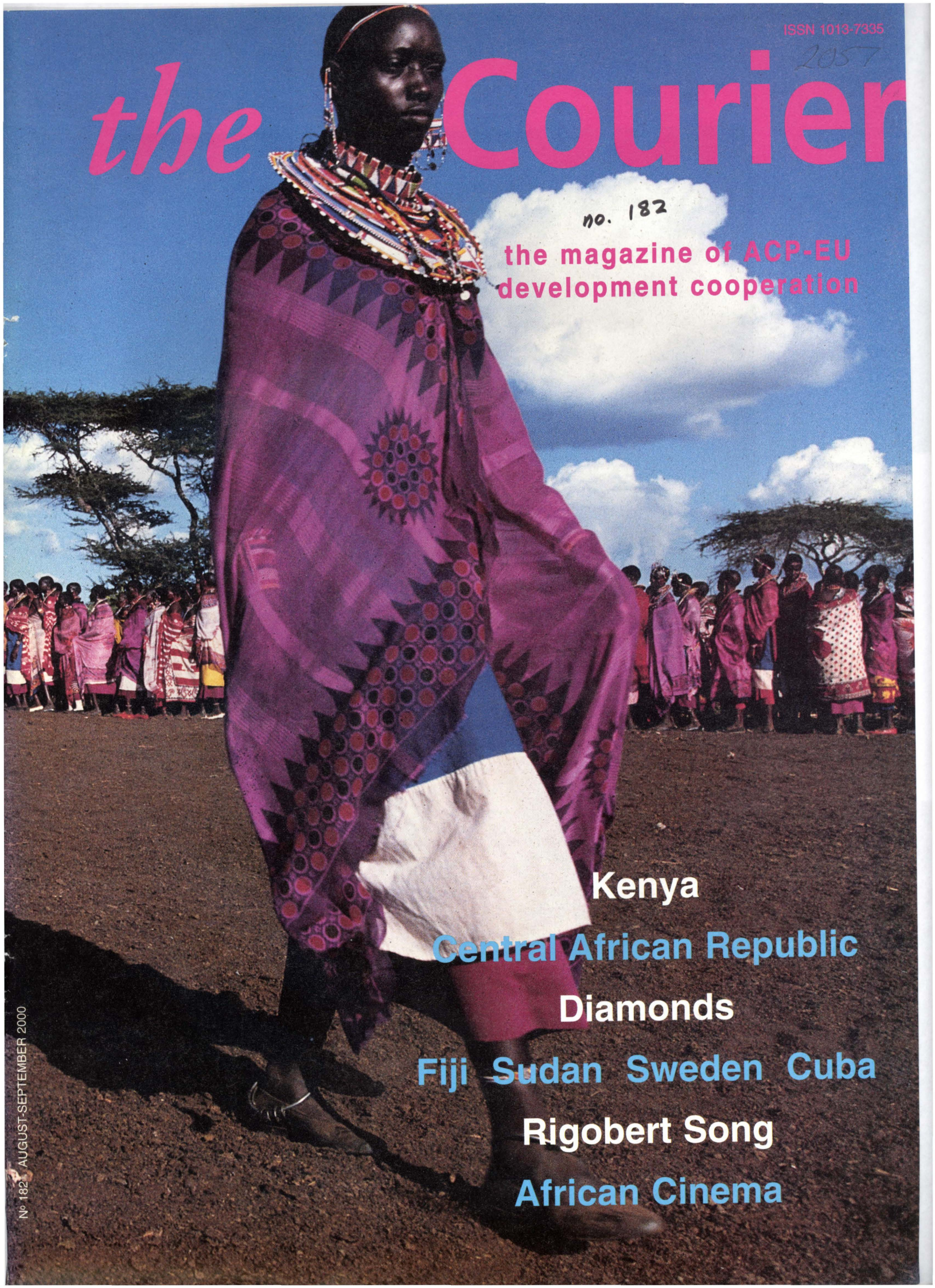


the **Courier**

no. 182

the magazine of ACP-EU
development cooperation



Kenya

Central African Republic

Diamonds

Fiji Sudan Sweden Cuba

Rigobert Song

African Cinema



Cuba's economic reconstruction is echoed by the extensive reconstruction of dilapidated buildings

Postal Address

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European Commission
200 rue de la Loi
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http://europa.eu.int/comm/development/publicat/courier/index_en.htm

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Cover**Kenya**

Maasai women at a blessing ceremony where women get together to discuss their problems. Held only every 7 - 10 years, its rituals are very precise: a certain kind of cow is sacrificed, elders are chosen to conduct the ceremony, there are fasts and special dances including trances, and last of all a purification ceremony where a special mixture of beer and honey is sprayed on the women.

Credit: Betty Press, Panos Pictures

Published in English and French.

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The ACP - EU Courier
is the main publication of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the European Union. The EU provides ACP countries with preferential access to EC markets and substantial development assistance (some two to three billion euros a year). The ACP and EU cooperate at a political level and engage in a continuous political dialogue: in trade, to promote the integration of the ACP countries into the World Economy and in development assistance, with the clear objective to promote sustainable development and the reduction of poverty.



by **Poul Nielson**
**Commissioner
for Development
and Humanitarian Aid**

Poverty is increasing in absolute numbers.

This means that it is getting worse, in real terms - we are not making the progress we forecast in Copenhagen five years ago. Why? And how are we going to turn this around? Some people say that this is impossible, but I would suggest that this depends on the approach.

In the past, development aid was given as Projects - a need was identified, and a project developed to attempt to meet it.

I believe - in common with other donors - that a better way to achieve our goal of significant poverty alleviation is to work with Sector Programmes. Not just a project here and a project there to deal with the symptoms of the disease, but something wider and more comprehensive, to address the disease itself.

This approach begins at the beginning - by dealing with the basic work that is necessary to make change possible. It gives a basis for reasonable discussion and commits both donor and recipient to shared cooperation, working together to make a difference.

As an example, if access to education is a problem, it is of course very good for everyone if schools are built. This is an answer, but not the only one. What about teachers' salaries, recruitment incentives, job satisfaction, school fees, unemployment, child labour, how

education is viewed by the person in the street and in the muddy village?

This is where Sector Programmes prove their worth. Starting from a broader base, they work towards appropriate and sustainable goals, taking into account needs and capacity, and assessing all the factors contributing to a problem which results, like so many, in grinding poverty and deprivation.

Our partners need to be encouraged to prioritise their needs, and work with donors to create a more demanding but ultimately more effective partnership. We, on our side, need to clarify to ourselves and to others what we do, and - just as important - what we do not do. We must identify sectors and concentrate on them, without getting deflected to others outside our capacity and our area of activity.

It will not be an easy transition from projects to programmes. The process will not be a tidy one, and there will be times when we will have to be pragmatic about what we call a programme. It has been pointed out that there are not many countries with the capacity to manage their aid programmes as equal partners in the development process. But I feel we can work with these to strengthen and stabilise their efforts, and work with the others to encourage their development.

It will be progress in the right direction, towards helping our partners to be able to help themselves.

Peter Meeus, Director-General, HRD Diamond High Council of Antwerp

Interview Aya Kasasa



Diamonds that kill; a rebel's best friend; diamonds bought with blood: the subject is raised in the press day after day. But the editorial lines need to be revised and no longer confine themselves to blaming ethnic tensions: civil wars are very frequently stirred up by the struggle between rebel movements and governments to dominate the trade in diamonds and other essential products. Diamonds really are a guerrilla's best friend, according to a recent report by the World Bank. In June, France and the United Kingdom submitted a draft resolution to the Security

Council, intended to prohibit the trade in diamonds obtained from the rebel areas of Sierra Leone and sent to neighbouring Liberia in particular. Accused of being lax, Antwerp is declaring war on the trade in conflict diamonds. The Diamond High Council of Antwerp (HRD) has taken the initiative with regard to the conclusion of cooperation agreements with Angola and Sierra Leone intended to reinforce import and export controls. "It is time to act" is essentially the message given to *The Courier* by Peter Meeus, Director-General of the HRD.



Mark Van Bockstaal,
President of the CSD
Angola Task Force

You are very pleased with the results achieved in Angola. What specific measures has the HRD taken?

We have drawn up a strategic plan that provides a way of ensuring transparency of the African trade in diamonds in conflict-torn regions. This plan provides for measures in both importing and exporting countries. We have set up a task force which has been working with the Angolan government. It is essential to reinforce controls in importing countries, and that is why we have helped the government to set up a system for issuing certificates of origin, which serve as a marketing permit. Of course, more than this was required to crack down on forgeries, and

that is why we have set up other security systems. One additional check is based on a confirmation of import certificate. This is sealed on dispatch, stamped by the Belgian customs authorities and returned to the country of dispatch. This is the cost of transparency. Angola is currently one of the only countries to have a certificate that is impossible to forge.

Do you also recommend setting up central export bodies in producing countries?

Yes, along the lines of the Belgian Diamond Office, which is the central export agency. This will make it possible to control exports more effectively and give regional authorities an overall view of the trade. The HRD is providing authorities with its know-how, software, sealing systems and training. In October 1999, the Angolan government completed the reorganisation of its internal market and chose this very system.

These favourable results are encouraging you to repeat the experiment, so are you now getting ready to provide the same service for Sierra Leone?

Talks started in April with that country, represented by its Ambassador Kuyembah. The Sierra Leone government invited us to give concrete expression to this verbal cooperation. A delegation from HRD has just returned from Freetown, where it met President Kabbah and the Minister of Mines. The government intends to prevent the rebels from continuing to pillage the natural resources of the country. We can only support this campaign.

How do you intend to act against anyone violating the system?

This is a very simple matter. There is a system of penalties. We can't replace the relevant authorities. Anyone caught in possession of diamonds from forbidden areas will be cut out of the business. The diamond business operates

on trust. Being singled out is a death sentence in the diamond business, since it means exclusion.

Are you going to organise a unit to take responsibility for these control measures?

That is not our function. That is why we are appealing to NGOs, the United Nations and De Beers to pass on to us any information about possible violations of the embargo by traders. The HRD will then pass this information on to law enforcement bodies, which will act accordingly.

Aren't you afraid of being seen as a "world policeman" in connection with surveillance of this type?

That's out of the question. First of all, because such a function goes beyond our powers, but in particular because we do not in any way intend to interfere with African governments. It is for them to undertake the prosecutions that are necessary and to organise checks.

How will it be possible to avoid things going wrong and how can the provenance of a precious stone be confirmed?

There are experts, geologists and "gemmologists". We have asked the governments of

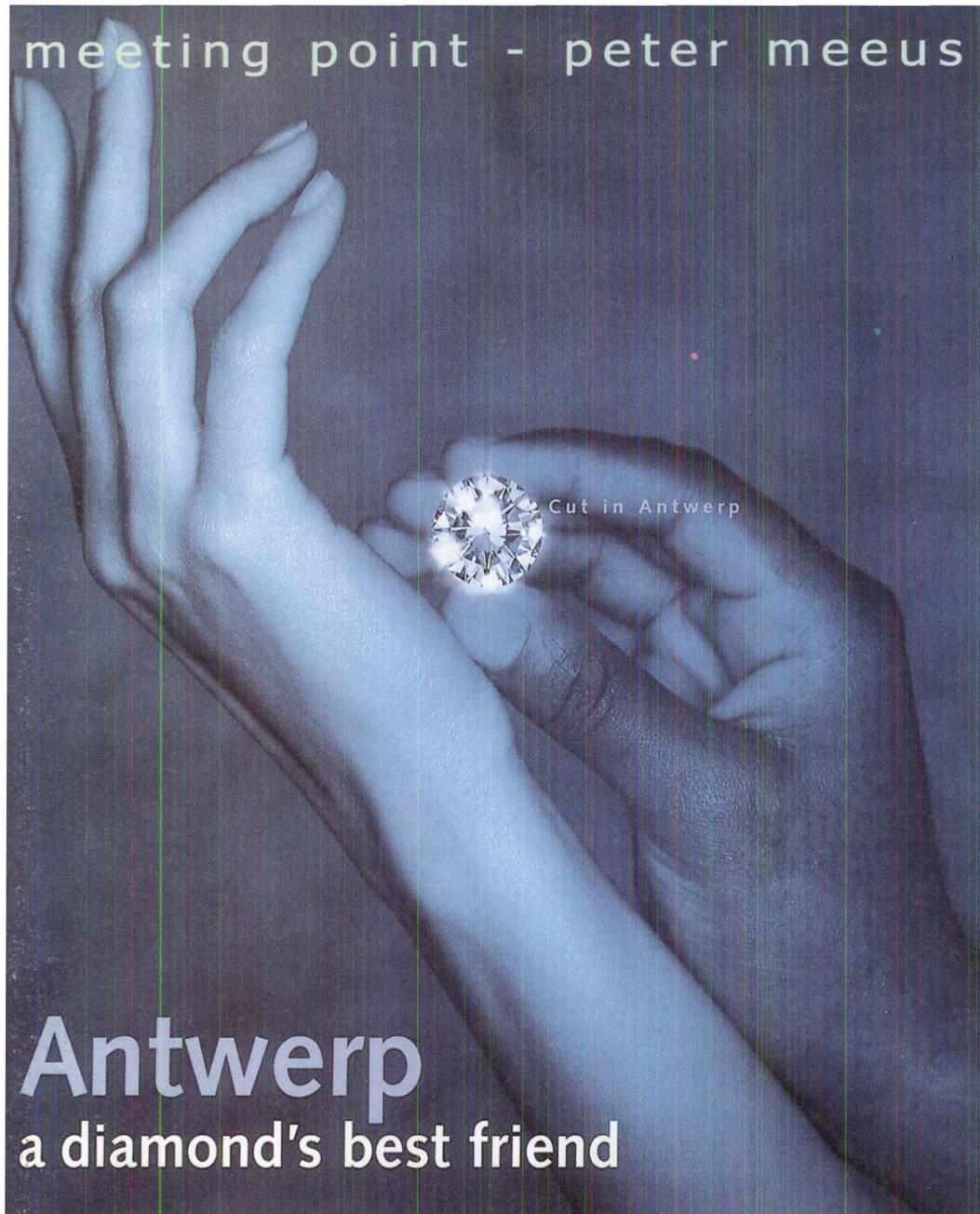
The Diamond High Council (HRD) is the professional organisation whose role is to defend and promote the interests of the Antwerp diamond industry. HRD is a non-profit-making organisation and its Board each of Administrators is composed of two representatives of the four Belgian diamond bourses, the Belgian Federation of Diamond Bourses (FBBB), Syndicate of the Belgian Diamond Industry (SDB), the Association of Dealers in Rough Diamonds, the Belgian Association of Dealers and Exporters of Polished Diamonds (BVGD), the Association of Kempen Diamond Employers (VKD), the Association of Industrial Diamond Firms in Belgium, the Precious Stones Federation, and the two trades unions CVD and ABVV-Diamonds. These 26 administrators fully represent the Antwerp World Diamond Centre.

The Diamond High Council has a payroll of about 200 and offers a whole range of services: certificates of authenticity, training, a research centre, as well as defending the interests of the industry.

The "Strategic plan for transparency in African diamond trade" may be consulted at the HRD website: www.conflictdiamonds.com.

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Antwerp

a diamond's best friend

their people. And it is possible. In Angola today, thanks to the control system and reorganisation of the internal market, the flow of trade will be transparent in future. As far as we are aware, imports from Sierra Leone are virtually zero, falling from 0.5% in 1998 to 0.1% in 1999 and, according to our predictions, 0.025% in 2000. Neighbouring countries such as Liberia are following the same trend, since there has also been a significant drying up of the flow of trade between them and Antwerp.

In terms of figures, you also insist that diamonds from conflict regions account for a small proportion of world trade.

Absolutely. They account for only 3.7% of world production, but they are very highly prized because of their purity. Many countries have sound diamond industries, including South Africa and Namibia, for example. But this will not stop us from continuing the struggle: the same action will be taken with regard to the governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Liberia from July onwards, to deal with the problem of diamond trafficking through their country.

Antwerp's diamond quarter, below



Angola and Sierra Leone to send experts to assist us. It will actually be necessary to identify individual diamonds and to find out whether particular diamonds have been mixed in with assortments arriving in Antwerp from other countries. And I still maintain that there is a need to take structural measures in order to provide long-term solutions when an embargo of this sort comes into force. This is the only way of ensuring that the natural resources of African countries can be used by their governments for the benefit of

Storm clouds over the South Pacific?

by John Corrie *

John Corrie and Glenys Kinnock, both MEPs, visit the Solomon Islands on a fact-finding mission and find themselves facing more than facts



The region that first saw in the new Millennium seems to have forgotten the hope and optimism marked by the dawn of a new century. Old ethnic and religious tensions once again pit family against family at a time when united action is needed to overcome the economic challenge of globalisation and the environmental danger of global warming.

The armed conflict that erupted during our official mission to the Solomon Islands is not an isolated phenomenon, with the Fiji government being toppled by an armed coup only a fortnight beforehand. The conflict in East Timor, problems in West Papua and a secessionist movement in Bougainville all point to trouble in the South Pacific. But sitting safely in Brussels, London or Washington, one should not ignore this wave of tension, since the strategic importance of the South Pacific, and Indonesia in particular, cannot be underestimated.

For the past 30 years I have taken an active interest in EU development policy and was involved in shaping the original Lomé

Agreements as a *rapporteur* in the European Parliament. Now as the co-President of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, I am determined to see greater involvement for the regions in EU policy-making. But if regions are to succeed in being heard at the heart of Europe, it is important that the nations in those regions recognise the need for peace and stability.

As Assembly co-President, one gets unique opportunities to visit developing countries and see firsthand how EU funds are spent and administered. One may come under attack from rival politicians or the media during such trips, as is the nature of democratic politics. But being caught up in a coup attempt during a fact-finding tour of the Solomon islands in June was a first for me. Real gunfire from armed rebels puts all the years of media criticism into perspective. It also brought home to me the important real role the EU can play on the ground in helping to resolve conflicts. The billions of euros spent on EU development aid brings with it not only a responsibility to ensure that EU taxpayers'



The speaker of the Solomon Islands Parliament, Paul Tovua, left, suspended after the coup, with Nigerian Vice President of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly Abubakar Bawa Bwari

revenue is properly accounted for, but also the ability to help underpin peace and prevent conflict in areas of tension.

Negotiating in a coup

Originally we were asked by the ACP-EU Joint Assembly to compile a report on the current situation in the Solomon Islands. No one could have expected that, five days after our arrival in the Solomon Islands, a full scale coup attempt would engulf the main island of Guadalcanal. Our joint mission of ACP and EU politicians - which included British MEP Glenys Kinnock and the Nigerian Representative Abubakar Bawa Bwari - had come to Honiara to hold talks with the Solomon Islands Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu and other politicians.

Even before violence broke out it was clear that there were

deep-rooted origins in the ethnic unrest which dated back to when American marines landed in 1942 on Guadalcanal, the main island in the Solomons, and brought with them thousands of people from the neighbouring island of Malaita to help dislodge the Japanese occupiers. Malaitans make up about 30% of the Solomons' population and are the country's largest ethnic group.

Historically a more itinerant people, the Malaitans stayed on in Guadalcanal and now dominate economic and political life. This led to resentment and animosity as Guadalcanal people object to the loss of their traditional lands.

No sense of unity

Since independence from Britain in 1978, the Solomon Islands have tried to create a western-style parliamentary

system to bring together a country of over 1,000 islands and 70 different languages. But there is little sense of unity. Political parties are virtually non-existent, corruption flourishes and for many the economy has never risen above subsistence level. Eighteen months ago the latest crisis began with the formation of the Isatabu Freedom Movement in Guadalcanal, which stole weapons from the local police and aims to recover lost lands. Over the last year, about 50 Malaitans were killed or disappeared on Guadalcanal and thousands fled the capital.

Political parties are replaced by ethnic groupings with the added complication that the police are predominantly Malaitan. The Melanesian tradition of "one talk", or consensus, also creates further problems if neither side can even agree to talk.

As tensions increased, the primary aim of the ACP-EU mission became the securing of a cease-fire, so that all sides could at least meet face-to-face without fear of arrest or intimidation. Travelling around the islands one met youngsters cradling home-made weapons - many dug up from old WWII American arms dumps - and manning makeshift roadblocks. Instead of working, people prepared for civil war as the oil plantations and gold mines remained shut.



Glenys Kinnock with right, Father Norman Arkwright, from Amnesty International

In a meeting with Malaita's Premier Hon David Oeta and other Provincial Leaders, one gained the sense of a more dynamic economy. This highlighted the sharp differences between the two ethnic groups. The infrastructure and education projects were impressive, but these alone will not create the sort of civil society necessary to stabilise the Solomons.

The rattle of gunfire

And on Monday 5 June everything changed as we awoke to the rattle of gunfire. With telephone lines cut, the airport closed and roadblocks on every street corner, the whole nature of our ACP-EU Mission altered. Glenys Kinnock and I decided that every effort should be made to make both sides talk rather than fight.

Crossing the lines of Malaitan Eagles' Forces and rebel police units, we met the Solomons PM Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, who was being held under house

arrest. We advised that the worst possible outcome would be for the PM to resign at the point of a gun. We told both the PM, and later also warned Malaitan Eagles' spokesman Andrew Nori that a swift restoration of democracy and the rule of law was the only way forward. We told both sides that it was a real possibility that the EU would suspend aid to the Solomon Islands - a total of €60 million (equal to 25% of Solomons GDP).

The international focus on the events in the Solomon Islands - and the threat of EU action - helped cool tempers and reduce bloodshed. As Amnesty International noted, the presence of Euro-MPs in the Solomons reminded the rebels that the world was watching. Yet as we flew out of the Solomons with gunfire at the perimeter of the airport, it was clear that the crisis would take longer to end.

EU efforts to stimulate dialogue

The European Union became the only major aid partner that tried to stimulate dialogue; one hopes that neighbours like Australia will cooperate to reinforce the goal of stability in the South Pacific.

There are two lessons to learn from the Solomons. Firstly, as we emphasise democracy, the rule of law and good governance, the EU may have to consider invoking Article 366a and suspending EU development aid as "a measure of last resort." Secondly, EU development policy needs to create educational and civic foundations necessary for a stable society, so that arguments are resolved by debate in Parliament and not gunfire in the streets. Roads alone will not help countries like the Solomon Islands fill the political vacuum.

*MEP Conservative, West Midlands, UK.
Co-President of the ACP-EU Joint
Parliamentary Assembly

Stranglehold on humanitarian aid key weapon of "New Sudan"

by Nadia el Maaroufi



EU-funded survival kit boxes delivered to civilians in the south. Basic survival equipment inside includes fishing line, cooking pots and mosquito nets

The Sudan is one of the six most-at-risk countries in the Horn of Africa. Again it faces famine after 17 years of civil war, drought and floods. The crisis has spread to the upper Nile regions.

To help alleviate the deteriorating conditions in Sudan, the European Union has budgeted €11 million to fund relief and development projects this year. In the south, €3.2 million has so far been channelled through Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS). An umbrella organisation comprising both NGOs and several UN partner agencies (UNICEF, World Food Programmes), OLS delivers emergency humanitarian relief to war- and famine-affected people.

The UN established OLS in southern Sudan in 1989 after a particularly severe famine. OLS's mandate is to deliver humanitarian assistance as negotiated by the UN with the southern independence movement, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) led by Colonel Garang de

Mabior, and the Sudanese Government. The SPLM controls large areas of the Equatoria and Bahr el Ghazal provinces, and also operates in the southern portions of the Kordofan and Blue Nile provinces.

A significant complication that imperils this kind of vital NGO work emerged recently. In March 2000, the OLS agreement was stymied by the SPLM's demand that all the 39 OLS partner NGOs operating in SPLM-controlled areas sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) stipulating the conditions under which they may operate.

The conditions laid out in the MoU violate customary humanitarian operating principles of neutrality and independence. Under the scope of the law of New Sudan, the SPLM holds power of approval over NGOs to hire and fire, with preference given to local staff - who are invariably affiliated to either the SPLM's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) or the South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association (SRRA). The SPLM is also imposing arbitrary taxes on NGO operations, including levies charged on relief flights. Sometimes, the SPLM and the SRRA have decided to control NGO assets, the movement of NGO staff, and project approval. Failure to sign the MoU means that NGOs lose the security that signing the MoU is supposed to provide.

Eleven of the 35 NGOs working in the SPLM-administered areas have evacuated their staff. The UN office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs says that this represents the loss of a significant proportion of the humanitarian resources provided by the OLS's NGOs.

At the time of writing, some agencies have refused to sign the MoU and are not planning to go back to south Sudan: German Agro Action, Médecins Sans Frontières-Holland, Médecins du

Monde, World Vision International and Health Net.

Alternatively, NGOs who are planning to return to work in SPLM areas, but have not yet signed the agreement with the SPLM, are CARE International, Save the Children, Oxfam-UK, Oxfam-Quebec, VSF-B and the Carter Center.

They are fearful of the cost of precipitately withdrawing from their work on emergency response, health, nutrition, household food, security, veterinary, water and sanitation programmes, despite having to sign up to the SPLM conditions in order to carry on.

However, the applicants are not guaranteed approval. The SPLM is demanding that they go through a process of proving first that they are able to deliver suitable aid and that they must then be approved by the National Liberation Council.

In March, World Vision was forced to leave 120,000 tonnes of sorely-needed supplies, such as seeds, tools and fuel, in warehouses, after the SRRA had assured World Vision that their supplies would be safeguarded. An inventory was drawn up and signed by the SRRA. Within two months the SRRA had used all these stores without World Vision's approval.

The impact varies. Some areas of Bahr el Ghazal and Upper Nile/Jonglei, where fewer agencies remain, are of particular concern. In all of the SPLA held areas, 300,000 - 400,000 people are displaced and at grave risk of hunger and malnutrition. Due to drought and the more recent flooding, many of the nomadic pastoralists have migrated en masse from lands where they traditionally used to graze cattle and grow crops. May was the planting season and it is likely that the September harvest will fall short.

The political and military climate and conditions under which OLS has operated in southern Sudan have always been difficult. The Southern People's Liberation Army and its client militias are often accused of stealing food and humanitarian relief supplies, including survival kits, to



Sudanese boy using survival kit fishing line

feed their armies.

The SPLM's civil war with the Sudanese government in Khartoum, is for secular self-governance in the south. They call themselves citizens of the New Sudan. The southern Sudanese differ racially, linguistically and religiously from the northerners. The people of the south are predominantly Christian and of mainly sub-Saharan African racial origin. They resent the Islamic Shari'a rule imposed by the north Sudanese who are of Arab-African origin and identify with the Arab world.

The Khartoum government, led by President el Bashir, is unwilling to give up the South. Here is where most of Sudan's oil reserves are located and also where the vital waterway of the Nile ends. For them a commitment to Shari'a is a religious and moral obligation, and self-determination is but a ploy to partition the Sudanese homeland.

Unable to reach a peaceful agreement with Khartoum, the SPLM is using the MoU to gain recognition of its independent identity by the international community.

In 1995, it was known that a MoU would be introduced once the OLS had signed a Ground Rules agreement drawn up by the SPLM to ensure the security of OLS staff. In 1996, the SPLM began negotiations to introduce the MoU to govern NGO activities. The sporadic talks



EU-funded polio vaccination

made little headway as the SPLM's conditions clearly compromised the principles that govern international humanitarian aid organisations - neutrality and independence. The negotiations finally collapsed on 12 January after the SPLM issued an ultimatum that all OLS participant NGOs must sign the MoU by 1 March.

The long-term effect of the suspension of NGO activities is unclear. The EU's response has been to suspend all funding for NGO and UN activity in the SPLM controlled areas. The EU strongly objects to the political dimension of the MoU and its contravention of the principles of neutrality and independence - a legal requirement for all EU humanitarian funding. The EU

also opposes the MoU as it threatens the safety of NGO staff who have not signed, neither does it guarantee the safety of those that have.

Consequently, the EU has diverted its funding from the SPLM-held areas to the west and upper Nile regions where drought has created an emergency humanitarian situation. It is here that the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has been targeting its funding for food security and relief activities to avoid mass starvation and malnutrition and to combat sickness.

ECHO says there are two reasons why the withdrawal of funding is unlikely to have a significant affect on the operations of the NGOs that continue to operate. First, the EU has redirected funding to support NGO operations in non-SPLM held areas - thereby freeing up other donor funds for use in the south. In addition, the humanitarian conditions in the south are not as dire as they were in the late 1990s when drought and war caused severe famine. For the past two years the humanitarian situation has been relatively stable due to a reduction of military activity, though drought has given way to flooding. In contrast, the western and upper Nile regions are enduring a humanitarian crisis brought on by both drought and war.

The UN wants donor agencies to continue their

support of the OLS and an early resumption of MoU negotiations in order to pave the way for the return of NGOs for the benefit of the civilian populations in SPLM-controlled areas. Issues to be resolved include a reaffirmation of humanitarian principles in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

It is unlikely that the Khartoum government and the SPLM will reach agreement in the near future as the peace talks sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) appear to be public relations rhetoric, and are not making appreciable progress on the peace front. The parties are keen to win international sympathy despite their entrenched positions which impede the prospects for a settlement. Indeed, the recent withdrawal of the SPLM from the fifth round of IGAD talks demonstrates the cyclical on-and-off nature of the talks.

In lieu of negotiating conditions capable of sustaining peace, the SPLM continues to use its ability to withhold the delivery of humanitarian aid as a key weapon in its efforts to realise its vision of a New Sudan. Conversely, the EU remains steadfast in its suspension of funding as its weapon to emphasise the rejection of SPLM tactics by the international community.

Human rights inseparable from human development, says UNDP

by Dorothy Morrissey

"Human rights are not a reward for development. Rather, they are critical to achieving it. Only with political freedoms - the right for all men and women to participate equally in society - can people genuinely take advantage of economic freedoms," says the UNDP's Human Development Report, released on 9 June.

Central to achieving this is "transparent, accountable and effective systems of institutions and laws."

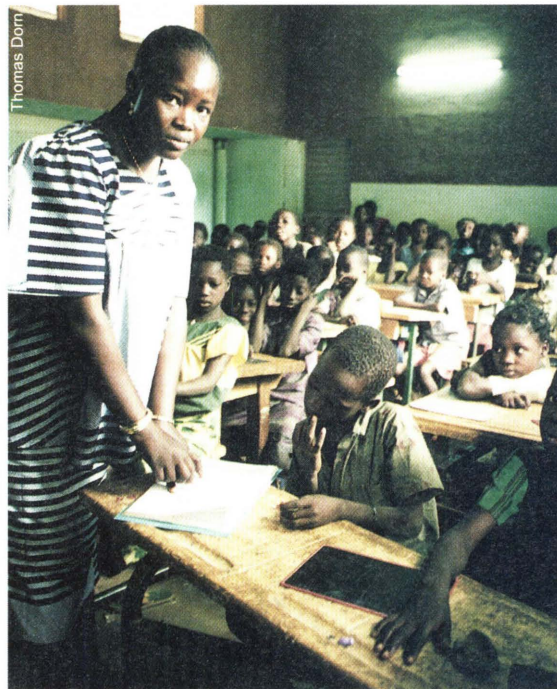
Upbeat on the spread of democracies, the report says that three-quarters of the world now lives under democratic regimes. This has often been achieved by "impressive struggles" and environments are now more conducive to advancing human rights. But it argues that people need more than votes.

"The fulfillment of all human rights requires democracy that is inclusive -protecting the rights of minorities, providing separation of powers and ensuring public accountability. Elections alone are not enough."

The report is blunt on poverty.

"The torture of a single individual rightly raises public outrage. Yet the deaths of more than 30,000 children every day from mainly preventable causes go unnoticed. Why? Because these children are invisible in poverty. "

The report says that the eradication of poverty is a major human rights challenge for the 21st century. Some progress has been made: in developing countries during the past three decades infant mortality rates declined by more than two-fifths while life expectancy increased by 10 years. But deprivation is still widespread:



90 million children are out of primary school

about 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 a day, about 790 million people are hungry and food is insecure.

Figures for HIV/AIDS are disturbing. By the end of 1999 34 million people worldwide were infected with HIV, the vast majority - 23 million - found in Sub-Saharan Africa. "Life expectancy, after making huge gains in the 1970s, is slipping."

The report draws a link between respect for human rights and the fight against the disease. "Respect for human rights helps to reduce vulnerability to HIV/AIDS..... poverty and discrimination contribute to its spread." It points to the importance of education, and empowerment of women. "Marginalisation and disempowerment of women make them more vulnerable to infection and exacerbate the effects of the epidemic."

Of the 174 countries assessed for their level of basic human development (life expectancy, adult literacy and school enrolment, income) the lowest 20 are all in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Living, not just surviving

European development aid to the Democratic Republic of Congo consists of PAR, PATS and PADH (rehabilitation support, temporary support and human rights support programmes).

All aid is essentially humanitarian, in the wake of the 1992 decision by the European Union and its Member States to suspend their cooperation programmes, with the exception of humanitarian aid.

Operators in the field find the situation somewhat frustrating, and hope that they will soon be able to work free of constraints imposed by the political situation - primarily, to be able to extend Community programmes when cooperation is officially resumed. Local populations are striving to create the conditions for aid to resume - it is all they ask. They are more than willing to help. But the war goes on...



An AIDS prevention programme at Kinshasa

A huge territory covering 2 344 885 km², the Democratic Republic of Congo is Africa's third largest country, and one whose wealth of natural resources is greatly coveted. On the eve of celebrations to mark 40 years of independence, there was no new census. The most recent one, dating from 1985, estimates the population at 34.7 million. According to the United Nations, the DRC now

has probably more than 49 million people. Kinshasa, the capital, alone accounts for 7 million.

Life for most people amounts to surviving as best they can in precarious circumstances. Sooner or later, everyone has to come to terms with the war. Despite the peace accord signed in Lusaka in 1999 by the warring factions and their respective allies (Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia

on the government's side and Rwanda and Uganda for the rebels), fighting continues and has even intensified in recent weeks in the northeast of the country. Peace is impatiently awaited by everyone: from ordinary citizens, who hope that an end to the conflict will mean that finally they can stop just surviving and begin truly to live, to economic operators, who are eager to resume those activities in which they had invested so much. War has undermined the economic sector.

It is now three years since Laurent Désiré Kabila came to power - three years during which the Congolese have waited for the situation to become normal. The war is not in Kinshasa itself, but everyone knows that it is out there, just beyond the front line. It is felt all the more in the daily financial burden it imposes. In the months preceding the outbreak of war on 2 August 1998, President Kabila's intentions in terms of economic policy could be summed up as that of applying a "socialist market-economy model" in order to stabilise the macroeconomic environment. However, all attempts at stabilisation have failed: the government is deprived of resources from regions under rebel control and is spending those it does have on financing the war effort.

In dyoxines or serpents?

On 30 June 1998, Kabila introduced a new currency, the Congolese Franc (CF), with 1 CF valued at \$1.30. At the moment, to carry out transactions in US currency, you need 9 CF/\$. Much trade is conducted on the basis of the parallel black market rate, where the 40-45 CF required to obtain one dollar has pushed the *kinois* to disguise their intentions: the Belgian currency, the *dyoxine*, is less highly valued than the US "serpent". The war has forced the Ministry of Finance to bring in a series of devaluations. Before the conflict, the inflation rate stood at 15%, but within a few weeks prices leapt to 75% due to the war and speculation. Jean-Claude Masangu, chosen by the President to breathe new life into the Central Bank, is seek-



Treading the N1 main road

ing to establish his nation's monetary stability, but many issues are still pending: what measures will be taken to put an end to the black market? Deprived of revenue from rebel areas, the government has attempted, without success, to stabilise the economy through erratic measures, such as the January 1999 ban on the use of dollars for economic transactions. Recent exchange regulations still prohibit the possession of foreign currency, a measure which has particularly affected the diamond trade, the country's principal source of revenue. Experts fear that the economy is gradually approaching a state of complete stagnation.

Supporting the people on a day-to-day basis

As far as donors are concerned, working in the DRC is very difficult. Five years after the decision to suspend cooperation, the EU's General Affairs Council confirmed that the European Union is prepared to resume cooperation with the DRC government progressively, in step with

Selling anything for a handful of coins, right

progress made in the fields of human rights, democratisation and establishment of the rule of law. This goodwill has come up against a number of problems, as Jean-Eric Holzapfel, Economic Councillor to the EU Delegation in Kinshasa explains: due to the to and fro of the UN's Commission of Inquiry, the establishment of the rule of law, the organisation of elections and the formal resumption of cooperation remain as elusive as ever. However, the mood is positive, as reflected in the visit of a European mission to meet the authorities during *The Courier's* visit to Kinshasa.

As for the roads...

Since independence in 1960, road and communications infrastructures have gradually deteriorated. The Kabila administration declared road repair and reconstruction to be a national priority, but of the 145,000 km of roads in the DRC only 2,500 are tarmacked. Repair of the transport network in general should be receiving \$416 million in investment under the reconstruction and stabilisation programme. The rail network is limited and concentrated around Katanga, where it facilitates ore exports. There are main lines connecting Lubumbashi to Ilebo in the western Kasai, where goods are loaded onto barges and carried by waterway as far as Kinshasa. The State-owned

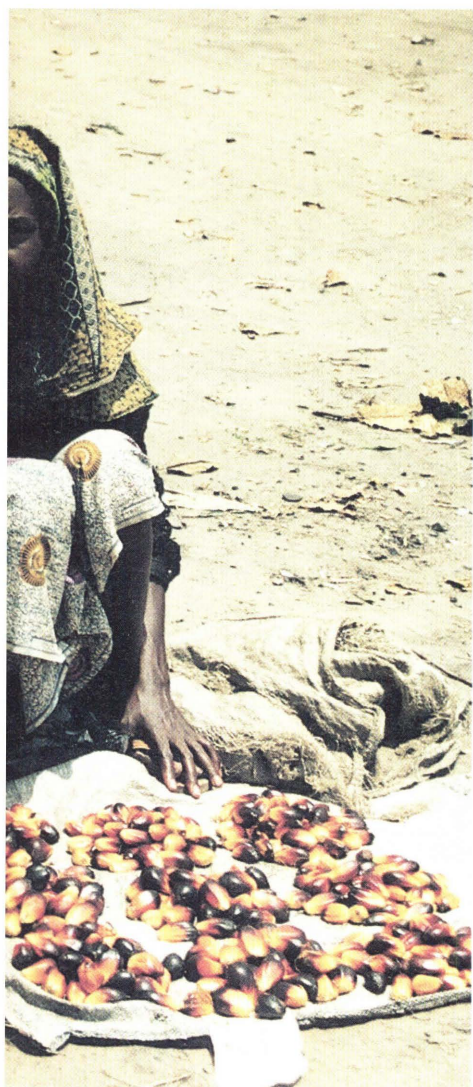


Gecamines (General Quarrying and Mining Company) prefers to use the railway, which provides a link with South Africa via Zambia.

Rehabilitation

Our departure has been arranged in advance: the PAR 4X4 is standing by at the Memling car park, the compulsory meeting point for anyone in the capital. Our guide, an Italian technical assistant, is seated next to the driver. We will be taking the N1, the road which goes down to the Lower Congo. This is the country's

most important road, which leads to the port of Matadi. We all have to be patient, as this is only the start - the further we drive from the capital, the more roadblocks we encounter, but this is, after all, a time of war. Even the PAR vehicle is checked over carefully. I have to hand over my passport because I have forgotten to bring an essential document, my permit allowing me to carry a camera. This also means that we will be accompanied by a soldier, who will verify that I am merely photographing the road.



No matter, there is plenty of room for our surprise guest. What else is there? Apart from kilometre upon kilometre of tarmac, there are only men labouring on roadworks, and, in the distance, dense vegetation.

Repair of this section of road is the responsibility of the PAR, the rehabilitation support programme. According to its director, Mr Filippi, this type of aid lies between emergency aid (aid to disaster victims) and structural aid (with State cooperation). In the case of rehabilitation, work is carried out by

various agencies without the State having any particular involvement, and is the type of intervention which may go beyond emergency aid but which has to cover sufficiently sensitive points to trigger structural development. In 1995, the State authorised the EU to act on its behalf.

The PAR's specific objective is to improve availability of food products of local origin in the area in which it is involved, in this case Kinshasa, the two Kasais and Le Kivu. In the long term, the PAR's intention is to step up production, remove some of the obstacles in the way of marketing and solve transport problems. In parallel, the European Union has embarked upon action at a social level: water supplies were one problem, and support actions have been implemented to make drinking water more easily available. Yet it is not enough just to launch projects in these areas; it is also necessary to provide capacity-building by enhancing the professional and technical education needed to maintain production levels. There is a great deal to be done in certain regions, where it is not unusual to find teachers using manuals dating from colonial times.

Three categories of action have thus been divided into three parts: repairing the road network, supporting agricultural production and marketing, and a social part which involves

ECHO in the Congo

The European Community Humanitarian Office is currently the principal active donor in the Congo, financing a range of activities with a budget of €20 million for 2000. It focuses on helping refugees, primarily Angolans and Congolese from the other side of the river, on providing assistance to war refugees (numbering almost one million) who receive food and health care, and on supporting healthcare zones. A Congo emergency programme, the PUC, provides a stock of medicines in the capital for use in emergency situations. Finally, ECHO provides support for part of PAM's food programme. According to Charles Bernimolin, an ECHO expert, problems are essentially logistical: infrastructure has been destroyed, security is precarious, access to local populations is restricted and costs are enormous. The government's recent decision has multiplied the cost of aid by six, because it is now impossible to buy goods locally as in other countries where ECHO is active. Moreover, simply reaching populations is a complicated matter - getting the necessary permits is as hard as completing an assault course. "Money is short, even in Kinshasa, so is food, because the lines of supply have been cut and we are being held to ransom. The food situation is increasingly a matter for concern. The only certainty in this entire situation is that the people are suffering more and more..."

The terms of the Lusaka Accord

- cessation of hostilities within 24 hours of signature;
- creation of a joint military commission composed of representatives from all the parties to the conflict and responsible for implementing the peace accord;
- deployment of a UN peace-keeping force;
- withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territory in the nine months after signature of the ceasefire;
- disarming and repatriation of all armed groups operating in Congo, including the *interahamwe* militia;
- setting-up a national dialogue involving armed and non-armed political forces in the country together with the government, with the Sant Egidio Catholic community providing the mediators; this shall follow the inter-Congolese debate initiated by Kabila in March 2000;
- amnesty for rebel groups, except those involved in genocide;

water supply and sanitation. Overall funding for PAR actions amounts to €90 million, two thirds of which has been earmarked for roads. Over 2,500 km of roads are concerned, ranging from main roads to farm service roads. The programme has been interrupted on several occasions because of political developments, but work is currently being resumed in areas around the capital.

Clean-up operations

The Belgian Red Cross shares a large site with JVL, the meat-marketing giant in central Kinshasa. While people queue in front of the butchers' counters, visitors climb the steep stairway which leads to the first-floor offices. This is a day for meetings and I have to wait a few minutes until Jean-Michel Braye can slip away. Today, we are going to visit the huge Kin central market, "the central dustbin" as those living in the capital have christened it. The women fan themselves as best they can behind their stalls, merely casting sarcastic glances at the small group that has just remarked that their representatives have not been shouting for nothing on the radio. Flapping their hands will undoubtedly cool them down a

bit, but they are fighting a losing battle against the nauseating stench emanating from the huge piles of rubbish on the ground, baking in the glare of the sun.

The Red Cross has responded to a request from its principal partner, the Congolese Red Cross, by setting up a clean-up programme involving the composting of waste in Kinshasa's six markets. Funded by the PAR, this programme is based on a pilot scheme to sort and recover organic waste. Each market is run by a group appointed by the district. The Red Cross project involves the provision of large dustbins at a number of strategic crossroads in the market. The participation of traders is crucial. Central-market management has been entrusted to a group of eight people who have to administer all the services available to the market, ranging from finance to cleaning. This work is done in close collaboration with the city authorities.

Hortense is responsible for the budget and she shows us her working environment. The central market is located at the centre of four districts and is host to approximately 18,000 traders, with an



estimated 500,000 people passing through daily. "Our major problem here is sanitation. Just look at all the market stalls - each one produces a fair amount of rubbish. In addition to the waste generated by market activities, people living locally come here at night and dump their own rubbish. On top of that, there are the street children who squat here. Another problem we have is that of infrastructure - the 50-centime tax is not enough to cover expenses!" It is difficult to imagine what the traders are proposing: everyone takes care not to step in the streams of mud, which exist because the drains are regularly blocked, despite the efforts of those responsible for monitoring them. Modibo, Ekiofo and Nkanu are dustmen who have been working at the central market for over 10 years. They are demanding gloves, shovels and wheelbarrows to help them clear up all the mess and to enable them to work in "decent" conditions.

Restoring the rule of law

In her office on the Avenue Lemera, Ana Maria Da Rocha juggles her two phone lines. Currently, she is the only field manager for the PADH, the human rights support programme. In just a few words, she explains the objectives of this, the EU's most recent funded programme: "After an identification mission in May 1998, proposals were put forward for a partnership between civil society and the DRC government. We want to promote human rights and to play a part in establishing the rule of law. Our current work involves facilitating dialogue between governmental and non-governmental bodies. Our two-fold strategy is: support for overhaul of the justice system, based on five priority projects, and upholding human rights through support for civil society, which includes three subprogrammes."

The PADH's principal partner is the Justice Ministry together with a number of departments at the Ministry for Human Rights. Documentation, classification of laws, publication of an official journal and case law are all areas where there is still much to be done. Ana Maria Da Rocha is



The European Commission is funding the renovation of Ndjili's hospital. Here the patients queue for consultation

hoping that a Magistracy College will be created to prepare lawyers to tackle the responsibilities of their profession. Magistrates already in service will be offered refresher courses. This college would form one of the pillars of overhauling justice in the country and would be right at the centre of the emerging rule of law.

However, there are still too many obstacles, the major problem being the war. "As long as cooperation is suspended, this will delay the" implementation of specific projects. Moreover, it is difficult to identify legitimate partners in the human rights sector. We are still unable to work with NGOs who are capable of getting down to the task."

PATS II



The health sector is not well off: the share of government funding allocated to it has also dropped from 2.5% in 1972 to 0.8% in 1995. In spite of the authorities' assertions to the contrary, infant mortality is on the increase, from 131 per thousand in 1970 to 141 per thousand in 1995. This is not surprising when one considers that only around 40% of children are vaccinated against paediatric diseases. Moreover, of the 306 health centres in the country, only 60% offer vaccination facilities.

In August 1998, UNICEF and the WHO embarked upon a national polio immunisation campaign with the objective of vaccinating 10 million children under five. According to the UN, polio vaccine coverage is less than 20%. Unfortunately, the continuing conflict in the country has meant that the programme has been suspended.

Hospitals, too, sorely lack resources: there are no staff, no medicines, no beds. Patients have to obtain their own medication. The spectre of

AIDS is omnipresent, but all prevention and research programmes were halted in 1992 in the wake of suspension of foreign aid. The overall infection level is said to be 10%.

The objectives of European aid

Apart from health issues, the Belgian Red Cross is also involved in rehabilitating health centres in Kinshasa, with the support of the PATS, the European temporary-support programme for the health sector. PATS started off with 50 projects implemented by 30 or so non-governmental operators in regions of Kinshasa, the two Kasais and Greater Kivu. Initially endowed with €24 million for two years, PATS I made it possible to support approximately 30 rural health regions, to continue to conduct campaigns against the major endemic diseases and to help respond to specific problems such as food crises and displaced persons. After a mid-term evaluation to consolidate and enhance experience already acquired, it was agreed that

the programme could continue. PATS II thus takes up certain elements of the programme while expanding its objectives.

The primary objective of PATS II is to continue support of primary health-care activities by becoming involved in the operation of basic structures. The second objective is to support key functions at regional level, notably coordination and supervision. The third objective supports the setting-up of health authorities and the drafting of a health code based on national health policy. Envisaged for a period of four years, PATS II has an overall budget of €45 million.

Back at headquarters, Dr Dominique Lambert is at pains to describe the situation: "After the suspension of international cooperation, health structures simply continued to deteriorate. Fortunately, religious orders attempted to do what they could, although major epidemics resurfaced because of the low vaccination coverage. Malaria is just as rife as diseases linked to HIV infection and TB." In 1994, the European Union decided to act. Because structural cooperation was closed to it, it approached the NGOs. "PATS I, which lasted three years, was a genuine success: €25 million was spent through the churches and the NGOs. PATS II is a temporary programme, intended to run until 2001. We always act in accordance with the same principle: we approach associations, NGOs, ASBLs, etc." Conceived outside State structures, this time it should obtain greater support at regional level. The European Union is attempting increasingly to provide support for the Health Ministry.

A number of regions were picked out at the start, but circumstances have led to Kinshasa and its surrounding area being the principal beneficiaries. The volatile political situation in the rest of the country has also put the brakes on the activities that were envisaged. Three types of project are therefore currently running in Kinshasa, namely support for health regions, awareness-promotion and anti-AIDS projects, and campaigns to combat various epidemics.

Women against Aids

Dr Prosper Mirindi accompanied us to the headquarters of SWAA-RDC, the Congolese branch of the Society of Women Against AIDS in Africa, in the Kimbanseke district on the outskirts of the capital. The dynamic SWAA team is led by Aimée Mwadi Kadi. Set up in 1998, the Society is now present in all provinces throughout the country. It organises various activities but its task is primarily one of prevention. Aimée has set up a training module for health campaigners, volunteers who will raise awareness of how to prevent disease. The EU is involved in meeting the costs of training these health campaigners at grassroots level, in order to extend their activities into the provinces. In the case of Papa Elia, one of the health campaigners, the important thing is not to "lose sight of basic issues. Here, there are no State health structures. Everything is provided by the private sector and the churches. There is no drinking water, no electricity, no recreation. There is certainly plenty to be done!" Most of the population (60%) is young and forms the major proportion of those infected by AIDS. 10 or so people per day summon up enough courage to cross the threshold to seek advice. Now, in order to enhance their impact, the SWAA sells locally made bread, and organises sports events and market gardening.

While returning to the centre, we stopped at Ndjili Hospital, which is currently being renovated with support from the Health Army. A price list at the entrance reads : 25 CF for a consultation, 10 CF for a night's stay. Clusters of people await their turn outside. The beds have no mattresses, there is a shortage of medicines and the research equipment looks as though it had come out of the ark. Yet Dr Mingina Mbuolieng, the doctor in charge, remains optimistic: he is satisfied with the progress that can already be seen and shows us into a small air-conditioned wing, which is home to a brand-new operating unit. "I'm convinced we will make it. It's all a question of goodwill and hard work, and my team has both."

Tomorrow's children



The World Bank estimates that current life expectancy in the DRC is about 52 years, but such estimates are of little importance to the young *phaseurs*, the street children who

have other concerns. At any rate, in their case, the estimates ought to be drastically lowered: their future can be summed up in a single word: tomorrow.

Government expenditure on education has dropped from 15.1% in 1975 to 0.8% in 1995. Although education was officially nationalised in 1972, the Catholic churches have taken on responsibility for 80% of primary schools and 60% of secondary schools. School attendance is, in principle, compulsory in basic education, but the shortage of teachers in the public sector is getting worse.

School enrolment levels have dropped from 92% in 1980 to 68% in 1993, a trend which compromises Congo's productivity and undermines prospects for long-term development.

No school, then, for these *phaseurs*, or rather the hardest school of all, that of the street. In the capital, their number grows annually, with young children increasingly having to fend for themselves. In the middle of a crossroads, on

A day centre run by the Belgian Red Cross. The children have just eaten and washed a few clothes and have been welcomed by the staff

the *Boulevard du 30 juin*, a little boy of six or seven is attempting to retie the laces on a pair of trainers which are far too big for him and flap around his ankles. At his side is a little girl who might better be described as a baby: she is barely able to stand upright, but her life is already that of the street. Indifferent, the cars simply pass by, preferring not to stop for these reputedly "dangerous" youngsters. At nightfall, the city becomes theirs. Let's just hope the weather stays fine...

The government is making concerted attempts to remove them from the city centre, organising forced round-ups from time to time. The children are taken out into the countryside from where they return, who knows how, a few days later. In any case, the reason why is clear: "There wasn't anything to eat!" rages Toni, who, in his indignation, reveals his toothless gums.

Many attempt to solve these youngsters' problems or simply provide them with a few hours' respite. Since 1998, the Belgian Red Cross has been financing reception centres for street children. These children cannot be forced to stay at either day or night centres. Nevertheless, those who come to the centres to eat, to sleep, to talk, to receive healthcare or to wash their clothes, have to abide by the

rules.

Visits by Nathalie, director of this Red Cross project, are always greeted with enthusiasm. Young girls crowd around her from all directions. "We estimate that they number 20,000 in Kinshasa, and that does not include those we have been unable to reach." Three reception centres have been opened, capable of receiving 160 children. "The children are highly organised, generally operating in gangs. The older ones impose their will on the younger ones, who usually work for the older ones in return for protection."

The street is a dangerous place, particularly for girls. Prostitution is rife. Nicknamed "*londoniennes*", these young girls sell themselves for the price of a meal and have little chance to change their future. The centre is taking in more and more single mothers. "With support from NGOs such as Save the Children, we try to help them settle down and to teach them a trade, which will help them survive without resorting to prostitution and, ideally, to go home to their families. In one of the three centres, the children are cared for completely, 24 hours a day. Sometimes we are criticised for doing this, and people ask how they will manage to survive alone. After a certain period of time,



they behave better than the majority of their fellows!"

For the Red Cross, it is now a matter of getting the Social Affairs Ministry to manage these centres and then gradually withdrawing. "The major economic operators who could take charge of some of these children have to be brought together. It is for the Congolese to look after their own..."

The madness of Mama Nsona

"There are no longer any classes in our society. Today in the Congo, we are all in the same worrying boat. I live in Binza, which is supposed to be one of the better areas. It's hard to believe, but here too, people are

dying of starvation. We also live in abject poverty. I am a widow, and I have a big house. One day I took in a child, then another, and little by little my house became a refuge. It's madness, but I have no regrets."



As the day draws to a close in Kinshasa, Mama Nsona and her volunteers gather together under the new banner of the PACS. The Bridge of Angels for the Chain of Solidarity (PACS) grew out of the single-minded determination of this one extraordinary woman who vowed to save the lives of the children she saw wasting away in her neighbourhood. Today she is joined by Mama Dorothy and Mama Marie-Louise, who have created new branches in their own districts. They all agree on the need to move up a gear and to try to make the outside world aware of the plight of the children of the Congo.

"It all started with the pillaging. We found ourselves destitute - parents with nothing left to give to their children. We had no jobs and nothing to

live on. There were many deaths among the weakest, especially the young ones. We couldn't just sit by and watch them die." Mama Nsona drew strength from the support of her parish. "A few of us decided to help the Italian nuns who run a nutritional centre. We went to them and offered our services. I myself decided to take in as many children as possible. I took to the road, and I went to all the church services and spoke about the tragedies taking place in the area. I had a big sign drawn up showing two hands: the stronger one is supporting the weaker one. That's how it all began."

Mama Nsona is sensitive to the distress of others because she too has known extreme poverty. "My husband and I used to have a job, and when

he died, I found myself with young children, not knowing what to do. All the children I've taken into my home bear internal scars. Each one has a tragic story." Mama Nsona began by taking in little delinquents, treating them just as she did her own children.

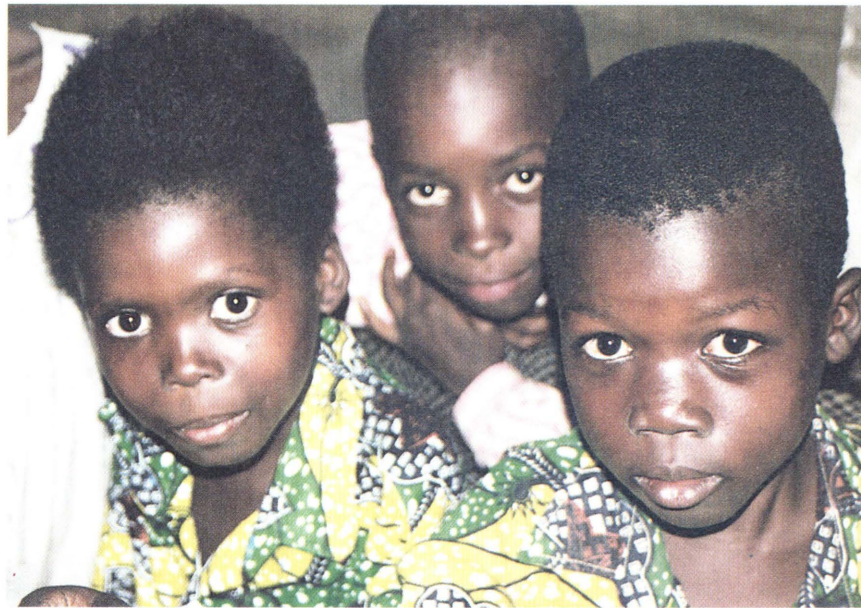
Aaron arrived in 1990, a little thief who had been living in the markets. After eight months with Mama Nsona, he returned to his family. Two years later, one of his cousins was killed and her children left to fend for themselves. Mama Nsona travelled 180 km from the capital to collect them from their village and brought them back to her home. Yet she had no income, so she decided to take her troops out to people who had small plots of land and ask that they be allowed to grow crops on them. Just enough to keep the pot boiling some of the time. "We planted a bit of everything, but mostly cassava. We had no choice - it had to grow."

A little later, someone brought her a three-week-old baby abandoned by its mother and kept alive by children who had played at giving it water to drink and a few scraps to eat. "He was just a little bag of bones which had somehow managed to keep breathing. It's a miracle he survived - and he's still part of our family. I nicknamed him 'General'," she adds, laughing, "because that's how he was treated, like an NCO..."

Since then, it hasn't stopped. Everyone knows that you can always find sanctuary at Mama Nsona's. Today there are about 20 people living with her on a permanent basis. She did not stop at that, either. She realised that the most essential

thing was to help mothers. She holds regular meetings for those who can get there, giving them advice on hygiene, on how to keep a small garden, or distributing the food she sometimes receives. If someone's life is at stake, she will even go out in the lashing rain and knock on every door for help. "When it's a question of survival, there's no shame. You have to be bold - and I am."

Left to its own devices, Congolese society has perfected the art of getting by as best it can - an art it has been practising for many years. Every single embankment is cultivated, and every last leaf is sold for a few francs. Getting by, and helping each other out - it's often thanks to a neighbour that someone manages to hold out for a few more days. Despite the difficulties, every day people wait in their thousands by the roadsides, hoping for transport. Those who own a vehicle



Malnourished children often look much younger than their real age

queue up for the few gallons of petrol available, and finding car parts is considered a sport. The daily power cuts add a sombre note to this already depressing situation, not to mention the shortage of drinking water. For instance, people in Righini have only had rainwater to fill the great plastic containers which decorate all houses. Famous for their ingenuity, like Mama Nsona, more and more people are taking things in hand.

Today Mama Nsona would like things to be formalised and for the PACS to be recognised by donors. "We are trying to set up a multinational centre. People come looking for something to eat, and we take advantage of their visit to teach them about other things. And our aim is to see our project grow in many areas of the city. The people of Kinshasa have to fight to survive, so we rely on ourselves and we are proud of it!"

EU-Cuba-ACP Relations at a Crossroads

by Gareth Harding



Katy Ndiaye

On a cultural level, Cuba is all the rage these days. The phenomenal success of the Buena Vista Club album and film has made world-wide stars out of previously unknown septuagenarian musicians; Cuban-style bars, clubs and eateries are sprouting up in most capital cities; and more and more Europeans are spending their holidays lapping up Havana's old-world charm and the Caribbean coast's new-world tourist facilities.

On an economic level, trade and investment links between the European Union and Cuba are also stronger than they have been at any time since Fidel Castro's communist government seized power over 40 years ago. Almost half the island's imports stem from EU countries and the 15-member bloc is by far the largest source of investment in the country. Between 1990-98, European firms invested over \$640 in Cuba and

Spanish exports alone account for more trade than all the Latin American countries taken together.

Honeymoon and disharmony

This dynamism in cultural and economic ties contrasts sharply with the frosty political relationship between Cuba and the EU. As the Institute for European-Latin American Nations notes in its latest study, there have always been "constant swings between periods of honeymoon and disharmony in EU-Cuban relations."

Although allusions to marriage might seem a little far-fetched when describing EU-Cuban relations, during the mid-1990s it at least looked like the two old cold-war adversaries could put their squabbles behind them and develop a more mature relationship. The Spanish Presidency kicked off talks aimed at signing a bilateral Cupertino agreement in 1995, but these collapsed a year later due to political differences.

Since then, EU-Cuban relations have been largely governed by a common position agreed by Union foreign ministers in December 1996. Renewed seven times since, the statement bluntly declares that there can be no normalisation in ties between the two until the communist state moves towards a more democratic political system based firmly on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

This might sound like a hard-line approach, but as European Commission official Fraser Cameron pointed out in a recent speech, it is worlds away from the belligerent attitude adopted by the United States.

"American policy towards Cuba is counter-productive and merely serves to strengthen Castro, who uses Anti-Americanism to consolidate control," said Cameron.

Rather than using coercive measures, the EU approach has been to engage in "constructive dialogue" with the Cuban authorities and civil groups. In recent years, the failure to improve bilateral political relations has led to an increased emphasis on integrating Cuba into multilateral groupings such as the Lomé Convention between the EU and its African, Caribbean and Pacific partners.

Even before talks on revamping the 25-year-old trade and aid agreement began in September 1998, Cuba had been invited along as an observer. During the final round of negotiations in February 2000, the country formally requested to become part of the revised convention.

The request immediately received the support of the ACP Council of Ministers and the ACP-EU Joint Assembly, which brings together politicians from the two blocs. But Union Member States were more divided. Although they never formally gave their opinion on Cuba's application, both the UK and the Netherlands were opposed to its membership because of the country's dismal human rights record and failure to meet many of the most basic criteria envisaged in the new ACP accord.

Sudden withdrawal

In the end, the two countries' opposition proved academic because, on 26 April, Havana suddenly withdrew its application to join the new Agreement.

The immediate cause was the decision by a handful of EU states to support a Czech-sponsored resolution criticising Cuba for its human rights record at the annual meeting of the United Nations' Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Castro slammed his EU critics as a "European Mafia subordinated to the United States" and Cuban politicians, journalists and trade unionists lined up to harangue western countries for their hypocrisy in lecturing small states on human rights they themselves were guilty of violating.

Neither did the Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe

Perez Roque mince his words.

While thanking the ACP countries for their support for the island's membership, Roque said the European attitude was "unacceptable in its interference and discrimination, and is proof of how it is impossible for the EU, due to American pressure, to have an independent policy towards Cuba."

Behind the rhetoric it seems that Cuba simply got cold feet about signing up to an agreement that imposes obligations on members to tread a democratic, law-abiding path. As much was virtually admitted by Roque when he said that "insisting on the adherence application would only serve to expose ourselves as victims of unacceptable demands from the European Union."

The immediate effect of Cuba's withdrawal was the cancellation of an ambitious high-level EU visit to the state, which had been scheduled to discuss human rights, regional and economic issues and the country's bid to join the ACP group. One Portuguese diplomat said that Cuba's decision to block the visit and withdraw its ACP application had sunk relations to their lowest level for five years.

Normal relations with ACP

But ACP members have been less alarmist and more conciliatory. The countries of the group have said they want to maintain normal relations with Havana and intend to send a mission to the island to smooth relations between the two in the near future. ACP Secretary-General Jean Robert Goulongaga said that the withdrawal of Cuba's membership bid had been due to "unfortunate misunderstandings" and added that he hoped the incident did not mean that "all paths to negotiation are blocked."

For the moment it looks as though hope of the EU signing either a bilateral or multilateral agreement with Cuba is virtually nil. However, this does not mean that the relationship between the two is not evolving.



Katy Ndiaye

A spontaneous street concert

In May, European Development Commissioner Poul Nielson announced that the executive aimed to restructure its aid to the western world's last communist state. Although Cuba is the only Latin American country not to have signed a development Cupertino agreement with the EU, the 15-member bloc is the world's largest provider of aid to the country. From 1993-97 the Union channelled almost \$200 million of development assistance into Cuba, representing over 68% of the state's overseas aid.

However, Nielson believes that the emphasis on supporting Cuba's health sector is not in line with the EU's common position on the country. The former Danish development minister therefore wants to phase out

support for this sector and use the money to finance non-governmental organisations working in the fields of human rights, democracy building, economic reform and a free press.

Nielson denied that there was any link between the move and the recent cooling in relations between the EU and Cuba, adding: "in no way do we intend to reduce our activities there."

EU foreign ministers also seem to be subtly changing their tune towards Havana. At the last meeting of the General Affairs Council in mid-June, they reiterated the basic tenets of the common position on Cuba, but added a slight twist. The statement says that "it is essential that the EU should deploy further efforts to engage the Cuban authorities in a constructive and frank dialogue on a variety of issues of common interest that may actually produce tangible results, particularly in the political, economic and civil rights spheres." Ministers also agreed on the "need to initiate a debate in order to update EU relations with Cuba."

Although EU officials deny there has been any change in the Council's attitude to the Caribbean state, there appears to be a growing realisation that the present policy is not working as well as it should.

One official said that some EU governments felt constricted by the Union's stance, adding

that whereas the Commission "obeys the narrow vision of the common position, Member States do what they want." It is true that that the mushrooming trade between countries like Spain and Cuba is taking the edge off criticism of human rights. After all, if a country is good enough to visit, trade with, have cultural exchanges with and provide aid to, then why is it not good enough to have political relations with?

However, EU officials say that "in the absence of movement on democracy and human rights, the Union will not be rushing to Havana with open arms." They also point out that after Cuba's "overreaction" to the UN human rights vote, the "ball is firmly in their court." At the moment there is clearly something of a diplomatic stand-off, with both sides afraid to make the first move for fear of losing face. Experts say that the best hope of bringing the EU and Cuba together still lies with the ACP. The bloc is trusted by the Cubans and Castro is keen to develop closer ties with other developing countries. Given the new Agreement's emphasis on human rights, good governance and open markets, it seems unlikely that the communist state will enter the ACP bloc in the near future. But in the long term, membership of the ACP group might be the only way to put relations between the Union and Havana on a stable footing.

Sweden's development aid expands

by Per-Ulf Nilsson

After a few years' budget squeeze Sweden has entered the new millennium with an expanding allocation for development cooperation.

New policies are in place, and old

ones have been overhauled. The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) is now ready to meet the challenge of the 21st century, with poverty eradication as the central goal.



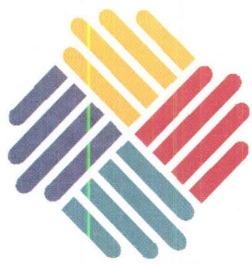
Charlotte Thege/Phoenix

In the mid 1990s the picture was bleaker. Difficult economic times, with growing national debt and high unemployment, forced the government to introduce budget cuts. This time round not even the development aid allocations were spared. Having introduced, as early as 1968, the goal of setting aside one percent of GNP for development aid, Sweden had for years been a proud member of the leading group of nations implementing the UN target of

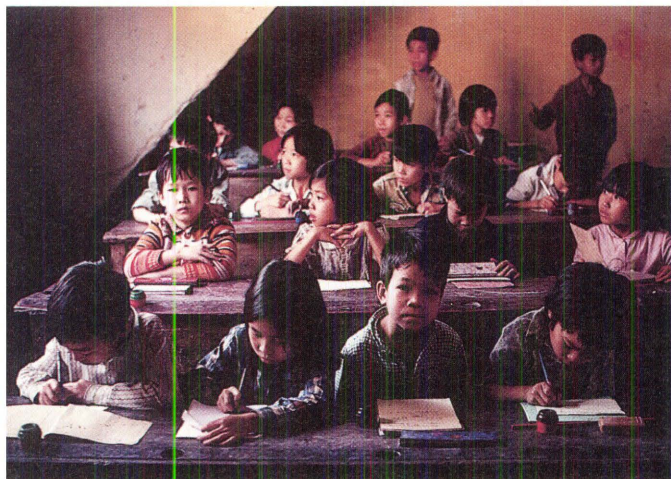
at least 0.7%

"We will not fall below this line of disgrace," said the then Minister for Development Cooperation, Pierre Schori. In practice, Sweden barely made it. Just reaching the 0.7% limit in the last few years, the country is now back with a rapidly expanding allocation for development cooperation. In the next few years Sida expects this to increase by 25%, allowing Sweden to remain in the small group

Planting sweet potatoes
in Tanzania



Sida



Heldur Netocny/Phoenix

A school in Haiphong, Vietnam

of nations honouring the UN target.

Sida now also finds itself expanding geographically. For years Sweden has had long-term cooperation agreements with about 20 countries, mainly in Eastern and Southern Africa and South and South East Asia. Today, country strategies have been developed for 37 countries. Apart from an expansion in the three southern continents, the cooperation with Eastern Europe and the Balkans has increased considerably. To Bosnia and Kosovo are added Albania,

KIOF-Kenya Institute of Organic Farming teaching composting to farmers

Charlotte Thege/Phoenix



Macedonia, Montenegro and Moldavia. The Central Asian republics is another geographical area where cooperation is expanding.

Poverty still in focus

If only one characteristic of Swedish development cooperation is to be singled out, it would have to be its poverty focus. Having established this goal already in the early 1960s, Sweden has consistently directed its aid mainly to the poorest countries. Among the main recipients one finds countries like Mozambique, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Vietnam, and Bangladesh. Aid went to India until 1998, when it was stopped in reaction to the Indian nuclear bomb tests.

The Director General of Sida, Bo Göransson, recently declared that "the world community has one mission, apart from protecting peace, and that is the eradication of poverty." With the goal of realising the DAC target of halving poverty by 2015, Göransson made a four-point appeal to the Swedish government: to make the combat against poverty (also in the richer countries) a central commitment; to raise this issue on the agendas of all international organisations; to insist on sticking to the 0.7% target (initially among EU countries); and to lay down a plan setting aside Swedish

resources to contribute towards this goal.

In late 1999 a parliamentary committee began to analyse what should be included in a Swedish policy to "further a global, social, economic and ecologically sustainable development" with poverty reduction in focus.

Within Sida a Poverty Project was started in late 1999 to analyse its own performance in this area, paying specific attention to the relationship between poverty, distribution and growth and the institutional prerequisites for poverty reduction. The review is highly critical, finding a number of weaknesses in Sida's own work. In 2001 this should result in a stronger policy and clearer action programmes.

The "missing middle" in Africa

Africa, as the poorest continent, receives about 44% of Sida's aid budget. The goal is to increase this level, but it is a difficult task, admits Lars Ekengren, Director at the Africa Department.

"There is a missing middle. We know what we want to achieve, and what we do achieve in the individual projects, but the link in between is a difficult one. What is needed is not a concentration on a certain sector, but to find the pro-poor

alternatives in all initiatives. We clearly need a stronger support for economic growth, and to work more at the level of Sector Programme Support to prop up national efforts.”

In 1998 Sweden decided on a partnership policy for cooperation with all Africa. This cooperation would be based on shared values, with the partner country taking a leading role in planning for national development. A broader cooperation is envisioned, involving more actors and areas, ie cultural exchange, civil society networking, trade and commercial relations.

“But this has become more difficult in many parts of Africa today,” admits Ekengren. “The fact is that we don’t always share values, and with several countries at war the partnership becomes even more difficult. But the policy is being pursued and with for example Tanzania and Mozambique we do have an open dialogue and have built platforms for stronger cooperation. Another case in point is South Africa, where a broad cooperation between the countries is being developed.”

"The world community has one mission, apart from protecting peace, and that is the eradication of poverty"



Heldur Netocny/Phoenix

Gender issues

Another characteristic of Swedish development assistance is its excellence in gender issues. It is not uncommon for participants at development cooperation meetings to turn their heads towards the Swedish chair when women's and gender issues are mentioned. As Sweden is the most equal country in the world in this regard, Sida consistently raises the issue. In 1996 the goal of gender equality was added to the overall objectives of Swedish development cooperation. In the last few years the mainstreaming of gender in all activities has been pursued.

Transfer of IT

A new and exciting field of work is to carry the IT revolution to the developing countries. The gap between poverty reduction and IT expansion

might seem wide, but in reality is not. In a globalised world any lack of Information Technology will further increase the divide between the rich and the poor. Sida intends to make IT a Swedish high-profile area, integrating it in development cooperation and contributing to promote IT as something that benefits the poor. An obvious example is to expand IT use in educational systems. Another is the Grameen Phone in Bangladesh, which makes mobile phones available to poor women and men in the villages.

“We need to move even quicker,” says Bengt Oberger, IT advisor at Sida. “Immediate and substantial investments are needed to establish an IT infrastructure. The cheap capital that aid can offer would make an important contribution.”

HESAWA - Health Sanitation and Water.
Excavated well at Itombo, Kwimba District, Tanzania



Heldur Netocny/Phoenix

Vocational training of women in metal handicraft at Gonoshastya Kendro (Peoples Clinic - a local NGO) at Savar, Bangladesh

Multilaterals and NGOs

Sweden has always been a strong advocate of multilateralism. Sweden has consistently been among the main funders of UN agencies like UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and WHO. For a number of years Sweden has also been actively involved in the reformation of the UN. Today approximately one third of Swedish development assistance is channelled through the UN, World Bank, regional development banks and the EU.

About 400 Swedish NGOs share approximately US\$100 million a year for projects where they themselves

finance 20% of costs. In addition to this NGOs are very much involved in Swedish humanitarian and emergency aid. With continued respect for the integrity of the NGOs, closer contacts between Sida and the NGOs in the field have been established, with the view of enriching each others' experience and work.

And what about the EU?

Sida admits it had reservations, when Sweden joined the European Union, about the effectiveness of EU development assistance. Centralisation, bureaucracy, and weak coordination were areas of concern then and still are.

"We have continuous lively

discussions in Brussels and in the field," says Eva Nauckhoff, in charge of the EU-unit. "We have contributed to the changes and reforms that have been introduced, one of them being the need for member countries to be informed at earlier stages of the project planning.

"What we are looking at now is to strengthen the EU capacity in the field. To effectively play a coordinating role, the missions need to be stronger. Donor coordination should also involve all donors, not only the EU countries, with a leading role left to the host country, in a spirit of partnership."

Country Report
Kenya



The consequences of politics



returned to Kenya after six years to find power and water shortages caused by the worst drought for decades, a population facing 12 hours each day without electricity, but one with some hope for the future. This is based principally on the public sector reforms which are being instigated by Richard Leakey, recently appointed Head of the Public Service and his Dream Team. People believe that this time there may be lasting results, and hope that they set the scene for a new Kenya, where effort and imagination may be legitimately rewarded.

Six years ago people were talking about the decline in security, the car jacking, the terrible corruption, the rigged elections, and they were

saying - and believing - that there would be no chance for improvement ever. Things had just got too bad.

Today people are talking about the same things. Security gets better and then worse again as someone is shot during a violent burglary, or there are tribal clashes up-country.

Elections are in the future, and the opposition is fragmented - I had interviews confirmed with opposition leaders Mwai Kibaki and Charity Ngilu, neither of whom gave any explanation for their non-appearance. The traffic has worsened, slums seem no different, employment opportunities are not plentiful.

Even in an economy that is unsteady there is

Poverty alleviation - can it be achieved?

What future is there for these children from Nairobi's Kibera slums - visible in the background?

Will Kenya allow them the opportunities they should have, or are they stuck in the slums where they were born?

investment - shopping malls and supermarkets are bigger and better, but not immune to occasional holdups when cash is taken out or deposited.

Violence

Kenya's face for its tourist may be a smiling one, but it remains a rough place to live. Violence is not far below the surface. *Matatu* drivers are still irresponsible, and their passengers risk their lives squeezed into the rickety minibuses that are driven at the speed of light. There had recently been a major clash between *matatus* and students; the *matatu* touts had raised their fares on a route much used by students and when one refused to pay, he was badly beaten. Back on campus, he brought out his fellows and there was a pitched battle in the streets; several people were injured and three *matatus* were burned.

Tribalism remains a serious problem, exacerbated by poverty, landlessness and drought, especially in the pastoral areas. There were recent tribal clashes up country in Isiolo, for instance.

The drought

This time there were other subjects buzzing about. It was impossible to avoid discussion of the drought, the worst since 1947. Traditional pasturelands of the Maasai are parched and herdsmen had brought their cattle right into the city of Nairobi for the cattle to snatch grazing where they could. Up country, in Laikipia, the newspapers wrote of thousands of cattle being herded on to the farms of white settlers, who agreed to take up to 2000 per farm - this was no Zimbabwean-style land issue, but simply desperation.

The drought has already done damage. There are now power cuts of 12 hours or more, which began on 2 June, the day after Madaraka Day. People are saying - again - that this is crunch time, and it has never been so bad.

A free press

Newspapers are not silent in the face of this depression - they are writing articles in a much

more frank and critical way than they were able to six years ago. *The Daily Nation* called "the enforced power rationing...a disgrace, a national embarrassment, caused by poor planning." And it didn't stop there: "Kenyans are suffering the consequences of making politics a higher priority than infrastructure. We have run out of electrical power because we have put our intellectual energy in the wrong place," they wrote in the editorial of May 31, and went on to ask that everyone "cooperate to ensure that this remains a minor disaster, not a major one."

Jua Kali powerless

Of course it hurts most those who can least afford it - *jua kali* (literally, hot sun) artisans, those who work on roadsides and in the slums of Pumwani and Kamakunji. They are not able to provide themselves with alternative power supplies, so can't use their drills and welding tools and soldering irons to produce the goods they need to sell in order to eat.

Poverty uncontrolled

On Madaraka Day, June 1, *The Nation* had a sobering piece: *Poverty far from being controlled* - which ended "How the government will achieve its goal of universal access to safe drinking water by 2010, when it is clear that the supply is declining and the demand rising, is anybody's guess." Another piece, *Grappling with urban housing problem*, told readers that "More than half of all town dwellers in the country live in slums: Nairobi 75%, Kisumu 70%, Mombasa 80%, Nakuru 80%, Nyeri 60% and Kisii 70%."

There are rich and poor people everywhere. This is nothing to write home about. The real problem is the corruption that had taken away hope from people who wanted to feel that, if they contributed in some way to their country's prosperity, there was a good chance that some would rub off on them. In 1995 there seemed no turning back off the path to perdition. Now there does.

There is no Plan B

Richard Leakey and the reform of the public service



Richard Leakey is leading the public service reforms and wooing the donors with his pragmatic approach

Richard Leakey, widely regarded as the Right Man for the Job, has begun a stringent and wide-ranging portfolio of public service reform.

He is a Kenyan who cares about his country, and is prepared to stick his neck out to do something about its problems. It has more than once been on the line - he was the media's darling when he was head of the Kenya Wildlife Service and then was forced to move.

He was involved in the setting up of Safina, an opposition party, but "I found it very frustrating to be a member of a small party in Parliament."

He was at the controls of a plane that crashed, leaving him with no feet and a painful rehabilitation. His extraordinary doggedness has paid off: "You can see that my legs have grown again!" Even his single kidney is not his own but donated by his brother Philip. There is

no love lost between them, but Philip acknowledges that now Richard had one of his organs, he supposed he could no longer say he hated his guts.

Leakey without question attracts funds, soothes donors and seduces the media. Nobody denies he has determination and courage, and his personality is of a size that can manage the enormous and difficult task he has taken on.

His contract is not indefinite - he has to make a difference within a very ambitious couple of years, although in his favour he does not get any interference from government - "In fact the whole process is driven by the Head of State," he says.

Leakey believes - with many others - that the private sector is the one "to get the economy going" and he has put his money where his mouth is, recruiting wise and experienced people from the private sector to help him move his reforms forward.

One cautious economist conceded that "there is certainly a better environment in the public service than there was two years ago. There has been a change of culture, the public sector now has a better infrastructure, but the reforms remain those of the public sector, not those of Kenya."

Perhaps it will spread.

One Kenyan told me that he felt Kenyans are always nervous before changes occur. They know they are coming, and they are not sure what effect they will have. But things are definitely changing, and he has confidence that Leakey could do it.

Confidence is something Richard Leakey does not lack. In three years' time he says he envisages that the economy should be growing by 5 - 7% (in 1995-96 there was 4.8% economic growth, in 1999 there was 1.4% growth). There should be new systems set up and maintained in the agricultural, education and public health sectors, and there should be the start of a withdrawal from donor funds: "I am very conscious of the need to wean our country from foreign aid or donor dependency.

"We will get IMF and EU support," he told me unblinkingly. "There are two requirements which we are dealing with. One is that the government publish a bill covering economic crimes and anti-corruption, and the other is that a public service code of conduct should be submitted to parliament so that it becomes statutory, and wrongdoers can be prosecuted."

"The Parks are safe," he replied to a question about tourism and security, and he reminded me that tourism

FACT:
50% of Kenyans live in poverty. Absolute poverty doubles every 20 years. Urban poverty has grown because urban infrastructure has deteriorated



earnings in 1999 - 2000 were up 22% from the year before. "Now that what I call the Mandela Phenomenon has settled in South Africa, Kenya is dealing with its competition by improving its product."

He acknowledges the high interest rates as the biggest hold-up to the economy - "borrowing money is very difficult, and we have to bring the price of money down. At present the rates are between 26 - 28%.

"We must do everything reasonable to make Kenya the place to do business and to encourage investors from inside Kenya and from abroad. Export permits are being reduced: we are aiming at a one-stop-shop, and a cleaned-up bureaucracy."

He is well aware that people are despondent in the face of poor pay, bad training, 10 - 15% inflation and blatant flouting of what system there is. If anyone is going to change this, and make people believe that things can and will get better for Kenyans, it is Leakey. He knows that. Moi supports that. The donors accept that. He has started, and the Kenyan in the street is nearly convinced. They certainly wish him well. Now we all have to wait and see.

The Public Service Reforms

A leaner public service is needed, with well-defined functions and its resources used productively.

The poor should have access to necessary affordable services, have a chance to break out of the poverty trap, receive the full protection of the law and promotion of their rights.

The business sector should be able to work in a positive environment with reduced government involvement and efficient infrastructure and services.

Negotiations with the IMF have been based on an Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, and Ministerial Rationalisation Exercises have examined what a Ministry actually does and how many people they need to employ to do it.

Some 48,000 civil servants will be removed over the next two financial years at a cost of 12 billion Kshs, to generate an average annual wage saving of 6 billion Kshs in a full year.

Transparent merit-based recruitment and promotion will be reintroduced, with the intention of raising staff morale. Salaries and benefits will be reviewed, to increase real incomes within an affordable wage bill.

Public service delivery will be improved. Good performance will be rewarded, targets set, and a programme for capacity-building and training set up to equip people with the skills to meet new demands and mandates.

The moral of Service to the Public with a work ethic based on honesty and endeavour will be reestablished. A strict legal code of conduct will be introduced.

Communities must be the vehicles for their own development and wellbeing. Development must be participatory and demand-driven, accountable to local people rather than central government. This requires not just decentralisation, but a devolution of powers to local levels.

The large infrastructure and service enterprises will be privatised, beginning with Kenya Railways, the Kenya Ports Authority and the Kenya Pipeline Company. There are plans to privatise the Kenya Reinsurance Company and further privatise the Kenya Commercial Bank over the next 18 months. Telecommunications has been split into Telkom Kenya and the postal Service (Posta); the Communications Commission of Kenya has already overseen the sale of a second mobile phone licence.

Preliminary work has been undertaken on a legal and judicial reform programme.

Local authorities receive increased financial support and the Kenya Anti-Corruption Authority is working hard to combat corruption.

Martin Luke Oduor Otieno, left, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

Recruited from the private sector, he is one of the well-respected new guard on whom people are relying to take the reforms forward

"There is a new culture in Government"

FACT:

Agriculture is depressed and repressed. Horticulture has escaped public control and has done well, although there are problems ahead

"Making a real government for Kenya"

by Declan Walsh*

nce the brightest star in east Africa, the light has gone out in Kenya - literally. Homes across the country are in darkness for as much as 18 hours a day due to severe electricity rationing introduced recently. Water is so scarce that office workers are foregoing their morning showers and herds-men have invaded large farms to give grazing to their dying livestock.

Kenya is bordering on economic disaster. A cartoon in one newspaper captured the national mood with black humour. It depicted a man walking around with a large oxygen tank on his back. The caption read: "Not taking any chances."

But the crisis is no laughing matter for most Kenyans. The sense of unhappiness is palpable in the streets of the capital Nairobi, where riots by one disaffected group or another have become a daily occurrence. It has spread to the most unlikely corners.

Children from nine different primary schools went on the rampage in early June after a nine-year-old schoolboy was knocked down by a speeding *matatu* minibus. They barricaded roads, set another bus on fire and looted a lorry carrying beer crates. Some of the apprentice rioters were as young as seven years old.

In the meantime, several patients died in regional hospitals as blood banks went sour due to the power cuts. Thousands lost their jobs as some factories started working half-weeks.

President Daniel arap Moi has blamed the rationing on the prolonged drought that emptied the water reservoirs which provide 75% of Kenya's power. "I am not a rainmaker," he said after the cuts started.

The opposition opinion

But President Moi's many opponents claim that he and his cronies, not Mother Nature, are to blame for the rationing. The latest blow to Kenya's once promising economy is, they say,

symptomatic of the corruption, graft and mismanagement of resources that have become the hallmark of President Moi's 22-year tenure.

"At independence this country had an economy equivalent to the Asian Tigers. But not any more," says Charity N'gilu, leader of the opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) and one of a handful of women parliamentarians. "Our confidence has been destroyed, there has been a serious breakdown of law and order, and people will soon be starving. None of this can change as long as Moi remains in office."

Ms N'gilu is part of a coalition of political and civic forces devoted to removing President Moi and the ruling Kenyan African National Unity (Kanu) party from power. Along with Mwai Kibaki of the main opposition Democratic Party and fire-brand lawyer James Orendo, Ms N'gilu launches scathing attacks on President Moi and the ruling cabal in parliament and in the privately-owned press.

But it has not always been so. In the 1980s, Kenya had a reputation as an unfriendly and sometimes dangerous place for dissenting voices, and people were subjected to harassment and even torture in the basement of the Central Police Station.

After one-party rule was introduced in 1983, political discourse in the chambers of parliament was replaced with the discordant music of sycophancy. In one speech an MP spoke of the president's "unrivalled statesmanship," saying that his "unswerving loyalty for institutions nurtured since independence - his deep love for Kenyans and his genuine patriotism - make President Moi the most popular leader in the world."

A voice from the church

Reverend Timothy Njoya could never be described as a sycophant. Although officially a Presbyterian minister, his work has arguably had more impact in the political than in the religious

domain. He has campaigned vociferously against injustice and for political reform for three decades. It has sometimes cost him dear.

His left thumb protrudes awkwardly from his hand, having been sewn on following a vicious attack in 1977 by thugs he claims were sent by the then president, Jomo Kenyatta. His own church has suspended him from pastoral work three times, saying that his activities were too dangerous.

Twenty years later, Rev Njoya's campaigning fire was still unquenched when he was brutally beaten by police in the grounds of St Austin's church during a reform demonstration. One photographer caught the moment and his image - of Rev Njoya crawling along the ground, blood spilling off his forehead - made headlines across the world. This sparked international condemnation and went some way towards softening the government's tactics.

Although Kenya is currently suffering economically, it has made leaps forward in the democratic domain, says Njoya: "In real terms Moi doesn't have the power he used to. He doesn't have all the MPs in his pocket and the media has been liberalised.

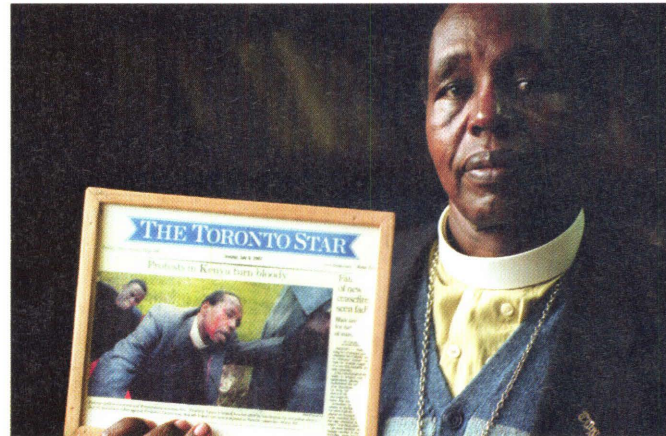
"Economically we may be poorer, but as human beings we are richer in simple ways - like being able to meet in a hotel without having to look over our shoulders."

But while greater criticism of President Moi's ruling cabal is now tolerated, Kenyan politics has not become a gentler game. Last year Rev Njoya was again badly beaten - this time his arm was broken - when a budget day reform protest turned nasty after Kanu youths attacked. The police failed to intervene.

President Moi is often shown on state television at *harambees*, a form of community donation which means "let's come together," with a generous cheque in hand. The president has subverted this tradition to political goals, according to Rev Njoya: "Moi ransacked and crippled the parastatals for the purpose of giving *harambee* to the people and making them dependent on him."

It is true that Kenya's parastatals, or semi-state companies which control the key coffee and tea producing sectors, are on their knees. In the 10 years from 1988 to 1998, coffee production dropped from 130,000 to 53,000 tonnes, while in June of this year angry tea farmers kidnapped two directors of the Kenya Tea Development Authority, only to release them later.

In the wider economy, GDP has averaged 1.8% over the last three years while the population has grown at 2.5%. Over half now lives below the poverty line. An angry letter writer to *The Nation* newspaper recently asked: "For how long must



The Reverend Timothy Njoya with the photograph that made world headlines

Kenians pay for the mismanagement of their affairs?"

Not much longer, if Richard Leakey has anything to do with it. But one year down the line campaigners say that, while Leakey is well intentioned, his anti-corruption squad - nicknamed the "Dream Team," hasn't delivered the goods.

"He is greasing the very machinery he said he would dismantle. If he had remained with us we might have got rid of Moi - but he has only given him another lease of life," says Rev Njoya.

Reformers say a complete overhaul of Kenya's constitution, which has been modified dozens of times over the last 30 years, is the key to economic and political reform. Civic activist Davinder Lamba is leading the drive to educate Kenyans about their constitutional rights.

The government is still sensitive about such activities. The actors in a civic education play were arrested in the town of Nyeri in June on charges of unlawful assembly. They were

also locked up for possessing "dangerous weapons" - the props they used in the play. And in April, two Irish nuns and an American missionary spent the night in jail with 60 other people after being arrested at a debt relief rally in Nairobi. The charges were later dropped.

"People are scared - the public order imposed on them is so strong that taking part in any civic activity means you are asking for trouble," says Lamba.

The constitutional reform process is currently stuck in the mud, caught between the government's insistence that the changes be managed by a committee of parliamentarians - appointed by President Moi - while activists, including the church-led Ufungamano initiative, say that it is the ordinary people who should forge a new constitution.

It now seems highly unlikely that Kenyans will have one before elections in 2002. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has insisted on reforms which may improve the economic situation before the next government takes office.

Change in the air

Despite all the gloom in Kenya, a sense of change is in the air. As well as presenting a united front to the government on corruption and constitutional reform issues, Kibaki, Orenko and N'gilu also represent three of the largest tribes in Kenya, the Kikuyu, the Luo and the Kamba - a vital move in such an ethnically-divided society.

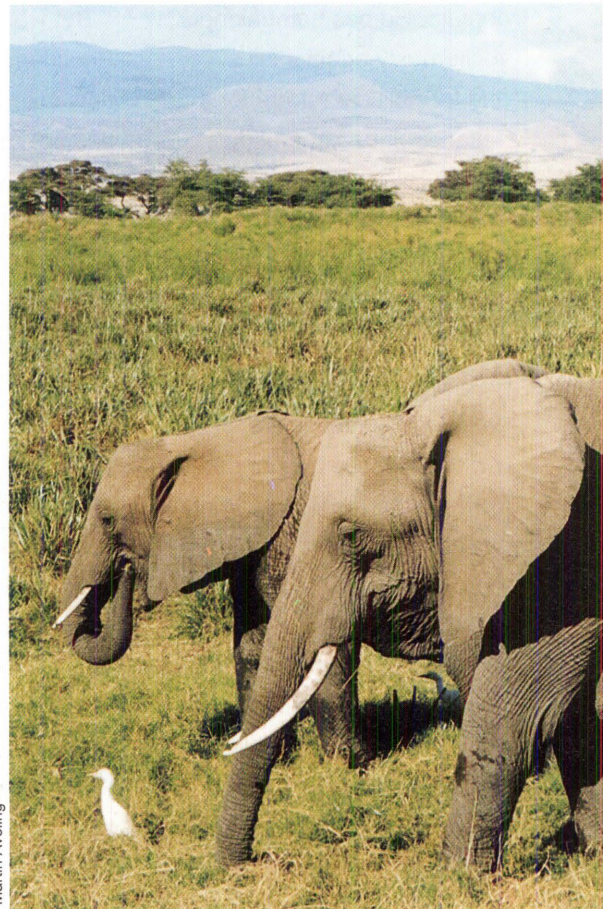
Although the Kanu party only won 39% of votes in the last election, it still won the day after the opposition had splintered along tribal lines, for the second time in the 1990s. It's not a mistake they will repeat in the 2002 elections, says Ms N'gilu:

"We realise that we have failed Kenyans twice already. Now we have a duty to galvanise the opposition vote and make a real government for Kenya."

But the thorny issue of choosing one candidate to represent the opposition coalition still remains. Ms N'gilu doesn't rule out herself, or another woman as president.

"It will be very soon," she predicts.

**East Africa correspondent for the Irish Times*



Martin Aveling

It's not only elephants that die in the ivory wars. In a park deep in the Kenyan bush, wildlife ranger Peter Ndiritu saw a close friend and colleague gunned down by fleeing poachers last year.

"The bandits thought they were surrounded. He died on the spot," says Ndiritu.

Kenyans are deadly serious about protecting their wildlife - which is why they fought hard to preserve the ivory ban that saved their elephant population from complete decimation just over 10 years ago, at last April's conference of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).

Kenya found itself pitted against its southern African neighbours, who sometimes face the problem of having too many, instead of too few, elephants. At the last CITES conference in 1997, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana won limited permission to prise the ivory trade open again and to sell 60 tonnes of legally-harvested ivory.

CITES and its effect on Kenya by Declan Walsh

A compromise on ivory sales

In the end, Kenya won a victory of sorts. The Southern African countries dropped their demands to reopen the international ivory market. In return, Kenya and India dropped a motion which would have definitively ruled out ivory sales at any point in the future.

The compromise is understood to have been negotiated by the European Union Delegation, whose Member States were split on the issue.

It will be up for discussion again at the next CITES conference, two years from now in the Chilean capital Santiago. The southern states hope that a poaching monitoring system, known as MIKE, will overcome conservationists' fears and reopen the lucrative market. The EU has pledged US\$4 million to MIKE.

"The war is not over, we will be back," warned Mohammed Valli Moosa, South African Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism at the end of the conference.

Elephants vital to Kenya tourism

Kenya fought hard at CITES because it considers elephants and the tourists they attract vital to its flagging tourist industry. Numbers have been sliding since the mid-90s peak;

Tourism Minister Nicholas Biwott has blamed the slump on poor infrastructure, security and marketing.

Car theft at gunpoint, or "carjacking" has become common in Nairobi and some outlying areas. A KLM bus ferrying tourists from the airport was carjacked late last year.

Last February, the head of the civil service and former Kenya Wildlife Service chief Richard Leakey set about tackling the perception that Kenya is a dangerous country. Together with the Kenya Tourism Federation, he set up a tourist safety centre in Nairobi which would take emergency calls as well as proactive measures to ensure that visitors have a safe stay.

Leakey has also tackled marketing. One of the first things he did when he came into office in July 1999 was to sack the ailing head of the Kenya Tourism Board, putting Uhuru Kenyatta, son of Kenya's founding father, Jomo Kenyatta, into the post (see p. 49).

Kenya has kept the ivory problem under wraps - for now at least. But the more serious problems, of human not animal origin, will be much more difficult to tackle.



At CITES in Nairobi this year the same countries called for the renewal of those ivory sales and were joined by South Africa, which wanted to sell 30 tonnes of ivory for \$2.7 million.

Kenya and India vehemently rejected the proposals. While cash-strapped countries like Zimbabwe want to profit from their surplus elephant populations, which they have to cull, Kenya's herd is only now recovering from the decimation of the 1970s and 1980s.

Elephants are crucial to the tourist industry. Even the smallest resumption of ivory trading would send the wrong message to poachers, argued Kenya Wildlife Service chief Nehemiah Rotich at the conference.

Innovation, development, real progress

The European Union is collaborating with Kenya on many different fronts, and its development aid is directed at various projects from tourism, biodiversity and wildlife to roads and microenterprises.

It is working to develop and support the undoubted creativity and energy of Kenya's people and to try to ensure that they are the ones who benefit from funding and aid programmes, some outlined here.

Programme objectives are all similar - to promote economic growth, create employment, support the social sector, and - ultimately and most importantly - alleviate poverty.

Kenya is suffering from the effects of long-term bad management, but it is not a lost cause. Whatever have been the shortcomings of government, much is being done at grassroots and macro level. Communities are being given responsibility to manage components that affect them directly, and thus earn an income from their skills. Where materials are running out, alternatives are being offered, and people are being trained to use them. Where they do not have access to funds - money is expensive in Kenya and conditions for borrowing are stringent - there are opportunities for grants and loans.

Cooperation
in focus

Isaac, the manager of Kamakunji Cooperative, below, with a *jua kali* device for bending barbed wire; right, a nearby stall selling utensils

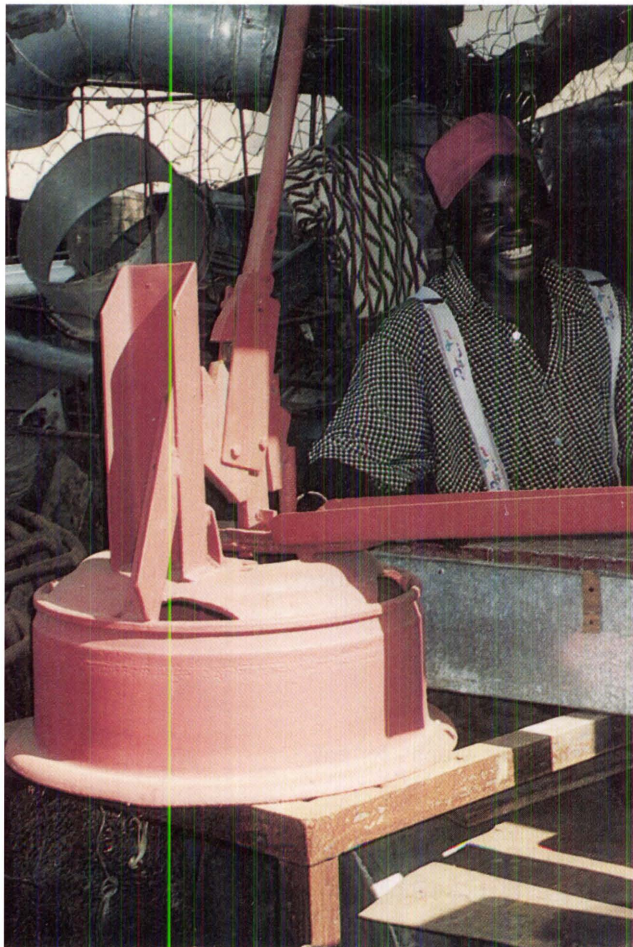
Micro Enterprises Support Programme

MESP (with the help of EU funding: 10 million euros over five years) works with intermediaries that provide financial or non-financial services to improve the performance of micro-enterprises. Despite the present difficult environment within Kenya, MESP welcomes "government measures to liberate the economy, simplify licencing requirements and adopt a facilitative role."

At present, standards of living are falling, and problems encountered by operators in the informal sector are many: "they rarely have security of tenure to land, operate from a variety of less than desirable locations, are subject to casual extortion and periodic assault from council or government officials and are forced to eke out a living on the fringes of the economy."

There are three main activities:

- credit; ● loans to financial intermediaries for lending to micro-enterprises; ● product development and marketing - non-financial support, through intermediaries.



MESP

The aim is to provide institutional support and capacity-building, which aims to strengthen the intermediaries involved and also key Government departments that are service providers to the micro-enterprise sector.

Projects approved so far include Hornbill Consultants, the design resource group; Africa Now/ITDG, with the Promotion of Rural Technology (PORT); Technoserve, a mobile cart business; City Garbage Recycler Self Help, a waste-recycling project and so on. As an example of scale, for the Mennonite Central Committee's work with sustainable wood-carving, MESP contributed 8,420,000 Kshs to costs of 14,050,000 Kshs.

Kamakunji Jua Kalai Association PD&M fund: 1,102,790 Kshs have been contributed to costs of 1,471,790Kshs.



Colourful Kamakunji steel cases

c a s e s t u d y

Carving out a future

How to sustain Kenyan wood carving

By Diego Masera*

The woodcarving industry in Kenya employs 80,000 carvers, whose work feeds nearly a half million people.

This industry may not be able to continue because it uses unsustainably-harvested indigenous hardwoods, which will not be able to carry on meeting demand. (They are also valued for construction, furniture and fuel purposes.) Efforts therefore are being made to change this and emphasise the gravity of the situation to consumers and producers, and the need for carvings to be made from alternative softwood species.

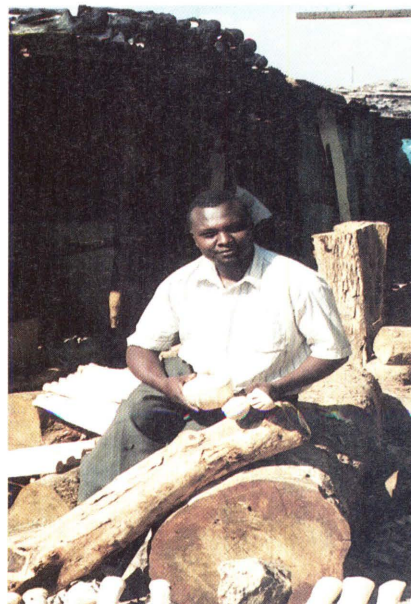
In Kenya handicrafts, particularly woodcarving, make

a significant contribution to the national economy, and are known all round the world. In fact, carving in Kenya is a fairly new phenomenon, derived from the woodworking traditions of the Makonde people of Tanzania and Mozambique. Mutisya Munge, an Akamba from a small village in Kenya, is credited with introducing carving to his people after returning home from Tanzania at the end of the First World War.

The woodcarving industry is rapidly expanding; the volume of trade, the number of people involved and the wood requirements are all increasing. The annual export earnings from the industry are as high as

264 million Ksh per year (about 30 million euros).

The future of the industry is seriously threatened. Carvers depend on wood from local forests and farms; so far, most of it comes from indigenous



With salad servers made of jacaranda wood, to his own original design. "I looked at flowers and trees and I made something based on them"



Giving it a go: a carver at Pumwani working out how to use a new kind of wood for a large carving

hardwood species such as *muhuhu* (*Brachylaena hulliensis*) and *mpingo* (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*) which are not produced on a sustainable basis. Selective harvesting has a severe impact on forest structure and species composition and makes populations vulnerable, as increasingly immature trees are being cut.

The industry uses about 7,000 m³ of wood per annum, and about 50,000 trees are felled each year: 10 trees per hectare of natural closed-canopy forest in Kenya.

For carvers to use environmentally sustainable wood, they - and those who buy their work - must be made aware of the situation.

To reverse the trend of forest degradation, which will lead to reduced income from carvings, the development of a sustainable product development strategy (SPD) by producers and traders is essential.

Good Wood

An important effort is being made by a group that has decided to embark on a campaign to promote Good Wood carving. Initial research concentrated on experimenting with fastgrowing non-native species which have long been grown outside native forests as substitutes for endangered ones. Findings indicated that the best alternatives were: Neem (*Azadirachto indica*),

Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Grevillea (*Grevillea robusta*) and Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*). Other species are still being tested, such as Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), Casuarina (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), Melia (*Melia azedarach*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus spp.*) and *Prosopis spp.* As most of these species have multiple uses and are fastgrowing, they have a good potential for being raised in local farms and plantations.

Although they may not be as durable as the indigenous hardwoods it is important that the market is sensitised to the need to buy products carved from these species.

The Good Wood campaign therefore will concentrate on establishing a market for sustainably-sourced carvings by:

- the introduction of an independently-certified Good Wood label for carvings from sustainable supplies and a system to monitor their use and production;
- promotion of certified carvings within Kenya and abroad;
- establishment of a market share of at least 10% for certified carvings by 2004.

To provide the right products, a new project, funded by the EU under MESP and implemented by the Mennonite Central Committee and the Kenya Carvers Cooperative Union, focuses on sustainable product development and will tackle three areas:

● **Sustainable product development:** training people to make new products from Good Wood to be attractive to customers and easily identifiable as ecologically-sound. Master craftsmen have been selected from various cooperatives in Kenya to go on a course in product diversification and the use of Good Wood, so they can introduce the new ideas to their fellow carvers.

Trainees are exposed to market requirements and trends, and with the aid of photographs and illustrations encouraged to move away from producing the same old things: carvers who have carved wild animals for decades may never have seen a giraffe and have limited access to visual information to give them new ideas.

At present, innovation is not encouraged. The project aims to establish a recognition-award scheme for the best innovations, such as cash, acknowledgement certificates and royalties.

● **Reforestation:** in favourable conditions Good Wood seedlings can be harvested within 10-15 years. Reforestation is urgent and needs to be done on a scale sufficient to assure a sustainable source of raw materials. The project will promote the establishment of tree nurseries within each carver cooperative

MESP

and the distribution of seedlings to farmers and carvers. The reforestation approach will enhance the sense of ownership.

So far 11 tree nurseries have been established, over 35,000 seedlings planted and 300 people trained in seedling raising and nursery management. The target for each nursery will be to raise 10,000 seedlings each year.

● **Marketing:** the project will link up with the Good Wood campaign to create awareness among customers and producers. Local and foreign market requirements will be identified.

Several experiments have tested the differences between woods and the best way to carve and finish them. Hardwood timber is best carved when it is fresh and soft; softwoods need to be kept for a seasoning period or they will crack.

Specially-designated areas have been established in the showrooms of each carver association, posters have been printed, leaflets distributed and articles written. To complement the campaign, videos are shown on long-distance flights to Nairobi and articles published in Msafiri, the in-flight magazine of Kenya Airways.

Initial results are encouraging but there is still much to be done. Over 1,500 carvers are already using Good Wood and over 100 new products have been designed. Sales are still low, but already 10,000 neem products have been sold. A very effective Hard Sell is going to be necessary, as sales from *muhugu* still outweigh Neem 10-fold...

*Product Development and Marketing Manager of the Kenya Micro-Enterprises Support Programme (MESP). He is the author of several articles and manuals on product development for small enterprises in developing countries.

CDP

The Community Development Trust Fund



The Community Development Programme (CDP) followed on the heels of the discontinued Micro-Projects Programme, thought too cumbersome and inflexible to respond to community needs and expectations.

€12.5m was allocated to the Community Development Trust Fund in October 1996 over a four-year period, managed by a board of trustees and implemented by a Project Management Unit. The CDTF was up and running by October 1997, and its first 25 projects were approved by the Board in February 1998. At the end of May 2000, 192 projects had been approved and 511,857,516 Kshs committed. Projects are fairly small, usually under €300,000 (21 million Kshs) and soon they hope to have a project in every district in Kenya - at present there are only seven in which a project is not funded. There have been more than 4,000 funding applications, once the word got around by way of workshops in the districts. After a very positive evaluation in September 1999, CDP 2 has been recommended, at a cost of €15m. The CDTF has maintained very high standards of transparency and accountability, and has been subject to six-monthly audits.

The new dining hall and community centre in progress at Langata High School, above. Most pupils come from the nearby Kibera slums. The children are aged from 14 - 19, and their fees come to about 14,000 Kshs a year (€192). They cover tuition and most of their books, and because, by the afternoons, hungry children were not able to concentrate, the school has built the cost of lunch into the fees. The building will also be used as a meeting hall, and will allow the school to raise funds by hiring it out. The school has covered its part of the costs by raising money from parents, and selling an acre of land.

The delighted Headmistress and Members of the Board of Governors, below



The point of the programme is to help communities help their own socio-economic growth. Money is released in tranches directly to committees, elected by the community, and is managed by those committees, who prepare monthly progress reports. Monitoring visits take place every two months.

Eligibility is judged according to the following criteria:

- community participation and involvement must be demonstrated at every stage;
- the community must contribute - Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) designated districts must contribute 10% of the total cost (in money or materials) and non-ASAL districts 25%;
- this must be paid before funds are released;
- the project is demand-driven, so a whole community must have decided on a need;
- sustainability must be demonstrated.

Due to the failure of the rains, Technical Advisor Lammert Zwaagstra said that "at present we have moved from development mode to survival mode" and communities

are finding manpower harder and harder to provide. But in spite of this, all staff members agreed that "it is very very popular with the communities." It is in fact so successful that other donors want to channel funds through the CTFD but "this is not legally possible, and we have more applications than we can fund. If - when - Phase 2 is approved, we will be completely over-subscribed and our resources will be completely inadequate."

So far 50% of the funding is concentrated on the educational sector but the project also addresses other areas of development within Kenya: community development, economic recovery and sustainable economic growth, employment creation, health facilities and poverty alleviation. Activities also have a bearing on wildlife conservation by enhancing community participation in conserving wildlife and natural resources, and a sustainable use of the scarce natural resource base helps economic integration, food security and drought-preparedness.

"Without roads you go nowhere"

Richard Kerama in The Standard newspaper wrote in December last year that "Once the most modern road in East Africa, the Nairobi-Mombasa highway has now degenerated into a monumental 480 km national pillar of shame."

It does not crumble alone. The 160,000 km of roads in Kenya have fallen into serious disrepair. Gravel surfaced roads are turning into earth roads, and earth roads are becoming tracks. Of these, only 64,000 km are classified, and much (43%) is in appalling condition due to lack of financing and maintenance, poor institu-

tional management, inappropriate technical approaches, and lack of ownership - people didn't get what they needed ("If I can get my car out of my *shamba* (smallholding) up country and on to the road, it will make all the difference to my life. Now, when it rains, I have to leave it where it is and walk"). People thought the roads belonged to the government, and the government didn't really care. The El Niño rains of 1997 contributed to their destruction, and overloading of heavy commercial vehicles put the finishing touches to the universal decrepitude.

Reforms will involve the provision of adequate funds, the involvement of roadusers, institution reforms (such as the setting up of the Kenya Roads Board to manage all roads) and the Fuel Levy Fund which is aimed at reaching 10 billion Kshs a year but so far, since 1995, has managed 6 billion a year.

Once it is in action, the KRB will have 13 directors, five from government and eight from the private sector. Previously funds went to the Ministry and not "to those who needed it," and the rigidity of central government remained a problem.

Now money will be given out in small doses against work.

Maintenance and rehabilitation strategies will include the Road 2000 concept for rural roads, which involves dealing with bottlenecks rather than taking on the whole task in one go. Ownership is to be created by the use of labour as far as possible rather than machines, and over the next three to four years it is intended that 6.2 billion Kshs will come from donors: the EU, Danida, the World Bank, Sida, US Aid, KfW, AFD and the African Development Bank.

The private sector will manage tolls, and the construction and maintenance of the network if they are set up. New laws will be put in place to accommodate needs that the current system does not allow. Mechanisms such as Axle Load Control are already helping to lessen overloading of vehicles. Four static weighbridges, for instance, are on the Northern Corridor, one of the most important roads in Kenya, from Mombasa to Uganda via Nairobi. 10 mobile weighbridges make spot checks at the entry points to the country, to prevent overloaded vehicles entering the network and stop damage before it starts. Fines will be levied for excess weight - 5 Kshs per kilo.

In the past, reminds The Standard, "weighbridge clerks have been known to wave [trucks] on for a little tip. Traffic

police have also been reported to face the other way ...for the sake of a little bribe...*kitua kitu kidogo.*"

The Kenya Road Boards Act was passed with help from DFID and the EU in December 1999 and became law in January 2000. The major tasks are:

- to coordinate implementation of maintenance, rehabilitation and development to achieve efficiency, cost effectiveness and safety;
- to administer the funds from the fuel levy and other income;
- to determine the financial allocation required by road agencies;
- to monitor operations and activities of road agencies and evaluate the delivery of works;
- to ensure that all procurement is conducted in accordance with Board guidelines;
- to recommend to the

Minister the necessary studies and research, also the specifications, design standards and classification for roads, vehicle types, dimensions and axle load limits and road safety.

The Community for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Kenyan Government have recommended that axle load control be privatised, and the government left only with supervision and regulation. Many people who have been employed by the government, for instance for road maintenance, will be laid off with a



"Everyone is very excited about this. Even the junior staff. Queries are being attended to promptly, and public complaints are being approached differently. We believe it will work. There is no turning back now."

Engineer in Chief, JHG Wambura

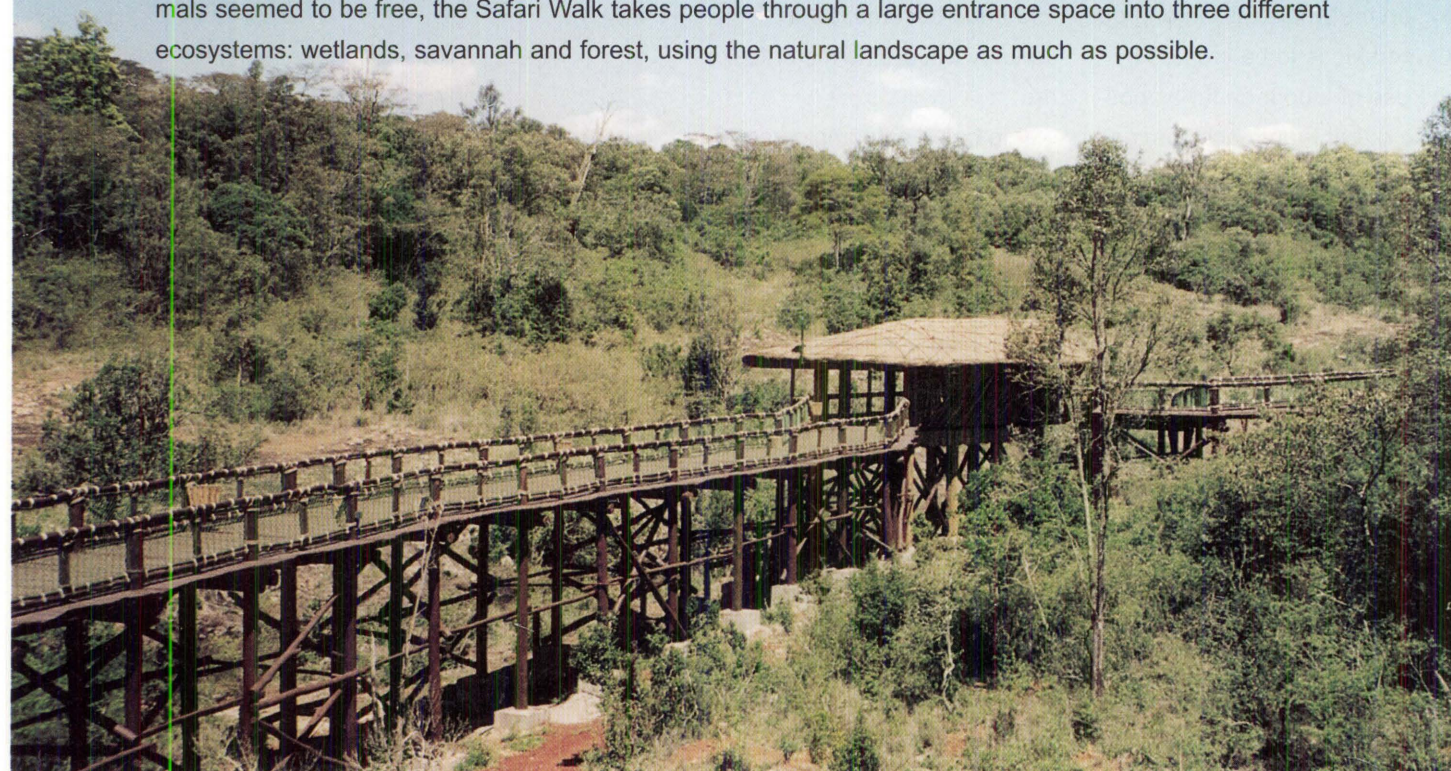
golden handshake, and the offer of training in book keeping and management in the hope that they will be able to offer their services as contractors.

The degradation of years cannot be reversed overnight, and the plan is to take things slowly and systematically. Everyone agrees that urgent work is needed. Of the 480 km long Northern Corridor between Mombasa and Nairobi 150 km are fine, and soon another 150 km will be finished. Within five years, the road is expected to be well up to scratch.

KWS

The purpose of the Nairobi Safari Walk is to be somewhere where visitors of all kinds can spend an interesting three hours or so in the open air, learning about wildlife and its habitat. It was born out of the Animal Orphanage, which at present attracts 200,000 visitors a year, and the aim is to have 300,000 fairly soon. Its purpose is principally educational, so if the planned gift shops and the restaurant do not initially cover costs, this will not be the end of the world.

Designed with assistance from New York Zoo, who pioneered cages without bars: displays in which the animals seemed to be free, the Safari Walk takes people through a large entrance space into three different ecosystems: wetlands, savannah and forest, using the natural landscape as much as possible.



The Nairobi Safari Walk

Samuel Ngethe, KWS Deputy Director, near right, sharing his enthusiasm for the environment by pointing out the ravages of termites on a tree trunk

Cages without bars: an enclosure, far right, for savannah animals like lions, rhino and cheetah. The fences are sunken, so they are not conspicuous and visitors have an unimpeded view and a sense of open space



Thinking and diversification

Tourism is a major foreign exchange earner for Kenya, and it was the only sector that registered positive growth in 1999.

Nevertheless we all know that something went wrong with Kenyan tourism. Once the golden country, the Must Visit on everyone's list, it slunk down the popularity polls. Beatrice Buyu, the Managing Director of the Kenya Tourist Board (KTB), is not pretending that this isn't true. Her experience however (Unilever, Sterling Health, B.A.T, Schweppes ...) equips her excellently to change it.

She does not hide the problems: political disturbances ("tourists were on the whole not affected by the disturbances and they were not unique to Kenya"), competition from other countries ("we took it for granted - we thought tourists would always be there"), low standards, hotels not being upgraded, and occupancy declining to 30% in 1997. Other problems have been over-reliance on a few markets, poor marketing strategies, and a divided tourist industry that has not been able to lobby for government support.

The crisis has made people think, and diversify: ecotourism is becoming popular, and so are small, expensive, high-quality lodges. The private sector has realised that the target for measuring Kenya's tourism

should be revenue generated and not number of arrivals.

Half the members of the Board come from the private sector, and they talk every day.

"When I joined KTB, it was a nonentity," says Beatrice. "But now we work closely with the Ministry, and the industry and the EU."

So much so that the EU has agreed in principle to release €2 million to help them with promoting Kenya. EU funds will not exceed 60% of the eligible activities, and 40% will come from the Government of Kenya budget, the tourism levy fund and the private sector.

Beatrice is concentrating on re-educating the media - "We need more support from them" - and her staff are having media training.

Her boss, Chairman Uhuru Kenyatta, is an experienced and sensible man. He supports her totally, and is honest about the problems and what they are doing about them.

"The government was removed from the day to day world," he admits. "Everyone was out of touch and there was a breakdown in communication. Prices went down, particularly on the coast, and so the product went down too. Hotels are closed because there is no business for them."

He is involved in the tourist industry - he owns hotels - and is concerned that Kenya

resume its position as a country that offers tourists excitement and value for money, making sure they feel they have got what they paid for.

Now roles are better-defined and there is a focus on image and good marketing; the private sector has demanded participation. The government is involved too, and the new approach is "cohesive and independent."

Direction has been clarified. A classification system is to come, detailing the minimum facilities expected, and the minimum rate.

Training is being undertaken at all levels and attitudes are changing. Gone are the tall glass boxes at the airport, containing stony officials examining passports without a smile. Now the welcome is good-humoured and tourist visas are free.

The hotel training school, Utalii, has been accused of being out of step with the new face of the industry, turning out graduates ill-equipped to respond. This, says Uhuru Kenyatta, is not true. There are things that have to change, but "they are understanding, service-orientated and as good as hotel staff anywhere in the world."



Uhuru Kenyatta, above, Chairman of the Kenya Tourist Board, says that the collaboration with the EU began slowly and gathered momentum - "We have received what is in effect free consultancy!" - and he is very enthusiastic about the future of both their collaboration and the future of tourism in Kenya

Beatrice Buyu, Managing Director, below, brings her experience and expertise to back him up



health

On the right track - pole pole*

The Family Health Programme was started in 1997, to run for five years, funded by the EU and DFID to the tune of €23 million.

Its programme management has been contracted out to GTZ, and in order to show that they are able and willing to work with communities and other workers, they have moved offices into the Kenyatta Hospital.

The project is seeking to establish mechanisms within the Ministry for sustainability, and efficient service provision. It is setting up a quality assessment tool to enable service providers to offer a good service. It is becoming more needs-driven, moving away from the old, centralised, model.

Sustainability is the key, and not always easy to achieve. Volunteers at community level expect something from their commitment; higher status within their communities is not enough. This is being examined. Also the Ministry is very much in control and management has been from the top down, so local counterparts are largely powerless.

- Service Delivery working with NGOs, 14 of whom are under contract, with a major focus on Family planning.

- Procurement

80% of injectable contraceptives, the most popular form in Kenya. 20% of condoms.

Volunteers are recruited from within the community and undergo a two-week training - 14,000 people have been trained over the last 10 years.

Operations research is being undertaken and the results are being fed back into the programme.

A small private sector group (200 to date) of nurses, doctors and pharmacists has been trained and eligibility criteria developed. The project supplies them with equipment (mostly family planning kits) for which they contribute 25% of the costs, and they are encouraged to offer an efficient, customer friendly service.

There are four principles of the project log-frame. It has been set up to provide:

- Availability and access
- Quality assessment
- Enhanced quality for providers
- Coordination and cooperation

"The progress is slow but it is on the right track, pole pole * (slowly). The Ministry is certainly more effective than before."

culture

Kenya's Museum and Swahili culture



The Museum in Nairobi has received considerable EU funding which will be applied to redesigning

it, and widening the range of exhibits (left, announcing one on the traditional Khanga, the colourful cotton cloth cover-all).

The director is George Abungu (above centre, with Dr Bamba the Director of Public Programmes and Ahmed Yassin, the Director of Administration). He has also been much involved in updating the ruins at Gedi on the coast, and the restoration of traditional Swahili houses in Mombasa and on Lamu (a Swahili door is exhibited, right).



Other independent initiatives

Kenyans have always been full of ideas and energy.

On the side of the road people make and sell furniture, carvings, dog kennels. The Maasai Market comes to different places in Kenya to sell souvenirs they have made: beadwork, shields, bags, batiks. Small shops are open every day, selling meat and vegetables and drink, medicines and groceries.

Anton Croze blows quirky and decorative glass at the Kitengela workshops next to Nairobi National Park, people are painting and exhibiting in every media, and producing artefacts in leather, papier-mâché, brass, pottery and wood.

Handmade Leleshwa soaps, are popular - less alkaline and softer than ordinary soaps they contain coconut and vegetable oils, and also essential oils like chamomile and lavender. And they sell, wrapped for the customer and presented in Challenge bags, handcrafted and printed by former street children on recycled paper

(e-mail: challenge@net2000ke.com).



Rattan furniture for sale on the side of the road from Nairobi to Limuru, and all over Kenya

The African Butterfly Research Institute

Dr Steve Collins, an internationally-acclaimed butterfly expert, has set up the African Butterfly Research Institute (ABRI), and the Butterfly Visiting Centre in Nairobi, near the National Park. They are both aimed at supporting conservation and using the beauty of butterflies as a theme to illustrate the biology and variety of invertebrate natural history. He has created a 450 m² greenhouse

containing a tropical garden, planned and controlled to allow hundreds of butterflies to thrive. There are between 400 and 600 adult butterflies at any one time, all Kenyan species. A visit takes between one and two hours, and there is an educational package available for teachers.

e-mail: collinsabri@iconnect.co.ke



The Product Design and Development Centre

Victor Lamont is the Director of the Product Development Centre (website: designafrica.com, e-mail: pddc@connect.co.ke). It was established by the Kenya Government in collaboration with UNDP and the Artisan Trust-UK, with EU funding.

Poor performance of Kenyan products on the global market (because of bad product design development) led to its establishment with the aim of supplying the worldwide demand for crafts.

People bring ideas to the Centre, where they are discussed by the artisans and designers working there for possible adoption and implementation.

The Centre also offers seminars and workshops where new skills are taught. The programme for February - May 2000 had courses on Candle Making by Josephine Njeri, and Using Colour in Design by Mary Collis, one of Kenya's leading artists, Making Liquid Soap/Shampoo



Maasai visitors coming to learn how to market their beadwork and sell it to Europe, above

A brightly-decorated cupboard and matching jars, both much in demand, right

Experimenting with mosaic and colour, below left

Garden pots of many colours, below right

by Andrew Okello, Marketing by Christine Delmeiren, Director of Research International East Africa Lts, Papier-Mâché by Anne Auma, and many more. There is a Jua Kali MBA, a 10-week course organised by Gatonye Njenga, and held on Saturdays to teach business methods.



"This is what we need. There are 230 women in my group and this is what we have been lacking."

Mrs P Gaya of Kendu Bay

"Thanks to the Design Centre we are now able to export our products to overseas markets"

Catherine of Namayana Oloishibor Women's Group (Maasai Bead Makers)



They sell crafts of all kinds, and when I visited were filling an order for 1000 chairs for export. One woman was enjoying learning how to use colour in a mosaic frame for a mirror, and wood carvers were working on various doorstops, lamp bases, candlesticks and so on. Painted cupboards and sisal sofas would (and do) hold their own in international design emporia and the woven baskets were of a colour and quality that tempted me to buy three of them immediately.

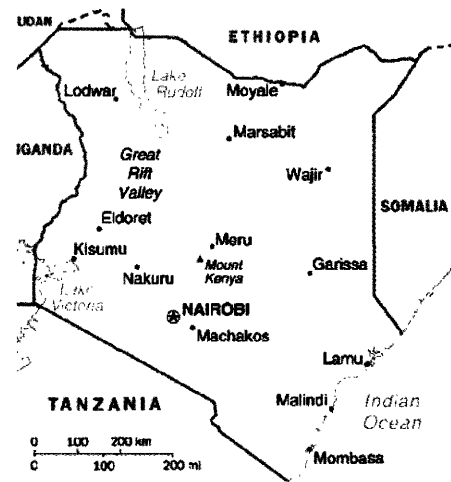
PDDC publish and sell technical, business and discussion papers on every subject they cover: titles include "Are you fit for business?" "Redesign casting of mirrors," Product Development, "30 ways to cut timewasters out of your life."

We could all do with one of those...



PROFILE

Kenya



General Information

Area	582,650 km ²
Population	29,700,000
Capital	Nairobi
Administrative Divisions	Seven provinces and one area: Central, Coast, Eastern, Nairobi Area, North Eastern, Nyanza, Rift Valley, Western
Languages	Swahili and English (official). Numerous indigenous languages
Religions	Protestant 38%, Roman Catholic 28%, indigenous beliefs 26%, Muslim 6%, other 2%
Ethnic groups	Kikuyu 22%, Luhya 14%, Luo 13%, Kalenjin 12%, Kamba 11%, Kisii 6%, other African 15%, non-African (Asian, European, Arab) 1%

Economy

Currency	Kenyan shillings (100 cents)
GDP per capita	US\$310. Purchasing power parity - \$1,600 (1997)
GDP growth	1.6%
GNP per capita	US\$340
Total external debt	As % GDP: 54.8%
Unemployment rate	35% urban (1994)
Main primary products	Agriculture: coffee, tea, corn, wheat, sugar cane, fruit, vegetables. Dairy products, beef, pork, poultry, eggs
Inflation rate (consumer price index)	12%
Main sectors (GDP)	Agriculture 27%, industry 20%, services 53% (1995)
Main exports	Tea 18%, coffee 15%, petroleum products (1995). Horticulture.
Main imports	Machinery and transportation equipment 31%, consumer goods 13%, petroleum products 12% (1995)
Main trading partners	EU (UK, Germany, Netherlands), US, Uganda, Tanzania

Politics

Head of State	President, elected by direct universal suffrage. Since 14 October 1978: Daniel Toroitich arap Moi. NB both Chief of State and Head of Government.
National government	Unicameral National Assembly or <i>Bunge</i> of 210 elected parliamentarians, 12 Presidential appointees, the Attorney General, and the Speaker. The Constitution provides the basis for a multi-party democracy.
Legal System review	Based on English common law, tribal law and Islamic law. Judicial in High Court; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations. Constitutional amendment of 1982 making Kenya a <i>de jure</i> one-party state repealed in 1991.
Main political parties	Kenya African National Union (KANU), Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD-Asili), FORD-Kenya, FORD-People, Democratic Party (DP), National Development Party (NDP), Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Social Indicators

Life expectancy	57 years
Infant mortality	59.38 deaths/1,000 live births (1998)
Education	Aged 25 or over no formal schooling 58.6%, primary 32.2%, incomplete secondary 7.9%, secondary and higher 1.3% (1979)
Adult literacy	Literacy: literate population aged 15 or over 5,758,000 or 59.2% (1985) 79.3%

Sources: EU Kenya Delegation, CIA, Atlapedia

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Education for All?

by Louise Hilditch*

The World Education Forum - the follow-up to the Education for All conference at Jomtien in 1990 - took place in Dakar last April, co-hosted by UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and the World Bank. It is clear however, that while the spirit is willing and intentions are strong, the dream has not yet become reality.



At Jomtien the World's governments agreed on six goals to ensure education for all by 2000. By 1995 it had become clear that this target was going to be missed.

Deadlines were pushed back, and two new targets were set: to eliminate gender disparities in education by 2005 and to achieve education for all by 2015.

Ten years on, research suggests that in some cases, the situation is even worse now than it was in 1990. The gender gap, for example, has actually widened in sub-Saharan Africa. Depending on whom you believe, there are between 113 and 130 million children currently out of school. Two thirds of them are girls.

Whatever the true figure, it is clear that with such large numbers of children out of school the impact on the economic, social and cultural development of those countries most affected is devastating. At the same time, these countries are amongst those that have to cope with the HIV/AIDS pandemic and violent conflict, and this further exacerbates their efforts to reach the EFA targets.

The World Education Forum was an opportunity to reaffirm government and donor agency commitments to the Education for All goals and to agree on some common strategies for achieving them over the next 15 years. Over 170 countries were represented at the WEF as well as

Photographs from the Global Campaign for Education rally asking the Dakar World Education Forum to provide education for every child

The Dakar Goals

- expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children;
- ensuring that by 2015 all children, with special emphasis on girls, children in difficult circumstances and from ethnic minorities, have access to completely free and compulsory primary education of good quality;
- ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programmes;
- achieving a 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults;
- eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, and achieving gender equality in education by 2015, with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to, and achievement in basic education of good quality;
- improving all aspects of the quality of education and ensuring excellence, so that recognised and measurable learning outcomes are achieved by all, especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.

major donors and around 300 NGO representatives.

There was broad agreement that education is a human right guaranteed in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that it is an essential prerequisite for healthier citizens and for the eradication of poverty. Literacy and education are also the building blocks for democracy and good governance. The Framework for Action adopted at Dakar set the tone by taking as its starting point the fact that, "every child, youth and adult has the human right to benefit from an education that will meet their basic learning needs in the best and fullest sense of the term... It is an education geared to tapping each person's talents and potential, and developing learners' personalities, so that they can improve their lives and transform their societies."

The WEF agreed on six goals and an outline strategy for meeting them. The Forum itself did not have time to consider the detailed strategies, although these are expected to be adopted at the end of June in the World Summit for Social Development Review in Geneva.

In the Dakar goals, governments also undertook "to develop or strengthen existing national plans of action by 2002 at the latest.... developed through more transparent and democratic processes, involving stakeholders, especially people's representatives, community leaders, parents, learners, NGOs and civil society. The plans will address problems associated with the chronic under-financing of basic education by establishing budget priorities that reflect a commitment to achieving EFA goals and targets at the earliest possible date, and no later than 2015."

This clear undertaking provides a firm basis for holding national governments to account for honouring their commitments. The involvement of all stakeholders in developing these plans should ensure subsequent ownership of, and



commitment to implementing policies. Involving education system users also helps to ensure that education is relevant to learners.

The agreement also underlines the importance of "responsive, participatory and accountable systems of educational governance and management," to help ensure that education systems can be continuously monitored and evaluated for effectiveness by education system users themselves.

As the largest share of any country's national budget, underfunding in education is a serious issue. However, the international community undertook to ensure that "no countries seriously committed to education for all will be thwarted in their achievement of this goal by a lack of resources." This seems to indicate that the international community is committed to increase its funding

for education once national plans are in place.

No firm financial commitment

However, a notable weakness in the Framework is the lack of any firm financial commitment on the part of donor agencies. Donors committed themselves merely to the elaboration of a vague "global initiative aimed at developing the strategies and mobilizing the resources needed to provide effective support to national efforts."

The Framework suggests that the resources should come from increases in aid to education, greater predictability in the flow of external assistance, more effective donor coordination, strengthened sector-wide approaches and earlier, deeper and broader debt relief and/or debt cancellation for poverty reduction. A key question for the future, therefore, is how the international community intends

to put this commitment into action.

Finally, the Framework provides for the EFA structures established after Jomtien to be revisited. They have not proved particularly effective either in monitoring progress towards education for all, or in mobilising the resources and policy changes required to achieve it. Post Dakar, there is now an opportunity to strengthen these structures through regionalisation. The existing structures are Northern dominated (as reflected for example in the speaking time in plenary that was allocated to donors versus that granted to Southern governments) so the reformed structures should provide for much greater accountability at national and regional levels.

The greatest challenge now is to ensure that these commitments are acted upon. The World Education Forum cost US\$300 million, while it costs only US\$2800 to build a school-house in Mali. If we want to look back in 15 years time and say that the WEF was money well spent, we need to be sure that governments and donor agencies implement the commitments they entered into at Dakar.

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Keeping cool in the tropics without wasting energy

by Dr Ing Norbert Wilhelm



In northern countries, energy conservation needs have forced the development of efficient insulation, well-adapted layout and new sources of heat. In tropical countries, usual building practice misses many energy-saving

opportunities.

Pushing down one degree takes as much energy as going up three. Much can be done, but decision-makers, owners and designers need to know what energy-saving measures they can take now.

- If you don't need to cool a building at all, or if you use it only for a few hours, of course you need little energy. In an air-conditioned building, the electrical bill halves if the architect and the designer invest more thought and the owner a bit more money at the early stages. Running costs of a building during its lifetime are about four times the initial investment cost.

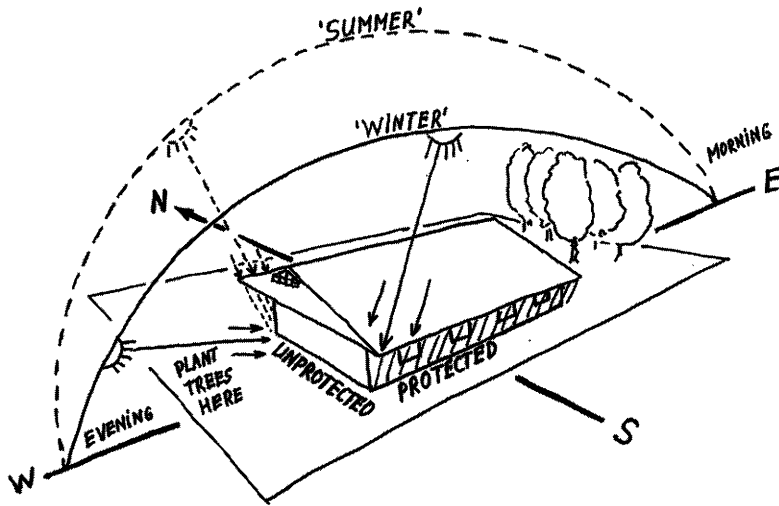
- The main objective is to protect the building against the sun. When the sun rises it shines flat, which means nearly rectangular, against the

walls of a house, which heats it up strongly. At noon the sun stands high in the sky, either in the North or the South (see sketch), and hits the walls at a sharper angle.

Orientating the building East - West exposes only the small gable walls to the flat and strong sun. Town planners should use this knowledge to provide plots that allow for an East - West orientation.

There are also advantages in protecting windows from the sun. The longer walls of a single

Natural ventilation:
Moroccan houses
have holes
in the top of
the domes



Shady days: the best position for a building to dilute the full heat of the sun

storey building can have a large roof overhang, and for other storeys, a simple cantilever sun-blind is sufficient.

It is wise to avoid placing windows in the gable walls, as they are difficult to protect by sun blinds. If windows are needed, they should be protected by planting a screen of fast-growing trees and it would be a good idea to use reflecting glass.

Unfortunately, the roof is always exposed to the sun, so good roof ventilation is essential. A simple ceiling under an inclined and well-ventilated roof works best, with carefully-designed openings to avoid water penetration (eg. louvred stones in the gable below the ridge). Flat roofs often create maintenance problems and will collect heat if they don't have very good insulation.

As windows bring in a lot of heat, they should be of reasonable size, but not huge, so there's no need to build greenhouses. But if they don't let in enough light (remember the need for sun blinds) people will switch on the electric light, which consumes more energy and also heats up the room.

In buildings that have been badly designed steps can still be taken to avoid being grilled by the sun, by improving the external protection from solar energy. Planting sun screens of fast-growing trees helps a lot and a simple suspended ceiling made of traditional material reduces the heat conducted by the roof.

Air-conditioned or cooled buildings

For high-tech buildings like shopping malls up-to-date computer simulation programmes should be used to make the best use of solar energy. This deals with orientation, sun protection and architectural layout as well as the choice of building materials. Right from the start, a heat and ventilation engineer must be involved, or will have to be brought in later to correct any problems in a badly-designed building.

All air-conditioned or cooled buildings should have good heat insulation. As a rule, central European standards should be followed. In Europe the average difference between the inside and outside temperature in winter is about three times that of an air-conditioned building in the tropics. As energy consumption for cooling is also approximately three times that for heating, the relation is similar. At least 10cm of good heat insulation material (styrofoam, rockwool etc.) is needed in the roof. Hollow blocks should be used for walls, thicker and with more chambers than those used now; even better, lightweight foam concrete or insulation cladding should be used.

Windows need insulation glass, and tight window-frames with rubber sealants are a must. The cooling system should be of a reasonable size and not too powerful, as energy efficiency decreases if it runs only at partial load. This saves investment and running costs. A central system is normally more efficient; the exhaust air can be put through a heat exchanger to cool down the fresh air component. But such a system is more difficult to maintain, and initial investment is high.

A proper comparison of investment costs with energy consumption costs will raise awareness and reduce the waste of energy. This was experienced in Germany after the mandatory installation of heat-metering systems in multi-storey houses.

The ventilation engineer should present optional systems with a comparison of the

approximate investment and running costs. Here again, good design works wonders. The heat from a thermal power plant can be used in an absorber system for cooling. The control system provides for a variable room temperature: starting with a temperature slightly below the outside temperature, this is slowly increased as the outside temperature increases by widening the gap between inside and outside values. For example: you start with 22°C outside, and slightly less inside, and raise it to 26°C inside when outside is 32°C. This reduces the shock when you enter an airconditioned room from outside and saves energy.

Houses without cooling

It is ecologically-sound and financially sensible to avoid installing cooling or air-conditioning completely. This is possible if a house is well-oriented and protected against the sun. In addition, it must have good ventilation, as the heat is then transported out and you feel less of it when there is air movement. If there are some openings close to the floor, some 25cm above the ground (or a louvred window going down to the floor), and at least a small vent in the ceiling and near the roof ridge, the heated air will leave through the top opening and there will always be a slight draught in the room.

Much can be learnt from traditional constructions: for natu-

ral ventilation, for instance, the domed roofs of the Arabic style have small openings at the top, and vaulted roofs have grills in the gable. Thatched roof cover like the makuti from palm leaves in East-Africa lets the air penetrate the roof. Another efficient ventilation is the chimney-like rooftop in the traditional architecture in Timor.

Houses dependent on good ventilation should be placed so that the prevailing wind has good access. If the temperature difference between day and night is considerable (as in the desert), heavy walls are useful to store the coolness from the night for the day.

Specifications for temporary-cooled buildings

Basically the rules for both types of buildings should be combined. When a room or a building is not being cooled, one has to ensure good ventilation, but it must be possible to interrupt the ventilation during the cooling period. Traps are needed to close ventilation openings or windows that can also be fixed in the ventilation position. Normal louvred windows are not suitable, as there are too many open gaps.

Walls and ceilings need a reasonable insulation capacity. In the absence of detailed research, to get a ceiling water tight and protected against vapour penetration, which comes from outside in the tropics, I suggest at least four

chamber hollow stones and two layers of softboard are included in a false ceiling, (best if covered with an exterior polyethylene foil). During the night, the insulation capacity of the windows (the weakest point of single glazing) can be increased by heavy curtains, to reduce the heat transmission. To be effective, the curtains must hang so that they are directly in contact with the wall.

Conclusion

People must insist on value for money - at all levels.

This starts with the selection of an experienced architect.

- Check references and examples of work.

- Ask the designers to explain which principles they follow and how, and supervise their adherence to these principles.

- Buy only a building plot that allows proper positioning of the building.

Legislation must be improved. In Germany, for example, considerable heating energy has been saved since minimum insulation became mandatory. We should not wait until better handbooks and research results become available, as the basic rules are well known and were already applied at the beginning of the last century. We need to adopt these principles now, and make sure new buildings save energy for the future.

Building on your own doorstep

by Aida Kisanga

Liberalisation is generally considered a blessing. In the age of globalisation it is associated with the revival of entrepreneurship and industry, giving a shot in the arm to the private sector. Indigenous contractors - local people who have companies

in the developing world - have not been so privileged. Since 1986, Tanzania has done a lot to liberalise its economy. This has meant that foreign contractors - less than three per cent of all contractors in the country - are dominating the building trade.

Malima Bundara, who is Chairman of the Contractors' Registration Board, brought this up at a workshop for Eastern Zone Contractors and Stakeholders in June 2000.

The main concern is the declining value of projects that go to local companies. Labour makes up 10% of total project expenditure and, typically, nearly half of this goes to employees from abroad.

It is obvious that local contractors must sharpen up to compete and attract business. If they can prove that they can produce good work on time, then they stand an excellent chance, with government help, of being contenders in a very competitive business. Foreign contractors believe their local counterparts have potential and say they are ready to partici-

pate in capacity-building and partnership programmes because they see that these will benefit everyone.

Building capacity

A well-targeted and comprehensive capacity-building programme is needed, directed at the weaknesses that prevent local firms from bidding for, and winning, contracts. Construction is a key area of economic activity in Tanzania, and local firms should be very much involved. This is crucial to the development of the sector, and it receives about 40% of the annual development budget.

There is now a policy to increase the share of indigenous firms to between 20 and 30% of the value of foreign-funded projects in the medium term.

Main weaknesses

A recent survey showed that there are major debilitating gaps in management, technical and entrepreneurial skills. Many indigenous contractors greatly underestimate their overheads and indirect costs. A General Manager of a foreign firm gave the example of a shopping complex in Dar-es-Salaam, where the difference between a local contractor and foreign firm on costings was 61%.

Project costs have often been pegged too low and this has led to firms failing to complete projects and even facing bankruptcy. Sometimes they hire equipment which they are unable to use effectively - because of bad scheduling, for instance - which is a waste of money. As a result, clients lose faith in local

contractors and tend to avoid using them.

Appreciation of the importance of health and safety standards is often very low. Tanzanian regulatory enforcement of health and safety is weak and under-developed. Foreign construction firms use the occupational health and safety standards (OHSA) operating in their own countries. Local firms are required to conform to these.

Lack of consistency is also a problem. Work needs to be managed - adoption of ISO 9000 series certification for quality systems and management would develop confidence in indigenous contractors.

Marketing is another problem - simply because many firms do not have the skills or the experience to promote and market themselves. They rely on invitation only, which obviously puts them at a disadvantage. They lack the ability to do market research and to network to find out what opportunities exist.

Many indigenous firms are rooted in very simple company structures that operate as family businesses controlled by the owner. Experience of working in an environment with a hierarchical management team is alien to them. To get them to work under joint-venture arrangements will need many to change management styles and strengthen their management structures.

The future

Foreign contractors have shown interest in working with local firms, as this helps them with employment and taxation laws, and enhances their profitability.

Most donor organisations involved in training programmes have focused on labour-based technology in infrastructure projects. DANIDA, for example, has been providing training at grass roots and micro level, such



as recruiting villagers to participate in local road-building projects. This has limited benefits and excludes indigenous construction firms.

The role of government and external funding agencies

The government should be careful when pursuing policies in the construction sector that support and promote the capacity-building programme. For example, the recent introduction of VAT has made it difficult for foreign contractors to engage sub-contractors. Main contractors in government projects are exempted from VAT. But when they engage sub-contractors they have to pay VAT, which can be passed on to the main contractor, who can claim a refund from the government. However, no refunds have been made to date. This has discouraged foreign firms from using sub-contractors in government projects.

Most projects funded under bilateral aid programmes are tied to procurement from the donor countries (despite what may be publicly announced). This prevents local firms from competing for such projects.



Donors need to change these policies to give a greater chance to local firms to compete and participate in these projects. The World Bank has been promoting the use of local sub-contractors by providing an incentive of a preference of 7.5% if a foreign company uses local sub-contractors. This is still too low to make a significant impact but is nevertheless a policy direction which needs to be improved and encouraged for all externally-funded projects.

Training programme

This will involve on-the-job training based on a carefully-designed management module for contractors. It has to be flexible and tailored to specific needs. Once it has been developed, foreign contractors can bid for participation in the training of indigenous contractors, and cost-sharing arrangements can be built into the programme.

There are seven classes of building and civil contractors in Tanzania. To make maximum impact in terms of raising the capacity of indigenous contractors to compete effectively, the survey proposes that Class 2 - Class 5 indigenous firms should be targeted.

These are the firms with the best potential for growth but constrained by insufficient management, technical and procurement skills. These companies are also hamstrung in competing for contracts against more established expatriate-owned companies.

The programme will focus on improvement of local firms through technology transfer. The detailed training engagement will include modules on: the project; financial issues; quality and supplier management; cost estimates; health and safety; promotion and marketing of services; joint venture arrangements; inventory control; negotiating skills and equipment sourcing and maintenance.

The on-the-job training will be conducted mainly by the foreign firms working with local ones or trainers in selected projects. The methodology will emphasise mentorship and guidance. The duration of such training will be determined on a project by project basis, depending on requirements identified in a needs analysis for each firm. To ensure success, close collaboration with all stakeholders will need to be developed.

Such a training programme also provides an excellent opportunity for donor organisations interested in capacity-building of institutions in Tanzania.

Both bilateral and multilateral donors, such as the EU, who fund a range of construction activities in the country, can buy into the programme by offering to share in the cost of training.

The benefits of equipping indigenous contractors to compete for contracts in their own countries are clear: it would expand employment opportunities and contribute significantly to morale, knowledge, experience and income, and thus to the reduction of poverty.

Djo Munga Wa Tunga, a filmmaker whose work constantly evolves

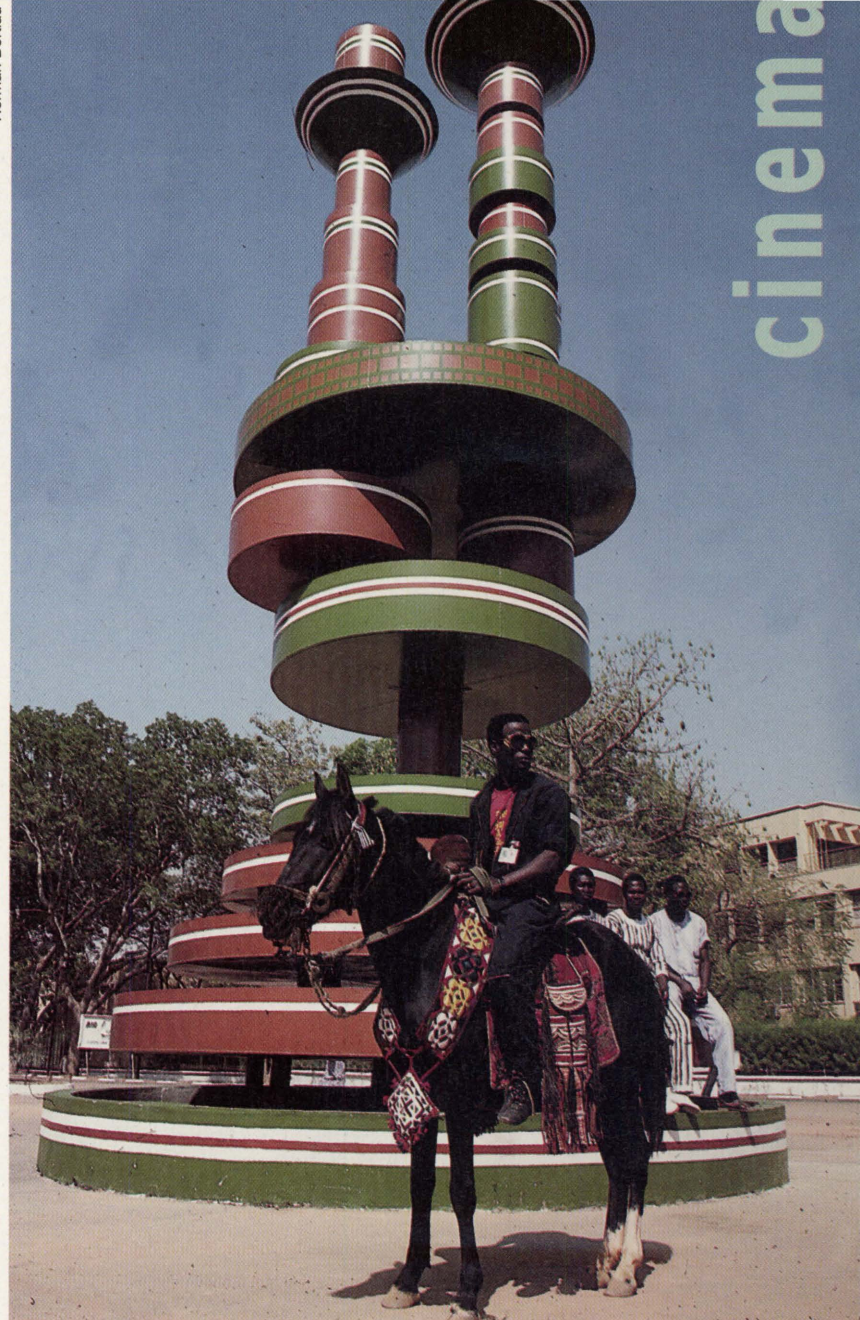
by Katy Ndiaye

Last April, he won the prize for the best short at the Milan African Film Festival, with *Auguy*. Congolese by birth, 27-year-old Djo Munga has lived in Belgium for about 20 years, and dreams of a strong African cinema industry as the guarantor of a forceful, consolidated cultural identity both in Africa and abroad.

Djo Munga, what made you choose the cinema?

It was purely by chance that I gravitated towards the cinema. Originally, I studied graphic art, because I had always been interested in drawing, and I thought that by choosing graphic art I would be happy. However, I very quickly realised that the creative side of graphic art was not living up to my expectations so I went on a Super-eight film introduction course. What a revelation! I discovered the language of the cinema! After my course, the screenplay I had written was accepted for filming - so that's how I made my first film. That first experience made me want to go further, so I took the INSAS [National College of Entertainment Arts and Broadcasting Techniques] entrance exam, and I passed.

In his definition of African cinema, the South-African Richard



Burkina Faso - filmmaker's monument

Ismail, a specialist in the field, tends to exclude production by the diaspora. What are your views on this?

Personally, I don't think it is necessary to be geographically present in Africa to have a valid view of it, or to develop a discourse translated into film images.

If one accepts his line of argument, only those who remain in Africa have the right to present Africa's reality. Obviously, I do not share this point of view - I am just as able to speak and have just as much an investment in the culture of my community as any filmmaker living in Africa.

You only have to look at the films made by the diaspora and you will very quickly realise that Africa itself is at the core. Here, the issues

that are dealt with are changes in social behaviour in the community-in-exile, the sense of tradition far away from one's roots. The rhythm, narrative, characters and colour of the film all take us back to the Black Continent. Filmmakers who have stayed behind have a different approach to the same subject: they describe a world in transition. Both approaches contribute to an image of Africa from within and without.

Do you share the opinion of a number of your peers who see cinema in cultural terms as an opportunity to present an African view on the world?

The ability to capture another person's imagination is to capture part of his true life. If any convincing were needed, one only has to look to the US, which totally dominates the cinematographic production market, instilling its culture, views and lifestyle on the world. In fact, in all its aspects as an anodyne entertainment, cinema is actually a sizeable economic, political and cultural force. Unfortunately, we Africans have not yet appreciated its full importance and have not acquired the means of taking charge of our cultural sector in order to guarantee a certain independence of spirit. Culture is a form of existence and of imposition. Amilcar Cabral spoke very eloquently on this subject, considering culture as one of the most important issues to be addressed and maintained as the basis of our constantly evolving societies.

Should cinema in Africa be an educational tool or simply entertainment?

If we leave culture to others, we are giving up education and maintenance of our collective cultural beliefs. It is that which shapes and forms our lives. Yet I would not use the term educate. I prefer enhance awareness. Cinema is not an educational tool for use by the masses. Nor do I think that films can be

produced according to an instruction book. That's not exactly desirable, either.

By promoting African cinema, we have an opportunity to get across our view of the world, to offer an image of ourselves, to suggest responses to a number of questions that people ask, and to put forward hypotheses. In that way we can make the general public more aware of reality in Africa, which is different from the one they are used to.

Your short, *Auguy*, evokes the paternalistic relationship that often still exists between the west and Africa. Is this an example of the enhanced awareness you speak of?

In my opinion, paternalism is a very mild form of racism. It is an attitude which arises from entrenched forms of behaviour passed on from generation to generation. Paternalistic attitudes are not denounced but regarded as conforming to a reality. To show such behaviour on the screen, to explain implicitly how disturbing and even insulting it is, is like placing a magnifying mirror in front of people so that they can be made aware of the lie that is such behaviour. All being well, at least they might be persuaded to look at how they relate to other people.

In this area, Afro-Americans have won a victory of sorts. They have done the awareness-promotion work. In condemning certain types of behaviour other people can be made more aware, can be awakened. I think this approach has been largely successful in music, but the cinema still has a long way to go. Things evolve slowly, and that's only normal. What we are looking at is the result of work begun about 40 years ago, at independence.

Black culture is fashionable, which is one step away from recognition. Is young Auguy you at 12 years old?

In *Auguy*, there is an extremely simple situation which tells the story of part of the life of a Zairois community living in Belgium (I belong to the second wave of immigration which took place in the late 70s and early 80s). Only a very restricted class was able to send its children to study in Europe and, once there, we stuck together. We took part in the same activities and went to the same places, sharing an identical experience. The Zairois community in Europe was monolithic on account of its socio-economic origins.

The crisis in Zaire in the mid-1980s affected us all in the same way. *Auguy* is an account of that time, but it is not my personal history in the sense that it is not my own direct experience. I have simply projected into this short the sum total of all I was able to observe at that time: parents who could no longer send money to their children in Europe; unpaid invoices and bills for board and lodging; and adaptations of social behaviour in the face of the new situation.

How did the Congolese community receive your film?

The film went out on Canal-Plus, so quite a few people saw it and enjoyed it, even if they didn't agree with its content. The mere fact of seeing

something which resembles them is in my opinion very important in itself. As regards content, I am aware that I have shocked a lot of people: my characters, Auguy and his elder sister, are anti-heroes experiencing the ups and downs of life.

Nevertheless I have described what everyone can see around them. Auguy rebels against two institutions, namely school and religion. That is taboo. People do not look below the surface and have not asked me why I have told this story. Their only comment has been "such things should not be spoken of". The film's reception in the community has admittedly not been an overwhelming success, but people are not used to seeing this genre addressed by an African.

You studied cinema in Europe. How was your course?

My course was rather like a Way of the Cross. When a student is preparing his end-of-course project, he is normally guided by the school. This was not the case with me and my film - in the opinion of the thinkers at the school I studied at, I had not fulfilled my role as the Good Black, and did not fit into an accepted framework. I was supposed to tell a certain type of story, to integrate their view of the wretchedness of Africa

into my work. I couldn't do that. People have an upsetting view of Africa and Africans which is upheld and expanded by the media in general. So, if you attempt to portray a different reality, you risk being challenged and rejected. What you are supposed to do is consolidate the image people have of you.

Nevertheless, I was lucky enough to be amongst students with whom I had grown up and worked, and who supported me. As far as I know, my film was described as the worst film in the school's history.

Will the prize you have won have opened up new horizons for you? How do you stand as a young African director in Europe?

Any prospects remain purely hypothetical until people have been won over, but I have set up a number of promising meetings with several Africans in the field. If I can show my work, it might lead to further discussion and progress, plus a whole series of invitations to festivals. As to whether I have an idea of what my place is in Europe, the answer is no. I ask myself the same question and I don't yet have a reply. Clearly, the African diaspora is large and it is that, first and foremost, that I want to reach out to.

Rigobert Song

by Emmanuel Coste



Rigobert Song is captain of Cameroon's Lions Indomptables ['All-conquering Lions'] team. Aged 23, he led his team to victory last February at the African Nations Cup. In the final, in Lagos, Cameroon beat Nigeria after a penalty shoot out - the two teams stood at two all after extra time. This third success for Cameroon in the African Nations Cup, following on from those in 1984 and 1988, is probably Rigobert Song's happiest memory, despite the fact that his career is still only in its early stages. A solid defender, he now has top-level competition experience. Moreover, he is strong-minded and his determination reflects on his fellow players in the national team.

Eighteen months ago, Rigobert Song arrived at Liverpool, one of England's greatest clubs. Since then, he has been learning to appreciate football and life in England.

Was it easy for you to persuade Liverpool to release you to play in the African Nations Cup, given the problems encountered by certain other players, for instance the Nigerian Nwanko Kanu with Arsenal?

It's always a tricky subject, because it's thanks to the clubs which employ us that we earn our living. On the other hand, however, we have no right to refuse to wear our national team's colours or turn up for a selection meeting. At Liverpool, we have established a working arrangement: during the African Nations Cup, I paid close attention to the club's fortunes. Incidentally, everything appeared to go rather well without me, so I was a little concerned about

my future at Liverpool (he smiles). When all is said and done, you do risk losing your team place, but that's perfectly normal - competition is the name of the game.

Did you have any problems adapting to the game at Liverpool?

No, because I already knew the English game. I adapted to it quite easily. Liverpool has a French trainer, Gérard Houllier, whom I knew when I was playing in France. I fitted in easily and was thrown in at the deep end by playing first-division matches. English football suits my style of playing... after all, the important thing is to be effective. It suits me fine.

How would you compare football as played in France and England? what are the main differences?

The game is more physical. There's more tackling than in France and Italy, for example. It's more concrete. As far as I'm concerned, that's real football - a game for men and not for women. You have to be prepared to get physically involved. For me, the English championship is one of the greatest in the world.

Has playing in England made you a better footballer?

No, I don't think so, but I do know that I can play more and

better. I'm only 23 and a half, after all. In the not too distant future, when I have made a real mark on the championship, I'd like to gain more confidence from my club directors and supporters, although I was lucky enough to be accepted at Liverpool straightaway. They have confidence in me and I have to give them something in return on the field.

As regards supporters, how would you describe your relationship with them?

First of all, I have to say that I was extremely moved to be playing at Anfield, Liverpool's stadium, as I'd heard a lot about it. The supporters are exceptional - players are never criticised. All they have to do is give of their best. As long as you put in your best effort, the fans are happy, even if the game is not won.

Is it important to you that Guinea's Titi Camara is at Liverpool?

Absolutely, it's a real bonus. I don't feel quite so alone. As Africans, we tend to gravitate towards each other and spend a lot of time together, as often happens at Liverpool. We eat together and prepare African food - it helps to keep us happy.

Have you got used to the English lifestyle and language?



I've had no choice. You have to speak English and it's up to the foreign player to adapt to the pace of English life and customs. You yourself have to make the effort.

Finally, I take it that life in North West England is not too difficult?

No. I can quite honestly say that these days I'm very happy at Liverpool. To begin with, it's a great club and when you are a top-level footballer it's always your ambition to play for the big clubs. That said, with all that Liverpool brings with it in terms of history, it's like a dream come true for me. Yes, I can truly say I'm happy here. Also, I would like to end my career in England. I will do my best to give my all, to show that I can always be relied upon. I've bought a house in Liverpool and now feel that my retirement will be a bit more secure. I'd like to put down my roots here.

AIDS: a development issue, not just a disease

Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa: one in four adults in these countries could be HIV positive, and since the mid 1980s 13 million Africans have died from AIDS.

For the first time the International Conference on AIDS was held in Africa, in the capital of Kwa-Zulu Natal. More than 10,000 people from all over the world, amongst them some of the world's most distinguished scientists and doctors, gathered in Durban on 9 July. They listened as President Thabo Mbeki defended a much debated point of view, which cites poverty and not AIDS as Africa's biggest killer.

Many of those attending the conference were disappointed to note that he skirted round the issue of the causes of AIDS, concentrating more on the question of why the disease is more virulent in the poorer countries. His

two American advisers are part of an international group that sees poverty and malnutrition as the real causes of AIDS, not HIV. According to those who attended the conference, President Mbeki's speech and, to a certain extent, the conference itself, examined the AIDS issue from an African point of view rather than a Western one.

For years, experts have been telling African mothers to breast-feed rather than bottle-feed, and now NGOs are warning them against transmission of the virus through breast milk. The Mbeki government, which has been criticised for not making AZT available to pregnant women free of charge, feels that, in the light of how much is currently known on the subject, these methods of treatment need to be studied further. A study conducted by the United Nations almost vindicated his

argument, showing that transmission from mother to child was only partly reduced through the use of such courses of treatment. If anything came out of the Durban meeting, it was that the developed world is slowly waking up to the fact that Africa is in dire straits and that AIDS is not just a disease, it is a development problem. Head of UNAIDS, Dr Piot, said it would cost \$3 billion a year to combat AIDS in Africa, \$10 billion more than is currently spent. He urges developed countries to cancel the debts owed to them by African countries so that this money could be put towards combating the AIDS pandemic. For its part, the World Bank announced that it would release \$500 million to be used in the fight against AIDS in Africa.

(from an article by David Masunda)

Joint initiative in favour of HIPC's

The ACP States and the EU devote €1 billion to the Highly Indebted Poor Countries.

The ACP-EU Council of Ministers is to devote €1 billion to the initiative aimed at helping HIPC countries worst hit by debt. The World Bank will handle €680 million directly whilst the other €320 million will be used to reimburse the European Union for the debts owed by ACP countries included in the Initiative.

The ACP Group wanted to show

solidarity with all highly indebted poor countries - not just the ACP States - by agreeing to award them a part of the balance from previous European Development Funds (EDFs). Uganda, Bolivia, Mauritania, Tanzania, Mozambique, Senegal, Malawi, Niger, Benin, Burkina Faso and Cameroon will be the first countries to benefit from the Initiative. The second wave will consist of Chad, Ivory Coast, Guyana, Honduras, Mali, Nicaragua and Zambia.

D i a r y D a t e s

(28/11/2000 to 30/11/2000).

Poultry farmers in ACP countries

The Centre for Industrial Development (CDI) recognises the need to help poultry farmers in ACP countries to farm and manage their poultry more effectively. Its aim is to improve production and quality which will mean better poultry reserves and greater knowledge amongst farmers. As part of this initiative, the Centre is organising a training seminar for some 20 farmers, which will deal with issues such as the actual farming of the poultry, incubation methods and the hatching process, and will also include a general presentation on technology, systems and production methods at varying levels.

The seminar is to take place in Holland, at the Livestock College in Barneveld, from 13 November to 1 December 2000. It includes three days at the International Exhibition on Animal Production, Euro Tier Germany

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Niger

A regional workshop will be held from 2 to 6 October in Niamey, on approaches to pasture management and plans for development. Any thoughts? Participants will be able to compare their experience of pasture management with that of others involved in the industry in the hope of discovering alternative approaches for the sound and lasting management of pastures on a sociological, economic and ecological level.

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Drugs - the harsh reality

26 June was observed as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the theme for 2000 being: "The harsh reality: blindness, corruption and violence." On that occasion, Pino Arlacchi, Executive Director of the United Nations International Drugs Control Programme, stated that "the challenge we are faced with is to put an end to the violence that is tearing apart entire communities

and even entire countries. The time has come for the world to unite and to declare loudly and clearly that enough is enough. No family, no community and no country should have to tolerate drug traffickers. It is time we recognised them for what they are: exploiters who make money from other people's misfortunes." According to Mr Arlacchi, the culture of drug abuse is not inevitable and alterna-

tives do not necessarily incur huge costs. They do, however, require the support and involvement of parents, teachers, the business community and political leaders. He went on to stress that ridding our communities of drug abuse would take us a lot closer to eliminating violence. "We have to drive these accursed traffickers further and further away until they are left with nowhere to go."

Mosquito nets tax-free

Uganda is leading the way in the fight against malaria: from now on mosquito nets and insecticides will be totally tax-free and no longer subject to customs duties. This decision follows urgent demands made at the African summit on malaria, a historic meeting which took place in the Nigerian town of Abuja last April. Now that Uganda has set the ball rolling, it is up to other African countries to follow suit. It could indeed be said that it was really Tanzania that got the initiative underway, having decided last year to reduce considerably the combined tax/duties on these products, thus making them more affordable.

Every year malaria kills more than a million people throughout the world, 90% of whom live in Africa. But it can be combated effectively by insecticides and mosquito nets.

The cost of mosquito nets varies from one African country to another and can be as much as \$45 and \$30 in Swaziland and in Sudan respectively, more than most

Africans can afford. Only three per cent of families living in countries where malaria is endemic use mosquito nets soaked in insecticide, these still being classed as textiles rather than items designed to save lives.

The World Health Organisation, with the aid of Roll Back Malaria (RBM), is currently urging African countries to follow the example set by Uganda and Tanzania. This worldwide partnership, made up of national authorities, UNICEF, UNDP, the World Bank, NGOs and various other organisations, has set itself the task of reducing the number of deaths from malaria by the year 2010.

African Heads of State gathered in Lomé from 10 to 12 July for the OAU Summit. The Nigerian president, Olusegun Obasanjo, took this opportunity to remind everyone of the commitments entered into in April, prompting these leaders, brought together in the capital of Togo, to take immediate action.

Copenhagen +5

According to four major international organisations, poverty levels could fall sharply by the year 2015.

If this aim is to be achieved, developing countries and industrialised countries will have to honour the commitments they have made to tackle the underlying causes of poverty, according to a report entitled "A better world for everyone," presented in Geneva at the opening of the extraordinary session of the United Nations' General Assembly which addressed the subject of social development.

The report urges developing and industrialised countries to work towards funding long-term growth to benefit the poor and will provide, throughout the world, greater resources for health, education, sexual equality and ecologically-viable development.

Written jointly by the UN, the World Bank, the IMF and the OECD, the report is the first of its kind. For the first time, these four organisations are working together to assess the extent to which their aims of reducing poverty have been met and are offering a joint vision of the future. "A better world for everyone" focuses on seven interrelated development aims, namely to halve the number of people living on less than a dollar a day; to ensure that children throughout the world receive primary education; to give women greater power to act by wiping out discrimination in the world of education; to lower the death rate among newborn babies and children; to lower the death rate amongst new mothers; to promote access to reproductive health services; and to promote viable ecological development.

The report, backed up by numerous illustrations, will constitute the four organisations' joint contribution at the G-8 meeting in Okinawa on 22 July. It should prompt the representatives of the 190 or so States that took part in the extraordinary session of the General Assembly on social development to adopt a more active role, and should make the public more aware of the serious nature of the issues it addresses. "A better world for everyone" is currently available in English, Spanish and French. An electronic version can be found on the web sites of the four organisations and at the following address: www.paris21.org/betterworld.

Further information, from the Information Department of the United Nations' secretariat:

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Tel. : +41 22 9172326, Fax : +41 22 9170030;
e-mail : shepard@un.org; dessables@un.org;
szaouche@unog.ch

Zimbabwe elections

"A calm and well organised ballot was the verdict of the group of European observers at the Zimbabwe elections. The voters went to the polls to appoint 120 members of parliament. A further 20 members will be appointed by President Mugabe himself and another 10 by conventional leaders.

To international observers, the election was, to all intents and purposes, properly conducted, but Pierre Schori, head of the European observers' mission, insisted that the elections could not be termed "free and fair" because of the intimidation and violence in the run-up to polling.

According to a local source cited by the BBC, nearly 60% of the 5.1 million voters had registered their votes five hours before the polling stations closed.

A Zanu-PF party minister declared that the population had voted freely for the party of its choice and that there were very few reports of pre-electoral violence. He confirmed that the government would accept the results, despite comments made by John Nkomo, Chairman of the ZANU-PF party, who had insisted that the party would remain in power whatever the outcome of the ballot.

A move towards a United States of Africa?

On 11 July, a bill of law on African Union was passed by heads of State and senior government officials who had gathered behind closed doors in Lomé for the 36th summit of the Organisation of African Unity.

The bill, which was put before heads of State by a council of ministers for Foreign Affairs, dictates that the charter must be ratified by two-thirds of the Member States before it is signed, this being scheduled to take place in March 2001 in Libya.

The bill, which was carried unanimously, does not, however, lay down a particular time-scale, nor does it foresee the creation of a central bank and monetary union, and the envisaged parliament would merely have "an advisory role with respect to national parliaments."

"This is just the beginning" according to Libyan leader, Colonel Mouammar Kadhafi, who would like to see a much more ambitious bill on African Union passed in Lomé.

The humanisation of forestry

This essay is a detailed examination of the problems of forests and forestry in terms of the various parties involved who ultimately become antagonists. The inhabitants, representatives from forestry companies, the State: all have a particular interest in forests. As the author stresses: "The issue is that of knowing to what extent the humanisation of forestry envisaged by the State takes into account the interests of all protagonists - stakeholders - on three different levels: economic rationality, durability

of the resource and social justice." After reading this book, a fourth, no less important consideration might be added, that of respect for local cultures and lifestyles.

La forêt qui cache l'homme, dans l'entrelacs des lianes du sud-ouest du Cameroun by SAILD (Local Development Initiative Support Service) - Autoprojekt - 132 pp. - Price: €10

Available in Europe from: SOS Faim, rue aux Laines 4, 1000 Brussels, Belgium; fax: +32 (0)2 514 47 77; e-mail: info@sosfaim.be

Available in Africa from: SAILD, à l'attention d'Ephrem Mbugulize, BP 11.955, Yaoundé, Cameroun; e-mail: saild-ape@camnet.cm

Endogenous ethnic issues - what is the solution?

The conflict between Bahutus and Batutsis in Rwanda and Burundi is neither a simple struggle for power nor a conflict between two tribes or two ethnic groups with different identities. It is essentially a conflict between two groups in the same population, whose identity is variable and is arbitrarily designated on the basis of the interests to be defended, but which behave towards each other as if they were two different and incompatible biological

species, each seeking to take over the State and to control it exclusively after having exterminated or expelled the other, if necessary.

Professor Balibutsa's analysis is presented as a working research document for a multidisciplinary team with the will to reconstruct a viable society in Africa's Great Lakes region.

Une archéologie de la violence en Afrique des Grands Lacs

by Maniragaba Balibutsa. Editions du CICIBA, B.P.770 Libreville, Gabon - 418 pp.

Fishing in the South Pacific

This work is devoted to non-industrial fishing in the islands of the South Pacific: the kingdom of Tonga, the republics of Kiribati and Vanuatu, the territories of the Cook Islands and those of New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Wallis & Futuna. It concentrates on the human aspects of these activities and, in particular, the profound changes experienced by these small island societies in recent years and their ability to adapt to a rapidly evolving context. The authors suggest solutions to the problems posed by the development of fishing in this part of the world.

Les petites activités de pêche dans le Pacifique Sud

The authors: F. Angleviel, M. Bataille, G. Blanchet, G. Borel, J. Chazine, E. Cillauren, E. Conté, G. David, J. Latouche, I. Leblic - IRD Editions.

Distribution : fax : +33 (0)1 48 02 79 09

e-mail: diffusion@bondy.ird.fr -

Scientific publisher Gilles Blanchet - 210

pp. Price: €12.19

ISBN : 2-7099-1438-7

You can't be indifferent



Filip Claus

Alone in the street, South Africa. Those infected by AIDS can be isolated in rural communities

Photos taken by photographers from *De Morgen* newspaper are being exhibited in Belgium, with images portraying the ceaseless fight against the AIDS epidemic. The disease is a bitter blow to people already struggling, unable to afford the drugs which could help.

The scourge of AIDS is throwing a shadow over Africa. It is the primary cause of death on the continent: 24 million people are living with HIV or AIDS, and numbers are growing at the rate of 15,000 per day, according to UNAIDS. The continent's future is at stake; a whole generation is dying, leaving orphans to grow up without a family structure; education is threatened as teachers succumb, and families affected by the virus can no longer afford to send their children to school. Ironically, school is where they are most likely to learn the anti-AIDS message.

Strong prevention campaigns, in countries like Uganda and Zambia, offer germs of hope.

**Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania**

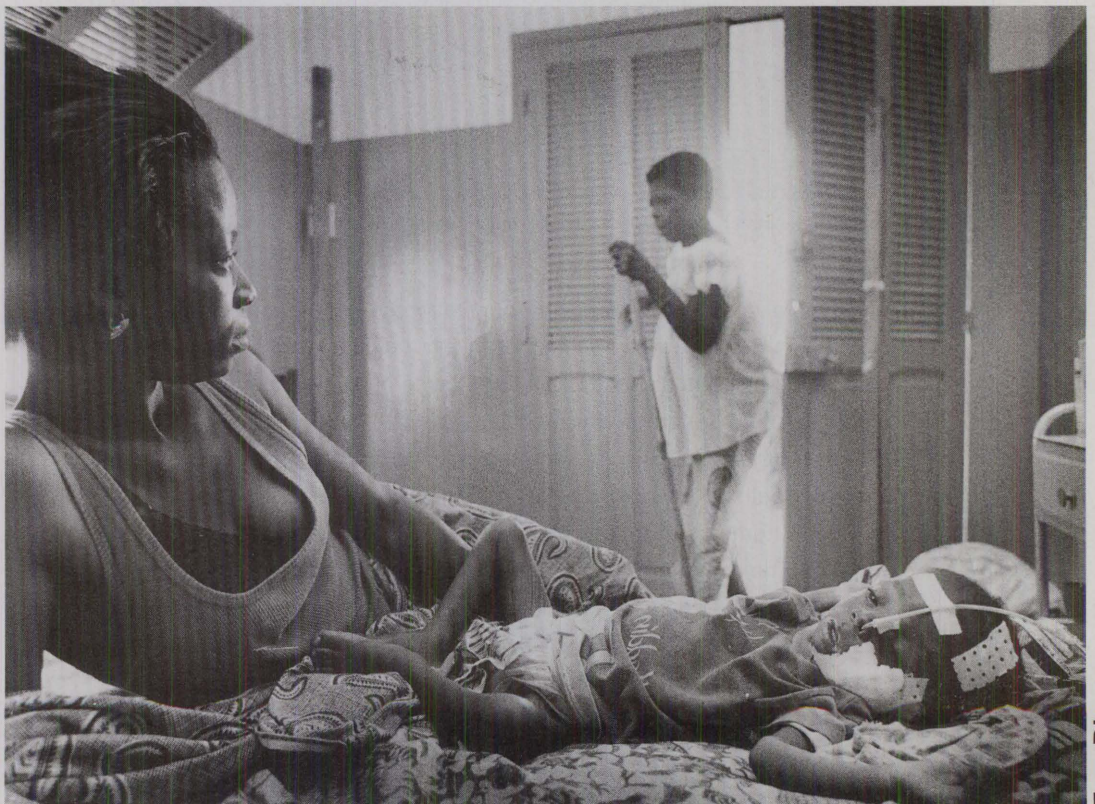
Susan looks after Frank, one of her five grandchildren. This grandmother has seen three of her own children die of AIDS - among them Frank's mother. Frank himself is seropositive. He has lost not only both his parents but also his older sister Queen, who died of AIDS two years ago



Dieter Telemans

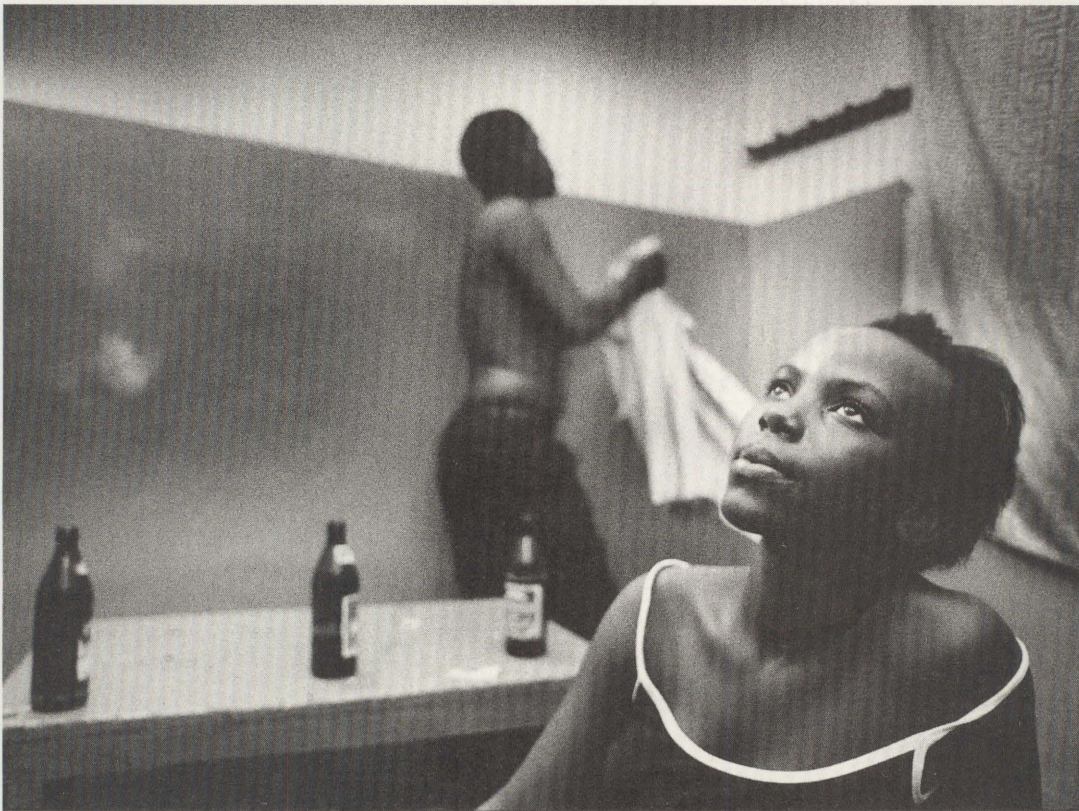
**Alape,
Ivory Coast**

A mother keeps watch over her seropositive baby



Tom Dirven

Dieter Telemans



**Prostitute,
Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania**

“Zai is very reticent about her life. I managed to find out that she is 15, but she refused to tell me how long she has been working as a prostitute. Many clients prefer, even now, to pay as much as three times the normal price to have unprotected sex, without using a condom

Filip Claus



South Africa

According to UNAIDS, South Africa has the largest number of people in the world living with HIV/AIDS, with a total of 4.2 million infected. Information and education are the best weapons. Men have to learn to use condoms, or women must refuse to have sex with them

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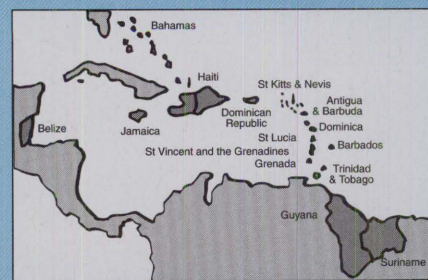
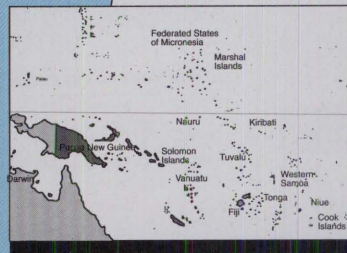
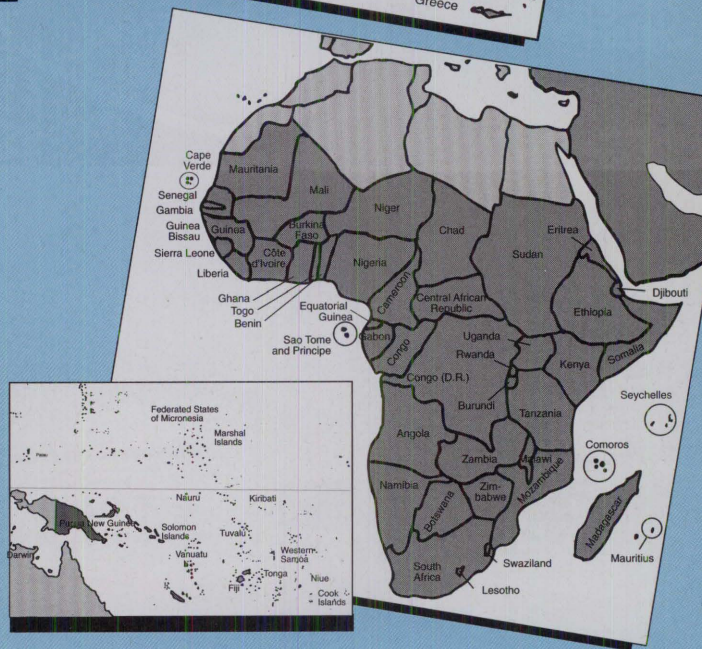
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French Polynesia
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(Bonaire, Curaçao,
St Martin,
Saba, St Eustache)
Aruba

Denmark
(Country having special
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Greenland

United Kingdom
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territories)
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Southern Sandwich Islands
and dependencies
Montserrat
Pitcairn Island
St Helena and dependencies
Turks and Caicos Islands

THE EUROPEAN UNION



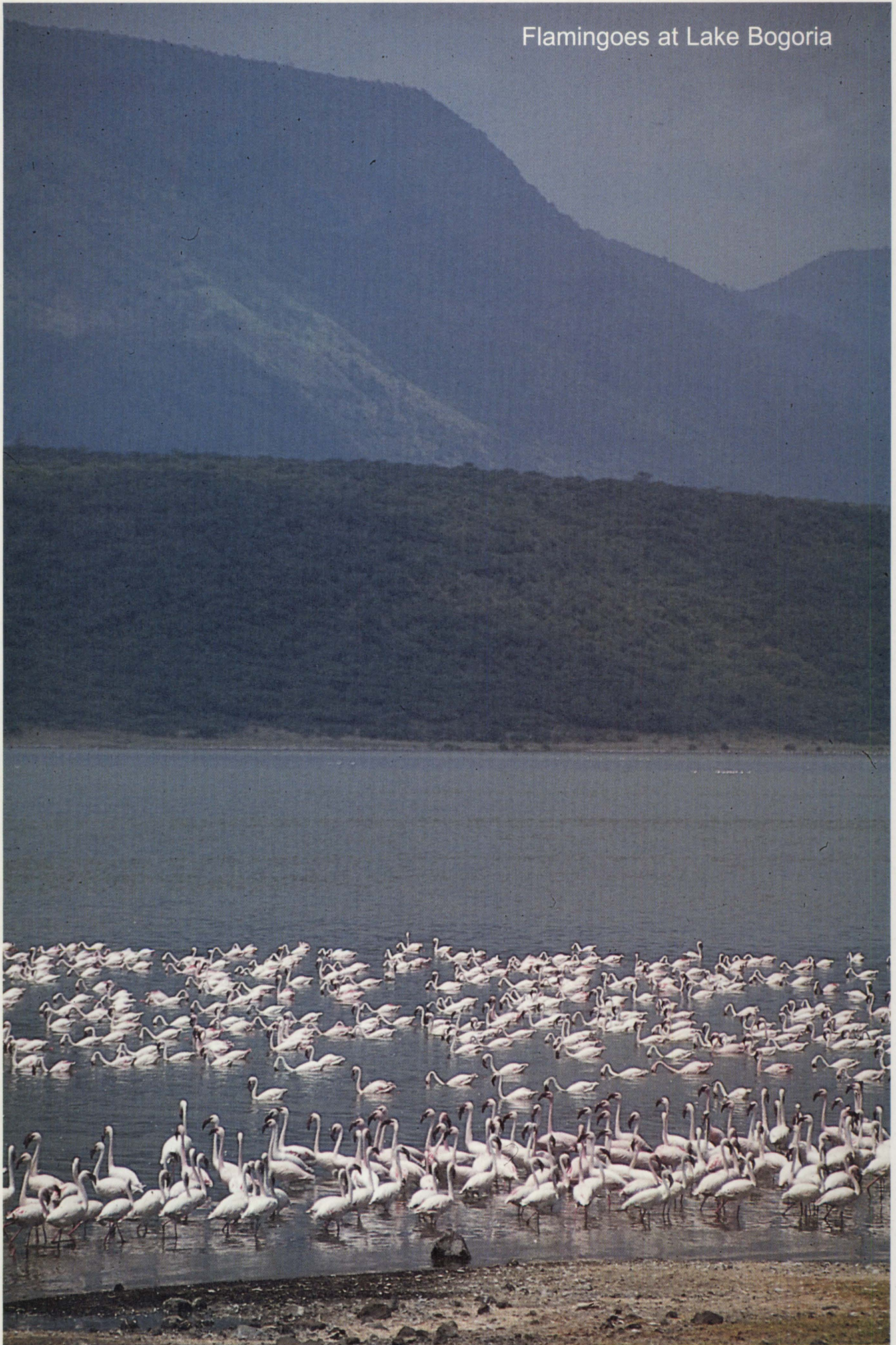
THE 77 ACP STATES

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Flamingoes at Lake Bogoria





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