations between suppliers and consumers).

Some ten research programmes and six pilot actions are currently under way in 15 African countries (French-, English- and Portuguese-speaking). The results of this work will be presented at a seminar which is planned for the middle of 1997.

* pS-Eau, c/o GRET, 211-213, rue La Fayette — 75010 Paris — Tel. (33 1) 40.05.61.58 — Fax (33 1) 40.05.61.10

Sharing resources in SADC

by André Liebaert*

The need to step up regional water resources management in the SADC region to avoid political, economic and environmental conflicts and help socio-economic development is explained below. To this end, the Dutch Presidency of the EU is to organise an EU/SADC Conference entitled 'Management of Shared River Basins in Southern Africa'. This will take place in Maseru, Lesotho in May 1997, and the main objective will be to share experiences.

Continental SADC covers about 7 million km² with geographical and climatic conditions varying from sub-equatorial rain-fed vegetation to the oldest desert in the world, in Namibia. Most countries are either semi-arid or arid and thus have limited water resources. The region has an uneven rainfall distribution, and is affected by drought and floods.

Water resources have a significant role in the socio-economic development of the region, particularly as regards food production, health, energy and the environment. Projected population growth throughout the region will increase pressure on resources, and demand for water for irrigation, hydropower and industrial and domestic uses. Regionally there is a strong emphasis on water quality and sanitation facilities to reduce water-related diseases. Sound management must take account of the economic value of water, especially in the irrigation sector, where improved efficiency is an important issue. Conservation and protection of water resources have to go hand in hand with proper land management and control of deforestation, erosion, bad farming practices and overgrazing.

A big proportion of the region's electricity is generated by hydropower. Capacity of more than 10 000 MW has already been developed, of which a large part is in the Zambezi River basin and further development is envisaged. Freshwater fisheries and associated industries, and shipping activities are also important economic assets in natural lakes such as Malawi/Nyasa and Tanganyika and in artificial lakes, such as Kariba and the Cabora Basa.

Most of the region's surface water resources are from international rivers (see table). Other rivers, like the Ruvuma and Cunene, are shared by different countries, and parts of the region stretch to the Zaire and Nile basins. Potential conflicts of interest exist, at national and regional levels, due to the construction of reservoirs for irrigation, water supply and hydropower, which reduce downstream flow. Pollution from

Major river basins in the SADC region

River Basin	Riparian countries	Basin area ('000 km ²)
Zambezi	Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe	1.420
Orange	Lesotho, South Africa, Botswana and Namibia	950
Okavango	Botswana, Angola and Namibia	530
Limpopo	Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe	385

Source: World Bank, African Water Resources).

agricultural, mining and industrial activities and the preservation of protected areas (wetlands, wildlife sanctuaries), could also spark disputes.

Regional management is already surfacing, however. Regional river basin authorities in operation include the Cunene River Commission, the Zambezi River Authority and the Okavango Authority. The Zambezi River Action Plan has been created with the aim of drawing up and implementing common regional strategies and an Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for the Zambezi.

A Protocol on Shared Watercourse Systems in the SADC region, signed in August 1995, included a recommendation to set up for each basin a Monitoring Unit for regional water resources management and a River Basin Commission. And the SADC Council of Ministers decided in August 1996 to set up a SADC water sector unit to be coordinated by Lesotho. Regional cooperation will be taken further at the spring 1997 SADC/EU Conference on the 'Management of Shared River Basins in Southern Africa', where the accent will be on pooled experiences of both Southern Africa and Europe in the field. Of note too is the first-time meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Water Partnership held in November 1996 which focused on sustainable water resource management in Southern Africa.

All initiatives in the water sector require reliable data and information systems, both at national and regional levels. A follow-up to the Sub-Saharan Africa Hydrological Assessment, was the creation in SADC of a component of the HYCOS programme — 'Hydrological Cycle Observing System', promoted by the World Meteorological Organisation. SADC has submitted this project for funding under the seventh EDF regional programme. The objective is to organise a network of key stations, with real-time transmission by satellite, and an operational data-base of quality-controlled data (water quantity and quality and selected meteorological parameters). It will provide SADC with a vital tool for the sustainable improvement of regional integrated water resources assessment, monitoring and management. It will also help, participating countries to develop their own national capacity in these fields taking the regional management of resources further 'upstream'.

H.L.

* Principal Administrator in DG VIII's Infrastructure Unit for Eastern and Southern Africa.

A 21st century vision of the Nile

by Raouf F. Khouzam*

For millennia, the Nile has been giving life to the diversified cultures along its extensive courses. This gift seems to be taken for granted by the nilotic communities. A combination of social strife, hefty public debts and the yoke of economic reform have combined to put off the addressing of water resource questions and potential crises. But this delay will take its toll on the prosperity of generations to come. Future threats emanate from a decline in water revenues and a growing population. Extensive and serious cooperation among the basin countries is called for in the following article — before it is too late.

Although the longest river in the world, the Nile discharge is relatively small: less than 2% of that of the Amazon, and about 10% of that of the Danube. It crosses 35 degrees of latitude from equatorial East Africa to the Mediterranean. The Nile has two main sources: the Equatorial Lakes plateau and the Ethiopian highlands. The first source collects its water from year round rain over Zaire, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya. The average annual inflow of this source is about 33 km³ at Mongalla, the entrance to the vast Sud wetland in the Sudan where about half the water is lost. Water from the Ethiopian highlands feeds three main rivers: the Sobat (14 km³), the Blue Nile (50 km³), and the Atbara (11 km³).

Taking the water loss into account, the average amount of water that reaches Aswan at the southern border of Egypt is about 84 km³. Countries upstream of Egypt have small or negligible withdrawals (Sudan and

Ethiopia 12%, Kenya 7% and other countries, less than 3%). The rate of withdrawal depends on the state of other water resources (rain, rivers and aquifers) available to the country.

Variations

Natural variations in water flows disturb the region's development. These include inter-seasonal or inter-annual variations and diminishing resources over time. Seasonal fluctuation is a characteristic of water coming from the Ethiopian Highlands, where its flow during the peak rainy season in the summer is about 40 times that of the low season. Annual fluctuations are also seen in the amount of water coming from both the Equatorial Lakes and Ethiopia. During this century, the river's flow has fluctuated from a high of 120 km³ in 1916 to a low of 42 km³ in 1984. The risks associated with seasonal and annual variations, however, pale in significance

when compared to the fall in resources over time. Between 1900 and 1959, the average annual flow was 84km³. During the last three years of this period (1984-87), the average was just 52 km³.

Two theories have been expounded to explain this fall. The first suggests that it is only temporary — a feature of the natural 'Hurst Phenomenon' whereby low and high flow cycles have been taking place throughout the Nile's history.

A more pessimistic explanation anticipates that the fall will continue, due to the southward 'migration' of the rainfall zone.

This trend, it is suggested, is due to changes in the Earth's orbit, 'El Nino' events, the greenhouse effect and the depletion of land cover.

The last-mentioned is caused by the local inhabitants. Whether you choose to side with the optimists or the pessimists, there are other factors which cast a somewhat gloomy shadow over the future of the Nile basin.

These include the stress placed on water resources by an ever-growing population, the lack of serious coordination among the basin countries, and civil wars — all of which dampen the spirits of even the most optimistic.

Population of the Nile basin countries in 1995 and 2025 (projected)
In millions

	1995	2025
Zaire	43.9	104.6
Tanzania	29.7	62.9
Rwanda	8.0	15.8
Burundi	6.4	13.5
Uganda	21.3	48.1
Kenya	28.3	63.4
Ethiopia	55.1	126.9
Eritrea	3.5	7.0
Sudan	28.1	58.4
Egypt	62.9	97.3
Total	287.2	597.9

Source: UN 1995. World Population Prospects: The Social Information and Policy Analysis, Population Division, New York; Table A.4, pp 226-7.

* Resource economist, P.O Box 150, Gezira, Cairo 11568, Egypt.

Population

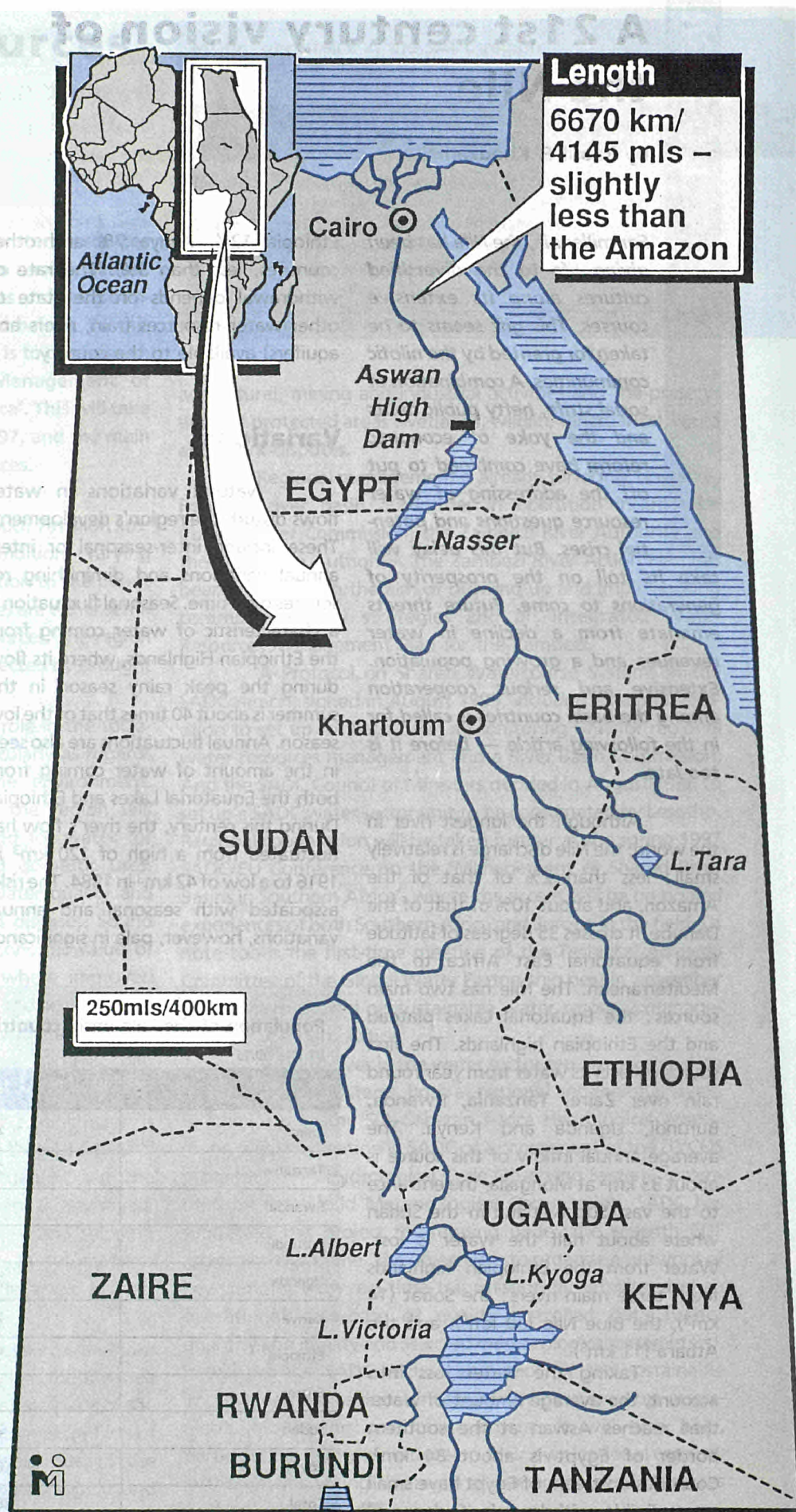
According to modest forecasts, the basin's population — estimated at 287 million in 1995 — is expected to double over the next three decades (see table). This puts pressure on water resources through direct consumption of water for drinking and related sanitary uses, deforestation and indirect water consumption for irrigation for food production.

Demand for municipal water is essential for life and a healthy and productive population. The percentage of the population with access to safe water ranged in 1993 from 18% in Ethiopia to 86% in Egypt. Demand for municipal water will rise to more than double as a consequence of population growth, wider coverage of served populations, increases in income, and greater awareness of hygiene.

The people also affect water resources through deforestation. A fast growing population erodes a forest's water-holding capacity by clearing trees to expand cropland, gain free access to fuelwood and build houses. The forest areas of the Nile basin have been shrinking at an annual rate of 1% or more. In Ethiopia, it is projected that if the current exploitation pattern continues, the forests will have disappeared altogether in just 30 years time.

Water required for food production is the third stress factor. This activity consumes the bulk of captured water. For instance, the production of one tonne of wheat and one tonne of rice require respectively 1000 and 2000 tonnes of water. Bearing in mind the low efficiency of irrigation methods, close to 90% of captured water in the Nile basin goes to agriculture.

It is significant that the region's growth in food production lags behind the expansion of the population. The amount of food produced *per capita* has fallen consistently between 1979 and 1993 in all countries except Egypt (and even here, it is a struggle to keep up with population growth). In the most extreme case of Ethiopia, the *per capita* food production index dropped from 34 in 1979-81 to just 28 in 1992-94.



Source: Gemini News Agency.

For an already malnourished population, securing water for food production and municipal needs are crucial to the basin's development. The diagnosis is clear, but the treatment complex.

New millennium

While a growing population needs increasing amounts of water, the available supply is shrinking due to natural and man-made causes. There are two ways to counter this: structural works and non-structural measures. The traditional solution is to go for structural measures such as dam building or conservation projects.

Dams are the oldest and most common water management schemes known. In 1986, the world had more than 37 000 dams higher than 15 metres — of which more than 800 are in Africa. There are various dam projects currently under way aimed at safeguarding against seasonal and annual variations, storing and managing water, and generating hydroelectric power.

In the Nile basin, the High Aswan Dam (HAD) is probably the most controversial and interesting example. Since its inauguration in 1971, the HAD has enabled Egypt fully to control the Nile. It has protected Egypt from dangerous floods as well as severe droughts and has enabled about a million acres of land to be transformed from basin to perennial irrigation (involving the cultivation of more than one crop a year). A similar area of barren desert has been reclaimed and it has been possible to intensify agricultural production by providing water for summer irrigation. Finally, the dam generates about 7 billion kw of hydroelectric power each year.

On the other hand, the construction of the HAD has also had some negative effects. For example, farm land has been deprived of nutritionally-rich alluvium, there has been increased erosion along the banks, and Nubian lands and ancient temples have been submerged.

The other set of structural works is the upper Nile conservation

projects. Egypt and Sudan made joint plans to prevent water losses in the wetlands of El-Sud, Bahr El-Ghazal and the Machar Marches. Under a 1959 agreement, these projects were designed to save a total of 18 km³ which would be divided between the two signatory states. Work on the first phase of the Jonglei canal began in 1978, the aim being annually to save 4 km³ of water lost in the El-Sud wetland. In 1984, work on the project was interrupted by civil war in the South Sudan.

Despite the potential for saving water in the upper Nile conservation projects, there are question marks over the viability of projects of this nature. Implementation is very expensive and drawn out, and the approach cannot be used to provide speedy solutions to urgent problems. Public debt problems, and lack of political stability and security make access to the funds of international agencies difficult. In addition, conservation projects in the upper Nile are facing stiff objections from environmentalists who want to protect the natural terrain. They claim that projects alter the life of the indigenous population, harm biodiversity and could change rainfall patterns.

There is no official and comprehensive institutional framework for managing the Nile basin, its tributaries and its lakes as one unit. A number of treaties and agreements have been drawn up, however, involving different countries. Some of the older treaties were negotiated and signed by colonial powers and consequently, represent their interests rather than those of their former colonies. After independence, the new nations expressed their objections on several occasions. One well-known example was the Nyerere Doctrine under which Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya refused to recognise the 1929 Nile Waters Agreement.

History teaches us that international laws — such as the Helsinki rules — are not strictly binding. The population is growing and water supply is not. This suggests only one possible scenario for the 21st century, namely that conflicts are inevitable. It was Malthus who wrote centuries ago that

resources are limited and needs are growing. We have come to accept conflicts, but they needn't be insurmountable. The big question is how can they be dealt with? One way is to ignore one's neighbours. Another is to sit down with other parties, assess trade-offs and draw up a cooperative strategy where everyone makes a sacrifice yet gains something. Is the latter approach realistic? My answer is 'yes'. After all, the enemies of yesteryear in Europe are now uniting in the best interests of their people?

In the Nile basin, one such example is the Owen Falls Dam Agreement between Egypt and Uganda. The original design was rejected by both sides because of the potential loss of fertile soil and displacement of people. The dam was subsequently redesigned to everyone's satisfaction and the agreement was signed in 1953. Another example is the 1959 Agreement for the full utilisation of the Nile Waters signed by the independent Egypt and Sudan. The agreement led to the construction of the HAD Roseires Reservoir in Sudan and set up a Permanent Technical Committee to supervise implementation of the agreement and launch hydrological studies. The hydrometeorological survey was signed in 1967 by half the countries in the basin (Egypt, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) with the UNDP and the World Meteorological Organisation. Finally, the Rusumo Treaty was signed in 1977 between Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda to manage and develop the Kagera river — a main tributary flowing into Lake Victoria.

The idea of Nile basin organisation is hence neither impractical nor remote. Basin communities must recognise that managing and conserving the water quantity and quality in a complex watershed like the Nile requires integrated and coordinated efforts from all the region's countries and international development institutions. ■

R.F.K.

Water from the sun*



Fondation Energies pour le Monde

It was **Abdou Diouf**, President of Senegal, who once remarked: 'In our Sahelian countries, three problems exist: the first is water, the second is water and the third is water'. Today the Sahel sun's strong rays are being used to generate electricity and pump fresh drinking water from the earth.

The Regional Solar Programme has installed water pumps in drought-stricken villages in countries belonging to the Intergovernmental Agency for Drought and Desertification (IGADD) whose members are Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad. Village involvement is a key feature of the programme. Villages pay for their water and the income generated is used for maintenance and replacement of equipment. To date, some 626 pumps have been set up with grants totalling ECU 34 million from the

Lomé III regional programme and from national indicative programmes. These provide not just water, but also lighting, refrigeration and energy for more than 900 000 rural dwellers.

Start-up

The photovoltaic project got off the ground in 1986 during the 'International Water Decade', at a meeting of IGADD's Heads of State in Praia. The EU already had a track record of funding village water supply schemes. For example, a thousand EDF-financed boreholes were drilled in the provinces of Yatenga, Comoe, Sourou, Passoré and Sissili in Burkina Faso during the late 1970s and early 1980s. But these were small-scale schemes, extracting less than one cubic metre an hour from a depth of 60 metres. As such, they were mainly suited to small settlements with populations of between 200 and 500.

The boreholes could not, as a result, cope with the effects of popu-

Scene from the Sahel
Solar panels (left) generate power
to pump water

lation growth and regional migration. The number of inhabitants in some villages rose ten-fold. A rural town of 5000 people is often too small to justify connection to piped supplies, but reliance on water from boreholes, equipped with hand pumps, was proving increasingly costly given the number of drillings required. Solar power was developed as a mid-way solution between village manual supply and electric pumps.

The technology

A photovoltaic cell uses semiconductor materials to transform light directly into electrical energy. In receipt of a photon flux (solar radiation), the cell becomes a valuable source of current. The cells are connected and assembled in a module. Each module, which is hermetically sealed, generally has an area of 0.5 m square metres and produces 50

* This article is based on the DG VIII/CILSS publication 'Regional Solar Programme' edited by Fondation Energies Pour le Monde. Copies can be obtained from the Editor at Rue de l'université 146, 75007 Paris, France. The EU coordinators of the programme are Pierre Péligny, Head of the Rural Development Division and Francis De Clerck, Administrator

watts of power. A generator is made of a series of connected modules. An inverter is then used to generate the current which drives the motor of a centrifuge pump placed in a borehole. The pumped water accumulates in a tank and is then distributed by gravity to a fountain or drinking water trough. At night, the energy stored in a battery can be used for lighting and refrigeration or TV sets (see diagram).

Great care was taken in selecting the pump sites. A viable site had to have a sufficient numbers of dwellers as well as proper follow-up, access to funds and the possibility of income generation.

One of the major difficulties to be overcome was changing people's attitudes to paying for water. User contributions are essential to ensure that equipment can be renewed when required. They are also needed to cover service costs — the salaries of watchmen and caretakers, maintenance, repairs, replacement of spare parts and so on. The overall amount of contributions was initially calculated on the basis of the annual maintenance and replacement costs plus 10% of the installation costs. This amount was to be paid into an

account opened at a local bank near the village in question (the deposits gaining interest at a rate of between 6% and 10%). The equipment suppliers appointed a representative in each state whose task is to install the equipment and provide after-sales services. Against payment of a fixed annual amount, this service provider guarantees the functioning of the equipment and assumes responsibility for workers' transport and the provision of spare parts.

A body of specialists in solar power has emerged in the region as a result of the programme. *Babikir Omar Karoum*, for example, installs and maintains RSP pumps in Chad. His electricity and communications firm employs more than 25 people, six of whom deal exclusively with solar energy. Mr Karoum says that maintenance consists mainly of removing the dust from the modules. When problems do arise, he adds, it is usually for one of two reasons. 'The first is mechanical — when the pump stops functioning. The second is the human component: villagers come

to see us or call on the radio to tell us they have no more water. After a few appropriate questions, a diagnosis is quickly made. Eight times out of ten, the problem is not that the pump has broken down but that the reservoir is empty. In the Sahel, we have a philosophy that no one should be prohibited from drinking water.'

In the village, a Solar Equipment Management Committee (SEMC) is composed of at least seven people, chosen for their resourcefulness and honesty. They appoint a president, secretary, treasurer and committee member in charge of hygiene and maintenance. The committee provides technical expertise and makes sure that the service runs and records water meter readings in a notebook. A watchman monitors and maintains pumps and solar generators, while caretakers distribute water at regular hours and collect payment at standpipes. When a village has sold enough water to cover operational costs and fulfil the maintenance contract, it starts to generate profits.

The design of a typical solar panel/pump installation

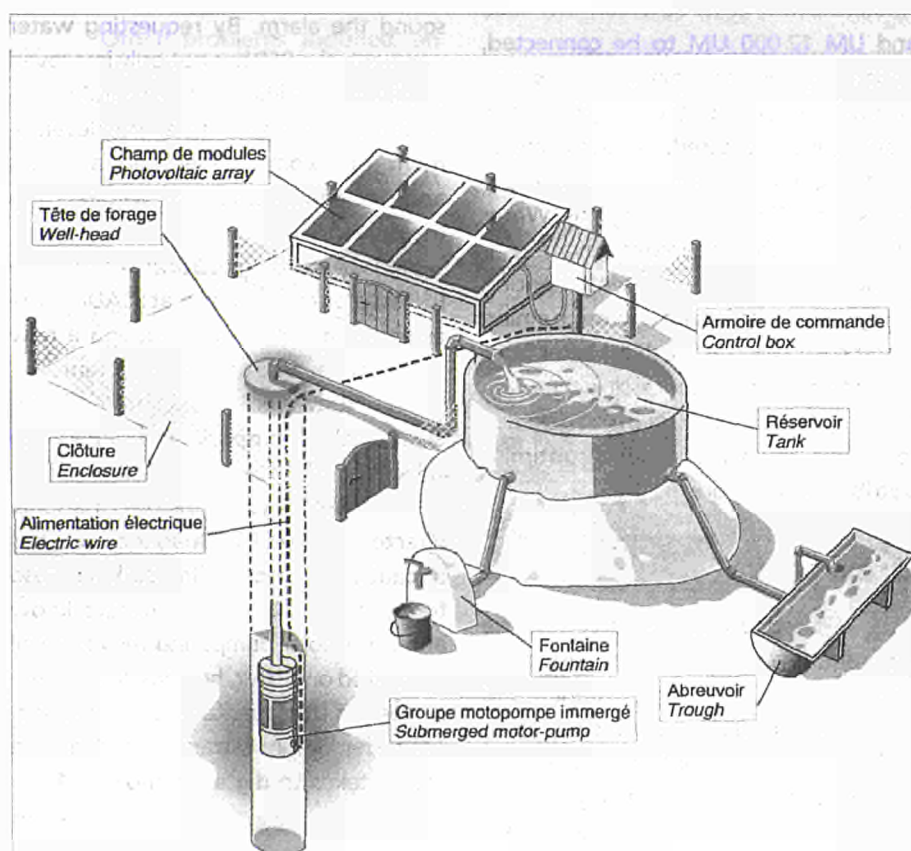


SCHÉMA D'INSTALLATION TYPE

Paying for water

Experiences with payment differ from one country to another. *Jacques Sawadogo* is treasurer of the water point management committee and a cattle salesman in Pilimpikou, in the north of Burkina Faso. His village received a P3 pump (pumps are graded according to capacity). Water piped from 34 metres underground reaches 11 cubic metres a day. The equipment was installed in July 1993 and is still in excellent condition. Mr Sawadogo keeps the accounting and savings records. Maintenance contracts, paid in 1994 and 1995 cost CFAF² 150 550. 192 men in the village paid CFAF 2500 each while 360 women paid CFAF 250 as an initial annual fee for the installation. A barrel of 200 litres of water costs CFAF 40 and a smaller container CFAF 5. The water supplies have enabled the village to extend their farming activities. Beans are sold at the market and generate additional income.

¹ CFA franc. ECU 1 = CFAF 651.



Fondation Énergie pour le Monde

Paying at the pump for water

In Chad, *Mahamat Oumara*, national director of the RSP, explains that the price of water is set by government decree. Families pay for water on a monthly basis — generally CFAF 300 in small villages. In the cities, payment by container is preferred. This enables the caretaker to survey any attempts at theft more easily.

In Mauritania, there are two forms of payment. Some villages, such as Four El Kkouz and Tantane have community boreholes and if the water overflows, excess supply is used to irrigate gardens. A barrel costs UM 12². It costs UM 5 to water a camel, while the price for a cow or a shepherd who brings 10 of his sheep to drink is UM 4. A 'water chamber', which may be strapped to the back of a donkey or loaded on a lorry, costs between UM 5 and UM 30. The cost for a traditional 20 litre bucket-full is UM 2. In addition to their salary, watchmen receive 200 litres of water per day which they use to irrigate land for farming.

In larger towns such as Moudjeira and N'beika (which have between 3000 and 4000 people), management is in the hands of a private company. Each of these settlements has more than a

hundred private family water meters, and distribution is through a network with individual billing. 'Without doubt, this type of management is better suited to our country's culture,' says *Ould El Hadj*, director of hydraulics in the capital, Nouakchott. It costs between UM 4000 and UM 12 000 UM to be connected, depending on the extent of underground works and the length of the water pipes required. A cubic meter from the water meter costs UM 85. Prices are officially fixed by the Water Ministry which encourages private connections based on a preferential pricing policy. But purchasing home running water costs twice as much as water from boreholes. Pump concessionaries are currently seeking new clients to help pay for their investments and optimise distribution networks.

Drawbacks

Despite obvious successes, the programme has some weak points. It has had organisational, institutional and cash flow control problems at both regional and national levels. While the contributions do provide a large sum of money, the level is generally insufficient

for the systems to be self-financing. A lack of external funds can cause financial difficulties for local companies. In the absence of a sufficiently large market, they may have problems in ensuring that the equipment is maintained. In addition, the devaluation of the CFAF in January 1994 raised the cost of solar equipment. Nor have local populations completely mastered the management problem yet. High prices and lack of resources will hinder future purchase of the photovoltaic units by households. Practically the entire stock of photovoltaic equipment on the Sahelian market has to be imported — an exception being the regulators which are assembled in Senegal and Mauritania.

Francis O. Kaboré, who was head of water resources at IGADD between 1982-1990, currently oversees the RSP in Ouagadougou. 'Twenty years ago, water well drilling programmes had just been implemented and it seemed sufficient to dig wells to resolve the water supply problem. States felt obliged to provide free water, and the inhabitants were mere spectators in development projects. Problems relating to recurrent costs and real costs of water quickly surfaced and we were the first to sound the alarm. By requesting water payment, the RSP has not only improved the living conditions of the rural population, but has also fostered the development of income generating activities and the enhancement of water-saving measures.'

According to *Bocar Sada Sy*, the RSP assistant coordinator at IGADD: 'the essential factor is not to design a new programme, but to expand on information and awareness training, and provide further support and advice to villages.'

But *Seydou Traoré*, national director of the RSP in Ouagadougou, has a cautionary note. 'In Burkina Faso today, three out of five villages know about the solar pump, and they have all requested one.' But, he adds, 'more time is needed for mentalities to change. Attitudes are not transformed at the rate it takes to dig a borehole.'

ed D.P.

² The Mauritania ouguiya. ECU 1 = UM 175.

The water twins*

The twinning of citizens of countries across continents is given a new dimension with an EDF project linking the Jamaican National Water Commission and Thames Water Authority (UK). The aim is to help improve the management of the Caribbean island's water.

A three-year twinning agreement between the Jamaican National Water Commission and the Thames Water International Consultancy, which got off the ground in April 1995, is providing expertise, training and some technology.

The two bodies have come together to tackle some of the enormous challenges facing the development of water and sewerage systems in Jamaica. At the time the arrangement was made, only three-quarters of the island's requirements were actually being met. In addition, a great deal of the water supplied (estimated at between 50% and 70% of the total) was not generating any revenue and there were no fewer than 26 waste water plants serving just 10% of the population.

Other problems included an urgent need to reduce the 2500 workforce (an 'unacceptably high ratio of 10 employees per 1000 connections'), increasing energy costs which absorbed 25% of the NWC budget, severe re-

straints on capital expenditure because of inadequate tariffs, and a growing financial deficit.

The Thames International Water Consultancy won the contract from an original list of five invited to tender. The concept was to develop a close working relationship with a foreign water utility which had experienced the same problems as Jamaica's National Authority, and provide the necessary technical assistance and some inputs. The consultancy is part of the Thames Water Authority, which is the largest water utility in the United Kingdom, serving 11 million customers and employing 8000 people. TWC was floated on the London stock exchange in 1989. Jamaica's National Water Commission was set up 16 years ago. Although it is governed by separate legislation, it is strongly influenced by its sponsoring Government department.

The contract brief was to improve the effectiveness of the NWC by rebuilding planning, engineering and programming capabilities, together with strengthened managerial and operational skills. Aims included optimising business and technical operations at

all levels, decentralising management, developing management information systems on commercial and financial strategies, and improving human resources. Initial problems included the replacement in July 1995 of the NWC Board of Commissioners and the departure of several of the management team. However, the new team agreed to continue the programme with some small modifications.

A group of experts was put in place comprising a project manager doubling as an institutional specialist, and specialists in engineering, finance and human resource development.

Priorities include strengthening the management of regional and district operations, improving customer service and revenue collection, tackling the problem of unaccounted-for water, asset management and maintenance, water management control, improving the system of records, capital project development, and implementing a corporate planning system.

Within the overall plan, the 'twinning team' already has a number of achievements to its credit. A customer billing system is now in place which allows for a data base to be developed containing information about classes of customer, individual consumption levels, consumption in specified areas and so on. The creation of accurate and comprehensive records should make for better asset management. Personal computers, printers and other materials were purchased under the programme to help overcome the data deficit.

The relevant operating units are being helped to take over the maintenance of the sewerage system and treatment works currently under construction in Negril and Ocho Rios. An engineering specialist is also part of the project monitoring team, involved in upgrading the Montego Bay sewerage and treatment facilities.

The management uncertainty initially experienced has meant that the focus to date has largely been on short-term objectives, but the programme hopes to move on with business plan for 1997-1998.

ed. D.P.

Sewage treatment plant in Negril



The future of EU-Caribbean links

by Anthony Gonzales*

In the talks leading up to Lomé I, the Caribbean sought a model of association with the EEC that was *sui generis*. It argued for non-reciprocity, for protection of traditional arrangements, and for no difference in treatment between independent Caribbean countries and the self-governing territories of EC Member States in the region. There were reservations about the Yaoundé model which contained reverse preferences, lacked special protective measures for important traditional commodities and offered inadequate participation in aid management. The provisions were seen as representing a loss of the preferential status enjoyed under the Commonwealth Preference System as well as posing a threat to Caribbean integration. The protection of traditional export staples — rum, sugar and bananas — was central to the region's motives.

The Caribbean enjoyed a higher *per capita* income than other ACP regions and, as such, less importance was attached to aid, although this was to change somewhat when the economic situation later deteriorated. There was some interest in industrial cooperation since it was recognised that diversification was important, and that external assistance, in the form of 'GSP-plus' preferences, coupled with help from the EIB and CDI, could facilitate industrialisation by reducing 'infant-industry' costs.

Looking at the overall policy shifts that have occurred since Lomé I, the region's concerns having tended to slip down the negotiation agenda. This is not surprising given the backdrop of

dwindling real resources and more urgent priorities elsewhere. The main areas where the system has experienced significant change since 1975 are in export stabilisation, grant funding, and special aid allocations (desertification, emergency aid, environment, and structural adjustment). Due to its higher *per capita* income, the Caribbean's key focus has been the trade instruments — rules of origin, trade promotion, the safeguard clause, CAP quotas etc. No major breakthroughs occurred in these areas and though the region benefited from some of the other changes, its bottom line remained the sugar and banana protocols.

In assessing Lomé's impact on the Caribbean, one can see that some export diversification has taken place but the overall change has been marginal. The commodity arrangements have generally had a positive effect. Sugar, rum and bananas gained the desired access and stable remunerative prices. In addition, provisions not designed specifically for the region, brought some clearly identifiable benefits. Banana STABEX transfers have been important for the Windward Islands, Jamaica and Belize. Emergency aid following hurricanes has also proved useful and EDF flows have made a significant contribution to the OECS countries and Belize in areas such as agriculture, rural development, health, education and transport.

Like other ACPs, however, the Caribbean has continued to lose EU market share to non-ACP developing states. This has not been offset by increases in public or private capital flows. On the contrary, aid to the region, particularly under the regional programme, has fallen sharply in relative terms and private capital flows have also diminished.

A free trade area?

The basic rationale for seeking a new relationship with the EU after the

end of Lomé IV stems from the inadequacy of the present non-reciprocal arrangements to ensure trade and investment expansion in the Caribbean. Insofar as they offer better concessions for their members, the emerging free trade areas will continue to divert commerce and investment away from the region. In addition, global trade liberalisation has substantially reduced preferential tariff margins. As a result of the last Uruguay Round, these have fallen by almost three percentage points. Average EU tariffs are now below 5-6% on industrial products, which means that Lomé no longer offers much of an advantage for ACP industrial exports.

A Free Trade Area (FTA) would appear, in the long-term, to be a superior instrument to MFN, GSP and the Lomé Convention. It would expand market size by offering better preferences as well as providing more secure market access, transparency and stable rules. As middle-income countries that have already laid the foundations for achieving competitiveness, the Caribbean states are in a position to take rapid advantage of FTA concessions by putting in place certain structures and undertaking key reforms. Certain external elements needed to achieve competitiveness — such as technology and capital flows — are only attainable in small economies through enhanced trading arrangements such as FTAs. It is not realistic to expect small countries to build competitiveness successfully by staying in restrictive, non-reciprocal systems.

Recognition of this, and of the trade and investment diversion now taking place as a result of the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA), has prompted Caribbean countries to commit themselves to an FTA integration process by the year 2005. At least two CARICOM members have also expressed interest in joining NAFTA. The same logic should apply to the Caribbean-EU relationship. The Union already has FTAs with Eastern Europe and is proposing similar accords with other parts of the developing world. The effect is that Lomé will soon cease to be a competitive trade instrument for the Caribbean. The critical problem for the region at present is attracting investment. Future arrangements with the EU

* Senior Lecturer at the Institute of International Relations of the University of the West Indies. Mr Gonzales worked as an expert in the ACP Secretariat from 1977 to 1982, and has published several articles on EU-Caribbean relations.

must focus more on how to do this in the context of globalised networks.

In the context of NAFTA/FTAA (the Free Trade Area of the Americas), the CBI (Caribbean Basin Initiative), countries see the first stage of the process of transition to FTA as achieving parity with NAFTA members on a non-reciprocal basis for a limited period of three years. After this, they are ready to accept reciprocal obligations accompanied by various measures to assist small countries. In relation to the EU, the Caribbean has not yet formulated a similarly clear position. I have suggested progressing simultaneously towards FTA both within the NAFTA/FTAA process and with the EU. This would entail phased or 'relative' reciprocity along with requisite development assistance to facilitate competitiveness and transformation.

If the Caribbean is to attract investment and boost exports, it is vital that it enters into FTAs with North America and Europe. The second point is a legal one. Under Lomé, the EU must receive from the Caribbean states the same treatment offered to the developed countries in NAFTA. The simultaneous approach is, therefore, needed to ensure that Caribbean membership of NAFTA/FTAA is compatible with the trade link with the EU. The alternative is for the EU link to be downgraded to MFN status which would severely affect the region's trading position.

While some notion of a transition to FTA is evolving in the Caribbean in relation to NAFTA/FTAA, there is reluctance even to contemplate such an approach *vis-a-vis* the EU. Instead, we see a desperate fight to preserve the Lomé *acquis*. The main reason is that dependence on commodity protection is so great — at least in some states — that it obscures any vision of survival in a liberalised world. To make the transition, there must therefore be some guarantee of economic security for the states in question — which face high costs and tremendous difficulties in diversifying. This must involve more than the provision of financial and technical resources for restructuring industry. It should (as happened under the CBI), encourage diversification through specific trade, service and investment concessions that will directly attract investment into new or existing areas and allow new industries to grow



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as the 'sunset' ones are phased out. A good example is the case of garment manufacturing, which was linked to the reduction of the US sugar quota under the CBI.

As an alternative to bananas, the EU has advocated tourism-led diversification for the Windward Islands based on the use of more local non-traditional agricultural and other inputs. Yet, there are no specific measures in the Convention that directly promote tourism, such as tax credits for conferences or more duty-free concessions for returning EU tourists.

With such a strategy for diversifying and building competitiveness, it is possible to conceive of the Caribbean moving to reciprocity with the EU under a transitional arrangement after Lomé IV. An FTA with variable speeds of entry and degrees of reciprocity could be viable, particularly if it covers the key products and services of export interest to the region and grants specific concessions in those sectors where the Caribbean can compete.

Towards greater mutual interest

Another advantage of an FTA is that it would provide a sounder basis for closer cooperation and integration with the French overseas departments (DOMs) and dependencies of EU countries (OCTs) in the region. Some of these territories have already sought free trade arrangements with their independent neighbours. They share common security goals with the Caribbean states in areas such as the illicit drugs trade, immigration and the environment — all issues that should be tackled in a wider regional framework. Recognition of this has already led to the involvement of the DOMs and OCTs in the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and in Cariforum.

There are already Lomé provisions which commit the Caribbean ACP

Shipping bananas to Europe
*A desperate fight to preserve the
Lomé 'acquis'*

states to wider cooperation with the DOMs and OCTs, (and other developing countries in the region). To date, however, little has been done in practice other than a few cultural events and some noteworthy trade promotion initiatives. There is a good argument for dismantling barriers between the various countries and territories in the region, irrespective of the arrangement reached with the EU. The DOMs and OCTs are all small and it is sensible that they should enjoy free trade with their neighbours. But there are limits to what is possible given their present constitutional status (this is especially true of the French DOMs). An FTA would help surmount this and contribute to increased trade within the region.

In conclusion, the Caribbean and the EU have a number of common economic and security interests. These go beyond those normally associated with global security and development, and justify the establishment of a closer 'neighbourhood' relationship based on the free trade area concept. ■ A.G.

Vocational training in Somaliland

War veterans and widows learn new skills

For most people in the North, Somalia conjures up an image of civil disorder, clan warfare and recurring hunger. But there is another, more positive side to the story, as *The Courier* discovered recently when we visited this part of the Horn of Africa to prepare a Country Report (which will appear in the next issue).

Our travels took us, among other places, to Hargeisa in the North West. This town, which is the 'capital' of the self-styled Republic of Somaliland,

suffered widespread destruction in the civil war. Many of its citizens were killed or injured in air raids ordered by the Siad Barre government during the 1980s and the region was the scene of heavy fighting between government and Somali National Movement (SNM) forces in the early 1990s. Nor did the collapse of the Mogadishu-based administration in 1991 signal the end of inhabitants' suffering. As in other parts of the

country, Hargeisa was the scene of local clan rivalries which resulted in more heavy fighting in 1994.

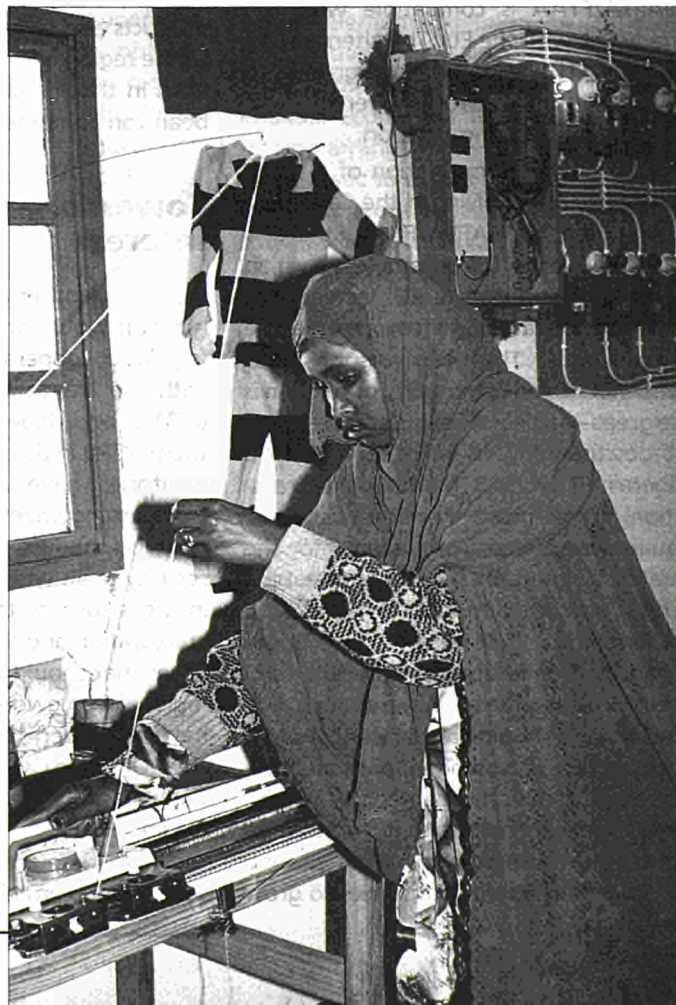
Although clan tensions persist today, there is clearly a longing among the people to put the horrors of war behind them.

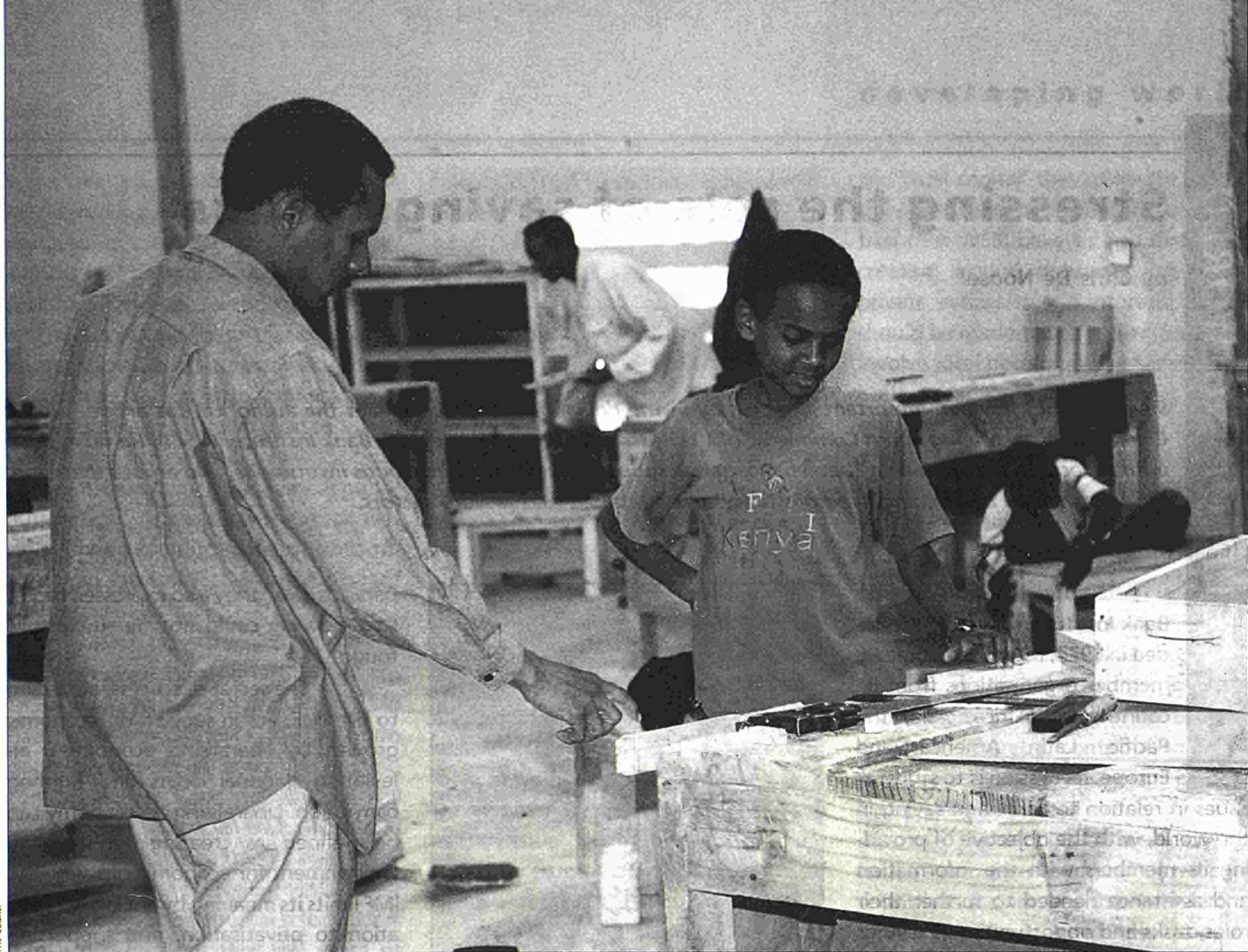
For the past two years, the town has been peaceful for the most part and, in those areas under the control of the Somaliland authorities, a start has been made on reconstruction and rehabilitation. One of the biggest challenges is in the field of *human resources*.

Rebuilding the education system

The shattered education system needs to be rebuilt and new opportunities created for a whole generation of young people. One institution which is doing its bit to fulfil this goal is the Sooyaal Vocational Training Centre in Hargeisa. When *The Courier* paid an unannounced visit to its premises in

The Sooyaal Vocational Training Centre





The Courier

November we were given a warm welcome — and soon discovered a hive of activity. Here, students learn the skills of masonry, carpentry, metalwork and fabric design — and they are making money for the centre selling their products to local traders.

One of the main driving forces behind the VTC is *Said Shukri*, General Manager for vocational training, who gave us a guided tour of the facilities. He explained how Sooyaal had been founded by SNM war veterans with a view to reintegrating demobilised fighters into civilian society and giving them the skills necessary to engage in 'productive trade'. The centre also provides training for war widows in fabric design and production. It takes in 240 students a year, giving them the opportunity to gain vocational qualifications in their chosen field.

Support for the VTC has been provided in the past by the German development agency *GTZ* and, more recently, by the NGO *Swiss Group* and the European Commission. The main impetus, however, has come from the local community and, in particular, from a committed staff who are determined

to succeed despite resource constraints. *Stephanie Hall*, who is a technical assistant based at the EC's Somalia Unit in Nairobi, explained to us how a modest investment (about ECU 4500) in short training courses was already bearing fruit. 'Initially, we received a request for metalworking equipment,' she said. 'Instead, we sent a man to the metalwork section at Sooyaal to give a month's training. Now they are making the tools themselves.'

The Commission has also funded carpentry training while in the fabrics sections, war-widows at the centre went out to the local market stalls to interview traders as part of their short course. Armed with the results of the survey, they were able to identify a possible market niche involving 'tie-dye' and batik designs. The EC has provided further training in these two techniques. The cloth is bought second-hand from what is known locally as the 'who died' market — a poignant reminder of the recent conflict.

Said Shukri is keen to stress the income-generating aspects of the centre's work — not surprising when there is such a chronic shortage of public

A young trainee receives instruction in carpentry

funding. This sentiment is echoed by *Yusuf Abdi*, the Chairman of the centre: 'We don't have enough funds for all the materials we need,' he adds, 'but overall, it is a good project which is worth supporting.'

There is no doubting the commitment of the staff at Sooyaal. They are determined to make a positive contribution to the economic and social development of their region — but whether they succeed will ultimately depend on the maintenance of peace. ■

Simon Horner

Stressing the role of savings banks

by Chris De Noose

Savings banks have an important role to play in the development process, says the author of this article, who is Chairman of the Management Committee of the Brussels-based World Savings Bank Institute (WSBI). He takes issue with aspects of the prevailing liberal philosophy espoused by the Bretton Woods institutions, and argues that more can be achieved by creating synergies between the public and private sectors.

The World Savings Bank Institute, which was founded in 1924, represents some 98 member organisations from 81 countries in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and Europe. Its mission is to study all issues in relation to thrift and saving in the world, with the objective of providing its members with the information and assistance needed to further their roles, tasks and opportunities as savings banks. It pursues its objectives by promoting effective cooperation and exchanges of experience and information among its members — which number 1500 savings banks, with 220 000 branches and about one and a half million staff!



Chris De Noose, Chairman of the WSBI's Management Committee

New emphasis on information

At the savings banks' General Assembly, held in Tokyo in October, the main emphasis was on stepping up the banks' information activities, particularly *vis-à-vis* the public authorities in their home countries and international financial organisations (notably the IMF and the World Bank). Making opinion leaders and decision-makers more aware of the role of savings banks in the economy — and in society more generally — was seen as a priority.

Savings banks have close links with the localities and regions in which they operate and thus have been able to develop a highly efficient system of financial intermediation, integrating the best opportunities for mobilising funds with the best investment opportunities.

The work of a savings banker is centred around being a good communicator and creating trust. An optimum network of financial intermediation ensures that savings banks operations are profitable. The profits, which guarantee the viability of the banks, are directed towards their stakeholders — the local citizens, entrepreneurs and public authorities. From this, it is clear that the success of the savings bank depends on the level of local development and vice versa. In short, savings banks work in favour of the general interest. They therefore share with their customers, a commitment to long-term cooperation.

In October, the IMF and the World Bank held their annual meetings in Washington. They stated for the first time that positive economic growth was being achieved in Africa but, somewhat

paradoxically, they also expressed regret that poverty could not be successfully fought.

The secret of success, according to the IMF, lies in supporting economic growth by liberalising economies, alleviating national debts and fighting corruption. Liberalising an economy can be defined as creating an enabling environment for economic growth. The IMF limits its meaning by linking liberalisation to privatisation, and supporting purely commercial ventures based on free market principles.

Creating bases for cooperation

The view of the WSBI is that development in our global society can only be supported by creating bases for cooperation between citizens and authorities, on a local, regional, national and global level. This involves encouraging people to assume a mutual commitment and responsibility towards development. It must build on existing infrastructures and possibilities. Privatisation, based purely on free market principles, does not guarantee the creation of such a cooperative environment.

In their negotiations with developing country governments, the IMF and World Bank seek to convince them, and their respective populations, that foreign investment and aid, industrialisation and the elimination of regulations, are the only possible formulae for development.

Both institutions point to the success of the Marshall Plan, established at about the same time they themselves

were set up, which was aimed at reconstructing European economies devastated by the Second World War. Although it cannot be denied that the Marshall Plan contributed to the rapid and successful revival of the economies in question, this success was clearly linked to the strong organisational infrastructure which was created in the beneficiary countries, involving close cooperation between citizens and public authorities. A true partnership was established, focusing on economic revival and increasing the well-being of the people.

Such infrastructures and partnerships have not usually been present in those areas where the IMF and World Bank have worked over the past two decades. Indeed, in many developing countries, these basic elements are still lacking. The lesson is that while the Bretton Woods institutions may offer instruments for development, their theories cannot be the *basis* for it. It is worth pointing out that this sense of partnership is something that is found today in the structure of savings banks.

Constructive dialogue sought

The WSBI is keen to enter into a constructive dialogue with the World Bank and the IMF and to broaden the awareness of its work. In a similar vein, it hopes to work more actively with EU decision-makers in the area of development cooperation. Many of the aims that were set out in the original Lomé Convention have not yet been achieved and there are more people living in poverty now than when the system was first set up. In many developing countries, the rural and poorer populations have no access to basic financial services. Banks have tended to withdraw from rural areas and focus their activities principally on wealthy customers. For this reason, the WSBI believes it has a role to play in the process leading to a new EU-ACP relationship once Lomé IV expires in the year 2000.

National and international authorities need to be made aware that a strong and self-sustaining local financial

Savings banks support economies

Assets in millions of dollars (US)
in December 1995

Africa	10 962
Asia-Pacific	2 406 099
Eastern Europe	68 183
Western Europe	2 686 809
Latin America	8 170

infrastructure is a prerequisite for the development of financial services which are adapted to the needs of local customers and provide incentives for local development and cooperation. Development cooperation must be seen as an equal partnership, something which presupposes the existence of genuine mutual interests.

The savings banks believe that, with sufficient commitment from governments, there is considerable scope for well-structured and concrete initiatives at all levels from the local to the international. Such initiatives must aim to strengthen political, economic and social stability — which are the cornerstones for future success. The banks welcome the increasing awareness of the need to improve investment and promote responsibility-sharing at the level of the ordinary people.

The WSBI also welcomed the FAO's 'World Food Summit' which was held in Rome in November, as an example of a commitment to ensuring food security in developing countries. It considers, however, that the FAO's draft declaration and action plan overlook the importance of mobilising savings and of local investment arrangements. In previous reports, the FAO has, in fact, identified the lack of access to finance as the essential problem facing farmers in developing countries.

'Trust capital'

The success of development cooperation policies depend largely on

the 'trust capital' they generate among the populations of the beneficiary countries. The WSBI believes that instead of creating a gulf between public and private initiatives and interests, efforts should be made to seek synergies which involve local decision-makers and public authorities. From this perspective, locally-based savings banks appear ideally situated to act as the intermediary in directing the available savings resources to the best investment opportunities.

In developing countries, where savings institutions are often only used as passive, government-owned organisations, the WSBI is calling for institutional reforms. The aim should be to allow them to develop their banking activities, thereby contributing more effectively to the development process. Meanwhile, the WSBI will continue to promote partnerships between savings banks from developed and developing countries, based on the transfer of know-how and long-term cooperation. ■

C.D.N.

Energy and economic development in developing countries

by Pierre Mariotte*

The World Bank, the G-7 countries and a number of other governments have recently issued statements on the need to support development in developing countries. In so doing, they underline the topical nature of aid to the world's poorest nations. The author of this article, however, believes that the basic objectives are none too clear. Here, he offers some suggestions for remedying what he terms the 'energy famine' in developing countries.

One of the conditions essential to any country's economic development is access to energy sources. Although 'famines' are frequently referred to in connection with developing countries, the 'energy famine' which most of them suffer is rarely mentioned. The ACP countries, who are partners of the EU under the Lomé Convention, have few gas or petroleum deposits to speak of. As such, they are deprived of an element essential for their economic development, leaving them reliant on external aid. However, if they had the will and provided themselves with the means, there are interesting possibilities for them to enjoy the benefits of domestic energy resources. In most ACP countries, this could be done by cultivating crops, such as sugar cane, manioc and cabbage palm, from which alcohol can be obtained. When distilled, these can produce bioethanol or an ester in the case of oil-yielding crops.

Used as fuels, such products could be exploited:

- to operate generators providing power for lighting, or supplying water (from a depth of 200 or 300 metres) for drinking or irrigation;
- to meet domestic energy requirements, thus halting deforestation and its disastrous consequences;
- to provide transport for both people and goods. In particular, the fuel could be used in farm tractors, making it easier to grow crops in certain areas, thereby benefiting impoverished regions.

Obviously, local energy sectors based on alcohol-producing resources could create ongoing economic activity in those countries which developed them. This would help to boost production and trade and it should be possible for a proportion of the energy products to be sold for export.

In addition, the creation of industrial units would generate employment and could help prevent emigration. For example, a medium-sized distillery producing 500 000 hectolitres a year could employ 100 people, not to mention those involved in maintenance and spin-off activities.

Some might object to the developing countries' following such a path, but the development of an indigenous energy sector should not affect the interests of oil companies or importers of petroleum products. The reality is that oil imports are limited in any case by shortages of foreign exchange in the developing world. At present, they allocate between 30% and 50% of their resources to energy im-

ports. Enhanced economic development could indeed promote new demand and the extra resources needed to pay for it.

It is worth noting that no developing country is actually seeking financial aid in this area. The need to create local energy supplies based on alcohol-producing resources is not mentioned in any project run by the authorities in the countries in question or by the international institutions. Neither the World Bank nor the EU allocates resources for energy production, except in the case of petroleum.

The first requirement for organising domestic energy production in developing countries is to draw up an energy 'balance sheet'. This would set out the essential needs of a country as well as its capacity to meet these needs. Current and future investment requirements need to be quantified. In addition, governments of the countries in question must be made aware of the potential in this area — and inspired with the political will to work towards achieving new energy objectives. Full information on the possibilities offered by the production of bioethanol and esters from oil-yielding products could contribute to this.

It is not, therefore, a matter of replacing petroleum with renewable energy in the form of bio-fuels. It is, however, essential to utilise all alternative energy sources to avert the world energy deficit which now appears to be looming. ■

P.M.

Harvesting sugar cane
Alcohol-producing crops offer an
alternative energy source



Fig. Ministry of Information

* Bio-fuels consultant.

Dominique Aguessy: building bridges between the traditional and the modern

There are many sides to Dominique Aguessy. A sociologist and linguist by training, she is an author, audio-visual expert and graduate in business management (Templeton College, Oxford). She has also been involved in trade unionism, an experience she puts to good use when analysing problems such as women's rights. Originally from Benin, Ms Aguessy grew up in Senegal where she began her university studies. She has French nationality and now lives in Brussels. In short, her claim to a multicultural background can hardly be disputed. Indeed, her work flourishes on all these combined influences —

her experience, the people she has met and discoveries she has made. However, always aware of her African roots, this writer has set herself the task of recording the wealth of her native oral tradition. She has collected more than 50 stories told by story-tellers from Benin and Senegal and has published them in three books. The most recent ¹, 'La Maison aux sept portes', uses traditional tales from Benin to juxtapose two symbolic figures, the spider and the tortoise, in a cycle in which all the fundamental problems of human life are encountered. The Courier interviewed Dominique Aguessy at the launch of this book in Brussels in October.

■ *Your professional life touches on a number of different areas — how is it that you are involved in so many things at once and are they, perhaps, linked?*

— Yes, I am involved in many different things but I believe there is a common thread running through this diversity. Basically, I want to seek out as many ways as possible of promoting development. There are many areas of human activity and it is important for one's mind to be receptive to change, in order to develop. This presupposes a degree of openness.

■ *And a good deal of energy, too. Where does your material come from?*

— Principally from Africa. In the first instance, I have to pay tribute to my upbringing, because I was a child brought up in the African tradition. Next, as I have often told my friends, I went to a good school. In this connection I should also offer a tribute to Léopold Sédar Senghor, who is 90 years old today (October 15). He and my father were



close friends and political activists together. It is thanks to Senghor that I discovered the importance of simultaneously immersing oneself in one's culture and adopting a universal approach. Of course, there have been other social and educational influences. For example, I was greatly influenced by my time at Dakar University. There was a cultural and extremely open atmosphere there. It was a melting-pot of students of different nationalities and cultures. It was in these environments that I learnt and the way ahead was marked out for me.

■ *In Africa and elsewhere, story-telling relies on the spoken word. Do you believe that writing books is a good way of disseminating popular culture?*

— I would have to answer that subjectively. Quite frankly, I am torn between the oral and written traditions. I like the former, because I have been involved in it for such a long time. I began by telling stories to my children and then I broadcast them on Radio Senegal. But as we are now living in a technological era, and, sadly, story-tellers are increasingly rare, I decided it would be a great pity if all these memories were lost. So I took to writing to seek out the past and attempt to keep the tradition alive.

■ *In the introduction to 'La Maison aux sept portes', you say that Africa could regain some of its self-confidence through the educational value of such stories. Are you saying that Africa must first become familiar with its traditions before it can enter the modern age?*

— Yes, in a way, but that does not mean I systematically set tradition against modernity. I believe we have to build bridges between the two. This, in a sense, is what I am trying to do by writing about areas as diverse as the oral tradition and the process of democratisation. But I do believe that Africa needs first to become familiar with its own culture and origins before it embarks on something new. Obviously, choices have to be made when taking a step forward, but we have to make such choices with self-confidence, in full knowledge of

¹ The other two are: 'Les chemins de la sagesse. Contes et légendes du Sénégal et du Bénin'. L'Harmattan (Paris), 1993; and 'Le caméléon bavard Contes et légendes du Sénégal et du Bénin'. L'Harmattan (Paris), 1994. Ms Aguessy has also published 'Pouvoir et démocratie à l'épreuve du syndicalisme' (Unesco Regional Office in Dakar, 1994) and 'Dans le débat sur la démocratie où se situent les femmes?' (contribution to a collective work entitled, *Femmes Africaines et Démocratie*, published by Unesco's Regional Office in Dakar, 1995)

La Maison aux sept portes

Contes et légendes du Bénin



LA LEGENDE
DES MONDES HARMATTAN

The cover of Dominique Aguessy's
most recent book

who we are and what we can contribute. Given all the wars and crises on the continent, I believe that Africa has no clear view of what it can contribute to the global structure. That is where the problem lies. Hence the need to question the past, to draw from our oral tradition not only what we need in the way of food for the mind but also for finding potential solutions.

■ *In 1973, you were the first women to be elected a member of the World Confederation of Labour. How did this experience affect you and how do you see today's trade union movement, particularly in Africa?*

— It was an extremely rewarding experience although difficult, because trade unionism is essentially a man's world. At least it was at that time. There were no female officials at the world level. Admittedly, the situation has evolved a great deal since and we now see more and more women carrying out trade union duties. However, it was a very difficult position to hold at the time, not only because I was the only woman within the organisation, but mainly because the trade union world is highly sensitive and demanding in terms of the amount of work, availability of time and mobility.

■ *Do you have any regrets?*

— Of course. I still think the trade union movement is very important to a country in establishing democracy, but, regrettably, it weakens its position by becoming ensnared in personal conflicts. In Africa, the movement was in the forefront during the period when countries were gaining independence, but later it sat back and rested on its laurels. A trade union has to remain close to the workers, receptive to dealing with social problems and participate in specific development choices. Yet if it ties itself up in established, comfortable or rigid positions, it weakens democracy.

■ *A year on from the Beijing Conference, which you took part in, how would you analyse the situation of women in the world?*

— This is a huge subject and we don't have enough time to discuss it

fully. To put it briefly, what I can say is that Beijing was a wonderful opportunity for reflection. Compared with previous conferences, great progress was undoubtedly made towards consolidating basic women's rights. But, as far as I am concerned, the most important thing was what took place before the Conference — in the preparatory working sessions. Our discussions were often stormy and passionate but we *did* draft a reasonably coherent document. It is one thing to size up a problem and quite another to implement action programmes, and it is at that level that problems can arise. At any rate, the Conference has at least advanced people's thinking in sensitive areas. Perhaps women have become more aware of their ability to be part of a collective ongoing development process involving both men and women. Such an approach, based on mutual respect, a coming together to achieve the same objective, and a recognition of basic human rights, will enable us to advance towards the same goal: developing everyone's potential.

■ *This leads us on to another subject which you seem equally passionate about — the North/South dialogue. It is a topic which figures in some of your works. What is your view on the evolution of relations between Europe and Africa?*

— We are at a difficult period where both sides, as partners, need to rethink the methods of cooperation they have used hitherto. If we are wise, we would pause for a moment and examine what has been achieved. We could probably identify certain areas where development aid has been given in inappropriate ways. We need to reflect, therefore, on both sides but must remember that we are experiencing the phenomenon of globalisation, particularly in terms of international trade. This should not prevent our devising some model of specific cooperation between EU and ACP countries. As for the Lomé Convention, I favour a considered review of cooperation mechanisms. We need to conserve what we have already achieved but make the necessary corrections or innovations. Admittedly, the subject of Eastern Europe continues to hang over debates about the next Convention, and why not? Eastern Europe is part of the continent of Europe and is significant both in terms of geographical proximity and in geo-political terms. However, should Europe look to the East to the detriment of the ACP countries? It is my belief that it is possible to carry on promoting development in the southern hemisphere while still upholding the concept of a powerful, united Europe. ■

Interview by Massamba Mboup

Films generate heat in Harare

by ish Mafundikwa*

The third Southern African Film Festival was held in Harare, from September 20-26, 1996, attracting ten competing feature film entries as well as a wide range of non-competing films in various formats. South Africa participated for the first time and this country's status as a major player in African cinema was underscored by the success of *Cry, the Beloved Country*, which won the best film award.

This did not go down well with some film-makers who felt that because of its Hollywood backing, it had an unfair advantage over others produced on shoe-string budgets. But as *Stephen Chifunyise*, the chair of the festival's executive committee explained, 'the criteria for a film to be in the competition are that it must be made in east, central or southern Africa, and produced by people from the region.' He pointed out that *Cry, the Beloved Country* met these requirements. 'Some low-budget films are exceptionally good,' he stressed, 'while some high budget ones can be very bad. In any case, the jury always has a difficult task and cannot please everyone.' There are those who believe that it is only through joint productions that African films can make an impact. They feel that African cinema can only benefit by pooling its meagre resources and collaborating with more experienced film-makers from developed countries.

One indication of the difficulties experienced by African film-makers was the fact that *Gir Gir* ('Tumult') took director *Yemane Demissie*, a Los Angeles-based Ethiopian, seven years to complete. This production, whose theme is a failed coup against Emperor Haile Selassie in 1960, won the SAFF special jury award as well as a special award sponsored by the Centro Orientamento Educativo of Italy.

Another production to generate a lot of heat was the Zimbabwean

release, *Flame*, about two young women who left school to take part in the country's liberation war. This raised the ire of male war veterans who felt it was an inaccurate portrayal of the armed struggle. Indeed, the film was seized by the police during the production stage on the grounds that one scene was pornographic. This depicted the rape of one of the women by a senior guerilla. The charge was subsequently dropped and the spools were released. The result was some good publicity for *Flame*, though it is by no means a brilliant film. Nonetheless, it made it to Cannes this year and is set to appear at festivals in the USA and Asia. It is also doing well at the box office in Harare.

The main bone of contention was the award of the best director prize to *Flame's* director, *Ingrid Sinclair*. The film also won the OAU's award for 'promoting the ideals of the Organisation of African Unity', while its lead actress, *Marian Kunonga*, picked up the best actress prize. Some claimed that these awards were a 'slap in the face' of the veterans and the government.

Showcase films

Films from West Africa and the African diaspora were screened as 'showcase films'. For the time being, they are excluded from the competition. 'The philosophy here is that we are far behind the West Africans when it comes to film-making', explained Stephen Chifunyise. When comparing films by veterans such as Burkinabè *Idrissa Ouedraogo* and the relative newcomers from

Southern Africa, the difference in quality and content was obvious.

Besides screening films and videos, the festival is an opportunity for film-makers to network and exchange ideas. In addition to the problems of funding, the language issue came up for discussion. Some believed that their productions should be in African languages (with subtitles) in order to be truly representative. Others felt this would limit their appeal — but the fact that some of the most successful West African films have been in local languages militated against this argument.

The role of film as a medium for development was underlined by *Dommie Yambo-Odotto* of Kenya, who won the best documentary prize for *Women's Agenda*. 'We are talking', she said, 'about a continent where illiteracy abounds and many people have no access to radio and television. Mobile cinema units can play a crucial role in spreading messages about such issues as AIDS or family planning.'

While the universal acceptance of African films would help the industry become commercially viable, African film-makers, as latecomers to the industry, have the unenviable task of overcoming the dominance of Western productions. 'The challenge,' observed Ms Yambo-Dotto, 'is to match or even better those Hollywood films. People go to the movies to be entertained. We must therefore strive to make our films as entertaining as they are informative.' Judging by the following that Hollywood films have, especially in urban Africa, that may seem like a tall order but a start has already been made. In Zimbabwe, for instance, one of the biggest box office successes was *Neria*, a 1990 local production which focuses on the difficulties faced by women when their husbands die and their relatives demand everything that the couple owned. This includes the wife herself, who is 'inherited' by a brother or some other relative of the deceased. It is such productions, that deal with the reality of their own lives, that will hopefully persuade Africans to opt for home-grown films. ■

I.M.

* Freelance journalist based in Harare.

Setting priorities for agricultural information

by Sarah Reynolds*

While much of the world worries about global warming, holes in the ozone layer and changes in the circulating system of ocean currents, most ACP countries are, rightly, more concerned about the soil beneath their feet. Agricultural production, which for most ACP countries provides at least 35% of their GNP, is of paramount concern not least because soil fertility is in decline, water resources are often inadequate and the ability to compete effectively on the world market is likely to become even more difficult than it is now.

As ACP states consider how best to pursue economic development, agriculture is never far from centre stage even if, sometimes, it fails to get the audience attention it deserves. Other players — tourism for example — are more glamorous — and seem to offer quicker returns on investment and a

faster route to industrialisation and prosperity. Yet agriculture provides the raw material for much of industry, and the only way to retain more of the profit from tourism is to tempt local managers and visitors to spend more on local produce. Whichever way you look at it, agriculture is fundamental to the prosperity of ACP states. The sector employs up to 80% of the active population in some countries and may bring in as much as 60% of export revenue. It has been estimated that one can achieve up to an eight-fold return on investment in agriculture in terms of increased production, employment, income and tax revenue. And yet in Africa, only 10% of public expenditure goes into the agricultural sector compared with 20% in Asia.

No impact, no money

Lack of investment is a common cry from all areas of the economy but if agriculture is to get a greater share of public expenditure, the impact of investment must be demonstrable. No impact means no money. A concentrated effort on clearly defined targets is obviously going to have more impact than a diffuse attempt to solve all problems at once. Deciding what priorities should be is the stuff of politics. For partnership organisations such as CTA, whose mandate is to develop and provide services which improve access to information for agriculture and rural development — and to strengthen the capacity of ACP countries to produce, acquire, exchange and utilise such information — deciding priorities is equally essential. The challenge has been to find a mechanism for defining priorities when the constraints to agricultural development appear to be so many and varied, and when there is a responsibility for all ACP states from

the smallest island atoll to the vast landlocked countries of central Africa.

A series of regionally-based seminars and workshops has been supported by CTA in recent years in order to try and define regional information priorities. These have provided direction on which to focus subsequent activities within and for the ACP group. In order to continue this process, and to provide a more sharpened focus on thematic priorities for CTA as it adapts to changing information needs, a consultative seminar was held in Wageningen, Netherlands, in October 1996. Participants included representatives of ACP national and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, universities, European and international organisations, and the donor community.

The seminar provided an opportunity for CTA to be given a structured response to the question: 'How can we best help to meet the information needs of the ACP countries?' Other consultative processes have considered how best to improve communication management and the mechanisms of information exchange that CTA should be promoting — for example, the relevance of electronic information technology to ACP countries. In contrast, the Wageningen seminar was designed to consider what the content of the message should be. This will have an impact on the choice of books and other publications supported by CTA, on the subject matter of seminars and workshops and on the topics covered by CTA's technical bulletin *Spore* and by its Rural Radio Resource Packs. A further objective of the seminar was to propose means of maintaining this consultative process so that priority information themes can be updated regularly.

Working groups were organised which represent the six regions: East, West, Central and Southern Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. General constraints to agricultural development were identified and, based on the contribution that improved information availability could make in overcoming those constraints, priority information needs were proposed. While it was inevitable that important differences

* Development Journalist with WREN Media, Fressingfield, Eye, Suffolk, U.K.



Technical centre for Agriculture and Rural cooperation (CTA), Agro Business Park 2, 6708 PW Wageningen, Netherlands

Postal address

P.O.B. 380,
6700 AJ Wageningen,
The Netherlands

Tel. 31 (0) 317 467100
Telex 44 30169 cta nl
Fax 31 (0) 317 460067
E-mail name @ cts-nl



The Courier

Powerful neighbours are keen to sell their produce to the tourist hotels of the Caribbean
This is a resort in Antigua

between regional priorities would become clear, there was, nevertheless, a surprising measure of agreement on broad themes. In no particular order of priority, these were identified as: the need to intensify and optimise production; to sell produce more effectively; to strengthen national agricultural systems; to ensure that the environment and natural resource base are better protected and managed and, finally, to motivate people to work towards the achievement of these aims.

The Caribbean region

Perhaps more than any other region, the Caribbean is sensitive to the challenges imposed on them by the Uruguay Round of GATT. In many instances, the Caribbean countries are ahead of the GATT reforms. All non-tariff barriers have been removed and have been replaced by tariff barriers. These have been introduced as an interim measure to protect growers but they must eventually be phased out. And, by 2000, there will be a big change in the protection system under Lomé. Caribbean countries have to be more efficient, in order to be more competitive, if they are to retain and further exploit even their local markets.

The tourist industry is on the doorstep, but so too are powerful neighbours keen to sell into Caribbean hotels. An occasional night of Caribbean cuisine is welcomed by hotel guests but, for most of the time, these discerning diners expect to find the food they are used to back home on the menu of their holiday hotel. Information that will help growers to produce the right product at the right time to the right quality and at the right price is absolutely essential. The optimal use of inputs such as agrochemicals, and the adoption of in-

tegrated pest management practices for plant protection were therefore given very high priority.

One way of helping the Caribbean nations to become more efficient at creating and exploiting market opportunities is to ensure that everyone has access to the information they need on an equitable basis. The Caribbean working group felt that the establishment of a regional information network would constitute a practical step towards achieving this.

The Pacific region

Many of the seminar delegates may have been surprised to discover that the constraints to agricultural development identified by the Pacific region working group often mirrored those experienced in their own, very different, regions of the world. In the Pacific, as elsewhere, agriculture is the lifeblood of the people but the Pacific island ecosystem is fragile and there are dangers associated with more intensive agriculture. The rising population makes demands on the food supply and, if local farmers are to meet that demand, they have to find a way of increasing yields. The only alternative is to import more food, for which foreign exchange must be earned — through agriculture. Yet how can production be increased without risking soil degradation. If sloping land is brought into cultivation, how does one prevent soil loss on the higher land, and siltation and flooding in low-lying areas? The Pacific group identified as a priority, the need for more information that will help with environmental

protection and natural resource management, in particular for conserving volcanic soils and improving soil fertility in atolls.

A problem which is not common to most of the ACP states, although it is well-known in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean islands, is the devastation caused by cyclones. Early warning systems and information to help with disaster management and post-disaster recovery are of extreme importance to Pacific islanders.

Africa

Presenting a keynote address to the seminar, *Baba Dioum*, General Coordinator of the Conference of Agriculture Ministers of West and Central Africa, acknowledged that constraints to agricultural development in Africa are many and varied. African agricultural workers have the lowest productivity in the world. Diversification is minimal and there is little integration of crops and livestock. Simultaneously, soils are degrading and the rural areas are becoming poorer and poorer. There is a marked rural exodus to cities, not just for a season, or for a few years, but for life. The decline of rural food production threatens food security.

Many governments have undertaken radical changes in policies and strategies but farmers have not been involved in the evolution of these and feel outside the system. Liberalisation has had the effect of increasing the cost of agricultural inputs and farmers find it difficult, if not impossible, to raise the credit required to purchase them. In many cases, unscrupulous traders, with better access to market information, exploit poorly informed farmers who then find themselves unable to break the spiral of increasing poverty.

Supply and demand

Better quality information, and better access to information, obviously have key roles to play in reversing this trend. While no one disputed a continuing need for the technical information that will help farmers to produce more,



there is no doubt that market information, which can help farmers sell what they produce or, more importantly, produce what will sell, is of far greater significance than ever before. Hand in hand with better information about markets must be information about how to exploit those markets and, in particular, about post-harvest technologies for storage, quality standards and control, and agro-processing. Equally important is the development of efficient production, marketing and distribution systems for agricultural inputs and outputs.

Natural resources management, coupled with the need to optimise production systems, is seen as a priority throughout the ACP regions. Desertification controls and drought

Growing vegetables in Zimbabwe
*Market information, to help
 farmers sell what they produce —
 and produce what will sell — is
 vital*

resistant production systems were also given priority by participants representing countries most at risk. It was felt that land management practices could be better assessed and improved by the establishment of natural resource databases and the use of GIS and remote sensing. Another important topic discussed, under the general title of environmental protection, was the technical aspects of biodiversity conservation and associated intellectual property rights.

Policymakers, planners and those responsible for allocating budgets need better access to relevant information in order effectively to develop the agricultural sector.

Liberalisation has provided an opportunity to integrate the independent sector (NGOs, private sector groups and farmers' associations) with the government sector. This may be, for example, for agricultural services previously provided by the state or for creating fiscal or other incentives to encourage private sector investment.

Much needs to be done, if those working in agriculture are to feel motivated to put their personal effort into increasing production. Issues of credit, land tenure and fair prices for agricultural inputs and products, must all be addressed. Access to agricultural goods and services, including information, is equally important and farmer-extension-research linkages must be strengthened.

Most people agree that farmers must be involved in the decision-making process that affects their livelihoods and, indirectly, national food security and prosperity. Farmers need a stronger collective voice and information which helps to strengthen farmers' associations, producer cooperatives, women's groups, village associations and other such groupings is probably one of the most effective ways of achieving this.

ACP agriculture has to be made more competitive, whatever the pressures and from wherever those pressures are applied. With better identification of the constraints which limit that competitiveness, and a clear indication of the information priorities of the ACP states, it should be possible to concentrate resources and achieve greater impact in the drive for effective agricultural development. ■

S.R.



Education: everyone should have a chance

In the discussions about what should come after Lomé IV, I would like to see priority being given to the principle of education. Schools were invented to give all pupils an equal chance of succeeding irrespective of their social background. At the end of the school year, students are given the opportunity to display their talents and those who succeed receive a diploma in return for their efforts.

In future ACP-EU cooperation, we need to focus particularly on ensuring that everyone can make full use of their talents. Men and women, villages, communities, regions and national governments should all be able to demonstrate their own abilities before seeking financial or other assistance for their projects.

The EU, for its part, must stop giving help to dictators — who are not immortal after all — on the pretext that this helps maintain political stability. Today, there is a new generation of Africans.

In the framework of future ACP-EU cooperation, each ACP government should guarantee:

- political stability by means of a wider internal dialogue involving all the various groups and points of view within the country;
- democracy;
- federalism;
- decentralisation of political and economic power.

There also needs to be a regional approach between groups of countries in order to expand trade at the level of the region, to ensure effective competition and to encourage communication and cooperation.

Overall, development cooperation and aid must be implemented with reference to the degree of political democratisation within a country, the development of internal and regional markets, the improvement of national and regional infrastructures and the modernisation of communications networks.

**Matata N. Nestor, Founding President of CATA (Centre angolais de technologie appropriée),
Niedermerzer Str. 53, Aldenhoven
Germany.**

Trade unions in Western Samoa

I read with interest your Country Report on Western Samoa which appeared in a recent edition. I thought, with the exception mentioned below, that it was a well balanced and informative feature.

The exception I refer to is trade unionism, where you describe Western Samoa as a 'non-unionised' society. The public service, including nurses and teachers, has been organised since 1979 through the Western Samoa Public Service Association (WSPSA). In 1994, a union for private sector workers was also set up. This is known as the Western Samoa National Union of Workers (WSNUW). The union, which currently

draws the bulk of its membership from the banking sector and from statutory authorities running the airports and water industry, aims to cover all workers in the private sector, including Yazaki (the automotive components factory) — although this has not yet been achieved.

In October 1996, the WSPSA and WSNUW agreed to form a national trade union body to be known as the Western Samoa National Trade Union Centre (WSNTUC). Its inaugural congress will be held in early 1997.

**Rod Ellis, South Pacific and Oceanic Council of Trade Unions, South
Brisbane, Australia.**

Forest certification is no panacea

In the article 'Conservation of West Africa's forests through certification' which appeared in issue 157 of the ACP-EU Courier, it was suggested that timber certification might help bring about the sustainable management of tropical forests. I would like to take this opportunity to advance the opposing thesis, namely that certification is a recipe for increased deforestation.

In 1994-95, I coordinated a study on sustainable forest management set up by the French cooperation ministry and DG XI (Environment) of the European Commission. This revealed that the contribution of certification to conserving tropical ecosystems would, at best, be highly marginal. It also showed that were such a system to develop, it would probably damage the interests of the European forestry sector as well as having a likely negative impact on the ACP countries which operated it.

**Jean-Pierre Kiekens, Director,
Environmental Strategies Europe,
Brussels, Belgium.**

Publications received

Dimitra Guidebook — Rural Women and Development

Ed. Fondation Roi Baudouin, Brussels (Belgium) with the financial support of the European Commission.

1996. 679pp. BF600 (US\$20). ISBN 2-87212-190-0. Available in English, French, Spanish and Dutch.

This guide provides a list of non-governmental organisations, research institutes and European information centres which work with and for rural women in developing countries. Its aim is to make a contribution to the improvement of living conditions of rural women in the Third World, through the dissemination of information which can help them to undertake development actions, in particular, within their own communities.

UNICEF for beginners

Official cartoon history book of the United Nations Children's Fund. 128pp. Available from Airlift Book Company, 8 The Arena, Mollison Avenue, Enfield, EN3 7NJ, United Kingdom. £6.99. Tel. 44 181 804 0400, Fax 44 181 804 0044.

Since it was founded 50 years ago, UNICEF has dedicated its efforts to improving children's health and well-being — first in Europe after World War II and then in developing countries in

Africa, Asia and Latin America. UNICEF is increasingly working to help children understand their rights and ensure these are not violated. This is an informative and funny book whose proceeds are used to help children in developing countries.

Resolving Africa's multi-lateral debt problem — a response to the IMF and the World Bank

by Percy S. Mistry. Ed. Fondad (Noordeinde 107A — NL-2514, GE The Hague). 1996. 70pp. US\$15. ISBN 90-74208-09-6.

The rapidly increasing multi-lateral debt of countries that already owe huge sums (notably in sub-Saharan Africa) has very serious implications. The author of this work, a former senior official at the World Bank, and a specialist in macroeconomics, highlights the amounts that are involved and the policies which lie behind the debt crisis. He suggests a new approach to resolve the problem. Even if one does not go along with his critical assessment regarding the Bretton Woods institutions, it is difficult to disagree with his view that the problem needs to be managed more effectively.

Can currency crises be prevented or better managed? — Lessons from Mexico

by Ariel Buira, Barry Eichengreen, Stephany Griffith-Jones, Peter Kenen, Charles Wyplosz etc. Ed. Fondad (Noordeinde 107A — NL-2514, GE The Hague). 1996.

115 p. US\$15. ISBN 90-74208-07-X.

This work offers an in-depth and imaginative assessment, by a group of researchers and high-level decision-makers, of ways to manage (in the short and long term) any future monetary crises. Private capital flows are playing an increasingly crucial role in both industrialised and developing countries. They can be used to promote economic development but are also capable of provoking sudden and severe disruptions in the economic order. Mexico's monetary crisis of 1994 is one recent example of the latter. Here, the authors set out the circumstances which lie behind such crises and suggest ways of remedying them. It is a detailed work which should of interest to decision-makers, and indeed, to a wider public.

Organisations économiques et cultures africaines — De l'homo oeconomicus à l'homo situs

(Economic organisations and African cultures — from homo oeconomicus to homo situs)

Under the direction of Is-siaka-Prospér Laléyé, Henry Panhuys, Thierry Verhelst, Hassan Zaoual et autres. Ed. L'Harmattan (5-7 rue de l'Ecole Polytechnique, F-75005 Paris. 1996. 500pp. FF280. ISBN 2-7384-4320-6.

This book represents the fruits of a collective endeavour involving authors of varying cultural and professional backgrounds. It contains, among other

things, analyses which reveal the perverse effects of 'transposed' models. Accordingly, it highlights the fact that 'actors' everywhere — be they individuals, groups, companies or organisations — think and act on the basis of their own socio-cultural specificities. With this in mind, the authors look at the complex issue of the links between African economies and cultures. They consider first, the functioning of enterprises and 'superimposed' economic organisations. They then attempt to evaluate the dynamics behind the emergence of local (informal) enterprises, and to define the role of NGOs and other 'popular' institutions leading to the emergence of endogenous ways of doing things. Finally, the authors look at possible new ways of offering assistance to African companies and organisations.

Analytical index 1996

Publication dates:

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156: March-April 1996

157: May-June 1996

158: July-August 1996

159: September-October 1996

160: November-December 1996

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IN BRIEF

Sierra Leone: peace agreement signed

A peace agreement was signed in Abidjan on November 30 between *President Kabbah* of Sierra Leone and *Corporal Sankoh* of the Revolutionary United Front, officially ending nearly six years of armed conflict in Sierra Leone.

Following the democratic elections in March 1996, peace negotiations were opened in Abidjan under the chairmanship of President *Konan Bédié* of Côte-d'Ivoire and with the mediation of the United Nations' special envoy, *Ambassador Dinka*, the OAU and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The conflict, which has claimed more than 10 000 lives and displaced 1.5 million people, has completely devastated the country and its economy. A national programme of reconstruction and reconciliation is now being accorded the highest priority.

Linda Hales (Desk Officer, Sierra Leone, DG VIII)

Cautious hope for Liberia

A special ministerial conference on Liberia, organised at the initiative of the Netherlands, took place in Brussels on November 21. Denmark, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Ireland were all represented at ministerial level. High level delegates from six West African states, the United States, Canada and Japan also took part along with European Commissioner, João de Deus Pinheiro.

While under no illusions about the difficulties ahead, participants praised the ef-

forts of ECOWAS to bring stability to the sub-region, and pledged continued support to ECOMOG's peace enforcement operation along with measures to reintegrate ex-combatants.

A clear message was sent to the factions in the crisis — comply with the Abuja agreement or expect sanctions to be used. Measures to target recalcitrant faction leaders were discussed. These included expanded travel restrictions (visa restrictions are already in force for travel to the EU and the US), seizure of assets, and the possible establishment of a war crimes tribunal. The timing of the conference — to coincide with the start of disarmament and demobilisation — should be noted.

International community support for the peace process in Liberia has been effective. Between the funds and equipment offered by the US and EU Member States, and the troops offered by neighbouring states in West Africa, sufficient resources are now available to ECOMOG to deploy throughout Liberia and enforce the Abuja agreement. Disarmament has, therefore, started and there is some hope that enough stability will be achieved to permit the organisation of elections as planned next May.

The Commission is playing a vital role in the post-disarmament phase. In this respect, a major 'jobs for guns' programme, to offer ex-combatants a life after the gun, is under way. This is in the hands of a highly qualified team of multidisciplinary experts based in the Commission's Aid Coordination Office in Monrovia. Working with local partners in Liberia, labour-intensive projects such as road clearance and the bushing of plantations and farms have been created to provide jobs for ex-combatants. Schools and vocational training centres are also being repaired to offer the chance to child soldiers to go back to school or learn a skill. Micro-projects at local community level, to create the conditions for the return of 1.5 million internally or externally displaced Liberians, are also a priority. The role of the EU in helping to bring peace to Liberia will be a focus of the Netherlands Presidency in the first six months of 1997, particularly in view of the positive outcome of the

Special Conference on November 21. Brian 'O' Neill (Desk Officer, Liberia, DG VIII)

Colloquium on conflict management

(Pretoria, South Africa –
5-9 May 1997)

In 1996, the *Association internationale de développement et d'action communautaire* (International Association for Development and Community Action — AIDAC), organised a seminar on 'Democracy and Development' at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve in Belgium. The association plans to follow this up this year with a seminar in Pretoria on 'Conflict management and building peace through community development'. This is being held in collaboration with the Department of Welfare (Pretoria), the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the Belgian province of Hainaut. The starting point will be that community development is a tool to invigorate and strengthen democracy and is a means of managing the conflicts which occur in any democratic society.

At the heart of the debate will be the proposition that conflicts are inevitable, are encountered in every society and have many causes. The seminar will examine various attitudes towards conflict. There are those who regard them as invariably harmful and seek to stifle them (for example, dictatorships where the leader sees conflict as a threat to his power). At the other end of the argument are those elements of society who view it as a healthy or cleansing process — necessary to weaken adversaries or destroy despised systems. A third standpoint admits that conflict is a reality but that the causes can be analysed, leading eventually to a just and equitable solution.

Another focus of the seminar will be the problem of dealing effectively with conflict. The emphasis here will be on looking at the most appropriate package of actions capable of bringing about a solution, at least in terms of human and

Fishing agreements in decline?

A new look to the European Community's fishing agreements with developing nations is being considered because both fish stocks and EC funds to sponsor such accords are fast depleting.

Emerging international guidelines in the interests of sustainable exploitation of fisheries are also creating pressure for a change in the policy relating to fishing off far-flung shores.

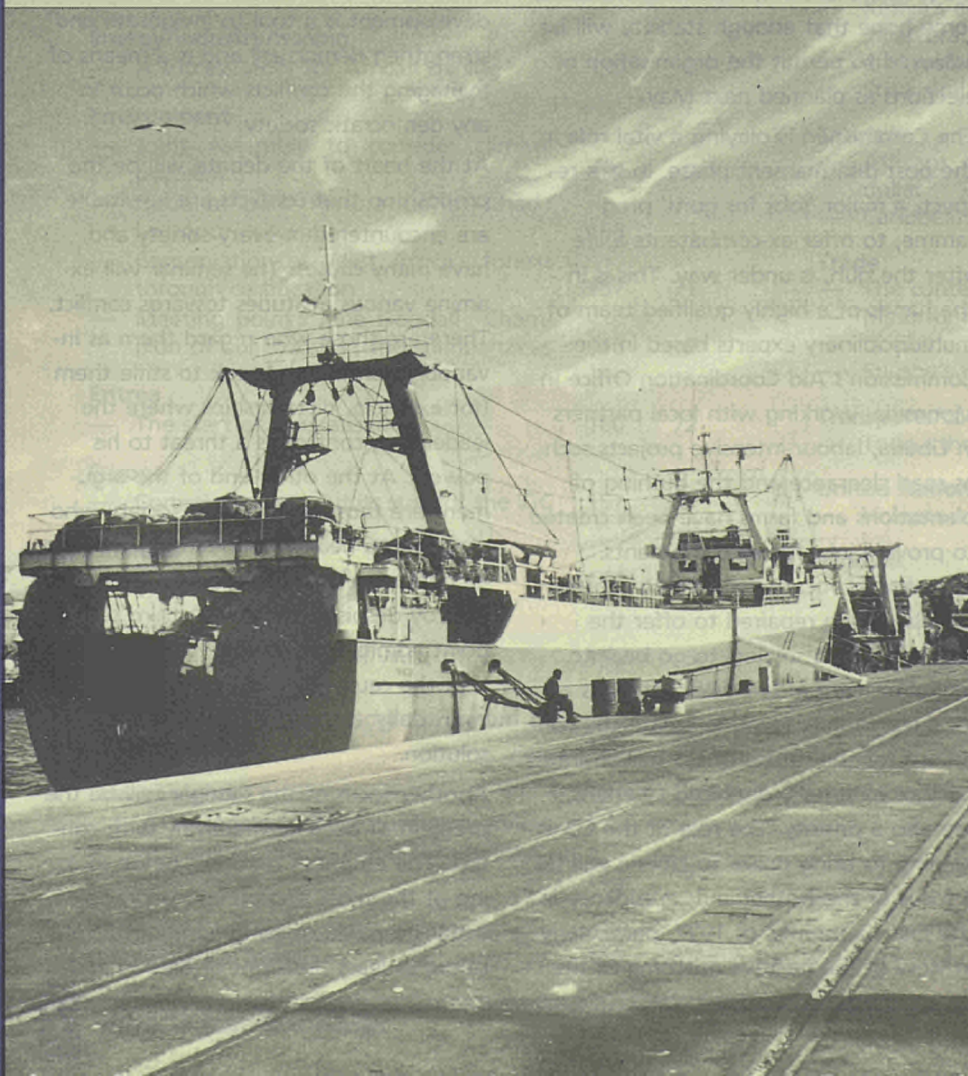
The typical agreement currently in place between ACP nations and the EC involves the allocation of fishing rights for European boats in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the ACP country in question. Financial compensation is given in return, the money generally being paid to the national treasury. Additional cash is also sometimes made available for fisheries research. Less commonly, some agreements contain an obligation for the Community vessels to provide on-board work to ACP nationals, or to land a percentage of their catch in an ACP country for on-the-spot processing. The EC currently has 15 such agreements in Africa and the Indian Ocean. These have been renewed periodically. First time agreements are currently being considered with

Gabon, South Africa, Mozambique and Namibia. But the nature of future agreements could be different.

A Commission discussion paper entitled *Fisheries Agreements — Current Situation and Perspectives*, highlights the current problems as well as putting forward options. One is to abandon the agreements which are no longer attractive for EC vessels and concentrate resources on the most viable accords. Another is for owners and/or Member States to share the cost of future agreements with the EC. So-called 'second generation agreements' consisting of joint ventures between EC and ACP boats are also considered.

D.P.

A European fishing vessel
in an ACP port
The EC's fishing agreements may take
on a new look in the future



material costs. Other aspects to be discussed include an examination of the internal differences within communities, and of conflicts involving a struggle by the community against an external force.

* 179, rue du Débarcadère — B-6001
Marcinelle — Tel. (32-71) 44.72.78 —
Fax (32-71) 47.11.04

Third staging of the Masa* (Marché des arts du spectacle africain)

(Abidjan, Côte-d'Ivoire — March 2-8, 1997)

Masa is held every two years in Abidjan. Its aim is to give a boost to Africa's contemporary arts (theatre, dance and music). Bringing together people from artistic circles in both North and South, it is a stage for the best African productions as well a meeting place where ideas are exchanged. This year, some 40 troupes (500 performers and technicians) are expected to take part, along with 600 broadcasters. Performances and broadcasts covering music, theatre and dance will be staged with events taking place in all of Abidjan's ten communes. There will also be a forum for training and exchanges among professionals.

Parting from the tradition of the 1993 and 1995 events, when only French speaking performers took part, participants from English- and Portuguese-speaking African nations (South Africa, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Angola) are expected at *Masa* 1997.

Funding comes from various sources including ACCT (Agence de coopération culturelle et technique), the government of Côte-d'Ivoire, other governments, the European Union, Unesco and the private sector. Money has also been raised from products sold in connection with *Masa*.

* Further information from: 'Masa', B.P. 2877, Abidjan 09 (Côte-d'Ivoire)
Tel: (225) 2.35.20 — (225) 21.69.10
Fax (225) 21.33.59 — (225) 21.35.21

Echo media awards

Ireland's President, *Mary Robinson* and European Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, *Emma Bonino*, congratulated the winners of the first media awards given by the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), at a ceremony held in Dublin on December 9.

A Swedish documentary about the Liberian civil war by *Anders Ribbsjo* of Sveriges Television won the prize for a conflict forgotten by the mainstream media.

The prize winners in the other five categories were:

'L'Aube', directed by *Danis Tanovic* in the *People on the Move* category for a television documentary on the humanitarian consequences of sudden or forced population movements;

'Enemy of my Friend' by *Micke Finlason*, Eydeas, United Kingdom, in the category *In the Minds of the People* — a TV documentary on psychological trauma in crisis situations;

'The dead are alive; Rwanda' directed by *Anna Van der Wee*, Wild Heart Productions, Belgium, in the *Vulnerable Groups* category for TV coverage of the hazards encountered by women, children and the elderly in rebuilding their lives;

'The Hague Diaries' on the UN War Crimes Tribunal, by *Internews Team*, Europe, in the *Broad Commitment* category for a radio or TV station showing consistent, high-quality coverage of an emergency or humanitarian crisis;

'The plight of Turkish writers', reported by *Ali Erginsoy*, and produced by *Tim Whewell*, for Eurofile, BBC Radio 4, UK, in the *Radio Award* category, for the most incisive and analytical coverage of an emergency or humanitarian crisis.

Said Mrs Bonino at the ceremony: 'It is my firm hope that your talent and our determination will make critics think twice before denouncing the 'excessive mediatisation' of humanitarian crises.' She added: 'If the global village could dwell more at length say, on Eastern Zaire, on Afghanistan or on Liberia, it would prove much too difficult for *real-politik* strategists in all capitals to let

entire populations die through indifference.

My hope — should I say my dream — is that of a Global Village that can deploy its power of communication also in advance of crises erupting; of a CNN effect which helps to build that mysterious discipline which everybody calls 'conflict prevention' and no one has yet seen in action.'

For further information on the scheme, see *The Courier* no. 159, September-October 1996, (News Round-Up page II).

EU-South Africa scientific accord sealed

The much-discussed Scientific and Technological cooperation agreement between South Africa and the European Union was finally signed at the Research Council in Brussels, in December, by South Africa's Ambassador to the EU, *Eltz Links*, and the President of the Council of EU Research Ministers, *P. Rabitte* of Ireland.

The agreement will allow South Africa access to some funds from the European Union's current scientific research budget, notably in the field of medical science.

The EU's Fourth Framework Programme, covering the period 1994-98 makes available an overall total of some ECU 13 billion (R 78bn). South Africa will also be eligible for money under any subsequent multi-annual framework accord.

South Africa is one of only three non-EU states (and the only one in sub-Saharan Africa) to participate in the Fourth Framework Programme.

The country will also be able to participate in a sub-programme which is specifically designed for scientific and technological cooperation with developing nations, funding projects in various fields including the sustainable use of renewable natural resources, agricultural and agro-industrial production, health and population.

According to a statement issued by the South African Embassy in Brussels 'This is a major boost for our scientific community and attention has already been

given to a range of measures designed to 'kick start' the engagement of our scientific community with European-based project consortia.'

A series of workshops will be held early in 1997 to brief South Africa's scientific community on the range of research activities and how to go about applying for funds from the scheme.

The Embassy statement added: 'This agreement has been one of the major pre-occupations of this office over the last 30 months and we are thrilled to see it finished before the end of this year.'

Citizens of Europe

Operation 'Citizens of Europe', the European Commission's most ambitious information project to date, was launched on November 26 under the banner: 'You have the right to know and be heard.'

For the first time, the Commission has its sights set on reaching all of the European Union's citizens — to make them aware of their rights and opportunities *vis-a-vis* the single market and other Union policies, and to disperse practical information on what is in it for them.

A good many citizens are not well informed about the rights conferred by the European Union. In this respect, recent opinion polls suggest that as many as 80% are not adequately informed.

Speaking at the launch of the operation, Commission President *Jacques Santer* said: 'It is of utmost priority to show citizens that they are directly concerned by the EU.'

Everyone has the right to know how the Union influences their daily life and I want to ensure that this information is available to all — not simply to a small group of well-informed people.

The information must also be available in one's own language. This is why the Commission has launched operation 'Citizens of Europe' with the European Parliament, Member States and non-governmental organisations.

WTO waiver extension

On 14 October, the World Trade Organisation's General Council agreed an extension of the GATT waiver granted to the Fourth Lomé Convention. This exemption from certain rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (now regulated by the World Trade Organisation) lasts until the expiry of the Convention on February 29, 2000.

Lomé IV's non-reciprocal trade preferences — notably the banana protocol — have recently come under renewed attack from some WTO members who claim that they flout a fundamental principle of the GATT. Article 1(1) states that Member States must extend most-favoured nation treatment (MFN) to all their fellow WTO members (see the News Round-up, *The Courier*, no 160).

However, a derogation from these rules is permitted, for example, if the trade preferences are a feature of an agreement between countries intending to form a Cus-

toms Union or a Free Trade Area. Industrialised countries are free to offer preferential access to developing nations and in particular, to least developed countries, provided that this is accorded to all states falling within this category. Two previous banana panels convened under the former GATT rules held that the Lomé regime was incompatible with the world trade rules.

However, a waiver from the GATT rules was granted in December 1994, when WTO's tighter supervisory rules were implemented. These new rules stipulated that all waivers had to be reviewed within two years of implementation of the WTO (ie before January 1 1997). The waiver is now extended until the end of the Convention.

D.P.

To reach as many as possible, the project will concentrate on:

- providing new practical information (with a series of guides on citizens' rights and the opportunities offered in all Member States of the EU);
- making available personalised information to every European citizen according to specific needs;
- responding in the event of particular problems (an 'information line');
- publicity to make citizens more aware of their rights in the EU and explain how they can obtain more information;
- a decentralised campaign to back up national administrations and non-governmental organisations.
- Over the next few months, a number of guides on various themes will be produced under the general title, 'Citizens of Europe.' Those already in print are:
 - Working in another European Union country;
 - Residing in another European Union country;
 - Studying, training and researching in another European Union country.

Other guides in this series to be published in 1997 will cover aspects of consumer and social policy.

Each will be adapted to the specific national situation, giving addresses and numbers for additional information.

In some countries, the same guide is available in several languages.

There are 25 versions of each guide covering 17 languages.

Information on each country supplements the guides.

They explain how to assert certain rights in each Member State and give useful names, addresses and telephone numbers of organisations.

The guides and other relevant information are also currently available on the Internet and are soon to be on CD-ROM, allowing citizens to file their own tailor-made information.

The guides are to be found in the information offices of the Commission and European Parliament in each Member State, as well as being available through

the usual distribution channels for Community documentation.

They are also stocked in the offices of numerous national authorities and will be handed out at events planned in each Member State as part of the 'European Citizen's initiative.'

Voluntary service for young people

Speaking at the launch of the operation, Commission President *Jacques Santer* said: 'It is of utmost priority to show citizens that they are directly concerned by the EU.'

Everyone has the right to know how the Union influences their daily life and I want to ensure that this information is available to all — not simply to a small group of well-informed people.

The aim is to allow young Europeans the opportunity to express solidarity by taking part in activities in other countries in fields such as humanitarian aid, environmental protection, cultural projects and measures designed to tackle social exclusion.

The scheme will draw on the experience of the 1996 pilot programme which attracted 2500 participants.

Now moving up a gear, the 'European voluntary service for young people' programme will run from 1998 to 2002.

Its initial budget will be ECU 60 million (1998-1999). Subsequent funding levels will depend on the Community's broader financial situation.

The philosophy of the programme is to show solidarity while at the same time giving young people the opportunity to engage in responsible formative activities and discover different cultures and languages.

Such experiences are currently enjoyed by too few.

It might involve providing learning support for disadvantaged children or helping to regenerate run-down areas. It could entail cleaning up sites of natural interest or assisting the disabled.

The possibilities are extensive but all are designed to enrich participants' experience.

The goal is to encourage the acquisition of both technical skills and enduring human qualities, according to the Commission.

It argues that voluntary service can facilitate young people's transition to working life and integration into society, even if at the end of the day, it does not resolve daily problems (such as securing a job).

The scheme proposed by the Commission is not seen as a substitute for national service obligations imposed by certain Member States.

These obligations take the form of either military service or alternative

civilian service (available, for example, to conscientious objectors).

The decision as to whether the new European voluntary service will be deemed equivalent to national service is a matter solely for the individual Member States.

Nor is the programme a device to make gloomy unemployment statistics look better, insists the Commission.

The programme is open to all young people between 18 and 25 of European Union nationality, as well as nationals of countries associated with the EU (including ACP states).

Young volunteers will generally be expected to participate in activities that respond to the needs of society in a wide range of fields (social, environmental, cultural etc.) and that are capable of

having a direct impact on the quality of life of the people in the communities concerned.

The duration of voluntary service will vary according to project type: from 6 months to a year for the longer schemes, and between three weeks and three months for short projects.

The bodies to which young volunteers will be attached (such as associations or local authorities) must provide board and lodging (in a residence, youth hostel or with a family).

In addition, participants will receive a monthly allowance of around ECU 200.

Interested young persons should contact the national body responsible for the programme in their own country, or the EU Delegation in the case of associated states.

A further step in China's democratic evolution

The European Union welcomes the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in China. It considers these elections an important step forward in China's democratic development.

It is keeping with its long-standing support for the election process in China, the Union will provide a number of observers to monitor the 27th National People's Congress (NPC) elections. It looks forward to the conduct of these elections in a free and fair manner, the results of which will be respected by all parties involved.

Serious concern over situation in South Kivu

The European Union recalls its Declaration of 21 October 1996, in which it appealed for the establishment of a dialogue following the initial acts of violence carried out in South Kivu. It believes that the current situation in South Kivu undermines the pressing need to address effectively the economic problems posed by the presence of over one million refugees and displaced persons in the region. The Union is prepared to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the government

Liberia: hopes raised over implementation of Abuja agreement

The European Union welcomes the going efforts of the Liberian government and the ECOWAS to restore the peace process in Liberia. It is convinced that the new timetable for the implementation of the Abuja Agreement, including the holding of free and fair elections on 30 May 1997 and the installation of a new government on 15 June 1997, together with the appointment of Ruffa P. as the new chairman of the Council of State, provides the best possible framework for re-establishing the peace process in Liberia.

In addition to its ongoing commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to Liberia, the EU remains its willingness to support the rehabilitation and recovery of the country in consultation and cooperation with other donors in the framework of the Abuja peace process.

THE INSTITUTIONS AT WORK

COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Within the framework of its Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the European Union has recently issued a number of statements on issues of international concern.

Brief resurés of these declarations are set out below.

Liberia: hopes raised over implementation of Abuja agreement

Declaration of 26 September 1996

The European Union welcomes the ongoing efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to restore the peace process in Liberia.

It is convinced that the new timetable for the implementation of the Abuja Agreement — including the holding of free and fair elections on 30 May 1997 and the installation of a new government on 15 June 1997, together with the appointment of Ruth Perry as the new chairperson of the Council of State, provides the best possible framework for re-establishing the peace process in Liberia.

In addition to its ongoing commitment to provide humanitarian assistance to Liberia, the EU reaffirms its willingness to support the rehabilitation and recovery of the country in consultation and cooperation with other donors, in the framework of the Abuja peace process.

Doubts expressed about Gambian election

Declaration of 15 October 1996

The European Union has taken note of the presidential elections in the Gambia on 26 September 1996. The Union is glad that polling passed off peacefully, and congratulates the Provisional Independent Electoral Commission (PIEC) on their role.

It regrets, however, that the recommendations drawn up by PIEC were ignored and that conditions which would have ensured free and fair elections were not met.

The EU is deeply concerned that the three major parties and all who have served as Ministers over the past 30 years have been excluded from contesting the elections. The Union believes the elections cannot be free or fair if so many are prohibited from participation.

The Union calls on the Gambian authorities to take all necessary measures so that parliamentary elections due on 11 December 1996 meet the guidelines established by the PIEC.

Serious concern over situation in South Kivu

Declaration of 25 October 1996

The European Union recalls its Declaration of 21 October 1996, in which it appealed for the establishment of a dialogue following the initial acts of violence carried out in South Kivu (Zaire).

It believes that the current crisis in South Kivu underscores the pressing need to address effectively the enormous problems posed by the presence of over one million refugees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes Region.

The Union is prepared to work closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the govern-

ments in question and international donors in order to bring about an agreed and effective strategy to deal with this pervasive issue. It believes that such a strategy will be a key element in the search for a comprehensive, durable settlement of the problems of the region as a whole.

Call for free elections in Zambia

Declaration of 31 October 1996

The European Union is monitoring closely the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in Zambia.

The Union hopes that, even at this late stage, it will still be possible to hold elections which are free and fair and acceptable to all parties including UNIP. The Union emphasises the need for the highest standards on all sides in the run-up to the elections, in the holding of the elections themselves and in the conduct of public office generally.

A further step in Ghana's democratic evolution

Declaration of 5 November 1996

The European Union welcomes the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections which are due to take place in Ghana on 7 December as an important further step forward in Ghana's democratic development.

In keeping with its ongoing assistance to the electoral process in Ghana, the Union will provide a number of observers to monitor the December elections. It looks forward to the conduct of these elections in a free and fair manner, the results of which should thus be respected by all parties involved.

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Following, where required, favourable opinions from the EDF Committee, the Commission has decided to provide grants and special loans from the 5th, 6th and 7th EDFs to finance the following operations (grants unless otherwise stated). Major projects and programmes are highlighted.

Economic and social infrastructure

Cape-Verde: ECU 1.4 million to improve access to drinking water on the island of Santo Antao and for urban sanitation in the town of Porto Novo.

Djibouti: ECU 380 000 to rehabilitate and construct school infrastructures at the state high school.

Dominican Republic: ECU 24.4 million for the Los Toros hydro-electric project designed to reduce the country's energy deficit.

Trade promotion/structural adjustment

Burkina Faso: ECU 6.4 million to support the 1996-97 structural adjustment programme.

Ghana: ECU 15 million for a general import programme in support of structural adjustment.

Mali: ECU 14.8 million to support the 1996-97 structural adjustment programme.

Chad: ECU 10.2 millions for a general import programme in support of structural adjustment.

Health

Cameroon: ECU 1.9 million to reorganise health care in the far north province.

Ghana: ECU 1.8 million to support a programme against STDs and HIV/AIDS.

Education/training

Kenya: ECU 5 million for an aid programme in the field of technical education.

Madagascar: ECU 900 000 for the second phase of 'Formfed', a training programme aimed at ensuring the coherent integration of all training programmes financed by the EDF.

Environment

Pacific ACP States: ECU 600 000 for a regional programme in the field of waste management.

Enterprise

Kenya: ECU 10 million for a micro-enterprise aid programme

Uganda: ECU 2 million to support the Microprojects Programme Coordination Unit.

Institutional support

Burkina Faso: ECU 900 000 to support the population census.

Mauritania: ECU 1.8 million for a programme to strengthen institutional capacities.

Mozambique: ECU 1.9 million to establish a computerised population registration and identity card system.

Suriname: ECU 800 000 to create a management unit in the Ministry of

Planning and Development Cooperation.

Miscellaneous

Congo: ECU 1 million for a programme to support the plastic arts.

Namibia: ECU 5.3 million to support the implementation of the Cross-Border Initiative (CBI) with the aim of strengthening competitiveness in export markets.

SADC member states: ECU 1.9 million for the SADC-HYCOS programme relating to the management of water resources.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Belize: A loan of ECU 2.5 million to the Development Finance Corporation to facilitate investment in the country's SMEs.

Caribbean region: A loan of ECU 25 million to the Caribbean Development Bank to finance medium-sized national and regional projects.

Mauritius: A loan of ECU 8 million as a contribution towards extending and re-asphalting the runway of Plaisance International Airport on the south-east coast.

Namibia: A loan of ECU 12 million for Namport, the country's autonomous port authority, as a financial contribution towards the enlargement of the port of Lüderitz and the building of a container terminal in Walvis Bay.

HUMANITARIAN AID

ACP countries

Mauritania: ECU 80 000 to help combat cholera in the capital, Nouakchott.

Nigeria: ECU 200 000 to help combat cholera in the north of the country.

Senegal: ECU 300 000 to supply food aid and survival kits to people who have fled from ethnic fighting in Casamance.

Sudan: ECU 300 000 for urgent sanitary measures in the Pochalla region which has been struck by serious flooding.

Non-ACP countries

Cuba: ECU 8 million for a food and medical programme directed at the most vulnerable sections of the population.

Cuba: ECU 600 000 for the victims of Cyclone Lili.

Former-Yugoslavia: ECU 85 million for a programme to resettle refugees and displaced people, and to help the most vulnerable groups.

Armenia: ECU 1 million for the health care sector and to provide winter survival provisions for the most vulnerable sections of the population.

Azerbaijan: ECU 200 000 for medical and food aid.

Georgia: ECU 2 million for essential aid to the most vulnerable sections of the population.

Kirgizistan: ECU 320 000 for medical aid.

Tadjikistan: ECU 1.1 million for medical aid aimed at tackling the typhoid epidemic.

Chechnya: ECU 2.2 million for supplies, medical equipment and materials to repair water supply systems, hospitals etc. This aid will benefit the people of Grozny and displaced persons in Ingushetia and Dagestan.

Ukraine: ECU 1.3 million for a vaccination campaign against diphtheria and specialised cancer examinations for victims of the Chernobyl accident.

Western Saharan refugees in Algeria: ECU 6.45 million for medical and sanitary assistance to some 150 000 people who have been living in refugee camps in the Tindouf region since the 1970s.

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank: ECU 1.65 million for follow-up medical aid and sanitation programmes.

China: ECU 700 000 to distribute sanitary equipment and survival kits to flood victims.

North Korea: ECU 500 000 for flood victims threatened with famine following the destruction of food stocks.

HUMANITARIAN AID

to support the transition and reconstruction of the country after the end of the civil war. The aid will be provided in the form of food, medical supplies and other essential goods. The aid will be provided in the form of food, medical supplies and other essential goods. The aid will be provided in the form of food, medical supplies and other essential goods.

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PARTNERSHIP

Information Bulletin from the Centre for the Development of Industry



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The Centre for the Development of Industry (CDI) is a joint institution created in the framework of the Lomé Convention linking the European Union with the 70 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.

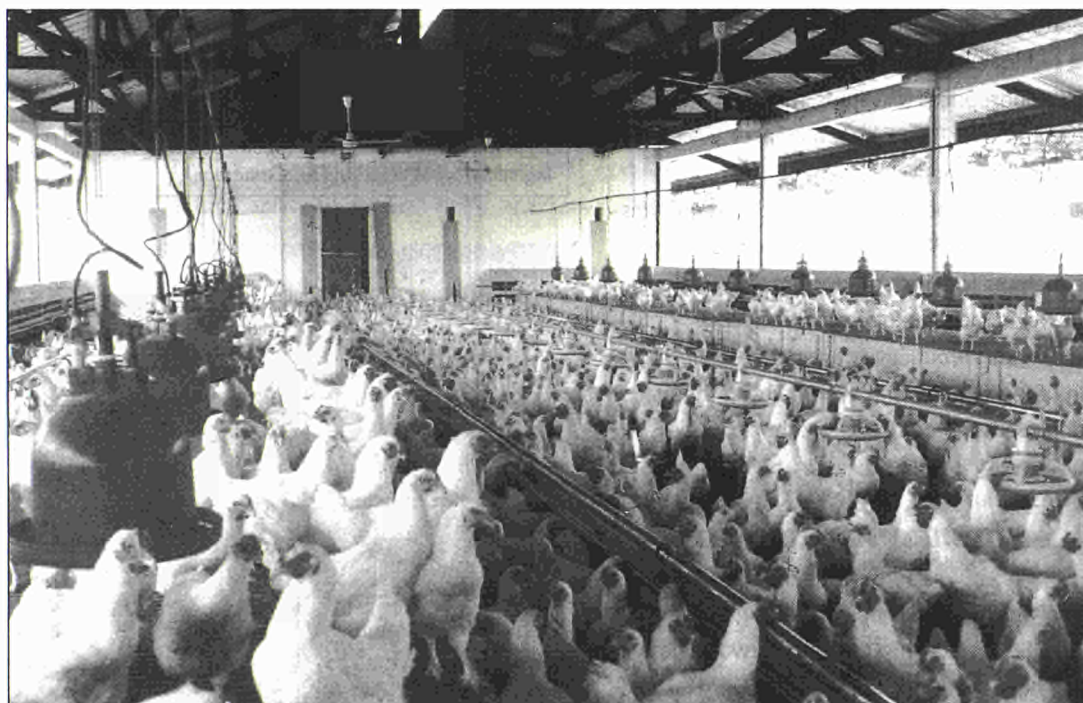
Editor:

Mr. Surendra Sharma,
Director of the CDI,
Avenue Herrmann Debroux, 52
B-1160 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 679 18 11
Fax: +32 2 675 26 03.

Dossier: the poultry farming sector in Central Africa

Integrating the poultry farming sector at regional level

The Industrial Partnership Meeting on sectors related to poultry feed in Central Africa, organised by the CDI in Yaoundé (Cameroon) from 4 to 7 June 1996, highlighted heavy taxation and a lack of cohesion between local companies as being among the main stumbling blocks faced by the sector in this region. During the meeting, the beginnings of a solution were found for these two issues.



As a direct consequence of the Yaoundé meeting, the Cameroonian authorities decided to abolish the turnover tax on poultry products. In future, their price will better reflect local buying power and new life will be injected into the development of the sector as a whole.

In Central Africa, the question of food self-sufficiency is a very important one. Poultry farming is called upon to play a fundamental role, since poultry meat and eggs are first-rate sources of animal proteins for the people. The low level of investment necessary and the short production cycle mean that products may be marketed at a price that reflects local buying power.

The sector's potential has further increased due to the devaluation of the CFA franc in 1994, which, by reducing imports that had become too expensive, upgraded local production as a whole, from the production of poultry feed to the production of day-old chicks, broilers, and eggs.

The development of local production of poultry feed, mainly composed of maize, clearly illustrates the phenomena: local production will contribute signif-

icantly to an upturn, firstly, in agriculture, by providing new outlets for agricultural products, and, secondly, in the poultry farming industry as a whole, by providing a cheaper raw material. The poultry feed sector has, therefore, an indisputable regional potential.

In June 1996, in order to identify problems specific to the poultry farming sector in Central Africa and to establish concrete solutions, the CDI devoted an Industrial Partnership meeting to the subject. The meeting brought together around thirty companies in the sector from 10 countries of Central Africa and Europe: specialists breeders and hatchers, feed producers, suppliers of equipment and technologies, and veterinary scientists.

Constraints and solutions

The meeting enabled the participants to identify the main constraints faced by poultry farmers in the region and to define specific solutions that could be implemented:

- improve the supply of poultry feed and develop the regional market, by correcting the sometimes inappropriate make-up of feed and by improving transport capacity;
- enhance the conditions for growing, storing and preserving maize, in order to stabilise the price, which fluctuates according to season and country;
- strengthen cooperation between the different players in the sector, in order to promote the exchange of information, follow-up joint actions and represent the interests of the different operators when dealing with the authorities;
- reduce excessive taxation which puts a strain on import prices for inputs and equipment and the turnover tax which increases prices and curbs consumption;
- improve conditions for production and transport of chicks⁽¹⁾. Only Cameroon has the infrastructures for chick production. These are not, however, being exploited to full capacity;
- enhance productivity by strengthening training for producers and by remedying the lack of analytical and pathological laboratories.

Immediate impact

The meeting very rapidly had significant and specific impact. In Cameroon, two initiatives will have a positive impact on poultry production. Firstly, the authorities decided to abolish the turnover tax on poultry products, responsible for curbing the development of the sector. Secondly, the main feed producers and hatchers in Cameroon have grouped together within a new association, the Cameroonian Poultry Farming Trade Association. The association, immediately provided by its founders with the financial means necessary for its smooth running, plans to establish a regional poultry farming school and a poultry pathology laboratory. It will also enable the players in the sector, isolated until now, to present themselves to the authorities as a credible and influential economic interlocutor.

The grouping has also enabled businessmen from the Cameroonian poultry farming sector, who previously considered each other simply as rivals, to discover common interests and begin



During the Yaoundé meeting, local poultry feed producers established contacts with raw material suppliers also located in Central Africa, enabling them to reduce import costs (photo: poultry breeding centre of MVOG BETSI, Cameroon).

supplying each other instead of importing more expensive raw materials. At regional level, the contacts established during the meeting have also served as catalysts for the development of cross-border trade exchanges. Poultry feed producers in Cameroon, whose maize production is in surplus, have, for example, found buyers in neighbouring countries, who had until then imported feed from much further afield... The CDI is also continuing its assistance to several companies in the sector, in order to ensure a better mastery of poultry farming techniques, increase the profitability of facilities, lower the cost price and, consequently, market products at prices that reflect local buying power (see box).

Contacts at the CDI:

Mr A. T. Adade-Helledy, Central Africa

regional coordinator

Mr C. Touré, sectoral expert

(1) See "Controlling production of day-old chicks in a tropical environment", pg. 3

Long-term assistance policy

The high potential of the poultry farming sector in ACP countries makes it one of the CDI's priority intervention sectors. Several industrial partnership meetings have been devoted to the subject, as well as a considerable number of specially tailored assistance initiatives for industrial projects. Here are three current examples of such assistance in Central Africa.

- The Centre has decided to provide assistance to the SPC-AGROCAM-CAMATECH group, composed of three Cameroonian industrial units, a feed producer (SPC), a hatchery (AGROCAM) and a breeding materials factory (CAMATECH). The assistance in training technical staff in all the group's activities will be implemented on-the-spot for a period of one year and will be followed by support for further training of technical middle-management abroad.



Poultry meat and eggs are a first-rate and affordable source of animal protein for people in ACP countries. Moreover, they are easy to produce and do not require significant investment.

- The Centre has also granted assistance to the company EPA, the largest poultry farming complex in Cameroon. This will involve assistance for a trip to the SPACE poultry farming trade fair in Rennes, France, technical assistance (use and maintenance of equipment for the manufacture of poultry feed, conservation of grains and

temperature control in silos) and assistance for training a technician in Europe.

- The Mvog Betsi poultry farming complex, a Cameroonian company, following privatisation, last year upgraded its installation for the production of day-old chicks and a production unit for poultry feed. It is also receiving assistance from the CDI and the CFD (French development body) for a period of two years, in order to train staff in techniques for breeding, hatching and feed manufacture and in commercial management.

Controlling production of day-old chicks in a tropical environment

By Robert Jourdain *

The change in monetary parity accelerated the production of day-old chicks in ACP countries. This type of production requires specific facilities and skills. The upturn in this sector is well on course. The sector is buoyant, demand is strong and if all the technical conditions are met, the margins in comparison with imports will be very significant. However, attention must also be given to the chicks' environment.

I. Breeding environment

■ Location

The henhouse must be located in a place where air is constantly renewed, and where there is a steady and moderate breeze.

■ Access to the henhouse

Access must be clear. Circulation of air should not be blocked by buildings or heaps of earth. A well-maintained grassy surface is the best location for a building.

■ The building

It must be a "California" style of building of the type normally used in the tropics (cf. diagram). The building should be quite narrow, a width of no more than 10 metres enables a better circulation of air. The sides must be completely covered with wire netting up to the perimeter wall which

must not exceed a height of 30 cm. The mesh chosen must prevent entry of the smallest wild birds or snakes.

The roof should be as high as possible. The roof peak must be open and covered by a cap (lantern). For the construction of the roof, it is preferable to use aluminium sheets which have the advantage of reflecting the direct heat of the sun. It is important to ensure that the size of the entrances provides room for a tractor to enter for cleaning purposes. The concrete layer covering the ground must be able to support the weight of a tractor.

■ Ventilation

A well-adapted ventilation system is an important factor determining the success of breeding. In intensive heat, bird density must be reduced. Ventilators with a wide enough diameter and slow revolutions are necessary. They must be placed where they can replace the air above the birds rather than directly at their level. The ven-

tilators must provide a minimum of 6m³ air per hour and per kg of bird. For example, 3 ventilators each producing 300 m³ per minute are sufficient for 3,600 hens each weighing 2.5 kg.

■ Cooling

In hot and dry climates, cooling by evaporation is very effective. In hot and humid climates, the use of water to reduce heat serves only to saturate the air with humidity and so reduces the birds' natural ability to overcome the heat by

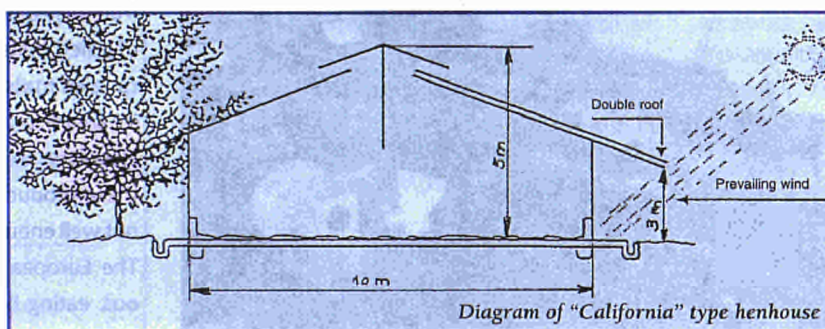


Diagram of "California" type henhouse

respiration. That is why water must never be evaporated for cooling at the following temperatures if the relative humidity is greater or equal to the corresponding values indicated in the table (above right). Evaporation must never be used if the temperature is lower than 27°C.

II. Breeding process

■ Water

Water must be of high bacteriological quality, fresh, and distributed in sufficient quantities. The drinking troughs must be deep enough to enable the birds to dip their barbs and even their crests. Both organs are essential for natural heat regulation.

■ Feeding

When the temperature exceeds 27°C, the bird tends to restrict the quantity of heat that it must continually expend by reducing its consumption of energy, and, therefore, of food. The result is a nutritional imbalance. Consequently, in

T° inside henhouse	Relative humidity
27°C	52%
30°C	55%
32°C	57%
35°C	59%
38°C	63%
41°C	65%

order to cover the daily needs of the bird, levels of essential materials must be replaced.

The homogeneous nature of the breeders and the body weight when laying begins are important factors. Each animal must consume the same quantity of food. Distribution must be speedy, not exceeding 4 minutes, and the males must not have access to the female trough.

■ Lighting

The two basic lighting principles are as follows:

- no lengthening of the lighting period during breeding;
- no shortening of the lighting period during laying.

A specific lighting programme must be selected for each case and for each region.

■ Nests

Standards: 1 nest for 5 hens.

Arrangement of nests must take into account the frequency of collection. The nests must be cleaned regularly and the straw replaced.

■ Care of hatching eggs

Eggs must be collected at least 6 times a day. In an egg laid on humid straw at 35°C, the embryo will start to develop as soon as the egg is collected.

The eggs must be transferred immediately to a clean and fresh storage room. The storage room must not be too cold in hot and humid climates so as to avoid excessive condensation on the eggs when removed from the room. A storage temperature of between 17 and 20°C is recommended. This is low enough to prevent the development of the embryo and high enough to prevent subsequent condensation. Never disinfect eggs covered in condensation by using fumigation. Wait until the eggs are dry. ■

*CDI poultry breeding consultant

Developing exports to Europe

From 22 to 25 September 1996, in Kingston (Jamaica), the CDI organised an ACP/EU Industrial Partnership Meeting on tropical fruit-based products. At the heart of the discussions: quality control and export to Europe.



Caribbean manufacturers of fruit-based products have an excellent production capacity. Seen here, Kelly's Food, in Jamaica, which mainly processes papaya.

The meeting, organised in cooperation with JAMPRO, the agency for the promotion and economic development of Jamaica, was inaugurated by Mr. Philip Paulwell, the Jamaican Minister of State, in the presence of Mr. Matos Rosa, Deputy Director of the CDI, and Ms. Patricia Francis, the President of JAMPRO. The meeting brought together 27 companies from 12 Caribbean countries manufacturing tropical fruit-based products and 22 European companies either importing or processing this type of product.

During discussion workshops, individual meetings and visits to local companies, the participants had the opportunity of studying three major issues: access and adaptation of products to European markets, potential of Caribbean

companies, and quality management.

The central objective of the meeting was to generate both short-term Euro-Caribbean trade and lasting partnerships, firstly, by making European importers aware of the quality and diversity of fruit-based products manufactured in the region, and secondly, by alerting Caribbean producers to the importance of outlets in Europe. Far from being isolated, this CDI initiative is part of a long-term policy and is designed to expand upon the achievements obtained by the Centre's experience in the Dominican Republic. For two years, the CDI has been providing assistance for the marketing of products manufactured by four companies in the Dominican Republic. Today, the flow of exports from these four companies is steadily ex-

panding, proving the potential for production based on Caribbean fruits. Following the Jamaica meeting, the European participants were also invited to the Dominican Republic by JAD, the country's association of agro-industrial producers, to visit the main Dominican companies active in the sector.

Local advantages

The Caribbean has an excellent capacity for producing tropical fruits: pineapple, banana, passion fruit, custard-apple, etc. Production is not limited to fresh fruits and covers a range of finished and semi-finished products: tropical fruit juices, purees and syrups, skins and peels of jellied fruits, "coladas", tropical fruit jam and candied fruits, tinned or frozen preparations for ice cream, citrus fruit essence and coconut milk. However, in spite of their very high quality, these products with a higher added value are not well enough known or marketed in Europe. The European market is far from homogeneous: eating habits vary from country to country, even from region to region within a country. Consequently, in order to penetrate the European market, Caribbean companies must have specific partners. It is through individual contacts that producers can open up the path to exports in specialised niches, for example, pieces of frozen fruit processed using the IQF (Individually Quick Frozen) technique, or tropical fruit cocktails.

The main barriers to export are clearly identified and relate mainly to product quality. Local industrialists lack information on the quality standards required for the European market. The meeting also highlighted the need for good quality management, based on ISO 9000 and emphasised the key role of the HACCP procedure (hazard analysis and critical control points). Use of this procedure is increasingly becoming a requirement in Europe, particularly in the fruit juice sector. Besides this problem, the sector is currently experiencing other difficulties: uncertain supply of fruit from one season to the next,

problems with packaging materials, both in terms of quality and quantity.

Initial solutions

At the Kingston meeting, participants were able to identify ways to overcome some of these stumbling blocks. There was a marked interest in new cooperation between promoters in the region for initiatives supporting joint marketing or supply of semi-finished products from one company to another. Exchanges between European and Caribbean operators have also led to around thirty initiatives that are to be implemented through export: the first two containers have already been ordered. In the near future, these initiatives may also receive CDI assistance. The initiatives include a partnership with assistance for quality management (ISO 9000 and HACCP), the signing of commercial agreements, and the creation of joint ventures between Caribbean and European companies, involving technology transfer. ■

Contacts at the CDI :

Mr. O. Perez Diaz and Mr. T. Pedersen



During the Partnership Meeting organised in Jamaica, exchanges between European and Caribbean operators have led to around thirty initiatives.

INCREASING NUMBER OF ACP MINISTERIAL AND VIP VISITS TO THE CDI



Dr. L. Ketso, Lesotho's Minister for Finance and Economic Planning (left) in discussion with the Director of the CDI.

There is a clear increase in the number of ACP ministerial and VIP visits to the Centre's headquarters in Brussels.

Within the last month, ministerial visitors have included Right Hon. Willie Jimmy, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Vanuatu; Dr. Leketeketse Ketso, Minister for Finance and Economic Planning, Lesotho; Mr. Robby Dragman, Minister for Trade and Industry, Suriname; Mrs. Frances Rodrigues, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mozambique; Right Hon. Norris Prevost, Minister for Tourism, Ports, and Employment, Commonwealth of Dominica. A visit by Dr. Edward Carrington, Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is in the framework of a Cooperation Agreement currently in the process of signature with CARICOM.

CDI PARTICIPATION IN N.I.P. SIGNING CEREMONY

Professor João de Deus Pinheiro, the Commissioner for Development, has given significant recognition to the Centre's role in private sector support within the National Indicative Programmes of ACP countries. The Commissioner invited the CDI Directorate to join his delegation to attend the signing ceremonies for Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde.

CDI GOVERNING BOARD MEETS IN MAPUTO (MOZAMBIQUE)



CDI Governing Board during the visit to HIGEST, a Mozambican company assisted by the Centre.

Upon the invitation of the Mozambican authorities, the CDI Governing Board held its 5th meeting in Maputo on 5 and 6 November 1996. The first day was devoted to the plenary session, where the main topics for discussion were the overall strategy of the CDI up to the year 2000 and the draft report on the evaluation of CDI activities under the Lomé IV Convention. The second day was set aside for on-site visits to a selection of projects assisted by the CDI, namely: HIGEST (animal feed); INAL (water and electricity meters); Cimentos de Moçambique (cement plant); and Peter Industria Moçambicana (safety shoes), which enabled members to see at first hand the results of different aspects of the CDI's operational activities.

IN BRIEF

■ Haiti. From 29 September to 3 October 1996, Mr. Matos Rosa, Deputy Director of the CDI, accompanied by Mr. Perez Diaz, geographical expert, visited the country. The Deputy Director met, in particular, the Minister for Industry and Commerce, in order to study the strengthening of cooperation and visited the Haitian projects supported by the Centre. They decided upon increased cooperation with local financial institutions. ■

CDI Industrial Partnership Meetings in 1997

Six meetings have already been scheduled for this year. These meetings will deal respectively with the **garments** sector in the Indian Ocean Islands (Mauritius, February), **meat processing** in Southern and East Africa (Zimbabwe, May), **wood** in the Pacific (Fiji, June), **fruit and vegetable processing** in Southern and East Africa (venue as yet undecided, September), **cement components** in West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, October), **tropical delicatessen** in the Caribbean (Germany, Anuga trade fair, November). Pending confirmation, an ACP-EU Forum on the **mining sector** in West Africa will also be organised in December, in Ghana, by the European Commission, in cooperation with the CDI.

Cadilu: successful implementation of European standards

Namibia is implementing a policy to manage its fish resources. Fishery products are one of the country's main export resources. Consequently, the inauguration of Cadilu Fishing (PTY) Ltd's new premises at Walvis Bay was particularly important and was honoured with the presence of Mr. Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia.

Cadilu's history symbolises the efforts made by the country as regards the fishing industry: the company, established in 1989, is one of the first Namibian fish processing companies to be involved in a joint venture with a European partner. The European partner, a Spanish company called Eduardo Vieira, operating in the sector for more than a century, had agreed to invest ECU 5.55 million in 1994-95 in order to equip its Cadilu subsidiary with modern facilities that meet the strict quality and hygiene standards required in Europe. The company has also received CDIs assistance for mounting the project (administrative, legal, and financial aspects), starting up the facilities and training staff (stock management, use of equipment, accounting, and quality control).

Wide-scale export

Outcome of effort: in 1995, the Namibian company had a turnover of ECU 11.8 million, processing 9,417 tonnes of fish. The largest proportion of its production (90%), mainly hake fillets, was exported to Europe, Japan, and the United States, while the rest was sold on the local market.

At the beginning of 1996, Cadilu increased its capital. The Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), a British financial institution for development cooperation bought shares for ECU 1.8 million.

In a strong position following this considerable injection of capital, today Cadilu has modern facilities: appropriate landing and loading areas including a quay and jetty close to the factory, which itself has high-capacity equipment for freezing, cold storage, sea water purification and manufacturing ice, and meets the strictest standards. Cadilu also has a fishing fleet of four ships, two of which have the equipment necessary to process fish on board. ■



Cadilu Fishing (Pty), based at Walvis Bay, catches and processes hake. Most of the fresh and frozen fillets produced by the company are exported, particularly to Europe.

Dried fruits ■ Burkina Faso

Grouped support for local producers

In order to streamline its support to dried fruit producers in Burkina Faso, the CDI encouraged eight small local companies to group together in a trade association. Today, they are receiving assistance for technical training and marketing.

Following a request for assistance submitted to the CDI by a small producer of dried fruits in Burkina Faso, the Centre proposed that the companies in the sector group together in an association, so as to better defend their position, both at local and international level. This led to the establishment of the Circle of Dryers (CDS), an economic interest grouping officially recognised by the national authorities. The organisation, bringing together 8 small companies involved in drying fruits and vegetables, set itself the objective of enhancing the companies' position on the local and regional market, and opening up outlets on the international market, mainly in Europe.

The Centre is able to provide considerably more



ABAC is one of the eight companies specialising in the production of dried fruits and a member of the Circle of Dryers (CDS), that will receive CDI assistance for technical training and marketing.

effective grouped support to the Circle in two stages: after carrying out an audit of the CDS, the CDI will, in the framework of the recently implemented (with financial intervention from

Sofapil: quality product for the local market

This company, the main producer of saline batteries in Burkina Faso, will extend its activities to Mali. OIM, its new subsidiary, which should quickly take 25% of the local market for this type of product, has received CDI assistance and a loan from the European Investment Bank.

With 80% of the market share, Sofapil Winner, a company from Burkina Faso, with a Luxembourg holding company among its shareholders, is the largest producer of saline batteries in Burkina Faso and recently began to buy its raw materials - manganese and zinc - from local mining producers. Already in a strong position in Burkina Faso, the company wished to expand into other countries in the region, by increasing production in the parent factory and setting up a new production unit in Mali. The battery market in Mali is actually larger than in Burkina Faso, and registered a record



OIM, a partnership between companies in Burkina Faso, Mali and Luxembourg with CDI assistance and a loan from the European Investment Bank, plans to play a significant role in the Mali battery market, which registered 30% growth in one year.

the EU FACT fund)⁽¹⁾ follow-up contracts of the ACP/EU "AGRO-IND" Industrial Sectoral Forum, provide assistance both to the CDS and to the different member companies. The Circle of Dryers will receive support for management (administration and accounting) and marketing (promotion of dried products at national level by creating the "Régaldise" et "Aromandise" labels, seeking outlets on the European organic produce market). The Centre will also provide assistance for training company staff in the following areas: better mastery of technologies, enhancing product quality and compliance with European quality standards, adapting production to the organic produce market, making the 50 solar drying machines currently in use more profitable by extending production to other products with a high added value (meat, vegetables, medicinal plants, other fruits such as papaya, etc.), and increasing production capacity. ■

growth of between 25 and 30% in one year. In 1994, Sofapil received CDI assistance, with co-financing from the Intervention Fund granted specially by Luxembourg, in order to complete the feasibility study for the project.

Following the encouraging conclusions of the study, the company decided to extend its plant in Burkina Faso (cost: ECU 1 million), doubling its capacity and bringing annual production to 52 million R-20 batteries and 14 million R-06 batteries. The extension was entirely financed by the promoters.

Local joint venture

The Mali part of the project has led to the creation of a joint venture with local partners. The plant, which will produce batteries in the top and middle of the range, has set itself the ob-

jective of taking 25% of the domestic market within three years, that is, 25 million R-06 and R-20 saline batteries. Total investment is to be ECU 2.36 million and the project will generate around fifty jobs and an annual turnover of ECU 4 million. The CDI has presented the project to the EIB (European Investment Bank) which, in September 1996, agreed to a conditional loan on risk capital of ECU 1 million.

OIM has also received CDI assistance, again with co-financing from Luxembourg, in order to train Mali staff in the use and maintenance of new equipment, such as automatic mixers, and in accounting and administrative management. The company sent 19 employees for training within Sofapil, in Burkina Faso.

An initial production line for batteries was launched in September 1996, and will be followed by two further lines in Spring 1997. ■

(1) For Follow-up Contracts and FACT fund, see Partnership 27, pg. 5

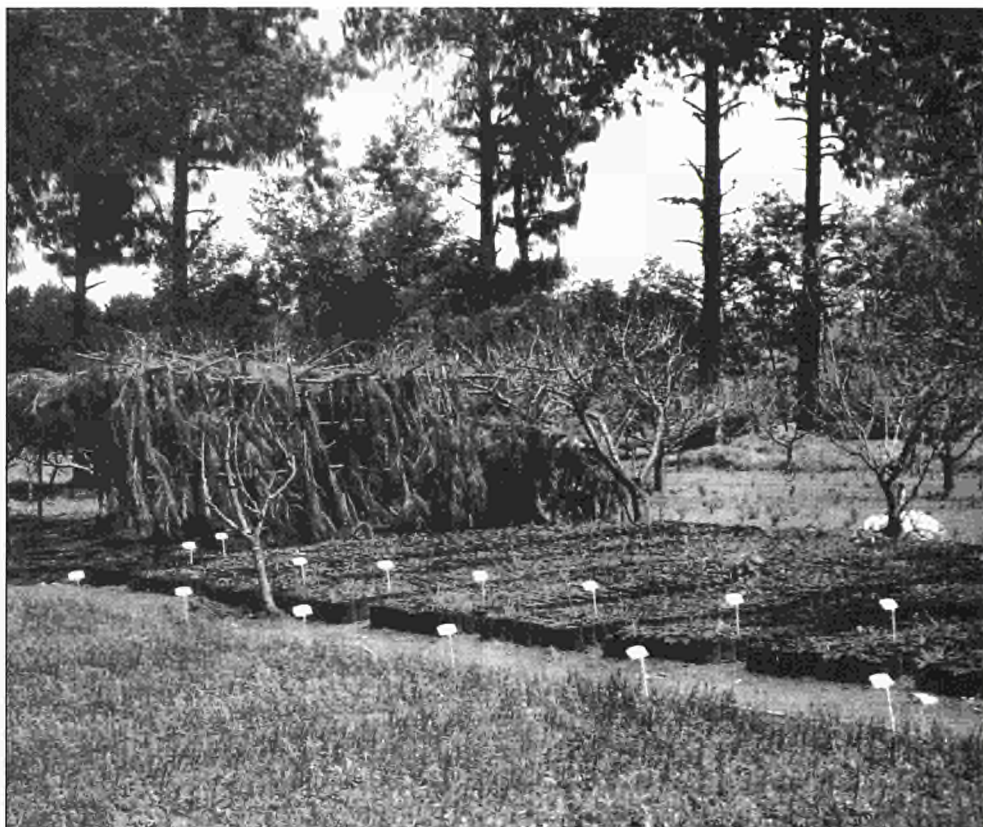
A new growth sector for ACP countries

In Europe, demand for organic produce is steadily increasing, and there are more and more openings for fresh fruit and vegetables from tropical countries. At the end of September 1996, a meeting took place, partly in Mauritius, then in Madagascar, during which the sector's potential was reviewed and local producers identified their problems and suggested solutions.

More and more European consumers are seeking healthier food and are opting for organic produce. European regulations which, some years ago set conditions for production, marketing, and processing of products from organic farming and introduced a quality guarantee through controls and certification, have led to an upturn in the sector. The sector accounts for 1.5% of the food market, and should reach 3 to 10% by the year 2000. The potential of ACP countries, in particular in the Indian Ocean region, and the request made by local private operators, have prompted the COLEACP⁽¹⁾, in cooperation with the CDI and GTZ PROTRADE, a German cooperation body which carried out a study of the European market, to organise a workshop on the opportunities and constraints of organic produce, in the framework of a seminar in Mauritius from 25 to 27 September 1996 on the quality of products imported and exported by countries from the Indian Ocean region. The meeting was followed by a commercial visit by several European importers of organic produce to Madagascar, organised by the Centre from 28 September to 1 October.

Certification

The workshop in Mauritius enabled participants to take stock of the commercial prospects of the market and, in particular, the regulatory requirements. Certification, a guarantee of credibility and quality, is a source of difficulty for producers. The cost of certification is the first constraint: it may be as high as 4 to 6% of turnover. The certifying body must complete an administrative and accounting study of the company, inspecting the premises to check for prohibited products and take samples of the soil, foliage, and harvested produce for analytical purposes. There are a number of obstacles



Madagascar has many areas of land ideal for agro-organic farming. Seen here, the apple orchard on the Agrico farm, and, in the foreground, a nursery with other organic crops.

to this operation: difficulty for the producers in identifying collected products (lychees, spices, etc.) and sometimes incomplete accounting. If ACP exporters are to overcome these obstacles, they must have access to technical, commercial and regulatory information related to certification, which is now necessary for export of products to European markets. Fifteen Malagasy companies have already successfully embarked upon the certification process, often with support from their export clients.

Commercial partnerships

In order to ensure long-term, stable outlets, ACP producers must also establish commercial agreements with European importers. This was

the objective of the commercial visit to Madagascar organised by the CDI. During local company visits, the five German, French, and Dutch importers invited by the Centre were able to discover the products and potential of local companies. Several of them, already with certificates for tropical fruits (pineapples and mangoes), out-of-season fruits (apples), spices, sugar, essential oils or oil seed products, were immediately able to establish commercial relations with these buyers. ■

Contact at the CDI:

Ms M.-J. Caudron, Mr. T. Pedersen

(1) COLEACP: Europe-ACP Liaison Committee for promoting tropical fruits, vegetables, out-of-season fruits, flowers, ornamental plants, and spices.

Operational Summary

No. 95 — January 1997

(position as at December 16, 1996)

The logo consists of the letters 'EC-ACP' in a bold, sans-serif font, enclosed within a thin black oval border.

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, supplies of equipment, technical assistance, etc.);
- any methods of implementation (international invitations to tender, for example);
- the stage the project has reached (identification, appraisal, submission for financing, financing decision, ready for implementation).

NOTE: Participation in EDF schemes is strictly confined to ACP or EU firms.

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

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- 2 Choose the option: PROJECTS FOR TENDER

Correspondance about this operational summary can be sent directly to:

Mr. Franco Cupini
Directorate-General for Development
Commission of the European Union
G 12 4-14
200, rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels

Please cover only one subject at a time.

DESCRIPTION SECTOR CODE

AAz	Planning and public administration	AEb	Industrial development banks
AAa	Administrative buildings	AEc	Tourism, hotels and other tourist facilities
AAb	Economic planning and policy	AEd	Export promotion
AAc	Assistance to the normal operations of government not falling under a different category	AEe	Trade, commerce and distribution
AAd	Police and fire protection	AEf	Co-operatives (except agriculture and housing)
AAe	Collection and publication of statistics of all kinds, information and documentation	AEg	Publishing, journalism, cinema, photography
AAf	Economic surveys, pre-investment studies	AEh	Other insurance and banking
AAg	Cartography, mapping, aerial photography	AEi	Archaeological conservation, games reserves
AAi	Demography and manpower studies		
ABz	Development of public utilities	AFz	Education
ABa	Power production and distribution	AFa	Primary and secondary education
ABai	Electricity	AFb	University and higher technical institutes
ABb	Water supply	AFbi	Medical
ABc	Communications	AFc	Teacher training
ABd	Transport and navigation	AFci	Agriculture training
ABe	Meteorology	AFd	Vocational and technical training
ABf	Peaceful uses of atomic energy (non-power)	AFe	Educational administration
		AFf	Pure or general research
ACz	Agriculture, fishing and forestry	AFg	Scientific documentation
ACa	Agriculture production	AFh	Research in the field of education or training
ACb	Service to agriculture	AFi	Subsidiary services
ACc	Forestry	AFj	Colloquia, seminars, lectures, etc.
ACd	Fishing and hunting		
ACe	Conservation and extension	AGz	Health
ACf	Agriculture storage	AGa	Hospitals and clinics
ACg	Agriculture construction	AGb	Maternal and child care
ACH	Home economics and nutrition	AGc	Family planning and population-related research
ACi	Land and soil surveys	AGd	Other medical and dental services
		AGe	Public health administration
ADz	Industry, mining and construction	AGf	Medical insurance programmes
ADa	Extractive industries	AHz	Social infrastructure and social welfare
ADai	Petroleum and natural gas	AHa	Housing, urban and rural
ADb	Manufacturing	AHb	Community development and facilities
ADc	Engineering and construction	AHc	Environmental sanitation
ADd	Cottage industry and handicraft	AHd	Labour
ADe	Productivity, including management, automation, accountancy, business, finance and investment	AHe	Social welfare, social security and other social schemes
ADf	Non-agricultural storage and warehousing	AHf	Environmental protection
ADg	Research in industrial technology	AHg	Flood control
		AHh	Land settlement
A Ez	Trade, banking, tourism and other services	AHi	Cultural activities
AEa	Agriculture development banks	Alz	Multisector
		Ala	River development
		Alb	Regional development projects
		AJz	Unspecified

ACP STATES

New projects are printed in italics and offset by a bar in margin at left

Projects under way are marked with an asterisk and with words or phrases in italics

ANGOLA

Rehabilitation of the Tchivingu Institute. 8.24 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF ANG 7014 AFB

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

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Livestock development. Phase II. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture 0.130 mECU. Supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF AB 5003(7001) ACa

Upgrading and expansion of Antigua Hotel Training Centre. Construction and equipment for part new and part renovated and upgraded facilities. Estimated cost 2.200 mECU. Works, supplies, design and supervision. T.A. and training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF AB 7001 AFd

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 on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7132 ABd

Support programme for municipal development of Parakou City. Resp. Auth.: Circonscription urbaine de Parakou. Estimated total cost 2 mECU. Works and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF BEN 7006 ABd

Improvement of transfusional security in the departments of Ouémé, Mono and Atlantique. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health. 0.700 mECU. T.A., supplies, training and

evaluation. EDF 7.
EDF BEN 7007

AGa

BOTSWANA

Vocational Training Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Education. Estimated total cost 15,100 mECU. Construction and equipment of a new vocational training centre in Gaborone to provide +/- 800 training places. Expand existing schools. Works, supplies and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 5, 6 and 7.
EDF BT 7004 AFd

★ **Sysmin — support to base metal industry (Copper-Nickel-Cobalt).** Resp. Auth.: BCL Ltd., 33.700 mECU. 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.: Department of Tourism (DoT) of Commerce and Industry. 1.910 mECU. Short- and long-term T.A. *Project in execution.* EDF 7.
EDF BT 5019/001 AEc

BURKINA FASO

Tougan — Ouahigouya — Mali border road. Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux publics. Modern earth-road. Supervision: short-list done. Estimated cost 13.5 mECU. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing 2nd half 96. EDF 6 and 7.
EDF BK 7004 ABd

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme 95-96. General Import Programme. Hard currency allowances to import ACP and EC goods with negative list. 25 mECU. T.A. for starting and follow-up. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF BK 7200/002 AAC

Sectoral Adjustment Programme-Agricultural-Cereals. 6.100 mECU. Support for institutional reform, works, supply of equipment, T.A. lines of credit. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF BK 7009 ACa

Sectoral Adjustment Programme — Agricultural — Environment. Estimated cost 1.950 mECU. Soil map and inventory, soil management and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF BK 7010 ACa

Periodical road maintenance programme. Ouagadougou-Ghana. Bobo-Côte d'Ivoire, and Bobo-Mali. Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux Publics. 29 mECU. Works, supervision. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF BK 6017 ABd

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

Geological cartography. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Energie et des Mines. 15 mECU. Aerial geophysical survey for the middle west, creation of a national geophysical data bank, geological mapping 1/200.000. Works, equipment, T.A. EDF 7
EDF BK SYS 9999 AAa, ADz

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

Construction of the 'Creativity and Export Pavilion' at the 'International Craftsmanship Fair in Ouagadougou (SIAO). 0.180 mECU. Works by direct agreement after restr. tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 70001/012 AEe

Ouagadougou dam classified forest development. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Eau. Estimated total cost 1.200 mECU. EDF part 0.300 mECU. Cofinancing with CFD (F), The Netherlands (possible). Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF BK 7023 AHf

Support for decentralisation. Resp. Auth.: Ministère Administration Territoriale et Sécurité. Estimated total 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 11.400 mECU. T.A. foreseen. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF BK 7200/004 AA

Support for the judicial system. Estimated total cost 1 mECU. Training of magistrates and auxiliary personnel. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF BK 7027 AA

CAMEROON

General Import Programme. Hard currency allowance to import ACP and EC goods with negative list. 20.200 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF CM 7200/001 AA

Lagdo fishing project. Resp. Auth.: MINEPIA. Estimated cost 3,500 mECU. Preservation and improvement of the social-economic situation around Lake Lagdo. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF CM 6002/002 ACa

Protection and sanitation for Kousseri town. Kousseri road network. Resp. Auth.: MINTP. Estimated cost 4 mECU. Dyke rehabilitation works along the Logoni river, road works and rain water drainage. EDF 7. EDF CM 6022 AHg, Ala

Access road to the Tikar Plain. Resp. Auth.: MINTP 14 mECU. Road works over the Kakar-Sabongari-Atta-Sonkolong road. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF CM 6037 ABd

Tikar Plain development. Resp. Auth.: MINAT. 10,2 mECU. Social-economic improvement. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF CM 6004 ACa

Support for the road sector. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Public Works and Transport. 1.930 mECU. T.A. EDF 7. EDF CM 6031/001 AAz

Reorientation of health care in the far-north province. 1.9 mECU. Social cooperation. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF CM 6030/001 AGz

CAPE VERDE

Maio island rural electrification. Estimated total cost 2 mECU. Improvement of living conditions. Supply of electricity, Works, supplies and T.A.

Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF CV 7009/000 ABai

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 AEz

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Support for the transport sectoral programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Transports et des Travaux Publics 50 mECU. Road rehabilitation. Works supervision, supply of equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF CA 6008 ABd

CHAD

Re-launch of the fishing sector. Estimated cost 2.500 mECU. Sectoral study: shortlist done. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF CD 7011 ACa

River Chari embankment protection. Estimated total cost 5 mECU. To improve living conditions in N'Djamena. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF CD 5027 AHf,g

Support for the electoral process. Resp. Auth.: UNDP(PNUD). Estimated total cost 0.500 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 6. EDF CD 7015 AA

Eré-Kélo road improvement. Resp. Auth.: Ministère des T.P., des Transports et de l'Habitat. 13.500 mECU. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 6 and 7. EDF CD 7012 ABd

Restoration of bridges that fall within the framework of the Second Transport Sectoral Programme. Resp. Auth.: MINTP, Chad. Estimated cost 4 mECU. Urgent work to be carried out to restore 15 bridges under the Transport Sectoral Programme. Works, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF CD 6001 ABd

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

Development of cultivation for export. Vanilla and Ylang Ylang. Resp. Auth.: Ministère du Dev. Rural. 1.900 mECU. Vanilla and improvement of quality (laboratory, management, marketing). Supply of non-wood ovens. Crop diversification. Equipment, T.A. and training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF COM 7004 ACa

Rehabilitation Mutsamudu-Sima-Pomoni at Aujouan. 5,6 mECU. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'équipement (DG Travaux Publics). Works (41 km) by int. tender, supervision by direct agreement after shortlist. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF COM/7001 ABd

CONGO

National Road n°1 Brazzaville-Kinkala (Matoumbou). 0.950 mECU. Resp. Auth.: Direction Générale des Travaux Publics. Environmental economical technical studies, execution project and tender dossier. Project on appraisal. EDF 4 and 7. EDF COB/7001/000 ABd

Support programme for the visual arts. 1 mECU. Global development in the visual arts sector. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF COB 7010 AEz

COTE D'IVOIRE

Support programme for the 'pineapple market'. Estimated cost 7.780 mECU. EDF 6.100 mECU, O.C.A.B. (Organisation Centrale des Producteurs — Exportateurs d'Ananas et des Bananes), 1.680 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A., training, studies, line of credit. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF IVC 6016 ACa

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 AA

DJIBOUTI

Fight against desertification and development of livestock husbandry in Western-Djibouti. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural. 1.665 mECU.

Supply of equipment, studies, T.A. Project suspended. EDF 7.
EDF DI 6008 ACa

Rehabilitation and construction of veterinary infrastructures and supply of equipment. Economical and social investment. 0.212 mECU. Resp. Auth.: Direction de l'Elevage et des Pêches. Renovation of existing buildings, laboratory construction, purchase of a refrigerator car. Works by acc. proc. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF DI/5002/001 ACa

Support for the structural adjustment programme 1996-1997. General import programme. 4.100 mECU. T.A. foreseen. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF DI 7200/001 AAC

Rehabilitation and construction of school infrastructure and supply of materials for the Djibouti State Secondary School. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 0.385 mECU. Construction and modernisation of classroom facilities, library extension and improved hygiene facilities. Works by acc. proc. Restricted tender: supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF DI 7008 AFa

DOMINICA

Eco-Tourism Site Development. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism (MTIT). Estimated total cost 0.558 mECU. Works, equipment and training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF DOM 6002/001 ACa

Agricultural Diversification Programme. Resp. Auth.: Diversification Implementation Unit. (DIU). 2,250 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 on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF DOM 7002 ACa

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

★ **Los Toros Hydro-electric project.** Construction of a hydroelectric power station. Civil works, supply of electromechanical and hydromechanical equipment. Capacity 9.2 Mw. Annual output 57.27 Gwh. Estimated cost 24.4 mECU. Financing date November 96. EDF 7.
EDF DO 7005 ABai

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

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Essential goods import programme. Resp. Auth.: Presidency of the Republic. Estimated cost 1.5 mECU. Hard currency allowance to import essential goods. Project on appraisal. EDF 5 and 6.
EDF EG AAC

Conservation and rational utilisation of the forest ecosystems. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock farming, Fisheries and Forests. Directorate General for Forests. 5.070 mECU. Land Classification and Use Master Plan — National System of Conservation Units — Forest Training and Research Centre. T.A. and supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.
EDF EG 6001 ACc,e,i

Rural development programme in the South-East. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Agriculture. 4.500 mECU. Works, supplies and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF EG 6005(7001) ACa

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. Estimated total cost 20 mECU. Road works. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ERY 7004 ABd

Livestock promotion project. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture. Estimated total cost 1.2 mECU. Vaccination campaign, supply of equipment, training and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ERY 7005 ACa

Rehabilitation of transmission lines, substations and distribution system in Massawa Area. Resp. Auth.: Eritrean Electric Authority. Es-

timated total cost 10-12 mECU. Works, supply and T.A. Feasibility Study: INYPSA (Sp). Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ERY 7001 ABai

ETHIOPIA

Rehabilitation of the Addis Ababa — Modjo — Awasa Road. Resp. Auth.: Ethiopian Road Authority. Estimated cost 40 mECU. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 7005 ABd

Reintegration of displaced Ethiopian nationals from Eritrea. Estimated cost 2 mECU. Works, training, line of credit, T.A. and supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 7255/001 AHb,e

SME development programme. Estimated total cost 25 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 7003 AEz

Rehabilitation of the Addis Ababa- Jima road, Addis Ababa- Abelti (180 Km). Estimated total cost 35 mECU. Improvement of the road network. Works and supplies. T.A. Feasibility studies and dossiers projects preparation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 7005/002 ABd

Transport sector support project (TSSP). Estimated total cost 1.99 mECU. Works and supplies. T.A. Development transport policy, improvement of programme management road handling capacity, activities coordination. Resp. Auth.: Ethiopia Road Authority. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF 7005/001 ABd

Addis Ababa's water supply and sanitation. Resp. Auth.: Addis Ababa Water Supply Authority. AAWSA. Estimated total cost 35 mECU. Works, equipment, T.A., project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 5006/002 ABb

Training programme. Trainers' training, staff, supply of equipment. Estimated cost 6.900 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 7016 AFc

★ **Strengthening national training and research capacity in economics.** Resp. Auth.: Department of Economics. 1.05 mECU. T.A. and supply of equipment. T.A. by CSAE (Centre for the Study of African Economies of Oxford University). Project in execution. Evaluation. Date for financing June 96. EDF 7.
EDF ET 6101/001 AFb

FIJI

Rural Health Infrastructure, Naitasiri. Construction of a new hospital in Vunidawa, construction, modification and upgrading of various health centres and nursing stations. Estimated total cost 4.315 mECU. Study: short-list already done. Project on appraisal. EDF 4, 5, 6 and 7. EDF FIJ 7007. AGa

Reconstruction of Delainivesi, Natua and Nacugai bridges. Resp. Auth.: Public Works Dept. 1.895 mECU. Two bridges by direct labour. Natua bridge by acc. tender. Date for financing June 96. EDF 4, 5, 6. ABd

GAMBIA

General Import Programme. Support for Structural Adjustment. Hard currency allowance to import ACP and EC goods, with negative list. 1.400 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GM 7200/002. AAc

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. 15 mECU. T.A., buildings and training, supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GH. ACa

Woodworking Sector Development. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning. 4.5 mECU. Equipment, T.A., overseas training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GH. ACc

Transport Infrastructure Programme. Phase II. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Roads & Highways. 54 mECU. Works, supplies, supervision, training. Project in execution. EDF 6 and 7. EDF GH 6001. ABd

Small towns water supply project. Resp. Auth.: Ghana Water and Sewerage Company. Estimated total cost 15 mECU. Construction of water

supply systems. Strengthening of institutions responsible for operation and maintenance. Works, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GH 7006. ABb

Decentralized Cooperation Programme. 1.500 ECU. Local T.A. Restr. tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GH 7008. AJz

AIDS/STD Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health, National AIDS Control Programme. 1.9 mECU. Drug supply, consultancy services including drug management. *Project on appraisal.* EDF 7. EDF GH. AGd

5th Microprojects Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 9 mECU. Consultancy services including evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GH. AHb

GRENADA

Microprojects programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry Labour, Social Service Community Development. 0.220 mECU. Water supply, road improvements repairs and extension of schools, medical and community centre and sports grounds project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GRD 7102. Bz

Rehabilitation of the Bellevue-Grenville Section of the Eastern Main Road — Grenville — Mama Cannes section. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works. 2 mECU. Works by direct labour, small T.A. and supply of equipment for repairs. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GRD 7002/001. ABd

GUINEA

Development of secondary towns. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire. Estimated cost 7 mECU. Buildings, market, railway stations, roads T.A. and training management, work supervision, supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GUI 7008. AHa,b

GUINEA BISSAU

★ **João Landim bridge construction.** Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux Publics. Estimated cost 26 500 mECU. Project on appraisal. *Date foreseen for financing December 96.* EDF 7. EDF GUB 7013. ABd

Support to create environmental legislation. Resp. Auth.: National Council for Environment. (CNA) 0.500 mECU. T.A., seminars, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GUB 7011. ACf

Project support to develop the livestock sector. Development and improvement of natural resources. 1.3 mECU. Consolidate programme for veterinary input distribution, improvement of epidemiological information, accompanying actions and training. Services, supplies by restr. tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF GUB/REG/5007/003. ACa,b

HAITI

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Finances. 23 mECU. General Import Programme with negative list. Different T.A. with individual experts. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF HA 7200. AAc

★ **Rehabilitation of National Route 3.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Public Works. Estimated total cost 50 mECU. Works: *Int. tender (conditional) launched with no. 4164. Submission date 3.12.96. T.A. prequalification already launched. Date foreseen for financing December 96.* Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF HA 7008. ABd

JAMAICA

Credit scheme for micro and small enterprises. Resp. Auth.: Planning Institute of Jamaica. Implementation by Apex Institution and Coordination and Monitoring Unit 7 mECU. Line of credit, T.A. and evaluation. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing 2nd half 96. EDF 5, 6 and 7. EDF JM 5020. ADz, AEz

Institutional strengthening programme. Resp. Auth.: National Water Commission (NWC). Estimated cost 3 mECU. Works, supplies and T.A. Project on appraisal, EDF 7. EDF JM 7005. AHa,b,c

Agricultural sector support programme (ASSAP). Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture — Rural and Agriculture Dev. Auth. (RADA). 5m ECU. More sustainable farming systems, soil conservation, reforestation and Community education. Works, supply of vehicles, equipment, T.A. studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF JM 7004 ACa

KENYA

Farming in tsetse infested areas. Estimated total cost 14,600 mECU. Refine the techniques to trap the tsetse fly and develop better technologies to prevent infections. Monitor the environmental impact of the techniques. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF KE 7011 ACa

Family Health Programme. Estimated total cost 28,710 mECU. Reproduction health status of Kenyans family planning services broadened. EDF 14,810 mECU, ODA (UK) 13,900 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 6. EDF KE 7015 AGb

★ **Technical Education** 5 mECU. Raising the level of performance of existing teaching institutions. *Financing date November 96.* EDF 7. EDF KE 6005/001 AFb

Trade Development Programme. Resp. Auth.: Export Promotion Council and a Special TDP Committee composed 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 on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF KE 7008 AEz

Small scale and informal sector enterprises. Estimated total cost 6 mECU. Development of micro-enterprises and informal sector of the economy. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF KE 7009 AEe,f

Sultan Hamud — Mtito Road rehabilitation. Estimated total 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. Estimated total cost 25 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF KE 7010/003 ABd

Community development. Poverty alleviation. Estimated total cost

12,500 mECU. Financial facility aimed at priority activities identified by local communities. Project on appraisal. 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 on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF KE/7016/00 AAb

Establishment of sustainable tourism development. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife. 1,970 mECU. Advice on and design of a financially self-sustainable Tourism Board. T.A., equipment, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF KE 7014. AEc

Agriculture/livestock research Programme. Estimated total cost 8.3 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 6. EDF KE 6003/001 ACa

KIRIBATI

Recycling programme in South Tarawa. Resp. Auth. Ministries of Environment & Natural Resources, and of Works & Energy. Estimated total cost 0.495 mECU. Building and equipping a treatment centre for the recycling of machines and abandoned vehicles. Supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF KI 7008 AHf

LESOTHO

★ **Lesotho Highlands Dev. Authority Community forestry project.** Resp. Auth.: L.H.D.A. Estimated total cost 1,741 mECU. Establishment of Pilot project, staff recruitment, orientation and training in participatory forestry extension, support to people with advice, training and tree seedlings research and demonstration of new models, monitoring and evaluation. *Project in execution.* EDF 7. EDF LSO 7001 ACa

Urban Water Supply and Sanitation. Resp. Auth.: Water and Sanitation Authority. Estimated total 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 on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF LSO 7002 ABb, AHa

★ **Fourth Structural Adjustment Programme (SASP 4) 96-97.** General Import Programme. Resp. Auth.: Central Bank of Lesotho. 8.6 mECU. *Financing date October 1996.* EDF 7. EDF LSO 7200/003 AAc

MADAGASCAR

Kalmolandy Bridge Reconstruction. Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux Publics. 1,540 mECU. Submersible-type bridge. Project on appraisal. EDF 6. EDF MAG 6027 ABd

Support programme to rehabilitate social and economic infrastructures. Interventions after cyclones. EDF part 17,500 mECU. Railways and road rehabilitation, small hydraulic works. Social infrastructure rehabilitation. Technical expertise study to be done for roads. Works, supplies, supervision and control, evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF MAG 7009 ABd

First decentralized cooperation programme. Resp. Auth.: National Authorising officer and Head of EU Delegation and authorized NGOs. 1,900 mECU. Works Purchase of equipment by direct agreement, restricted or int. tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MAG 7022/000 AGz, AHz

Support-training for rural development. Resp. Auth.: Ministère du développement rural et de la réforme foncière. 1,647 mECU. Developing the farmer's organisations role. Training, supplies and technical cooperation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MAG 7029/000 ACb

Micro-hydraulic rice project. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Agriculture. 1,975 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MAG 6001/001 ACa

Decentralized training programme for regional private tourism operators. Resp. Auth.: Ministère du Tourisme. 1,910 mECU. T.A. training, evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 1, 2, 3 and 4. EDF MAG 6039 AEc

MALAWI

- ★ **Poverty Alleviation Programme — Agro-forestry component.** Resp. Auth.: MOALD. EDF 22 mECU, local 2 mECU, counterpart funds from food aid 94 23 mECU. Water supply sanitation, supply of fertilizers, T.A. and training. Project on appraisal. *Date foreseen for financing December 96.* EDF 7. EDF MAI 5001/002 ACa

Structural Adjustment Programme 1995. Estimated cost 26.100 mECU. General Import Programme. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MAI 7200 AAc

Information, education and communication population programme. Resp. Auth.: NAO — Ministry for Women and Children's Affairs, Community and Social Services — Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Estimated total cost 4 mECU. Increase awareness and promote behaviour change as regards reproductive health, including disease prevention. Supply of equipment and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MAI 6009/001 AGb,c

Support to the Forestry Department. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Natural Resources. Estimated total cost 4 mECU. T.A. and supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MAI 5001/003 AAc

Health Programme. Strengthening Health Ministry capacities in the framework of planning, decentralisation and equipment maintenance. Training, infrastructures, equipment and T.A. Estimated total cost 20 mECU. Project on appraisal. 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. Estimated total cost 6 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MAI 7012/038 AGz, AHZ, ABb

Customary Land Utilisation Study. 1 mECU. Studies. T.A. survey. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MAI 6029 AAg

Karonga-Chilumba-Chiweta Road. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works and Supplies. Estimated total cost 25.200 mECU. Construction, supervision of works, training of technical staff. Project on appraisal. EDF 8. EDF MAI 6022 ABd

- ★ **ASYCUDA (Automatic system for treatment of customs information) — infrastructure component.** Resp. Auth. Government of Malawi. 1.885 mECU. Construction and renovation. All by Acc. tender. *Financing date November 96.* EDF 7. EDF MAI 7012 AAa

MALI

Development of livestock in the North-east. 4,5 mECU. EDF 6 and 7. Project in execution. EDF MLI/5006/001 AAc

Better use of surface waters in the 5th region. Consolidation. Resp. Auth.: Governorat de Mopti. EDF 4.300 mECU. Works, irrigation, supply of pumps, inputs, T.A. follow-up and evaluation, training, research. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF MLI6005/002 AAc

Support for the democratic process. Resp. Auth. National Electoral Commission. Total estimated cost 14.800 mECU. Mission to study and identify an action plan. Restricted list drawn up. Project at identification stage. EDF 7. EDF MLI 7019 AAc

Support for the 1996-97 Structural Adjustment Programme. General import programme. Estimated total cost 14.800 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MLI 7200/003 AAc

MAURITANIA

Support for structural adjustment programme 1995-96. 13.3 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF MAU 7200/001 AAc

Kaédi and Mederda water supply. Estimated total cost 2.8 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. *Financing date October 96.* EDF 7. EDF MAU 7200/002 AAc

MAURITIUS

National solid waste management project. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Environment and Quality of Life. Estimate 8.650 mECU. EDF 7mECU. Construction of a fully engineered landfill to cater for about 600 t of solid waste per day. Works and supplies by int. tender. T.A. for supervision and evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MAS 6017 AHb,c,f

First microproject programme. 0.500 mECU. Works, supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MAS 7007 AFz, AGz, AHZ

MOZAMBIQUE

Socio-economic reintegration of young people. Estimated cost 1.950 mECU. Supplies, T.A. and pilot actions. Project on appraisal. EDF 6. EDF MOZ 7017 AHb

Rehabilitation of the rural health system. Estimated cost 22mECU. Rehabilitation and renovation of 3 rural hospitals and 2 health centres. Supply of essential medicines and equipment, T.A. Project on appraisal. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF MOZ 7018 AGa,e

Support for the development of an environmentally friendly tourism sector (foundation phase). Resp. Auth.: DINATUR, EC delegation in Maputo — Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Action. 1.500 mECU. Two T.A. teams for Institutional Support and for Physical Planning. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF MOZ 7020 AEc

Social reintegration in Zambezia and Niassa provinces. 5.600 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 on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MOZ 7255/06 AFz, AGz, AHZ

Support for the Mozambican STD/HIV strategy within the health system. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health — National Directorate of Health, 5 mECU. Services (T.A. training supervision), supplies (educational materials, drugs laboratory reagents, condoms) and equipment (laboratory equipment, medical equipment). Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MOZ 8000/001 AGb,c

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme. GIP II. 15

mECU. Project in execution. EDF MOZ 7200/001 AAC

Support for the judicial system. Estimated total cost 2 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF MOZ 7022 Alz

NAMIBIA

Namibia Integrated Health Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health and Social Services. 13.500 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. Estimated total cost 5.7 mECU. EDF 5 mECU, local 0.700 mECU. Works, supply of equipment, technical training and technical consultancies. Project on appraisal. 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

Namibia Tourism Development Programme. (Foundation Phase). Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Environment and Tourism. 1.882 mECU. Establishment of a Tourism Board and commercialisation of the Government resorts (Namibian Wildlife Resorts). Staff training. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF NAM 7010 AEC

Livestock Marketing Project. Resp. Auth.: Directorate of Veterinary Services — Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Dept., 3.750 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 on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF NAM 7020 ACa

Support Programme for the Trypanosomiasis and Tsetse fly regional control programme. Resp. Auth.: Department of Veterinary Services. Estimated total cost 0,390 mECU.

U. Protection of the East Caprivi and control of the Katima Mulilo Bovine Trypanosomiasis. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF REG/5420/003 AGE

★ **Support for implementation of the Cross Border Initiative.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Trade and Industry. Estimated total cost 5.370 mECU. To promote an strengthen Namibia's economic integration. T.A., supplies and line of credit. *Financing date November 96.* EDF 7. EDF REG 70012/22 AEde

NIGER

Fishery development in the southern Zinder zone. Resp. Auth.: NGO under control of Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Environnement. Estimated total cost 0.500 mECU. Professional sector organisation, strengthening of fish marketing. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF NIR 7014 ACa

Environmental protection programme in the lower Tarka Valley. Estimated total cost 10 mECU. To stop ecological and economical destruction of the zone. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF NIR 6002/002 ACa

NIGEPAC. Safeguarding cultural heritage. Estimated total cost 1 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 8. EDF NIR 7017 AHi

Support for the 1996 Structural Adjustment Programme. General import programme. 14 mECU. Imports on basis of negative list. T.A. for implementation and institutional support. Project on appraisal. EDF 6 and 7. EDF NIR 7200/002 AAC

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme. 0.900 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 economic development of the Ziguinchor region.** 1,990 mECU. Line of credit for SMEs and support for artisanal fisheries. Supply of equipment, T.A. *Project in execution.* EDF 7. EDF SE 5024/7001 ACa

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme. General Import Programme with negative list. 20.100 mECU. T.A. foreseen. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF SL 7200/002 AAC

SEYCHELLES

La Digue Environment and Transport project. Resp. Auth.: Land Transport and Environmental Divisions. 0.650 mECU. Preservation and protection of environment and transport infrastructure. Rehabilitation main road (1.8 km). Works by acc. tender, equipment and T.A. Supervision and evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 6 and 7. EDF SEY/7009 Abc,d

Victoria market rehabilitation. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture. Estimated total cost 1 mECU. EDF 0.770 mECU, local 0.230 mECU. Works and improvements. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDY SEY 7011 ACb

SIERRA LEONE

Improvement of Freetown — Conakry road link. Estimated 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. 22.500 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. Estimated cost 1.980 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, AHf

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Guadalcanal road: Aola-Matau. Resp. Auth. Ministry of Transport, Works and Utilities. Estimated total cost 6 mECU. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF SOL 7001 ABd

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. Estimated total cost 3.5 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF SUR 7005 ACc

SWAZILAND

- ★ **Maphobeni low-level bridge.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works and Construction. EDF 1.440 mECU. Works by acc. tender. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF SW 7007 ABd
- ★ **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

TANZANIA

Support for Aids Control in Tanzania. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health. 4 mECU. To strengthen health and other support services. Supply of equipment and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF TA 0800/000 (7001) AGc

Mwanza-Nyangugue Road Rehabilitation. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Transports and Communications. Estimated cost 35 mECU. Rehabilitation of 62 km of trunk roads (Nyangugue-Mwanza and Mwanza airport) and rehabilitation of Mwanza sewerage system (main works). Design study ongoing. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 6021 ABd

Mwanza Water Supply. Phase II. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Water energy and minerals. Estimated cost 11.100 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. Estimated cost 9.100 mECU. Pumping, treatment, storage and distribution. Works, equipment, design and supervision. Short-list done. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 7009 ABz

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme. General Import Programme. Phase III. Resp. Auth.: Bank of Tanzania. 35 mECU. T.A. foreseen. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 7200/002 AAc

Assistance for the 1994-95 electoral process. Estimated cost 1.700 mECU. Supply of voting material and equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 7017 AAc

Ruvuma-Mbeya Environment Programme. Resp. Auth.: Regional Development Authorities. Estimate 10 mECU. Improvement of forest conservation and use. Supplies, T.A., studies, training, management. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 7018 ACc

Support for coffee research. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture. Estimated total cost 1.980 mECU. T.A. and supply of equipment for the research centres, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 6001/002 ACa

Road rehabilitation and maintenance (Ruvuma and Iringa Regions). Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Transports and Communications. Estimated total cost 15 mECU. EDF 12 mECU, local 3 mECU. Road rehabilitation, support to regional and district engineers' offices, training of local contractors. T.A. and supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 7011 ABd

Rehabilitation of Bagamoyo to Wazo Hill junction road. Studies and supervision. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works. Estimated total cost 15.8 mECU. EDF part 1.750 mECU. for design studies and tender documents and supervision services for the rehabilitation of the +/- 45 Km road. Short-list to be done. Rehabilitation works funded by Italy: 14 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 7020 ABd

Rehabilitation of the Mwanza/Shinyanga-Nzega road. Resp. Auth. Ministry of Works. Estimated total cost 70 mECU. Project at identification stage. EDF 6, 7 and 8. EDF TA 7012 ABd

TOGO

Aid for the voluntary reintegration of refugees from Togo. Resp. Auth.: Min. du Plan. Estimated cost 0.430 mECU. Project under the direction of CARE Togo. Socio-economic contribution for the reintegration of 17 000 togo refugees in their place of origin. EDF 7. EDF TO 7006 AHn

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Training project for young farmers (AYTRAP). Assistance for the young farmer to create rural enterprises. Estimated cost 7.300 mECU. EDF 5 mECU, local 2.300 mECU. Line of credit, T.A. and monitoring. Project on appraisal. EDF 6 and 7. EDF TR 7002 ACa

Support for Structural Adjustment Programme — General Import Programme II. Resp. Auth.: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. 4.300 mECU. Hard currency allowance to import ACP and EU goods with negative list. T.A. foreseen for short term missions by an international consultant and counter part local consultant, who should be trained in order to help monitoring the programme as well as with the organization and follow-up of the missions. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF TR 7200/001 AAc

TUVALU

Outer Island Primary School Rehabilitation. (Nukufetau and Nanumea). Resp. Auth.: Department of Education. 0.300 mECU. Works and supplies by restr. tender. Project on

appraisal. EDF 5 and 7.
EDF TV 7004

AFa

UGANDA

Support to the Uganda Investment Authority. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 1.950 mECU. Supply of equipment and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF UG 7005

AAc

Water supply in Hoima, Masindi and Mubende. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Natural Resources. Estimated total cost 12 mECU. Rehabilitation of catchments, treatment plants and water distribution network. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF UG 7010

ABb

VANUATU

Expansion of the National Technical Institute of Vanuatu (INTV) — tourism section. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Education. Estimated total cost 0.950 mECU. Building and supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF VA 7008

AFb

ZAIRE

Rehabilitation Support Programme. Resp. Auth.: Coordination and Management Unit. Estimated total 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 Kagal. Rehabilitation and maintenance of roads and farm access roads. Support for production and marketing, support for basic social infrastructure. T.A. and evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 6 and 7.
EDF ZR 6033

AAc

Support programme for the reinsertion of displaced persons in the Kasai province (PARK). 2 mECU. The programme will be implemented by Caritas (NI), Oxfam (UK), Nuova Frontiera (I), Gret (F), and Raoul Follereau (F). Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ZR 7255/001

ACa

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. Date foreseen for financing December 96. EDF 7.

EDF ZR 6029/001

AGz

ZAMBIA

Forestry management for sustainable woodfuel production in Zambia (along the railway line). Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Environment. Estimated total cost 2 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. Estimated total cost 15.360 mECU. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ZA 6014/001

ABd

★ **Economic Management and Planning Support Programme.** Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. 1.500 mECU. T.A. for long and short-term duration. Restr. tender. Lists to be established. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF ZA 7018

AAc

ZIMBABWE

OMAY Kanyati and Gatshe Gatshe land use and health programme. Resp. Auth.: A.D.A. 4.6 mECU. Raising the standard of living of rural population. Conservation and improved utilisation of the wildlife resources, support to agriculture and improvement of social infrastructure. Road network, water, sanitation, building of a district hospital, equipment and supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF ZIM 6004/7002

ACa

Gokwe north and south rural water supply and sanitation project. 6.100 mECU. Rehabilitation of existing water-points, new domestic water points, latrines, maintenance, health education. T.A., training, evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF ZIM 7001

ABb

Minefield clearance in N.E. Zimbabwe. Rural development, clearance of landmines. Zimbabwe minefields survey. Shortlist done. Estimated 10 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ZIM 7004

ACa

OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES (OCT)

ARUBA

T.A. for managerial training. 1.900 mECU. A training unit will train private and public executives and will advise companies on demand. Supplies T.A. and evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ARU 6006

AFb

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES — ARUBA

★ **Tourism development programme.** 5 mECU. Training, T.A., marketing in Europe. Project on appraisal. Date foreseen for financing October 96. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7835

AEc

Extension of Caribbean Regional Tourism Development Programme to the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. Integrated tourism project to strength the tourism sectors by extending the scope of relevant components of the CRTDP. Estimated total cost 0.400 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG/6917/001

AEc

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Bora-Bora Island Sanitation. Tourism Development. Resp. Auth.: Direction Territoriale de l'Équipement. 1.250 mECU. Lagoon environmental protection. Works by acc.tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 6 and 7.
EDF POF/6009/000

AHb,AGe

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Water and sewerage in Providenciales. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works, 3.700 mECU. Water supply works and pipes. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF TC 7001

AHb,c

ST. HELENA

Wharf improvement project. Resp. Auth.: Public Works and Service Department. Estimated total 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. EDF 7.
EDF SH 7001 ABd

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

Holo-Fakatoi Road in Wallis (RT2). EDF 0.600 mECU. Bitumen road. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF WF 7001 ABd

Construction of territorial road N° 1 in Futuna. 0.840 mECU. Works and rehabilitation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF WF 7003 ABd

REGIONAL PROJECTS

UGANDA — RWANDA — KENYA

Agro-forestry network for the East African Highlands. Provision of vehicles and motorbikes, audio and office equipment, weather stations and various laboratory and field equipment. Training, workshops, monitoring, evaluation. Project on appraisal. 4.850 mECU. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7309 ACa

EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Statistical training centre for Eastern Africa in Tanzania. Resp. Auth.: Secretariat of the centre. 5 mECU. Widening of capacity. Construction of classrooms, offices and housing. Project on appraisal. EDF 5.
EDF REG 5311 (7) AFb

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. Estimated total cost 50 mECU. 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. Estimated total

cost 6 mECU EDF, 5.175 mECU, France (foreseen) 0.375 mECU, Denmark (foreseen) 0.150 mECU, Mali-Guinea (foreseen) 0.300 mECU. Flood forecast system, hydrological model of local simulation with parametric regionalisation. Warming system via telecommunication and satellite teletransmission. Statistical studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 6181 AHf,g

CENTRAL AFRICA

CIESPAC — Public Health Education Centre in Central Africa. 1.980 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. République du Congo. Estimated total cost 12.500 mECU. To develop national and regional capacities for good management of forest resources. Works, supplies and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 6203/001 ACc

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. Equipment. T.A., training, management. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7503 AEz

Establishment of a University in the Indian Ocean region. Resp. Auth.: Indian Ocean Commission. Estimated cost 2.150 mECU. Creation of a network of research and training institutions providing support for existing institutions. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7501 AFb

COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CBI

Standardization and quality assurance. Resp. Auth.: COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa). Estimated total cost 2.543 mECU. To develop harmonized standardization and quality control practices. T.A. and training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7321 AEe

Regional Integration in Eastern and Southern Africa. Assistance to COMESA Secretariat. 1.950 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. Estimated total cost 1.930 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

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. Total estimated 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. Estimated total cost 5.100 mECU. Elaboration of training programmes and national plans. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7135 AGz

BENIN — CAMEROUN — COTE D'IVOIRE — GHANA — GUINEA — TOGO

Regional Programme to re-launch 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

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF IGAD

IGAD Household Energy Programme. Resp. Auth.: IGAD Executive Secretary. Estimated total cost 1.900 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 IGAD'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 IGAD member states. Estimated total cost 7.8 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG/7314/000 ACd, AFd

Cereals markets training programme. Resp. Auth. IGAD Executive Secretary. 1.990 mECU. T.A., equipment, evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 5359 ACa

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

SAHEL COUNTRIES

Support to strengthen vaccine independence in Sahel Africa. 9.5 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7012 ACa

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. Estimated total cost 12 mECU. *Financing date October 96.* EDF 7.
EDF REG 7106/02 AAF

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. Estimated 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

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF P.T.A.

Regional integration in East and Southern Africa. Assistance to PTA Secretariat. (Preferential Trade Area). Short and long-term. T.A., studies, training. Estimated cost 1.500 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7316 AAb

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. 4.900 mECU. Supply of security, air traffic control, navigation and meteorology, and training equipment. T.A. project on appraisal. EDF 6 and 7.
EDF REG 7704 ABc,d

SADC

T.A. for the SADC Secretariat. Resp. Auth. SADC Secretariat. 1.700 mECU. T.A., training. Financing date Sept 96. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7422 AAc

SADC-ECOWAS-ECOCAS

★ **Pilot project for sectoral industrial Fora: EU-SADC Mining Forum — MAT-CONSTRUCT-AGRO-IND.** Monitoring and follow-up. T.A. 0.500 mECU. *Project in execution.* EDF 7.
EDF REG 7428 ADe

BENIN — COTE D'IVOIRE — GHANA — GUINEA — GUINEA BISSAU — TOGO

Regional programme to boost of natural resource protection in coastal West African countries. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Environnement — Togo. Estimated cost 10 mECU. Priorities: fight against bush fires and deforestation, and for soil protection. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.
EDF REG 6113 ACe

KENYA — UGANDA — TANZANIA

Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project (Phase II). Project headquarters in Jinja-Uganda at FIRI-Fisheries Research Institute. EDF part 8.400 mECU. T.A., supplies, training, monitoring and evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 5316/001 ACd

ALL ACP STATES

★ **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 on appraisal. *Project in execution.* EDF 7.
EDF REG 70012/016 ACa

CARIBBEAN REGION

University level programme. Resp. Auth.: S.G. Cariforum. 21 mECU. To train a critical mass of Caribbean ACP nationals at masters degree level in development economics, business administration, public administration, agricultural diversification, natural resources, management and architecture, works, educational equipment, T.A., scholarships. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7604 AFB

Caribbean Postal Union. Resp. Auth.: S.G. Cariforum. 0.500 mECU. T.A. and other action necessary for the creation of the Caribbean Postal Union. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7605 ABc

Caribbean Telecommunication Union. Resp. Auth.: S.G. Cariforum. 0.500 MECU. T.A. for the accomplishment of the C.T.U. and the harmonisation of legislation on telecommunications within the Cariforum member states. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7605/001 ABc

Education policy and dialogue. Resp. Auth.: Cariforum S.G. 0.450 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. 1.500 mECU. 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 on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF REG 7610 AHi

★ **Tertiary level programme.** Estimated total cost 5 mECU. Upgrading tertiary level education and teacher training. *Financing date October 96.* EDF 7.
EDF REG 6628/001 AFb

Cariforum Regional Environment Programme. Resp. Auth.: SG Cariforum. Estimated total 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

DELEGATIONS OF THE COMMISSION IN ACP COUNTRIES AND OCTS

Angola

Rue Rainha Jinga 6,
Luanda C.P. 2669
Tel. (244 2) 303038 — 391277 — 391339
Telex 3397 DELCEE — AN
Fax (244 2) 392531

Barbados

James Fort Building
Hincks Street, Bridgetown.
Tel. (1 809) 4274362 — 4297103
Telex 2327 DELEGFED WB — BRID-
GETOWN
Fax (1 809) 4278687

Benin

Avenue Roume, Bâtiment administratif,
B.P. 910 Cotonou.
Tel. (229) 312684 — 312617
Telex 5257 DELEGFED — COTONOU
Fax (229) 315328

Botswana

P.O. Box 1253,
North Ring Road, Gaborone
Tel. (267) 314455 — 314456 — 314457
Telex 2403 DECEC — BD
Fax (267) 313626

Burkina Faso

B.P. 352,
Ouagadougou.
Tel. (226) 307385 — 307386 — 308650
Telex 5242 DELCOMEU — BF
Fax (226) 308966

Burundi

Avenue du 13 Octobre,
B.P. 103, Bujumbura.
Tel. (257) 223426 — 223892
Telex FED BDI 5031 — BUJUMBURA
Fax (257) 224612

Cameroon

105 rue 1770, Quartier Bastos,
B.P. 847 Yaoundé.
Tel. (237) 201387 — 203367
Fax (237) 202149

Cape Verde

Achada de Santo Antonio,
C.P. 122, Praia.
Tel. (238) 615571 — 615572 — 615573

Telex 6071 DELCE — CV
Fax (238) 615570

Central African Republic

Rue de Flandre,
B.P. 1298, Bangui.
Tel. (236) 613053 — 610113
Telex 5231 RC DELCOMEU — BANGUI

Chad

Route de Farcha,
B.P. 552, N'Djamena.
Tel. (235) 528977 — 527276
Telex 5245 KD
Fax (235) 527105

Comoros

Boulevard de la Corniche,
B.P. 559, Moroni.
Tel. (269) 732306 — 733191
Telex 212 DELCEC — KO
Fax (269) 732494

Congo

Avenue Lyautey (opposite Italian Embassy),
B.P. 2149 Brazzaville.
Tel. (242) 833878 — 833700
Fax (242) 836074

Côte d'Ivoire

18 rue du Dr. Crozet,
B.P. 1821, Abidjan 01.
Tel. (225) 212428 — 210928
Telex 23721 DELCEE — Abidjan
Fax (225) 214089

Djibouti

11 Boulevard du Maréchal Joffre,
B.P. 2477, Djibouti.
Tel. (253) 352615
Telex 5894 DELCOM — DJ
Fax (253) 350036

Dominican Republic

Calle Rafael Augusto Sanchez 21,
Ensanche Naco, Santo Domingo.
Tel. (1 809) 5405837 — 5406074
Telex 4757 EUROCOM — SD DR
Fax (1 809) 5675851

Equatorial Guinea

Route de l'Aéroport,
B.P. 779, Malabo.
Tel. (240 9) 2944

Telex DELFED 5402 — EG
Fax (240 9) 3275

Eritrea

Gainer Street 1,
P.O. Box 5710 Asmara.
Tel. (291 1) 126566
Fax (291 1) 126578

Ethiopia

P.O. Box 5570,
Addis Ababa.
Tel. (251 1) 612511
Telex 21738 DELEGEUR — ET
(251 1) 612877

Gabon

Lotissement des Cocotiers,
B.P. 321, Libreville.
Tel. (241) 732250
Telex DELEGFED 5511 GO — LIBREVILLE
Fax (241) 736554

Gambia

10 Nelson Mandela Street,
P.O. Box 512, Banjul
Tel. (220) 227777
Fax (220) 226219

Ghana

The Round House, 65 Cantonments Road,
P.O. Box 9505, (Kotoka International Air-
port), Accra.
Tel. (233 21) 774201 — 774202 — 774236
Telex 2069 DELCOM — GH
Fax (233 21) 774154

Guinea

Commission Central Mail Department,
(Diplomatic Bag Section — B1/123),
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels.
Tel. (224) 414942
Fax (224) 411874

Guinea Bissau

Bairro da Penha,
C.P. 359, 1113 Bissau.
Tel. (245) 251027 — 251071 — 251469 —
251471
Fax (245) 251044

Guyana

72 High Street, Kingston,
P.O. Box 10847, Georgetown.

Tel. (592 2) 64004 — 65424
Telex 2258 DELEG GY — GEORGETOWN
Fax (592 2) 62615

Haiti

Delmas 60, Impasse Brave n°1,
B.P. 15588, Petion Ville, Port au Prince.
Tel. (509) 494480 — 493491
Fax 490246

Jamaica

8 Olivier Road,
P.O. Box 463, Constant Spring, Kingston 8.
Tel (1 809) 9246333/4/5/6/7
Telex 2391 DELEGEC — JA
Fax (1 809) 9246339

Kenya

Union Insurance Building, Ragati Road,
P.O. Box 45119, Nairobi.
Tel. (254 2) 713020 — 713021 — 712860
— 712905 — 712906
Telex 22483 DELEUR — KE

Lesotho

167 Constitution Road,
P.O. Box MS 518, Maseru.
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, 67 Ha.,
B.P. 746 Antananarivo.
Tel. (261 2) 24216
Telex 22327 DELFED — MG
Fax (261 2) 32169

Malawi

Europa House,
P.O. Box 30102, Capital City, Lilongwe 3
Tel. (265) 783199 — 783124 — 782743
Telex 44260 DELEGEUR MI — LILONGWE
Fax (265) 783534

Mali

Avenue de l'OUA, Badalabougou Est,
B.P. 115, Bamako.
Tel. (223) 222356 — 222065
Telex 2526 DELEGFED — BAMAKO
Fax (223) 223670

Mauritania

Ilôt V, Lot 24,
B.P. 213, Nouakchott.
Tel. (222 2) 52724 — 52732
Telex 5549 DELEG MTN — NOUAKCHOTT
Fax (222 2) 53524

Mauritius

61/63 Route Floréal,
P.O. Box 10, Vacoas.
Tel. (230) 6865061 — 6865062 —
6865063
Telex 4282 DELCEC — IW VACOAS
Fax (230) 6866318

Mozambique

1214 Avenida do Zimbabwe,
C.P. 1306, Maputo.
Tel. (258 1) 490266 — 491716 — 490271
Telex 6-146 CCE MO
Fax (258 1) 491866

Namibia

4th Floor, Sanlam Building, 154 Indepen-
dence Avenue,
Windhoek.
Tel. (264 61) 220099
Telex 419 COMEU WK
Fax (264 61) 235135

Netherlands Antilles (OCT)

Scharlooweg 37,
P.O. Box 822, Willemstad (Curaçao).
Tel. (599 9) 618488
Fax (599 9) 618423

Niger

B.P. 10388, Niamey.
Tel. (227) 732360 — 732773 — 734832
Telex 5267 NI DELEGFED — NIAMEY
Fax (227) 732322

Nigeria

Lagos
3 Idowu Taylor Street, Victoria Island,
P.M. Bag 12767, Lagos.
Tel. (234 1) 2617852 — 2610857
Telex 21868 DELCOM NG LAGOS —
NIGERIA
Fax (234 1) 2617248

Abuja

Tel. (234 9) 5233144 — 5233145 —
5233146
Fax (234 9) 5233147

Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu)

4th Floor, Development Bank Centre, Vic-
toria Parade,
Private Mail Bag, Suva.
Tel. (679) 313633
Telex 2311 DELECOM FJ — SUVA
Fax (679) 300370

Papua New Guinea

The Lodge (3rd Floor), Bampton street,
P.O. Box 76, Port Moresby.
Tel. (675) 213544 — 213504 — 213718
Fax (675) 217850

Rwanda

Avenue Député Kamuzinzi 14,
B.P. 515 Kigali.
Tel. (250) 75586 — 75589 — 72536
Telex 22515 DECCE RW
Fax (250) 74313

Senegal

12 Avenue Albert Sarraut,
B.P. 3345, Dakar.
Tel. (221) 231314 — 234777
Fax (221) 236885

Sierra Leone

Wesley House, 4 George Street,
P.O. Box 1399, Freetown.
Tel. (232 22) 223975 — 223025
Fax (232 22) 225212

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, Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel. (254 2) 712830 — 713250 — 713251
Fax (254 2) 710997

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,
P.O. Box 484, Paramaribo.
Tel. (597) 499322 — 499349 — 492185
Fax (597) 493076

Swaziland

Dhlan'Ubeka Building (3rd floor),
Cr. Walker and Tin Streets,
P.O. Box A 36, Mbabane.
Tel. (268) 42908 — 42018
Telex 2133 EEC WD
Fax (268) 46729

Tanzania

38 Mirambo Street,
P.O. Box 9514, Dar es Salaam.
Tel. (255 51) 117473 (pilot) - 117474 -
117475 - 117476
Telex 41353 DELCOMEUR TZ
Fax (255 51) 113277

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. (809) 6226628 — 6220591
Fax (809) 6226355

Uganda

Rwenzori House, 1 Lumumba Avenue,
P.O. Box 5244, Kampala.
Tel. (256 41) 233303 — 233304
Telex 61139 DELEUR UG
Fax (256 41) 233708

Zaire

71 Avenue des Trois Z,
B.P. 2000, Kinshasa.
Tel. and fax (by satellite) 00871 1546221
Telex 581 154 62 21 DECEKIN ZR

Zambia

Plot 4899, Los Angeles Boulevard,
P.O. Box 34871, Lusaka.
Tel. (260 1) 250711 — 251140
Telex 40440 DECEC ZA
Fax (260 1) 250906

Zimbabwe

6th floor, Construction House,
110 Leopold Takawira Street,
P.O. Box 4252, Harare.
Tel. (263 4) 707120 — 707139 — 752835
Telex 24811 DELEUR ZW
Fax (263 4) 725360

OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION IN ACP COUNTRIES AND OCTS

Aruba (OCT)

L.G. Smith Boulevard 50,
P.O. Box 409, Oranjestad.
Tel. (297 8) 34131
Fax (297 8) 34575

Antigua and Barbuda

2nd floor, Alpha Building,
Redcliffe Street,
P.O. Box 1392, St. John's.
Tel; and fax (1 809) 4622970

Bahamas

2nd floor, Frederick House, Frederick Street,
P.O. Box N-3246, Nassau.
Tel. (1 32) 55850

Belize

1 Eyre Street,
P.O. Box 907, Belize City.
Tel. and Fax (501 2) 72785
Telex 106 CEC BZ

Grenada

Archibald Avenue,
P.O. Box 5, St. George's.
Tel. (1 809) 4404958 — 4403561
Telex (attn. EC Delegation) 3431 CWBUR
GA
Fax (1 809) 4404151

New Caledonia (OCT)

21 Rue Anatole France,
B.P. 1100, Noumea
Tel. (687) 277002
Fax (687) 288707

São Tomé and Príncipe

B.P. 132, São Tomé.
Tel (239 12) 21780 — 21375
Telex 224 DELEGFED ST
Fax (239-12) 22683

Seychelles

P.O. Box 530, Victoria, Mahé.
Tel. (248) 323940
Fax. (248) 323890

Tonga

Malle Taha, Taufa'ahau Road,
Private Mailbag n° 5-CPO, Nuku'Alofa.
Tel. (676) 23820
Telex 66207 DELCEC TS
Fax (676) 23869

Vanuatu

Ground floor, Orient Investment Building,
Kumul Highway,
P.O. Box 422, Port Vila.
Tel. (678) 22501
Fax (678) 23282

Western Samoa

4th floor, Loane Viliamu Building,
P.O. Box 3023, Apia.
Fax (685) 24622

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

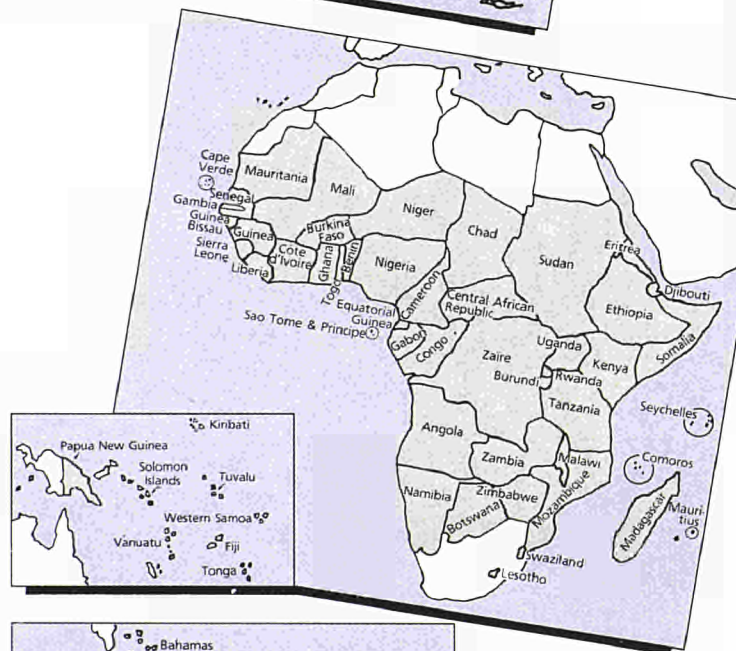
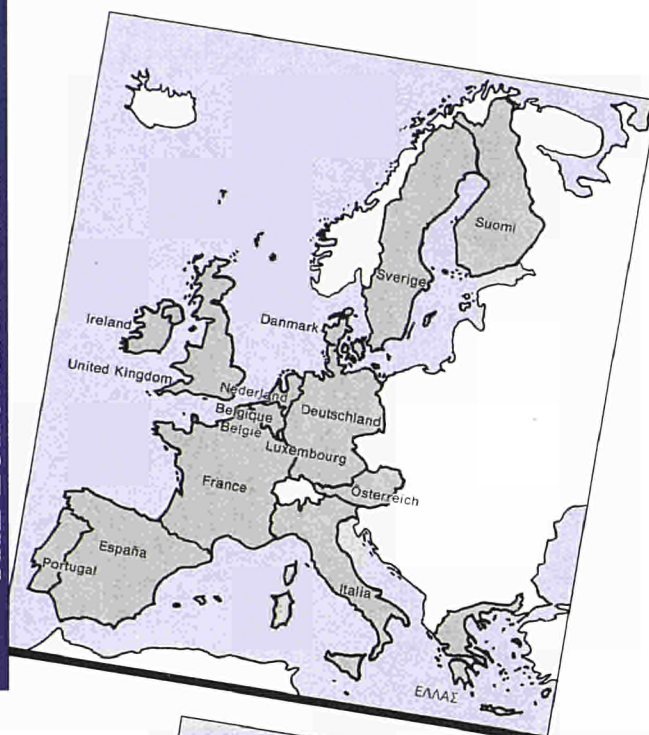
Denmark

(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 EUROPEAN UNION



THE 70 ACP STATES

Angola
Antigua & Barbuda
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
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
Sao Tome & Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad & Tobago
Tuvalu
Uganda
Western Samoa
Vanuatu
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

General Secretariat
of the ACP Group
of States
Avenue Georges Henri, 451
1200 Brussels
Belgium
Tel.: 743.06.00

Back cover:
Ouagadougou,
Burkina Faso

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.

A large, stylized bronze sculpture of a woman, likely a public art piece. The woman is depicted from the waist up, with her arms raised high. She wears a red headscarf with white geometric patterns and a large hoop earring. Her right arm is extended upwards, holding a large, textured, golden-brown fruit, possibly a mango or a large orange. Her left arm is also raised, with several thin bracelets on her wrist. The sculpture is set against a clear blue sky. In the background, a cityscape with buildings and trees is visible. The overall style is modern and expressive.

Burkina Faso