

Africa, Caribbean, Pacific

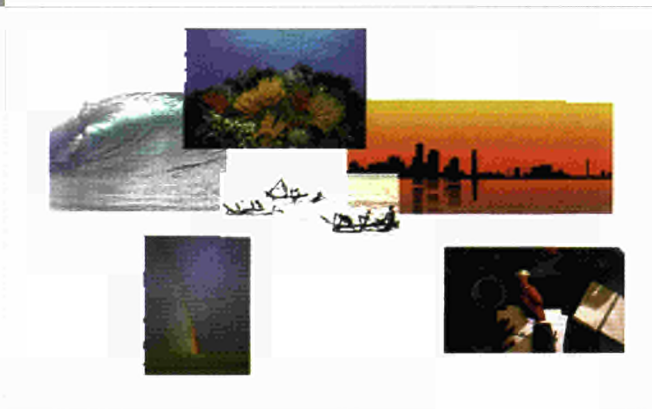


The Shared Ocean



Cooperation between the European Union and the
African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States

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THE SHARED OCEAN

Historically, the sea has been the gateway to our encounters with other civilisations and the lifeblood of many different peoples and cultures. The ocean is a bridge, not a chasm, bringing home to us the true meaning of our ideals of tolerance, cooperation, and the sharing of goods and ideas.

In our partnership with the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, the oceans represent not a frontier, but a common heritage of precious and fragile riches. Cooperation is and will always be essential if we are to conserve this marine heritage and protect its delicate balance.

That does not mean we have a special policy entitled «maritime cooperation». Our awareness of these issues is reflected in many sectors, from protecting and exploiting the environment and natural

resources, managing fisheries and improving shipping to ensuring that tourist developments are socially, culturally and economically integrated into the local communities.

Whether the issue is controlling marine vegetation, managing coastal areas, helping small fishermen or developing eco-tourism, from Gambia to the Pacific and from Mozambique to the Indian Ocean, it is more important than ever that we work together to keep intact the vast spiritual and material wealth the oceans have brought to humanity.

João de Deus PINHEIRO



THE LOMÉ CONVENTION

In 1975, the nine Member States which then made up the European Community signed a cooperation agreement in Lomé with 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The aim was to promote and accelerate the ACP States' economic, cultural and social development and also strengthen and diversify relations between the partners to the agreement in a spirit of solidarity. Since then, the original text has been revised several times, the current Convention embracing the 15 Member States of the European Union and 71 ACP States, representing over 500 million people...

Over the past twenty years, the Convention itself may have changed, but the underlying philosophy has not. EU-ACP cooperation is based on fundamen-



environment

tal principles such as equal partnership, respect for sovereignty, mutual interests and interdependence. The keynote is not assistance, but genuine dialogue, since it is the ACP States themselves which determine the way their economies and societies develop.

WHY COOPERATION ?

The European Union therefore plays a leading role in international development cooperation. But why the interest? Apart from a moral duty, there is clearly a direct link between under-development and the scale of humanitarian disasters, whether natural or man-made (wars, pollution of the oceans, etc.). Like it or not, the whole planet is involved. In most cases, the devastating consequences of these disasters could be limited



and contained if adequate measures were taken in time.

Cooperation is not just for those emergency situations splashed across the media. It is all to do with lasting economic and social well-being which helps to guarantee peace and world equilibrium and preserve the environment with everyone on the winning side - both the countries receiving aid and the donors.

THE MEANS

The Lomé Convention is not simply an expression of good will. Europeans provide 50% of all the aid received by the developing countries and half of that Community aid goes to the ACP States.

Some people say this is too much, but is it really? To give an idea, in 1994 overall European development aid cost each of the

370 million citizens of the fifteen EU States on average ECU 64. The proportion of those ECU 64 managed by the European Commission, i.e. covered by the Lomé Convention, amounted to a modest



ECU 5 - less than the price of a cinema ticket.

CLEAR GUARANTEES

European budgets are not just allocated randomly. The European Development Fund works for the beneficiary countries, respecting negotiated priorities and strict procedures.

Besides economic feasibility and performance-related criteria, the Commission is increasingly imposing requirements in the areas of respect for human rights

and the rule of law, both of which are linked to a commitment to democracy. The policy set out in Lomé is not one of assistance, but cooperation.

The beneficiaries are involved at all stages of the decision-making process. The aid is also subject to a multitude of checks, and the Commission has set up fraud detection and prevention measures. The presence of an EU delegation in each ACP country helps to ensure that procedures run smoothly.

CONTRASTING RESULTS

Given the sheer scope of the task, the results of development aid sometimes seem meagre and, hence a degree of scepticism.

Although slow to emerge, the favourable results of structural adjustment are plain to see in a good many countries: higher

and faster growth rates, diminishing budget deficits, tighter control of inflation and gearing of real exchange rates to the fundamental economic targets.

Many ACP States have therefore managed to break out of the vicious circle.

Mauritius, Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Benin are acknowledged examples of economic growth.

Increased life expectancy, access to drinking water, health, literacy, economic reforms and political changes directed at greater democracy, are all signs of recovery. The prospects for a rise in *per capita* income for the period 1990-2000 further gives rise to optimism.

THE OCEAN: RESOURCES AND A FRAGILE ECOSYSTEM

The ocean is not dealt with as a separate topic in the Lomé Convention.

It straddles several sectors, namely the environment, fisheries, maritime transport and tourism.

Community-funded projects have been carried out in these four areas.

The environment

Protecting and developing the environment and natural resources, halting damage to coastal areas and re-establishing ecological balances are fundamental objectives in many ACP States. The scale of the problem and the means required are such that measures are included in overall, long-term policies. Environmental conservation calls for a comprehensive approach, and European Union aid can be instrumental. However,

the environmental impact of all projects is taken into account.

Fisheries

Management of fishery resources often reveals conflicts of interest. It is often difficult to reconcile environmental conservation with development of coastal fisheries and tourism, the interests of promoters and the wishes of the local population. Constant research, pooling of information and close collaboration between all the public and private players involved, are the only way of solving such conflicts of interest. This collaboration is particularly vital because if the balance is tipped in favour of one area of interest rather than another, sooner or later the situation will turn against all the economic and social players concerned, even those who appeared to be in the best position at the outset.



One of the results of the research undertaken with EU aid is "Fishbase", a database on the world's fish. It lists some 24 000 species. This information system (on CD-ROM) requires inexpensive equipment and is widely used in the ACP States. The database provides information and statistics on fish resources. It is used for training and higher education and it encourages the conservation of biodiversity.

Transport

Maritime transport is one of the driving forces of economic development and trade promotion between Europe and the ACP States. The aim of cooperation in this sector is to ensure the smooth development of effective and reliable transport services, in economically satisfactory conditions. In many cases, transport structures require a major overhaul to become fully competitive.

Tourism

The aim here is to support the ACP States' efforts to develop tourism because of its impact on economic expansion. Particular attention is paid to the need to incorporate tourism in people's social, cultural and economic life. Every effort is made to ensure that unchecked tourist development does not destroy landscapes or natural resources.

Menacing plants

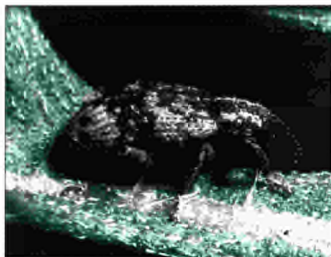
Integrated control of aquatic flora

At the beginning of the 1980s, seemingly harmless aquatic plants - water hyacinth, salvinia, water lettuce - began to invade the shores of West Africa. But these fearsome weeds choke channels and hydraulic power plants, affect the quality of water and destroy ecological balances as a result of deoxygenation. They further threaten flora and fauna, impede transport, hamper fishing activities and destroy livelihood.

At the request of the Ghanaian Government, the EU, together with the FAO, provided aid totalling ECU 485 000 for a plan to eradicate the menacing plants. Three methods were used to halt the invasion: hand and mechanical removal, spraying with insecticide and biological control. Whereas the first method proved expensive and the

second carried risks for flora and fauna, the third - biological control - successfully tried out in Australia - seemed to offer a long-term solution.

It involves introducing small insects which are the natural enemies of such plants (weevils, moths etc.). This method is environmentally friendly and once the process is under way, allows a country to carry on the fight independently. The initial cost is high and there is a need for scientific monitoring and a transfer of know-how to the local population (the insects are imported and bred in special units).



The protection of lagoons, lakes, rivers and canals helps to improve aquatic resources, food security, public health and transport and increases rural job opportunities. The project will continue until 1999. EU aid has enabled the Ghanaian Government to continue and extend the project, which involves all sorts of organisations and individuals, including local people and academics.

BACALAR CHICO

Belize: A promising start

National park and marine reserve



Bacalar Chico shelters Belize's coral reef - the second largest in the world - renowned for its major biological, geological and archaeological importance. The area is full of coral, lagoons, mangroves, stretches of virgin forest, very specific flora and fauna and vestiges of the Maya civilisation. Bacalar Chico is, in fact, just one of the seven sites in this area which is home to species threatened with extinction such as sea turtles, manatees and the American salt-water crocodile.

Before the European Union's intervention, the region's natural and archaeological riches were under serious threat from rampant hotel and tourist industry development all along the coast, deep-sea diving and over-exploitation of fishing grounds. Under the coastal area

management project, in which the EU has invested ECU 570 000, measures have been taken to protect flora and fauna, raise public awareness and prevent coastal erosion. Collaboration with two NGOs focused on studying and listing land and sea natural resources.



At the same time, information campaigns have been targeted at some 12 000 pupils and 700 teachers in 60 schools and 48 people have been trained in marine research techniques.

The technical capacities of the Fisheries Department of Belize University College have been stepped up. A ban on net fishing and on «factory» ships has borne fruit. Two years after the introduction of legislation, the quantity and size of crayfish has increased, as has the number of other fish.

As a result of the measures taken, Bacalar Chico has become a national park and marine reserve and it has also been made a UNESCO world heritage site. The protection of this site with its exceptional eco-tourism potential, is already reaping many economic and social benefits.

BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO

Controlling the environment

Resource multiple-use project

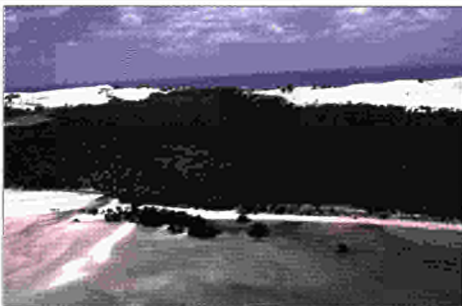
A little way off the coast of Mozambique lies Bazaruto archipelago, which consists of five islands: Bazaruto, Santa Carolina, Benguera, Magaruque and Bangué. Sixty communities live on these islands and the traditional economy is based on fishing, handi-crafts, agriculture, boat-building and transport services.

Following the attribution in 1973 of national parks status to the islands of Benguera, Magaruque and Bangué and the adoption of an initial project for the conservation of the entire archipelago in 1989, the EU and World Wildlife Fund subsequently launched in 1994 a nine-year plan to manage the site. Judging from the threats to the environment such as deforestation, over-grazing, agricultural burning, over-exploitation of marine resources and unchecked tourism, it is a much-needed plan.

The aim of the project is to protect the ecosystem, guarantee the sustainable use of resources, strengthen the local economy and promote suitable tourism development. One of the main ideas is to raise people's awareness of the situation and get local communities to take part in ensuring the project's success.

The protection of marine fauna and flora is at the root of sustainable management of natural resources. Employing park rangers has led to a considerable improvement. Since the project began, the reefs' coral, shells and plants seem to be in a better state. The protection of marine mammals is proving increasingly effective.

This strategy has already had a favourable social and economic impact on all the inhabitants of the archipelago. The conditions are now ripe for applying a tourism policy which will raise the earnings of the local population. In the long term, the project could result in the five islands' incorporation into a Bazaruto National Marine Park, extended and protected by world heritage status.





The benefits of the project will go further than the archipelago. The whole country will reap the benefits of the current scheme. The heightened awareness of the population, the acquisition of nature protection techniques, the Mozambican Government's cooperation and the results achieved in the archipelago, will have repercussions on the mainland, leading to a more extensive coastal protection programme.



In Gambia, as in many other countries, fishing can make a very effective contribution to economic and social development. According to the FAO, fish can provide, on average, about 20% of protein requirements. Gambia's fisheries infrastructures are, however, poor and basic. Traditionally, fishing is not a highly developed activity among the local people and consequently many fishermen from Senegal have settled in Gambia.

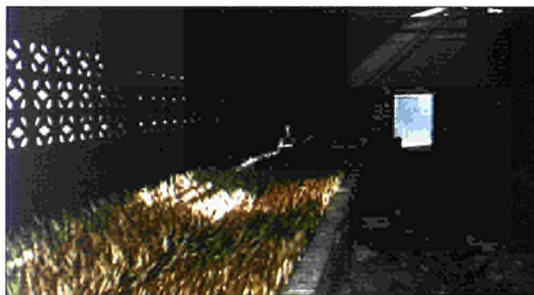
Most European support for the development of non-industrial fishing in Gambia was provided in the mid-1980s. Despite time limits on aid and the difficulties encountered on

the spot, results are encouraging. By 1990 already, Gambians were consuming some 20kg of fish per person per year - 7 kg more than the world average. Catches of some less expensive species meant that meat imports could be reduced. Besides these immediate effects, European aid, in conjunction with contributions from Japan and Canada, have had longer term consequences. Improved techniques have fostered social progress of the communities concerned. In the absence of refrigerators and ice, new fishing, smoking and drying methods have encouraged conservation.

New smoking ovens - which are less dangerous to use, and burn less wood - are more environmentally friendly.

On a larger scale, non-industrial fishing has served as starting point for exports of fish and crayfish to the factories of neighbouring countries and fresh shrimps to Europe. And Gambian operators have re-opened the trade routes to Guinea so that, for example, dried fish can be traded for palm oil.

Gambian non-industrial fishing is now continuing to develop without external support.



Long-term repercussions

*Community development
programme in the northern coastal area*



In Sierra Leone, fishing could make a significant contribution to national economic development, both by providing fish (non-industrial fishing) and through income raised from issuing licences to foreign vessels. One of the problems is to strike a balance between the different forms of exploitation of resources.

At the end of the 1970s, massive deployment of foreign vessels in the country's territorial waters caused a worrying drop in non-industrial output. It is against this backdrop that the European Development Fund has provided Sierra Leone with aid since the beginning of the 1980s. An initial sum of ECU 1.7 million was used primarily for the technical development of non-industrial fishing (boats and engines).

At the end of the 1980s, a larger amount of aid (ECU 6.6 million) was granted as part of a more ambitious

plan. Its objectives were to step up non-industrial production, thereby improving living and working conditions, protect the coast by fostering rational use of resources and help the Government to take account of the fisheries issue.



In 1997, additional aid of ECU 2 million was granted. This time, the programme concentrated on strengthening village cooperatives. Thanks to these, very practical measures were taken in a range of areas: education, support for the health services and construction, preservation of mangrove resources and the granting of loans for economic activities. Unfortunately, political upheavals have affected

the economy, including that of relatively stable regions. If the situation stabilises on a long-term basis, all the conditions have been met for reactivating the economy in the coastal region. The populations of the villages of Soussou and Temne in particular have a business sense and are unstinting in their efforts.



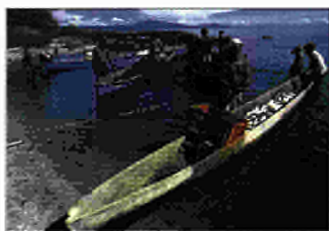
FISHING IN THE PACIFIC

Clearly identified fish

Tagging tuna



Tuna fishing plays a major role in the economic equilibrium of the South Pacific islands. This fish, of an average size of 1.5m but sometimes as big as 2m or 3m, is very sensitive to the environment, particularly to water temperature. Tuna burns up energy so it is constantly on the lookout for food - it consumes 5% to 15% of its own weight every day. It is a big predator and migrator and plays a crucial role in the balance of ecosystems.



Scientific management of stocks is therefore vital not only to assure the future, but also to devise a balanced fisheries policy between non-industrial fishermen, national fleets and large international fisheries. It is in this connection

that the EU provided financing of ECU 10.7 million for a large-scale programme to tag tuna. The programme began in 1989 and involves eight South Pacific states: Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Samoa.

Tagging tuna is a delicate operation which has to be done in the space of a few minutes. Once the tuna is caught, an identification tag is attached to the fish and it is then returned to the sea. When it is subsequently caught by a fisherman, he sends the tag to the South Pacific Commission (SPC) together with information such as its measurements and the date and place of capture. By examining the otoliths - calcium concretions contained in the fish's inner ear and necessary for its balance - it is possible to determine its age (each line corresponds to a day of life). All these data are

analysed and models developed to follow migrations and assess stock composition.

Under the project, over 13 000 tuna were tagged in the main fishing area of the western Pacific. At the end of 1995, over 11% of the tags had been recovered and sent to the SPC. The data collated was used to formulate an effective stock management policy, with the close involvement of the scientific community, support from the governments concerned and participation by the local population. The project also demonstrates the advantages of regional cooperation for the management of marine resources. For the future, other evaluation methods, such as oceanographic satellites, are being considered.



It takes a truck over 20 days to get from Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) to Bamako (Mali) and about 60 days to move a container from the port of Dar-Es-Salaam (Tanzania) to the Copperbelt (Zambia). In Africa, the length of trips is measured in weeks, if not months, rather than in hours. Lack of investment, poor maintenance of ports, outmoded management methods, theft and loss of goods and a host of other factors, have disastrous repercussions on local industries and foreign trade. In sub-Saharan Africa, the problem is par-



ticularly crucial for 15 landlocked countries whose imports and exports depend on other countries'

ports and the functioning of transit corridors.

The catastrophic droughts of 1984-85 in the Sahel, demonstrated the effectiveness of the logistics and telecommunications used by the UN, giving rise to the SIAM project. Developed by UNCTAD and backed by the EU, the World Bank, the UN, France and Germany, SIAM is an information system on the movement of goods, using inexpensive computers and a standard data exchange system.

SIAM combines the use of ports, railways and roads. The computer system is made up of independent modules and is used to manage communication corridors such as between Dakar and Bamako, Abidjan and Ouagadougou, Mombasa and Kampala, Beira and Zimbabwe. SIAM identifies bottlenecks or problem spots and helps to overcome them.

The system helps to prevent incidents and solve problems which in the past were hushed up to conceal bureaucratic inefficiency. SIAM provides daily information on the situation of goods, statistics for planning and operational management and performance indicators.

There have been rapid results. But besides the quantifiable effects, one of the most interesting consequences is the growing awareness of the shared interests of port authorities, shippers, shipowners, hauliers, governments and regional organisations.

From time immemorial, man has exploited the coastal resources of the Indian Ocean for food, decorative items, materials, fertilisers and other daily needs. The wealth of these areas is now under threat. Concrete edifices have mushroomed along the coast, ruining the landscape. Waste water drains off into the sea and destroys the fauna and flora of coral reefs. Intensive farming, using large amounts of fertilisers and pesticides, pollutes the marine environment. Uncontrolled exploitation of reefs jeopardises their role as a natural barrier against the inroads of the ocean.

Although tourism generates income and jobs, it has adverse effects if it is allowed to develop unchecked. Pollution, alterations to the landscape, over-exploitation and declining natural resources, end up by putting off the tourists themselves.

Only a long-term policy involving everyone from the region, will be able to preserve ecosystems and at the same time encourage smooth development of tourism and other economic or social activities. It is in this spirit that the member countries of the action



plan for cooperation between the islands of the Indian Ocean (IOC) have been working since 1989. Together with the local and territorial authorities and NGOs, the EU has provided aid of ECU 11 million to draw up an inventory and launch pilot projects. The aim is to achieve integrated management of coastal areas, taking account of all the ecological and socioeconomic aspects.

An audit of the state of natural resources - beaches, cliffs, water quality, rare habitats, threatened species - provided an opportunity to examine issues connected with non-industrial and traditional fishing, urbanisation, transport, agriculture, stock-rearing and tourism. The audit has helped to step up cooperation between states and regions and raise the local population's awareness. Five pilot projects have been carried out: Madagascar (Menabe), the Comoros (upgrading the Itsandra site), the Seychelles (green tourism upgrading of 3km of coast at Grande Anse), Mauritius (integrated management of the eastern zone) and Réunion (management of the lagoon park).



In the South Pacific, tourism is a major factor in economic expansion and job creation. But cultural identity and protection of the environment are fundamental values for the region's people. They therefore approach tourism with caution. The French Overseas Territory of New Caledonia has much to offer the tourist and is attempting to make a name for itself through its natural and cultural heritage.

In this sense, the aquarium is a valuable educational and scientific tool for informing the public about protecting the lagoon and helping them to understand the fragile mechanisms of ecosystems. Nouméa Aquarium was set up in 1956. Today, it is the most visited attraction in New Caledonia. It houses crea-

tures which do not usually survive in captivity.

The new aquarium, due to open at the end of 2000, will be much more than just a tourist attraction. With its 2 000m² and six times more water than the old aquarium, it will be both a eco tourist attraction and a training and research centre. This fascinating place is the result of the joint efforts of various local authorities and the EU, which provided aid of ECU 4.5 million for feasibility studies and a technical and architectural competition. Additional aid of ECU 1.427 million has been granted to the Province, the Territory and the Town of Nouméa.

The project, chosen from a shortlist of five, is the one best reproducing natural

conditions and best fitting with the surrounding landscape. Visitors will encounter many of the biological and human activities connected with the lagoon. They will experience not only the hot and humid atmosphere of the forest and the myriad colours of coral and tiny fish, but also come close to rays, black-tip reef sharks, sea fans and nautilus, which are akin to living fossils.

The whole design of the aquarium will demonstrate the importance of managing the sea and man's relationship with his surroundings, and also the care needed in exploiting this fragile habitat while preserving its potential for future generations. Visitors will also find a host of information about New Caledonia's natural sites - a good way of reconciling environment and tourism!



transport

tourism

perspectives



The new focus of cooperation will be on boosting the political content, more support for the economic and commercial competitiveness of ACP products, and greater emphasis on effectiveness and consistency.

The Commission is endeavouring, among other things, to improve the structural adjustment system with a view to long-term development: financing basic infrastructure, the fight against poverty, education, food security etc. The 1995 review resulted in a 20% increase in the structural adjustment budget. And there is more to come. The Lomé Agreements will be renegotiated as of September 1998. Expected improvements include taking account of the social dimension of adjustment programmes, a tailoring to the specific characteristics of each country and the fullest

possible involvement of the local population at every stage of the process.

The idea is increasingly to move away from financial and technical assistance to real political cooperation, extending the European Union's external policy and making it an essential aspect of its identity. At the same time, the partnership must open its doors wider to civil society, whether it be economic operators, social actors or local authorities. In this era of globalisation, a new approach to cooperation is more than ever necessary.



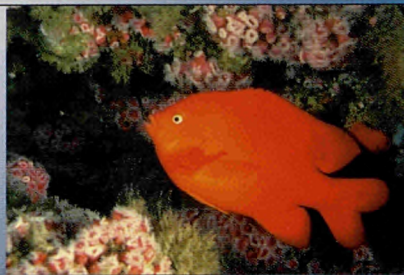
The European Commission therefore wishes to maintain the EU-ACP partnership, but proposes the reinforcement of its political dimension, more rigorous and selective management of aid instruments and an integrated approach to poverty. The ACP States' progressive integration into the liberalised world economy should also be encouraged.

Mr João de Deus Pinheiro, the Member of the Commission responsible for development, recently stated that post-colonial days were over and the donor-recipient mentality was a thing of the past. He went on to say that the Union and the ACP countries had common interests to develop and a strategic opportunity to grasp within a brighter, more ambitious project.



The Shared Ocean

The ocean, whose wealth is shared by all mankind, is a resource where cooperation is vital: the seas have no frontiers either for fish or pollution. At a time when the potential of the seas is being acknowledged, never has concerted international action been more necessary. Cooperation between the European Union and the 71 ACP States reaches many areas, funding: development of fisheries, modernisation of ports, preservation of the environment and upgrading of tourist resources. It seeks to foster an approach which takes into account the interests of all partners.



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