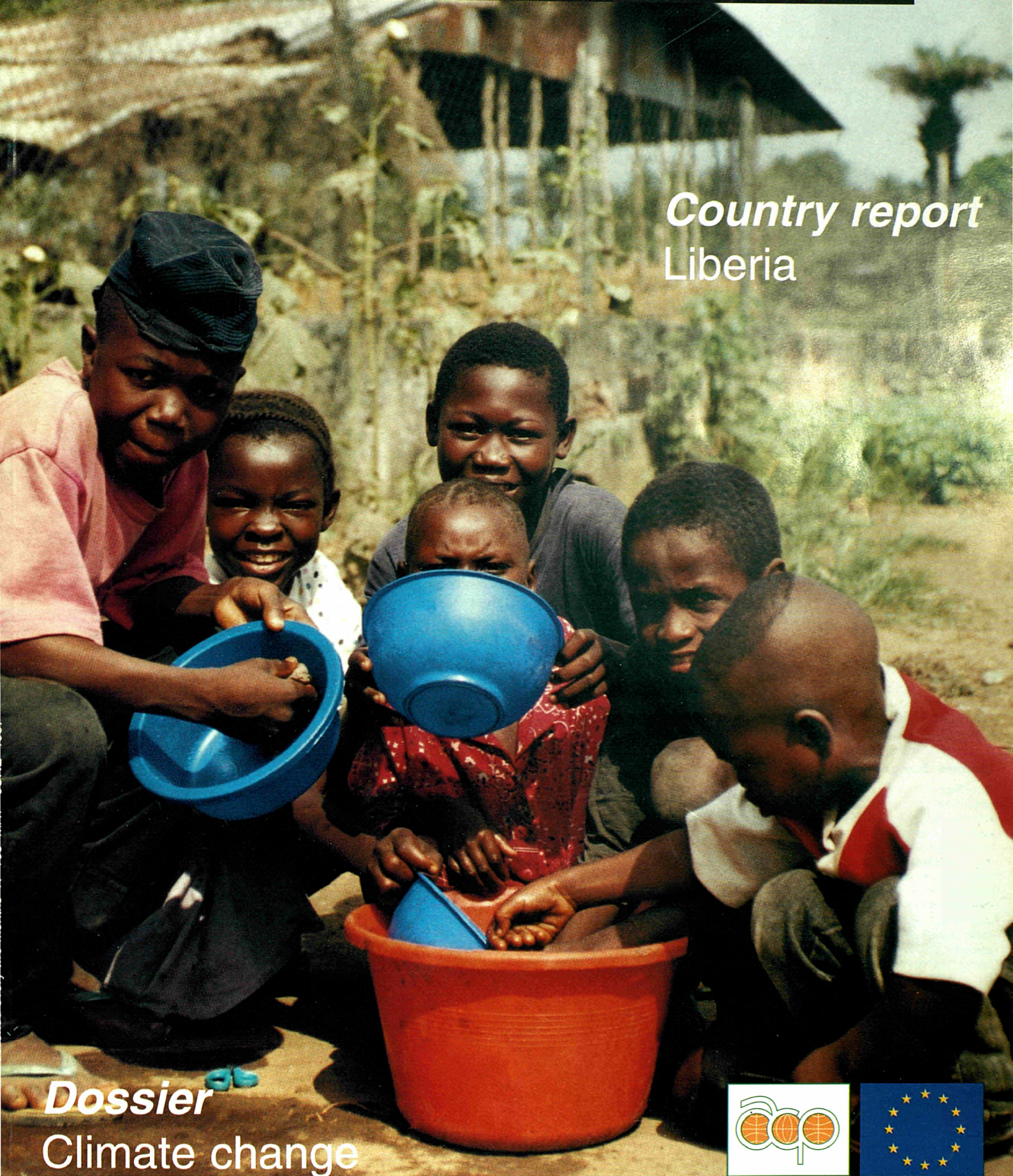


the Courier

Africa - Caribbean - Pacific - European Union

Country report
Liberia



Dossier
Climate change



Liberia

Presidential and legislative elections are scheduled for May 30 1997, coincidentally the year Liberia celebrates its 150th birthday. Optimism builds almost daily that the poll will mark the end of a particularly ruinous chapter in Liberia's history - a barbarous seven-year civil war which has left the economy in tatters and peoples' lives shattered. The West African peace-keeping force (ECOMOG) will remain in the country until at least six months after the elections. When the Courier went to press, the former warlords had resigned from the transitional government to stand for the Presidency and other candidates were entering the race. The outcome of the elections remains uncertain, and the new administration faces the mammoth task of reestablishing government institutions and rebuilding the economy. But a period of stability, after a free and fair vote, should help by opening the donor tap again. This is already beginning to trickle, as The Courier found during its visit in February.



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Doing the washing-up. EDF-funded NEWFAD project in Perrytown, Liberia

DOSSIER**Climate change**

Our climate is changing, with potentially serious consequences for humanity. The earth's temperature has increased, sea levels are rising - and climatologists are becoming convinced that much of this is human-induced. In our Dossier, we look at the reasons for climate change, the consequences, and what steps are being taken at an international level.

This subject is now top of the political agenda, with a major Conference on Climate Change due to be held in Kyoto, Japan, in December. There, the international community will attempt to set binding targets on fossil fuel emissions.



meeting point

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Director of the UNDP Energy and Atmosphere
Programme

acp

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Professor Thomas B. Johansson

Tackling the greenhouse effect is technically feasible — but it is a long term project

New-York based Professor Thomas Johansson is the Director of the Energy and Atmosphere Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). He was in Brussels recently for discussions on energy issues following the recent launch of a UNDP report entitled 'Energy after Rio —

Prospects and Challenges' (featured at the end of the Dossier). In this interview, we focused on the climate change aspects of energy consumption and on what needed to be done to halt the phenomenon of global warming. This Swedish professor has no illusions about the scale of the challenge facing humankind — the quest for economic growth does not, after all, sit comfortably with the imperative of cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Yet he believes that the two objectives are not necessarily incompatible assuming the right long term strategies are put in place. We began by asking Professor Johansson if there was now a consensus among scientists that human activity is actually having an effect on the climate.

— This issue was addressed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It brought together a large number of scientists working on the science of climate, its impact and its economic effects, and they concluded that human activity does affect the climate. The impact is projected to grow as emissions of certain substances increase. The experts involved included the most established scientists in their field and there is no serious opposition to the conclusions they reached. However, it is also recognised that uncertainties remain so it is very difficult to say precisely what will



The Courier

happen. There is a debate on these uncertainties of course.

But at present, it appears in the eyes of the scientists to be a reasonable conclusion that human activities affect the climate. The main reason is the build-up of certain molecules that absorb outgoing heat radiation increasing atmospheric temperature. There are also other factors, including the increased occurrence of water vapour, and pollution from particulate matter that cannot reflect incoming energy from the sun. So there is now a fairly good understanding of the warming phenomenon — indeed, it correlates quantitatively with the modelling calculations that can now be done. The techniques have improved notably over the last year since people started taking account of the impact of particulate matter in the atmosphere.

The major substances of concern are carbon dioxide and methane but there are another half dozen that are of interest as well. Carbon dioxide is the reason for the long-term problem because it has a half-life in the atmosphere

of about a hundred years — so what you emit, stays. Methane disappears comparatively fast. Some 75-80% of the carbon dioxide comes from the use of fossil fuels, while the remainder is due to deforestation and land degradation. In short, most of the emissions of greenhouse gases have to do with the way the world is using energy.

As for reducing emissions, this is now being negotiated under the Framework Convention on Climate Change in what is called the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate. The aim is to come up with something for the Conference of the Parties due to be held in Kyoto, Japan, this December.

■ *From what you say, it sounds as if the targets set by industrialised nations are rather modest. If the problem is that greenhouse gases are building up all the time, is a 15% reduction in CO₂ emissions in Europe, for example, likely to make a great deal of difference?*

— The understanding is that, in all likelihood, to meet the requirements of the Framework Convention, one would have to think in terms of deep reductions — perhaps between 50% and 90%. Most emissions today are in the industrialised world but the developing world is growing rapidly and that is where the increase is essentially taking place. If you want to cut emissions in a world of rapid economic development and where energy use is constantly rising, you have to look to far-reaching changes in the energy system. So every available possibility needs to be examined. What the EU is proposing should be seen as a good start but it won't solve the problem in itself — it is a global problem.

■ *To a layman, emission cuts of between 50% and 90% would seem to imply a dramatic change in lifestyles. Is it realistic to believe that we can reduce or alter our energy consumption to achieve such a target?*

— There have been studies that show this is actually possible — but very much in the longer term. As I mentioned, what really matters is the cumulative emissions over tens of years — or perhaps even many tens of years. From this perspective, if you can start improving the performance of new investments — making them much more climate-friendly — then over the lifetime of one generation's equipment, you can have a dramatic effect. This is the way you have to view it. The IPCC looked into this and reported last year on ways of achieving deep cuts in emissions from energy supply systems. It is something that is technically feasible.

■ *Presumably, this kind of policy will meet with resistance from the big oil companies who have a great deal of economic power. What has their reaction been?*

— There is a debate going on in the fossil fuel industries and, of course, they perceive a threat to their core business. But it isn't necessarily the end of the road for them. You could argue for cutting down on coal, for example, which emits most CO₂ per unit of energy released. But an interesting point

Fossil fuel industries perceive a threat to their core business as governments look for ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions



Shell Photographic Service

that emerged from the IPCC studies was that you could have deep cuts in CO₂ and a highly enhanced use of coal. The trick is to take the energy in the coal and put it into hydrogen-rich energy carriers. This generates a stream of carbon dioxide which can be disposed of without being released into the atmosphere. It can, for example, be put in depleted natural gas wells, used to enhance oil recovery, or pumped into saline aquifers and other geological formations. What this means is that you can tap coal's energy potential and still achieve emission reductions. The beauty of it is that you then get hydrogen which is very clean, that can be used to generate electricity — where the only by-product is water. You could also put it in vehicles or use it for combined heat and power generation. In effect, you have a totally new system that meets very high environmental standards. And it is not only attractive from the point of view of climate change. It also cuts down on acidification and urban air pollution

■ *Can we look a little more closely at the ways of cutting emissions. You have talked about using new technologies to exploit hydrocarbon-based energies with much less pollution. But there are also the renewable energies, as well as the whole question of energy saving. Which of these offers the best prospects for tackling the global warming problem?*

— I think we need complementarity here. It isn't a question of opting solely for one approach. Energy efficiency means providing the same level of energy services (illumination, heating and so forth) while using less primary energy and I think it should be pursued as far as possible within the economic constraints that exist. There are technical opportunities to be seized here and the effect will be to ease the situation on the demand side.

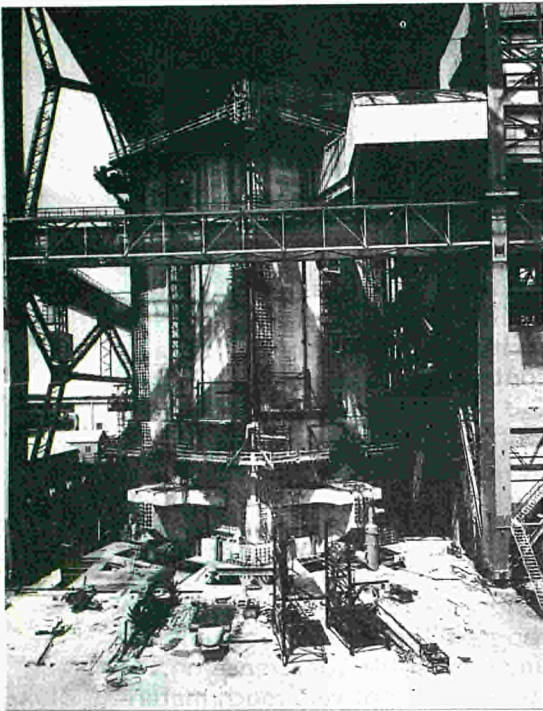
Looking at the supply side, again it is a matter of exploiting the opportunities. Obviously, as I mentioned, decarbonisation of fossil fuels is an increasingly attractive proposition. As for renewables, today they make up about

20% of the world's primary energy. Most of this is traditional biomass in developing countries. But over the next 50 to 100 years, renewable energies could supply the bulk of the world's energy needs. This would imply a very large contribution from biomass. You wouldn't be using it the way it is used today but rather in a modernised form, converting it to electricity or gas. Of course, biomass contains carbon and emits CO₂ but this would be captured by photosynthesis and there should be no net build up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Some very interesting things have been happening recently. There was a lot of talk in the past about renewable energy, and even a UN Conference on the subject, but not very much materialised in practice. This was largely because the technologies weren't quite ready. Today, however, there are quite a few renewable energy technologies that can make it in the market without being subsidised — and we know that a lot more are in the pipeline. The time is ripe to remove any policy obstacles that are there and give some temporary support to the more promising undertakings.

■ *One major field of energy production we haven't mentioned is nuclear power. It doesn't add to the greenhouse effect, or create atmospheric pollution, but there are worries about radioactive contamination and waste disposal. Does the UNDP have a view on the role of nuclear power in future global energy strategies?*

— The UNDP as an institution has no position on this. Obviously nuclear power makes a significant contribution to energy supplies in some places. But it is not necessarily suited to the needs of many developing countries. The issue is summed up in the IPCC report — in the part that the governments signed up to. It says that nuclear energy could replace coal generation in many parts of the world if generally acceptable answers could be found to concerns about reactor safety, radioactive waste handling and nuclear proliferation. So it is acknowledged that nuclear power could reduce emis-



Atomic power station being built in France
Nuclear power does not contribute to global warming but there are other environmental and security concerns that need to be addressed

sions, but governments have also recognised that there are issues that have to be dealt with first.

■ *Looking now at the question of energy supply in developing countries, the Report which has just been launched by the UNDP entitled 'Energy after Rio: Prospects and Challenges' talks of 1.5 billion people in the world who are not even linked up to electricity networks. If the goal of development is to be reached, then these people will have to be plugged into the supply — and their energy consumption will inevitably rise. Is it really possible to reconcile this with the aim of halting the greenhouse effect?*

— We need here to draw a distinction — which is fundamental — between energy development and the provision of energy services. Research has shown that it is feasible for the developing countries to attain the material standard of living that Europe enjoyed in the 1970s — which was quite high — with a *per capita* increase in energy consumption of just 20%. The reason this is possible is because their present energy consumption is so vastly ineffi-

cient, and what you could do is so much more efficient. So development is not necessarily associated with a large increase in energy use.

Another point I would like to mention is that it is now cost-effective for many developing country households to buy solar equipment for their domestic energy needs. Assuming they can get credit for the installation, the monthly payments are roughly the same as what they were paying before for candles and kerosene. What it means, though, is that the nature of the game has changed. You need to look at ways of encouraging entrepreneurs in this field, getting the infrastructure in place and setting up the necessary credit mechanisms. I think this offers an interesting new perspective on how to tackle poverty and energy issues. The UNDP is working to provide the specific tools that countries can make use of in this area.

■ *What about the attitude of governments? From a European perspective — and I imagine this applies equally in developing countries — issues related to energy use and saving don't swing that many votes. Does there have to be an environmental catastrophe before public opinion can be changed and the world sits up and takes notice?*

— I think you certainly have to think in terms of what catches people's attention — and accidents certainly do. But I also think governments can do a lot to publicise the issues. I would hope that the preparatory process leading up to the special session of the General Assembly, and that meeting itself, would focus our attention on these issues.

■ *You mentioned that the scientists are uncertain about the effects of global warming but can you give any pointers as to the kind of changes that might take place?*

— Many possible effects arising from temperature increases in the atmosphere have been discussed. One is rising sea-levels — which depends on the melting of glaciers and the thermal expansion

of the upper layer of the oceans. The current estimates are of a rise of between 10 cm and a metre over the next 50 to 100 years. And of course, a sea-level rise of one metre would have a very dramatic impact on some countries, particularly in stormy weather, when beaches, installations and buildings could be washed away.

■ *What about the effect on weather patterns. Will there be increased desertification, for example?*

— No-one really knows but it is one of the possibilities being discussed. In all likelihood, the temperature zones and precipitation patterns would change but I think it is too premature to say what exactly will happen. Obviously, if rainfall patterns change, that will have a radical effect on the conditions for agriculture, forestry and so forth.

■ *Could you explain how your own work in the Energy and Atmosphere Programme fits in with the broader UNDP approach?*

— UNDP is a very decentralised organisation with offices in about 135 countries. They are working in cooperation with the governments of these countries. In addition to poverty alleviation, job creation and improving the situation of women, the UNDP emphasises environmental protection. This includes climate change, of course, but the primary focus is on local, national and regional environmental problems. UNDP has no explicit goal in the field of energy, but it recognises that energy is very important for the four goals I have just mentioned. That is the rationale behind its interest — which was reflected, last year, in the launch of its initiative on sustainable energy. Essentially, this takes the form of a strategy paper which is used now by country officers in their formulation of projects and programmes with beneficiary governments. ■

Interview by Simon Horner

The Joint Assembly in Brussels

Mulling over the Green Paper

Designed to provide food for thought for all those concerned with the future of cooperation between the ACPs and the EU, the Commission's Green Paper on the future of Lomé was the main focus of interest for the 24th Joint Assembly, held in Brussels from 17 to 20 March. But the Assembly found time for other important issues too. It considered the huge subject of how the major UN conferences impinged on ACP-EU cooperation. It looked at the problems in the fishing sector. And it grappled with the difficult situation in a number of ACP states facing a crisis in one form or another.

The formal opening session was addressed by *José Maria Gil-Robles*, the new President of the European Parliament. He began by stressing the importance of the session which was taking place against a background of comprehensive renegotiation between the EU and the ACP states. Mr Gil-Robles recalled the vital role played by the European Parliament in promoting development cooperation, and emphasised the place that the Joint Assembly should occupy in the debate on future relations with the ACP states.

'Despite a shift in its priorities toward Eastern Europe, the European Union is still one of the main contributors to development aid', he said. 'However, half of our partners are among the world's least developed countries. This is why an enhanced cooperation policy, focused on sustainable development, is more essential than ever'. According to the EP Presi-

dent, the ties that bind all the ACP countries to the EU are sufficiently strong to be adjusted without jeopardising the underlying principle of partnership.

Mr Gil-Robles pleased ACP representatives by his willingness to pinpoint certain 'inconsistencies' in European policy, such as Europe's obvious concern to prevent conflict while at the same time continuing arms exports. In his view, this reflected the Member States' lack of the political will to act jointly, something which endangered the credibility of the Union. This, he explained, was why the Parliament wanted to bring together the various aspects of the Union's external policy in a single text.

Finally, Mr Gil-Robles emphasised the importance of human rights and democracy in the development process, while making it clear that every country must be free to invent its own model of democracy.

The two co-Presidents reaffirmed their desire that the Joint Assembly should be the forum for discussing the foundations of future ACP-EU relations after the expiry of Lomé IV.

In his speech, *Lord Plumb* (EPP, UK) mentioned the difference between the climate of optimism that had prevailed when Lomé I was signed in 1975 and the diagnosis of the situation 22 years later. Even so, he felt that the balance sheet was not entirely negative. The Conventions had made a significant contribution to progress in several ACP countries, he noted, citing Mauritius and a number of Caribbean states. These had benefited particularly from the protocols on sugar and bananas annexed to the Convention. Without Lomé, the situation would be much worse for some of them. In addition, Lord Plumb said he was convinced that 'investment in education and training is the *sine qua non* of tomorrow's economic development'. Support for grassroots economic actors (especially women), through the granting of credits, ought to be encouraged.

The European co-President restated his interest in rural affairs, and gave examples of agricultural successes in South Africa and Zimbabwe, suggesting that the EU should finance studies designed to enable other countries on the continent to model themselves on these success stories.

His ACP counterpart, *Sir John Kaputin* (Papua New Guinea), referring to future cooperation with the EU, pointed out that as far as the ACP group was concerned, the process of reflection had already begun. The conference of ACP Heads of State and Government, to be held on 6 and 7

Sir John Kaputin, José Maria Gil-Robles and Lord Plumb



November this year in Libreville, would be a new departure in the history of the ACP group and would enable it to adopt a joint position on the policies to be followed after Lomé. In any event, the ACP group would not accept 'political stop-gaps or economic half-measures'. Negotiations would have to take account of the current context of economic globalisation and liberalisation.

Sir John regretted that only 35 ACP states and four European countries had so far ratified the revised Lomé IV Convention. Two-thirds of the ACP countries and all 15 EU members must have completed the ratification process before any funds can be released. The delay, he said, would make it a lot more difficult for the ACPs to use all their funding under their indicative programmes before the year 2000. There was a danger that people would then use this to argue that the ACPs were unable to make proper use of the funds allocated to them.

Sir John then turned to the problem of the Great Lakes region of Africa. He said that while the region had fallen victim to hatred and violence, with a tragic impact on the lives of thousands of people in the refugee camps, the international community remained a silent observer. He urged the EU and USA to iron out their differences over how to tackle the tragedy, and exhorted them to act quickly to silence the weapons.

The last speaker at the opening session, *Erik Derycke* (Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs), pointed out that the Joint Assembly had a part to play in preventing solidarity from being undermined. In his view, the EU's support for regional integration was a serious alternative approach. This would encourage development in the ACP states, but the latter must first recognise their own responsibilities.

Green Paper

At the previous Joint Assembly session in Luxembourg (September 1996), the Commission announced the imminent publication of its Green Paper on relations between the EU and the ACPs on the eve of the 21st century. This time, the European Commissioner responsible for relations with the ACPs and South Africa, *João de Deus Pinheiro*, summarised the broad outlines of the document and invited the Assembly members to voice their opinions and criticisms.

To avoid any possible misunderstanding, he again made it clear that the real purpose of the Green Paper was not to provide ready-made solutions but to pose questions and identify strategic options. He wanted to prompt a broad process of reflection and allow the various European and ACP actors concerned to express their points of view. The Green Paper should not, he said, be seen as reflecting the definitive position of the Commission.

Professor Pinheiro explained that the Commission's work had taken account of global developments and their impact on Europe's relations with the ACP countries. It had also, however, been necessary to consider the debate taking place within the Union on its own integration process and on eastward enlargement, as well as social, economic and political changes in the ACP regions. In his view, there were five key issues that needed to be tackled:

— The political dimension of ACP-EU relations, based on a stronger partnership designed to give the contractual character of the Convention its proper impact through more in-depth dialogue.

— The framework of cooperation and its geographical coverage. The EU's cooperation with other regions of the world, he noted, is based on the principle of differentiation. Because of the increasingly wide range of situations existing in

the ACP countries, it now appeared essential to apply the same principle here. This, he stressed, would not necessarily involve any questioning of the global agreement with the ACP countries.

— The guiding priorities of cooperation, focused on major subjects such as the campaign to eliminate poverty, the advancement of social and human development, stronger policies in the health and education sectors, and support for the expansion of a dynamic private sector with a view to making the ACP economies more competitive.

— An analysis of trade questions, looking at the relevance of existing provisions in terms of economic and social development in the ACP states. This analysis would be based on a series of possible assumptions such as maintaining the *status quo*, applying the Generalised System of Preferences and possible reciprocal agreements that comply with WTO standards in this area.

— Improved technical and financial cooperation. This had become necessary, said the Commissioner, because of practical difficulties arising from the cumbersome and rigid system of joint management that is currently in place.

Assembly members were then invited to express their views about the Green Paper. Several had taken the opportunity to study it in depth and the concerns expressed during the discussion were many and varied — including aspects not covered in the Commission document.

The Chairman of the Committee of ACP Ambassadors, *Lingston Cumberbatch* (Trinidad and Tobago), stated bluntly that he disliked the complexity of the Green Paper — which did not adequately reflect the joint desire to simplify the Convention. He also wondered about the capacity of the next Convention to promote development and diversification among ACP enterprises. He was sceptical about proposals for regionalising cooperation. There

Quotes of the week

On the Green Paper

'The Green Paper in no way anticipates the positions which the Commission might take'

João de Deus Pinheiro, European Commissioner for Development

'The Green Paper offers very useful avenues for deliberation on ways of making our cooperation more dynamic'

Jan Pronk, President-in-Office of the European Council

'I don't like the Green Paper much'

Lingston Cumberbatch, Chairman of the Committee of ACP Ambassadors

'The Green Paper lacks strategic vision'

Glenys Kinnock (PES, UK)

On the Lomé Convention

'It's not up to us Europeans to lay the groundwork for the future on our own. We have to listen to ACP opinions'

'ACP-EU cooperation is much more vital in 1997 than it was in 1975'

Wilfried Martens (PPE, B)

'The credibility of the European Union is at stake'

José Maria Gil-Robles, President of the European Parliament

On the refugee situation

'Nothing is more final than something described as temporary'

Jan Pronk

On the United Nations conferences

'There is an enormous gap between theory and practice when it comes to the situation of women in the ACP countries'

A European delegate

'The transposition into Lomé of UN conference decisions is full of holes'

A European delegate

On globalisation

'Globalisation is economic apartheid practised by the rich countries'

Lingston Cumberbatch

'Lomé is the one little corrective we still have to counter the effects of free trade'

Michel Rocard, Chairman of the EP Development Committee

On the Bougainville crisis

'We must avoid a Nigeria mark two'

Sir John Kaputin, ACP Joint Chairman of the Joint Assembly

was, he said, no evidence to support the idea that regionalisation of agreements would improve relations with the ACP states. 'This is a dubious assumption', which might be used as a pretext for reducing resources for the ACPs. For them, he believed, globalisation was the real threat. It gave rise to inequalities and marginalisation and benefited only the wealthy countries. It was necessary, therefore, to reach an agreement in order to confront the WTO authorities.

Luciano Vecchi (PES, I) wanted more imagination to be used to counter the way in which development aid had lost legitimacy in the eyes of public opinion. The Green Paper had avoided any analysis of the effectiveness of past cooperation policies. The Ital-

ian MEP believed it was primarily a matter for the ACP group to state its position on the cooperation framework which it wanted. He thus endorsed the opinion of Wilfried Martens (EPP, B) who wanted more attention to be paid to local people, NGOs, associations, local authorities — and the ACP representatives attending the Assembly.

Glenys Kinnock (PES, UK) regretted the 'lack of vision' in the Green Paper and spoke of its 'inadequacies' regarding the role of women and conflict prevention. She also argued in favour of a fairer liberalisation of trade.

On the geographical scope of the next Convention, Senegalese delegate Daby Diagne said that doubts about the viability of the ACP group were not shared by the ACP states. By contrast, Johan-

na Maij-Weggen (EPP, NL) thought the regional approaches set out in the Green Paper were 'realistic' in view of the differences that exist between ACP countries. Any new arrangements, she felt, should take account of developments in the North, as well as of changes in the South.

Jan Pronk, President-in-Office of the Council, congratulated the Commission on its initiative. He felt that the Green Paper, in the light of long joint experience with the ACP states, offered useful avenues for reflection about how to make cooperation more dynamic and effective. He said that the Council, which had already begun deliberating on the Paper, would be continuing its discussions.

Michel Rocard (PES, F), who chairs the Parliament's Development Committee, thought that the Green Paper should have said more about the concepts of 'decentralised democracy', 'territorial authority' and 'local development'.

One ACP representative said he had gained the impression from the Commission document that the ACP states were being blamed in large measure for the failures of the Convention. Another pointed out that it contained no mention of the future of the Joint Assembly.

Rob Daviers, a South African observer, noted that the Green Paper offered no analysis of the reasons why the trade preference system had benefited some ACP countries but not others. He stressed the need for 'the utmost caution' in moving towards agreements based on reciprocity.

Lomé and the UN Conferences

Since the early 1990s the United Nations has organised a number of major 'thematic' conferences aimed at seeking effective answers to the most worrying global problems. Underlying all of these meetings has been the concept of sustainable development

— considered from various angles (economic, social and environmental). The summits have prompted more activity by state parties in a number of fields — the environment (Rio 1992), human rights (Vienna 1993), population (Cairo 1994), social development (Copenhagen 1995), women's affairs (Peking 1995), urban development (Istanbul 1996), and food (Rome 1996).

Recognising the importance of all these subjects to development, the Joint Assembly appointed *Karin Junker* (PES, G) to draft a report aimed at analysing the impact of the UN conferences on the ACP states, and their implications for the development cooperation undertaken in the Lomé framework.

The rapporteur introduced her work by referring to the world map of human development presented by the UN at the Copenhagen summit on social development. In this, poverty was calculated using a composite indicator based on health, education and income. Unfortunately, the map revealed that most ACP states were among the poorest in the world. Mrs Junker felt it was essential for those responsible for the future of the Lomé Convention to take account of these aspects in their deliberations. She made the point that the results of the UN conferences were reflected in the past work of the Joint Assembly which had focused on aspects such as human rights and infrastructures, and more recently on climate change and urban development.

The Junker Report offers a detailed study of the various conferences from the perspective of Lomé cooperation. It suggests that the role of women — who make up half the human race and do 'two-thirds of the work' — was a common thread running through the UN summits. Women, it says, are also the key to development, which is why the legal, social and cultural discrimination from which

they suffer should be fought against. The Peking Conference adopted an action programme aimed at involving women more in the development process. The MEP deplored the fact that Article IV of the Lomé Convention, which encourages the advancement of the role of women, 'was not having any effect' and claimed that the resources allocated to this policy were 'insignificant'.

On the environment, the report notes that a decisive step was taken in Rio with the adoption of Agenda 21. This lists priorities such as the campaign against poverty focused on self-help, family planning programmes, conservation of resources and the environment, and the protection of tropical forests. Most of these aspects were already covered in Lomé IV, but they were strengthened in the mid-term review by the addition of Protocol 10 on the sustainable development of forestry resources (which refers expressly to the Rio summit). The Assembly later adopted a resolution aimed at consolidating the application of the protocol.

Mrs Junker also acknowledged the importance of the campaign against poverty in the EU's cooperation policy. She thought that the Union should support the application of the Copenhagen summit's *Initiative 20/20*. She also deplored the fact that decisions reached at that conference on child labour and forced labour were not sufficiently reflected in Lomé policies.

The Istanbul conference, for its part, made a major contribution to the work of the Joint Assembly working group on urban development. In this context, the increased emphasis on decentralised cooperation which emerged from the Lomé mid-term review should encourage better cooperation involving decentralised actors such as local authorities, cooperatives, unions and NGOs.

Food security was the main question discussed at the Rome summit in November 1996. Lomé II and III, with their focus on rural development, gave high priority to the subject, and several national indicative programmes under the revised Lomé IV Convention reflect the same objective. But texts and policies, it was suggested, need to be adapted to take account of ever-increasing needs and to prevent a situation where a predicted 840 million people will be undernourished by the year 2000.

Ms Junker's report stresses that all these development policies, in different fields, cannot succeed without solid investment in education and the sustained promotion of human rights.

By a large majority, the Assembly recognised the undoubted declaratory value of the UN conferences. They are seen as a forum for expressing high ideals, and serve to highlight existing imbalances. But they are also viewed as having serious shortcomings when it comes to follow-up and implementation. A lot of contributions were therefore concentrated on pinpointing these inadequacies and finding ways of overcoming them.

Maartje Van Putten (PES, NL) noted the absence of mechanisms to oblige parties to implement the findings of the conferences. No deadlines were set and the resources needed to convert words into deeds were in desperately short supply. She called for 'these fine ideas to be given real substance'.

A Senegalese delegate proposed that the future of ACP-EU relations should be geared to the issues raised at the UN conferences. In his view, 'the great ideas on which these conferences are based must become established in the public mind — but more importantly, in reality'. Luciano Vecchi believed that more emphasis should be placed on the positive aspects of the conferences, and on

Michel Rocard : 'We must extend our duty of solidarity'

On the occasion of the 24th Joint Assembly, *The Courier* spoke with former French Prime Minister, *Michel Rocard*, newly elected Chairman of the EP Committee on Development and Cooperation. He gave us a few thoughts on ACP-EU cooperation.

There were a number of principles he felt, that were essential for redefining the cooperation framework with the ACP countries beyond the year 2000. He said that, in view of inequalities in development, the duty of solidarity enshrined in the Lomé Convention must not only be maintained but prolonged.

He recommended an increase in European aid, though he recognised it would be difficult to achieve this in present circumstances. Changes in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean had presented the EU with other 'duties of solidarity'. He added: 'I intend to fight to ensure that the funds allocated to development through Lomé are not curtailed'.

Regarding the context of globalisation in which the future of the Convention has to be seen, Mr Rocard was convinced that the free market was the only instrument capable of distributing goods and ensuring performance. But he stressed that the market had its limitations, since it also boosted inequality, encouraged monopolies, took no heed of the environment, and was not geared to dealing with education, health or infrastructure problems. He went on to deplore the view taken by the WTO 'ba-



European Parliament

nana panel' which, he said, had 'jumped to conclusions'.

Mr Rocard argued that the Lomé Convention, which spends public money and employs public authority tools, was not primarily designed to ensure the improved functioning of the market. Its task, rather, was to aid those states that needed help and correct the imperfections of the market. Every ACP country, he said, must formulate its own response at national level, and obtain financial and technical support through the Lomé procedures.

In any future agreement between the EU and the ACP states, greater priority, he felt, would have to be given to agriculture and decentralised cooperation.

He also believed that the loss of legitimacy of development aid in the eyes of European public opinion could be fatal. Aid was popular in times of full employment but less so when 18 million EU citizens were without a job. He did not think that a 'publicity offensive' would necessarily change things — hence the need for substantive action. He would be asking the EP to continue voting for an unreduced budgetary appropriation.

Regarding conflicts, Mr Rocard wanted to strengthen prevention policy. He recalled that he had taken the initiative in 1995 by tabling a Parliamentary motion calling on the Commission to set up an early-warning system for identifying tensions that could lead to explosive situations. He wanted the EU to make maximum use of this tool, which had just recently been instituted.

The tragic situation in Zaire, he added, was due to a 'power' that was incapable of developing the country and had indeed plundered it. In looking for ways to tackle the crisis, Mr Rocard observed that 'colonialism has had its day.' It was no longer right for the great powers to act as police forces. He pointed out, in this context, the failure of international intervention in Somalia. 'The EU has called for the fighting to stop in Zaire — and that call has been rejected by the forces of Kabila' (the rebel leader). Faced with this kind of situation, the international community, he believes, must find more effective means for dealing with such crises.

finding the means to put their recommendations into practice.

Lissy Gröner (PES, G) said the report confirmed the marginalisation of women — who in her view represented one of the best opportunities for investing in the future. Belgian MEP *Raphaël Chanterie* (EPP) emphasised that the fight against poverty called for a maximum of cooperation and solidarity between all countries. He noted that only three EU Member States allocated an 'acceptable percentage' of their GNP to aiding the Third World.

Fisheries

Since 1995, fisheries questions have been considered by a 'follow-up group' set up by the Joint Assembly. Presenting a

progress report on this work, one of the co-chairs of the group, *Mr Faure* (Seychelles), concentrated on the key problems — rules of origin, fisheries agreements and joint ventures.

Noting that fishing rules were regularly broken, the group is arguing for greater powers to ensure compliance and has asked the Commission to supply it with a list of countries guilty of irregularities. The main concern is to protect fish stocks and guarantee supply for consumers, while safeguarding jobs and non-industrial fishing. The document calls for any catch made in ACP territorial waters to be landed first in ACP ports.

The Lomé IV texts on fisheries contain a section on resources and another on marketing.

As regards the latter, Mr Faure welcomed the increase from 4000 to 5000 tonnes in the quantity of ACP fish that could be exported to European markets, but recalled that the ACP states' initial request was for a quota of 10 000 tonnes.

The follow-up group calls for closer correlation between the fisheries agreements and the EU's fisheries budget, to improve the harmonisation of policies. It also suggests that European members of the group should take a greater interest in its work by attending its meetings!

Nicole Pery (PES, F), the new European co-chair of the follow-up group, highlighted what she saw as the essential questions. It was vital to ensure better man-

agement of fish resources, preserve land-based jobs and eliminate legal obstacles to the export of ACP products to the European market. She argued in favour of a closer partnership and the establishment of a cross-financing mechanism involving the EDF, the fisheries budget of the EU and other resources.

At question time, *Ulla Sandbaek* (EN, DK) asked the Commission if it proposed adopting a code of conduct for responsible fishing, including scientific research, the safeguarding of local fishing and more credible verification of whether the rules are being followed. The Commission's response was that the objectives of this proposed code already formed part of its policy.

The representative of Mauritius urged that the exemption granted to his country for tuna should be extended for a further two years. He introduced an amendment to that effect in the motion for a resolution tabled by the follow-up group, which the Assembly adopted later during the voting session.

The situation in certain ACP countries

The Assembly devoted considerable time to the situation in specific ACP states suffering from armed conflict and humanitarian crises, or where there are concerns about democracy and human rights.

Nigeria was back in the firing line, having been severely criticised at previous sessions. Its representative again sought to convince members that the situation in his country had improved. He claimed that progress had been made in advancing the process of democratisation, that free local elections had just been held and that parliamentary elections had been announced for the coming year. A Commission on Human Rights had been set up and dialogue was continuing with the Commonwealth

action group. Unimpressed by these assertions, other participants in the debate argued that there had been no tangible improvements.

Mrs Kinnock and Mrs Maij-Weggen both said the local elections were a 'sham' because the opposition had been excluded from them. They criticised the fact that 14 people, including a Nobel laureate, had recently been charged with high treason, and that political dissidents were still in prison. Consequently, they called on the EU to take more forceful steps against Nigeria.

Taking the floor again, the representative of Nigeria provoked widespread indignation by referring to Mrs Kinnock's prediction at the previous Luxembourg Assembly that there would be an upsurge of violence in Nigeria. 'How did she happen to know about it?', he asked pointedly.

Members reacted sharply to the implication behind these words, and some demanded an immediate retraction — which was eventually offered. The resolution condemning Nigeria was subsequently put to the vote by secret ballot and adopted by a substantial majority.

The situation in Sudan is an even more 'hardy annual'. This country's spokesman expressed anxiety about the risk of destabilisation because of alleged attempts by its Ethiopian, Eritrean and Ugandan neighbours to 'overthrow' the Sudanese Government. He asked that a joint ACP-EU mission be sent out to assess the situation. Rejecting the claims, the 'accused' countries said that Sudan's attitude was hindering all attempts at negotiation. Confirming the view of Commissioner Pinheiro, Deputy Director-General *Athanassios Theodorakis* declared on behalf of the Commission that, in the present circumstances, cooperation with that country would remain suspended.

Regarding the Great Lakes

region, and Zaire in particular, Mr Pronk, answering oral questions addressed to the Council, approved the UN's initiative in sending an envoy and urged that its five-point plan should be respected. The refugee situation was very serious, and the EU was making every possible effort to supply aid. The rebels, he insisted, must guarantee NGOs access to the displaced people.

Having asserted that the West was 'partly responsible' for his country's present situation, the representative of Zaire declared that his government concurred with the UN plan, but that the opposition had rejected it. The EU, he said, 'gives the impression of wanting to play second fiddle'. As a way out of the crisis, he recommended a dialogue involving all the parties based on the national conference model.

The situation in Rwanda and Burundi remains extremely precarious. In the former, it was stated that the EU was working to bring about the return of the refugees and support the re-establishment of the rule of law. In neighbouring Burundi, however, it was too soon to consider lifting the aid suspension, as had been requested by that country's representatives.

Sir John Kaputin drew the Assembly's attention to the situation in his country. The island of Bougainville, he said, was in the grip of a serious crisis as a result of a dispute between landowners and the government over sharing out the profits of copper mining. Members adopted a resolution calling on the EU to send a mission to Papua New Guinea, and urging the opposing factions to resume negotiations. The Assembly also called for South Africa's accession to Lomé to be expedited, and adopted a resolution demanding the abolition of subsidies on European beef and veal exports to that country. ■

Kenneth Karl

Nigeria: poles apart

Nigeria is the most populous country in the ACP Group. It is also one of a relatively small number where regular EC aid programmes have been suspended, due to the political situation. Two years ago, the military regime of General Sani Abacha attracted widespread international condemnation following the execution of Ken Sara-Wiwa and a number of other Ogoni activists. The response of the international community was to impose limited sanctions, although significant economic measures were ruled out.

Today, the government insists it is committed to restoring civilian democratic rule. Local council elections were recently held and polls are scheduled next year for the state and national governments. Opposition leaders, many of whom are in exile, argue that nothing has really changed and reject the military authorities' programme of 'democratisation'.

The situation in Nigeria was hotly debated in Brussels in March, at the latest session of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly. A strongly-worded resolution condemning the country's regime was adopted by 60 votes to 23 with 7 abstentions. Immediately following the vote, The Courier had the opportunity to interview representatives of both the government and the opposition. Dada Olisa, who occupied the Nigerian chair in the Assembly, is his country's senior diplomat at their embassy in Belgium. Chief Anthony Enahoro, who leads NADECO, the main opposition umbrella organisation, observed the proceedings from the gallery. The exiled Chief, along with Nigerian Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka, and a number of others, has recently been charged with 'levying war on the government of Nigeria' (treason). It was clear from our interviews — in which we asked the same questions of both men — that a political rapprochement remains a long way off.

Dada Olisa

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim at the Nigerian Embassy in Brussels

Chief Anthony Enahoro

Leader of NADECO, the main Nigerian opposition umbrella organisation

■ *The ACP-EU Joint Assembly has just passed a resolution which is highly critical of the Nigerian authorities. What is your reaction to this?*

D.O. My immediate reaction is that it is an unfortunate situation. We have always maintained and emphasised that passing resolutions, as is the case by the Assembly, is not the solution to the problems of Nigeria. As for the issues raised, we have tried as much as possible to explain that a lot of the points mentioned in the resolution are not realistic. They do not reflect the actual situation on the ground. European members of the Joint Assembly, and particularly those who are the authors of the resolutions, have stubbornly refused to understand the intricacies of the problems of Nigeria. If they really understood our problems, they would not initiate such motions for resolutions.

A.E. It was based on a realistic assessment of the situation in Nigeria and I think it is a step forward. Nothing would have been worse than for the Assembly to shut its eyes and ears to the realities. I was quite relieved, listening to the speeches, to learn what a clear understanding and appreciation exists of the current position in Nigeria. This is notwithstanding the efforts the military junta is making in trying to show, as it were, a new face to the world. It is an entirely false appearance.

■ *How would you portray the human rights situation in Nigeria?*

D.O. As far as I am concerned, it is grossly exaggerated by the western news media. The situation is not as it is portrayed. The circumstances that outsiders regard as violations of human rights in fact involve crimes committed against the Federal Government of Nigeria. Take the issue of Chief Abiola, who is alleged to have won the last Presidential election. Chief Abiola committed treason by declaring himself President as far as the laws of Nigeria are concerned. His case is in court and in due course his fate will be determined accordingly. Then let's take the case of

A.E. Although we have had no extra-judicial killings since the Ogoni were executed, in many respects the position is actually worse than it was then. I can give you one or two examples. There were the student protests at the University of Benin in response to a sudden 500% increase in fees. Because the police couldn't find the leaders of the protest, they arrested their parents and held them incommunicado. They were detained without charge for several weeks and have only recently been released. Then you have the

the 15 people who were recently also charged with treason, including Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka. These charges have been brought against them on the basis of evidence available to the government. Their trial will take place according to due process in a legally constituted court — a procedure which is internationally accepted. And the whole world will be fully informed about developments of the case. So, I would wish to emphasise that the human rights situation in Nigeria is not actually as the world is made to understand. It is true, like in most countries of the world, that a number of people may have been detained, but this is so because of the specific offences they had committed.

As I indicated in my statement to the Joint Assembly, the government set up a Human Rights Commission last year and since its inception, it has received about 60 applications. Ten cases have already been disposed of while the others are at various stages of investigation. There is also a Committee set up to review, from time to time, the cases of those who have been detained. Where appropriate, the Committee makes recommendations to the government — which may be to release them, or to have them brought before a court. So far, 20 have been released and this shows the efforts that are being made by the government in the human rights field.

I also mentioned in my submission to the Assembly that the African Human Rights Commission spent a week in Nigeria observing the situation. They interviewed a wide range of people — NGO workers, human rights activists, government functionaries and others — to find out what the situation is at first hand. The report of this group will be made public after it has been submitted to the Secretary General of the OAU and the information will be available to the whole world. So, in conclusion, my position is that the accusations are grossly exaggerated and facts distorted.

■ *How much support does the current military government have amongst the people of Nigeria.*

D.O. Judging by recent developments, I would say that the Nigerian populace are enthusiastically and solidly behind the current military administration. They believe the government is very sincere in its desire to implement the transition programme.

I should also point out that in a population of over 100 million, at least 56 million registered and besides, there was a very impressive turnout in the local government elections which were held last Saturday (15 March). People were keen to go out and exercise their democratic rights. The results of these polls are now being released. The next stage will be elections for the State Houses of Assembly and State Governors.

All of this points to the fact that the people of Nigeria strongly support the present administration. They particularly appreciate the clean-up efforts the government has been making in the economic sphere and in terms of corruption, as well as the work it is doing in the social services. The government has esta-

ridiculous situation where I myself, Professor Wole Soyinka, and a number of others, have been charged with 'levying war' on the government of Nigeria. This isn't the kind of thing you can do secretly. If we had been levying war, the world would have seen what was happening. The truth is that the regime is trying to find a pretext for apprehending us. We are leading the opposition from outside, and I believe they are beginning to feel the pinch of our efforts and activities.

We have heard stories that two French mercenaries have been employed to hunt us down. In fact, the story has been published and the names of the two people alleged to be involved have been released. We take this threat quite seriously. Our hope is they won't find it so easy to carry out their mission here in Europe or in America, as would have been the case had we still been in Nigeria, or somewhere nearby in West Africa.

A.E. We know for a fact that the political groupings with most support among the people have not been registered, and so cannot participate in the elections or in any other processes. If a party is not registered by the military regime, it is unlawful for it to participate in any way in political activities. There are three main parties which have traditionally attracted most votes over the years. They are not necessarily allies, but successive elections have shown them to be the leading parties — and they are not registered. So what are you left with? Whatever the government claims, what's left are the people who are on Abacha's side and who took part in last week's local election farce. They have adopted him as their candidate for the federal elections next year, so it is clear that he plans to succeed himself.

When talking about support for the government there is also an important economic aspect. Things are pretty grim in Nigeria at the moment and in my own state, the state government has laid off

blished a committee with a wide membership which has become known as 'Vision 2010'. It has the task of looking at all aspects of Nigerian society and making appropriate recommendations to government about how the nation can best be governed, taking account of the socio-economic variables and the political situation. The aim is that, in the next century, Nigerians will have a much better life than they have at the moment. We have already succeeded in drastically reducing the inflation rate and in time, various other measures that the government has taken should begin to yield fruit. This will be very beneficial to the nation.

■ *What is needed to bring Nigeria back into the democratic fold?*

D.O. The process is already in progress. The government has embarked on a programme of democratisation in accordance with what was set out in the transition programme. Next year, there will be National Assembly and Presidential elections and, by October 1, the military administration will have transferred power to an elected civilian administration. But in working towards this desired goal, it would help if the international community — notably the Americans and Europeans — came on board. They should recognise that the Nigerian government has set up a programme for transition to civilian rule. We need the encouragement of the international community, but it seems that our efforts are not recognised and appreciated. We have always maintained that Nigeria is open for dialogue. But how do you embark on dialogue when there are visa restrictions on Nigerian government officials? How can Joint Assembly officials visit Nigeria while these restrictions remain in place? Where is the opportunity for the two sides to sit down and discuss the issues that concern the country? How can normalisation be effected?

So this is the problem. After several years of military interregnum in Nigeria, the government has made it clear that it is willing to hand over power next year to a democratically elected civilian government. The West should recognise that we are sincere about this — determined that Nigeria's fourth republic will succeed. And we are all hopeful and optimistic that it will.

10 000 employees. Now suddenly, they announce that the local councillors will be paid something in the region of 7000-10000 naira a month. This is more than a university professor earns in Nigeria. So what do you expect people to do. They stand for election to gain a living. The fact that they took part in the poll doesn't mean they are on the government's side. It's just a job.

A.E. I take it you probably mean, what can the outside world do? Today, we are quite clear in our minds that some way has somehow to be found to bring General Abacha and his supporters to a negotiating table. The outside world could help by brokering an appeal to the populace. This was something I suggested in Nigeria before I was forced to leave. I challenged Abacha to submit his proposals to the people. We said we would do likewise and would bind ourselves to whatever the electorate decided. He hasn't accepted that challenge — I think he is afraid he will lose.

If he cannot be brought to the conference table then it is difficult to see what we are left with. A key question is how far the international community will allow the crisis to go before they feel they have to intervene.

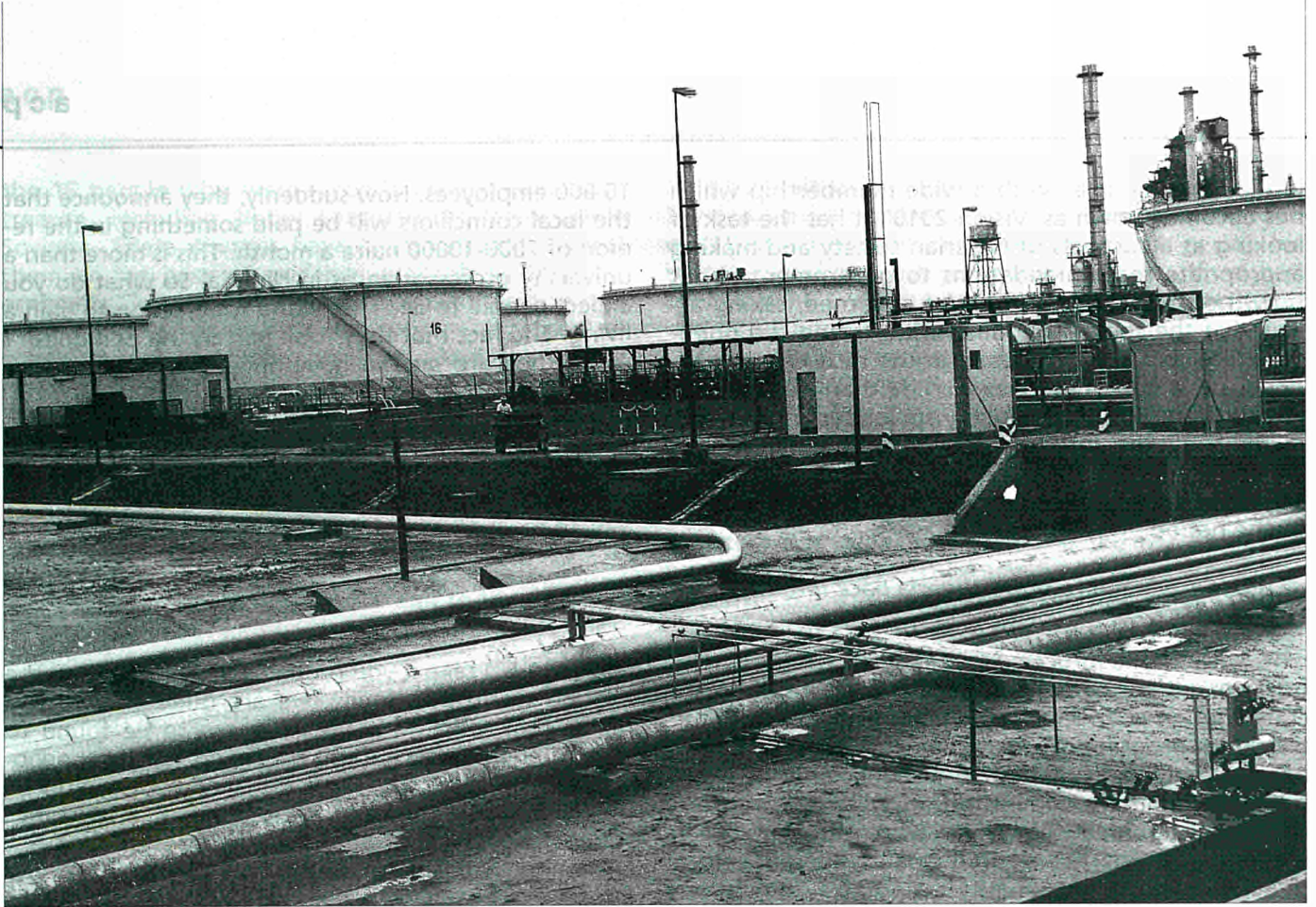
The elections planned for next year will certainly not lead to genuine democracy. Nor will they create stability. Given the history and complexity of Nigeria, it is simply not possible for one man to dictate matters though the power of the gun. He thinks that he can seize power, exclude all his opponents, impose a constitution on the country and work out a system to ensure his own survival as President. I can assure you that this is not going to bring stability to Nigeria.

There is one aspect of the struggle which I don't think is fully appreciated in the outside world, namely that we do not recognise Abacha's authority to devise or design any form of return to democracy. Who gave him that right? He has behaved like an outlaw. In seizing power, he has stolen the property of the people and when the owners try to wrest it back from him, they risk being arrested and charged with treason. It doesn't matter how good or bad his plans may be: he simply has no right. Abacha abolished a duly elected government, president and legislature — so it is he who should be brought to trial for treason — and one day he will be!

■ *What effect would economic sanctions, notably in the petroleum sector, have on your country?*

D.O.— There is no doubt that if the international community were to impose an oil embargo, this

A.E. I put forward a possible solution which would guarantee the legitimate trade of the oil inter-



Oil refinery in Nigeria

would negatively affect the Nigerian populace. It would be most unfortunate because a lot of the resources available to the government to provide services for the people would be cut off. We would definitely have problems and our international commitments will also suffer.

But I should stress that any sanctions would not just hurt Nigerians. Neighbouring countries — in fact the whole of West Africa — would suffer. Our neighbours buy goods produced in Nigeria and they depend a lot on us. Oil sanctions will disrupt this trade in both directions and the flow of goods will dry up. Also, if there is not enough for the people of Nigeria, we won't be in much of a position to think of our neighbours. In short, oil sanctions are not advisable because they would have far-reaching effects on the ordinary people. That was the view expressed by Professor Pinheiro, the Development Commissioner, on the basis of the Commission's own analysis of the likely effects of sanctions. The aim should not be to punish the Nigerian people, nor to deny the government the source of funds for maintaining such a huge population. How would you then feed the people, provide social services, or run economic development projects?

Is it really the intention of the EU or America to create anarchy in Nigeria by denying the people their source of livelihood. I should add that they have their own interests here also which would be adversely affected. And any oil embargo would obviously affect petroleum supplies to the West, forcing prices up. So we will continue to urge the western world not to embark on such a venture.

ests while at the same time protecting the ordinary people of Nigeria. This involves depriving the military regime of the proceeds of the oil industry. My idea is to operate an escrow account, as happens in the case of Iraq. The oil industry would carry on as normal but the proceeds would be paid into such an account under the supervision of an international body — perhaps the United Nations or the Commonwealth. They would authorise expenditure on essential requirements so that public servants could be paid and hospitals staffed — things which are not happening now. This arrangement would ensure that the people would not suffer — just the military regime who would quickly be driven out of office if they had no access to these resources. ■

Interviews by S.H.

Evaluation of EC projects in sub-Saharan Africa

Learning the lessons in the transport sector

Over the past 20 years, the European Commission has invested more than ECU 3 billion in transport projects in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), mostly on roads. Here, we present the main findings of an evaluation study carried out in 1993-95 by six consultancy firms*. They examined 42 projects in 13 SSA countries (Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda). The total investment involved was approximately ECU 560m.

The authors of the report concluded that transport projects were generally implemented successfully. Many involved the rehabilitation of major trunk roads and construction was relatively straightforward, using international contractors supervised by international consulting engineers. Both the Commission and its Delegation offices are staffed with engineers and technical experts who ensure that projects produce infrastructure of generally good quality, and are mostly completed on time with few cost overruns.

The development impact of the roads, however, was often less than expected because of poor maintenance, inappropriate government policies, weak project cycle management, low economic growth and a failure to involve local contractors and consultants.

Poor maintenance and inappropriate policies

There was a general failure by SSA governments to maintain roads and other infrastructure, de-

spite agreement with the EC to do so. Thus, well-constructed roads deteriorated quickly and benefits were far lower than expected. Governments also failed to enforce vehicle weight restrictions which led to even more rapid road deterioration. Despite the fact that regular maintenance more than pays for itself (it is estimated that every ECU cut from road maintenance increases vehicle operating costs by three to four ECU) governments did not finance the recurrent costs in this area and relied on donors to pay the higher costs of rehabilitation every few years.

Railway, port and airport projects

Port and airport projects, like those relating to roads, were generally well-implemented, but also had a less than expected impact on development. Railway projects were generally unsatisfactory.

The railway projects evaluated were designed either to improve tracks — thereby increasing operating speeds, cutting accidents and reducing damage to goods in transit, or to increase capacity by making more locomotives available. They failed mainly because the railways were poorly managed and uncommercial.

The lesson learned is that increasing railway capacity and productivity requires strengthening of planning and management, and improved operating techniques. Provision of new equipment and infrastructure on their own is not sufficient.



The Courier

A main route linking Tanzania with Zambia
Roads have deteriorated rapidly due to lack of maintenance

Until the mid-1980s, there was no legal provision for the EC to finance road maintenance although this became possible under Lomé III and IV.

During the 1970s and 1980s, most SSA countries pursued inappropriate transport policies. They relied on inefficient, loss-making parastatal monopolies to provide transport infrastructure, government prices (rather than market-determined ones), and selective licensing of private sector operators — which again often resulted in monopolies. At the same time, in common with other donors, the EC focused on the short-term provision of capital goods, often ignoring crucial institutional issues important to long-term sustainability and the broader socio-economic impact of projects. It generally did not require policy changes by recipient governments, or enter sufficiently into policy dialogue.

Weak project cycle management and other factors

Project identification and formulation were not rigorous enough and, as a result, many projects did not deliver the expected benefits. Comprehensive feasibility studies, involving thorough eco-

* The evaluation studies were undertaken by Arcotech (Spain), DanGroup (Denmark), Doxidis (Greece), Gopa (Germany), SPT (Italy) and TecnEcon (UK). The above is an abridged text taken from a resumé of the studies entitled 'The Transport Sector in Sub-Saharan Africa'. The resumé was prepared by Steve Jones and Associates (UK) for the evaluation unit of the Commission's Development Directorate General (DG VIII) and was published in 1996 by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

conomic, financial, social, environmental and technical assessment of projects were not undertaken in all appropriate cases. The integration of project planning with broader sectoral, regional and national plans could be improved. The development impact of projects was insufficiently monitored and there was thus little opportunity to learn from experience.

The economic stagnation of most SSA countries in the 1980s and early 1990s resulted in lower than expected demand for transport. Because of this, many projects did not perform as well as anticipated in economic or social terms.

Projects were built by international firms with very limited involvement of local contractors and consultants. Few attempts were made to develop national capacities, use labour-intensive construction methods or consider alternative project designs.

Next steps

By the time of the evaluation study, the EC had become aware of the drawbacks of the project approach, and had started to cooperate with other donors to strengthen sectoral approaches to transport planning in a number of countries. Some of these new approaches grew out of the World Bank-coordinated *Sub Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP)*, which was launched in the late 1980s to encourage SSA governments to undertake reviews of sectoral policy, restructure and possibly privatise parastatals, reform the regulatory framework to encourage competition, and give priority to rehabilitation and improved maintenance rather than constructing new roads. The SSATP has resulted in a number of excellent initiatives such as the *Integrated Roads Programme (IRP)* in Tanzania which introduced an innovative maintenance system financed with fuel taxes. In some other countries, change has been slow.

As a result of the evaluation study and experience gained in projects like the IRP, the Commission has taken a number of

Evaluation study recommendations

Recipient governments should:

- develop comprehensive transport policies which are integrated with national, regional and sub-regional plans, and with the plans of other sectors;
- strengthen coordination, internally and with donors;
- concentrate on overall planning and regulation, leaving the private sector to provide services, and construct and maintain infrastructure;
- develop innovative and sustainable ways to finance maintenance, possibly by introducing user charges (such as fuel charges) and independent road funds;
- integrate transport development planning and structural adjustment programmes;
- strengthen government organisations so that they can adequately plan and regulate the transport sector.

The Commission should:

- adopt a more flexible approach to programming, with funds allocated to countries where policy reform has improved the prospects of aid having a substantial impact on development;
- improve transport sector planning by rigorous management at all stages of the project cycle, using interdisciplinary teams for project planning and management;
- develop specific policy and operational guidelines for Commission officials and consultants to enhance planning capacity at headquarters and in the delegations, while strengthening the capacity of recipient countries through technical assistance and training;
- strengthen coordination with other donors and governments to ensure a comprehensive approach to transport development;
- make greater use of local firms in project implementation and provide training as necessary;
- establish a permanent internal Advisory Committee of senior officials to ensure that project officers comply with policy guidelines and that there is feedback from monitoring and evaluation.

steps. It has issued new transport sector guidelines entitled *'Towards sustainable transport infrastructure: a sectoral approach in practice'* to ensure a consistent sectoral approach and rigorous planning and management of projects. From September 1996, these have been used by Commission officials and consultants planning and implementing EC transport projects, together with guidelines on Project Cycle Management and new advice on economic and financial analysis. The Guidelines emphasise enhancing the capacity of ACP government organisations, using local contractors and consultants as far as possible, and strengthening coordination with other sectors and donors.

The Commission has also financed or co-financed a number of new initiatives such as SADC's inter-modal *Regional Transport and Communications Integration Study for Southern Africa* and has become more active in other programmes relating to institutional and policy reform, such as the Road Maintenance Initiative. It has prepared training programmes in

new approaches to transport sector planning and management, which have been held in Europe and in ACP countries. Finally, a management committee — the 'Quality Support Group' — has been set up to ensure that all projects and programmes are consistent with the guidelines and evaluation findings, and that EC aid to the transport sector in developing countries leads increasingly to sustainable and equitable development.

Beyond national parks

An African perspective on the relationship between biodiversity, conservation and human needs

by the Africa Resources Trust*

Africa has become the ideological battleground between those who believe that biodiversity is best maintained through protection supported by regulation and various systems of human exclusion and those who hold that conservation can only be achieved where human interests and the economic utilisation of resources - including Africa's magnificent wildlife - are central.

Just in case you harbour any doubts, we point out that while there are at least 700 protected areas in Africa totalling more than 600 000 sq km, this is little more than 2% of the continent's land surface. Even if these areas were all perfectly protected, would they alone ensure the future of Africa's biodiversity?

Conventional conservation, a colonial legacy, has focused almost exclusively on the protection of individual species and parcels of land and the implementation of restrictive conservation legislation has antagonised the section of society that should be the strongest lobby for conservation - rural people who depend for their survival on wild species. This is the silent majority, unrepresented at meetings such as those held in the context of CITES, (the UN Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species). Yet it is they who will ultimately determine whether much of the continent's wildlife and other biodiversity will survive - especially on the vast ma-

ajority of lands which lie outside protected areas.

The futility of the conventional approach is reinforced when we add the observation that Africa's greatest environmental problem is not the loss of high profile species like rhino and gorillas (disturbing as that is), but the loss of soils and productivity caused by the increasingly frequent cultivation and grazing of wild lands which are marginal to agriculture. The root cause of this conversion from wild land to agriculture is simply that wild species cannot compete on economic terms with domestic species.

Of course, from the biodiversity perspective, it would be better to have the elephants, because a land with elephants is also home to a myriad of smaller creatures. But what African landowner would prefer elephants to cattle? This problem is not solely, nor even centrally, one of African attitudes. All economic and social incentives are structured to favour cattle!

Biodiversity conservation in Africa today is primarily a socio-economic activity closely linked to land use and development. Conservation efforts which continue to concentrate on biological solutions and repressive legislation will fail. People will continue to use resources. The challenge lies in ensuring the survival of biodiversity while meeting the needs of Africa's rural people. In Southern Africa, a new paradigm is emerging in which legislated protection is giving way to regulated use. Wildlife management is starting to be viewed as a productive land



Wildlife in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania
The challenge lies in ensuring the survival of biodiversity while meeting the needs of Africa's rural people

use, so that more, not less, land is available for flourishing natural biodiversity. Surely this is our aim?

However, the continued success of such programmes requires a rethinking of international policy. As a caution we can look at the EU, which supported the closing of the international trade in ivory under CITES - an international treaty like the Convention on Biological Diversity - while at the same time it actively subsidises trade in beef from Southern Africa. What messages does this send to the land holder? What future does it offer for the elephant?

Hopefully, in the deliberations of the CITES Convention next June, the question will be asked before critical decisions are made - 'will this detract from the value of natural resources and impede the conservation of biodiversity?'

* Zimbabwean welfare organisation and member of IUCN - The World Conservation Union. Brussels office: c/o rue Jules Lejeune 32, 1050 Brussels, Belgium.

Mobilising savings in the CFA franc area

The WAEMU Stock Exchange takes shape

The African countries of the CFA franc area have decided to mobilise their domestic savings to finance their economic development. The regional stock exchange to be set up in the second half of this year is a new venture for the sub-Saharan States, and through it, they hope to attract investment funds.

The total capitalisation of the regional stock exchange for the member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union will be one billion CFA francs (ECU 1 = CFAF 660). The exchange will be set up as a public company, with a capital fund divided into 100 000 shares of CFAF 10 000 each, of which at least 51% will be held by the private sector. The shareholding of member states will be limited to 16% — 2% for each state (the existing seven plus Guinea-Bissau which will shortly be joining).

Under the organisational scheme that is proposed, the new market will be governed by a 'regional board for public savings and investment shares'. This will be a supranational organ of the WAEMU and its task will be to lay down the broad guidelines, launch public savings initiatives and ensure that investment operations are properly conducted. It will be solely responsible for issuing approvals to stock exchange investors, whether they are public sector agents (the stock exchange company, the central depository for securities) or from the private sector (brokers, asset management companies and traders). The exchange will have its headquarters in Abidjan, with a regional agency in each country, possibly on the premises of the Chambers of Commerce and Agriculture.

The other features of the stock exchange will be:

- the central depository, also acting as a bank for settlements. It will have a capital fund of CFAF 500 million, of which at least 51% will also be held by private operators, with member states holding 2% each;

- the commercial players: firms of brokers (SGIs), assets management companies (SGPs), traders and investors.

The SGIs act as middlemen for investment operations, and as dealers and managers for stocks and shares quoted on the exchange. They take the form of joint stock companies with an initial capital of CFAF 200 million, and must at all times have an equity holding equivalent to this figure. Each SGI must also have a shareholding equivalent to 4% of the capital in the regional stock exchange company and the central depository company. This clearly restricts the number of SGIs able to operate on the regional market.

As for the SGPs, they will be made up of professional bodies whose tasks will include managing a guarantee fund to be set up from their contributions. The intervention ceiling for this guarantee fund is limited, for principals, to CFAF 1 million for cash holdings, CFAF 100 million for securities and CFAF 200 million for defaulting SGIs.

Stock Exchange operations will be conducted by SGPs, which will be responsible for buying and selling shares for third parties, but will not be allowed to own shares themselves or to hold funds on behalf of their clients. The banks established on the regional market will also be able to carry out these functions, as subsidiary operators.

The plans also allow for operations by bodies investing jointly in real property (OPCVMs) in the form of SICAVs (unit trusts) or joint investment funds (FCPs).

The meeting to set up the regional stock exchange company is planned for mid-1997, and stock exchange activities are scheduled to start at the beginning of the second half of the year.

This venture opens up prospects for development and for a financial market that is run by the economic operators. The initiative will lie with the private sector, banks and employers' organisations, as well as with regional financial institutions and international aid organisations.

The experience of the Harare stock exchange, where foreign investors have injected almost 1.2 billion Zimbabwe dollars into the economy through buying and selling shares, offers an encouraging pointer. With the monetary stability that exists in the WAEMU area, those involved in establishing the West African regional stock exchange hope to emulate this example. ■

Mounirou Fall

View of Abidjan, future headquarters of the WAEMU regional stock exchange



Emma Bonino — front-line Commissioner

The crisis in Rwanda, mad-cow disease and diminishing fish stocks — three very different crises which have made headline news in Europe over the past few years. They appear to have little in common, but if you mention them together in the corridors of Brussels, the name of Emma Bonino springs to mind. When Mrs Bonino was nominated by Italy to serve on the European Commission, it was something of a surprise appointment. A member of the small (though sometimes influential) Radical Party, she was not really from the political 'mainstream'. On the other hand, this former member of the Italian and European Parliaments was known and respected as an effective campaigner — among other things, for human rights and development issues abroad, and against civil nuclear energy at home.

*With her natural dynamism, and passionate concern for social justice, there was never any question of Mrs Bonino being a 'low-profile' Commissioner. But even she may have been surprised by the amount of media coverage she has attracted. When the portfolios were divided up in 1995, Emma Bonino was allocated three very different responsibilities — humanitarian policy, fisheries and consumer affairs. One might have expected her humanitarian brief to attract some attention, given the number of conflicts and refugee crises across the world. Worries about over-exploitation of fish stocks are also a recurring feature of European political debate. But no-one could have predicted the BSE crisis which has catapulted consumer protection issues to the top of the agenda. In military theory, they say that one should avoid fighting on two fronts, (far less three!). Mrs Bonino, whom *The Courier* interviewed on 6 March, seems to relish the task. We began by asking her how she managed to juggle with three such diverse portfolios.*

— It's not a problem in the technical sense. Each area is handled by a separate service of the Commission and my cabinet (staff members attached directly to a Commissioner Ed) is also divided on sectoral lines. One member of the cabinet deals mostly with fisheries, two focus on humanitarian issues and related foreign policy questions, and there are two others responsible mainly for consumer affairs. The challenge is more at the political level. In all three portfolios, you have to come up with political decisions and policy initiatives. For example, at the moment in the consumer area, we are having to look at new ways of tackling food safety problems. In the humanitarian field, we have the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) which is effective in its day-to-day operation, but there are also wider questions of policy and advocacy that need to be tackled.

■ *You have a high profile in all three areas but the main interest for Courier readers is likely to be in your humanitarian role. Can we focus on the situation in the Great Lakes region of Africa. Do you think there was anything the international community could have done to prevent the tragedy of Rwanda?*

— Almost everything. The international community knew



what was going on. The humanitarian people working in the field — whether from the UN system or European NGOs — provided a lot of information and it all pointed in the same direction. Since 1994, we were unanimous in highlighting the threat posed by having 1.2 million refugees camped on the Zaire-Rwanda border. And we argued that there had to be a political solution. Humanitarian agencies cannot separate militias from *bone fide* refugees. Anyone who thinks that *Medecins sans Frontières* or the *World Food Programme* can go in and sort out one from the

other has never been in a refugee camp. If you want to carry out such an operation, you must have military support.

We also said unanimously that we needed to ensure the *ad hoc* Rwanda war crimes tribunal really worked. This is a key element in confidence-building. For two years we have been saying 'we are doing our job as humanitarians, but ultimately, there is no humanitarian solution. Political will and diplomatic efforts are needed to solve the crisis.'

One of my main preoccupations is the increase in serious violations of basic humanitarian law. We have to put a stop to this trend. There is a growing sense of impunity, with people apparently feeling free to attack and kill humanitarian workers from NGOs and even the Red Cross. We have seen example of this in Rwanda and in places like Chechnya. Forced repatriation is also becoming more frequent — from Tanzania to Thailand. And refugees camping under the supposed protection of the UN flag have been bombed. None of these violations have brought an adequate reaction from the international community. What worries me is that we seem to have stepped back in time. Even in the early days of this century, it was recognised that one could not fire on the Red Cross.



UNICEF - A. Holmann

Nowadays, this kind of thing happens all too frequently.

Those of us involved in the humanitarian agencies have a vital advocacy role to play here. We need to raise the issue in the Member States and with the UN, pointing out that if we do not react to major violations of basic humanitarian law, we find ourselves on an endless downward spiral.

■ Presumably you are arguing that the international community should be prepared to 'bite the bullet' and send in troops in extreme circumstances.

— There are several steps that you can take before that, which unfortunately are not always considered. As a believer in non-violence, I view military intervention as very much the last resort but it is sometimes all that is left.

■ Isn't there a problem of political will? Countries will always be reluctant to send troops to faraway places, where they may get killed in someone else's conflict.

— I accept that, but then we should ask ourselves what our priorities really are. It would be useful to have an open and transparent debate on this. The problem is that no such debate is taking place.

From the start, the humanitarian people — the UN agencies and ourselves — have been working in the camps, but we have been the only significant presence. The others have never been there in adequate numbers. We appointed a special envoy to the Great Lakes region with a political mandate. That was a very good idea but, in my view, we haven't had enough political backing from the 15 member states.

At one point, we were even accused of consolidating the crisis — just because we were feeding the people. My reply, which I have repeated many times, is that it is precisely this kind of attitude

which has consolidated the crisis. The people who are suffering have become hostages to the political indifference of the international community.

My job, and that of the aid agencies, is to implement the humanitarian conventions. There was never any secret that militias were operating in the camps. We said so ourselves in our reports. But are people seriously saying we should have left; that the humanitarians should bend to geopolitical interests and abandon the children and women, in order to 'solve' a problem by starvation? That is absolutely unacceptable.

'Discussion in the international community has never been transparent'

Any country that has 1.2 million refugees amassed on its border is bound to feel threatened. If Italy were facing this situation, the government in Rome would feel very uneasy. Imagine then, what it must be like for a country like Rwanda — small, poor, overpopulated and emerging from genocide. Yet there was no intervention. The UN Security Council decided on a multinational force but then the plan was dropped.

One of my big regrets is that the discussion in the international community has never been transparent. And different countries have different agendas. For example, the EU, rightly or wrongly, decided to back a 'post-Mobutu' democratic transition in Zaire, based on the absolute territorial integrity of that country. My guess — and I underline that it is only speculation because we never had an open debate — is that some other donors doubted whether Zaire could stick together after Mobutu. But we have not had the

The former Kivumba refugee camp, North Kivu, Zaire

'Are people seriously saying we should have abandoned children and women, to 'solve' a problem by starvation?'

courage to debate this kind of issue openly. The result is the paralysis which public opinion finds so difficult to understand. They are asking 'Brussels' (generically speaking) why, after the experience in the former Yugoslavia, we have again failed to take action in the Great Lakes.

The multinational force, as I mentioned, was dissolved even before it set off. We were told that everybody had returned — which was not true. We know we were feeding 1.2 million refugees. Now even supposing that 700 000 made their way back over the border after the bombing of the UN camps, where are the other half million? People were saying openly 'there are no refugees left', and this gave them a reason not to move in. Now, of course, we are discovering some of the missing refugees. There are 200 000 of them in rebel-held territory 400 kilometres inside Zaire. But since early October, we have had no access to that territory, so we don't know what's going on there. I hope that there are still 200 000 alive in the forest because the alternative scenario is even worse.

You know we are still confronted with the accusation: 'You are exaggerating the refugee figures to get more money'. My feeling is that somebody is underestimating the numbers to find an excuse not to intervene. It is really very sad.

■ Given what you have just said, do you see any prospect of an initiative to tackle the crisis developing in Zaire?

— Yes, hopefully. In December, we went off to celebrate Christmas with *panettone* and champagne, telling the public that the problem was over. Unfortun-

nately, the truth was rather different. Today, however, there is renewed diplomatic activity although in a much more difficult situation than three months ago. There are various initiatives — from the USA, South Africa and the OAU. But we have lost three months.

■ *In carrying out your humanitarian role, you have visited numerous 'hot-spots' and have been exposed to some risky situations. Last year, you were caught up in a firefight near an airstrip in Somalia. How did you feel when the shooting started?*

— I think I was more frightened of the general confusion than the actual gunfire. You didn't know who was shooting at whom, and everybody seemed to lose control. There was a lot of screaming. After a while, our route was opened up and the driver took me to the aeroplane. To tell you the truth, that was when I was most scared. He was in a panic and drove off very fast... but he was looking backwards all the time!

■ *Turning to your other responsibilities, fisheries have hit the European headlines recently. You put forward proposals which would involve very significant quota cuts for European fishermen — and the reaction from several Member States was hostile. What is your analysis of the stocks in European waters? Is the Commission 'talking-up' the problem on the assump-*

tion that any proposed cuts will be scaled back, or are the Member States failing to look to the longer term?

'The very future of the fishing sector is at stake'

— Your second option is exactly what I feel. If you look at today's *Daily Telegraph* — a newspaper which is not regarded as particularly friendly to the European Commission — you will see that even in the UK, there is a major debate taking place on the lack of adequate action by the government in protecting cod. I think we have to be realistic. I am not talking about reductions covering all species. The proposal is to have quota cuts, over six years, of 40% for the stocks that are in greatest danger and of 20% on species that are under pressure but not yet at risk of depletion. On some stocks, I didn't ask for any reduction. It was already a compromise position arrived at after examining the scientific advice. And among the Member States, nobody is questioning the scientific facts. What they are arguing is that I should consider whether certain measures are politically possible. The central problem is one of political viability. But my task, which I believe I have to fulfil by

the end of my mandate, is to implement a policy in which fishing efforts and resources are more or less balanced. That is a prerequisite if the sector is to be economically viable in the future. This is all I am trying to do.

Another element is the financial support available to ease the transition. At the moment, this is quite substantial, but I am not sure what will happen after 1999. We don't know if fisheries will get such a generous allocation in the new budget perspective to be decided by the Member States. That is why I am pushing ministers now. We may not be at the eleventh hour, but there is no doubt that some stocks are highly depleted and if we do nothing for the next three years, we could end up in a worse situation. The fish are certainly not going to regenerate themselves.

Of course, people say things to me like: 'We have to be realistic — we have an election in six months time'. I try to explain that it is exactly because I am realistic that I insist on pushing my proposals. It is not about the electoral consequences for a particular government. The very future of the fishing sector is at stake.

Coastal fishing in Senegal
'Developing countries have discovered that fish are an important resource but many do not have a deep-sea fishing tradition.'



■ *Moving on to international aspects, EC fishing agreements with developing countries have been criticised in the past, on both environmental and development grounds. How do you strike a balance between the commercial interests of Europe's long-distance fleets and the ecological and development concerns of the Southern countries?*

— There has been a major change in their conception. We have moved from so-called 'first generation' to 'second generation' agreements. The former is the type of arrangement under which we go, we fish, we pay (a little bit!) and we leave. But this approach has gone forever. International law has changed and countries now have 200-mile exclusive economic zones. In my opinion, the underlying concept has changed too. We are moving to a new system involving partnership with coastal states. And I think there is scope for a really good partnership. Of course each coastal nation has its own characteristics. Some want to develop their own fishing industry, others don't. Mauritania, for instance, does not see this as a priority at present. There are some countries that prefer agreements with private enterprises — from Europe, Japan, Taiwan and so on. This is the case for Namibia with whom we have no formal agreement.

Developing countries have discovered that fish are an important resource but many do not have a deep-sea fishing tradition, though they have coastal fisheries of course. Countries that want to develop a commercial fishing industry need to build fleets. But worldwide, there is overcapacity, so what we are saying is: 'Why don't we join together? You have the fish, we have the boats. We can make joint enterprises.' We can also agree that some of the crew should be recruited locally and that part of the catch should be landed in the coastal state. This is a good solution for somewhere like Senegal for example, where there are local processing industries. So the philosophy of the 'second generation' agreement is very different. Of course, such agree-

ments are much more expensive, which means that some Member States are not so happy. But we pay quite a lot of money for similar arrangements with northern countries, and I don't understand why our agreements in ACP countries should be so cheap.

■ *Presumably, they would still entail a payment of some sort to the government of the country?*

— Yes, always.

■ *What conditions, if any, apply to the way the money is spent?*

— It is a commercial arrangement so it is not normal to attach strings. The money goes directly into the national exchequer. In Mauritania, for instance, they were keen to maintain their commitments to the IMF and used it to pay back debt. Others have different priorities. Having said this, we usually seek to ensure that some of the money goes into fisheries. It's not very much at the moment — 5%. We are also trying to slot the fisheries money, which comes from the EC budget, in with the funds provided under the Lomé National Indicative Programmes. This is happening now in Senegal. I am trying to push for a more coherent approach. In countries that are recipients of development aid, we need to ensure that the fishing agreement does not undermine the development effort.

'The imbalance between production and consumer policy is striking'

■ *Can I turn now to your consumer policy portfolio. This subject has hit the headlines thanks to the BSE crisis. Is it true, as some suggest, that producers are favoured over consumers?*

— There is no doubt about this. You only have to look at the Community budget and limited scope of the consumer protection provisions in the Treaty. In fact it is not even a policy, far less a common policy. Article 129a of the Treaty describes it as nothing more than 'a contribution to the internal market'. The field is largely

governed by subsidiarity, and is therefore left in the hands of the Member States. The consequence is that we have limited financial resources — just ECU 19 million — and a small consumer affairs department of only 80 people. Agriculture, by contrast, absorbs 50% of the EC budget, occupies many hundreds of officials, and has a common policy.

This weakness is also present in the Member States. The imbalance between production, be it agricultural or industrial, and consumer policy, is striking. With the BSE crisis, we are trying at a European level, and in several Member States, to find ways of restoring the balance. A moment of truth will come in the new Treaty that emerges from the Intergovernmental Conference. We shall see then if public health and food security concerns will be given more prominence.

■ *Are you arguing for that?*

— Yes, the Commission has presented a concrete proposal.

■ *Using the limited powers that you do have, what are you seeking to achieve in consumer protection?*

— Within the Commission, we are proposing that scientific advice and control be separated from the production aspects. We have had a similar system in the Member States, where those administratively responsible for production — covering farmers and industry — were also in charge of scientific advice and control. We are trying, using the example of countries such as Austria and Ireland, to break this circle. This should create a better equilibrium and also a dialectic between the various interests. In other words: 'You have to protect the interests of agriculture, I am here to protect the interests of consumers — lets discuss.' This is something we can do under the existing treaty framework. ■

Interview by Simon Horner

The European Union

40 years of a hugely daring experiment

by Ian Davidson*

When the European Economic Community was founded in 1957, it seemed a hugely daring experiment in the management of relations, and in the creation of common policies, between independent states. Forty years on, it still seems a hugely daring experiment, but it has proved to be a hugely successful experiment, on a scale that no-one could have predicted at its birth. Its success can be measured by the growth of its membership, and by the constant expansion of the range of its policies.

In 1957, only six countries were prepared to join together to create a general 'Common Market' as it was popularly called — the same six Member States as had previously created the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951: France, Germany, Italy and the three Benelux countries. Today, almost all the countries of Western Europe have joined the Community, taking its membership from six to 15, and almost all the countries of Eastern Europe have applied to join.

Similarly, with the expansion of its policies. In 1957, the EEC was conceived mainly as a Common Market in trade in industrial goods, buttressed by a Europe-wide competition policy and a commitment to a common agricultural policy. Today, the Member States have far extended the idea of free trade, to a Single Market with complete freedom of movement for goods, services, capital and people; they are poised for the final stage of Economic and Monetary Union, with a single currency and a European Central Bank; and they are working to ex-

tend European integration into new areas like civil security, foreign policy and even, perhaps, defence.

An absolutely inspired balance

What is it that has made the European Community so successful? There are, I think, two main reasons. First, when the founding fathers designed the institutions of the Community, they struck an absolutely inspired balance between the claims of the independent Member States, and the shared needs of the Community. The original treaty set out a set of general objectives. But without the creative dynamic between the Commission and the Council of Ministers, the Member States would not have been able to turn these objectives into policies, let alone to adapt these policies to changing circumstances.

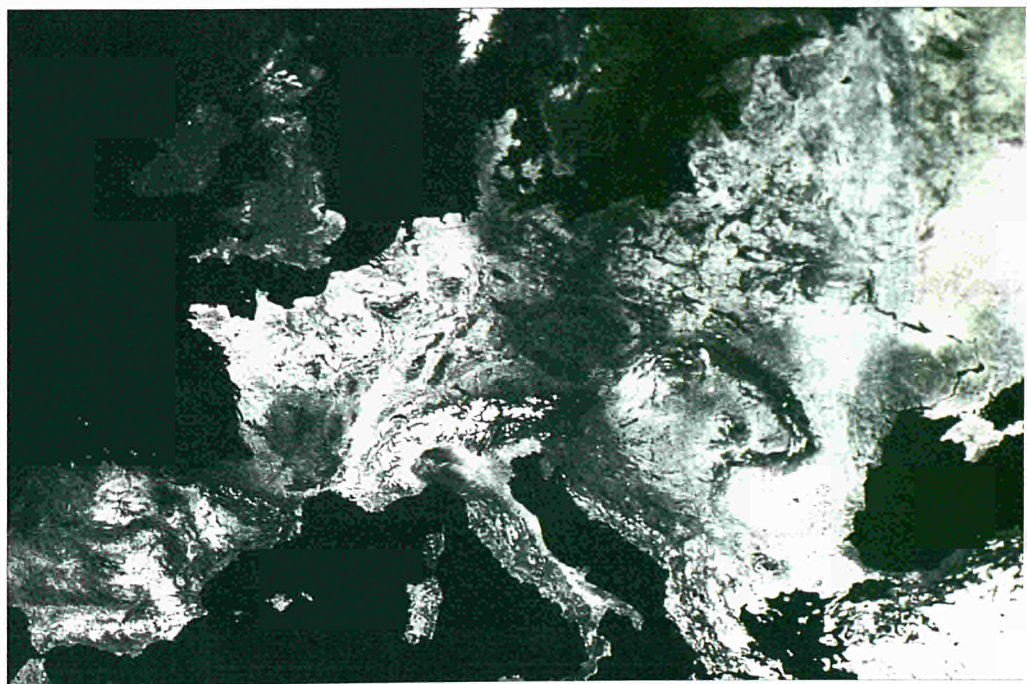
The second reason for the EEC's success is that the founders were careful not to define the ultimate destination of the new Com-

munity. Some people undoubtedly believed, and hoped, that it would end up as some kind of United States of Europe; others believed, and hoped, that it would not. But there was no compulsion on either group to decide either way in advance; the whole point of the Community method is that the Member States have gradually built it in a pragmatic way, brick by brick.

What is not so clear is whether the European Community (now called the European Union) can expect to continue to build on the successes of the past 40 years, and carry the process of integrative growth into the future; or whether on the contrary it may be reaching, or may even already have reached, some kind of limit to what can be achieved with the institutions it has inherited.

At the moment, the evidence is contradictory. There are three reasons for caution. First,

Today, almost all the countries of Western Europe have joined the Community and almost all those in Eastern Europe have applied to join.



* Columnist with The Financial Times. This article was first published in *Commission en Direct*, the staff newspaper of the European Commission (issue no. 49).



Commission

25 March 1957 — the Treaty of Rome signature ceremony

there is the question of size. The Community's constitution was designed for just six countries, but it is really too unwieldy for the present membership of 15. Ten more members from Eastern Europe will turn the Community into an even more unwieldy grouping, and much less homogeneous; the prospect must face the Community with the choice between paralysis, through sheer weight of numbers, or a radically more federal constitution.

Second, the process of integration is gradually taking the Community closer to the most sensitive attributes of the nation-state; first money, with the single currency, and then in future no doubt such policy areas as police, immigration, defence. This process may not be politically manageable without thinking through a far-reaching revision of the relationship between the nation states and the Community, and in particular the function of democracy in the Community.

Third, the French political establishment may have been converted to the legitimacy of the political objectives of the European Union, but the British political establishment has not. Unless the British come round, it may be necessary to envisage a Community with inner groups and outer groups. And no-one knows how that would work.

But there are also three factors pointing towards continued organic growth of integration. First, there is the substantial momentum behind the programme for Economic and Monetary Union. A majority of Member States will probably join the Single Currency when it is launched on January 1, 1999, and most of the rest will probably join within a few years thereafter. If EMU is to work well, it will inevitably require significant follow-up steps of economic integration; therefore it is also likely to be a spring-board for closer political integration.

Radical constitutional innovations

Second, there is much greater convergence in the thinking in the various Member States, about the essential characteristics of a successful economy. Not long ago, there were substantial differences between, say, the French with their preference for state interventionism and publicly-owned corporations, and the Germans with a more free-market philosophy. But today, virtually all member governments have converged on the need for free markets, privatisation, and fiscal reform. This will reinforce the chances that they will work together to strengthen the functioning of a Europe-wide market economy.

Third, Member States like Germany, France and the Benelux

seem more united, and determined, than in the past to press for closer political integration, and their objective is accepted by most of the more recent adherents. In the early years, President de Gaulle of France opposed the supranational element in the Treaty, and he made two attempts to force the other five Member States to accept a downgrading of the integrationist potential of the Community. But with the Presidency of François Mitterrand (1981-95), France was converted both to the logic of the liberal market, and to a strategy of political integration in Europe.

I draw three conclusions. First, that the functional requirement for closer European integration remains so strong among the key Member States that they are likely to find solutions to the obstacles ahead. On the other hand, the next phase of integration cannot be a continuation of the past, but will require radical constitutional innovations. Third, a very large European Union probably cannot be a unitary Community, but may need to have different levels or categories of membership. ■ I.D.

Liberia

The bitter and the sweet



The Courier

Monrovia

Seven years of bitter factional fighting have had a huge toll on Liberia and its people. Vital from the 1960s to the mid-1970s, the economy began to decline in the 1980s and particularly since fighting began in 1989. Some 150,000 people have lost their lives in the civil conflict and, at the last count, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that there are still 758,000 refugees in neighbouring countries. Nonetheless, *The Courier* found out on a visit at the beginning of February that growing hopes were being pinned on presidential and legislative elections scheduled to take place at the end of May. In part, these have been made possible because of the demobilisation and disarmament, by the West African peace keeping force (ECOMOG), of the warring factions. If all goes according to plan, free and fair elections should lead to renewed stability and provide the starting block for investment and economic growth.

The European Commission's Aid Coordination Office in Liberia is already investing in post-war reconstruction by attempting to revive public utilities, help ex-combatants with retraining and encouraging refugees back to vote

in the polls. These activities are looked at in detail in this report.

Devastated buildings provide a chronology of the conflict. Many outside the capital, Monrovia, and up-country — the area worst affected by the initial fighting in 1990-1992 — are roofless and have been invaded by triffid-like foliage. In Monrovia itself, crumbled stone and rubble, strewn across the streets, bear testament to the last spate of fighting in April 1996. Displaced people live in the shells of buildings like the Ducor hotel, once a luxury establishment. But the people also seem to be rebuilding their lives. You can now find some newly hand-crafted furniture for sale alongside the looted bed frames and cupboards.

Celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, Liberia has a strange pull on the visitor. This is perhaps due to its unique history — it is one of only two African countries never to have been under the colonial yoke. Its buildings reminiscent of the American Deep South, its easy-going style — akin to the West Indies, and its engaging English dialect are all part of the attraction. Despite the visible evidence of recent conflict, it

doesn't take long to understand why the country is often referred to as 'Sweet Liberia'.

Battered economy

The economic and social statistics record the destruction done by the war and signal that rebuilding the country will be a long haul. According to United Nations' figures, Liberia had a *per capita* GNP of US \$699 in 1991 and just \$390 in 1995. This contrasts with other countries in the region which have enjoyed modest growth. Ghana's GNP per head, for example, has risen from \$423 to \$464 while that of Burkina Faso has gone up from \$300 to \$325. In effect, Liberia has suffered average negative GDP growth of -8% per annum over the five year period in question.

As for the currency, the Liberian dollar is officially at par with the US dollar. But the unofficial rate is L\$60 = US\$1 reflecting the parlous state of the real economy. Despite this, there is undoubted economic potential. As one foreign diplomat pointed out to us: 'The country is very rich and the population is small'. It is true

that Liberia has many mineral resources, as well as rubber and tropical forests. And with the peace apparently holding, attention is being turned to starting up mining and other activities again. In some cases, this is having to be done almost from scratch.

Rich in minerals

According to Deputy Minister of Lands and Energy, *James Konuwa*, speaking at the Second Annual Mining Investment Conference held recently in Indaba, South Africa, 'Liberia is rich in iron, gold, diamonds and hydrocarbons.' Several mining companies attending the event from Southern Africa, other parts of the continent, Europe and America, expressed interest in assisting with mining development in Liberia.

In 1989, mining accounted for 11% of the country's GDP. In the past, the two main companies operating in the sector were the Liberian-American-Swedish Minerals Company (LAMCO) and the Bong Mining Company. Most of the exploration was suspended in the wake of the conflict and extraction fell sharply. Because of the war, recent reliable statistics are difficult to come by, but according to the UN, iron ore production dropped from 12.9 million tonnes in 1988 to 1.7 million in 1992. Figures for 1989 drawn up by the National Bank of Liberia showed an export income of L\$235m for iron ore, L\$120m for rubber and L\$92m for timber. Not surprisingly, some mining areas became focal points in the conflict as armed factions struggled for control of resources such as diamonds and gold.

If peace holds, rubber is set to bounce back according to *Clyde Tabor*, who is Managing Director of the Firestone Plantations Company. It produces latex liquid, which is sold largely to Europe, and solid rubber which is exported to the United States. Firestone has been in Liberia since 1926 and has contributed a lot to the economy over the years. In the 1980s, it provided jobs for 8000 people but today, employment has shrunk to 2300. Mr Tabor explained how the company, which was very badly hit



The Courier

Devastated buildings provide a chronology of the conflict

Happy Birthday Liberia

It is appropriate that the first free elections for a long time should be staged in Liberia in 1997. For this is the year the country celebrates its 150th anniversary. It is a long time since the first group of freed American slaves arrived on Liberia's shores, courtesy of the American Colonisation Society of *James Madison* and *Thomas Jefferson*. They landed on Providence island between what is now the city centre of Monrovia and the port. Some succumbed to fever and others returned to the USA. But those who remained eventually claimed their independence from their ACS custodians. In 1846, the Liberian leaders drew up their Declaration of Independence. A Harvard Law School professor was called in to draft a new constitution — modelled on the American's own bicameral legislature. Independence Day was July 26 1847 and *Joseph Roberts* took office as the first President of Liberia.

Until 1980, the Americo-Liberian community dominated successive Presidencies and many political issues were decided in lodges. The grand looking masonic lodge, which sits on a hill above Monrovia, is part of that history. It was vandalised during the 1980 coup of *Samuel Doe* who banned the masonic order on becoming the country's first non-Americo-Liberian leader. Economic decline then set in, following the boom years of the 1960s. The "free and fair" elections promised by President Doe never materialised, although elections did take place late 1985. There was alleged corruption and the economic slump continued. The USA responded by significantly reducing its aid. In the mid-1980s, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund also halted their lending programmes and in 1989, *Charles Taylor* led his troops from Nimba County to depose Samuel Doe — marking the start of a seven year conflict between rival factions. There may have been little for Liberia to celebrate in the recent past but with a new optimism in the air, the people are hoping that the 1997 anniversary will be a turning point for their troubled nation.

by the 'Operation Octopus' campaign in 1992 during *Charles Taylor's* NPFL advance on Monrovia, tried to start up again in January 1996. But it suffered a further setback with the renewed fighting in April of that year. Now they are trying once more to increase production although much of the infrastructure — including roads, housing and schools for employees' children — has been destroyed.

Brain drain

Another current problem for the company is the 'brain drain' which has occurred because of the conflict. 'One of the big problems is that a lot of educated people left and found jobs in other countries,' said Mr Tabor. He would like to see the donor community help small independent rubber farmers get started again. In the past, Firestone bought 30% of its supplies from such farmers. In fact, the European Union has already set up micro-projects with this aim in mind. Another problem mentioned by Mr Tabor was the damage caused to the trees by the illicit tapping of rubber during the war. He is not very happy either about having to surrender 25% of company proceeds to the government.

In the forestry sector (see box article which follows), there is concern in a number of quarters about the extent of the logging. Liberia has dense forests but doubts have been expressed over whether exploitation is being carried out sustainably.

Lebanese entrepreneurs, who numbered a few thousand before the war, are also quickly getting back into business. Some of the younger ones — second and third generation Lebanese — never even left, instead finding ways of making a living from the war economy. Their activities included building checkpoints for the ECOMOG forces and, in one notable case, snapping freelance photographs of the battles for the international news agencies!

One Lebanese businessman seems to have confidence in the future. He has just embarked on

selling Hyundai cars from his 'Africa Motors' showroom. Another looks like having a longer wait, complaining that ECOMOG troops in Buchanan are using his supermarket and flourmill for their own activities. Many of the 'Lebanese set' can be found relaxing with their barbecues on Kendeja beach at the weekend. A lot of them are buoyant about the prospects for investment, but some remain cautious. As one remarked: 'In future we'll have a little foot in Liberia and a big one in the Lebanon'. It is perhaps ironic that Beirut and Monrovia have suffered such similar fates in recent years.

Elections

Real confidence to invest and the spur for donor aid will only come after the holding of

free and fair elections on May 30 1997. But there does seem to be a real public move for peace. Evidence of this — of a sort — can be seen in the graffiti. Slogans attacking one or another faction were daubed on many walls and garage doors. They can be seen along Broad Street and UN Drive in Monrovia — but many have been oversprayed with optimistic slogans like 'Liberia for everyone'. And the country's political players also seem sincere about the elections. As foreseen in the Abuja II peace agreement, the leaders of three major warring factions had resigned from their posts on the Transitional Council of State by the February 28 deadline, these being former Vice-Chairman of the Transitional Council of State; *Charles Taylor* (NPFL), *Alhaji Kromah* (ULIMO-K) and *George Boley* (LPC).

The Electoral Commission, chaired by *G. Henry Andrews*, has already opted for a system of proportional representation for the legislative poll. This is aimed at giving both candidates and voters a fair crack of the whip, and at ensuring that all groups have a voice (see the article on the elections). Efforts are also being made to encourage refugees to return to Liberia to vote. But as Electoral Commission member, *Gloria Scott*, told *The Courier*, 'time is of the essence'. She has some concern over the practicalities of organising the election in a fair and free manner in the time that remains before the ballots are due to be cast. Ms Scott stressed that voter education was needed, not least to explain the new proportional voting system. But the women's touch seems to have worked well in Liberia since September 6 — the day when *Ruth Perry* was inaugurated as President of the Transitional Council of State.

It is perhaps symbolic that she has presided over a peaceful and improving situation for nine months. But only time will tell whether the gestation period has been long enough to give birth to a healthy new political order. ■

D.P.

On the beach near Monrovia
A peaceful and improving situation which
Liberians hope marks the beginning of a stable
new political order



The Courier

Forestry potential

*'Perhaps the Liberian forest is peculiar in Africa for the quality of deadness, for other writers more often complain in their parts of Africa of the noise and savagery of the jungle'.
(Graham Greene in 'Journey without Maps' in which he described his travels through West Africa in 1936).*

As you fly towards Lofa County in North East Liberia, mile after mile of dense forest unfolds below you — and you get the impression that little has changed in 60 years. You don't see any animals, although the fauna is said to be diverse. The occasional bald patch is evidence of logging companies, or the slash and burn techniques used to clear the land for cultivation.

Madison T Wion, who is Managing Director of the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) in Liberia recently spoke to the Heads of the African Timber Organisation in Libreville, Gabon. In his address, he spoke of the potential for forestry development in post-war Liberia, but he was also keen to stress the need for environment sustainability and more local processing.

About 50% of Liberia's surface is covered by trees. But according to Mr Wion, the industry is an 'acute state of depression'. There are presently five logging companies operating in one of the forested regions declared safe by the Forestry Development Au-

thority. This compares with the pre-war period when 36 logging companies, 18 sawmills and three plywood plants were operating. There are now no functioning sawmills or plants for processing plywood or veneer. The research staff and other personnel of the environmental agencies have left the country along with many former FDA employees. 'There is immense conservation work to be carried out in post-war Liberia to ensure the sustainable production of timber and forests products,' stated Mr Wion. Between 1983 and 1989, the industry generated, on average 6% of the country's GDP and 10 000 Liberians were employed in the sector.

North West while there is a small wooded area (2% of the total) in the North around Nimba. According to a report issued by the Forest Resource Mapping Survey of Liberia in 1985, there are 3.88 million hectares of productive forests.

Madison Wion argues in favour of immediate support for the sector. 'Mining', he said, 'which has traditionally contributed to our economy, is non-functional and will remain so for a long time.' He added that 'enormous pressure is being placed on the forest sector as a result of the devastation due to the civil war.' If assistance can be provided speedily to the forest industries, 'this will go a long way to securing work for demobilised soldiers and displaced Liberians.' Such a policy, he believes, could be the basis for accelerated growth in the wider economy and development in the socio-economic spheres.

Timber exploitation is carried out entirely by private companies on concessions or permits. The agreements cover both the



national forests and the areas outside them. In return for the use of the land, concession holders pay various taxes and fees to the government. There are said to be about 240 tree species in Liberia's forests but to date, fewer than 40 have been harvested and sold abroad.

Madison Wion stressed the importance of 'rational exploitation' and on-the-spot timber processing to add value locally. He is fully aware of the ecological concerns but pointed out that for these to be addressed, the FDA needed a boost. Seven years of war had left the industry in crisis and the reduction in support to the FDA had prevented it from carrying out conservation work.

According to the FDA Managing Director; 'the Liberian timber industry has gone from being a leader in economic growth to a state of crisis during the civil war, but its future can be very bright. For the industry to escape from the doldrums, we need concerted efforts geared to implementing tangible programmes. Conservation, protection and sustainable development of the forest resource must be given urgent priority.'

He went on to make a more general point: 'All this talk of protecting the environment and sustainable development will be academic if we don't do something to alleviate poverty in the tropical countries of the developing world.' One way of doing this, he believes, is through debt relief. He concluded: 'Poverty alleviation goes hand in hand with environmental protection. You can't have one without the other.' ■ D.P.

The trees cover an area of 4.8 million hectares, two-thirds of which is in the South East. The other big forest zone is in the

Ruth Sando Perry — an exceptional 'Chairman'

'A lot of us live in poverty, including myself'

Ruth Perry is special in more ways than one. She is Africa's first women head of state, handed the awesome task of steering Liberia to elections after seven years of bitter factional fighting. Meeting her at home in the Monrovia suburb of Paynesville, *The Courier* found out how her appointment as leader of Liberia's transitional government, at an ECOWAS summit in Abuja in August 1996, took her by surprise. After a career first as a supermarket cashier, then in a bank, Mrs Perry entered politics in 1985. She stood variously for Senate seats for the Unity Party, as an independent, and latterly for the National Democratic Party of former President, Samuel Doe. With the help of prayer, this Earth Mother figure (who prefers to go by the title, 'Chairman'), has almost completed her task as 'stabiliser' under the Abuja II peace accord, which should lead to presidential and legislative elections at the end of May 1997. These, she hopes, will usher in a more peaceful and viable period in Liberia's history.

Mrs Perry waved the ECOWAG guards away for our interview which took place under the awning of her home, away from the faded splendour of the Executive Mansion. Children played noisily in the courtyard and helpers passed through with warm plates of food covered with tin foil. Picking a spot to be photographed, Mrs Perry removed herself from a statesmanlike high-backed seat, to a white plastic garden chair by her front door. 'It's fine here,' she said, leaning back. She spoke of her aspirations for free and fair elections and hopes that once a new government is installed on June 15 1997, she will have more time for her 'booth' — which sells snacks and drinks on the main road not far from her residence! We began by asking her to recall the

day she was appointed to chair the Council of State.



The Courier

— I was asked by one of the Councilmen to be in his delegation to go to Abuja after the break in the April 1996 war. I couldn't say no to him, because he was a man I really respected, so I went with him. While in Abuja, I was called by the Nigerian Ambassador who invited me to the conference hall that night at around 10 pm. I was taken into the room where the Council of State was in session. I was asked to meet them for a talk and we were ushered to another room where they told me that from amongst other Liberians, they had chosen me to be the Chairman of the Council of State. It was a big surprise for me. I made the sign of the cross and prayed to the Lord to give me the necessary strength — because I felt that it was from God that this appointment was made by the Council members.

■ What do you feel about your role over the past few months?

— It has been really tremendous for me — and, of course, hectic. I have found it very satisfying to come in and work with people who I knew before but had never really mingled with. Achieving the first phase of the Abuja accord — the disarmament process — was a real challenge and the outcome is something I am very happy about and proud of. There is also the fact that I could act as a 'stabiliser' working with people who have been fighting each other for so many years.

■ Do you think the election arrangements are really in the hands of the Liberians, given the regional and international input into the Abuja process?

— The Council met and agreed that there should be seven Liberians on the Electoral Commission. They are working alongside technical observers from ECOWAS, the UN and the OAU but these observers do not have any voting rights. So the UN, or the international community, will not be taking over the election process. Liberians will be fully involved in the elections.

■ How confident are you that the polls will be conducted in a free and fair manner?

— Well we agreed that we should go ahead with the elections because the momentum is there. The first phase of the agreement was signed and disarmament worked, so we felt there was no need to postpone the voting beyond the date that was initially agreed.

■ But given past factional rivalry, isn't there a danger of fighting flaring up again after the poll — perhaps sparked by a bitter, defeated candidate?



The Courier

The faded splendour of the Executive Mansion Mrs Perry preferred to be interviewed at home

— The possibility that a faction leader fails at the ballot box and decides to create problems is something I cannot predict. There have been some differences among the faction leaders — for example, between Vice-Councilman Boley and Vice-Councilman Taylor. But they have met to talk over their differences and I can tell you that there is now a cordial relationship between them. The Council of State, I should say, is meeting every day for two hours at the present time.

■ *But leadership problems have already surfaced in the running of the Council of State. For example, didn't Charles Taylor, leader of the NPFL, recently override your own authority in appointing his own nominee as ambassador to Taiwan?*

— You might expect this sort of thing to happen. The Council took the view that this was a unilateral act by Vice-Councilman Taylor. It was not the Council as a whole that took the decision. The current position is that the Liberian government recognises the People's Republic of China, with its capital in Beijing. The Council did not say that people should not have personal contacts with Taiwan, because that is not its business. But when it comes to governmental decisions — and the Council is part of the government structure — it is a different matter. The decision should have been taken by the Council and not by an individual. We issued a press release pointing out that the person purporting to be our ambassador in Taiwan is not doing it on behalf of the government. He is doing it on his own and is effectively on a private visit. I certainly signed no accreditation for anyone to go to Taiwan. I did do it for the Peoples' Republic of China.

■ *What about the social and economic toll of seven years of civil war. There is an alarming level of poverty. In such circumstances, how can people begin to rebuild their lives. ?*

— As you rightly said, there are a lot of us living in poverty, including myself here, and there is nothing we can do except grow. Once we have an elected government, the economy will have to be revamped. All the economic structures must be restored. We need to ensure that those areas with resources, like the mining community and the plantations, are put back in working order. We also have to generate revenue for the central government, and set up civil authorities. Taxes and their collection have to

be restructured with some of the money going to government and the rest being put back into the development of the counties where the money was raised. Ultimately, the only way we can get out of the economic shambles we are in is to have a democratically elected government.

■ *What about stamping out alleged corruption by the former faction leaders and the profiteering that is said to exist among the ECOMOG forces here?*

— I am not the one to point the finger at people. I am only here to see that the country gets back on track and to ensure the start of a democratic form of government. It is not really for me to judge whether there is corruption and who is responsible. The role I have been given is to act as a 'stabiliser'.

■ *Have do you rate the European Union's present support to Liberia?*

— We appealed to the European Union to give us assistance because they recognise the state of our country and the devastating conditions we find ourselves in. We appreciate what the EU is doing and hope the assistance will

Getting her name on the map Streets named after Africa's first female head of state



The Courier

continue. We must ensure that all areas are brought back into the development process. We need schools and hospitals refurbished, roads and bridges rebuilt and so on. So the EU is doing good work but it should be kept in mind that we need continued help.

■ *Based on your apparent success as a 'stabiliser', do you feel that women can make a special contribution to Liberian politics?*

— I must give the Liberian men credit for giving recognition to the idea of having a woman at the top. After seven years of fighting amongst themselves, I think they thought, with God's help, that it would be wise to have a women. It is a challenge for all of us and has given the women of Liberia some sense of direction, in terms of committing themselves to their duty. The role that I am playing has given women a new sense of responsibility, commitment and dedication. With all due respect to the men, and despite all the support they are giving me, I wouldn't mind seeing a women coming up tomorrow and announcing that she wanted to join the race for the highest post. Women, I think, have a special way of handling issues and getting their way which doesn't involve fighting and destruction. They are good at intervening to break up feuds. And they know how to be firm when making decisions and how to be flexible when that is needed. We have capable women in this community who are just as good as the men. This is not to say that men are not able, but women are also capable of winning trust and confidence, managing the economic affairs of the country and doing their best for the people out there. As mothers, they will make sure that the children are in school, and that health care is available. They are concerned for the welfare of the children. This

is something we have known for many years — since long before we became part of the decision-making process in Liberia. So women can rub shoulders with men and be a success.

■ *It is not very common to come across a head of state who is a café-owner.*

— Before the outbreak of the war, I was a Senator. After that, I became a private citizen, involved in women's organisations trying to work for peace and to help youngsters. But I soon discov-

The education of Liberia's children is something close to Ruth Perry's heart but, as she points out, 'the demand is enormous'



ered that there were no paid jobs for people like me. So I decided to go into private business, where I would be able to help people in my neighbourhood as well as myself. That is why I opened a booth on the main road. It's an open kitchen where you can buy cold drinks, barbecued chicken, sausages and fish. I used to be there making sure that customers were well-served and taken care of. We had to ensure that whatever we earned would be enough to take care of us for the following day, and to pay the workers. It was a very happy arrangement. I kept it going because there are still people needing help and I don't have the money from any other

source to provide that help. When I became Chairman I didn't see any reason to close down the business, which would have been to the detriment of the employees. So I said to them — 'you keep it going'. I am not always able to be around but we have people who monitor the business and keep it operating. And I am happy to say that it's going fine.

I come from the grassroots and am very concerned about the welfare of the people. I know what they have been going through for the past seven years. So I do what I can for myself and my neighbours and we are comfortable with each other. There is no question of saving money from the profits of the business. One thing I am trying to do is to help girls and boys in school, though the demand at the moment is enormous. I may be Chairman but it doesn't mean that I have money. The money I do have comes from my booth and I'm happy that I can help at least some boys and girls to gain an education. ■

Interview by D.P.

Profile

Due to the civil war, much of the information provided below is based on 'best estimates' from international statistical agencies.

General information

Area: 97 754 km²

Population: Estimates vary but it is thought to be around three million with as many as a third of the total still living as refugees in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

Average population growth rate 1995-2000: 3.2% (UNFPA)

Population density: (27.6 per sq km in 1994)

Population growth rate: 2.22% (1995)

National language: English. Kpelle and Kru are the principal African languages.

Currency: Official rate is one United States dollar = one Liberian dollar. Unofficial rate: one US dollar = 60 Liberian dollars. (February 1997)

Politics

System of government: Since September 3 1996, a 'Transitional Council of State' chaired by Ruth Sando Perry appointed under the Abuja II peace agreement to lead the country to elections. Under this agreement between West African nations, elections are to be held by May 30 and a new government sworn in by June 15 1997. Three Vice Chairman on the six-man Transitional Council of State came from the three main warring factions: Charles Taylor (National Patriotic Front of Liberia - NPFL), Alhaji Kromah (United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia, ULIMO-K) and George Boley (Liberia Peace Council, LPC). Other members of the Transitional Council are Oscar Quiah and Chief Tamba Taylor. Complying with the Abuja II peace accord, George Boley, Alhaji Kromah and Charles Taylor resigned from their posts at the end of February 1997 in order to be eligible to stand for the Presidency in May. The system of government is based on that of the United States. Although presently not operating, it is bicameral with a Senate and House of Representatives. Proportional representation will be used to

elect the new members of government.

Economy

Main economic sectors: Mining (iron ore and diamonds), rubber and timber. Also palm oil, rice and cassava.

Annual GDP per capita: US \$843 (UNDP estimate for 1993)

Principal exports: Iron ore, rubber and timber.

Exports (by value): ECU 598.25m (EU estimated figure for 1994)

Social indicators

Life expectancy at birth: 55.6 (UNDP estimate)

Infant mortality per 1000 live births: 144 (1994)

Adult literacy: 36.4% (UNDP 1993)

Enrolment in education: all levels from age 6-23: 17%

Human Development Index rating: (158th out of 174)

Sources: UNDP; UNFPA, UNCTAD, Eurostat, Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics, 'EU-ACP Cooperation in 1995' (EC Commission), Africa South of the Sahara Yearbook, 1997.



ECOMOG: guardians of peace

ECOMOG peacekeeping in Liberia, and especially the Nigerian Force Commander, Major General Victor Malu, have been highly commended in many quarters. This force, which is drawn from some of the world's poorest countries, is now looking to the elections and beyond.

Every 500 metres or so in Monrovia the traffic slows to zig-zag around the checkpoints of the multinational African force, ECOMOG. Some of these are crumbling breeze blocks or battered old oil drums, others rubble from war-torn buildings. Those in more strategic spots, like the Johnson Bridge at the entrance to the town, are distinctive white and red concrete blocks (a Lebanese company has the contract to erect these). The more permanent structures display little white demobilisation pillar boxes where civilians can 'inform' on those in their community that are still armed. Guards here might peer a little more interestedly into vehicles, but only those with obviously top-heavy loads are flagged down and have to undergo a more thorough search. A curfew is still in place in Monrovia, between midnight and 5 a.m. although passes — mainly reserved for expatriates and VIPs — can be obtained without any hitch for night owls.

The heavy presence of armed troops on the streets of Monrovia in fatigues initially gives the appearance of a city still in a state of siege. Yet nowadays, they are more a confidence booster, and their increasingly relaxed manner points to the prospect of free and fair elections at the end of May.

If this turns out to be the case, then it will be fourteenth time lucky. There were 13 abortive attempts to end the fighting before the Abuja II ceasefire was signed in August 1996. A major feature of the accord is the demo-



Force Commander Victor Malu
Experience counts in Liberia

bilisation and disarmament of the armed factions by ECOMOG — the force set up by the Economic Community of West Africa. Now 11,000 strong, this is composed mainly of troops from Nigeria, but there are also contingents from Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Mali as well as some medical personnel from Côte d'Ivoire. ECOMOG has been in Liberia — though initially in smaller numbers — since the conflict first flared in December 1989. This was the time of the armed insurrection by Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front which began in Nimba County near the border with Côte d'Ivoire. With a series of failed ceasefires over a number of years, the rebel factions seemed irreconcilable, but a turning point came on August 19 1995 with the signature of the Abuja I peace agreement. This resulted in the appointment of a seven-member Council of State bringing together all the warring factions and civilian representatives. Chaired by *Wilton Sankawulo*, a writer and lecturer at the University of Liberia, it was charged with the task of achieving demobilisation and of organising elections for August 1996.

In the event, this arrangement did not put an end to the

country's suffering. Indeed, ECOMOG itself was to suffer fatalities in renewed factional fighting which engulfed Tubmanburg, a town 70 kilometres northwest of Monrovia. The disarmament process was suspended in January 1996 and by April of the same year, conflict had flared up once again in Monrovia. The ECOWAS countries, meeting again in Abuja in August, had the Liberian issue high on their agenda. The outcome was a new agreement and the appointment of *Ruth Sando Perry* (see interview) as the 'Chairman' of the Transitional Council. ECOWAS members also agreed to impose sanctions on any of the warring faction leaders who violated the peace accord. Measures included expulsion of faction leaders from ECOWAS states, freezing of assets and a ban on travel. The accord foresaw demobilisation and disarmament by January 31 1997, the dissolution of the militias by February 28, elections by May 31, and the formation of a democratically elected government by June 15.

When *The Courier* went to press at the beginning of April, things seemed to be running to schedule. ECOMOG has won praise within Liberia and from members of the donor community for its contribution to the peace process. There are, of course, other factors,

A moment of relaxation for an ECOMOG soldier



which have undoubtedly played a part including war weariness, and perhaps the fact that there is little left to loot!

Joshua Iroha, who is Nigeria's Ambassador in Liberia, and whose country currently holds the rotating ECOWAS Presidency, told us that ECOWAS had played a vital role in subduing the conflict. It did not take long, he pointed out, for Liberia's neighbours to recognise that the crisis posed a very serious threat to the aspirations of the region. ECOWAS, therefore, sought to bring the contending parties to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. There was a heavy death toll in the fighting, property and infrastructure were progressively being destroyed and the adverse effects were spilling over into neighbouring countries. Ambassador Iroha acknowledged that 'various formulae were tried over the years, but they were not successful because the major participants had different goals and perceptions of the crisis.' Unity of purpose also appears to have been lacking in the international community. As the Ambassador observed: 'Particularly unfortunate was the fact that the United States — a traditional friend and partner of Liberia, did not view what was happening here as seriously affecting their interests. With these divergent views, we had difficulty in resolving the crisis as early as we could have.' He suggested that 'gentle persuasion was necessary to persuade the warring factions that taking the path of violence was not the right solution.'

Victor Malu, who was appointed the Force Commander in August 1996, is proud of ECOMOG's contribution. He believes that his own intimate knowledge of the country has proved helpful: prior to taking up his present post, he held the positions of Chief of Staff and Director of Operations of ECOMOG. 'I have a fairly good understanding of the composition of the factions and a reasonable idea of their strength.' The General is especially proud of the progress made in disarmament, the deadline for which was extended for a further week at the end of January.



The Courier

A harvest of guns

The number of people who possessed weapons was commonly said to be about 60 000, but Commander Malu did not think this was an accurate picture since some of the fighters were associated with more than one faction: 'There were militia members with one gun registered in five different places — and in some areas, three people might be sharing a single weapon.' The General believed that the actual number of fighters to be disarmed was somewhere between 30 000 and 35 000 and it was originally agreed that if

Gathering rust.
Guns that have handed in to ECOMOG by former militia fighters

20 000 guns were recovered, the operation could be counted a success.

In fact, in the 74 days of disarmament between November 22 and January 31, 23 403 people were disarmed. General Malu explained that the decision to extend the deadline by a week was because some fighters were unable to reach the disarmament centres in time. 'In that brief period, we recovered a further 989 weapons

from 1239 fighters,' he said. Adding these figures to those from the more modest recovery operations that took place in March and July 1994 'before things went sour' (when 2103 guns were collected from 3576 fighters) and again in March and December (593 weapons from 927 fighters) and the total number of disarmed militiamen is about 30 000. The General expects the process to continue and believes that by the middle of March 1997, 'it will be possible to tell people that Liberia is an arms-free society'. He is happy to show visitors the concrete evidence in the form of containers of disused guns stored at the ECOMOG base outside Monrovia. ECOMOG and the United Nations Observers Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), which has about one hundred military and non-military observers, jointly hold the keys to the containers.

The fact that disarmament has been successfully carried off this time around is partly due to the commitment of the international donor community, says Commander Malu. He applauds the foresight of the United States, Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark and the UK which have supplied trucks, radios, field kitchens and tents for the ECOMOG force. He is particularly complimentary about the communications support supplied by the USA and maintained by the company PAE. 'I only need a few minutes to get to any place where there is an incident and I think that people appreciate this,' said the General.

Underlining the importance of good communications, Commander Malu described how

ECOMOG troops were deployed at all the key spots within 30 minutes on October 31 1996, the day of the assassination attempt on Charles Taylor. 'This is the sort of incident that people will take advantage of to start looting and destroying the town.' In fact, without ECOMOG's rapid reaction, General Malu believes that events on October 31 could have been even worse than those that occurred six months earlier in Monrovia.

Although the European Union has not provided any direct logistical support to ECOMOG (this is not permitted under its rules) Victor Malu says that the EU's contribution in building roads and bridges will be vital to ECOMOG's role in keeping the peace during the election period.

The Courier also visited the ECOMOG operation at Voinjama (Lofa County) in the North, near the border with Guinea. There, the troops are working with members of the UNOMIL contingent — most of whom come from Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh — supervising disarmament and dealing with returnees who fled the conflict. A Pakistani member of UNOMIL confirmed that people were now coming back to this once-deserted town, but the problem was that many of those between the ages of 25 and 35 had no work.

Some criticism has been voiced that ECOMOG might have acting somewhat over-zealously in 'persuading' the rebels to surrender their weapons in the Tubman-

Voinjama

The people are returning to this once deserted town - but there are few jobs.

burg area. On the other hand, Victor Malu did make it clear in a public announcement at the end of January that 'in the interests of the elections', the troops would be more muscular in getting people to hand in their guns.

When we spoke to him, the Commander was 'absolutely convinced' that free and fair elections would take place. 'What we are trying to do is create an enabling environment where people can feel free to go to any part of the country. The police were so badly contaminated that people had no respect for them. In the absence of other security agencies, we now have sole responsibility for security in Liberia.'

Commander Malu explained that ECOMOG would have some vital practical tasks during the elections. 'Looking at the current set-up, I think we are in a good position to assist the movement of logistical materials for the election, and to provide efficient communications. We are now deployed in all the main population centres in Liberia. As you know, seven years of war here have led to a massive displacement of people.'

Nor will ECOMOG be shutting up shop as soon as the ballots have been cast. According to Joshua Iroha: 'We can't just pack up and leave after the elections. The crisis is a lot deeper than that. The people of Liberia must be helped to regain confidence in their own institutions. The idea is that ECOWAS will maintain ECOMOG for six months after the new government is sworn in (hopefully by June 15) — and if the need arises, they will stay longer.'

In March, ECOMOG was also expected to begin training a 3500-strong Liberian army and to assist in building up the police force to take over security responsibilities. Victor Malu made a crucial point here when he spoke of the need for a properly trained army. 'It must be carefully selected to reflect all the groupings so that it is not an ethnically lopsided force'. If this can be done successfully, then peace is much more likely to be sustainable in the longer term. ■

D.P.



The Courier

Edging towards elections

When *The Courier* left Liberia in mid-February, presidential and legislative elections were still on the cards for May 30 1996, although there was talk of a slight delay for a number of weeks. On February 28, the leaders of the three main warring factions who all held posts of Vice Chairman in the transitional Council of State, resigned their positions in order to be eligible to stand for the Presidency.

During our stay, we interviewed *Gloria Scott*, member of the ten strong Electoral Commission (comprising three representatives of the former warring factions and four members representing civil society more broadly), supported by the OAU, Ecowas and the UN. Chair, *Henry Andrews*, was out of the country when we visited. The focus of our discussion was the modalities of the elections. ECOWAS and the United Nations were providing technical advice to the Electoral Commission while the United States and the European Union were also assisting more indirectly. Ms Scott expressed concern that time was ebbing away and money was lacking to stage free and fair elections. The list of Presidential candidates — especially the names of those who would stand from the 'civilian parties' — was still very much in the air when we left. But two topics that had previously been the subject of intense discussion — the nature of the voting system and what should be done to give refugees the franchise — seemed to have been sorted out. It was agreed that the electoral system should be based on proportional representation (PR), and that refugees should return to Liberia to cast their votes.

Proportional voting

Proportional voting will be used to determine the breakdown of the 64-seat House of Representatives, and of the Senate, which will have 26 members.

But while the principle of proportionality is agreed, some important technical aspects had not yet been finalised at the time *The Courier* went to press.



Gloria Scott, Member of the Electoral Commission

According to *Paul Harrington*, the European Commission's political adviser in Liberia, and director of the consultancy, 'Democracy International', the key outstanding problem was whether the voter should have a single ballot paper covering all three elections or two voting slips, with the Presidential poll being counted separately. Under the first option, the idea was that electors would be presented a paper in which candidates for all posts were arranged in party lists (including logos).

As for the Presidential ballot, the European Union, the United Nations and the United States were all pressing for a proportional system which would ensure that the winner would gain the backing of an overall majority of electors. This would be done by having the front runners in the Presidential ballot going into a second round of voting two or three weeks later, should no candidate gain more than 50% first time round. This was a something that was still to be confirmed by the Liberian Electoral Commission. The

membership of this body was also being reconsidered.

At the time of writing, the three former leaders of the warring factions had declared they were in the running for the Presidency. These are *Charles Taylor* National Patriotic Party (NPP), *Alhaji Kromah*, All Liberia Coalition Party (ALCOP) and *George Boley* of the National Democratic Party (NDP). Civilian candidates listed in the running are *Baccus Matthews*, United People's Party (UPP) and *Cletus Watorson*, Liberia Action Party (LAP). At the time of writing, other strong civilian candidates were 'possibles' to stand as independents: *Ellen Johnston-Sirleaf*, an Administrator for Africa for the UNDP and a former Ambassador, *George Toeh Washington*. Charles Taylor appeared to have something of a head start as the owner of a private radio station, 'Kiss FM.'

For Gloria Scott, her appointment seems to have come out of the blue (like the choice of Mrs Perry to preside over the transitional Council of State). She admitted that initial problems had dogged her work. As she put it: 'There are die-hard loyalists who feel that a stranger should not have been given such a high posting.' She also said that funding for the whole process was proving a problem.

Alien system

Ms Scott worried that proportional representation was an alien system of voting for Liberians, and stressed the need to organise a massive voter education programme. She backed this view with an anecdote from a recent Council of State meeting which she had attended in which one of the Councilmen had asked her: 'What is proportional representation.' She continued: 'The elections are getting closer and closer, and if they decide on a system which the people don't grasp, I am not sure what will happen. Perhaps I'm being pessimistic, but there is a need for people to understand what is going on.'

The reasons behind the decision to opt for PR over the more familiar simple majority system in



One of the few election posters in Monrovia

single member seats were explained to us in some detail by Joshua Iroha, Nigeria's Ambassador to Liberia. The electoral rules put in place after the 1986 elections were, he said, designed for peacetime conditions. The demographic structure of the country had changed radically as a result of the war, with many more people concentrated in the capital, and this meant that the old arrangements were no longer workable. As the Ambassador explained: 'The rules foresaw constituencies of 20 000 voters. But I don't know where, outside Monrovia, you would be able to find 20 000 constituents. Yet people would not accept that Monrovia should have the vast majority of seats in the house.'

'There are other aspects of the old electoral system that are not appropriate', he continued. 'Disarmament has now taken place; but people are still frightened of going to certain areas.' The Ambassador mentioned, in particular, the 'strongholds' of former warring factions located in different parts of the country. Potential election candidates could not risk electioneering in areas they did not control during the war years, making individual elections by constituency difficult. 'The PR system which forces each party to produce national lists, should force them to look for candidates from all parts of the country.'

'Pot-shot' fear

Another concern, put graphically by Mr Iroha, was that

'some crazy guy might take a pot-shot at a candidate and then everything would be ruined.' He felt it was important to organise the election in a way which would make it difficult to identify how specific areas voted. He said, 'we are not yet convinced that there won't be reprisals. To give you an example, everybody knows that Gbarnga is Charles Taylor's base. He regards it as his stronghold and if you were to have an election tomorrow, he will tell you that he would get at least 99% of the votes there. We don't know if this is true. We don't know whether all the people who come out on the streets and hail him do so because they genuinely support him, because he is giving them money and rice, or simply out of fear. But we want them to be able to cast their vote freely and decide their own future. Suppose they were to vote and Taylor only got 10%? Of course, it would come as a shock to him, but we also know that his boys might react rather badly towards us. This analogy applies equally to the other warring factions.' This explains the Ambassador's preference for avoiding a breakdown of voting patterns by district. At the same time, he stressed the importance of ensuring that the valid votes are correctly counted in each voting area.

On the issue of votes for Liberian refugees, Gloria Scott explained that there had been discussion over whether these people

should be allowed to cast their ballots in their host countries. There are known to be more than 700 000 displaced people living abroad, but a problem arises in identifying who fulfils the nationality requirement. As Ms Scott put it: 'We are fearful of allowing elections to take place in the neighbouring states because it is difficult to determine who's Liberian.' Many of those who have fled have integrated into their host communities. On the other hand, she continued: 'Liberia is a small country and if you say you're Liberian and you're not, people will know.' This explains the decision to hold the vote only inside the country, with an effort being made to persuade the refugees to come back in time to cast their ballots. According to Ms Scott: 'This is one thing Liberians are agreed about. They do not want electoral activities to be extended to host countries where there's a danger of fraud.'

Need for logistical support

Both the Ambassador and Ms Scott emphasised the need for logistical support for the elections. 'Almost everyone has been impoverished here', said Joshua Iroha, 'and politics cost money'. He added that there was a need for simple things such as batteries and transistor radios so that people could be reached — and have an opportunity to follow the election campaign.

An ECU 1.9 million 'elections' package comprising voter education, registration, the staffing of polling stations, support to the Electoral Commission and an independent media, and two observer missions, has been pledged by the EDF. The EU is closely coordinating its activities with the United States and United Nations.

Ms Scott, who said she had learned a lot from her experience, may well be one of a number of up and coming women on the Liberian political scene. But she is biding her time. When asked if she had any political ambitions herself, she replied: 'Not just at the moment: later on maybe. I'm fairly young. Let me get older.'

D.P.

The Courier

The Courier



A street in Monrovia
The war has resulted in major demographic changes with many more people living in the capital

Water project sets waves rolling

Post-war and many of Liberia's public utilities are facing an uphill struggle to get back on their feet. Basic infrastructure has been literally ravaged by conflict and the indebted public utilities are limping. European Union rules do not allow direct subsidies to developing country entities with business interests. In Liberia, the EU's humanitarian water project has successfully been transformed, however, into a longer term institution strengthening scheme, putting it in a good position

to absorb the expected flow of capital once elections have taken place and hopefully peace takes root. Now attention is being turned to other public utilities.

The water scheme is a flagship project for the EU in Liberia. It has graduated from a purely humanitarian intervention, designed to get clean and safe water to the population, to the longer-term rehabilitation of infrastructure with a focus on improving the management of the water company, to put it on the track of financial viability.

Most of the few heavy vehicles that swerve round the zig-zag Ecomog check-points and narrow streets of Monrovia are EU water tankers. These convey water from the two deep wells in the Paynesville suburb outside Monrovia, constructed with EU funds in 1993. In the morning, children gather around the water collection points with their overhead tanks and chuckle when the feed pipe springs a leak, letting them play in the spray. Once the overhead tank has been filled, family friends and neighbours gather with five-gallon jerry cans. This free drinking water has kept cholera and other diseases at bay despite the seven year civil war which interrupted the flow of water formerly pumped by Liberia's own water company to most of the capital. Some of the

tankers for the project carry the national flag of an EU Member State to show that they have been donated from their bilateral aid budgets.

75% of the water transported is for 'humanitarian' use. As well as the water points in town, the lorries also stop off at hospitals, clinics and feeding centres. Paying customers include private individuals who can afford it, the US Embassy, and key businesses functioning in the capital such as the Mamba Point Hotel and Shark's ice cream place.

Other areas of the capital are still served by piped water from the White Plains pumping station run by the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC). The EU has also provided emergency assistance to the LWSC to help it continue functioning, despite all the damage it has suffered at various stages in the conflict. Revenues from both trucked and piped water are ploughed back into the rehabilitation of the LWSC.

For commercial customers, such as the soft drinks and beer industries, piped water is delivered at \$6.0 per 1000 gallons (all dollar figures mentioned here are US\$). This is equivalent to about ECU 1.30 per cubic metre. Incidentally, it is 20 times higher than the tariff laid down for the LWSC by the In-

terim Government in 1993-1994, and it means that Monrovia's water is more expensive than that of any EU Member State apart from Germany. Water transported by lorry is even more expensive — ECU 3.70 per cubic metre.

The EU took over the trucking operation from other agencies when the last spate of fighting broke out in April 1996. The system was previously run by the Red Cross, Medecins Sans Frontières Belgium and Germany's Technical Assistance Agency (GTZ) with EU backing. The EU team now in charge of the programme all have their own harrowing tales of taking the trucks out when the bullets were flying in the capital.

Thanks to what has been a reasonably protracted period of peace, the project has expanded from its purely humanitarian roots (providing clean and safe drinking water) to the point where funds raised from sales are helping to rebuild the LWSC. The Corporation's Managing Director, *Peiwu Daniels*, is looking forward to the post-election period when he hopes that more money will be available to rebuild the water treatment and pumping station plant at White Plains, a two hour drive from Monrovia.

Escrow account

For *Craig Smith* of the consultancy, Geoscience, which operates the project from the European Commission's Aid Coordination office in Mamba Point,

The EU's vital trucking operation, brings water to the capital



The Courier

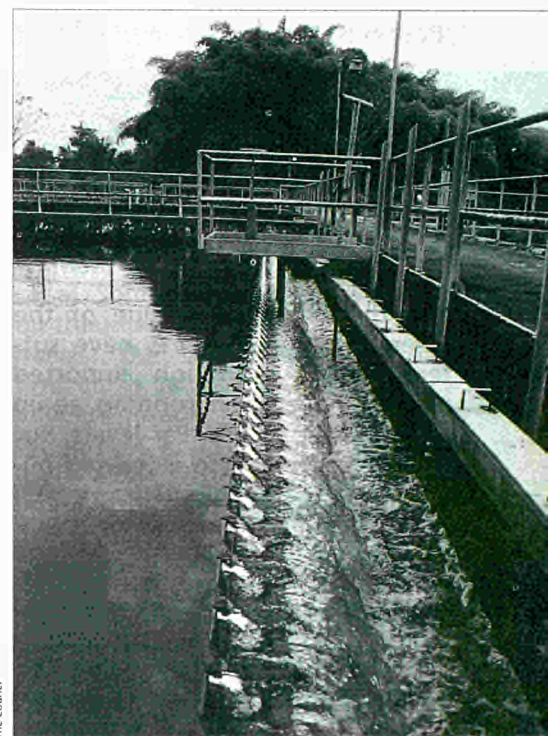
Monrovia, it is a good example of the 'small is beautiful', hands-on scheme which he feels is the EU's forte. Water sales have created a counterpart fund to improve longer term water supply and put the war damaged public utility back on its feet — thus benefiting the whole economy. Close tabs are kept on where the money is going. There are no blank cheques. Funds generated by sales are placed in a double escrow account, meaning that money cannot be released unless both the European Union and the water company sign on the dotted line. Water sales in January 1997 generated almost \$55 000 of which \$16 000 came from the trucking operation, the remainder being revenue from piped supplies. The aim is to increase sales to a value of about \$70 000 a month by February/March 1998. Money has been used, says Mr Daniels, for strategic planning including redundancy costs for employees 're-trenched' in the slimming-down process. 90 workers with 20 or more years service to the company have recently accepted redundancy terms.

The scheme has been described by the World Bank as a 'model project', and Craig Smith also attributes its success to a group of committed individuals who are willing to act as 'jack of all trades' using a small amount of funds. Bureaucratic terms like 'cost recovery', 'sustainability', 'capacity-building' and 'privatisation', truly seem to have been translated into practice here. Another worthy aspect is just how much has been achieved with a minimal budget, says Mr Smith. So far, the EU has spent just \$4 million over a six-year period on the water project. This includes chlorination of some 300 wells and occasional emergency work to the White Plains facility (directed through the Red Cross), as well as all the trucking activities.

Mr Daniels says that the company is now in a position to plan for institution-building and is looking for capital to carry out extensive repair work and to train the company's personnel overseas. As peace takes hold, he is also keen to see the water 'outposts' in the hinterland repaired and up-

graded. The White Plains plant suffered a number of direct attacks in the fighting, the most devastating taking place during the 'Octopus' campaign in October 1992, when the main 36-inch pipe was knocked out. This means that only the smaller 16-inch pipe is currently operating. Pre-war, when it was fully functioning, the White Plains facility was pumping 16 million gallons a day to Monrovia. The volume had fallen to eight million gallons by 1992. Presently, it is running at just 1.7 million gallons and reaches only 25% of the capital's population — hence the extensive trucking operations. Mr Daniels says that the need to repair the larger pipe grows ever more urgent as Monrovia's population expands. 'Once people feel that there is peace in the town, more will come and there will be a need for greater provision'. Much more money than is generated by current sales will be needed to meet this challenge. And it is money, he realistically acknowledges, which will not be forthcoming until the international community is satisfied about the stability of the country — the first key step being the staging of free and fair elections.

In the meantime, there are a number of operational practicalities to sort out. According to Craig Smith, 'While the cost recovery returns are very encouraging from a development perspective, they are derived from the sale of just 17% of all the water actually produced.' Water theft is commonplace, he says, while there are problems with leaking pipes and a lot of room for improved tariff collection. The company wants to clamp down on theft and the sale by individuals of free water. And while the LWSC has the potential to become financially independent in Monrovia, says Mr Smith, it will never do so while it remains responsible for the loss-making water plants in ten of Liberia's other main towns. He emphasises the need for a future government to ensure that the company enjoys genuine operational autonomy.



The Courier

White Plains
Running far below its capacity following
Operation Octopus

Ambitions

Spurred on by the water project's success, the EU is now turning its attention to getting other facilities up and running — the port, power supplies, forestry and telecommunications. The EU originally had its sights set on improvements to Monrovia's airport (bumpy take offs and landings are currently guaranteed), but progress has been slow in this area.

Serious talks are underway with the National Port Authority (NPA) about a possible two million dollar grant, over a period of 12 months, for the Freeport of Monrovia, whose revenue has been severely affected by war. Much more investment than presently available is needed to restore the port to a modern efficient facility. In the longer term, the intention is to re-establish the port's credibility for future investment. Notwithstanding substantial tariff increases in 1994-1995, annual revenues from customs and excise, marine services, marine facilities, cargo handling and storage have all dropped off. Customs receipts, in particular, have plunged from their pre-war annual average of \$65m because of reduced trade

Port statistics

Year	Total cargo (tonnes)	Exports as % of total cargo	Port revenues (US\$m)	Customs revenues (US\$m)
1989	8 457 106	90.1%	23.48	64.98
1995	237 480	15.6%	2.01	0.88
1996	268 429	18.5%	2.72	1.22

and the fall in the value of the Liberian dollar. Exports have suffered most, although imported cargoes have been running at up to a quarter of pre-war levels. But this is largely due to increased humanitarian aid shipments, which enter duty free and thus generate no customs income. The average number of ships using the port facilities has fallen from 43 to 12 per month, and the ships are smaller as well (average deadweight of 15 000 tonnes as compared with 28 000 tonnes prior to the conflict). In 1996, there was a slight upturn in business compared to the previous year. This was due to an increase in rubber exports, which are poised to bounce back as the country returns to some kind of normality.

In 1995, the total cargo handled by Monrovia Freeport was just 3.26% of the amount handled in 1989 — the last year of full activity before the outbreak of civil war. The facility suffered serious damage during the first few months of the conflict with key infrastructures and shore equipment either destroyed or looted. Two National Port Authority tugs, a mooring launch and three privately-owned coasters were sunk. Since then, all port traffic has depended on just two service vessels — a tug and a pilot boat.

For Craig Smith and his team, the first step must be to repair the war damage. A project outline has already been sketched out. Initially the aim is to rehabilitate the harbour tug boat, *Bushrod Island*, so that it can regain its commercial certification and insurance rating. This means providing a replacement tug to plug the gap while it is out of commission. There are plans to rehabilitate the harbour dredging vessel, *Maher River*, so that it can maintain the navigability of the harbour channels, and the pilot boat *Ducor*. And work is needed to remove the submerged wreck which hinders berthing on the main wharf, and to rehabilitate the handling equipment.

But it is clear that there can be no blank cheques. Talk of conditions that would be attached to any funding was causing concern at the National Ports Authority which meant that the project was still under negotiation when *The Courier* left Liberia. The plan is that all revenues raised will be placed in a double signature escrow account. 25% will be earmarked for clearing outstanding debts. A further quarter would go to investment in spare parts and equipment while the remaining 50% would be to cover operations.

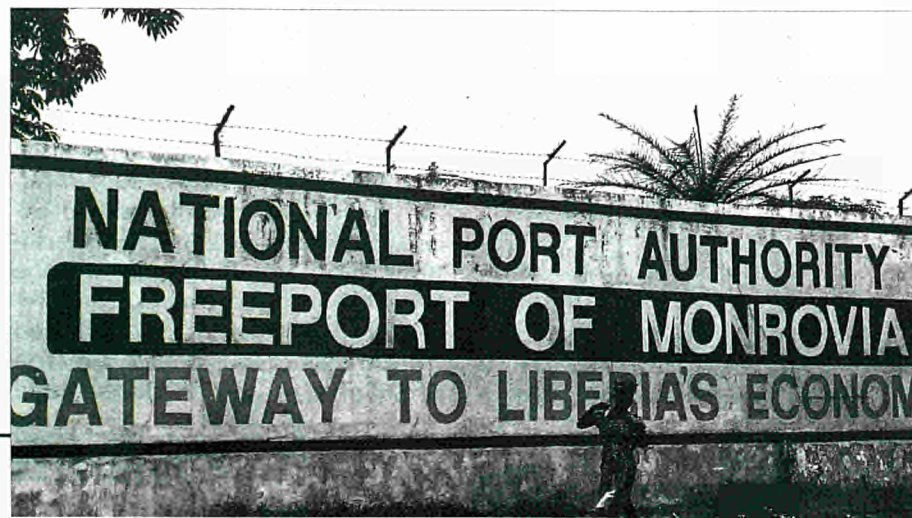
Monrovia Freeport
The hub of economic growth in need of repair

The port should then be able to gain internationally approved status, with port revenues projected to rise by \$500 000 a year to reach a figure of \$2.5m, while customs revenues are predicted to rise by \$200 000 to more than \$1m. This in turn should allow for at least \$550 000 to be repaid to the NPA's creditors.

A similar formula is proposed to get the electricity flowing again in Monrovia. Now that elections are more of a certainty, the EU plans to invest some \$5 million in the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC). The objective is to rehabilitate basic power generation, delivery and billing systems. The target is for customer sales to generate \$3m by the end of the 16-month project. Initially, the plan is for partial rehabilitation of the transmission and distribution systems serving Bushrod Island, Central Monrovia and Mamba Point. The aim is to raise payment levels to cover at least 75% of the power being generated — which means special meters for large commercial users and tamper-proof conventional meters for small commercial operations, government users and private customers. Again, all the sales income will go into a double escrow account with the revenues being spent on fuels and lubricants, debt repayment (25% of the total), spare parts, and support for LEC management and technical staff. By the end of the project, the aim is to have paid off at least \$750 000 of the Corporation's \$6m debt.

Craig Smith suggests that telecommunications and forestry are other areas where the EU could provide assistance, with the money generated being deployed on the same basis as for the port and electricity system. He argues that the financial transparency of the double escrow account operations has been a 'momentous breakthrough' in preparing the enterprises in question for the investment they so desperately need. ■

D.P.



The Courier

Microprojects — working for peace

It appears physically gruelling to reclaim swamps and build bridges, but such temporary work programmes and other so-called 'microprojects', set up by the European Union, are helping Liberians — including some 2500 ex-combatants — back to 'normality'. This is a word which is heard with growing frequency in the country.

The temporary work programmes reaching out to former fighters have been drawn up in close co-operation with the National Commission for Disarmament and are being implemented with local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community development committees. Paying fighters for their weapons was never really an option since a gun is an inexhaustible cash card. The 'volunteers' on the temporary programmes don't earn much — one dollar a day and a meal worth 25 cents — but the aim of the projects goes deeper; repatriation, retraining and rebuilding the sense of community that has been lost in the seven years of factional fighting.

Brian Brewer of the consultancy Agrisystems runs the micro-projects programme, out of the EU's Monrovia office. His brief covers the ex-combatant programme as well as other small-scale projects. Care has been taken, he says, to ensure that programmes are set up in the strongholds of each of the former warring factions — for example, in Grand Gedeh county, where George Boley's LPC held sway, in Nimba where Charles Taylor's NPFL was a powerful force, and in Upper Lofa, a stronghold of Alhaji Kromah's ULIMO-K.

The programme trailblazers are the Farm Production and Training Unit for Women Farmers in Perry Town (NEWFAD), and a similar development in Mount Barclay. Both involve the reclamation of swamplands for vegetable and tuber production. NEWFAD's Project leader is the energetic Sophie Farr. The Perry Town project actually got underway before the troubles of April 1996, only to be de-

stroyed in the fighting. 'We had to start again completely from scratch,' says Ms Farr. Since then, a dozen or so former combatants have joined the scheme and are now working alongside the women.

One of the hurdles that needs to be overcome in such programmes is dismantling the command structure set up by the warring factions. Organising former fighters to work side-by-side with civilians helps in this respect, says Brian Brewer, fostering under-

standing between people who are perhaps still a little wary of each other.

In Perry Town, the women built their own accommodation. When *The Courier* visited, men were labouring alongside the women, digging an irrigation canal. Some use tools, others scoop up the muddy earth with their bare hands. The objective, says Brian Brewer, is to remove dependency and encourage food self-sufficiency. But in Perry Town they have gone a step further, now raising money from the sale of vegetables like courgettes, okra, cabbage and beans, which all grow well in the fertile soil. There is no need for chemicals here. And Saturday is training day when new skills are taught to the labourers.

Sophie Farr inspects progress on an irrigation canal in Perry Town
The project is now raising money from the sale of vegetables

The Courier



On the strength of the programme, Ms Farr is now working with the EU to help set up similar programmes in other towns located in various counties — Zwedru, Buchanan, Camp Scheifelin, Tubmanburg and Kakata. These will give people an opportunity to work for between one and three months. The projects are also meant to entice back refugees who fled the country to neighbouring Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.

Another temporary work scheme is getting ex-combatants involved in building bridges and roads. There is one such scheme in Central Rubber district, which should enable rubber production to resume. Previously, this sector was one of the country's economic mainstays. In February 1997, similar programmes of rehabilitation and road-building began in the towns of Camp Naama, Tapeta, Zwedru, Buchanan, Voinjama, Camp Scheifelin, Bo Waterside, Tubmanburg and Kakata. Again, the idea is to offer employment for a period of one to three months to give former fighters a new start. Some 33 bridges will be constructed in all. In addition to the longer term benefits, the repaired bridges and roads should deliver one immediate practical result, by making it easier for repatriate refugees to return in time to vote in the May elections. Under the EU's microproject programme, ex-combatants are also receiving carpentry training.

There are other microprojects currently being funded by the EU in Liberia which are not directly linked to rebuilding the lives of former fighters. Two such examples are the repair and rehabilitation of the *Sister Agnes Maternity Centre* and the *Sister Barbara Ann Memorial Health Centre*. There are also schemes for repairing handpumps and wells and one which involves dredging a lagoon.

Finally, T-shirts bearing the message 'Working for Peace' have been printed. These will be distributed to spread the word that the country can have a brighter future.

D.P.

Tough love

Little boys in ragged clothing touting guns sometimes as big as their bearers — this is a lingering image of Liberia's civil war.

Today, the demobilisation of children between the ages of seven and seventeen is posing special problems. Some have been orphaned with nowhere to go, and the theft of innocence has left psychological scars.

Under its micro-projects scheme, the EU is working with the NGO, *Save the Children Fund*, on projects for 'vulnerable' children in two residential centres in the towns of Virginia and Gbarnga.

It is estimated that of the 60 000 fighters who were involved in the war, some 10 000 were children. *Una McCauley*, who runs the centres, explains that the aim now is to bring a 'semblance of normality' back into the children's lives by teaching them literacy, agriculture and basic skills — as well giving them lots of love.

Some 400 children are currently living in the centres. All those who surrendered their guns at the ECOMOG disarmament sites throughout the country were interviewed by UNICEF and *Save the Children Fund*. Some chose to go their own way. Others were given help to trace their families. And for those who opted for care, *Save the Children* is now doing its best to address their special needs. Making them feel as loved as possible is one of the vital elements, according to Ms McCauley, but she takes it a stage further. Her maxim is: 'I will love you unconditionally as a child, by virtue of your age, but as a condition, you must respect me and yourself.' Many of the children, she says, 'simply do not love themselves.'

There has been the occasional disturbance at the centres, with the children finding it difficult to adjust to a non-military environment. This sometimes leaves them perplexed and angry. 'One small boy, who looked about ten years old,

wanted to be addressed as lieutenant colonel,' says Ms McCauley. 'But when you talk to the children about the reason for their actions, you can usually sort out the problem fairly quickly. The following day, they will come to you looking for a hug, or with little notes saying "Please forgive me Sister Una".'

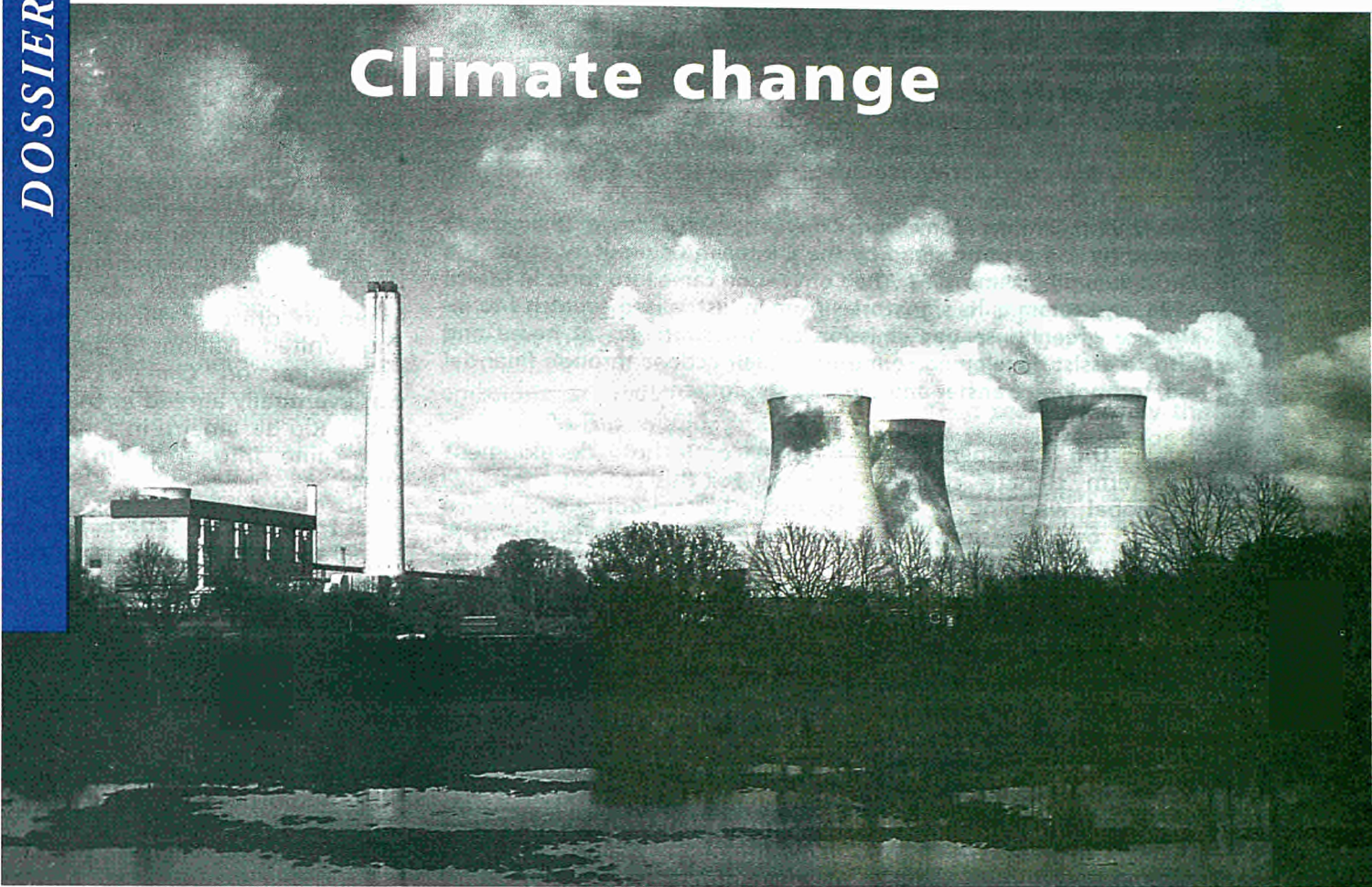
Trauma

A handful of the children face a much more serious problem — coping with the psychological trauma associated with atrocities they themselves have committed. There are no easy answers here and Una McCauley does not favour bringing in expatriate psychologists. 'They do not understand the underlying make-up of Liberian society. Nor would they be able to speak Liberian English or cope with the subtleties of the dialect.'

Some of the children stay at the centres for just two or three months before finding their families, while others are long-term residents. But, in either case, Ms McCauley has seen a marked change in the children with the passage of time. 'They have become more affectionate', she says, 'and are talking more.'

The EU is also helping to reach other young ex-combatants by distributing 200 footballs to youth groups. Football is a national passion. Children do their best to emulate their heroes in the national team, nicknamed the 'Lone Star' and, in the absence of the right equipment, will even fashion makeshift balls out of rubbish. Who knows? Given a real football now, in a few years, a boy might be able to follow in the footsteps of the country's most famous player, *George Oppong Weah*. He is currently a member of the Italian team, AC Milan, and in 1995 he was named World, European and African footballer of the year.

Climate change



The climate is changing faster than it has changed in 10 000 years with extreme weather conditions setting new records. The earth's temperature has increased by between 0.3° and 0.6° C since the late 19th century. And sea levels have risen by between 10 and 25cm over the past 100 years, threatening the very existence of low-lying states.

Industry's use of fossil fuels has been blamed for our warming climate. When coal, gas and oil are burned, they release harmful gases, which trap heat in the atmosphere and cause global warming. However, there has been ongoing debate on this subject, as scientists have struggled to distinguish between changes which are human-induced and those which could be put down to natural climate variability.

In 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established, with the task of weighing up the scientific evidence on climate change. In late 1995, it released its second assessment report which stated: 'the balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate'. The authors noted that considerable progress had been made since 1990 in the science of understanding climate change, and confirmed the conclusions of earlier reports that 'increases in greenhouse gas concentrations... have led to a positive radiative forcing (*change in the energy balance*) of climate, tending to warm the surface and to produce other changes'. These trends in greenhouse gas concentrations can, it continues, be 'attributed largely to human activities,

mostly fossil fuel use, land-use change and agriculture.'

Industrialised countries have the highest emission levels, and must shoulder the greatest responsibility for global warming. But action must also be taken by developing countries to avoid future increases in emission levels as their economies develop and populations grow.

We examine this crucial issue with contributions from a number of experts and groups with a special interest in climate change. The main focus is on the international efforts under way to curtail emissions. We also feature the particular challenges facing the European Union and look more closely at the likely effects of climate change on the Sahel region and on human health. Finally, we highlight how new energy technologies offer the prospect of achieving economic growth and reducing greenhouse gas emissions - assuming the right policies are put in place. ■

Dorothy Morrissey

The challenge of climate change

by Mick Kelly and Sarah Granich*

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was signed by 155 countries and by the European Community at the Rio Earth Summit in June 1992. The Convention came into force in March 1994, and commits its signatories from industrialised countries to introduce greenhouse gas emission control strategies at home and also to assist developing countries in their actions through financial aid, technology transfer and capacity strengthening.

The prospect of long-term climate change — global warming — induced by emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, presents a serious threat to the sustainability of development strategies.

Participants at the *International Conference on Climate Change and Sea Level Rise Impacts* held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in November 1991, recommended that 'consideration of long-term climate change should be an integral part of the formulation of a national strategy for sustainable development.' This conclusion was based on two important characteristics of the global warming problem:

— first, the consequences of long-term climate change could have substantial implications for a country's development prospects. Sea level rise, for example, may threaten the very survival of certain small island states;

— second, the continuing growth in greenhouse gas emissions is the result of the increasing use of energy from fossil fuels, the intensification of industry and the expansion of agriculture — the process of development.

Any attempt to limit the scale of the global warming problem must, therefore, address the

nature of the development process. For this reason, those responsible for aid policy and its implementation have a pivotal role to play.

The EU played a major part in the development of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is currently pressing for more effective emission control targets and is leading the debate in a number of other areas with regard to implementation. The Framework Convention requires that the industrialised nations assist developing countries to meet their obligations under the treaty through the transfer of financial resources and technology as well as through capacity strengthening.

The assistance given to developing nations by the EU — the world's largest aid donor with its Member States — will shape the future contribution of the South to resolve the problem. It will also determine the ability of the most vulnerable nations, such as small island states, to cope with adverse consequences. The challenge is to ensure that action to limit the impact of long-term climate change is consistent with the broader goal of sustainable development.

The Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme in 1988 in response to international concern about the possibility of global warming. The

first goal of the IPCC was to review scientific understanding of the greenhouse problem and assess the seriousness of the threat. The IPCC concluded that, at this time, the scientific evidence is sufficient to warrant *precautionary action* to curb greenhouse emissions and to anticipate potential impacts. As a result, an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was established to draft a climate treaty. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was eventually agreed at the Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and came into force in March 1994.

Individual nations, or regional groupings such as the European Union, who are party to the Framework Convention, are committed to the overall goal of 'stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.' Stabilisation should be achieved within a time frame sufficient 'to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.'

Alongside emission control, the Convention requires action to anticipate and minimise the worst consequences of climate change and sea level rise and stresses the importance of education, training and capacity strengthening — underpinning the international response to this long-term problem. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee continues to meet, providing a forum for decision-making with respect to implementing the Framework Convention. Progress was reviewed at the First Conference of the Parties in Berlin (28 March — 7 April 1995).

Who is responsible for global warming?

There is no argument that the primary responsibility for global warming lies with the industrialised nations. Over the period since 1870, the developing world has been responsible for no more than 15% of total carbon emissions. Today, the industrialised nations, with only a quarter of the world's population, are directly re-

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sponsible for well over half the greenhouse gas emissions giving rise to global warming. But the situation may be different in 50 years time. The contribution of the developing nations may well exceed that of the industrialised nations by the middle of the 21st century as a result of economic development and population growth. Even then, though, the contribution per head of population will remain well below that of the North. These characteristics, of past and potential responsibility, have led to a commitment on the part of the industrialised nations to financial aid and technology transfer so that developing nations are better able to limit their future contribution to the problem.

Who is most vulnerable?

Nations also differ in their vulnerability to climate change and sea level rise. Vulnerability depends on the scale of the environmental change a nation faces, the particular circumstances of that nation and the resources that are available to support coping strategies.

Sea level rise represents a very direct threat to the three quarters of the world's population living in low-lying areas close to the coast. Many major cities, port facilities and industries and much fertile agricultural land are located in coastal zones so any impact will have widespread social and economic repercussions.

President *Maumoon Abdul Gayoom* of the Maldives was one of the first political leaders to alert the international community to the potential threat of climate change. He has stressed again and again that, unless action is taken to curb global warming, his nation could literally disappear beneath the waves.

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) was created in order to represent the interests of those vulnerable nations in the Framework Convention negotiations. AOSIS has played an important role, highlighting the unique circumstances of small island states and emphasising the responsibility of the industrialised world, The

group has proposed an innovative 'insurance pool' to compensate vulnerable nations for the adverse effects of sea level rise and has recently developed a draft protocol which contains strengthened targets for the developed nations.

Commitments under the Framework Convention

The Convention states that it would be desirable for the industrialised nations to stabilise emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000. This would show that 'developed nations are taking the lead in modifying longer-term trends — consistent with the objective of the Convention. 'Stabilisation of emissions by the year 2000 is, in effect, a gesture of good faith which is needed to ensure that, at a later stage, the developing nations commit themselves to limiting the future growth in their emissions, The irony is that stabilisation of carbon

emissions by the major industrialised nations is not too different from what is likely to happen anyway even if no concerted action is taken to control emissions. For this reason there is pressure to adopt a more stringent target. The draft protocol developed by AOSIS, for example requires industrialised nations to reduce their emissions to at least 30% below 1990 levels by the year 2005. This issue will be discussed at the First Conference of the Parties.

It seems unlikely that control targets will be set for developing nations in the near future. Developing nations are, however, obliged to develop and publish — if not implement— national plans containing measures to limit emission growth. National emission inventories are required to achieve this end. In common with the other Parties, developing nations must also:

- cooperate in the development, application and transfer of technologies that limit emissions;
- promote the sustainable management of sinks and reservoirs (forests, oceans, and so on);
- cooperate in preparing their adaptation to the impact of climate change and the protection and rehabilitation of areas affected by drought and desertification;
- undertake environmental impact assessment of policies and projects which may affect climate change;
- promote and cooperate in scientific, technical and other research, in full and open exchange of relevant information, and in education, training and public awareness.

Various initiatives have been established by relevant United Nations agencies and other bodies to support the involvement of developing nations in this process. It remains to be seen whether they will be sufficient to ensure an effective southern response.

Who will pay?

The issue of financial support has been a crucial one during climate treaty negotiations. The position of many southern negotiators has been that they will not

Climate impacts on islands and low-lying coastal areas

The Mediterranean
*Increase in land degradation
 Decline in agricultural production
 Damage to natural terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
 Decline in infrastructure*

The wider Caribbean
*Beach erosion
 Burdensome beach protection and stabilisation measures
 Dislocation of economic structures
 Shoreline retreat of major deltas
 Damage to benthic systems
 Saline intrusion of coastal lagoons, estuaries and salinas*

The African Coast
*Accelerated coastal erosion
 Dislocation of coastal communities
 Damage to coastal lagoons, coral reefs and mangroves
 Spatial and temporal changes in rainfall distribution
 Decreased water resources
 Reduction in biodiversity
 Damage to socio-economic activity and infrastructure*

Based on 'Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States with special reference to the Atlantic and Caribbean states' by Mark Griffith and John Ashe (Centre for sustainable development, University of the West Indies).

commit themselves to measures to limit global warming unless the industrialised world covers the additional cost. In principle, at least, this position has been accepted and a financial mechanism has been established to cover the additional costs of appropriate measures. The climate fund is being administered, on a continuing interim basis by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Current climate projects funded through the GEF include: wind power in Costa Rica; geothermal energy in the Philippines; photovoltaics for community use in Zimbabwe; end use efficiency improvement in Mexico; land rehabilitation in Benin and Sudan; and gas pipeline replacement in China. The Convention obliges the industrialised nations to support the response of developing nations:

- through 'new and additional' finance to enable the developing nations to meet their obligations under the Convention;
- through assistance to developing country parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting costs of adaptation, and;
- by taking all practicable steps to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and expertise.

The Convention stresses the importance of cooperation between nations in tackling the problem of climate change. As the cost-effectiveness of emission reduction varies between countries, it has been proposed that northern nations can gain credit for emission reductions by financing control measures in the developing world (or in other developed nations). The process is known as *joint implementation* and it has raised critical questions regarding responsibility, equity and accountability. It seems likely that a pilot joint implementation phase will be adopted in the near future.

Criteria for joint implementation schemes adopted during the pilot phase will be discussed at the First Conference of the Parties. It is considered essential that clear criteria are adopted

How certain is the science?

The greenhouse effect itself is a well-established physical process. Greenhouse gases such as carbon-dioxide permit energy from the sun to pass down through the atmosphere unhindered, but trap heat near the earth's surface. Without the greenhouse gases that occur naturally in the atmosphere, the earth would be some 30° colder. Concern about climate change is based on three major findings:

- first, the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has risen dramatically over the past three centuries and human activity is the prime cause;
- second, the temperature of the planet has risen by 0.5 C° over the past 100 years and this warming is consistent with the predictions of climate models based on the change in atmospheric composition;
- third, climate theory, supported by computer model projections, predicts an unprecedented rise in global temperature and sea level over coming decades, with substantial impacts on human welfare.

There is however, a limit to how far scientists can go in predicting the detailed impact of global warming at this time. Scientific uncertainty is an important characteristic of the global warming problem.

The fact that definite forecasts cannot be made at present limits the response options currently available. Which is why precautionary action is recommended while scientific understanding is improved.

and that effective monitoring and evaluation takes place.

Confronting the challenge

The aid community has a vital role to play in ensuring effective implementation of the Framework Convention. The intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has recognised that funding available through the GEF to support implementation of the Framework Convention — about \$2bn over the next three years — is dwarfed by the flow of funds through the world's development agencies. Development agencies are currently being asked to report on aspects of their portfolio relevant to the climate issue as a first step towards ensuring consistency with the requirements of the Framework Convention.

To date, few, if any development agencies have incorporat-

ed measures related to global warming into their strategic thinking on sustainable development. Indeed, the possibility of climate change has been considered of minor importance in comparison to other environmental concerns. This situation is hardly surprising as the climate issue has only recently been placed on the international agenda. Moreover, the long-term threat of global warming raises difficult questions regarding priorities in circumstances where resources are limited. And just what does precautionary action mean in the context of coping with climate change?

There are no easy answers. One emerging strand of thought suggests that the best way forward is to tackle the apparent conflict between short-term development priorities and long-term climate protection by 'integrating the climate dimension' rather than considering climate change as an issue in isolation.

In coping with climate change, integrating the climate dimension means identifying areas of vulnerability to climate change or sea level rise caused by present-day social, economic or environmental problems and focusing action on reducing that vulnerability. This 'win-win' approach will have immediate benefits as well as limiting the threat posed by global warming. This approach also provides the opportunity to examine the sustainability of present day development strategies in the harsh light thrown by the long-term perspective of climate change. ■

M.K. & S.G.

Rio five years on

What has become of the Climate Change Convention?

In its final declaration, the UN conference on the environment and development in Rio de Janeiro laid the foundations for sustainable development in the context of a worldwide partnership to promote nature conservation. Despite this, 17 million hectares of forest are being lost annually (from an overall area of 1700 million hectares) with a marked impact on climate change and global warming. The problem lies firmly in the lap of governments who, to a large extent, are the owners of the forests. Recognising that the earth, which has given birth to and nurtured humankind, is a single interdependent entity, we need international agreements that respect the interests of all sides and safeguard the integrity of the world's environmental and development system.

More than 150 countries signed the Convention on Climate Change in Rio in 1992. Five years on, critics argue that there has been no significant improvement in the situation in either the northern or the southern hemisphere. This is partly due to pressure placed on the ecosystem by the development efforts of the Southern countries (leading, among other things, to desertification). But it is also reputedly due to the failure of the North's industries to act upon the recommendations that have been made.

It was stated in Rio that: 'concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere affect climate systems the world over. We must achieve a level which prevents any dangerous interference on the part of humans'. Such is the cost of sustainable development. The best way to address environ-

mental problems is to guarantee that all citizens are involved at whatever level is suitable. According to principle no. 10 of the Rio Declaration, at the national level 'each individual must have proper access to the environmental information held by governments. As economic development is an essential factor in the adaptation of measures to deal with climate change, the problem is seen differently depending on whether a country is part of the developed or the underdeveloped world.

Desertification and climate change in the southern hemisphere

In the Third World, and particularly Africa, desertification is believed to be caused mainly by pressure on the ecosystem and the impoverishment of soils. Another significant factor is population growth, which increases the human impact on the environment. The scale of conservation efforts, it is logically suggested, is linked to a population's income level and the pressure is thus greatest in the developing countries.

Continuing this line of thought, the *Brundtland*¹ report highlights the fact that environmental degradation, pollution and zero growth are all interlinked in developing countries. It advocates a growth policy which takes account of environmental con-

straints, stressing that poverty and demographic pressure are complex socio-economic elements which diminish a country's ability to address pollution problems.

In the literature, there are a great many theories which seek to establish just who is responsible for environmental and desertification problems in the Sahel, with overpopulation being the favourite. In absolute terms, this viewpoint may be questionable since population density in the Sahel is one of the lowest in the world. However, in relative terms — in other words, looking at the population level with reference to the natural resources available locally — the picture is quite different.

In economic theory, 'natural' resources are — unsurprisingly — everything that nature supplies. It is a very broad definition which covers the environment in all its aspects. But economists like to classify productive wealth in terms of stocks. The earth is thus likened to a capital asset. The resource is regarded as a concrete reality: a stock item to be managed whilst taking account either of natural reproductive rhythms (renewables) or of anticipated exhaustion of resources and the time needed for the gap to be filled by new resources (non-renewables). Natural resources must, therefore, form part and parcel of efforts to harmonise economic management and regulation of the biosphere. The theory of energy accounting, which came into being in the US in the 1950s, is based on the fact that any flow which is transformed by economics is, in the last resort, an energy flow or a flow of material which can be expressed in terms of energy.

Under natural conditions (i.e. without human intervention), annual biomass production is in balance with the available water resources. This is not the case today in sub-Saharan Africa. Desertification is occurring in areas where physical and chemical deterioration of the soil, caused by man, removes part of the energy that the ecosystem requires to recover after long periods of drought or intensive exploitation.

¹ 'Our Common Future', compiled by a special committee set up by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1983. The committee was composed of 21 independent experts led by Gro Harlem Brundtland (Norway's former Prime Minister). The report set out strategies to be implemented in the field of the environment up to the end of the century.

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Commission

Wood cut for fuel in Burkina Faso
Every year, the world loses 17 million hectares of forest

As soil fertility diminishes, more and more land is needed to achieve the same levels of food production.

Physical and chemical deterioration of the soil provokes the development of ever-increasing areas of arable land. The resulting land clearance modifies the way the sun's rays are reflected, giving rise to a change in the climate in the form of rising temperatures and reduced rainfall.

Rainfall levels in the Sahel have dropped over the last 20 years. This change is believed to be due to a modification of the energy balance of the earth/ocean/atmosphere/ cryosphere/biosphere system. It may be part of an irreversible change in climatic conditions which will affect the entire planet (see table).

EU response

Successive Lomé Conventions signed by the ACP states and the European Union countries, have taken increasing account of the consequences of desertification in the Sahel region for food security and population survival. Extra resources have been allocated to projects in the field of environmental protection. Over the last 15 years, for example, more

than 250 projects linked to deforestation have been set up in ACP countries and other parts of the developing world. These have been paid for out of European Development Fund resources and various budget lines created for the benefit of the ecological sector in developing countries more generally.

Looking at the total funding, 78% has been allocated to Africa, 15% to Asia and the Pacific, 4% to Latin America and 3% to the Caribbean. 44% of the money has gone into land-related projects (including agro-forestry operations), 29% to industrial development in the timber sector, 15% for the conservation of tropical-forest ecosystems, 9% for institutional support and 3% for the firewood/energy sector. Safeguarding the environment remains a key objective in the Fourth Lomé Convention, which was updated in 1995.

By the year 2000, Africa will have 70 cities with a million inhabitants — covering a total land area of a million hectares. A big question will be how such cities, which contribute 60% of the GDP of African countries, can be managed?

Furthermore, globalisation and the search for high-performance centres in the southern hemisphere (a result of the current international division of labour) are leading more and more countries in the South to turn over their best land to industrial farming, to the detriment of food crops which take no more than is necessary from the land. Adoption of the 'farmer model' in the search for maximum yield, without regard for regeneration of the land's potential, condemns the rural population and farmers of the southern hemisphere, in the long-term, to irreversible ecological disequilibrium — which is bound to undermine the quest for self-sufficiency.

The greenhouse effect in the northern hemisphere

The contribution made by the industrialised world to the greenhouse effect is due to different reasons. The countries in question are under less demographic pressure, but their growth and consumption has led to overexploitation of resources (and other forms of pollution). One should

A short glossary of climate change

Safeguarding our environment generates increasing debate and controversy as to the best way in which to manage our natural inheritance. Definitions are given below of a number of terms, which should help the reader to understand the technical jargon often used in the debate.

Biomass

Total mass of living beings living in equilibrium over a given area of land or in a given volume of salt or fresh water. Without human intervention, annual biomass production is in equilibrium with water resources and plant nutrients.

Biosphere

The implied 'layer' formed by all living beings on the surface of the earth and in the oceans. It covers all ecosystems.

CFCs

(Chlorofluorocarbons)

Totally artificial compounds which were first produced industrially approximately 50 years ago. They were used, among other things, in the manufacture of machines (refrigerators), aerosols and semi-conductors. They have the effect of depleting the protective screen, formed by stratospheric ozone allowing more ultraviolet radiation to penetrate to the surface. This has an adverse affect on animal and plant life. Their use increased rapidly until recently, when global measures were implemented to cut CFC emissions.

Climate change

The result of a modification of the energy balance of the earth/ocean/atmosphere/ biosphere system, leading to an irreversible change in the climate of the planet. Accurate predictions as to the extent of climate change, and its practical effects, are not readily available. The impact is likely to vary depending on latitude, season and geographical location. The greenhouse effect, resulting from carbon dioxide and other emissions,

is closely linked to the phenomenon of climate change.

Desertification

This word gained prominence following the UN conference held in Nairobi (Kenya) on this topic in 1977. Desertification is a phenomenon which occurs where physical or chemical deterioration of the soil, caused by man, removes from the ecosystem a portion of the energy the latter requires in order to recuperate after long or short periods of drought or of overexploitation.

Ecology

This is the science which studies the conditions of existence of living beings and interactions of all kinds between such living beings and their environment. Living species developing in the environment do so by depending on one another. They constitute what is known as a biocoenosis. 'Biotope' is the term used to describe the more or less defined area containing the resources where they develop.

Ecosystem

The totality of living beings and non-living elements, interacting in a natural environment (forests, lakes, fields, etc.).

Environment

The environment is 'that which surrounds us; the whole, formed by natural and artificial elements, in which human life unfolds'.

Greenhouse effect

The result of an increase in the concentration of gases in the atmosphere. The main greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide and methane. There is a scientific consensus that their accumula-

tion will give rise to global warming over time, although scientists are unsure about how much the temperature will rise.

Ozone layer

The 'layer' refers to superposed elements which form a whole. The ozone layer is, in one sense, the main protective 'shield' for living cells and, more particularly, for their genetic material. The greater part of the ozone layer is located in the stratosphere, where 90% of all the world's ozone is concentrated.

Sustainable development

A controversial subject in terms of its definition - there are a great many conflicting ideas as to how it should be perceived. Sustainable development, however, may be understood broadly, as an approach which seeks economic development that is not in conflict with the principles of environmental protection. In other words, it is a form of development which enables nature's gifts to be put to good use without resulting in overexploitation of resources, thereby compromising the development potential of future generations.

Projected climate change for five of the world's regions*

Sahel (10-20°N, 20-40°E)

Warmer by 1-3°C.

Slight increase in average rainfall over the area (differing trends in different parts of the region).

Southern Europe (35-50°N, 10°W-45°E)

Warmer by 2°C in winter and by 2-3°C in summer.

Possible increase in rainfall in winter, but 5 to 10% lower in summer.

Central North America (35-50°N, 85-105°W)

Warmer by 2-4°C in winter and by 2-3°C in summer.

0-15% increase in winter rainfall. 5-10% reduction in summer rainfall.

Southern Asia (5-30°N, 70-105°E)

Warmer by 1-2°C throughout the year.

Slight change in winter rainfall, 2-15% increase in summer rainfall.

Australia (12-45°S, 110-115°E)

Approximately 1 to 2°C warmer in winter.

* Source: Météo-France, National Meteorological Research Centre (based on IPCC Working Group 1, 1990 report.)

also mention their development model which, until recently at least, has concentrated on replacing natural energy sources with artificial ones that generate waste products. The result, among other things, has been an increase in the carbon-dioxide content of the earth's atmosphere, leading potentially to large-scale climate change.

The principal cause of the phenomenon is the increase in the combustion of fossil fuels as an energy source. The global average figure of carbon dioxide waste generated, per person per annum, is equivalent to approximately 1.1 tonnes of carbon.

Three quarters of the carbon-dioxide emissions that are largely responsible for the greenhouse effect come from industrialised countries. And Europe and North America also emit 40% of the atmospheric pollutants that cause acid rain — despite efforts to implement environmental action programmes.

The European Commission's White Paper entitled 'Towards an energy policy for the European Union', published in January 1996, takes stock of the



Three quarters of the carbon dioxide emissions which cause the greenhouse effect come from the industrialised nations

effort expended on environmental conservation. It looks at all energy-linked activities affecting the environment either at local, European or world level. According to the Commission's Statistical Office, 32% of Europe's CO₂ emissions come from electricity generation. Transport accounts for 28% of the total, with domestic consumers and industry responsible for 22% and 18% respectively.

Tackling this environmental challenge requires a high level of coordination. The White Paper marks a significant step towards implementing a strategy to address both energy (and thus economic) and environmental concerns. This strategy covers the following:

- fiscal harmonisation based on 'internalisation' of environmental costs;
- strengthening the role played by standardisation organisations, codes of conduct, and Community systems for managing and auditing cooperation agreements with industry in environmental and development terms;
- support for new and renewable energy sources;
- strengthening of a complete and reliable system of energy and environmental statistics harmonised at Community level.

These worthy resolutions are the fruits of increased collaboration between countries in the northern and southern hemispheres, and adherence to a series of international agreements signed in the environmental sphere. They are also the result of the adoption of a system of ecological or 'green' accounting for industry (which has been made necessary by soil impoverishment and pollution) and of a review of national accounting systems to take not only flows, but also stocks, into consideration — so as to include the environment in future calculations.

The conclusions of the Rio Summit, in the form of Agenda 21 (the action programme for the period 1992-2000), laid the foundations for sustainable development for the next century. Agenda 21 proposed poverty alleviation, famine relief, literacy programmes and a halt to degradation of the ecosystem. Five years on, although environmental and development questions are now seen as integral to the process, fulfilment of basic needs and improved standards of living have still not been achieved for many people. Governments need to place the full implementation of Agenda 21 at the top of their list of priorities.

Mounirou Fall

The European Union and climate change

by Peter Horrocks and Claudia Broeke*

Climate change is one of the most serious environmental problems facing the world today. The effects of global warming will have widespread impacts on all countries, particularly on developing countries and so international cooperation is required. A short overview of the complicated process of climate change is given in this article. The state of the current negotiations and the position the European Union takes in this process is also outlined. Specific attention is paid to a topic of particular interest for developing countries: the reduction of greenhouse gases through Joint Implementation (JI) projects.

Human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels, land-use change and agriculture, are increasing the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases like CO₂ (carbon dioxide), CH₄ (methane) and N₂O (nitrous oxide), which tend to warm the atmosphere. Due to an increase of the global average temperature, severe changes for sensitive ecosystems can be expected. Sea level rise will increase the vulnerability of some coastal populations to flooding and erosional loss, deserts are likely to become more extreme, and in subtropical and tropical areas, conditions for agriculture will probably deteriorate. The developing countries do not have the financial possibilities to adjust to these new situations. They are, however, the ones who are likely to suffer most from changes in the climate system.

The second assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is accepted by many policy makers and scientists as the leading authority on global climate change. The Panel concluded in 1996 that a reduction of 60% in CO₂ emissions is needed to combat the phenomenon. In this respect, the European Environmental Council concluded in June 1996 that the global average temperature should not exceed two degrees Celsius above the average temperature prevailing in pre-in-

dustrial times. Therefore, CO₂ concentrations lower than 550 parts per million should guide global limitation and reduction efforts. This implies early action on emission reduction and the need for significant reductions from industrialised countries over the period 2000-2020.

The Climate Convention

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was opened for signing in June 1992 at the Rio Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development. So far, more than 150 countries have ratified it including the European Community and all its Member States. Attached to this international treaty is a list of so-called 'Annex I parties'. This list consists of the 1992 OECD members, the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern European nations. Under the Convention, the current commitment is for Annex I parties to return their emissions — either individually or jointly — to 1990 levels. They are also committed to communicating detailed information on their policies and measures aimed at mitigating climate change. At its joint Environment and Energy Council in 1990, the EU adopted the target of stabilising its CO₂ emissions at 1990 levels in the year 2000. To monitor progress, the Community has also established a monitoring mechanism under Council Decision 93/389.

Currently, there are no emission-related targets for developing countries. They argue cor-

rectly that the developed nations, who contribute most to the greenhouse effect, should take the lead in finding a solution. The AOSIS group, which brings together small island states exceptionally vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise, propose the adoption of a 20% reduction target for developed countries by 2005, using 1990 as the baseline.

Joint implementation

The UNFCCC recognises that, in addition to individual commitments to the Convention's stabilisation target, Annex I parties may undertake cooperative efforts to reduce, avoid, limit or sequester greenhouse gas emissions through Joint Implementation (JI) projects. The idea behind this mechanism is that the cost of reducing CO₂ emissions varies enormously from one country to another, while the effects of global warming will appear all over the world. In a JI project, countries can invest money and technology in states where emission-reduction measures are more cost-effective. In return, investing parties in principle should be able to obtain permission to continue their current emissions within their own country. At the moment there are a few 'Activities Implemented Jointly' (JI projects) in an experimental phase. And in this pilot phase, the 'crediting' of emission rights is not allowed. Many developing countries are sceptical about JI, seeing it as an easy way for the industrialised countries to buy off their responsibilities for reducing emissions. Some parties, however, such as the United States, are in favour of a system where Joint Implementation with emission crediting with all contracting parties would be allowed.

The EU supports JI in principle. However, it must be certain that this cannot be used to avoid existing commitments. Regarding JI projects which include the actual crediting of emissions with non-Annex I parties (who have no reduction target), the EU is waiting for the evaluation of the pilot phase mentioned above. This is expected no later than the end of this decade. It is acknowledged

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that Activities Implemented Jointly could offer an excellent opportunity for climate-friendly investments in developing countries, that would slow their growth in emissions. But a number of questions have to be clarified before actual emission 'trading' can take place. For instance, it remains unclear how emission reductions should be calculated and which baseline should be used. It is also uncertain how the 'additionality' of a project can be determined. If the aim is to decrease global emissions, it would be counterproductive for projects that would have taken place anyway to be eligible now for credits.

The road to Kyoto

At the first Conference of the Parties in Berlin in March-April 1995, the UNFCCC signatories agreed to begin a process enabling them to adopt appropriate criteria for beyond the year 2000. This encompasses, in particular, the strengthening of commitments by Annex I parties through the negotiation of a protocol or other legal instrument (the so-called Berlin Mandate). This should be achieved through quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives (QELROs) within specified time frames such as 2005, 2010 and 2020, and through the elaboration of policies and measures. The plan is for this protocol to be adopted at the third Conference of the Parties, scheduled for 1-10 December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan.

In this process, the EU is playing a leading role in developing solutions, with the aim of securing substantive commitments in a legally binding protocol at Kyoto. The Council of European environment ministers decided in March 1997 that the Community negotiating position for 2010 would be a 15% reduction of emissions of a basket of gases, consisting of CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O, compared to 1990 levels, for all Annex I parties.

The ball is now in the court of the EU's negotiating partners, in particular, the United States, Japan, Canada and Australia, to respond to these proposals for legally binding targets for developed country parties.

The Council conclusions of March 1997 also indicated policies and measures that it is essential to develop and implement if the reduction target is to be met. Among these are; renewable energy programmes, energy efficiency programmes, fuel switching, and fuel efficiency improvement in passenger cars. The various sectors responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases — amongst others, electricity, energy, transport and agriculture — will be covered in these measures, thereby contributing to the reduction target. Many of these policies and measures must be applied at national level. But there is considerable scope for action at Community level, due to the close link between energy efficiency and other Community policies — such as the internal market, transport, energy and regional development.

Currently, further evaluation of twelve proposed policies and measures, their potential for greenhouse gas reduction in the Community and the best way to implement them, is being actively pursued.

An important next step for the EU in the negotiations is to find common ground with other partners that have proposed policies and measures. Regrettably, the United States has, so far, generally opposed the inclusion of common and coordinated policies and measures in a protocol. This could become a serious problem because some policies and measures affecting competitiveness can only be implemented in a coordinated manner. The need for coordinating certain measures must be recognised if a successful outcome is to be achieved.

Conclusion

It is important that the industrialised countries set ambitious and binding reduction targets in Kyoto to allow room for Third World countries to develop economically. Any attempt to limit global emissions of greenhouse gases must respect the right of developing nations to pursue much-needed economic development. It is difficult for the North to urge the South to show more concern



The Courier

Fuel efficiency improvement in passenger cars
One of the policies needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

about rising energy use when the former consumes, on average, more than ten times more energy per capita. On present trends, however, developing countries will contribute an ever-increasing share of global greenhouse gas emissions. There is, therefore, a need for developed nations to cooperate closely with developing countries to ensure that they too pursue more efficient use of energy, and that they have access to appropriate technologies. Eventually, if a global solution is to be found, the developing countries will have to play their part in the process.

In this respect, wherever possible, policies and measures regarding climate change need to be integrated into the development dimension of policy-making to promote, in particular, renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency more actively. It will be particularly important to ensure that, wherever possible, cooperation activities between the EC and developing countries promote sustainable energy solutions.

P.H. and C.B.

Reducing carbon dioxide emissions in Europe

by Kornelis Blok*

In this article, we report on an evaluation prepared by the author and others for the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) concerning the feasibility of reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the European Union by 2005¹. The technical and economic potential for this is considered, with special attention being given to whether practical policies and measures are available to achieve the goal. Options explored were: more efficient use of energy in end-use sectors, application of renewable energy sources, a shift to low carbon fuels, more efficient use of energy-intensive materials, and changes in consumption patterns. Various forms of policy instrument were evaluated. Some of the measures would require a common approach throughout the EU. In the reference scenario (i.e. what would happen if no additional measures were adopted), a 7% increase in emissions of this 'greenhouse' gas is predicted. The evaluation suggests that by adopting new instruments, a reduction of up to 14% is feasible.

The Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) concluded at its first session in Berlin that the existing commitments of industrialised countries were not adequate. It therefore agreed (in the so-called 'Berlin Mandate'), to begin elaborating policies and measures, and to set quantified objectives for limiting and reducing CO₂ emissions within specific timeframes (2005, 2010, 2020). The meeting also agreed that the proposed protocol submitted by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) should be included for consideration. The essence of this proposal is that by 2005, the 'Annex I' parties to the Framework Convention (the industrialised nations) should have reduced their levels of carbon dioxide emission by 20%, using 1990 as the base year.

The aim of the evaluation was to assess whether, by implementing ambitious policies (especially in the field of energy conversion and use), the EU could meet this goal. In contrast with other studies, our focus was not primarily on the technical and economic potential that is known to exist — whether in achieving efficiency



Mike St. Maur, Shell

gains, or exploiting renewable energy sources. We took it a stage further, concentrating on whether, and how far this potential can actually be realised by 2005 — and hence, which policies and measures would need to be adopted. Thus for example, we looked at replacement and expansion in the electricity generating sector. As regards upgrading and improving the insulation of existing dwellings and buildings, we assumed a rate of progress which has been shown to be achievable on the basis of past experience.

Approach

In the study, the following options for reducing CO₂ emission were evaluated:

- more efficient end-use of energy in manufacturing, services, households and transport;
- application of renewable energy sources;

Urban air pollution in Europe. Fossil fuel burning releases carbon dioxide and other pollutants into the atmosphere.

- a shift to low-carbon fuels;
- more efficient use of energy-intensive materials and changes in consumption patterns.

The 'Conventional Wisdom' scenario, instigated by the European Commission, was taken as the reference baseline². In this scenario, it was predicted that, in the normal run of events, the EU's carbon dioxide emissions would rise from 3170 million tonnes in 1990 to 3390 million tonnes in 2005 — an increase of 7%. In our study, we calculated the likely effect on carbon dioxide emissions if specific policy measures were to be implemented. A key assumption here

* Department of Science, Technology and Society, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

1. Policies and measures to reduce CO₂ emissions by efficiency and renewables by K. Blok, D. Van Vuuren, A.J.M. van Wijk and L.G. Hein. WWF Climate Change Campaign, WWF, Netherlands, Zeist, 1996. Fax 31-30-6912064 to obtain the publication free of charge.

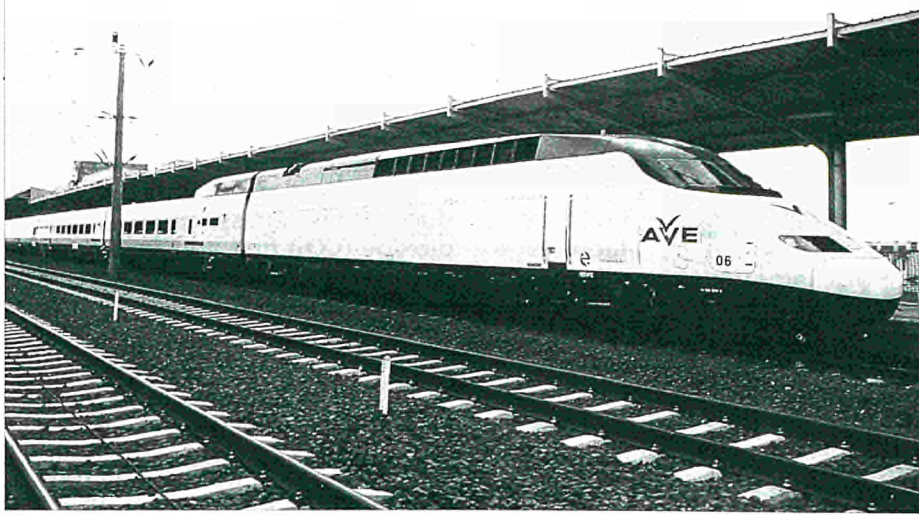
² European Energy to 2020 — A Scenario Approach, European Commission, Directorate-General for Energy (DG XVII), Brussels, 1996.

Options and policy measures considered and the expected effect on CO₂ emission (in comparison with the 'Conventional Wisdom' scenario)

(Fourth column figures in millions of tonnes)

Category	Options	Policy measures	Reduction
Energy efficiency in heavy industry	Heavy industry: best practice in 1990 to be attained on average in 2005	EU-wide agreement with heavy industry	107
Energy efficiency in light industry	Light industry: reduction of total specific energy consumption by 21% in several sectors	Voluntary agreements	
	More efficient motor drives and other electricity applications	Efficiency standards on an EU level	57
	Reduction of heating energy required in new buildings	Building codes	
Energy efficiency in the service sector	Retrofit insulation for service sector buildings (3.5% of stock per year)	Investment subsidies Building retrofit codes	23
	Application of more efficient heat generators	Efficiency standards for heat generation	7
	Replacement of coal and oil-firing boilers	Subsidising new technology (heat pumps, heat recuperation, etc) Ban on new coal-fired boilers	
	Energy-efficient new buildings	Strict building codes	16
	More efficient appliances	Efficiency standards on an EU level	21
	More efficient lighting systems	Efficiency standards for new lighting systems Subsidising of efficient lighting systems	21
Energy efficiency in the residential sector (heat)	Retrofit insulation of houses in central and northern Europe (3% of stock per year)	Investment subsidies/fiscal measures Include dwelling insulation in large scale retrofit programmes	39
	Promotion of more efficient heat generators (average 10% improvement)	Efficiency standards for heating equipment Subsidised heat pump introduction Infrastructural measures	10
	More energy efficient new dwellings (Up 20% on the current average from the year 2000)	Ban on coal firing for new heating equipment	5
	More efficient generation and use of hot water	Strict building codes	10
		Information and subsidy programmes for water saving measures Efficiency standards for hot water appliances Standards for hot water generation equipment	7
Energy efficiency in the residential sector (electricity)	More efficient new domestic appliances (on average 50% below present average stock)	Best available technology (BAT) efficiency standards on an EU level Technology procurement programmes	29
	Others, including 5 energy-saving compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) per household	Subsidies and promotion programmes for CFLs	24
Transport	Improve average specific fuel consumption of new cars by 4% per year from 1998	Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards	41
	Changes in modal split (including 5% growth of rail transport)	Expansion of rail infrastructure Improved physical planning Other measures to reduce car transport	20
	Changes in car use behaviour	Speed limits	
	Various measures in freight transport	Various measures in freight transport	25
	More efficient air transport and shift to fast trains	Aviation fuel tax Expansion of TGV infrastructure Other measures	10
Combined generation of heat and power	Raise electricity production by CHP to 28% of total electricity production	CHP obligation for utilities (including other measures on prices and institutional barriers)	46
Renewable energy	500 PJ* of biofuels in the transport sector 4500 PJ of fuel saving through additional electricity generation with renewables, especially hydro and biomass 1550 PJ additional heat production from renewables, especially biomass	Renewable energy obligation (or non-fossil fuel obligation) for energy companies	90
Material efficiency improvement	Various measures in producing sectors	Adaptations in waste management policies More material-efficient packaging Take-back schemes for durable products	30
Changes in consumption patterns	Various changes in consumer purchasing behaviour	Include energy/CO ₂ in ecolabelling Stimulate repair services by VAT reduction	15
Total anticipated effect of measures			653

* PJ = petajoules, the unit for energy. Total annual energy consumption in the EU is about 50 000 PJ.



Commission

was that all the measures under discussion would be introduced from 1 January 1998. The analysis covered all 15 EU Member States.

Instruments

Policy instruments were identified by sector and for each option designed to reduce CO₂ emissions. Thus, standards and regulation may play a role in improving the energy-efficiency of dwellings and offices, and of all types of electrical appliance, while company-wide standards may be applied to cars. One could also set out obligations for energy companies regarding the application of renewable energy, and generation using combined heat and power (CHP) systems.

Subsidies could be used to speed up the process of insulating existing buildings ('retrofitting') and boost the usage of compact fluorescent lightbulbs. Voluntary agreements might also play a role — on a European scale to make energy efficiency improvements in heavy industry, and at national level to achieve the same goal in the light industry sector.

Other possible instruments mentioned in the study include fiscal measures to encourage investment in renewable energies, higher 'buy-back' tariffs for electricity generated from CHP schemes and renewable sources, and the expansion of public transport infrastructure.

In selecting instruments, special attention was paid to those that have proved effective for some time in particular countries or sectors, although it was recognised that other effective instruments may also be available. In ad-

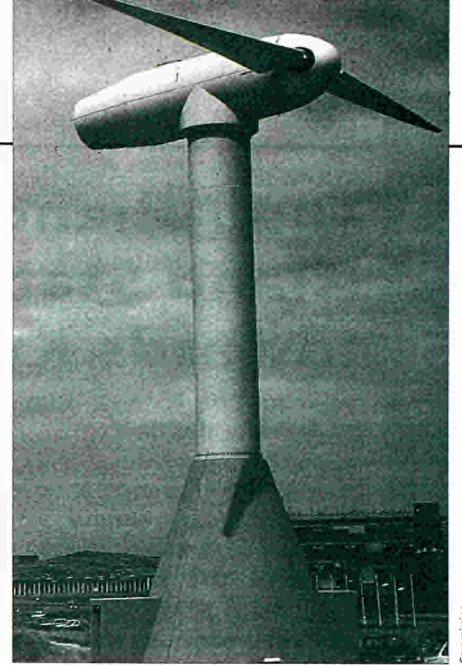
Better public transport infrastructure and wind-generated power — two ways of helping to reduce CO₂ emissions.

dition, we acknowledged that the choice of the most appropriate policies may differ from one country to another. One general instrument which has been widely discussed is a carbon tax. We concluded that, in itself, such a tax would not be sufficient to lower CO₂ emissions, but that its application could strengthen the impact of other instruments adopted.

Results

The table gives a breakdown of the options for reducing carbon dioxide emissions in a range of categories, together with a brief description of the measures that would have to be adopted. This reveals that emissions could be some 650 million tonnes lower than predicted in the 'Conventional Wisdom' scenario assuming all the right steps are taken. This is 435 million tonnes less than the 1990 baseline figure — a reduction of nearly 14% — which represents a little over 2% a year. It is also assumed that this rate of reduction will continue beyond 2005, allowing the 20% target proposed in Berlin to be reached by 2008 (three years late). We were unable to identify policies which would allow the 20% target to be reached by 2005, one of the key problems being the tightness of the timescale.

With only a few exceptions, the options set out in our scenario also imply net economic gains. In other words, the benefits of the measures are higher than the costs, taking account of inter-



Commission

est, operational, maintenance and depreciation expenses. The main exceptions to this are the proposals for upgrading and insulating existing buildings, and those pertaining to renewable energy.

Some policies could be implemented at the national level while others require a broader, European approach. The latter include efficiency standards for electrical appliances, EU-wide voluntary agreements in heavy industry, 'corporate average efficiency standards' for cars, and agreements on renewable energy and CHP.

Conclusions

The study shows that a strong, internationally coordinated policy aimed at energy and material efficiency, and at renewables, can constitute an effective climate change policy. It is also an approach which is largely cost-effective and which would help in tackling other environmental challenges, such as fossil fuel depletion and the acid rain problem.

The study is one of the first comprehensive attempts to formulate a set of policies and measures for CO₂ reduction in the EU as a whole. In short, it shows what needs to be done to achieve an annual 2% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. ■

K.B.

The Alliance of Small Island States looks towards Kyoto

by Annette des Iles*

Their common preoccupation with their very survival in the face of climate change, prompted the small island developing States from all over the world to come together during the Second World Climate Conference in 1990 to form the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). The mission of AOSIS in dealing with the climate change phenomenon, is to safeguard the present and future survival of small islands by contributing to the global dialogue, thus ensuring that their concerns and interests are fully incorporated and protected in regimes that are put in place to respond to the threat. The important stake that AOSIS has in negotiations on the issue was evident from Chantilly, Virginia, during the first intergovernmental meeting which was convened to develop the Framework Convention. During the Rio Earth Summit, as the international community signed the Framework Convention, Heads of State and Government of AOSIS met and decided that the issue of climate change must remain a priority for the group.

AOSIS was always convinced that the commitments for reduction and stabilisation of greenhouse gases, contained in the Framework Convention, were inadequate to protect and safeguard fully the world's climate system. These were seen only in terms of the first step in meeting the ultimate objective of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. When almost all Parties shared that view prior to the First Conference of the Parties, AOSIS felt that it was timely to introduce a Protocol for adoption at Berlin in 1995 with provisions to strengthen the commitments to reduce green-

house gases emitted by industrialised Parties to the Convention. There was no Berlin Protocol. Instead, there was the decision which gave rise to the Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate (AGBM) which has the task of negotiating a protocol or another legal instrument containing quantified emissions reduction of greenhouse gases over time frames such as 2005, 2010 and 2020. The AGBM must complete its task and submit a protocol or another legal instrument to the Third Conference of the Parties in Kyoto in December this year for adoption.

The Second Assessment Report concluded that there is a discernible human influence on global climate and made a case for early action to combat climate change. The 1996 Geneva Ministerial Declaration, which was issued during the Second Conference of the Parties to the Convention, took note of these findings and called for legally binding targets and timetables for greenhouse gas emissions reduction. This timely action by Ministers has given an impetus to the Berlin Mandate process which is now focusing on textual proposals in a new phase of negotiations.

Reducing emissions

Within the Berlin Mandate process, AOSIS will continue to support a protocol which builds on

the Framework Convention by introducing new commitments for industrialised country parties to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) first and foremost, in the context of specific targets and timetables. AOSIS believes that CO₂ remains the most important contributor to anthropogenic forcing of climate change, and its sources and sinks are well known. The Group continues to support fully the terms of the Berlin Mandate which stipulate that there must be no new commitments for developing country parties to the Framework Convention. Developing countries are preoccupied with the eradication of poverty which is a scourge contributing to the deterioration of the environment. Accordingly, the protocol should enhance North/South cooperation and promote access to financial resources. More particularly, it should encourage the development of environmentally sound technology and facilitate the transfer of such technology to developing countries. Clean technology would allow developing countries to grow in order to meet their social and economic needs, while contributing to the central objective of the Convention.

The recent decision of ministers of the European Union to suggest a reduction of a basket of three greenhouse gases by 15% of their 1990 levels by 2010, after a prior reduction by 2005, is an important step in the Berlin Mandate process. This introduces a medium-term target as an augmentation of a short term target. Such a combination is an important element in ensuring that the next generation

*Low-lying Kiribati in the Pacific
Small island states have common a preoccupation
- their very survival is threatened by climate
change*



* Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, and Chairperson of Aosis.

is afforded practical options for stabilising greenhouse gases and avoiding catastrophic sea level rise.

AOSIS remains convinced that cutting CO₂ emissions of industrialised country parties to 20% below their 1990 levels by the year 2005, as proposed in the draft protocol submitted by the group, is realistic, practical and achievable in the short term. The Group is conscious that a 20% reduction would not achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. However, 20% should be politically feasible since the 1998 World Conference on the Changing Atmosphere recommended it in Toronto. A 20% reduction as a first step in the short term, would also create an adequate basis for further action in the medium and long term. AOSIS is not averse to a comprehensive approach covering all greenhouse gases other than those addressed by the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. However, the scientific measurement of other gases must be improved to allow precise monitoring.

Attaining the Kyoto objective

Consideration of gases over time is the most feasible way to develop a comprehensive regime covering all greenhouse gases. The focus on carbon dioxide first would allow the Berlin Mandate process to come up with a manageable basket of policies and measures in support of the reduction goal. As other gases are included, it would be necessary to assign an appropriate weight to carbon dioxide in recognition of the fact that it is the most important greenhouse gas.

Within the Berlin Mandate process the issue of the form of the legal instrument has not been settled. AOSIS is not ready to endorse an amendment to the Convention which might have the effect of hampering the full implementation of present commitments. A protocol would avoid this problem and provide a framework which would allow parties to negotiate unambiguous provisions covering the greenhouse gases targeted.

Clear institutional and operational linkages between the Protocol and the Convention would be fundamental. These linkages would be best developed if the parties are the same. The possibility of including a simplified procedure for parties to join the Protocol should be explored, so that all parties to the Convention could automatically become parties to the Protocol within the specified time frame.

The parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are the trustees of the global climate system for the benefit of present and future gen-

erations. They must therefore act individually and collectively, to ensure that adequate measures are immediately implemented to slow down the continued anthropogenic interference with the climate system and avoid a global catastrophe. For members of AOSIS — whose cultural, social, economic and political life are concentrated in coastal areas — a Kyoto Protocol with adequate legally binding short and medium term targets, contributing significantly to the Convention's objective, is a paramount need. ■ A.d.I.

DOSSIER

WWF: spreading the conservation message

by Andrew Kerr*

In December 1997, industrialised nations have the chance to conclude an historic agreement which could break a 150-year trend of rising carbon dioxide emissions — the main cause of climate change. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is released in vast quantities when coal, oil and gas are burnt for energy. A successful agreement, at the conference to be held in Kyoto, Japan, could open the door to a new industrial revolution based on more-efficient and cleaner energy industries. Like the rest of the international NGO community, WWF is pressing the industrialised world to reduce its CO₂ output by 20% below 1990 levels before 2005 — a call issued by the small island states of AOSIS back in 1994. A weak and uncertain outcome from Kyoto would slow the political and industrial momentum which is essential for avoiding dangerous interference with the global climate system. Unless there is a sustained effort to cut

CO₂ emissions, the consequences for food security, water supply, health and nature in many countries could be dire. According to the best information, developing countries would be hardest hit. The EU, its Member States and ACP nations have important roles to play in the remaining months of the Kyoto process, and beyond.

The basis for taking action

When ministers from over 130 countries endorsed new scientific findings last year, they moved climate change from being what some regarded as an uncertain scientific phenomenon to the realm of an urgent international problem. Meeting in Geneva, the ministers agreed that there is 'a discernible human influence on global climate' and indicated the need to cut CO₂ emissions globally by more than 50%. They emphasised that projected changes in climate 'will result in significant, often adverse, impacts', some of which may be irreversible. Developing countries and small island countries were identified as being particularly vulnerable. However, there was optimism over the possibilities for combating the problem since 'significant reductions

* European Coordinator of WWF's Climate Change Campaign.

in...emissions are technically possible and economically feasible...'. Now, the primary task is to spread this message into the wider community of industrial and economic actors, and to the general public.

WWF's activities on climate change

WWF's Climate Change Campaign operates in around 25 countries, to raise awareness, pressure governments into taking action, and to build partnerships with business and industry to implement innovative solutions.

Scientific workshops convened by WWF concluded that many ecological systems may not be able to respond fast enough to survive the rates of global warming being projected. This argues for more rapid and deeper reductions in CO₂ emissions than the international community is currently considering. In a recent series of briefings, WWF has reported on the implications of climate change for Southern Africa (a project conducted in cooperation with meteorological services in SADC countries) as well as for health, bird migration, coral reefs and the Arctic region. Briefings on the impacts on parks and protected areas, oceans and coasts, and forests are to appear during 1997.

Keen to identify solutions, WWF commissioned an analysis looking at the EU, entitled 'Policies and Measures to Reduce CO₂ Emissions by Efficiency and Renewables'. This concluded that a range of proven policies could be used to reduce CO₂ emissions in the EU by 14% by 2005, compared to 1990 levels. The majority of the measures proposed would be cost-effective and many could be attractive to individual companies. The downward trend in CO₂ could be continued after 2005 by appropriate measures which tapped into the large remaining reservoir of emission reductions.

Growing enthusiasm from forward-looking businesses

Interest in combating climate change is growing within the business community. WWF brought together forward-looking businesses, European environment ministers and experts for the first

time at a Round Table on Climate Change, in Copenhagen earlier this year. And within the last six months, WWF has concluded agreements with Dutch house builders and with the household appliance manufacturer, AEG, in Germany, to dramatically improve the energy efficiency of their products.

Other business organisations are also mobilising. The insurance industry is becoming increasingly active, having seen financial payouts grow as a result of extreme weather events characteristic of climate change. The European Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future has gained 80 members and COGEN Europe, whose 120 member companies sell highly-efficient power plants, is fully behind tough CO₂ reduction targets. Sadly, progressive business interests are as yet in the minority. Much depends on political institutions making the right decisions.

Political dynamics from the European perspective

Viewed internationally, the EU is a welcome progressive force among industrialised countries in combating climate change. Its recent proposal that the industrialised world should reduce its 'greenhouse gas' emissions by 15% below 1990 levels by 2010 has added shine to the EU's previously tarnished claim to leadership. But the EU has suffered a painful and lengthy process to arrive at this proposal which is, after all, more than 5% weaker and 5 years slower than AOSIS called for in 1994. There are a number of other areas, in WWF's view, in which the EU must improve its performance.

On the international front, the EU needs to devote more diplomatic energy than it has done in the past to building coalitions with potential supporters during the final two sessions of climate negotiations in the Kyoto process. It is worth recalling that the process began two years ago after a 'green group' of 72 developing countries commendably seized the initiative. How would the EU respond if a 'green group' again emerges, perhaps coalescing around Peru's proposal that industrialised countries reduce their CO₂ emissions by 15% by 2005?

WWF mission

WWF (the Worldwide Fund for Nature) is the world's largest non-governmental conservation organisation. Its mission of protecting ecological processes means ensuring that use of the world's resources is sustainable both now and in the future, for the benefit of all life on Earth.

Copies of WWF reports referred to in this article are available free of charge from the WWF Climate Change Campaign: fax: +32 2 743 8819; e-mail: 101322.3724@compuserve.com. Additional information can be found on WWF's world wide web site: <http://www.panda.org/climate>

The EU also has a lot of work to do at home. Regaining its credibility after almost certainly failing to meet the Rio target of stabilising CO₂ emissions at 1990 levels by 2000 demands that the EU transform its new emission-reduction proposal into a firm unilateral commitment. This, and other commitments, should form the core of what WWF refers to as a 'European climate protection strategy': a robust but flexible action programme which creates the conditions and incentives for sustained and consistent CO₂ reductions beyond 2000. This would be invaluable in gaining the confidence of European business. Such a strategy will depend, however, on politicians in the key sectors of energy, transport, industry and economic affairs ensuring that policies reinforce rather than undermine the goals of lowering CO₂ output.

As regards timing, and accepting that the EU is serious about reducing emissions, it would not be rational for the Union to wait until the Kyoto agreement formally enters into force before implementing a new 'climate protection strategy'. This would neither be cost-effective for the EU, since the time available for achieving emission reduction targets would be limited, nor would it meet the concerns of the EU's developing country partners who have contributed little to climate change, but who stand to suffer the worst effects. ■ A.K.

Probing the health hazards

Malaria in mountainous areas in East Africa and cholera spread by algae bloom are two new alarming consequences of climate change — believed to be linked to the phenomenon of global warming — says Doctor Rudolf Slooff. Dr Slooff is one of the co-editors of *Climate Change and Human Health** which examines the harm that could be done to human health through changes in temperature and rainfall patterns, floods and rising sea levels. It also assesses the damage done to human health by a depleted ozone layer which results in more ultraviolet rays reaching the Earth's surface. The 300-page joint study carried out for the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) does more than sound the alarm bell. It recommends research and preventive measures to control the causes before it's too late.

Since climate change is not an exact science, emphasise the authors, the study's findings are based on the best scientific studies available. For example, the research generally goes along with the predictions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), on future trends in greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) that cause global warming. The Earth's mean surface temperature has increased by between 0.3° and 0.6° Celsius over the past century and computer models indicate an increase of 1°-3° by the year 2100. As a result, the global sea level is expected to rise by between 0.2 metres and 1 metre.

Heatwaves

Possibly the most obvious effect is that a warming of the climate will result in more heat-related deaths. Studies have already been done in the North America, North Africa and China signalling several thousand more fatalities annually. 'This trend is not expected to be counterbalanced by a possible slight decrease in cold-related mortality. By the year 2050, many major cities will experience up to several thousand extra heat-related deaths,' warns the report.

And sunseekers would be ill-advised to sit out because of the

risk of skin cancer. A higher incidence of this condition is linked to greater ultra violet radiation due to ozone layer depletion. This is caused by various man-made gases such as halocarbons and nitrogen dioxide, whose increased emissions have already been scientifically recorded. Increased susceptibility to infection and altered response to vaccinations, a higher incidence of ocular lesions, such as certain cataracts, and the suppression of the immune system, are all linked to increased ultraviolet radiation. It also impairs the photosynthetic productivity of land plants and marine plankton, both sources of human food.

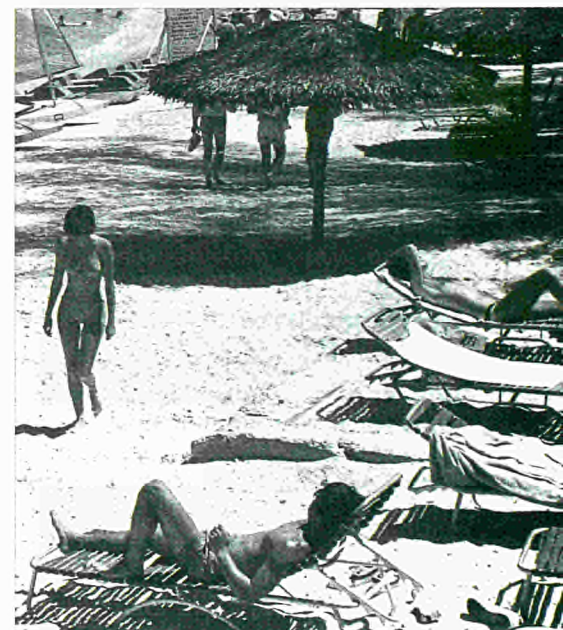
Biological diseases

The report calculates that a hundred years from now, 60% of the world's population may be exposed to malaria as compared with the current figure of 45%. This would imply an additional 50-80 million extra new cases per year. Dengue fever, which is also carried by the mosquito, and which is prevalent in Oceania, tropical America and the Caribbean, is already becoming more widespread. The epidemic transmission of dengue is seldom sustained at temperatures below 20°C. And new outbreaks of yellow fever are also predicted. Says the report: 'Climate warming may increase the currently rather low risk of urban epidemics of yellow fever in East Africa and the Americas. Temperature increases the speed at which the virus develops.'

According to Dr Slooff, global warming may also be leading to increased incidence of cholera. He told *The Courier* that the cholera bacillus had recently been found on algae bloom. The virus is then transmitted to humans via shellfish, for example. It used to be thought that cholera could not survive in water for longer than a week and thus, the disease was not classified as 'water-borne'. But the new phenomenon has already been uncovered in Bangladesh says the report: 'These recent findings on a possible new pathway for cholera transmission are becoming widely accepted, although they are still subject to scientific debate.'

Climate change is causing more frequent transmission of diseases between animals and humans. A new virus, Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, transmitted by rodents, has appeared in Middle America. In 1993, in the South Western USA, an unusual geographical cluster of deaths from this respiratory disease was observed in young adults. Nearly half of the 124 cases were fatal. Rodents are the primary carriers for the Hantavirus, which is transmitted through saliva, urine and faeces. It was discovered that changes in land use and climate have re-

Sunbathers face a greater risk of skin cancer due to the depletion of the ozone layer



*Climate Change and Human Health' An assessment prepared by a Task Group on behalf of the World Health Organisation, the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme. Eds. A.J. McMichael, A.Haines, R. Slooff and S.Kovats, 1996.



Harvesting wheat in Zimbabwe. Climate change could result in falling crop yields

duced populations of the rodents' natural predators. Meanwhile, higher rainfall, following a period of drought, boosted the insect population. Deer lice increased 10—fold in 1992 and 1993, resulting in higher rates of infection among humans.

A warmer and wetter climate could also increase pollens and spores making hay fever and asthma more common.

The report suggests a link between the higher incidence of water-borne diseases and climate change. Shrinking supplies 'could, in turn reduce the water available for drinking and washing, and lower the efficiency of local sewerage systems, leading to increased concentration of pathogenic organisms in raw water supplies. Water scarcity may result in the use of poorer quality sources of fresh water, such as rivers, which are often contaminated. All of these factors could result in an increase in diarrhoeal diseases.'

Food security

Dr Slooff considers that one of the greatest future problems for Africa may be food shortages stemming from temperature changes, reduced rainfall and even increased high winds.

In Senegal, for example, using current rainfall patterns as the basis for the calculation, a 4°C

warming would reduce crop yields by 30% by the middle of the next century — depriving between 1 million and 2 million people of domestically produced cereals. In Zimbabwe, a 2°C temperature increase would mean that yields currently attained in seven out of every ten years would only be achieved in two to four years of any given ten-year period. In Kenya, by contrast, climate change might help increase total agricultural production — although it would also exacerbate food shortages in semi-arid areas.

And the sensitivity of zooplankton to ultraviolet light caused by ozone depletion, could further weaken the food chain and reduce fish stocks.

Small islands

Small island states in the Caribbean and Pacific could suffer most from rising sea levels; with flooding affecting sewage and water systems. 'In many cases, local environmental factors, such as uncontrolled coastal development and mining of sand and coral are increasing this vulnerability,' says the report. 'Studies that would allow definitive statements to be made about the potential effects of sea level rise on human health are lacking, however.' Countries especially at risk are thought to be the Maldives, the Marshall islands, Kiribati and Tonga.

Delta areas could also face flooding and consequential health problems. For example, a 1 metre rise in sea level would inundate 15 000 km² around the Niger delta in Nigeria. Given that conventional protection measures do not appear to be feasible here, this could force around half a million people to relocate.

Action

Having rung the alarm bell, the report goes on to suggest further specific research, which, of course, will cost money. It also draws up various prescriptions to ward off the possible health hazards and strongly warns against a 'wait and see approach.' It points out that a lot still has to be learned about patterns of health response even to natural climatic

fluctuations and about the ways in which complex ecosystems respond to changing climate conditions.

Along with continued research, the report suggests various preventive measures. These include the planting of trees to reduce urban heat, scheduling of outdoor work to avoid peak daytime temperatures, the development of climate-adjusted plant species through genetic engineering and better land-use planning to minimise the poor siting of residential areas. It also lays emphasis on tackling the causes of climate change, through for example, control of greenhouse gas emissions. In poorer nations, one measure could be more widespread use of low-cost solar energy cookers instead of wood-burning devices which result in more forests being chopped down.

Greater availability of family planning to avoid the strain on natural resources is recommended. Between 2025-2100, about a quarter of the global increase in carbon dioxide emissions is expected to arise from population growth. And yet studies suggest that just 1% of aid from international donors is currently spent on family planning. A modest increase to between 2% and 3% would suffice to make family planning services accessible worldwide by around the year 2000.

Finally, more North-South technology transfers are needed: 'Economically sustainable development will only be possible if environmentally sound technology is transferred from industrialised to developing countries. Pollutant emissions will be reduced and the global community will benefit.' If this does not happen, the report warns, poorer nations will have no financial incentives to refrain from using cheap but energy inefficient technologies. And it starkly warns that if wealthy countries are not willing to share their expertise, they 'cannot expect poorer nations unilaterally to forego the short-term profits to be obtained from use of their natural resources'.

D.P.

The effects of climate change

Drought in the Sahel

Life in the Sahel was always harsh but the droughts in the 1970s and 1980s brought the worst suffering in living memory to the inhabitants of the region. In this abridged article, Ibrahim Ag Litny, a former trainee at the European Commission (who comes from the Sahel), describes how drought has affected the land and the people.

Climate change has been the subject of numerous studies and many scientific articles have been devoted to it. Researchers have been confronted with a large number of problems: the extreme diversity of situations from one region to the next, difficulties in maintaining a detached view of what is happening, the interaction between phenomena on a global scale, and so on. Scientists can provide increasingly sophisticated descriptions of the nature of these phenomena but remain cautious about the exact causes. As a result, they hesitate to predict what will happen next. This view is certainly borne out by studies in the Sahel. Since the big drought of the early 1970s, a number of theories have been advanced based on different methods of study (numerical modelling, radio-sonde investigations and satellite observations).

The main purpose of this article is to focus on the impact of drought from the point of view of the Sahel's inhabitants. Their lives have been changed irreversibly by the catastrophe, with livestock decimated, harvests ruined and plantlife severely affected.

Historically, the Sahel climate has been distinguished by a single brief rainy season (June to September) and an annual rainfall of anything from 100 mm to 3000 mm. Recent drought cycles, beginning in 1972 and 1983, appear to have been abnormal even by these highly variable standards. This

view is supported by looking at meteorological data obtained from various sources throughout the past century. During previous dry decades in the region (1907-1916 and 1940-1949) the actual drought periods lasted between two and three years and looking further back, it is estimated that such weather conditions recurred at intervals of between 20 and 100 years. The drought which began in 1972 was more extreme. It was drier, lasted longer (5 years) and covered a much larger area (5 million square kilometres). And it was barely ten years before the problem recurred.

With modern technologies, scientists nowadays are much better able to study 'natural' rainfall patterns in the region — looking at the way the African monsoon interacts with global weather. Further advances are predicted with the continuing development of satellite imaging. But there is increasing evidence that human behaviour is also having an effect on the climate. People began to talk about 'self-perpetuating desertification' following the droughts of the 1970s. The proposition here is that anthropogenic pressures on ecosystems — caused by overgrazing, bush fires and wood-cutting — lead to a vicious circle. In simple terms overgrazing results in desertification, and the ground then reflects more light (the albedo increases). With the earth absorbing less solar radiation, heat flows (convection currents) from the surface are reduced resulting in even less rainfall — and more desertification.

Satellite observation allows us to chart desert encroachment but no-one has yet been able to prove how much this is due to the increasing albedo.

The science is obviously complex and there are a great many other elements that need to be entered into the equation. And

despite the advances made recently, suitable data remain in short supply.

The implications of drought

More than a fifth of the world's population lives in arid zones and is threatened by desertification, but the Sahel is usually the first to come to mind when drought is mentioned. The acuteness of the problem in this part of the globe has almost certainly been exacerbated by overpopulation. In a number of areas, natural resources are increasingly being consumed without any possibility of renewal.

When the drought struck in the 1970s, the region had record numbers of livestock and more land under cultivation than ever before. In Niger, for example, livestock numbers increased threefold between 1946 and 1968. This was due to a combination of factors including favourable rainfall; the development of water distribution systems in grazing areas; and improved veterinary care and animal vaccination facilities.

The overcrowding of grazing areas was exacerbated by the presence of herders forced out of their traditional lands by pressure from arable farmers. As rainfall levels decreased, water-dependent crops were planted more extensively to make up the shortfall. In addition, fields were no longer left lying fallow. This led to a reduction in woodland and the disappearance of certain plant species, while the quality of the remaining grazing land deteriorated. There were more disputes between nomadic herders and arable farmers.

The herders of the Sahel, and the Tuaregs in particular, have experienced periods of extreme drought in the past. The dry periods of 1913, 1943 and 1953 are etched in their folk memory. But the drought of 1972-1973 seems to



Vivient Unwers

have been far worse. Is this because it was so extreme, or because the people had given up their traditional ways of combating the problem?

In the past, the stock-rearing Tuaregs managed their pastures and water resources by moving from one area to another depending on the needs of their animals and the season. For example, at the end of the rainy season, each type of livestock was taken to an appropriate pasture. Grazing around wells was generally confined to the dry season, when the animals needed a lot of water. The absence of rigid frontiers meant that when conditions in one area were unexpectedly harsh, the people could take their herds to more promising terrain. But by the time of the drought in the 1970s, these traditional strategies were disappearing. Tuareg society had lost many of its internal structures, and external constraints prevented the people from moving as freely as they had done in the past.

The herders were the first to feel the effect of the drought. By January 1973, there was virtually no grass and the animals were led back to the wells. The situation deteriorated as the plant cover receded further and inland pools of water began to dry up. Crops failed, there was the inevitable overgrazing, and the areas around the wells were trampled. The distances between water and pasture increased.

The nomads stayed in the transhumance zones for a long time in the expectation of rain. And as the drought's grip increased, more and more animals died. This reduced the meat available for human consumption —

Tuaregs watering their animals in the Sahel region of Niger.

Over one fifth of the world's population is at risk from desertification.

and then people began to die from dehydration. The first victims were children who no longer had milk to drink. It was only as a last resort that the herders moved north and south to the cities. Impoverished, many of them died from sickness and famine.

Despite the terrible suffering, the drought experiences of 1972-73 and of 1983-84 have prompted some positive changes. In the past, the stock-raising methods of the Sahel herders often entailed nothing more than waiting for nature to take its course. But many people (in particular the Tuaregs) have adapted enormously. Some have given up their nomadic way of life to become wage-earners or small businesspeople. Others have chosen a semi-nomadic lifestyle, working for wages in the city for part of the year and returning to their traditional herding during the rainy season. Many herders, however, remain strongly attached to their traditional way of life.

Disappearing values

The traditional form of education, based on the values of nomadic stock-rearing, was badly affected by the drought. The old moral values were also greatly undermined when people went into the camps where food aid was available — and lost control over their own fate. Customs relating to food and dress disappeared. People began to eat fruit, vegetables, fish and tinned products and ceased wearing traditional costumes. Various social barriers began to break down as well. The

idea of 'working for a living' took hold, boosting the status of manual work. Wage-earning encouraged integration in cities.

Needless to say, livestock numbers fell dramatically. In Niger, it is estimated that 63% of cattle, 47% of sheep, 33% of goats and 38% of camels were lost in 1973. In the northern region of Mali, the herders say that losses exceeded 80%. And in the aftermath, people appeared willing for the first time to reduce their herd sizes.

Damaged environment

These changes are beneficial, but we still need to consider how land used for herding can be managed in a balanced way. Natural ecosystems must be given the opportunity to recover. Can this be done without neglecting the human aspect and destroying a traditional way of life?

There is no clear answer as yet but the signs are not particularly encouraging. The long-term effect of drought has been progressively to reduce plant cover in the Sahel. Since the 1950s, the area of arid and extreme-arid territory in Africa has grown by 54 million hectares. The recent succession of droughts has prompted an even greater decline in most ligneous species of plant. Thus, for example, there are far fewer bushes growing on sand dunes. In many places, only the most resistant species have survived, and even they have thinned out a lot. Non-ligneous plants have also suffered changes. Overall cover has diminished and a number of previously hardy species have become rarer. Meanwhile other, previously rare, species have become more common.

Climate change certainly appears to be affecting the ecosystem of the Sahel. And the herders who know the territory are in no doubt that the land is becoming more impoverished as a result. ■

I.A.L.

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme

by Pene Lefale*

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for coordinating and facilitating sustainable environmental development in the Pacific. Established in 1982, its goal is to promote regional cooperation in environmental matters, to protect and improve the shared environment, and to work towards sustainable development.

The organisation's members include 22 Pacific Island nations and territories and four metropolitan countries. The Pacific island members are among the countries of the world most vulnerable to climate change, and in particular, sea level rise. Most are low-lying islands and atolls, many no more than a few meters above sea level, with populations and economic activities concentrated in coastal areas. Moreover, these countries are situated in areas particularly prone to natural disasters from extreme climatic events (cyclones, droughts and floods), which could be exacerbated by global warming and sea level rise.

In response to this, SPREP set up a Climate Change Pro-

gramme (CLIP) in 1990, to coordinate and implement all climate and sea level rise activities in the region. The overall goal is to help its members understand the science and likely impacts, so that appropriate measures and policies are developed for the governments of the region. The two components of this programme are sea-level rise and meteorology. SPREP's other main role is political, representing Pacific island countries at international climate negotiations.

Current programmes include a project, with Australian funding, which provides assistance in assessing the potential impacts of climate and sea level changes, and in preparing and implementing adaptation strategies. Another programme, with Japanese funding, provides assistance to Fiji, Tuvalu and Western Samoa to develop a coastal zone management programme.

In the field of meteorology, the main objective is to coordinate and facilitate meteorological activities in the region. SPREP acts as a point of contact for regional and international organisations involved in meteorological research in the area. One of the current activities is the implementation of a US Department of Energy programme to measure atmosphere

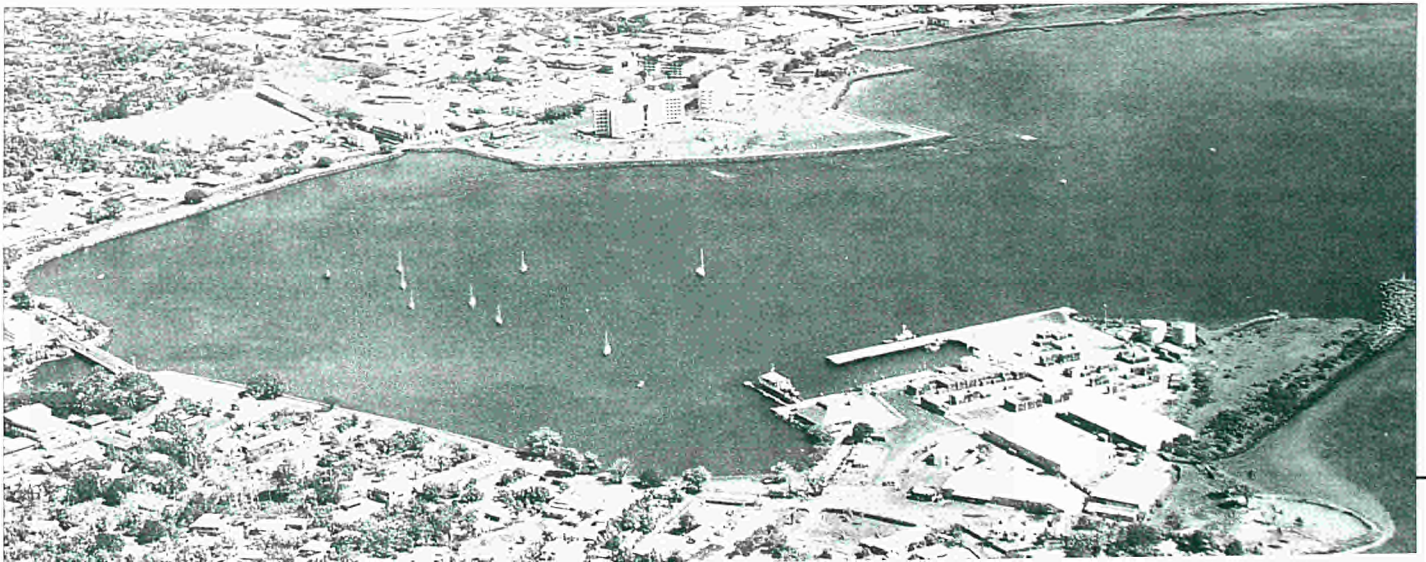
and radiation, thereby strengthening the capacity of the meteorological services.

Countries which have signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change are obliged to report on the measures they have taken to limit emission growth. SPREP has set up the Pacific Island Action Programme (PICAP) to enable countries in the region to meet these obligations. This focuses on scientific research, impact assessment, response options; and developing national communications and implementing plans. The programme will be operated in 10 countries which have ratified the UNFCCC (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tuvalu). ■

P.L.

*Climatology/Meteorology Officer at SPREP

*Populations and economic activities are concentrated in coastal areas
This is Apia in Western Samoa*



UNDP highlights alternative energy sources

If energy consumption is causing global warming, then there are at least 1.5 billion people in the world who can hardly be blamed. For this, according to a recent report by the United Nations Development Programme, is the number who still have no access to electricity. The Report, entitled *Energy after Rio: Prospects and Challenges*, highlights the critical linkage between energy and development. And although its focus is on the need to give the world's poorest people access to energy, the message is underpinned by the environmental imperative, with a consistent emphasis on sustainable sources.

According to the Report: 'Energy is directly related to the most pressing social issues which affect sustainable development. Implementing sustainable energy strategies is one of the most important levers humankind has for creating a sustainable world.' It goes on to underline the severe environmental consequences of fossil fuel combustion — the method used to generate 76% of the world's primary energy. These consequences include air pollution, acid rain and increased atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases.

The UNDP's *Anders Wijkman*, who is Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, points out that energy needs in the growing economies of the developing world will increase dramatically in the next 20 years. 'We must ensure that the energy investments made today are in the state-of-the-art renewable and clean energy techniques now available.'

The report also notes that heavy dependence on imported fossil fuels has led to foreign debt problems in developing countries. It argues that investment in alternative energy technologies, that require less foreign exchange, 'would release capital for other development needs.' Meanwhile, conventional energy systems are said to be heavily supported by taxpayers, resulting in market distortions. Worldwide, it is claimed, subsidies are running at a staggering \$250-\$300 billion annually, with developing countries spending no less than \$50 billion on supporting this sector.

The Director of the UNDP Energy and Atmosphere Programme, *Thomas Johansson* (interviewed in the Meeting Point), stresses the development potential of sustainable energy. 'It can be used as an instrument for creating rural jobs, for example through bioenergy, while new technologies offer opportunities for affordable and vastly improved energy services.'

Increased access to energy is essential, the Report says, in providing improved health care, education, housing, water and sanitation for people living in poverty — with women, in particular, benefiting. The substitution of traditional stoves with cleaner, high efficiency ones will cut smoke-related health problems that disproportionately affect women and children. Relief from time-consuming activities like firewood and water collection would allow women

to invest their time in income-generating activities.

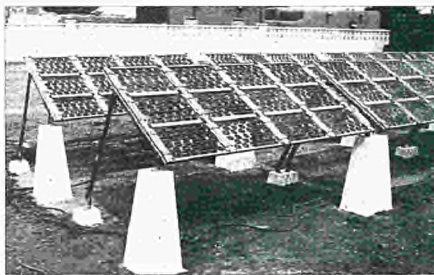
The adverse impacts of conventional energy systems can be mitigated by reducing consumption or shifting to renewable and clean fossil fuel technologies. More energy can be generated from the same or lower inputs through improved efficiency. The potential savings are said to be substantial — between 20% and 50% in existing energy installations and between 50% and 90% when new and modern equipment is installed.

The UNDP Report offers an enthusiastic assessment of the possible impact on developing countries of recent technological advances. 'In fuel-based electric power generation, there are good prospects for routinely achieving efficiencies of 60-70%' and perhaps even more in the longer term.

Improving the efficiency of fossil fuel burning may help to reduce pollution but there are some options which result in no emissions at all. Until recently, there was a tendency to dismiss forms of energy which leave the atmosphere unscathed, on the grounds that they could never significantly reduce our reliance on conventional sources. The day that we all get our power from 'zero-emission' sources is certainly a long way off (and it may never come) but the UNDP Report illustrates how the thinking has changed. Wind power, it states, 'is technologically ready to be deployed as a major option for providing electricity.' The same is true of solar energy. Photovoltaic cells used on a small-scale, stand alone power applications and solar thermal electric power are already important 'renewable' options. The Report also mentions fuel cells that convert hydrogen fuel directly into electricity without first burning it to produce heat. These, it claims, have high thermodynamic efficiency, low maintenance requirements, and near-zero pollution emissions.

Finally, the Report recommends a move towards the use of modern biofuel technologies. These, it states, offer great promise for fuel production and electricity generation in the rural parts of developing countries. Growing and processing biomass for energy will create jobs in economically depressed rural areas. In addition, increased use of decentralised renewable energy technologies should promote job growth by attracting industries that require access to low-cost electricity. ■

Ed S.H.



Documentation française — Y. Travers

Solar panels used to generate electricity for a hospital in Mali

John Robertson: economic consultant from Zimbabwe

Property rights are a key to successful development

In the last issue of *The Courier*, we interviewed a number of key figures and development 'players' for our 'Green Paper' Dossier — posing a series of common questions about the future of ACP-EU relations. Below, we offer another contribution in this 'series' from John Robertson, a Zimbabwean economic consultant. He believes that

a lot more emphasis should be placed on helping ACP countries adapt to the realities of modern liberal economics. He has some pointed things to say about aid, arguing for a critical re-examination of its effects. And he offers some innovative suggestions about the direction of future cooperation.*

■ *Should any aspects of the Lomé Convention remain intact?*

— Although most of the emphasis in the Green Paper is on political and developmental issues, the most important, and perhaps least-valued benefit of the Lomé Convention is the access that ACP countries have to Europe's markets for manufactured goods. I believe this aspect is the one that the ACP countries should be most anxious to see retained. However, figures for recent years might suggest that trade in general has been given much less attention than political and aid-related issues. In relative terms, trade volumes have deteriorated. The table shows that ACP exports to the EU have become a smaller proportion of total EU imports since 1976, and from 1985 to 1994, they even fell as a proportion of the EU's imports from developing countries in general. The onus is on the ACPs themselves to step up their efforts to supply



goods that meet the needs of the extremely discriminating European consumer. The fall-off revealed in the table should not necessarily be read as evidence of European resistance to ACP exports.

The Green Paper spells out a number of options that could apply from the year 2000: arrangements with single countries or with groups of countries, differentiated agreements compared with a more generalised approach, and reciprocal trade policies versus non-reciprocal ones. However, if the ACPs are to make the most of their remarkable, but seriously neglected advantages, the questions that need the closest attention are those relating to how industrial investment might be promoted and how existing operations might be brought up to the standards required by European consumers.

■ *What changes would be welcome for the ACPs?*

— The removal of subsidies within the EU, under the Common

Agricultural Policy, would put all ACP countries in a better position to gain market share in those agricultural products that can be grown more efficiently in tropical and sub-tropical regions. As so many countries would be competing for the markets made reachable through the abolition of EU subsidies, prices would be keen and the costs to European consumers of many imported foods and industrial materials would fall significantly. The taxes raised to pay EU subsidies could be cut, leaving purchasing power higher, and improving the sales prospects for manufactured goods exported from ACP countries.

■ *How should one take account of the growing divergences between developing countries in general and the ACPs in particular?*

— Although ACP countries often strenuously resist debate on the possible advantages that colonisation might have brought, many were left with a legacy of institutions and productive assets that have allowed them to play an active part in international trade since they gained their independence. Some have preserved and developed what they inherited, others have sought to revert to their pre-colonial states, which were largely feudal in nature, and others still became embroiled in civil wars from which they have only recently started to recover.

So many of the consequences of colonialism have been negative that it is difficult to sustain any serious discussion on the advantages that might have accrued to specific countries. However, nobody could deny that some have put those 'unacceptable' advantages to good use while others have squandered them.

Few generalisations can be made that allow ACP states to be readily distinguished from non-ACP developing countries. Considering the range encompassed by Eastern Europe, South and Central

EU imports	1976	1980	1985	1990	1992	1994
All non-EU (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
from ACP (%)	6.7	7.2	6.7	4.7	3.7	2.8
from all LDCs (%)	44.8	42.4	34.7	31.2	29.9	34.2
ACP as % of LDCs	14.9	17.0	19.3	15.1	12.4	8.2

* The Courier is grateful to the European Commission Delegation in Zimbabwe which arranged this interview on our behalf.

America, South East Asia, the Middle East, the Pacific islands and Africa, this is hardly surprising. However, there is one aspect that distinguishes these countries from those in the EU. In all of them, individual rights to freehold property are, in some way, less developed, less secure or less protected. I believe this is the most basic reason of all for the generally poor performance of the world's developing countries.

In Section A2, Chapter III of the Green Paper, some of the causes of slow growth in sub-Saharan Africa are considered. Reference is made to high budget deficits, overvalued currencies, excessive market regulation, protectionism and poor management. But completely absent from the list is the fact that most of the land in these countries is not in the market, and has no commercial value. Thus, it cannot be used as collateral to support bank loans for its own development. The concept of property rights, and all that means and can lead to, is a far more fundamental characteristic separating countries classified as less-developed from those that have become developed.

Prerequisites for development are dealt with in Section B1 of Chapter III. These are listed as a minimum degree of social cohesion, a minimum of macro-economic stability and minimum conditions for an efficient allocation of resources. The authors might claim that somewhere in there is the requirement that the land should be owned by individuals — who would be encouraged to develop it by their security of tenure and resourcefulness; empowered to develop it through their access to loan capital on the strength of its collateral value; and be motivated by the knowledge that in its more developed state, it would yield a larger and more reliable income as well as attract a higher price in the market place. But if it is in there, I can't see it. My point is that if this issue is being addressed at all, it is not being done with anything like the precision or insistence needed to make an impact on people whose approach to land is keeping them in a state of underdevelopment and making

them permanent candidates for aid — that surprisingly never seems to solve their problems.

More deliberate and relentless attention should be drawn to the fact that individual ownership rights and security of tenure are among the essential requirements of an economic system that is expected to work with any degree of efficiency. The same property rights can even be said to set the democratic world apart from the non-democratic. The few exceptions that can be identified do not alter the general claim being made here, which is that the resourcefulness of people is best released, and the empowerment of people best realised, through the creation and full acceptance of individual property rights, backed by a legal system that protects those rights and permits formal changes in ownership.

'Individual ownership rights and security of tenure are among the essential requirements of an economic system'

The Green Paper makes rather oblique references to some of these issues in Chapter V, Section B, but it does little more than skirt round the idea that institutional reform proposals should form part of the EU's development initiatives. I believe that very much more incisive statements are needed to define the problem and spell out the specific measures that need to be taken. I would go further and say that if the EU is expected to contribute further aid to any country, it should be offered only on condition that the right steps are being taken to empower the people through the conferring of ownership rights to land.

It is true that the recognition of individual property rights for ordinary people took some time to evolve in Europe, but the vital contribution made by these rights to the development process was quickly recognised by other countries. Perhaps most significantly, the system was embraced

by the newly-independent United States. It formed the core of the freedoms and rights of the common people and, in time, came to be the foundation of the success of the wealthiest economy on Earth. Another example is Japan. Having recognised the immense leverage available to individuals who, by working with banks, could employ the collateral value of their own fixed assets to initiate and advance development schemes, the Japanese permitted the feudal system to give way to an enterprise culture in a fraction of the time taken in Europe.

■ *Should the role of aid be re-defined in order to improve its impact?*

— One aspect of the Lomé Convention's impact needs a more critical re-examination than we have hitherto seen. In Section B of Chapter V in the Green Paper, the point is made, almost as an afterthought, that the EU could use new aid practices to try and reduce negative effects on local capacity-building. This statement indicates that the important first step has been taken — EU policy-makers have recognised, and apparently accepted, the evidence that by their nature, some aid programmes interfere with the capacity-building process in LDCs. But a more important watershed has still to be reached — the point where ACP policy-makers find they cannot ignore the same evidence. Unfortunately, they have tended to welcome and support all aid inflows without question, and not always for reasons that do them credit.

In the same section of the Green Paper, the question of whether the EU should become more involved in institutional development is discussed. It appears that the links between current social and political structures in most developing countries and their disappointing rates of economic progress are being acknowledged. The development of 'certain capabilities needed to cope with the operation of a market economy' is mentioned as a field which lies within the EU's sphere of action. All these points home in on the important issues of motivating the

people in the LDCs in general and the ACP countries in particular to work harder to discover and attend to what is holding them back.

Aid seldom seems to have promoted this search for the causes of developing countries' problems. More often, it appears to have the opposite effect of making them dependent on the problems persisting — so that the aid flows continue or, better still, increase. Aid can have other distorting effects. It draws in imports from donor countries, which often undermine or ruin companies in recipient states that have invested in capacity to make the same products. Tender procedures for projects may favour foreign suppliers over domestic ones, and this tendency is often prompted by corrupt local officials who can extract bribes from foreign suppliers but not from locals. Aid inflows bolster foreign reserves and help keep domestic currencies too strong, encouraging the growth of imports and causing export revenue to decline. They usually allow governments to become careless and to relax on internal disciplines. And aid frequently releases other money that can be stolen by corrupt officials, while it adds to inflation by holding money supply too high.

In many cases, aid is granted on the condition that the funds are spent only in the country donating the money. This leads to collusion and price-fixing by the main suppliers of that country. Better prices would be obtained if the LDC was to go direct to international tender for its purchases. This would enable it to get the product it wants at a price it can afford from suppliers who will try hard to meet delivery dates and supply to specifications. By contrast, having to buy from predetermined suppliers results in offers of badly-suited equipment at cartel prices, delivered without guarantees and long after the due date.

If aid flows are thought to be essential to the needs of the donors for some reason, then they should be directed into education to close the knowledge gap between the donors and the recipi-

ents. This would help make future aid flows less necessary.

■ *What will be the impact of economic globalisation on development cooperation?*

— Economic blocs are certain to control the patterns of trade in the future and Southern Africa, if not all of sub-Saharan Africa, should work quickly to create the mechanisms and institutions that will enable the region to be taken seriously by the other major economic groupings. Assistance from the EU and the World Bank could be directed more deliberately to set a much more demanding pace for change. This is needed in Africa. Aid has formed such a part of our lives for so long that many African governments feel no sense of urgency or ambition to solve the continent's problems.

The phrase 'development cooperation' in the question carries with it the suggestion that a two-way relationship exists between the ACPs and Europe. The phrase is mostly euphemistic, disguising the known fact that the only cooperation of any consequence is Europe's decision to be charitable and the developing world's willingness to accept the handouts. We will only graduate from this status when we can trade with the rest of the world on an equal footing. We will not graduate while Europe remains paternalistic and while we continue to be patronised with undeserved aid and treated continually as a special case.

■ *To what extent will the European integration process affect the future of ACP-EU relations? How do you envisage the role of the EU in its own right?*

— The removal of internal barriers to the free movement of goods and services within the EU and, in due course, the adoption of a common currency by most of the countries, will impact on the ACP states mainly by the increasing self-reliance of Europe as a unit. Each EU member country will gain more efficient and cost-effective access to the products of the others. Despite former colonial linkages to the different ACP states, the EU countries may well

move further away from their traditional trading patterns. After all, it is individual traders and distributors who make the decisions on where to source their needs — and they will be looking to issues other than emotional ties or dated patriotic duty when they place their orders.

No doubt the raw material supplies that make up a large part of ACP exports will still be needed in Europe. But for the ACPs, this limited success with primary products will be accompanied by the same old disadvantages. Investors, who may well be domiciled in Europe or elsewhere, gain a sufficient return, but the people in the developing country have had to settle for the basic income derived from the extraction or semi-processing of the commodities. This often results in local industries — and sometimes whole countries — remaining underdeveloped.

The challenge now for ACP states is to attract vigorous investment flows into processing and manufacturing industries that can add value to their commodities, and to bring the standard of their finished items up to those required by the world's more developed countries. As part of the strategy, they need to attract as much of the investment as possible from multinational corporations that are based in the countries offering the best markets for value-added or finished goods. By offering attractive export processing zone facilities, many ACP countries have already made significant strides in the industrialisation drive. But a great deal more must be done to bring the volume and breadth of investment to a point where self-sustaining growth can take place.

In seeking to help achieve this, the EU's role should be to shift its generosity from aid-related activities to advice and institution-building programmes leading to investment promotion and support. Education and assistance with skills development is, in any case, the far most preferable form of aid. Once these steps have been taken, the challenge for the ACP countries should be to learn to accept that the market place should be the final judge of their success.

Dakar's Kermel market

The rediscovered soul of a witness to history

by Chrescht Klein* and Giordano-Bruno Martelli**

In Africa, the principal role of a great market is to meet the people's needs for basic foodstuffs and other consumer products. With its predominantly informal atmosphere, a market is often a place of exchange and encounter, bearing witness to man's dynamism and inventiveness. Dakar's Kermel market fulfils such a function, but it is also one those structures which encapsulates something of the history and tradition of a people. Devastated by fire in 1993, it was reconstructed thanks to technical and financial help from the European Union and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The authors describe the historical, architectural and economic significance of this structure in the very heart of Dakar and the various stages in its reconstruction.

Kermel through its history and architecture

The name 'Kermel' is a corruption of 'Quermel', the patronymic of a French frigate commander who governed the infamous Ile de Gorée and was interim governor of the colony of Senegal between 1832 and 1834. He died in 1847, but it was his name which, in 1864, was given to the first market designed by the colony's highways department. This warehouse structure, built to protect perishable goods from dust, rain and sun, had an unembellished style, with metal posts and roof. At that time, all that mattered was to have a functional infrastructure to meet elementary principles of hygiene and reduce



Association with the Arab/Muslim world.
One of the market's three portals

the proliferation of street traders selling their goods on the bare ground.

The conversion of this simple warehouse into a market on an almost monumental scale at the beginning of the 20th century can be understood only with reference to the colonial ideological project — for which a slight historical detour is needed!

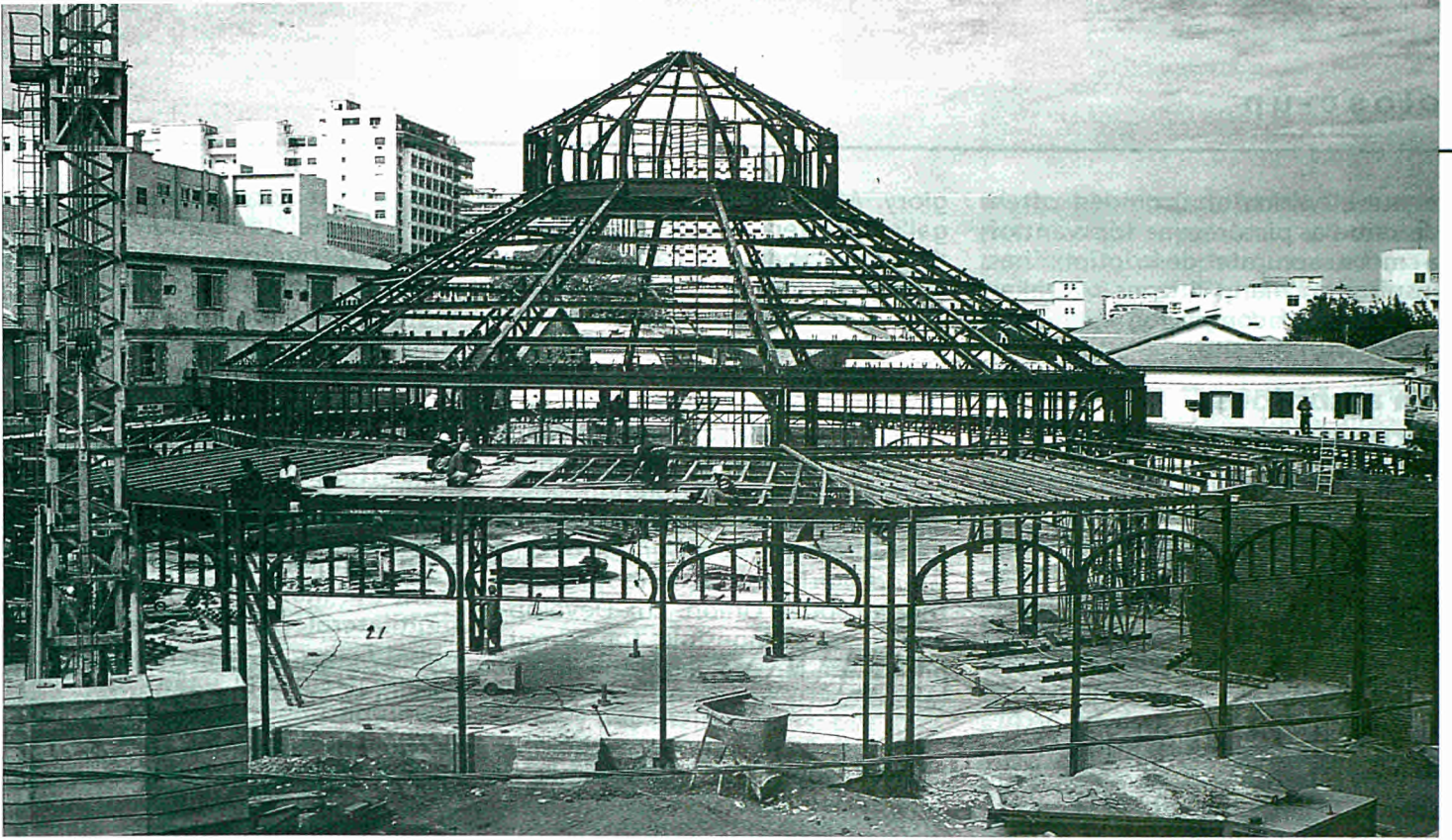
The age of conquest in the 19th century gave way in black Africa to a time of administration of territory and colonisation of peoples, marked by the creation of a vast federation — the AOF (French West Africa) — centred on the city of Dakar. The colonial grand design — which aimed, in particular, to transform the mental outlook of the 'natives' — was not just based on the exploitation of their labour. The indigenous peoples also had to adhere to a new

model of 'civility'. The city-dwelling African who participated directly in the colony's economy and lived in or near the same districts as the westerners (the 'native' district of Medina in Dakar was founded about 10 years after Kermel was built), was meant to become an 'enlightened person', imbued with French values. At the time, there was only the Kermel market in central Dakar and its architecture, chosen after a 'closed' competition on 31 October 1907, is completely original, in all senses of the word. As a building, it is unusual for Dakar, and a unique example of the neo-Moorish style.

Construction work began in 1908 and was completed two years later. The edifice was built using metal components manufactured in France and transported separately. It respects most of the principles of colonial architecture of the time and also contemporary hygiene standards. It has a circular gallery around the main body of the building, with natural ventilation via the walls and roof. On site, owing to the lack of a specialised local workforce, work was limited to constructing the building's skeleton, raising the brick walls and installing decorative friezes, which were also imported from France. Although its structure and general size evoke similar great metal market buildings designed in France by *Baltard*, the building's spacious character makes it appear remote from the ordinary citizen — it is virtually impossible to see in from the outside. The facades are hidden by traders' stalls, but the three great porch-style entrances give it an 'exotic' character. These are much higher than the facade and are in keeping with the imposing mass of the central body of the building. They rise to the lower level of the roof and contribute to the sense of equilibrium emanat-

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Commission

ing from the structure as a whole. Their shape immediately evokes the Arab/Muslim world, an impression which is reinforced by alternating white and red bricks. This type of porch is curiously reminiscent of certain entrances in the old *madrasas* in Fez, in Morocco. Although the shape of the arch and the interplay of colours are characteristic elements of the Arab world's religious architecture (particularly in the mosque at Córdo-

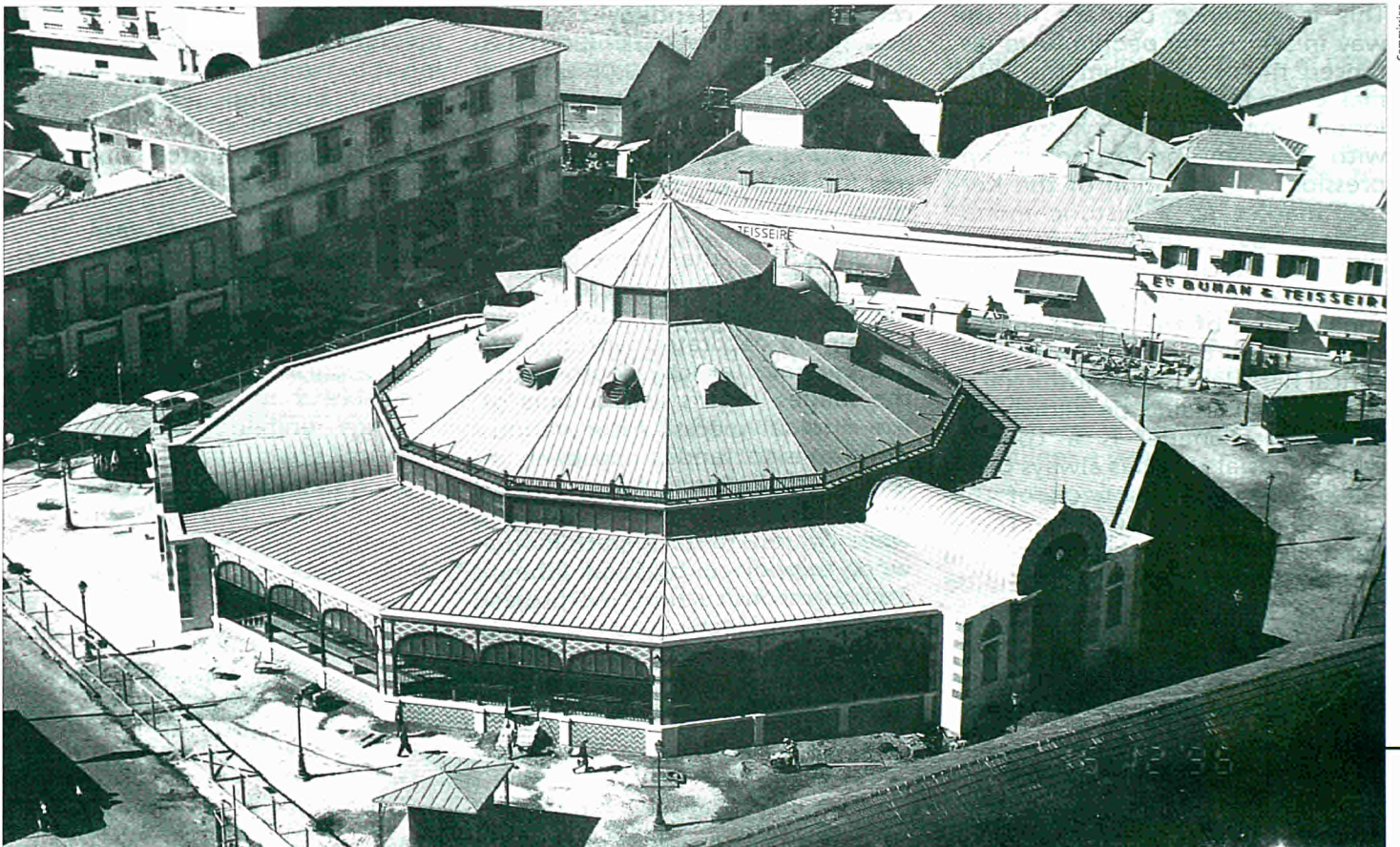
ba), they have long been an inspiration for western builders, as is evidenced by the two-colour vaulting in *Vézelay's* Romanesque basilica.

In a somewhat solitary way, Kermel bears witness, in today's Senegal, to a particular moment in history. Although, in historical terms, the building recalls an era in the political process of 'regionalising' dependent terri-

Construction of the metal framework

tories when colonialism was at its height, in aesthetic terms it is the product of a little-known creative genre based on the formal analysis of 'local' cultural symbols (which was later to inspire the champions of 'Negro-African' architecture). Nevertheless, this 'singular' archi-

The finished article



Commission

ecture, which the guides often describe as picturesque for want of a more accurate description, has inspired in many citizens of Dakar a feeling of complicity, even intimacy, with the site.

An ambitious reconstruction project

Located in the Le Plateau district, the Kermel market has always been the centre of the original old town. It began as a colonial market and then became the place where the Senegalese middle classes, aid workers and tourists could buy 'top-of-the-range' foodstuffs and crafts. And through its architecture, it gave this old quarter — indeed, the city as a whole — a strong urban character. For many decades, it dominated the district whose other buildings were nearly all warehouses and single-storey shops. Nowadays, it is no longer such a visible landmark, but it has retained a special place because of the way in which the space is organised. It developed into a commercial centre which eclipsed even the great Place de l'Indépendance.

Destroyed by fire on 23 September 1993, the disappearance of the old Kermel market was lamented by the entire Senegalese press — although they avoided reference to the colonial character of the building in their reports. This is evidence perhaps of the way in which the people have distanced themselves from the colonial era whose physical traces no longer appear to be synonymous with cultural and economic oppression. Classification of the Kermel market as a historic monument by the Senegalese government confirms its place in the nation's history, and in the construction of the capital in particular. As part of the country's historical heritage, it was unthinkable that Kermel should be allowed to disappear. Senegal is a country where special care has always been taken to preserve aspects of the cultural past. In other words, there was no question of the market not being reconstructed or of the site not being preserved.

After much debate at various levels, it was decided to restore the building to its former

glory. *Mrs Coura Ba Thiam*, Senegal's Minister of Culture, decided to set up a national committee for reconstruction of the monument. The idea attracted popular approval and in October 1993, the Luxembourg cooperation agency, Lux-Development, offered its services. Close collaboration between Senegal and the group of donors ensured that the rebuilding could go ahead. The work was cofinanced by the government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the European Union. Lux-Development was responsible for formulating the project and the initial technical studies.

Reconstructing the Kermel market became a priority in the Senegalese capital's development plan. Building work closely followed the original architectural style whilst improving functionality in line with up-to-date specifications. The new structure has a covered market hall with a floor area of 1940 m², three main entrance portals and three secondary entrances which can act as emergency exits. A basement, whose volume was increased to accommodate plant rooms and cold rooms for storing food products, was also provided.

The project, costing a total of ECU 4.85 million, was carried out using cofinancing. The EC's contribution essentially covered the construction work (ECU 1.8 million), while ECU 3.05 million was guaranteed by the Luxembourg government for the supply and fitting of materials and equipment, technical monitoring and study work.

Again, the framework of the new market is made up of metal components. The three main portals are decorated with numerous ceramics exactly reproducing the shapes, motifs and colours of the original pieces. After various invitations to tender had been issued, both in Senegal and in Luxembourg, a number of companies were chosen to take part in the work, supported by local labour. Besides reconstruction, the project had the objective to promote training of a specialised workforce and assist small local companies specialising in restoration work.

This labour force benefited from the 'Kermel operation' in two ways: technology transfer and training in the techniques of erecting a metal framework, manufacturing ceramic friezes and organising tasks on a building site.

The project was completed within the specified time thanks to the setting-up of a close-knit team composed of all the parties involved (architects, foreign and local engineers, representatives from the ministries concerned and multilateral organisations). It enabled Dakar to regain a structure of great cultural value and huge economic importance. With a total area of more than 2500 m², the new Kermel market will be home, once again, to commercial activities and will give the old part of the Le Plateau district many more facilities, both indoors and outdoors. Most of the 650 traders registered before the fire will now have a professional environment which fulfils all hygiene and safety requirements.

In terms of the preservation of heritage, it would be desirable for Dakar and its old town around Kermel to be redeveloped as a whole. The old building has been rebuilt but if it is to prove its worth, it must form part of a wider scheme of preservation and revival. One priority for the future should be to protect Kermel's immediate area. This means preventing the demolition of a number of ancient buildings in the district and ensuring that they do not disappear from the history of Dakar's oldest quarter. ■ C.K. & G-B.M.

Shanty dwellers build themselves a better future

by Venarcious Mwansa*

Like most developing countries, Zambia faces severe urban housing problems. Now, reports Gemini News Service, a self-help scheme is helping shanty families build more spacious homes for themselves.

46 year-old *Michael Nkupi* is a happy man. He and his family have just acquired a three-bedroomed house — a luxury compared with the one-room shanty home they had been living in. 'I feel great owning this house,' he says. He is a beneficiary of a new Low-Cost Housing Project set up in Lusaka and three other Zambian cities to provide poor families with decent accommodation.

Mr Nkupi built his new home with his wife, Catherine, who is proud of her newly-acquired construction skills. 'There are more women than men involved in this project', she points out. In fact, about 70% of the people registered with the project's residents' development committee are female — many of them single women who are not in formal employment. Most of the men participating in the scheme are also without steady work.

On the job training

Run as a partnership between the Zambian authorities, the French government and two United Nations agencies, the project operates on simple yet effective self-help lines. Participants are taught basic skills in bricklaying and producing building components such as bricks (made from laterite clay), roofing sheets, air vents and floor tiles — using local raw materials. They are given on-the-job training from experts such

as *Eric Bigot*, a French architect. They are not paid any money, nor do they pay their trainers, but they share what they produce with the housing project.

The incoming residents use their share to build their houses, while project organisers sell off the remainder to buy raw materials, which, in turn, are used by the participants to make more components. 'We pay only in terms of labour,' says one beneficiary, *Joseph Jere*. 'If you produce 2000 bricks, you get 1000 of these and the other 1000 go to the project.' Project manager, *Muyeba Chikonde* explains: 'The emphasis is placed on activities envisaged to improve living conditions of the communities as well as enhance their knowledge and skills.'

Councils used to provide cheap housing, but many local authorities have run into financial difficulties and have stopped building. In addition, a directive from *President Frederick Chiluba* for council houses to be sold to sitting tenants has reduced their availability. A decent house costs at least eight million kwacha (ECU 5300) to build — well out of the reach of many people, particularly the poor, whose monthly income might be only K30 000 (ECU 20).

Under the Low-Cost Housing Project, the actual cost of building a 50m² home, comprising three bedrooms, a kitchen, sitting room and bathroom, comes to less than K2 million, says *Philippe de la Bathie*, the French Ambassador to Lusaka, whose government has put \$500 000 into the scheme. The money is being spent on paying trainers, acquiring land from coun-

cils and buying materials that are not locally available. Wherever possible, local techniques and materials are used. 'This reduces costs to a minimum', says the envoy.

In Lusaka's Bauleni shanty district, where the project started last year, 25 houses have already been completed. One problem now is lack of available space. More than 50 people are waiting to build homes. 'We asked the (Lusaka City) Council for more land adjacent to the cemetery, but we are still waiting for their response', complains Mr Bigot.

Such space constraints are not being felt in Kabwe, Central Province — where 25 houses have been completed and more land has been allocated for the extension of the project in the Nakoli shanty district — or in Mufila (Copperbelt) and Mazubuka (Southern), where similar schemes are under way.

Way forward

National Housing Authority Chairman, *Watson Ngandu*, describes the programme as 'a way forward in the provision of decent housing for citizens'. And *Gary Davies*, head of the UNDP office, praises the efforts of Zambia's Housing Ministry, adding: 'Provision of cheaper housing for the urban poor is critical.'

However, life is not lived in complete luxury by the proud new house-owners of Bauleni. They are still waiting for running water and electricity to be provided. The authorities have not been able to keep up with demand as the surrounding shanty has grown, and only communal taps have been installed. Even these often run dry. The occupants' spirits are not dimmed though. One points to a small room, saying cheerfully: 'This is supposed to be a lavatory, but since there is no water, we will turn it into a pantry.'

Muyeba Chikonde assures them that proper utilities will eventually be provided — and points out that their homes are far superior to those they used to live in. ■

V.M.

* Zambian freelance journalist based in Lusaka. Article from Gemini News Service, 9 White Lion Street, London, NI 9PD, UK.

EU support for Zimbabwe's livestock sector

The present picture and some thoughts for the future

by Michael Laidler*, Claude Maerten** and Artur Runge-Metzger***

Livestock is one of the most important production enterprises in Zimbabwe's agriculture. This is the case for both smallholders and commercial farmers. For the smallholders, livestock provides predominantly and traditionally animal traction, and acts as a 'savings account' besides producing eggs, milk, meat etc. For commercial farmers, production of animal products is the most important aspect.

The livestock industry in Zimbabwe has faced tremendous challenges since the early 1990s. First, farmers experienced one of the most devastating droughts this century. Widespread shortages of water and grass, combined with high prices for foodstuffs, led to substantial reductions in livestock numbers, in particular cattle. Second, Government became the major player in the domestic financial markets because of increased public lending, in order to fill, notably, the financial gaps of loss-making parastatals. Farmers thus faced high real interest rates which hampered restocking in the years following the droughts. Third, because of market liberalisation and structural adjustment, the domestic market is becoming more open with new players. In Zimbabwe, the former Cold Storage Commission faces stiff competition from private abattoirs. Farmers have to look for their own markets.

However, there were also some new opportunities and developments, including the increase of wildlife ranching alongside the development of tourism. Another positive development was the fall

of apartheid in South Africa and the subsequent steps towards the economic and political integration of Southern Africa. This is accompanied by a firm political will to develop SADC further. Finally, the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations have to be mentioned as well.

The future will be no less challenging. The government wants to continue its economic reform process. The Ministry of Agriculture is drawing up the Agricultural Services and Management Programme, and the Agricultural Sector Investment Programme, which will see further changes in service delivery to farmers. Cost recovery, outsourcing, commercialisation, privatisation, and stakeholder participation are among the guiding principles of this process. The aim is to increase the productivity of farmers, and smallholders in particular, and to reduce poverty in rural areas of Zimbabwe. In view of the rather limited size of the domestic market, increased incomes will, to a large extent, depend on export opportunities. Therefore, any changes in the trade regime are being critically observed by Zimbabwean farmers and their allies in the Ministries of Agriculture, and Commerce and Industry. One of these changes will be the end of the Lomé IV Convention in the year 2000. Perhaps even more important, there will be new negotiations on the further liberalisation of agricultural trade at the WTO level, starting in 1998, as well as the economic integration of SADC Member States working towards a free trade area.

Below, we outline how the European Commission is supporting the livestock industry and describe the challenges for future cooperation with Zimbabwe. Three important areas will be briefly discussed: animal health, trade and environment.

Animal health

Animal health is one of the most important factors raising productivity levels and overall production. The Commission has, in particular, supported the control of tsetse and trypanosomosis. Approximately 40% of the annual budget of the Tsetse and Trypanosomosis Control Branch has been provided in the form of grants and loans from the Commission since 1986. In addition, a regional programme has been funded to strengthen national control activities in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Animal disease control is also an essential feature of international trade. The veterinary regulations of most of Zimbabwe's trading partners are very strong in order to avoid the spread of animal diseases across borders. In the 1990s, outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and Newcastle disease led to import bans on beef and poultry. The Commission has assisted in the field of foot and mouth control. During the last outbreak, the necessary vaccines were procured with financial assistance of the European Development Fund.

Apart from this, the EC has consistently supported the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences at the University of Zimbabwe since 1983.

Despite the importance of animal disease control, the Department of Veterinary Services and the Tsetse Control Branch have suffered progressive funding cuts since the mid-1980s. Delivery of veterinary services has become very difficult — at a time when countries worldwide are strengthening veterinary regulations governing imports and exports. For instance, the situation regarding foot and mouth disease is nowadays being monitored much more carefully by the International Office for Animal Diseases (OIE) and Zimbabwe has been classified as

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This is an abridged version of a recent presentation by Mr Laidler to a livestock symposium in Zimbabwe.

being at risk for FMD because cattle and buffalo are not yet separated completely through fences.

However, the two departments are well aware of this situation, and following helpful initiatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, both are heading towards a restructuring process. This should lead to improved delivery of animal health services. Over the next couple of years, opportunities for increased cost recovery, outsourcing, and privatisation will be examined. Some of these issues are very sensitive. For instance, increased cost recovery will only be acceptable if farmers have some right of choice or are otherwise empowered to influence the quality of service delivery. Another issue is outsourcing, which will inevitably lead to retrenchment in the public sector. The transition has to be carefully planned, otherwise there is a heavy risk that the reform process will be derailed by civil servants. Careful planning and implementation, however, should not delay the process unnecessarily, which would increase the risk of animal disease outbreaks due to further declining budgets.

Already, the Commission has assisted the Tsetse Control Branch in reviewing its internal structures by providing the services of an external consultant. In addition, a credit line for veterinarians is being opened in 1997 to enable them to establish private practices in the rural areas. The Commission will assist the two departments financially during the transition period. Improved animal disease control will help Zimbabwe to strengthen its position in terms of international trade.

At the SADC level, the improvement of disease surveillance and exchange of epidemiological data among SADC Member States is likely to become an important activity. Other initiatives will lead

to the improvement of SADC trade statistics. Enhanced collaboration and transparency are essential building blocks for increased trade.

Trade

Under the fourth Lomé Convention, Zimbabwe enjoys preferential trade arrangements with EU Member States. In the case of livestock, it is allowed to export 9100 tonnes of beef to the Union. For that quota, in addition to the exemption from *ad valorem* duty of about 17% granted to all ACP countries, import tariffs are reduced by 92%. The European market is very attractive for Zimbabwean cattle farmers because of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which raises prices for beef in Europe significantly above world market prices. In 1995, for instance, prices were 30% higher than in the United States. For Zimbabwean producers, this means an additional income of around Z\$ 200 million (ECU 16m).

In 1994 and 1995, Zimbabwe was able to increase beef exports to the EU beyond its quota because other ACP countries were not able to fill their quotas, and these were reallocated. However, in 1996, Zimbabwe did not meet its quota. This was partly because of the dwindling demand for beef by European consumers which led to falling prices. The Commission had to intervene heavily in the beef market. In October 1996 alone, intervention purchases amounted to 460 000 tonnes.

In addition, the EU is currently seen as an unfair competitor by many Zimbabwean farmers because it has increased its beef exports to South Africa. These used to run at about 5000 tonnes a year but jumped to 34 000 and 41 000

tonnes in 1994 and 1995, respectively. However, the quality of the beef is low, and the average price is only about Z\$14 per kilo. The rising trend was halted in 1996, because of BSE ('Mad Cow Disease') — two thirds of the exports came from the United Kingdom. Between January and September 1996, exports fell by 30% compared to the same period in 1995 — despite increased subsidies. Since the beginning of this year, the European Commission has lowered export subsidies from Z\$19 a kilo to Z\$5.7.

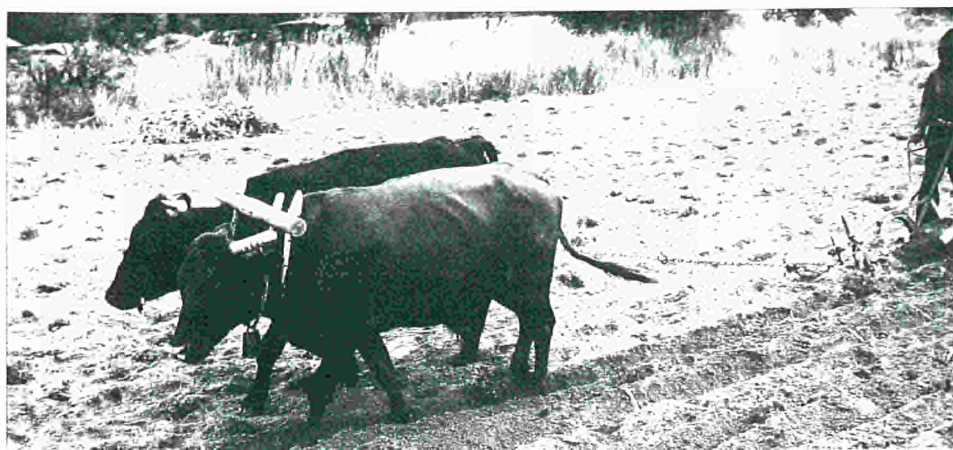
Lomé IV will come to an end in the year 2000 and discussions are under way as to what should replace it. But it should be recognised that the trade preferences granted to ACP countries under the Convention are out of line with WTO agreements. The preferences remain in place until the end of the Convention thanks to an exceptional 'provisional waiver' granted by the WTO.

Future challenges

During the coming years, protection of the European market will decline considerably in accordance with the Uruguay Round agreements. On average, tariffs will be 36% lower than before. Under normal circumstances, lower prices should translate into higher consumer demand which could lead to higher import requirements. Whether this will happen in the EU depends on how far European governments and farmers are able to come to grips with the problem of Mad Cow Disease, and thereby to restore consumer confidence in beef products. In this respect, two regulations are in the pipeline: one establishes a system for identifying and registering bovine animals, while the other concerns the labelling of beef and beef products (revealing their origin and history). It is important for Zimbabwean producers to note that third countries will be given the opportunity to use this labelling system in compliance with the regulation.

In terms of trade preferences, there is no doubt that the beef market is highly sensitive for the EU Member States, particularly since the eruption of the BSE crisis, which has resulted in huge costs for the European taxpayer.

Zimbabwe produces premium quality meat, but here the cattle are employed as draft animals



The Courier

Green Paper

The authors of the Commission's Green Paper on post-Lomé IV relations between the EU and the ACP countries, having considered the lessons of past Lomé Conventions, give four possible options for future trade arrangements. These are:

- the status quo (the current trade principles, preference margins and commodity protocols under Lomé);
- integration into the General System of Preferences;
- uniform reciprocity in trade relations between the EU and all developing countries (meaning that all countries would be subject to reciprocity);
- differentiated reciprocity which would give least-developed countries non-reciprocal access to the EU market while the others would receive access based on reciprocity.

At first sight, the second, third and fourth alternatives look less favourable for beef trade than the status quo, as Zimbabwe does not belong to the group of least-developed countries. However, Zimbabwe could maintain and even improve its trade position if either the third or fourth option is chosen — assuming it can gain a competitive edge over the EU in beef production, and realise its potential for expanding the sector. This is particularly the case if the SADC countries opt to form a free trade area. But this move, in turn, would have to be carefully analysed as it would cover a whole range of products and not just beef.

Livestock production and environment

Environmental considerations began to be introduced into development cooperation during the 1980s. Since then, all types of activity by the European Commission have had to be screened for their potential environmental impact. In addition, international discussions on 'green' trade are increasingly significant for traders.

Many people, not only overseas, but also in Zimbabwe, believe that livestock production has a detrimental impact on the environment. Overgrazing, deforestation and the gradual marginalisation of wildlife populations are all seen as potential threats. Ani-

mal disease control, through increased use of insecticides and drugs (for, example, to control tick-borne diseases), are blamed for lowering natural resistance. In addition, livestock breeding contributes significantly to the global increase in greenhouse gases. In the case of methane, 20% is accounted for by livestock and manure.

There are no simple solutions to environmental questions. First of all, the interactions between livestock and the environment have to be understood. Under the coordination of the FAO and the World Bank, a multi-donor study has been prepared to look at these issues more closely.

This is another key challenge for the livestock industry. Many farmers see environmental considerations as a threat to their livelihoods. Instead of taking this view, they should take the concerns seriously and be ready to work closely with policy-makers, consumers and green lobbies, to ensure that their production is environmentally friendly.

Many ecological issues can be addressed through advances in technology. For instance, in Zimbabwe, tsetse control techniques have been developed which significantly reduce the amount of insecticide that needs to be used. These techniques are now employed extensively throughout Africa. On the production side, game-ranching has been further developed in Zimbabwe's commercial agricultural sector. This can generate higher incomes than cattle production in certain areas. The possibilities of extending this innovative approach into the communal areas still have to be explored.

Policy and institutional instruments also need to be further developed and implemented, at both national and community level. The latter approach includes the more careful organisation of access to grazing lands in Zimbabwe's communal areas. The Report of the Land Tenure Commission has made valuable recommendations in this respect.

Conclusions

In principle, the European Commission will remain committed to the development of the livestock sector in one way or the

other. Despite this, Zimbabwean livestock producers face many challenges during the coming decade. It would certainly be shortsighted to look only to the EU. Assuming the predictions of the FAO trade experts are correct, global trade in livestock products will expand by 2% per annum while prices will rise by between 8% and 9%. In other words, demand could go up by about 40 000 tonnes annually. Zimbabwe currently produces between 50 000 and 70 000 tonnes of beef every year.

There will, of course, be many other traditional exporters who are keen to increase their share in the international beef trade. Therefore, it is essential that the Zimbabwean livestock industry improves its comparative advantage. This will have to include the reform of the animal health sector — as veterinary regulations become an ever-more important feature of trade in animal products. In addition, it will have to encompass a review of Zimbabwe's monopolistic structure of export channels, a search for new markets and a reduction in transport costs.

Finally, the predicted increases in demand will only be achieved if producers can meet consumers demand for healthy meat products. No doubt, in terms of beef quality, Zimbabwe has nothing to hide. But, the local beef industry should not just assume that consumers outside the country are aware of the premium quality of Zimbabwe's beef.

With a proper understanding of the challenges facing the industry, realistic and flexible policy decisions and (why not?), some imaginative and frank lobbying in the right places, the prospects for beef farmers of all backgrounds in Zimbabwe should be promising. And a significant and lucrative beef trade will, in turn, contribute to wider development of the country. ■

M.L., C.M. & A.R.-M.

How to feed Africa's urban population in the future?

Finance for small-scale businesses

by Dr Ascanio Graziosi

We already know the challenge. Every day we witness tens of millions of men and women in the towns and cities of the Third World struggling to survive. What form should poverty alleviation take? The distribution and marketing of foodstuffs requires a large number of variables to be taken into account and no one can be in any doubt as to the complexity this generates. The author, a financial management consultant, seeks to offer a response to these difficult problems and examines, in particular, the possibilities for financing small-scale businesses.

Any response must be given with an eye to the future, since increasing urban development, due to uncontrolled population growth and the drift to the towns and cities, is a phenomenon which bodes ill in terms of our ability to feed all the people concerned.

It is not enough simply to increase agricultural production, because problems arise further down the chain. Once produce has left the land, people need sufficient purchasing power to buy the food and there has to be adequate infrastructure to enable the goods to be marketed. Financing aspects assume increasing importance in the light of business-expansion, rehabilitation and privatisation prospects — all of which are enhanced by the opening-up of markets.

Our proposal concentrates on a small number of variables in an equation dominated by the demography and poverty binomial. The result of this equation is a function of several independent variables which relate to three major objectives, namely a commercial objective (to 'flesh out' businesses), a development objective (promotion of sound and long-term initiatives) and a food-security objective. Each variable influences its own sphere — the commercial objective thus sometimes conflicting with the food-security one — yet they are not isolated. Action in any area has a knock-on effect and creates opportunities for joint action.

In brief, if financial intervention is to be effective, it must take into account not only commercial, but also development and food-security objectives. The results will depend on the type of demand generated by target groups as well as on a range of other factors — donor requirements, government interests, bankers' attitudes, the kinds of activity taking place in the 'informal' financial sector, the extent to which markets have been opened up, the quality of support and monitoring services and, finally, existing infrastructures.

The complexity of the subject is demonstrated by the revision of the introduction to the section on trade in the Lomé Convention (the Lomé IV mid-term review was signed in Mauritius in November 1995). Here, the outcome of the negotiations paved the way for expanding trade, business development actions and co-operation in the field of financing, while modifying the objectives and principles of cooperation.

The list of actions to be undertaken in this field can probably never be as comprehensive as one would like, given all the problems that are involved. But, at this stage, the main obstacles to financing business should be analysed from the standpoint of channelling funds towards small businesses, in particular small shops and hauliers. Large retail outlets such as supermarkets and other bigger firms ought not to be included at this stage, because they tend to have other sources of income available. And the key issue to be resolved is how small

businesspeople can gain access to credit outside the 'official' circuits.

Responding to exclusion from the official banking system

In general terms, after implementing restructuring and privatisation plans in order to promote individual initiative, ad-hoc credit lines have been set up to target people outside the official circuit. In essence, the reason for this exclusion is that those involved do not meet the conditions set by financial institutions for the granting of credit.

The banking system's failure to grant loans has not prevented small-scale businesses from expanding their sphere of influence. In towns and cities all over Africa, for example, one can find outlets run by individuals selling pre-prepared or pre-cooked foods. They do this for a profit and, at the end of the month, they are likely to have earned a similar amount to civil servants or other workers in formal employment. It is not uncommon for someone who already has a job to set up business in this way — but it is just as likely to be an individual who has become unemployed as a result of structural adjustment measures.

This exclusion from employment, and the search for ways to earn a living, has favoured the development of the so-called 'informal' sector. Although present throughout the economy, 'informal' activity is most commonly found in the tertiary sector, in particular, in the sale of food products. This is a field which is rapidly

expanding, and one in which people are free of any institutional interference.

The 'informal' part of the commercial sector has, not surprisingly, tended to embrace 'informal' financing as well — in cities, towns and villages through the developing world. Thus, farmers often obtain loans from traders in the markets. This may be in the form of money, seeds or other goods, and reimbursement takes place at harvest time.

In terms of finance, this would appear to be an area ripe for development. In the real world

of small-scale farming in West-Africa, for example, agricultural production and marketing are closely linked. The African farmer produces, first and foremost, to satisfy his or her family's nutritional needs and then sells the surplus at the local market to obtain cash to cover other requirements such as clothing, education for the children and social security. In towns and cities, traders frequently provide a lending service for small-scale shopkeepers by extending loans in kind to be repaid every

evening or at the end of each week — on the basis of a simple verbal agreement. If the borrower fails to comply with the terms of the agreement, he is 'expelled' from the circuit, irrespective of the reason for the failure to repay on the due date.

The practice whereby traders become bankers is notorious for the usurious rates of interest demanded. The trader appropriates a considerable part of the production surplus for himself, which involves a loss for the farmer and increased costs for the urban consumer.

Besides the trader acting as lender, there are other dynamic players involved: friendly societies or 'tontines' are extremely common in sub-Saharan Africa, and there are also trade associations, NGOs and long-established private companies. These are essentially forms of saving and credit rooted in tradition and which may have arisen for different purposes.

Tontines offer a range of 'specialised services'. They provide interest-bearing loans for seed-procurement in villages, procurement and marketing operations aimed at food self-sufficiency (cereal banks, seed banks), funds for the purchase of cereals, livestock and fish (savings funds and group or friendly-society loan funds) and cash for individuals and groups to purchase equipment (equipment loan funds).

Other 'informal' financial mechanisms include deposit systems, cereal banks, input banks and support groups. The first mentioned are usually able to grant fairly large loans (depending on the financial resources at their disposal), while the others provide a useful service in enabling villages to obtain supplies and achieve a degree of food security.

One common characteristic of such schemes is their cooperative nature — the individuals involved agree to help each other in obtaining loans for profit-making activities. And when the money is allocated, a portion of the loan is put aside in a fund which is used as life assurance and insurance against disaster. The ac-

A fruit stall at a Dakar market
Present in all sectors of the economy, 'informal'
activity is very common in the tertiary sector



Verant Univers

tivities eligible for financing in this way are many and varied — anything from the sale of food or the products of cottage industry, to product conversion and small-scale business development.

Multilateral loans

The need for credit occurs at every level of the agro-pastoral system, something recognised by a number of external donors who have developed schemes for small businesses in this area. Multilateral credit systems have been put in place by the European Union and the UN Development Programme while Germany and France, among others, have bilateral initiatives. These are designed to meet demand from small commercial enterprises. Meanwhile, projects and programmes promoting the agri-foodstuff sector and sponsored by international financial agencies have recently been set up. Their targets are businesses, small-scale farming and the production sector.

This aspect of financing is important both because of the scope of the operations and because of the underlying objective, which is to encourage further the spirit of enterprise. The fact that virtually all these programmes use semi-formal transactions, even if a commercial bank is used as an intermediary, is evidence of this. In this context, Niger may be regarded as a pioneer of 'informal' financing, given the number of schemes that have been initiated there. Other countries in the vanguard of the movement include Mali and Burkina Faso. The systems take many different forms but they all have the same objective — to meet the demand for credit in the production and commercial sectors. However, despite the diversity of supply, the funds available are not sufficient to satisfy all the demand. This is particularly the case for one-off and disparate requests. Resources appear sometimes to be poorly targeted and the mechanisms ill-adapted to the diverse and heterogeneous needs of applicants. Such projects are viable and reliable only if the donor decides to pay management, support and monitoring costs, which do not normally have to be paid

back. Where reimbursement is required, it is usually only after a long 'grace-period'.

Better financing of the small and medium-scale 'informal' food business thus requires a re-examination of 'informal' financing systems with a view to expanding the private sector. We are convinced that this new direction being taken by the development process must be further explored.

In addition, traditional forms of business and credit-generating activity should be studied and tried out in the field. There should be less reliance on setting-up financing systems that are transposed directly from industrialised countries. It is surely more advantageous to build on what is actually happening in the Third World. In the area of 'informal' finance, interventions can be guaranteed, in the hope of improving and enriching what people already do. Formal recognition could be given to any association, tontine or other private company acting as a financial intermediary. We are not envisaging here, global forms of intervention designed to apply to all local situations. Instead, approaches should be sought which take the local environment and business traditions into account. In this way, the traditional trader, a key person in the system for supplying towns and cities, will become a privileged partner, given that he is part of the economy's formal circuits. A number of lessons may be learned, in this context, from Mali's experience, where financial assistance has been granted to the private cereals sector in order to support opening-up of the market.

Donors could also communicate directly with private traders involved in the financing circuits and manage credit on the basis of this sector's traditional criteria. A new type of partnership with these small traders should be explored as they could become administrators capable of lending money, while liaising directly with the donor, subject to appropriate monitoring.

At first sight, such a suggestion might appear controver-

sial, but if new solutions for financing small-scale business are to be explored, it is surely worth verifying whether a system that acknowledges traders as players in the development process is valid. Although theirs has sometimes been an ambiguous role, it must be acknowledged that they have made a crucial contribution to solving the problem of getting supplies to the Third World's major towns and cities. The trader is very well received by the population and has detailed knowledge of production and marketing costs while maintaining his management costs at a low level. Why not take advantage of these attributes to achieve the prior objectives set by the donors?

Instead of setting up credit programmes which require foreign technical assistance, certain sums could be made available to the trader, giving him objectives in terms of target groups, sectors of activity and rates of interest to be applied — subject, naturally, to acceptance of monitoring regulations. Such actions, particularly the selection of the recipients, could be managed in a flexible manner so as to adapt to the local situation and be profitable at the local market price (thereby avoiding the risk of disequilibrium or embezzlement). In our opinion, such an approach could be one way to finance the small-scale businesses that are sure to play a major part in the future, in supplying major population centres. ■ A.G.

The OECD and cooperation in the 21st century

A new vision and more effective aid

The most recent OECD annual report on cooperation and development expresses the view that there is broad international consensus for a new concept in this area, in terms of strategy and policy. The organisation's Development Aid Committee (DAC) sees the challenges for the next millennium as poverty alleviation, social development within a sustainable development framework and respect for the rule of law.

The report sets out the action programme that is needed to establish such a new cooperation model. This must allow developing countries to choose the direction they wish to take in achieving co-ordinated aid from their external partners. It also implies enhanced cooperation between donors and beneficiaries with a view to ensuring greater local autonomy.

As far as poverty alleviation and economic well-being are concerned, the aim is to reduce extreme poverty in developing countries by 50% between now and 2015. Such a strategy requires access for all to primary education, a reduction in mortality rates among newborn babies, gender equality in teaching, and the opportunity for all those of child-bearing age to obtain advice and treatment in the field of reproductive health.

Environmental protection, respect for natural constraints on sustainable growth and the implementation of ecologically viable development are also now seen as essential. According to the OECD, all developing countries should have set up national long-term development strategies by 2005 if the current trend of wasting natural resources (at both national

and global levels) is to be reversed before 2015.

Such a policy, says the report, must be implemented in a democratic framework and an atmosphere of respect for the rule of law. Add to this the protection of human rights and freedoms, and a greater role for civil society, and it should be possible to embark on a meaningful dialogue about participatory development and the proper management of public affairs.

Looking at the shorter term, the objective for 1997-1998 is to boost the efficiency of cooperation, with monitoring and assessment designed to encourage progress towards quantifiable and measurable targets. This aspect was specifically mentioned by the DAC in its section devoted to the European Community's cooperation efforts.

In management terms, financial transparency and the progress made in implementing country-specific strategies should involve greater focusing of resources, and more consistency in aid programming on an individual country level. There should also be greater focus on integrating the EC's various aid instruments with its other policies.

Although progress has been made since 1991, the Committee believes that the Commission could go further in consolidating the internal resources and

external skills that it allocates to the planning, management and implementation of new-generation projects. In this context, it recommends the establishment of an *ad hoc* assessment unit which is independent and credible, to overview the entire Community development aid programme.

Greater private contributions

Long-term trends in official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries show that overall, their net receipts were relatively stable between 1982 and 1995, although the poorest and smallest countries received a diminishing share of overall transfers.

Since 1987, there has been a new trend of increasing private transfers and export credits for the most advanced developing country economies — which have the capacity to attract foreign investors. In terms of volume, such resources have increased from a baseline of 100 in 1987 to 230 in 1995. As a proportion of total financial transfers — public and private — the latter now account for two-thirds as opposed to just 30% in 1987.

Looking at the distribution of these private funds, one discovers that they go overwhelmingly to the most advanced nations in the 'developing country' category. Top of the list comes Asia which

Official development aid from DAC countries directed through multilateral agencies*

Organisation	1981-1982	1994-1995
United Nations	4.170	4.086
Regional Development Banks	2.051	1.706
World Bank	5.788	5.251
European Union	2.813	4.784
Total	14.822	15.827

* In millions of dollars at 1994 prices and exchange rates.

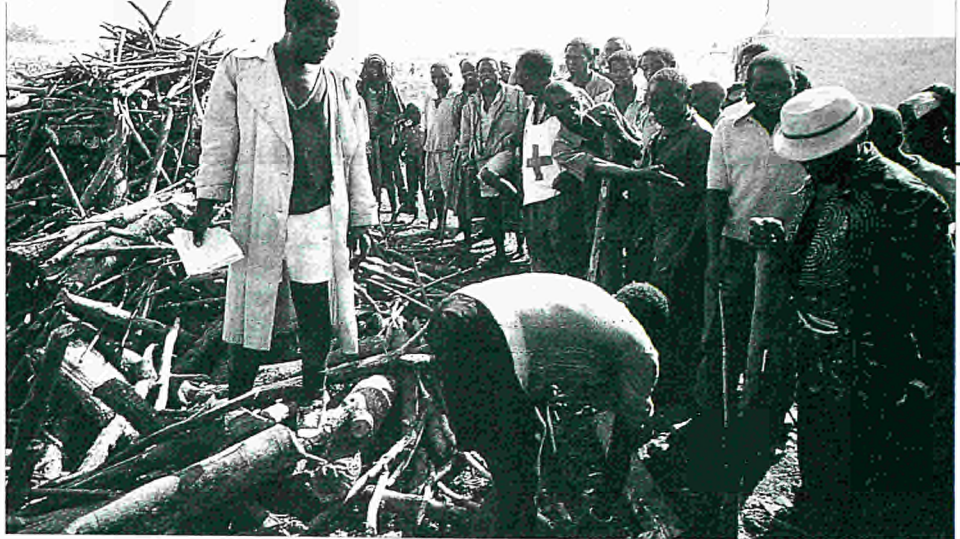
has enjoyed a ten-fold increase in eight years. The figure for Central and South America rose by between 400% and 500% between 1987 and 1994 although it has since fallen back. The picture for sub-Saharan Africa is gloomier. In 1997, private flows amounted to some \$10 billion but by 1995, the region was almost wholly dependent on official assistance

In short, the least developed countries receive little but public aid money. The most advanced developing nations are doing increasingly well out of private funds. Between the two are 68 states and territories (out of a total of 170 that receive aid from DAC countries). The figures reveal that these have also experienced an upturn in private capital flows since 1987 but that official assistance to them has stagnated.

Amongst donors, only four allocate more than 0.7% of their GDP to official development assistance: Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and Sweden (with 0.96%, 0.87%, 0.81% and 0.77% of their respective GDPs). Bottom of the league are the USA, Italy and New Zealand with 0.10%, 0.15% and 0.23%, respectively.

One phenomenon has been a decline in ODA directed by DAC countries through multilateral agencies. A side-effect of this has been to increase the European Community's significance as a mobilising force for multilateral assistance. In little over a decade, EC development aid has risen by 70% with a jump from \$4.8bn to \$5.4bn between 1994 and 1995 alone. This makes the EC the second largest multilateral donor after the World Bank (see table).

Member States also have their own bilateral programmes, of course, but the proportion of EU development funding that passes via the Commission has been growing — from 7% of the total 25 years ago to 17% today. Most of this aid (56%) goes to sub-Saharan Africa but the percentage share has been dropping as cooperation packages in other regions have expanded. Mediterranean countries and Latin America accounted respectively for 16% and



UNHCR - A. Hoffmann

10% of Europe's development aid in 1993-1994. Asia's share (about 10% in 1993-94) has been falling since the beginning of the 1980s.

We mentioned above that ODA had not changed a great deal between the early 1980s and mid-1990s but this conceals the fact that funds available increased in the first half of the reference period and have stagnated in nominal terms since then (i.e. fallen in real terms, given the effects of inflation and currency depreciation). The DAC makes the observation that, generally speaking, this decline is continuing. Aid contributions by the 21 member countries of the Development Assistance Committee to developing countries and multilateral organisations were estimated at \$59bn in 1995 — a real terms drop of 9% compared with the previous year. The most recent three-year figures (1992-1995) show a drop of 14%. The trends are masked to some extent by stability or increases in nominal terms.

In 1995, total foreign inflows to developing countries were \$239bn compared with \$215bn in 1994 and \$120bn at the beginning of the decade. As for ODA, expressed as a percentage of donor countries' gross national product, the average figure for DAC members has fallen below 0.27% — the lowest recorded since the 1950s. The cut in American contributions goes some way towards explaining this decline. The US gives just \$2 per month per inhabitant in overseas aid as against France's figure of \$12. The amount for Denmark and Norway is no less than \$20.

Although private contributions and other export credits are focusing more and more on Asia,

Handing out firewood to Rwandan refugees
Increasing amounts are being provided in direct aid to victims of humanitarian crises

in proportional terms, public development aid goes increasingly to countries where the need is most pressing: 40% to Africa — where 34 of the 48 least-developed nations are to be found — with 30% to Asia and 10% to Latin America. Furthermore, the percentage of aid directed towards production sectors has fallen with the emphasis shifting to support for social infrastructures. A growing number of projects are being financed under the 'environment' heading.

Emergency and humanitarian assistance have increased sharply — up from just 1% of total European aid between 1988 and 1989 to 14% in 1994. This rise can be explained by the emergence of a number of conflicts and the resulting humanitarian crises. It needs to be recognised that the shift in ODA towards rehabilitation actions and direct aid to populations (in areas such as the Great Lakes, Sudan, Somalia and even Eastern Europe) has the effect of diverting funds which could otherwise be used for long-term development. ■ M.F.

Fisheries: joint efforts gather momentum

by Dr Martin Bilio

'Coordination' is, today, one of the buzzwords of development. People are increasingly recognising the need for donors to liaise more closely, in order to maximise the impact of cooperation activities in an era of budgetary stringency. Within the European Union, more attention is being paid to coordinating the development cooperation work of the Community in its own right with the bilateral efforts of the individual Member States. One of the earliest examples of such collaboration is to be found in the fisheries sector. Since 1985, national and EC advisers have met regularly to exchange ideas and discuss issues of general concern. The author of this article was, for many years, Germany's representative at these fisheries coordinating meetings and he offers his own personal account of how the system has evolved.

In October 1983, at the 15th session of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) Committee on Fisheries in Rome, I had a first opportunity to meet with several European colleagues working in fisheries development cooperation. There was considerable agreement on current principles and objectives and when I suggested the idea of having more regular meetings of this kind in the future, the idea was favourably received. I was told, though, that earlier attempts to coordinate in this way had not succeeded and indeed, further action was initially curtailed by one colleague who felt that the idea was designed to increase donor influence on the recipient countries.

Fortunately, at the following FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development, held in Rome in the summer of 1984, the situation had changed. There was now full agreement among the advisers present on the usefulness of regular meetings at the European level. Accordingly, the first annual meeting of European Fisheries Development Advisers was convened in Brussels in 1985.

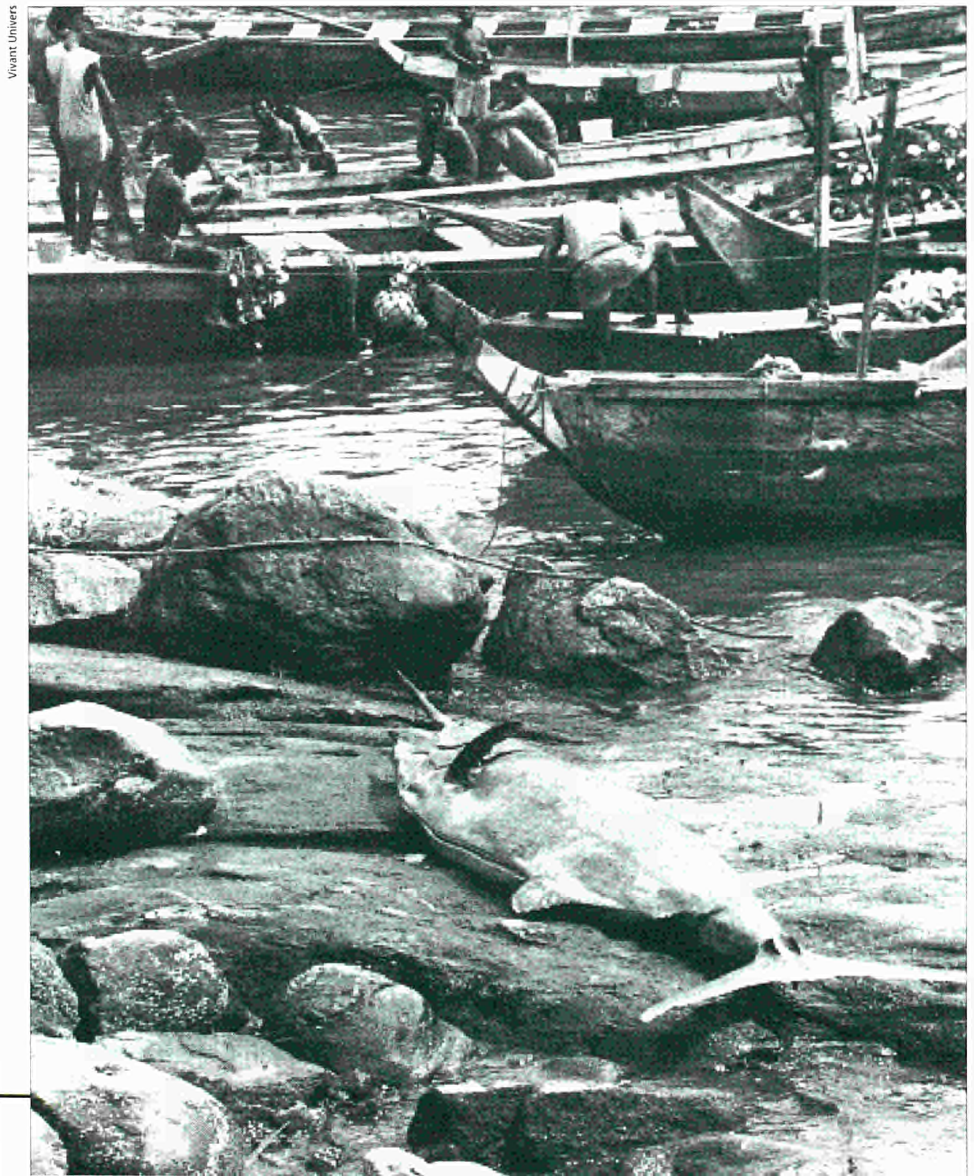
But what about the criticism so vehemently expressed by our reluctant colleague? At the outset, my own idea was that the meetings should serve as a forum for exchanging information and ideas so that, as far as possible, our actions should be in line with the common objectives set by the FAO and other international organisations. However, at the beginning of the 1980s, financial resources

for development cooperation began to come under increasing pressure and donors began paying more attention to questions of appropriateness and effectiveness. This brought into focus issues such as the lack of coordination, duplication of efforts and even competition among donors. All this, it was felt, could be avoided, or at least reduced, by better information exchanges, intensified collab-

oration and the adoption of complementary approaches and strategies.

This period was also one of increased awareness that the real needs, interests and wishes of the developing country partners had not been taken sufficiently into ac-

Artisanal fishing in Côte d'Ivoire



count. Studies were undertaken to identify the needs and wishes of target groups and, among donors, it was recognised that a lot could be gained by learning from each other — not only from the technological, economic and social aspects, but also in terms of methodology and philosophy.

Scope and participation

It was clear from the outset that these regular meetings of European fisheries development advisers would have an advisory status, focusing on technical issues. Political decision-making, of course, remains the privilege of national governments and the Commission. The aims were to provide those responsible for policy formulation with the necessary background information, and to show how agreement on technical aspects can be reached at an international level. Broadly speaking, the politicians have supported the staging of the meetings, recognising their potential as a valuable source of politically relevant information, and as a forum for articulating concerns and expectations.

The annual meetings are also an opportunity to sound out the attitude of national delegations towards projects planned by the European Commission. There is a review procedure at the political level for such projects, but useful information can be provided at the advisers' gathering, where criticisms or recommendations may be discussed. This can sometimes help to avoid delays at later stages.

The meeting participants come from development organisations and ministries in charge of development cooperation. In the early years, there was a tendency to send 'generalist' administrators but, nowadays, most of those who attend are fisheries experts with wide experience of development cooperation and a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds. Accordingly, they may be seen as representing the interface between technical expertise and political responsibility.

Information exchange and collaboration could not be fully effective if it only took place at the annual sessions. In between times, the advisers are often in touch by telephone, and there are routine interim meetings involving those with an interest in a particular country or region. For the system to work effectively, it is also important for a country to have continuity in its representation. This allows for the building of personal acquaintanceships and developing mutual confidence.

The first meeting in 1985 was attended by representatives of the ten EC Member States at the time. The following year saw the addition of Spain and Portugal, two countries with strong international interests in the fisheries sector, that had just acceded to the Community. The range of topics covered was also increased. Later, an even broader view was taken with non-members Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden invited to send observers (Finland and Sweden have since joined the EU).

With the progressive enlargement of the Community, it has been necessary to revisit some of the issues examined by the group in the early days — such as appropriate technology and target-group orientation. Other areas, of less concern before, have had to be looked at more closely. Thus, for example, the meeting has recently discussed the conflict between sustainable development of artisanal fisheries on the one hand, and fishing rights for industrialised foreign fleets and the expansion of national aquaculture industries on the other. The result is a well-established process of mutual education and a certain convergence of views and objectives, although there is still sometimes a need to reconcile different standpoints, ideas and concepts.

Originally, the annual meetings were held in Brussels, placing the burden of organisation on the shoulders of the Commission. After five years, the group decided that the member countries should provide the venue and take on the task of arranging the event. This gave participants the chance to learn more about the specific know-how of the host nation and to have direct contacts

with local institutions involved in development cooperation.

Achievements

A standard agenda item at the annual meeting is an information round on Commission and Member State projects in the fisheries area that are either ongoing or in the pipeline. This is generally followed by discussion of selected items, introduced by participants with a brief statement or a prepared paper. The topics are chosen according to the following criteria:

- cooperation problems of immediate interest to all or some of the Member States and the Commission;
- important constraints to fisheries and aquaculture development, and means and methods of overcoming them;
- prerequisites for the improvement of project implementation and adequate procedures for the identification, planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of projects;
- clarification of controversial ideas and concepts;
- utilisation of opportunities to collaborate in a complementary and mutually-supporting manner;
- harmonisation of European views and attitudes towards international and worldwide development initiatives in the fisheries sector;
- exchange of views on fisheries development prospects;
- harmonisation of national sector policies at the European level.

The table on the next page gives an overview of the special topics dealt with at the last five annual meetings. The topics discussed cover a wide range of fisheries development issues and reflect the prevailing priorities.

The advisers taking part in the meetings have identified mutual advantage in designing closely coordinated activities. As a result of contacts and discussions during these gatherings, development agencies have collaborated in preparing and implementing a number of 'parallel-funded' pro-

Special topics discussed at recent annual meetings of European fisheries development cooperation advisers

1992

Project preparation guidelines for fishery subsectors
Living aquatic resources utilisation in a wider environmental and socio-economic context
What type of fishery projects for the Nineties?
Experiences in surveillance and control of fishing activities in EEZs
Private initiative in artisanal fisheries projects in sub-Saharan Africa
Artisanal fisheries joint venture concept
Socio-economic dimensions of aquaculture in Africa
Implementation of fishery projects by NGOs

1993

Use rights and their allocation in coastal fisheries
Management issues - governance
Gender in fisheries and aquaculture
Policy paper on private initiative in artisanal fisheries
Follow-up Strategy of International Fisheries Research (SIFR) and forthcoming Third Fisheries Donor Consultation

1994

Small pelagics in West Africa
Fisheries enhancement schemes
Economic dimensions of artisanal fisheries
Women and credit in artisanal fisheries
Fishery resources management
Publication of development results and experiences
Fisheries research initiative

1995

Ten years of experience with the European Fisheries Cooperation Advisers' Group
ACP-EU Fisheries Research Initiative
Governance problems in the Mediterranean and elsewhere
Financial cooperation between donors
Waste water-fed aquaculture systems

1996

Integrated coastal area management
Progress in the ACP-EU Fisheries Research Initiative
Progress with the Agriculture and Fisheries Research Programme (FAIR)
The Commission's policy on fishing agreements in the ACP countries
Impact of fishing agreements on fishing communities in ACP countries
Innovative fisheries and aquaculture research in Greece
Marine park management - a case study in Egypt
Fisheries and triangular food aid operations in West Africa

jects. Examples include the Asian Institute of Technology aquaculture outreach programme in South East Asia, funded by DANIDA, SIDA, and ODA (respectively the Danish, Swedish and British public development agencies), the shrimp trawler-by-catch utilisation project in Mozambique (DANIDA, ODA), and the Bay of Bengal programme (SIDA, DANIDA, ODA). The 1987 session, and the special topic meeting on the African Great Lakes which closely followed it, were largely responsible for the long-term involvement of European agencies in support for the assessment and management of aquatic resources in Lakes Malawi, Tan-

ganyika and Victoria. Special coordination and harmonisation meetings are still convened.

The fisheries sector was the first to organise regular meetings at the European level. It was strongly felt that common guidelines were needed for fisheries project preparation. A report on this was extensively discussed and then published as the first document of a new CEC Evaluation Series in 1990. The experience in this sector gave the Commission a welcome opportunity to try out its methodology for project cycle management (covering all types of development project). The manual on this that was published in 1993

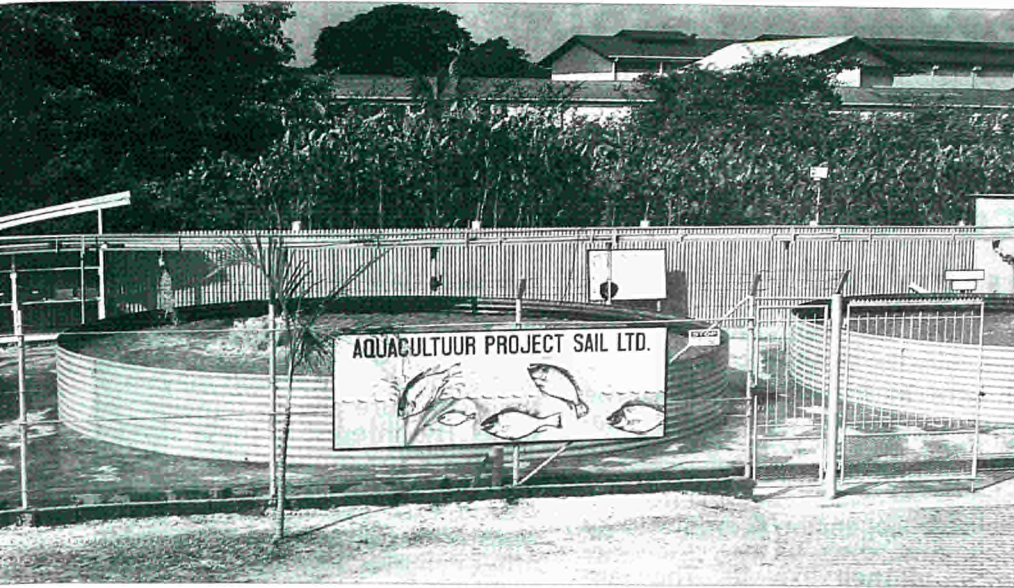
accordingly contained a significant input from Europe's fisheries development advisers.

A topic of particular interest to development advisers has been the role of private initiative in artisanal fisheries projects. Two consulting firms were employed by the Commission to undertake a comprehensive study of the subject. After thorough discussion by the advisers, and subsequent revision, this too was published as part of the CEC Evaluation Series, in 1993. It prompted more research and reports on resolving conflicts between policies supporting private sector initiatives, poverty alleviation and environmental stability.

By 1992, the growing pressure on world fish resources was deeply concerning the experts, many of whom feared for the future of the sector. Forward thinking was required, and this was reflected in the topics discussed at the 1992 meeting (see table). Fish resources were looked at in the wider context of living aquatic resources management, and attention was drawn to overcapitalisation and population development in the sector, as major threats to sustainable resource exploitation.

The *Study on International Fisheries Research* (SIFR 1988-92), initiated by the World Bank, reflected the hope that research could play an important role in solving the key problems of fisheries development. But there was no consensus over SIFR's initial conclusions. After much heated discussion, agreement was reached on a follow-up (modified and renamed the *Strategy for Fisheries Research*). Two national fisheries advisers, one of whom was a European, joined the Steering Committee of SIFR. Previously, only the Commission was represented on this body.

The most recent effort to promote research in fisheries development is also one of the most significant. This is the *Fisheries Research Initiative*, agreed in 1994 in Lanzarote, as a joint undertaking by DGs XII (Science, Research and Development) and VIII (Development) of the European Commis-



An aquaculture project in Suriname
 Research will play an important role in resolving
 the problems of fisheries development

sion. The starting point was a resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Assembly on fisheries development, where special reference was made to the need for research to be strengthened considerably. The participants in Lanzarote strongly supported this view, and the initiative is currently being discussed in 'dialogue meetings' involving ACP representatives, the Commission and the EU Member States.

Possibilities for improvement and outlook

The important role played by the Commission as a 'clearing house' and facilitator of contacts is highly appreciated by the Member State representatives. But a recurring regret is that these functions are almost exclusively performed by DG VIII. The presence of the Directorate General responsible for cooperation with Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean (formerly DG I, now DG IB), has been sporadic. These regions and the ACPs often face similar development problems, and given that European development cooperation extends well beyond the Lomé Convention signatories, most fisheries development advisers would like to see the scope of the annual meetings regularly extended to include the fishery development activities of DG I.

DG XIV is the Commission department responsible for fisheries in general and, in the past at least, its activities have not neces-

sarily been fully in tune with modern development cooperation efforts. This makes it all the more important for us to exchange information and have a regular opportunity to discuss and better understand the underlying principles of each other's work. There could be opportunities to reconcile controversial positions to the benefit of our Southern partners. We need to have genuine sustainable resource management, while recognising the interests of those in the North who benefit from fishing licences and joint ventures.

Collaboration with DG XII (Science, Research and Development) is excellent and well-established over a number of years. The national fisheries advisers also view the close working relationship between DGs XII and VIII as highly beneficial. A good example of this is their close cooperation in promoting the new fisheries research initiative, discussed above.

Currently, there is a tendency among donors to shy away from major investments in fisheries development. There is obviously less political appeal in funding the *status quo* (i.e. maintaining existing production levels) than in schemes that offer the promise of immediate, but transient, production increases. The fact that global fishing capacity significantly ex-

ceeds the reproductive capacity of the resource is another reason for the unwillingness. But why is there a reluctance to fund efforts to improve the management and regulation of fish exploitation in developing countries? The same question applies to population measures, for which there is even less enthusiasm. Yet population pressures — which lead to more people fishing — can easily undermine in the longer term, any management and conservation successes.

To overcome these constraints, we need a two-pronged approach which involves:

- providing extensive and regular information to the public in donor countries about the current situation, with an emphasis on the reasonable contribution that their countries can make to tackling the problems;

- placing people in recipient countries in a position where they are able to safeguard their rights and interests, as the primary managers of their resources and livelihood — this entails convincing policy makers and officials of the need for favourable political, legislative, economic and social frameworks to ensure the cost-effective management of living aquatic resources and an equitable distribution of the benefits of exploitation.

To hit the first target, the experts must step outside the technical environment, and find imaginative ways of addressing people who are not familiar with fisheries problems. For the second objective to be achieved, human resource development at all levels must be given decisive priority. ■ M.B.

International day of the French-speaking world

Pride of place for Mandingo culture

The international day of the French-speaking world was celebrated in Brussels on 20 March by a performance of the extraordinary Mandingo epic inspired by the work of the writer *Djibril Tamsir Niane*. The 'French-speaking community' (Communauté française) forms part of Belgium's complex federal structure and is responsible for matters such as educational and cultural provision for the Francophone population — who live mainly in Wallonia and the Brussels region. On this occasion, they offered an opportunity to attend a 'retrospective' of the history of the Mandingo kingdom, going right back to the thirteenth century. The kingdom extended over most of the present-day territory of Mali, Guinea, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire. The Mandingo story, which has been passed down from generation to generation by the *griots* (a sort of travelling witchdoctor-cum-minstrel), is an enduring and often awe-inspiring element in the sociocultural landscape of this part of West Africa. The epic tale formed the centrepiece of a spectacle presented by *Fifi-Dalla Kouyaté* and of a performance by the famous griot *Kandia Kouyaté*. The Courier attended this celebratory evening dedicated to the French-speaking community, where the French language was used as the vehicle to express the African tradition.

What was to be a highly colourful and artistic evening began with a performance by *Kandia Kouyaté* and his ensemble '*Racine Mandinka*'. This quintet, in which percussion instruments and the crystal-like notes of the cora feature prominently, performed the popular songs which precede the Mandingo epic — and captivated their listeners in the process.

Then came the story proper, its images holding the audience spellbound for two hours. A large

theatre in Brussels provided the backdrop for the story of *Soundiata Keita*, son of King *Faro Manghan Keigni*. As *Fifi-Dalla Kouyaté*, who conceived the event, explained: 'Legends represent a people's past, their history, their heroes and their exploits. They are like dramatisations of their social lives, their history expressed in poetic form'.

It is the *griots*, advisers to the kings, who have kept alive to the present day the spirit and memory of the great warriors and noblemen that fought to build their kingdoms and empires — invoking, it is said, supernatural as well as terrestrial forces. Thanks to

Fifi-Dalla Kouyaté recounting the Mandingo epic



an iron will and magical powers, the physically handicapped young prince, *Soundiata*, did indeed succeed in uniting the Mandingo kingdom, despite the many human and supernatural obstacles that stood in his path. It was thus that he became a truly great legend.

It is the myths surrounding this particular hero which are the most widespread and well-known. They are myths that have an obvious power of dramatic seduction. And although the details may vary, their structure always remains the same. The interest in these stories, which are so significant to the society that gave them birth, was shared that evening by all those from the French-speaking, and other communities in Belgium who attended the performance.

The Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT), an organisation that represents the French-speaking community in the sphere of development, masterminded the event. It also takes part in important decisions relating to the actions of the international French-speaking community.

There are some 160 million 'Francophones' worldwide who speak French (all or some of the time) — and more than half of them come from developing countries. In these circumstances, it is no surprise that Belgium's French-speaking community is a significant donor of development aid. Almost 90% of the ACCT's budget is given over to cultural and educational projects. And it was logical that this special day for French-speakers, the aim of which was to highlight the vitality of the language and foster interest in it, should also embrace the idea of North/South solidarity.

Today, French faces a triple challenge. It must coexist in a world of many languages and cultures; it must continue to be the glue which binds a diverse range of peoples; and it must embrace modernity. One has to look to all 49 countries in the world where the language is spoken — each with its own cultural and geopolitical characteristics — to assess whether the challenge will be met. Institutions may indeed have a part to play, but the key lies with the people. The foundations of a thriving international French-speaking community will be built on the aptitude of its various peoples and their willingness to be stimulated by contact with other cultures. ■

M.F.

Strengthening biometry to improve the quality of agricultural research

by Janet Riley*

Sustainable agriculture projects contribute to world development by improving productivity and increasing the welfare of the poor whilst reducing negative environmental impact. Issues of global change — to the climate, population dynamics and political perspectives — influence development policies and change technological and economic needs.

Traditionally, agricultural research has been done in controlled conditions on research stations. Emphasis now is extending to broader, but less precisely controlled studies and surveys to assess environmental change and the effects of technology interventions on the natural environment and the population at large. Methodologies for natural resources research must now involve a holistic approach to the study of agricultural systems, and the assessment of impact of technology change to system components upon farmers, their incomes, their well-being and lifestyles.

Thus, the design and analysis of agricultural studies has become more complex and embraces the whole research spectrum from basic laboratory and station research through adaptive and applied research on farms to impact assessment within communities. Precise research at each of these stages depends upon rigorously planned design structures, appropriate information collection, information summary and interpretation and their presentation in appropriate formats to all involved stakeholders. Such rigour is provided through a professional biometric input. This cross-cutting discipline relates the objective-setting exercise to the design stages and

ensures that adequate, useful data can be generated for efficient analysis to produce reliable and appropriate recommendations.

Typically, biometric skills are taught for straightforward studies such as those for single-species on controlled research stations. Yet farmer participatory and impact assessment studies need more powerful, flexible biometric methods to cope with the complexity of designs, large variability in data and variety of data types. Such methods are available, particularly with the fast development of computer power, but knowledge of these to agricultural researchers is limited and training in their use is rare.

A study of the problem

Recognising that weakness in biometrical methods often leads to difficulties in obtaining funds for research projects and for later publishing activities, CTA is currently funding a study on 'Strengthening Biometry and Statistics in Agricultural Research' to examine the availability of biometric skills and facilities in the ACP countries, and their impact upon agricultural research.

The project is being handled by consultants with extensive experience of biometrics in the developing world. Its five phases aim to determine problems and needs in the different countries and institutions, to propose appropriate strategies for increasing awareness and understanding of biometry by agricultural researchers, biometricians and funding agencies.

The first two phases of the project involved a desk study and a large questionnaire survey of more than 500 scientists and biometricians in the ACP countries, to establish an understanding of the existing situation. Phase 3, the highlight of the project, was a

workshop to exchange information and consolidate results at the mid-point of the project. This was attended by more than 30 invited representatives from 22 ACP countries, as well as representatives of international organisations, European institutions and donor agencies. They presented their views of the current situation in their own countries and proposed suggestions for the next phase of the project.

The workshop findings

Biometric skills and facilities of both professional biometricians and agricultural scientists in national agricultural institutes and universities are not keeping pace with changing research demands — and research quality is poor as a result. Availability of professional biometricians in national agricultural institutes and universities is inadequate. Estimates of the biometrician : scientist ratio in the Caribbean are 1:40 and in Africa 1:78. These figures are heavily weighted by the numbers of professional biometricians in international centres. The ratios in national institutes are worse. The number of posts for biometricians is in decline, and funding cuts lead increasingly to their substitution with inadequately trained junior staff or even with a computer and a software package!

The type of biometric training in the ACP countries for professional biometricians and for agricultural scientists is unsuitable for large-scale environmental studies and rarely incorporates modern biometric methods and powerful, accurate computing exposure. Biometric training in developed countries is considered to be complex, mathematical and insufficiently linked to real agricultural problems in the developing world. Training awards for biometricians often provide study at PhD level in developed countries. This commonly leads to a mathematical thesis, lack of interest in practical biometric problems and a qualification which may offer lucrative employment in a sphere other than agriculture. In-service biometric training courses are often too short, restricted in application and

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Trypanosomiasis studies in Kenyan cattle

have little impact and lasting value unless supported by longer term collaborative work with course presenters. A fundamental problem to be addressed concerns mathematical training in schools. This involves a repetitive learning approach rather than the development of an understanding of data features and patterns, with the result that scientists required to use statistics lack confidence in any exploratory data-handling skills.

Statistical computing facilities, and books and journals for biometric methodology are lacking in availability, while existing books and journals are mathematical and not focused on relevant biometric problems. Statistical computer software is expensive and inadequate in content, and associated documentation, if available, is complex, discouraging easy use.

Perhaps of deeper concern, and underpinning the reasons for this biometric quality, are factors relating to institutional structure in the developing world and to the mechanisms for obtaining funding for agricultural research projects. Institutional structures discourage both professional development of biometricians and their collaborative inputs to all stages of planning, conduct and assessment of multidisciplinary agricultural studies. Biometricians are often considered to be those staff who can provide a 'number-crunching' service, to be sought when data are collected, not when studies are designed. Their isolation from other biometricians and the inadequate availability of electronic networks results in poor information exchange and no appreciable development of professional skills. The ability to respond to new research directions and large-scale multidisciplinary studies is not encouraged.

Many donors and policymakers do not relate the value of biometrics to efficiency and cost-

effectiveness of agricultural research. \$250 000 spent on a large-scale and long-term study can be wasted if the most appropriate design and data-planning exercise — a day's work for a few hundred dollars — is not determined at the start. Additionally, many donors do not appreciate the need for a different approach to biometrics for on-farm research as opposed to on-station research with its easily constructed textbook designs.

The lack of a professional biometric input to agricultural research and development projects has strong implications for the quality of project results and the poor rate of acceptance of publications in international agricultural journals. It was stressed heavily at the workshop that this low acceptance rate resulted from inadequate biometrical design and sampling procedures, inappropriate analysis and thus biased interpretation.

Initiatives for improvement

This inadequate situation has been recognised by international organisations and professional societies and a number of biometric development activities have been initiated, although they cannot address all areas and problems. A number of the CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) centres have instigated intercentre group training courses in biometrics for biometricians and scientists from local NARS (National Agricultural Research Systems) institutes. Electronic networks have been established to link biometricians in certain areas of the ACP regions for those with access to computer facilities. The International Biometric Society, the International Statistical Institute and the Royal

Statistical Society of the UK all have developing country interests and have initiated supportive projects.

These initiatives are very successful; their impact must be built upon, and Phase 4 of the CTA project is exploring the possibility of developing new initiatives in the following areas.

Professional biometric responsibilities

Biometricians in the ACP countries should promote their skills more actively, encouraging scientists, management and donors to acknowledge their professional role. It is the biometrician's responsibility to make the subject interesting and raise its profile as an interactive scientific discipline. The development of a greater number of biometric posts will then ensue. The creation of networks, electronic or otherwise will alleviate problems of isolation and form a strong nucleus upon which a greater professional force can be built. Methods are being examined to best encourage this self-promotion and to facilitate network formation and support.

Encouragement of donors and policymakers

Policymakers and funding agencies need to be targetted at all levels, continuously, to improve their awareness of biometric value and raise their interest in sponsoring biometric projects and biometric inputs to agricultural projects. Biometricians and scientists in the ACP countries are themselves in the best position to do this. Their requirements will be addressed and their local donor offices focus upon the specific biometric and agricultural needs of their country. Encouragement to do this is being formulated in Phases 4 and 5 of the project.

Reorientation of biometric training

Teaching of statistics needs to be addressed at several levels: in the school, at university and during employment. Each of these levels is now being examined and recommendations for making mod-

ifications to teaching methods will be made in Phase 5. Where possible, courses must be designed and presented by, or in conjunction with, local biometricians. This will focus the training upon relevant problems.

A salient point is that, at university level and during employment, training courses need to be different for scientists, for extension workers and for biometricians. For scientists, a practical approach incorporating basic,



Draught animal power on Indonesian terraces

modern statistical computing is needed with strong recourse to real problems in the field. For biometricians, a multidisciplinary approach acknowledging components of agricultural systems and their interrelationships should be stressed; support from training in sophisticated computer software to address complex multivariate datasets is essential. A strong practical element of biometrical and computing training must be incorporated in training courses in farming systems.

Statistical computing issues

Software companies should be urged to modify statistical software to ensure that methodologies are appropriate to practical biometric problems, algorithms are fault-free, documentation is more readily understood by non-statisticians and software is affordable by developing country institutes. The possibility of a detailed assessment of statistical software for its relevance to agricultural research, accuracy and cost is being considered. If this is commissioned, this information will be made available to donors, institutes and project managers to ensure that the most suitable and cost-effective software is available for both professional biometricians and scientific staff.

Biometric books and journals

Biometric books and journals need to be less mathematical, incorporate modern biometrical and computing methods and be more practically oriented towards a multidisciplinary farming systems approach relevant to developing country agriculture. A detailed study to assess the relevance of available books is now underway. Publishers of international agricultural journals will be encouraged to include professional biometric expertise on editorial boards and in the manuscript review process.

Strengthening of biometrics in scientific publications

National institutes and universities must encourage their staff to publish their work and to interact more fully with other institutions both nationally and internationally to raise their professional interests and skills. A key issue in this area is the strengthening of biometric inputs and presentation, and recommendations are being formulated to determine the most appropriate ways of achieving this.

Institutional changes

Whilst biometricians in national institutes and universities aim to raise their professional pro-

file amongst their scientific colleagues, support for this is required from institution management. Encouragement is needed to develop systems to ensure that professional biometricians are recruited and that their work can progress in a professional and up-to-date manner. Of great support will be the instigation of research planning systems to ensure that biometricians are members of research planning committees, that they are consulted at all planning stages of research and development projects, and that project plans are not approved without their agreement. Plans are in progress to encourage this through the international and national agricultural institutes.

The next stage

Phase 4 is now underway and the best ways to facilitate the initiatives above are being explored. The impact of the project itself has already been large: the response to the 500-strong questionnaire study was of the order of 70%, with many letters of encouragement returned with the questionnaire. Clearly, the difficulties surrounding the use of biometrics in the ACP countries are felt strongly by practitioners and the recommendations from Phase 5 of the project will have a lot of backing, boosting the chances of success. Certainly, failure to improve biometric skills in the ACP countries will result in a further decline in research quality, the generation of non-representative research results, the rejection of papers for journal publication and the exclusion of results from the research debate. This will be to the detriment of global development and natural resources conservation and sustainability. The CTA Project aims to encourage a strong, well-trained corps basis within the ACP research institutes to counteract this using their own newly-developed skills and knowledge. ■

J.R.

Dossier: a quality system, the key to new markets

ISO 9000: Meeting the customer's requirements

by Peter H. Ebdon *

Any supplier, whether it be a manufacturer or service provider, should never lose sight of the fact that it takes years to build a reputation for quality and two minutes to lose it. Introducing a Quality System, which has international recognition, makes sense.

The concept of a quality assurance scheme was devised some seventeen years ago in the United Kingdom by the British Standards Institute. The reason for this innovation was to enable industry to guarantee their customers a level of certainty that their goods or services were being offered against an accepted standard. In other words, in the case of a manufactured process, it would hopefully prevent slipshod or careless workmanship in a product leaving a factory and ending up with the customer as "faulty". To ensure that products sold with this "accepted standard" stood out

from those that had not, the approved manufacturers were allowed to display a special label.

What kind of guarantee does a quality system give?

No one is, however, gullible enough to accept that once a firm had obtained approval under such a quality standard, that faulty goods never left their production lines. The standard ensures that its management team will be able to recognise the source of the defect and as far as the customer is concerned, the faulty goods are "put right" such that the customer is satisfied.

The original British Standard towards this continuous search for higher quality spread rapidly at an international level. In 1994, it inspired the adoption by the International Standardisation Organisation of the label ISO 9000, which is today the recognised worldwide standard for quality systems.

How does one produce a "Quality System"?

It starts first with a basic statement from the company's senior management which demonstrates the objectives of the quality policy. The clear definition of this

Certified quality: the key to new markets

In the context of economic globalisation, the conquest of new export outlets is a remarkable opportunity for ACP companies. In order to make the most of this opportunity, their priority is to meet the challenge of raising quality - an area in which key markets are increasingly demanding.

In this area, the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) has defined the "ISO 9000" standard, a reference which is today recognised world-wide. The standard guarantees that adequate management and quality control procedures have been implemented by those companies committed to complying with it. Certain sectors have also developed specific quality assurance procedures. An example is the HACCP procedure (see the second part of the dossier) in the agro-food industry, a sector in which stringent microbiological controls are essential for public health.

"Certified quality", necessary in order to penetrate new markets, is not devoid of content and consumers are paying more and more attention to the various labels reflecting it. The term "quality" tends to cover an increasingly wide area. The organic origin of a product, respect of the environment, compliance with the ban on child labour, all constitute certifiable "qualities".

As regards necessary compliance with standards, for several years, the CDI has been carrying out significant work in raising ACP companies' awareness and providing them with support.

policy is crucial for the system to work effectively. The statement should declare the organisation's goals and everyone within the company needs to fully understand them.

The implementation of the full quality system then needs to be planned and to result in a common-sense, well documented, and effective set of procedures. This means that management, in estab-

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CDI

The Centre for the Development of Industry (CDI) is a joint ACP-EU institution created in the framework of the Lomé Convention linking the European Union with the 70 ACP countries (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific). Its objective is to support the creation, expansion and restructuring of industrial companies in ACP countries. To this effect, the Centre promotes partnerships between ACP and European companies. These partnerships may take various forms: financial, technical and commercial partnerships, management contracts, licensing or franchise agreements, sub-contracting, etc.

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Corrigendum:

As a result of a proofreading error, the figures which appeared in the piechart, 'ACP companies assisted in 1996' on page 91 of our last issue, were incorrect. They should have been as follows: West Africa - 22%, Southern Africa - 24%, East Africa - 19%, Caribbean - 12%, Central Africa - 14%, Pacific - 9%.

Top Pine - Swaziland

One CDI intervention is designed to help this integrated company manufacturing pine furniture to obtain ISO 9000 certification.

Top Pine, which employs 250 people, exports 98% of its production, and specialises in the production of "natural wood - pine" furniture (beds, chests of drawers, integrated tables and benches, wine racks...) for assembly, is having significant success in European (Ikea, Auchan) and American chains (B&Q, Texas Homebase). It exports to the United States, Europe (France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom...) (1), to a number of islands in the Indian Ocean and also to Australia. A diagnosis of Top Pine's potential, carried out last October by Vernon Associates, an Irish consultancy, provides encouraging conclusions.

The company, strengthened by its solid export experience, has strong prospects for development. As it owns high-quality pine forests and is very well equipped, it is able to respond quickly to its clients (for example, delivery within 40 days of an urgent order of 10,000 beds for IKEA). The shortcomings highlighted by the consultancy relate to insufficient training of staff and the lack of supervision in production, which leads to an excessive number of rejected items. Correction of these faults alone could lead to a productivity increase of 25% - and therefore an increase in profits.

With this in mind, and with CDI support, Top Pine has been receiving assistance from four experts since January 1997. The objective is two-fold: enable the company to move away immediately from cheap products towards the manufacture of items which sell at a higher price, and attain the ISO 9000 standard in the next eighteen months to two years.

(1) In May 1996, with CDI support, Top Pine participated in the Scandinavian Furniture Fair in Copenhagen. The trip enabled the company to identify new opportunities in Europe.

CDI contact: Jordi Tió Rotllan

lishing the quality system, will have to look closely at every single operation within their organisation and define how the particular job should be undertaken.

How to write efficient and workable procedures?

One important aspect when defining and writing down operational procedures that make up a quality policy is that they are both clear and concise so that they can be easily understood. It is crucial that they are not only practical but workable. All too often the person responsible for writing down the procedure gets carried away into "flights of fancy", such that before long the whole point

of defining the procedure is totally lost. It is far better to have just a few lines of instruction than pages and pages of "do not do this or that". Be positive rather than negative.

Management should then introduce periods of staff and workforce training so that each member of the team fully knows what is expected of them, and when undertaken, it is preferable to explain the technical reasons why they should follow instructions. For instance, "store certain materials in a dry and protected area" will obtain a much better response from operatives than if they are simply told "store the product under cover".

Actually, training is a key part of producing a quality product. It not only involves making the workforce understand exactly what is required of them as they perform their various functions, but also for management to instil into them that they are part of a team and the importance of supporting each other; how one person's actions may impair or enhance the work of a colleague.

How to really meet the customers' requirements?

It is vital for the quality system not only to define the manufacturing process or the service provided, but also to specify a procedure for receiving a customer's enquiry or order instruction, so as to save any misunderstanding later. The greater the care taken at the beginning of any negotiation, the better chance the manufacturer will have of being paid his just rewards for a good quality product, and furthermore the customer is more likely to return with proba-

bly the finest testimonial of all, - "A Repeat Order".

Another essential ingredient is to establish a system for checking and monitoring the consistency of the quality and or suitability of those raw materials or products that the manufacturer purchases to enable him to fulfil his customer's instructions.

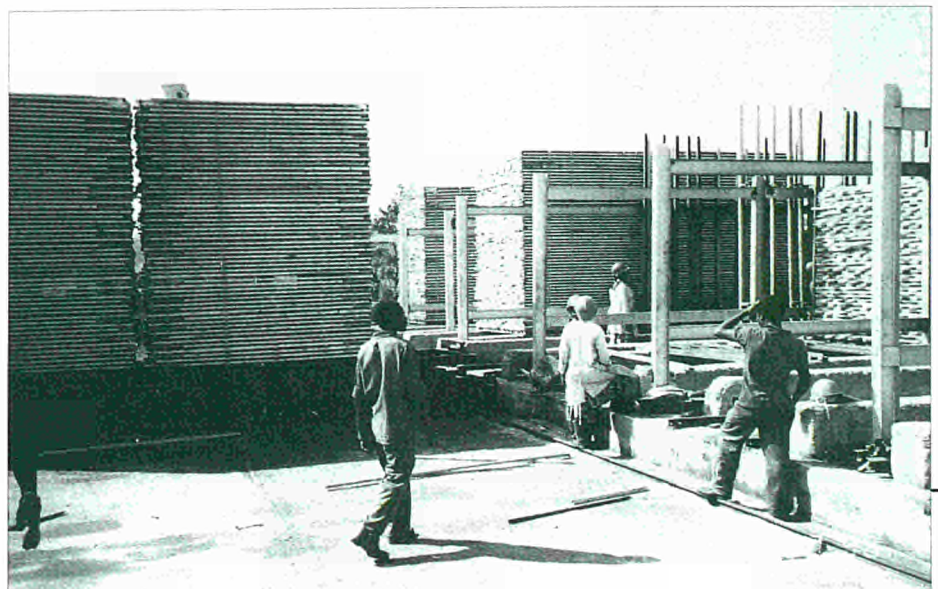
In preparing this section of the system the management must not lose sight of the fact that they will not necessarily be testing or checking the products themselves and so therefore a written instruction will be required by the person undertaking the testing. Included within those written instructions should be some procedural notes for the correct handling, storage, packaging and delivery of the product or any service related items.

Often the reaction to this is that "such a thing would never happen in my factory", but regrettably they do. All too often, for example, materials that should be stored in an "under cover or dry environment" are left exposed to the elements and as such they become unsuitable for the purpose for which they were intended. It is senseless and irrational, but it happens. As a result, and if used, the inferior products find their way into the market and before long the manufacturer losses all credibility.

How to deal with the paperwork?

At first sight it often appears that to operate a quality sys-

Top Pine (Swaziland)
Growing concern for quality in a company exporting 98% of its production



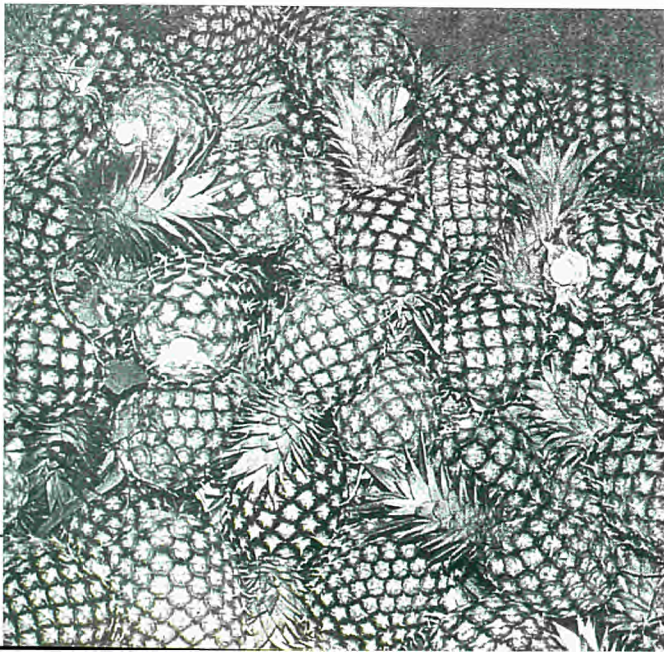
tem demands a huge amount of paperwork and as such is extremely daunting. But because people do not have perfect memories, we need to write those events down and the action taken, so that should a similar problem occur at a later date we can draw on past experience.

Once the discipline and working practices are in place, it is a simple matter to maintain uncomplicated but nevertheless comprehensive records of exactly what happened within each section or department of an organisation. Not only can faults or shortcomings be traced to a particular batch, or to a specific section of the manufacturing process, but also more accurate production costings can be produced, which in turn can either lead to more competitively priced products or higher percentage margins of profitability. Statistical techniques can be very powerful tools for checking and analysing data, which in turn can finally lead to significant improvements.

Do we really have to check everything we do?

To this frequently asked question, the answer is: "No, only when you need to check that the product meets identified requirements". Nevertheless, if any form of measuring or other test equipment is used to undertake those checks, management must ensure that the measuring or test equipment is calibrated regularly against an approved standard.

Quality in the food sector



Green label, exotic orchards

Ecolabels are now among the quality standards to which consumers - especially European consumers - are becoming increasingly sensitive. "Bio" products, therefore, offer new opportunities for ACP companies. In Togo, some 200 independent growers produce pineapples, mangoes, bananas and papayas whose organic nature meets international criteria and is therefore approved by ECOCERT. Their produce is bought by SAFLEG, a company located in Aflao Gagli, north of the capital of Togo. Here, the different exotic products are dried, cut (in strips, diced, sliced...) and vacuum-packed. The produce is then exported and is added to Kellogg's or Muesli type preparations (a market that has been expanding by 20% for ten years), "cereal bars", yoghurts, or served as aperitifs. SAFLEG, like other companies, established a number of promising contacts at the SIAL (Paris) and BIOFACH (Frankfurt) specialist fairs. The company has a production capacity of 100 tonnes of fruit per year - that is, 200 kg of finished products per day. Over and above biological con-

trols, there is quality control at all stages in processing. Regular air freight availability to Europe guarantees that importers receive deliveries rapidly, with the assurance that the journey has lasted fewer than eight hours.

CDI Contact: Hamed Sow



Records must be kept of all calibration checks.

Finally, to check that the whole system is working correctly you need to carry out at fairly regular intervals an "Internal Quality Audit", which confirms that one organisation is doing all that its Quality System says it does, and also looks at ways in which it

might be improved. Quality improvement is an ongoing process.

When putting a quality system in place, it is important to consider the training of your team.



HACCP: The importance of zero-risk in the food industry

Quality is above all synonymous with safety. For compliance with increasingly demanding health standards in the food industry, the "HACCP" approach represents a genuine "zero-risk" culture. The procedure, recognised at international level, provides ACP companies with the necessary key to the large import markets.

This is one of the areas where quality is not just a priority, but a requirement. The microbiological processes involved in the agro-food sector are subject to particularly strict rules, and if these rules are not respected there would be serious - even fatal - consequences, for example, contamination with bacteria such as salmonella, listeria, botulinum. The food industry, therefore, has direct responsibility for the health and safety of consumers.

The large importing markets, accessible to ACP producers, therefore impose standards which, as well as affecting the content of the product, affect their conditions of process and preparation. EU Directive 93/43 has, for example, adopted precise rules for hygiene in food manufacture that are applied to all foodstuffs circulating in the European Union market.

From outer space to the dinner table

A specific methodology, christened HACCP - "Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point" provides the main international reference

HACCP and ISO 9000

The HACCP approach, specifically focused on microbiological safety of foodstuffs, should be considered as a complement to the "spirit of ISO 9000". As it relates to industrial activities as a whole, ISO 9000 represents an approach to quality that is based on rigorous overall management of the company. That is why many agro-food companies do not hesitate to implement the practices of both.

for solving problems relating to food product control. Certified use of the procedure constitutes a widely recognised guarantee of safety. The rules defined in this management tool suggested for agro-industrial companies emerged as a result of particularly advanced control procedures developed in space programmes for systematic detection of risks.

Three incremental levels

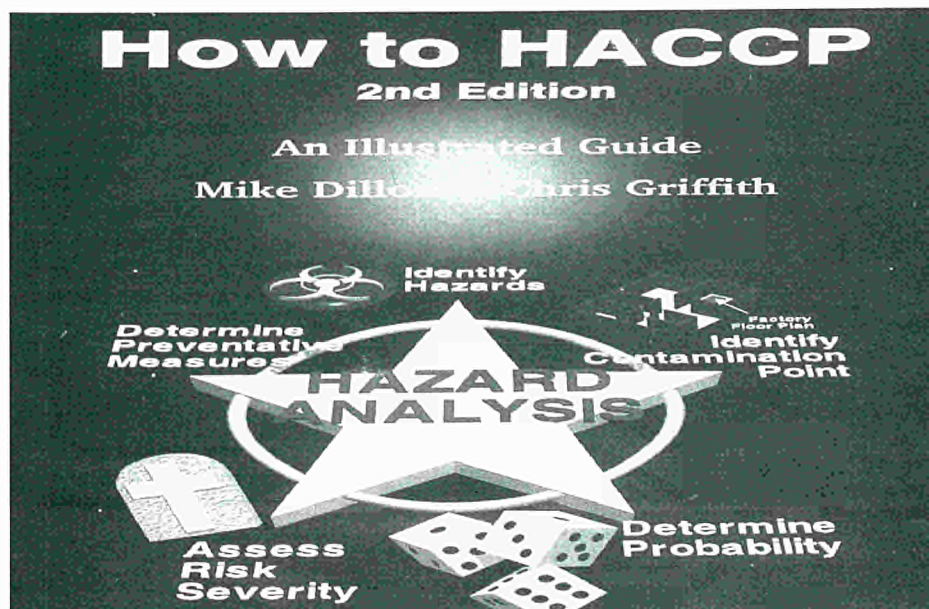
The HACCP approach first of all implies consideration of the rational organisation of premises and production flows. Clearly demarcated areas (receipt of raw materials, washing area, processing units, etc.) should separate the different stages of the process. All stages should operate in accordance with the "forward motion" principle: any soiling or risk of

contamination is gradually removed in the course of the product's journey to the packaging stage.

There is also the question of compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), another more general international code of practice in the field of hygiene and quality. GMP, a genuine part of the business culture, brings together a set of rules, particularly on wearing protective clothing, cleaning premises and equipment, prevention and control of external polluting agents (insects, vermin...), etc.

At the third stage, the originality of the HACCP approach lies in the fact that it screens every link in the production chain to prevent and counter any potential microbiological contamination. On the basis of this systematic analysis, critical control points (CCP) are defined and then continuously checked. Each product is accompanied by a document providing details of the result of quality controls carried out throughout the product's journey. This method of organisation means that overall production can be followed and, if necessary, steps can later be retraced in order to locate and analyse any possible malfunction. Continuous "traceability" of products and documented records of manufacture are the linchpins of the HACCP approach.

Cover's guide "How to HACCP" © M.D. Associates.
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HACCP: The Caribbean example

Fish, fruit, spices...these are three examples of the food industry in the Caribbean. We focus on the companies which, assisted by the CDI, decided to aim for quality, by implementing the strictest of controls: the HACCP.

Most of the requests for assistance received by the CDI for bringing products into line with HACCP standards come from the food processing industry in the Caribbean - a region which is particularly aware of how important the label is for penetrating new markets.

Jamaica

Walker's Wood and Busha Brownes: both companies produce processed fruit/spices (prepared jams, juices and sauces). Aquaculture Jamaica: this is a fish farming company producing tilapia, packed either fresh or frozen. All three companies have already been selected to be part of the Community "Target Europe" programme which has helped them to start selling their products on the EU market, particularly in the United Kingdom. In spite of an encouraging reception, these companies nevertheless encountered problems related to bringing their products into line with the quality standards required by European buyers and consumers.

It was with this objective that in 1996, the CDI agreed to support an in-depth audit mission (almost 6 months) carried out by British consultants specialising in the implementation of quality control systems. The experts wor-

ked in close liaison with the management and staff of the three companies in order to set up complete HACCP procedures. As a result of this mission, Walker's Wood and Aquaculture Jamaica can now export their products with a quality assurance that complies with European standards. At Busha Brownes, whose product quality assurance depends on local sub-contractors, production is currently being brought into line with standards. The three companies, very motivated by this qualitative approach, are now engaged in the process of ISO 9000 certification for their entire quality management system.

Suriname

With CDI support, Dr Vanthuyne, a Belgian veterinary surgeon and expert in the field of food controls, carried out a first mission in Suriname in October 1995. He visited four SMEs - OHM, Sunafish, Caribbean Seafood and De Palm-Doroe - specialising in processing (prepared meals, frozen products...) fish and prawns and who wished to renovate/modernise their plants. The mission was also sponsored by the AGCD (Agence de Coopération et Développement - Belgium) in the framework of a contract signed with the government authorities for the implementation of an entire quality control system (specification of standards, creation of a laboratory, organisation of an inspection service, equip-

ment and training plan, etc.). The basic questions studied with the companies related to the two preliminary stages of the HACCP approach: organisation of premises and production flows, as well as the adoption of the fundamental GMP. Layout of the workplace, choice of construction materials, installation and arrangement of production chains, water quality, production, hygiene controls were also key issues addressed with Dr Vanthuyne. In April 1997, the CDI expert returned for two weeks to ensure the follow-up to this first mission. Once building had been completed, it was a question of implementing the GMP and, in some cases, installing a HACCP standards control system. The staff of these companies have already begun different training programmes with this objective.

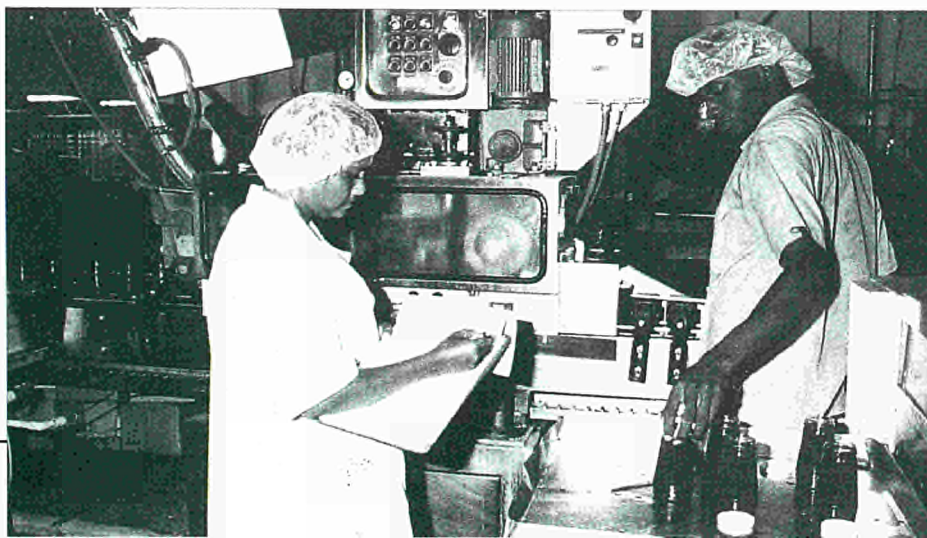
New assistance

In September 1996, a CDI Partnership Meeting held in Jamaica, focused, among other things, on the implementation of HACCP standards in different companies in the processed fruit sector in the Caribbean. As a result of contact made, an HACCP programme is currently being established. An on-the-spot mission carried out by CASSE (Barbados), a consultancy, enabled the selection of seven companies: Kelly's Food, Jamaica Producers, Tijule and Canco in Jamaica; Citrus Cy in Belize; National Canners in Trinidad & Tobago; Barbados Dairy in Barbados.

Discussions are also under way for a HACCP programme in the Dominican Republic. Seven companies are involved: Procesadora San Martin de Porres, Bon Agroindustrial, Industrias Empacadoras Dominicanas, Tropijugos, Latin Fruit, Consorcio Agroindustrial Agrodelta, Junta Agroempresarial Dominicana.

CDI Contact: Orlando Perez-Diaz

The GMP, or "good practices", guarantees quality and hygiene



Project Profiles

Cape Verde ...

ICCO : An export oriented market segment .

Mindelo is on the island of Sao Vicente, part of the archipelago of Cape Verde. It is here that ICCO, a company specialising in orthopaedic shoes, manufactures products designed purely for export thanks to a very particular skill.

ICCO (Industria de componentes e calçado ortopédico), based, thanks to Portuguese capital, on one of the islands of Cape Verde most affected by unemployment, responds to a government policy launched in the archipelago at the beginning of the 1990s. In a country deprived of natural resources, the public authorities are encouraging the establishment of companies with a high export capacity, with no limit on foreign capital.

ACO, a Portuguese company, which decided to relocate part of its production, is one of these companies. The company, specialising in orthopaedic shoes and created in 1975, has a turnover of

more than ECU 11 million and exports 96% of its production, mainly to Germany (65%), the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The establishment of ICCO in Cape Verde, for which ACO has contributed ECU 820,000 (98% of the share capital), guarantees almost one hundred new jobs and the flow of foreign currency into the archipelago, while the Portuguese company can increase its export capacity by reducing part of its production costs.

Transfer of skills

Using raw materials sent from Portugal, most of the stitching work (two thirds of manufacturing time) is carried out on the island of Sao Vicente, while the "final touches" are carried out in Europe. ACO buys ICCO's entire production and is responsible for marketing. Production was launched in 1994 and has now reached 440,000 shoes or components per year. Today, ICCO represents an eighth of ACO's turnover and

ICCO: the orthopaedic shoe company
Specialised skills for an export oriented company

should climb to 780,000 units by 1999. The creation of ICCO of course meant that it was necessary to train the entire Cape Verde staff. This programme was supported by the CDI, in cooperation with the FCE (Fundo para a Cooperação Economica) and the ICEP (Investimentos, Comercio e Turismo de Portugal), the Portuguese partner institutions, to the tune of almost ECU 60,000. Seventy-five people attended a training programme with ACO. This very personalised programme (one teacher per group of five) dealt with different areas: management, theoretical and practical courses on manufacturing, a course on specialised machines, style, cutting and sewing, production techniques...

Contact: Sebastiao Ditutala

... Ghana

New pilot production unit for sorghum malt

The establishment of a new unit designed for malting this cereal — very common in West Africa — constitutes the first stage in the manufacture of stable sorghum beer. Sorghum malt, which is highly nutritious, may also be used in the manufacture of baby food.

Africa produces traditional beers based on sorghum, a cereal widely grown on the continent. These drinks — such as pito brewed in Ghana or dolo in Burkina Faso — have a rather short life cycle and must be consumed within three to six days of production. To counteract this disadvantage, at the end of the '80s, UNIDO launched a pilot project for malting and brewing sorghum. The first phase of this project, with the objective of producing a high quality beer on the basis of local raw materials, was to select and grow brewing varieties.

From the malt itself...

The second phase was launched in 1993 with CDI support. The objective was to set up a test unit for the manufacture of malt. Four years of effort were needed to complete the necessary steps: choosing, manufacturing and acquiring equipment in Belgium;



training (also in Belgium) two Ghanaian technicians in the use of production tools; laboratory trials and analyses carried out with the scientific support of Leuven University (KUL) — where researchers have drafted a technical manual on malting processes. This crucial phase of the project also received support from the Agence belge de coopération au développement (AGCD).

... to brewing it

The equipment is now set up in Ghana and sorghum malt production is now on the point of being launched. This nutriment may now be used in different industrial manufacturing processes, including white beer. The third phase of the project now requires brewing trials with Ghanaian specialists, in order to perfect complex manufacturing processes for several stable beers. Prior to the establishment of the industrial sorghum brewery, a feasibility study must also be carried out.

N.B.: sorghum malt, which has a very high nutritional value, could also find an outlet on the sub-regional market for baby food.

CDI Contact: Chérif Touré

Malting equipment acquired in Belgium on its way to Ghana



In Brief

Guyanese garden furniture at the GLEE fair.

Six Guyanese companies will be exhibiting together at the well-known GLEE fair (Garden and Leisure Exhibition) in Birmingham — a key meeting point for the European garden furniture market — from 22 to 26 September 1997. All of the companies fit into this very buoyant sector and their products and skills complement each other. Precision Woodworking and Walvis manufacture furniture in tropical wood, while Shiva Woodworking and Waico (which has its own plantations) produce trellises and other light ornaments. These four companies, which have benefited from several CDI actions in recent years, regularly export their products, mainly to the United Kingdom and Ireland. BACIF manufactures metal furniture and the Black Jewel ceramics factory produces earthenware pots and inlays for decorating garden furniture.

Besides short-term technical assistance for Waico and Walvis, CDI support will be given substance through the intervention of a designer (stand, presentation of products, brochures, etc...) and a marketing specialist. GLEE will be an excellent introduction to export.

CDI Contact: Jordi Tió Rotllan

Taste of the Caribbean in Cologne.

Europe appreciates the scent of the islands. In 1995, the CDI invited various Caribbean companies to the ANUGA fair in Cologne to enable them to meet buyers likely to be interested in their products (spices, sweetened and salted food, sauces and purees, exotic fruits, fish-based preparations...). On this occasion, Mr. Vandenberg, the president of the association of delicatessen importers, Delikatessen, decided to promote in Germany — the largest European market in this area — the circulation of the top-of-the-range products offered by these companies. In cooperation with PROTRADE, the German cooperation institution, the CDI provided support in adapting production to meet the requirements of importers. Mr Vandenberg, accompanied by a consultant, was able to visit the Caribbean companies and select a number of products, emphasising why the products met European quality criteria. These specialities were presented to German distributors in March, at a tasting and evaluation weekend in Wiesbaden. The distributors, genuinely interested in the products, stated various practical stan-

dards to be met (labelling, etc.). Next October, at ANUGA '97, professionals can discover Caribbean rum, chutney, jams, exotic syrups, fish and other specialities at the Caribbean stand.

CDI Contact: Paul Chotard

Malagasy bio products in Frankfurt.

Eight companies in Madagascar have joined together in PROMABIO (Association Professionnelle des Opérateurs en Agriculture Biologique). These companies produce and export fruit, spices, essential oils, cocoa, aromatic and medicinal plants, raffia, sisal... Their natural products are recognised by ECOCERT — the European certification organisation which now has an office in Madagascar. In cooperation with PROTRADE, the Centre invited these companies to the most recent agro-organic fair, BIOFACH (Frankfurt, March 1997), where they shared a stand and received the support of an expert from the SETRAB (Syndicat européen de la transformation des produits de l'agriculture biologique).

Contact CDI: Paul Chotard

ASE at the disposal of companies in Côte d'Ivoire.

ASE (Appui et Service aux Entreprises), managed by the CDI, brings together a number of banks and trade associations, various sponsors, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Industry and Planning of Côte d'Ivoire. Its objective is to assist SMEs (existing ones and those being established) prepare and launch their projects (feasibility studies, partner search, preparation of financial plans, start-up assistance, export aid, etc...). Belgian cooperation finances the ASE to the tune of ECU 1.5 million. The body, which is very dynamic and has been in operation since last October, has already identified around thirty projects that could receive CDI assistance. The objective of this ASE/CDI cooperation is to be able to launch around sixty interventions in 1997.

Contact CDI : Hamed Sow

CDI update

Growing synergies between the CDI and European institutional investors

In 1996, 43 projects submitted to European development financing institutions were supported by the CDI. This compares with 21 in the previous year.

Long-term investment in the private sector — in the form of venture capital or loans — provides the key to economic recovery in developing countries. The traditional banking sector cannot meet this challenge given the constraints limiting its capacity for bearing risks. Therefore, for several years, national and international development aid institutions have been increasing their financial support for private investment considerably.

So as to strengthen the efficiency of their action and integrate it in a common approach, since 1990, nine development financing institutions based in the European Union have come together in the EDFI (European De-

velopment Finance Institutions), an association for dialogue and cooperation. The overall investment portfolio of the EDFI group in developing countries and countries with emerging economies more than doubled between 1990 and 1995. In 1995, it reached ECU 4.9 billion — of which 26% was in Africa, 30% in Central and Latin America, 36% in Asia and the Pacific.

The advantages of complementarity

This increase in EDFI investment in the private sector is reflected in ACP countries by a strengthening of the CDI's traditional cooperation with these institutions. Both the CDI's expertise and technical support for companies are particularly valuable, and complement each other, in the identification (facility 1), preparation (facility 2), setting-up (facility 3) and operational launch (facility 4) of the projects dealt with by the EDFI.

In 1996, 43 CDI interventions directly linked to cooperation with the EDFI amounted to ECU 849,000, in comparison to ECU 648,000 in 1995. In particular, it can be noted:

- the CDI participated, to the tune of ECU 526,500, in assistance linked to the assessment or setting-up of 25 dossiers studied by the EDFI for possible financing;

- this type of intervention was especially important for cooperation with the CDC (Commonwealth Development Corporation), with, in particular, the Centre's active involvement in the organisation of two venture capital funds in Zimbabwe (Takura Ventures) and in Kenya (Acacia Fund);

- 18 interventions (for training, technical assistance, management support, marketing support, etc.), where the CDI contribution amounted to ECU 322,500, were financed for companies in which the EDFI (mainly with DEG, PROPRACO, FMO, IFU, SWEDFUND) had already decided to invest. ■

CDI/Scandinavian cooperation for ACP countries

SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) has decided to support ALMI, the CDI's Swedish antenna, with an annual contribution of some ECU 135,000 for 1997 and 1998. This semi-public organisation provides various forms of assistance for the creation of partnerships between companies in Sweden and in developing countries.

SIDA is also launching "Start South", a new cooperation programme for Southern Africa for which there will very soon be cooperation arrangements with the CDI. "Start South" takes the already tested form of "Start East", carried out with companies from Central and Eastern Europe, dealing particularly with the organisation of training courses and meetings between company managers.

In Denmark, the government has set aside more than \$US 100 million for DANIDA so as to promote cooperation agreements between companies in Denmark and in six Asian and African countries. The ACP countries concerned are Ghana, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The DANIDA antennae, in Harare and Accra, assist companies with identifying partners and can also provide support on many other levels (start-up of activities, studies, technical assistance, training, as well as financial guarantees for mobilising capital). Cooperation and co-financing possibilities with the CDI will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Furthermore, the IFU (Industrialisation Fund for Developing countries/Denmark) will strengthen its synergy with the CDI. At the beginning of 1997, the Centre decided upon an intervention for a project supported by the IFU in Cameroon (vegetable fat) and two other dossiers in Togo and Ghana are currently being considered.

CDI Contact: Paolo Baldan

Publications received

Regionalism and the global economy — The case of Africa

by Ernest Aryeetey, Peter B. Robinson, William M. Lyakurwa, Percy S. Mistry et

al. Pub. Fondad (Noordeinde, 107a — NL-2514GE The Hague). 1996. 312 pp. US\$ 27.00 or NLG 47.50. ISBN 90-74208-10-X.

The emergence of regional blocs in Europe, America or Asia in the long term threatens to increase Africa's marginalisation vis-à-vis the world economy. Although African countries have implemented a large number of regional and sub-regional agreements, these do not appear to be leading to the anticipated results. This work attempts to analyse the reasons behind such failures and to propose measures whereby better attempts at regional integration can be achieved. Given the crucial role of this kind of integration in the development process, eminent economists from both Africa and international institutions offer an in-depth analysis of past experience and future economic integration in Africa, by attempting to update the means by which it might be enhanced.

This work offers some interesting clarifications, in particular for political decision-makers, researchers, investors and NGOs, and more generally for those with an interest in the development of Africa.

Regional integration arrangements in economic development — Panacea or pitfall ?

by Percy S. Mistry. Pub. Fondad (Noordeinde, 107a, NL-2514GE The Hague). 1996. 100 pp. US\$ 15.00 or NLG 25.00. ISBN 90-74208-08-8.

Like the book reviewed above, this work is published under the aegis of Fondad, an independent centre carrying out political research into North/South problems. The author is an Indian economist specialising in international finance and development and, in this work, he reviews the problems encountered in applying regional economic integration agreements both in developing countries and the industrialised world. Given the complexity and number of topics discussed, ranging from commercial, financial and monetary matters to institutional, social and political questions, the author has chosen a general approach whilst presenting his own point of view and suggestions.

Principaux ligneux (agro) forestiers de la Guinée — Zone de transition (Guinée-Bissau, Guinée, Côte-d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Bénin, Nigéria, Cameroun)

(Principal ligneous species in (agro)forestry in Guinea — a zone of transition (Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Côte-d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon))

by Evy Thies. Pub. Universum (Dept. German Institute for Technical Co-operation (GTZ), D-65175 Wiesbaden). 1995. 544 pp. 60 DM. ISBN 3-88085-510-2.

This book, which includes 300 illustrations and over 400 colour photos, is the product of four years of field research. It is intended for those specialising in forestry and advisers who have a passing acquaintance with the zone of transition of the title, as well as for any others wishing to gain further knowledge of the local vegetation.

The term 'zone of transition' was chosen because it seems the most appropriate way to describe the area — between evergreen forest and savannah — which has a relatively high forestry potential but suffers from the problem of bush fires. As forestry projects evolved, it became apparent that socio-economic factors and environmental impact had to be taken into account if these were to be sustainable.

Responding to the need for the consideration of these two criteria, this work gives a description of about a hundred species in a way which makes it possible to identify them. The aim is to increase awareness of the environmental and forestry requirements of these species and disseminate knowledge about the way they can be used, their propagation and their cultivation in nurseries. To highlight the significance of managing natural resources and the problems which arise from this, the stress is firmly on individual species and the techniques available for the conservation and improvement of existing forest areas.

Droit, forêts et développement durable

(Law, forests and sustainable development)

under the direction of Michel Prieur and Stéphane Doumbé-Bille. Pub. Bruylant (67, rue de la Régence, B-1000 Brussels). 1996. 567 pp. FF 1200. FB 1200. ISBN 2-8027-0758-2.

This book contains the proceedings of the first scientific workshops held by the AUFELF-UREF 'Environment Law' network. These workshops brought together French-speaking jurists from a number of countries, principally in Africa, to address a variety of topics. The subjects covered, from a national standpoint, are the legal system applying to forests, management institutions, instruments for development and protecting forests, land law and the rights of indigenous populations. Also dealt with, from an international perspective, are: the institutional and financial aspects of forest protection under international law, and the progress made since the 1992 Rio Declaration.

Etat de la francophonie dans le monde — Données 1995-1996 and 5 études inédites

(The status of French-speaking communities in the world — Data for the period 1995-96 and 5 previously unpublished studies)

Coordinated by Pierre Cassan. Pub. La Documentation française (29-31, quai Voltaire, F-75344, Paris Cedex 07). 1997. 630 pp. FF150. ISBN 2-11-003683-4.

The 1996 report from the French-speaking communities' High Council will be of interest to observers, researchers and decision-makers involved in this field. In advance of the Hanoi Summit, which will take place this year, it draws up an inventory, describing what is at stake and future prospects. There is also an overview of the current situation in French-speaking communities, a list of forthcoming international meetings and an update of major topics.

The previously unpublished studies are devoted to the external linguistic policies of French-speaking countries, decentralised cooperation, the promotion of the French language and a survey of bilingual education.

Le marché mondial de la banane : OCM contre OMC

(The banana market: EU's Common Organisation of the Market versus the WTO

by Jean-Louis Rastoin and Denis Loeillet. Pub. ENSA-INRA (2, place Viala — F-34060 Montpellier Cedex 1). 1996. 65 pp. FF120. ISBN 2-7380-0711-2.

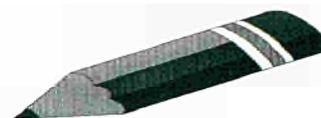
This work looks at the long-term evolution of the world banana market. It highlights the great diversity of production systems (from a gathering economy to agro-industrial plantations) and the trend towards 'internationalisation' in the sector in Central and Andean America, the West Indies and certain West African countries.

The highly coveted European market is the biggest

in terms of size and prices. The world market itself is dominated by three 'historical' multinationals from North America and by new arrivals: a British company and an Irish firm. Broadly speaking, the world market is currently divided into two major zones: an open market for the 'dollar-banana' and a protected market for the European Union.

Once the EU's current 'common organisation of the market' in bananas expires, and given the many technological, financial and geopolitical constraints that apply to this highly symbolic product, globalisation appears to be unavoidable. Against an extremely turbulent backdrop, those involved in the sector will have to develop original strategies of differentiation (quality, mark) and alliances (critical size) to ensure their survival.

A long-term view is thus essential and it is to this task that the authors have devoted themselves.



'Journalistic legends'

In your issue 162 of March -April 1997, you published a report on Somalia. It is perhaps too much to expect a journalist on a limited visit to learn accurately the finer beats of a nation's pulse. It is even worse when that pulse is beating with the fury of Somalia. Consequently, journalists have developed compass readings into which they fit their stories and that is how fixed journalistic legends develop and create an image of a people which is somewhat recognisable but not quite true. Your report was in that category.

Mohamed Ibrahim Egal, President, Republic of Somaliland

Tourism in Burkina Faso

Having read your Country Report — *Burkina Faso, a buzz in the air* — we were surprised with your statement on page 15 that *'there is little potential for traditional tourism, with no coastline'*.

This is a false perception of tourism for the following reasons. The definition of who is a tourist has been clearly defined by the World Tourism Organisation and while Burkina Faso may have no outlet to the sea (neither do Switzerland, Nepal and many other places that welcome visitors) it does offer a wide range of possibilities for people with diverse interests. For example, Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso offer some fine attractions for business-related tourism. One can take a 'discovery' holiday and travel around the country. And, of course, there is the tourism associated with the country's natural assets — notably the flora and fauna found in the National Parks. At present, these forms of tourism may not be generating a great deal of trade but, with or without a coastline, Burkina Faso undeniably offers opportunities to a variety of categories of visitor. The association of tourism merely with 'sun, sea and sand' is old-fashioned and has no place in contemporary debate on this subject.

Marc Halleux, The Tourism Partnership, Avenue de Versailles 56, B-1020, Brussels, Belgium.

IN BRIEF

Great Lakes: nomination of a UN/OAU Special Representative

UN Assistant Secretary General for nearly ten years and UN representative on many occasions, *Mohamed Sahnoun*, 66 year old Algerian diplomat, was appointed UN/OAU special representative for the Great Lakes region on 22 January. The two organisations plan, for the first time, to work closely together in an attempt to solve the crisis which is rocking this region. This policy is in line with Mr Sahnoun's wishes since he has been arguing for many years for the UN to call on the help of the OAU more often in order to allow it, with the support of the international community, to deal with the problems of Africa.

The special envoy's mission is based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1097 which calls for an immediate ceasefire, the withdrawal of foreign troops (including mercenaries), the reassertion of respect for national sovereignty and for the territorial integrity of Zaire and of the other countries in the region, the protection of refugees and displaced persons, access for humanitarian aid and a rapid and peaceful solution through dialogue, elections and the convening of an international conference on peace, security and the development of the region. ■

Strengthened partnership between the Commission and the World Bank

During a conference held in Lisbon in July 1996, the two institutions de-

cidated to increase their collaboration with regard to cooperation in African development, and the effects of this decision are already being felt. At a two-day seminar in Brussels therefore, a Commission team, headed by *Professor Pinheiro*, the Commissioner responsible for relations with the ACP countries, and a delegation from the World Bank led by *Jean-Louis Sarbib*, Vice-President responsible for Africa, were able to demonstrate encouraging signs of economic and political change in sub-Saharan Africa.

Improvements have been made in macroeconomic stability, liberalisation of exchange rates, decreasing budgetary deficits, introducing economic reforms in favour of the very poorest and increasing the growth rate per inhabitant (for the first time, 48 sub-Saharan African countries have recorded a growth rate of at least 5% in 1996) and also in the organisation of some 30 democratic elections.

The two international donors, who between them provide 70% of aid to Africa, are planning to implement a 'programme of operational coordination' and have initially chosen to concentrate their joint efforts on three countries: Côte-d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Mozambique in the areas of the battle against poverty and the development of the private sector. This coordination will firstly consist of a joint analysis of the strategy to be deployed. In Côte-d'Ivoire, for example, action is to focus on agriculture, health care and the pharmaceutical sector, whereas in Mozambique, recovering from the recent civil war, efforts will focus on general rehabilitation. An evaluation will also be made of the means available to the two institutions, in order to identify complementary relationships and comparative advantages so as to avoid inconsistency and dupli-

cation of effort and to concentrate resources to achieve optimum results.

A high-level seminar involving the World Bank and the Commission is shortly to be organised in one of the three pilot-scheme countries. ■

International development prize

This year, the Brazilian association *Movement for Landless Farmers* (MST) has been chosen to receive the international King Baudouin award for development (Belgium). Created in 1978, this biennial award is made to any person or organisation which has made a significant contribution to development in a country in the south or to improving north-south relations.

The King Baudouin Foundation believes that the Movement for Landless Farmers deserves encouragement 'for the essential role it plays in implementing agrarian reform, thus allowing, by means of a return to the land, the poorest of Brazilians the opportunity to start afresh by giving them a new plan for life and a rediscovered dignity'.

It is important to remember in this context that Brazil is, according to figures from the World Bank, the country with the most unequal land structure in the world — less than 1% of the population owns 43% of the land. It is estimated that 23 million rural Brazilian workers live below the poverty line and that there are approximately 12 million landless farmers, while 44% of the land is not used to its full potential.

Such an imbalance has inevitably led to conflicts over the ownership of

arable land for many years. Following a series of isolated and sometimes bloody struggles, a number of rural workers joined together in 1985 to form the MST. By virtue of its concrete action in occupying fallow land, the MST first succeeded in making certain politicians aware of the issue and then in achieving results at the legislative level. These results include controls on large land properties in 1988 and the Land Reform Law in 1993.

The MST has distinguished itself in having put forward not only the economic role of land but also its social function. By providing for the development of rural employment, agrarian reform is also contributing to slowing down the growth of shanty towns in the cities and in checking the rising level of insecurity existing in these towns. The work done by the Movement for Landless Farmers in this area can be seen as a model and stimulus for other developing countries. ■

European conference on conflict prevention

As burning issues of international affairs, conflicts remain one of the main sources of misery for peoples throughout the world. Such conflicts leave in their wake a great number of innocent victims, a vast flow of refugees in humanly unacceptable situations and countries in complete devastation. The tragic consequences brought about by war are becoming increasingly difficult for the international community to control and more than ever press home the message that every possible attempt must be made to prevent their occurrence. The great many issues, whether visible or latent, which cause wars must in future be dealt with more appropriately with a focus on genuine early-warning systems.

Discussions within many international circles have already centred on the search for more efficient opera-

tional strategies to deal with this problem.

Following the same line of reasoning, an international conference on the role of the European Union in conflict prevention was held on 27 and 28 February 1997 in Amsterdam at the initiative of the Dutch NGO NCDO (National Commission for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development), in collaboration with the liaison committee of the development NGOs within the EU.

Some 1 500 people took part in the conference. These included representatives of civil society, governments (ministries of foreign affairs and of development cooperation), NGOs and European institutions. Participants also came from research centres in the 15 EU Member States and a number of African countries (Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Liberia, Ethiopia, Mali, Kenya, Zimbabwe, South Africa).

The central feature of the debate was an attempt to analyse the situation in Africa. This was undertaken by a series of specific working groups charged with looking at the experiences of the various regions of the continent (West Africa, the Horn of Africa, Great Lakes region, Southern Africa).

It was no coincidence that the meeting was held the day before the EU Development Council met in informal session in the same town under the presidency of Jan Pronk, Dutch Minister of Cooperation and President in Office of the Council of Ministers. The aim of the conference was to convince the 15 EU ministers responsible for development cooperation and the European Commission (represented by *João de Deus Pinheiro*, Commissioner responsible for relations with the ACP countries and Southern Africa, and *Emma Bonino*, responsible for humanitarian aid), that a concerted and more thought-out approach is needed to prevent serious crises. Resolving conflicts before they break out should make it possible to avoid large-scale human tragedy while minimising intervention costs.

Mindful of the suggestions put forward, Mr Pronk made it clear that already existing early warning procedures must be improved. He stressed that his European counterparts were in complete agreement with this proposal. Recognising that information about threatened conflicts was inadequate and was processed in an excessively bureaucratic manner, the suggestion was that an 'early warning centre' should be established.

Commissioner Pinheiro believed that conflict prevention should be introduced into EU cooperation and development policy, with advance mechanisms to identify major risks relayed by a wide network of observers. He also mentioned that assistance should be given to organisations such as the OAU, who work in this area.

The conference organisers submitted an action plan to the EU President in Office. Supported by some 20 NGOs active in conflict prevention and development cooperation, this plan is based on 10 key points:

- alerting the public to the importance of conflict prevention;
- adding a text to the Treaty of Union strengthening the role and responsibility of the EU in the field of conflict prevention;
- exploiting the influence of the European members of international organisations (UN, WTO, IMF, World Bank) so that their politicians might neutralise the risk of conflicts;
- taking into account the many actors who have a role to play in conflict prevention (the media, women, the young, governments, NGOs, local organisations);
- supporting the creation of a conflict prevention system within the OAU;
- envisaging, in the context of debates on the future of ACP/EU relations, the introduction of a clause on the implementation of conflict prevention;
- establishing a code of conduct aimed at restricting the arms trade from EU countries to states in conflict and to those judged to be at risk;

- promoting the creation of a permanent international criminal court with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of flagrant abuses of human rights;
- strengthening the dialogue between the NGOs and the public authorities with a view to increasing the chances of success of programmes linked to conflict prevention;
- increasing EU and Member States' funding of conflict prevention and the peace-building efforts. ■

Kenneth Karl

PLO-EC Association Agreement

On 21 February, the interim Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement relating to trade and cooperation between the European Community and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, acting on behalf of the Palestinian authority for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, was signed in Brussels. The signatories to the agreement were *Yasser Arafat*, President of the Palestinian authority and — representing the European side — the Dutch President in Office of the Council, *Hans Van Mierlo*, and *Manuel Marin*, Commission Vice-President.

The agreement, which forms an essential part of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, has the following objectives:

- the drawing up of a suitable framework for a global dialogue allowing the establishment of close relations between the parties;
- the creation of the conditions for a gradual liberalisation of exchange rates;
- the promotion, through dialogue and cooperation, of balanced economic and social relations between the parties;
- contributing to the social and economic development of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip;

- the encouragement of regional cooperation with a view to consolidating peaceful coexistence and political and economic stability;
- the promotion of cooperation in other fields of mutual interest.

The agreement also provides for the gradual establishment of a free trade area over a transition period not to be extended past 31 December 2001 and cooperation in the following fields: circulation of capital, competition, intellectual property, procurement contracts, investment promotion, transport, telecommunications, information technology, energy, scientific and technological cooperation, the environment, tourism, audiovisual techniques, culture, information and communication, and social development.

In a joint declaration, the EU and the PLO decided furthermore to establish a regular political dialogue in the context of EU policy. Self-determination of the Palestinian people, with all its implications, will form a fundamental principle of this dialogue which will focus on all issues of mutual interest, in particular the conditions necessary to ensure the peace, security and development of the region as well as democracy and the respect of human rights in the Mediterranean basin. ■

Morocco: European support for structural adjustment

A grant of MECU 120 was the subject of a recent finance agreement between Morocco and the EU under the SAF (structural-adjustment facility). This assistance, among the highest granted for this purpose, was drawn from the MEDA programme and is intended to support the economic and social reforms undertaken by Morocco with a view to Morocco's gradual integration into the Mediterranean free trade area.

By granting this non-repayable assistance, the Commission is safeguarding the management of a programme which was conceived in agreement with the Moroccan authorities and drawn up in close coordination with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. ■

Eurobarometer poll on equal opportunities for women and men in Europe

This opinion poll, entitled 'Europe's men and women in the face of equal opportunities', was carried out at the request of the Commission and was published in early March. Commenting on the results of the poll, *Padraig Flynn*, Member of the Commission responsible for employment and social affairs, noted that a difference of opinion appears to exist between men and women on certain equality-related subjects. He also referred to other fields where the attitudes of men and women differ even more considerably. He added: 'This survey provides us with some invaluable information on the major concerns of Europe's citizens in the field of equality, in particular on personal values, domestic behaviour and the dignity of the individual.' The Commission would now be analysing what action, if any, should be proposed in response to these concerns.

Contrary to certain perceptions, the survey reveals that professional employment is as important for women as it is for men, and that women attach as much significance as their male counterparts to initiative and independence at work, as well as to training and the prospects of promotion. A logical conclusion is that women, who are more affected by unemployment, suffer financially and psychologically just as much as men in these circumstances.

Another interesting finding is that both men and women consider that private values, especially family life, bring far more satisfaction than any other aspect of life in society.

Moreover, nearly 50% of Europeans believe that equal opportunities strengthen democracy, promote personal development and improve human relationships while more than two-thirds reject the idea that equal opportunities for men and women would make daily life more difficult.

In terms of priorities for EU action, 18% of European men and women cite 'respect for the individual', 16% mention 'access for women to positions of responsibility' while 'participation in political life' attracts 12% support.

Looked at in comparison with policy issues, the majority of European citizens focus on the fight against unemployment as a key Union priority. Improving the situation of women is nonetheless gaining ground, whether in terms of a more equitable distribution of tasks (housework, looking after children) or in the private sphere of private relations.

Sharing housework is the area where the need for an improvement is most deeply felt. This is followed by 'respect for the individual' — in other words, respect for the identity of men and women, and the individual freedom which this implies.

If, as has been seen, it is still difficult for women to reconcile family and professional life, what concrete measures might facilitate matters? Payments in kind and financial support are identified as the most important elements. Young women are mainly interested in improving facilities and services for looking after children, while financial support is more in demand from older people.

49% of respondents (men and women) said that working from home is a good compromise solution for those who want to work while looking after their children. But there are almost as many (40%) who

Partial accession of South Africa to the Lomé Convention

South Africa's partial membership of Lomé IV should be signed in Luxembourg on April 24 following the decision of the Spanish government to lift its reserve at a meeting of European Union foreign ministers on March 24.

The agreement will enable the country to participate fully in meetings of Lomé institutions such as the Council and the Joint Assembly. It will also obtain certain trade benefits under the Lomé rules of origin, with South African companies becoming eligible to tender for EDF contracts in African, Caribbean and Pacific nations. According to a Council spokesman, one of the outstanding issues which would need to be resolved before the Luxembourg meeting was whether South Africa would be eligible to tender for projects under both the 7th and 8th European Development Funds.

The agreement was made possible after the Spanish government received assurances pledging that South Africa will continue negotiating on a broader trade package with the European Union, including a fisheries agreement.

Dutch Foreign Minister, Hans van Mierlo, who presided at the EU Council meeting, told journalists: 'Of course, parallel further negotiations will be necessary on the free trade agreement, and the wine and fisheries agreement with South Africa.'

The talks on a free trade accord remain stalled, notably over the terms of entry for agricultural and industrial products. The South African government is seeking to obtain movement on certain aspects of the EU's negotiating position (see the News Round-up in issue no 162 of *The Courier*).
D.P.

believe that it is impossible to reconcile these two activities. This feeling is particularly strong amongst those who are actually attempting to do this.

With regard to the fact that inequalities remain, more than 40% of those asked believe that both men and women have to change. 39% think that it is, above all, men who have to change. More women want men to change than *vice versa* and the figure among females in the 15 to 24 year-old group is 50%.

Finally, national legislation allowing women to receive equal treatment is unfamiliar to many: 34% of those taking part in the survey were unaware that such laws are in force. 11% believe that no rules exist, and only 22% said they knew this kind of legislation was in force. And while nearly half of Europe's citizens are ignorant of national legislation, more than 60% are unaware that the European institutions are also involved in resolving the issues of equal opportunities for men and women in employment.

EU gets tough on safety of foreign aircraft

Tougher and more frequent controls on the condition of foreign aircraft landing at European Union airports are being considered under a proposed new EU Directive (COM (97) 55 final). It has been tabled in the wake of the February 1996 accident when 176 passengers were killed in the Dominican Republic. The Commission subsequently set up a high level group to probe third country aviation safety.

The draft Directive proposes more stringent and frequent safety assessments of foreign aircraft landing in the EU with an obligation on Member States to ground aircraft they find to be, or suspect are, dangerous.

Some Member States already carry out so-called 'ramp inspections'. Under the new Directive, these would be done in a more thorough and consistent manner throughout the 15 Member States, to avoid a situation where an aircraft that fails a test can simply hop to the next airport to escape penalties. Inspections will consist of on-board and external examinations of aircraft with checks

on the validity of documents pertaining to the machine and its crew. Thus, the physical condition of the craft and its equipment will be scrutinised as well as registration certificates, log books, certificates of airworthiness, crew licenses, and passenger and freight lists. Checks will also be made on International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requirements relating to the possession of an air operator certificate, noise and emission certificates, safety equipment, and radio communication and navigation equipment. The safety standards aspired to are those found in the annexes of the 1944 Chicago Convention, the international treaty which governs civil aviation safety.

To assist with future inspections, the Commission also intends to go about collecting information on third country aircraft safety in a more systematic way. This will involve, for example, filing passenger complaints, pilot reports, maintenance organisation reports, incidents reports and details of aircraft already banned. There will also be follow-up checks for aircraft which have been grounded or on which repairs should have been effected.

If an aircraft fails a ramp inspection, it can be grounded. The authorities of the countries concerned are automatically informed. The Directive also allows an aircraft failing the test to fly to another destination for repairs, without carrying fare-paying passengers. An owner or representative of a third country has the right of appeal. European Union Member States will lay down their own penalties for breaching provisions. According to the draft, these must be 'effective, proportionate and dissuasive'. Assuming it is agreed by the

Council of Ministers, the Directive should be implemented no later than 1 July 1998. ■ Debra Percival

ACP worries over interim WTO report on bananas

The long awaited interim report of the World Trade Organisation disputes panel has found that the European Common Organisation of the banana market violates certain global free trade rules.

Pending the definitive report, the 400-page document, leaked on March 18, upholds certain aspects of the complaint brought 10 months ago against the European Union by four Latin American nations — Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, together with the United States. It reportedly says that the licensing system discriminates against the production of the four producing countries in question. It criticises the more generous market access accorded by the EU to Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Venezuela. However, it is not said to challenge the market preferences accorded by the EU to African and Caribbean producers under the fourth Lomé Convention. The WTO has agreed a general waiver for Lomé trade preferences.

The report will now be circulated to all five complainant countries and the European Union for comment before a definitive ruling is handed down. This is expected by April.

The Caribbean Banana Exporters Association (CBEA), which represents growers in Belize, Jamaica, Suriname and the Windward Islands, promptly issued a statement criticising their exclusion from the process. 'In spite of the crucial economic interests they have at stake,' the statement read, 'neither the CBEA nor Caribbean Governments know precisely what the panel's interim report says, since it is confidential to the principal parties — the EU and the US and its four Latin American supporters. It is bizarre and regrettable that the WTO will not show the draft to, let alone accept comments from, countries whose economies risk destruction as a result of their conclusions. It is difficult to understand how the USA can reconcile their action with

their professed concern for the well-being of their Caribbean neighbours.'

The statement added: 'This is by no means the end of the affair. There is provision for an appeal to a separate appellate body within the WTO although, again, only the main parties can exercise this right.'

Speaking at the Joint ACP/EU Assembly on March 20, *Edwin Laurent*, Brussels Ambassador for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) said: 'The tragic irony is that our countries, whose very livelihood is being adjudicated, do not even receive these reports.'

He continued: 'The WTO, regrettably, is still the big boys' club that the old GATT always was. Small countries like mine have no power and therefore no clout. All that is on offer to us is rough justice. Under the rules of blind free market ideology, the interest of thousands of banana farmers and peasants in the ACP must not be allowed to prevail against the ambitions of a multinational corporation which happens to be politically influential.' ■ D.P.

THE INSTITUTIONS AT WORK

COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Within the framework of its Common Foreign and Security Policy, the European Union has recently issued a number of statements on issues of international concern, details of which are set out below:

Trade unionists acquitted in Swaziland

Declaration of 3 March 1997

The European Union has taken note that the four accused leaders of the Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions were acquitted on 26 February 1997 and hopes that this acquittal will contribute decisively to the peaceful resolution of the current difficulties without further detriment to the economy of Swaziland. The EU wishes to assure Swaziland of its continuing support for the constitutional review process with the participation of all sections of Swazi society, in the hope that it can be accelerated and brought to a timely and successful conclusion.

New appeal to the parties in the Zaire conflict

Declaration of 7 March 1997

The European Union reiterates its support for the efforts of the UN/OAU special envoy for the Great Lakes region to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict in eastern Zaire.

In this connection the EU welcomes the Zairean authorities' agreement to the five-point peace plan contained in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1097. It regards this as an important step to be taken into account in advancing the

process.

It calls upon all parties involved in the crisis in Zaire to endorse the peace plan put forward by the special representative of the UN and OAU Secretaries-General and to give effect to its various provisions.

The EU will continue its action vis-à-vis all its partners in the international community for the swift, full application of the UN and OAU peace plan.

Call to maintain humanitarian corridors in Zaire

Declaration of 15 March 1997

It is with great concern that the European Union has learned about the rapidly deteriorating situation in Kisangani.

Once more, this means that large groups of refugees have to move further without assistance of any kind being able to reach them. In addition this means further suffering for the Zairean population.

The EU calls on all parties to the conflict in eastern Zaire to respect the lives of both refugees and Zaireans.

The EU, as the largest provider of humanitarian aid, urges all the parties involved to safeguard the humanitarian corridors that have just been opened by them in order to enable the delivery of the humanitarian assistance that is so urgently needed.

The EU furthermore calls on all parties involved to look for ways and means to assist the large group of refugees now concentrated near Ubundu, who cannot be reached under the present circumstances.

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

Following, where required, favourable opinions from the EDF Committee, the Commission has decided to provide grants and special loans from the 5th, 6th and 7th EDFs

to finance the following operations (grants unless otherwise stated). Major projects and programmes are highlighted:

Economic and social infrastructure

Côte d'Ivoire: ECU 700 000 for a programme to support decentralised cultural initiatives.

Senegal: ECU 600 000 for a priority job creation programme (transitional phase 1997)

New Caledonia: ECU 2.6 million to support diversification and the organisation of the mining sector.

Trade promotion / structural adjustment

Botswana: ECU 1.8 million for the implementation of a trade development programme.

Madagascar: ECU 27 million to support the 1997-98 structural adjustment programme.

Agriculture / rural development

Eritrea: ECU 1.2 million towards revitalising the service responsible for dealing with livestock sanitary problems.

Kenya: ECU 8.3 million for a programme to support research in the agriculture and livestock sectors.

Health

Guinea: ECU 1.2 million for a programme designed to improve urban health services.

Education

Tanzania: ECU 1.9 million for a development programme in the education sector.

Institutional support

Jamaica: ECU 1.9 million for a programme to modernise the public service.

Miscellaneous

Rwanda: ECU 996 000 for a project

to help the return and reintegration of Rwandan students in the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Central and Eastern Europe.

Jamaica: ECU 647 000 for a project involving the return of 20 qualified nationals and their reintegration into the public service.

New Caledonia/French Polynesia: ECU 1.3 million for a programme to relaunch tourism.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

During the last three months of 1996, the EIB has provided the following loans:

West Africa: ECU 400 000 to Cauris Investissement S.A. to support the financing of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the private sector.

South Africa: ECU 30 million, channelled through the Standard Bank and the First National Bank for the financing of small infrastructure projects in the private sector.

Côte-d'Ivoire: ECU 4 million, through two local banks, to finance private sector SMEs.

Ethiopia: ECU 10 million, through the Development Bank of Ethiopia, to finance private sector SMEs.

Ethiopia: ECU 9 million for the renovation of the Bahr textile factory.

Gabon: ECU 10.5 million to the State of Gabon to improve the air traffic control system.

Guinea-Bissau: ECU 180 000 to Gemsa, a private sector company specialising in door and window construction.

Kenya: ECU 45 million to support the financing of small and medium-scale investments in the private sector.

Madagascar: ECU 1 million, through the Banque malgache de l'Océan indien, to support SMEs.

Madagascar: ECU 680 000 to support small and medium-scale initiatives in the mining, industrial, food, tourism and transport sectors.

Malawi: ECU 15 million to extend and upgrade water supply provision in Lilongwe.

Mali: ECU 1 million to Omnium Mali S.A. for an electric battery production system.

Namibia: ECU 8 million, through the Central Bank, to support SMEs.

Swaziland: ECU 3 million to extend the storage installation and sugar processing operation of the Swaziland Sugar Association.

Netherlands Antilles: ECU 6 million to modernise the island of Curaçao's air traffic control system.

Bahamas: ECU 20 million for the Bahamas Electricity Corporation to develop electricity generation and transmission on the island of New Providence.

Barbados: ECU 20 million for the Barbados Power and Light Company to strengthen the electricity sector.

Grenada: ECU 4 million for Grenada Electricity Services Ltd. to develop electricity generation.

Dominican Republic: ECU 8 million, through the Banco Internacional, to support SME investments.

Saint-Lucia: ECU 8 million for St. Lucia Electricity Services Ltd. to develop electricity generation.

Trinidad & Tobago: ECU 45 million for the National Gas Company Ltd. to finance a new gas pipeline.

HUMANITARIAN AID

Africa/South America/Asia: ECU 1.7 million for 11 projects designed to prevent or minimise the effects of natural catastrophes such as floods, droughts, earthquakes and epidemics. The funds will also be used to tackle problems relating to population displacement, through the training of local personnel in responding to emergency situations, and for the application of more cost-effective technologies to minimise damage.

Non ACP countries

Bolivia: ECU 800 000 to provide food and medical aid, materials needed for repairs and clothes, to victims of the last two months' heavy rains

which have caused flooding and landslips.

Ecuador: ECU 440 000 to supply water, food and medicines to victims of the serious drought that has affected the provinces of Loja and El Oro.

Peru: ECU 600 000 to provide food aid and emergency relief to some 20 000 victims of thunder storms and flooding in the Apurimac, San Martín, Cusco and Puno regions.

Morocco: ECU 300 000 to distribute food supplies and essential equipment to victims of the floods that occurred in December 1996.

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza: ECU 7 million for limited food aid, and for medical assistance in the form of essential equipment for hospitals and clinics, vaccination campaigns etc.

Palestinians in refugee camps in Lebanon: ECU 3 million to provide essential equipment for hospitals and clinics enabling them to offer basic primary health care and a minimum of hospital cover.

FOOD AID

The Commission has recently decided to allocate the following aid:

World Food Programme — ECU 110 985 000

International Committee of the Red Cross — ECU 10 565 000

Non governmental organisations — ECU 27 837 000

Operational summary n° 97 - May 1997

(position as at 14 April 1997)



ec-acp

European Development Funds schemes

The following information is aimed at showing the state of progress of schemes funded by the European Community under the EDF (Lomé Convention).

Geographical breakdown

The summary is divided into three groups

- Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) country projects.
- Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) projects.
- Regional projects

The information within each of these groups is given by recipient country (in alphabetical order).

Information given

The following details will usually be given for each development scheme:

- The title of the project.
- The administrative body responsible for it.
- The estimated sum involved (prior to financing decision) or the amount actually provided (post-financing decision)
- A brief description of projects envisaged (construction work, equipment supplies, technical assistance etc.)
- Any methods of implementation for example, international invitations to tender).
- The stage the project has reached (identification, appraisal, submission for financing, financing decision, ready for implementation)

Main abbreviations

Resp. Auth.: Responsible Authority
Int. Tender: International invitation to tender
Acc. Tender: Invitation to tender (accelerated procedure)
Restr. Tender: Restricted invitation to tender
T.A.: Technical Assistance
EDF: European Development Fund
(e.g. EDF 7 = 7th European development Fund)
mECU: million European currency units

Blue Pages on the INTERNET

Enter the DG VIII Home Page

<http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg08/dgviii.htm>

Choose the option

Projects for tender

**Correspondence about this operational
summary can be sent directly to:**

**Mr Franco Cupini,
Directorate-General for Development
European Commission
G12 4-14, 200, rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels**

**Note: Participation in EDF schemes is strictly
confined to ACP or EU firms.**

Please cover only one subject at a time.

SECTOR CODE DESCRIPTION

AAz Planning and public administration

- AAa Administrative buildings
- AAb Economic planning and policy
- AAc Assistance to the normal operations of government not falling under a different category
- AAd Police and fire protection
- AAe Collection and publication of statistics of all kinds, information and documentation
- AAf Economic surveys, pre-investment studies
- AAg Cartography, mapping, aerial photography
- AAi Demography and manpower studies

ABz Development of public utilities

- ABa Power production and distribution
- ABai Electricity
- ABb Water supply
- ABc Communications
- ABd Transport and navigation
- ABe Meteorology
- ABf Peaceful uses of atomic energy (non-power)

ACz Agriculture, fishing and forestry

- ACa Agriculture production
- ACb Service to agriculture
- ACc Forestry
- ACd Fishing and hunting
- ACe Conservation and extension
- ACf Agriculture storage
- ACg Agriculture construction
- ACh Home economics and nutrition
- ACi Land and soil surveys

ADz Industry, mining and construction

- ADa Extractive industries
- ADai Petroleum and natural gas
- ADb Manufacturing
- ADc Engineering and construction
- ADd Cottage industry and handicraft
- ADe Productivity, including management, automation, accountancy, business, finance and investment
- ADf Non-agricultural storage and warehousing
- ADg Research in industry technology

AEz Trade, banking, tourism and other services

- AEa Agriculture development banks
- AEb Industrial development banks
- AEc Tourism, hotels and other tourist facilities
- AEd Export promotion
- AEe Trade, commerce and distribution
- AEf Co-operatives (except agriculture and housing)

- AEg Publishing, journalism, cinema, photography
- AEh Other insurance and banking
- AEi Archaeological conservation, game reserves

AFz Education

- AFa Primary and secondary education
- AFb University and higher technical institutes
- AFbi Medical
- AFc Teacher training
- AFci Agriculture training
- AFd Vocational and technical training
- AFe Educational administration
- AFf Pure or general research
- AFg Scientific documentation
- AFh Research in the field of education or training
- AFi Subsidiary services
- AFj Colloquia, seminars, lectures, etc.

AGz Health

- AGa Hospitals and clinics
- AGb Maternal and child care
- AGc Family planning and population-related research
- AGd Other medical and dental services
- AGE Public health administration
- AGf Medical insurance programmes

AHz Social infrastructure and social welfare

- AHa Housing, urban and rural
- AHb Community development and facilities
- AHc Environmental sanitation
- AHd Labour
- AHe Social welfare, social security and other social schemes
- AHf Environmental protection
- AHg Flood control
- AHh Land settlement
- AHi Cultural activities

Alz Multisector

- Ala River development
- Alb Regional development projects

AJz Unspecified

ACP STATES

New projects and updated information in existing projects appear in italics

ANGOLA

Rehabilitation of the Tchivinguiro Institute. 8.24 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ANG 7014 - AFb

Reconstruction support programme. 55 mECU. Relaunch of economic and social activities. Improvement of basic social services and living conditions, poverty alleviation, increase of production and of basic communication possibilities, amelioration of basic infrastructures, participation in mine-clearing operations, support for demobilisation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ANG 6036/001 - AGz, AHz.

Rehabilitation in rural areas of Huambo province. 3 mECU. To repair health and education infrastructure and help to get farming and other productive activities up and running again. Projects managed by Save the Children Fund (UK), Oikos (P), Concern (Ireland) and Halstrust (UK) for mine clearance operations. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ANG 7255/012 - ACz

Support for training of lawyers and academics in the Law Faculty of Agostinho Neto University (FDUAN). 0.800 mECU. Training, supply of equipment. Financing date January 97. EDF 7.

EDF ANG 7018/000 - AFb

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Livestock development. Phase II. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture. 0.130 mECU. Supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF AB 5003(7001) - ACa

Upgrading and expansion of Antigua Hotel Training Centre. Construction and equipment for part new and part renovated and upgraded facilities. Estimated cost 2.2 mECU. Works, supplies, design and supervision. T.A. and training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF AB 7001 - AFd

BENIN

Improvement works on the Sémé-Porto Nova road. (12.711 km). Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux Publics et des Transports. 20 mECU. Infrastructure works and installation of road signing. Work supervision by KFW (D). Works by int. tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7132 - ABd

Support programme for municipal development of Parakou City. Resp. Auth.: Circonscription urbaine de Parakou. Estimated total cost 2 mECU. Works and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF BEN 7006 - ABd

Improvement of transfusional security in the departments of Ouémé, Mono and Atlantique. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of

Health. 0.700 mECU. T.A., supplies, training and evaluation. EDF 7.

EDF BEN 7007 - AGa

BOTSWANA

Vocational Training Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Education. Estimated total cost 15.100 mECU. Construction and equipment of a new vocational training centre in Gaborone to provide +/- 800 training places. Expand existing schools. Works, supplies and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 5, 6 and 7.

EDF BT 7004 - AFd

Sysmin - support to base metal industry (Copper-Nickel-Cobalt). Resp. Auth.: BCL Ltd., 33.7mECU. To deepen the shaft of the Selebi-North mine, to reach a new ore-body, equipping it and carrying out new prospective drilling to identify new ore-bodies. Works, supplies and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF SYSMIN BT 9999/001 - ADA

Botswana Tourism Development Programme (Foundation phase). Resp. Auth.: Department of Tourism (DoT) of Commerce and Industry. 1.91 mECU. Short- and long-term T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF BT 5019/001 - AEc

Trade Development Programme (Phase I). Resp. Auth.: Department of Trade and Investment Promotion. Estimated cost 1.700 mECU. To support trade diversification and export promotion. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF BT 7008 - AEe

BURKINA FASO

Tougan - Ouahigouya - Mali border road. Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux publics. Modern earth-road. Supervision: short-list done. Estimated cost 13.5 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 6 and 7.

EDF BK 7004 - ABd

Sectoral Adjustment Programme - Agricultural-Cereals. 6.100 mECU. Support for institutional reform, works, supply of equipment, T.A. lines of credit. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF BK 7009 - ACa

Sectoral Adjustment Programme - Agricultural - Environment. Estimated cost 1.950 mECU. Soil map and inventory, soil management and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF BK 7010 - ACa

Periodical road maintenance programme. Ouagadougou-Ghana. Bobo-Côte d'Ivoire, and Bobo-Mali. Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux Publics. 29 mECU. Works, supervision. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF BK 6017 - ABd

Support project for the reform of the pharmaceutical sector.

Resp. Auth.: Ministère de la Santé - Direction des Services Pharmaceutiques (DSPh) and CAMEG 1.6 mECU. Line of credit, works, equipment and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF BK 7017 - AGc

Geological cartography. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Energie et des Mines. 15 mECU. Aerial geophysical survey for the middle west, creation of a national geophysical data bank, geological mapping 1/200.000. Works, equipment, T.A. EDF 7

EDF BK SYS 9999 - AAq, ADz

SYSMIN - Rehabilitation of the Poura mine. Resp. Auth.: I.G.R. International Gold Resources Corporation. 11 mECU. Works by direct agreement. Supplies and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF SYSMIN BK 9999 - ADA

Construction of the 'Creativity and Export Pavilion' at the 'International Craftsmanship Fair in Ouagadougou (SIAO). 0.180 mECU. Works by direct agreement after restr. tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 70001/012 - AEe

Ouagadougou dam classified forest development. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Eau. Estimated total cost 1.200 mECU. EDF part 0.300 mECU. Cofinancing with CFD (F), The Netherlands (possible). Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF BK 7023 - AHf

Support for decentralisation. Resp. Auth.: Ministère Administration Territoriale et Sécurité. Estimated total cost 2 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A., training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF BK 7024 - AAb

Support for the structural adjustment programme 1996-1997. General import programme. EDF 11.4 mECU. T.A. foreseen. Date for financing November 96. EDF 7.

EDF BK 7200/004 - AAc

Support for the judicial system. Estimated total cost 1 mECU. Training of magistrates and improvement of judicial services. Project on appraisal. EDF 7

EDF BK 7027 - AAz

Feasibility and implementation studies for roadworks to be carried out under the PASECT Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs. 4.125 mECU. Studies on road infrastructure. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF BK 617/001 - ADz

Support for the third general registration of population. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Economic and Financial Affairs. 0.935 mECU. Collection of statistical information. EDF 7.

EDF BK 7026 - AAe

CAMEROON

General Import Programme. Hard currency allowance to import ACP and EC goods with negative list. 20.2 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF CM 7200

Lagdo fishing project. Resp. Auth.: MINEPIA. Estimated cost 3.500 mECU. Preservation and improvement of the social-economic situation around Lake Lagdo. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF CM 6002/002 - ACa

Protection and sanitation for Kousseri town. Kousseri road network. Resp. Auth.: MINTP. Estimated cost 4 mECU. Dyke rehabilitation works along the Logoni river, road works and rain water drainage. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF CM 6022 - AHg, Ala

Access road to the Tikar Plain. Resp. Auth.: MINTP. 14 mECU. Road works over the Kakar-Sabongari-Atta-Sonkolong road. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF CM 6037 - ABd

Tikar Plain development. Resp. Auth.: MINAT. 10,2 mECU. Social-economic improvement. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF CM 6004 - ACa

Support for the road sector. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Public Works and Transport. 1.930 mECU. T.A. EDF 7.

EDF CM 6031/001 - AAz

Reorientation of health care in the far north province. 1.9 mECU. Social cooperation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF CM 6030/001 - AGz

CAPE VERDE

Maio island rural electrification.

Estimated total cost 2 mECU.

Improvement of living conditions. Supply of electricity, Works, supplies and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF CV 7009/000 - ABa,i

Santo Antao water supply and

sanitation. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Economic Coordination. 1.4 mECU.

Works, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF CV 7011 - ABb

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Support for the transport sectoral programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Transports et des Travaux Publics 50 mECU. Road rehabilitation. Works supervision, supply of equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF CA 6008 - ABd

CHAD

Relaunch of the fishing sector.

Estimated cost 2.500 mECU. Sectoral study: shortlist done. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF CD 7011 - ACa

River Chari embankment protection.

Estimated total cost 5 mECU. To improve living conditions in N'Djamena. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF CD 5027 - AHf,g

Support for the electoral process.

Resp. Auth.: UNDP(PNUD). Estimated total cost 0.500 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.

EDF CD 7015 - AAc

Eré-Kélo road improvement. Resp.

Auth.: Ministère des T.P., des Transports et de l'Habitat. 13.500 mECU. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 6 and 7.

EDF CD 7012 - ABd

Restoration of bridges that fall within the framework of the Second Transport Sectoral Programme. Resp.

Auth.: MINTP Chad. Estimated total cost 4 mECU. Urgent work to be carried out to restore 15 bridges under the Transport Sectoral Programme. Works, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF CD 6001 - ABd

Support for structural adjustment. 10.2 mECU. Date for financing November 96. EDF 7.

EDF CD 7200/001 - AAc

COMOROS

Sea-access to Moheli island. Resp.

Auth.: Ministère de l'Équipement - Direction Générale des Travaux Publics. 3.250 mECU. Works, by int.tender.T.A. for further investigations, tender dossier and works supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF COM 6006/7003 - ABd

Development of cultivation for export.

Vanilla and Ylang Ylang. Resp. Auth.: Ministère du Dev. Rural. 1.900 mECU. Vanilla and improvement of quality (laboratory, management, marketing). Supply of non-wood ovens. Crop diversification. Equipment, T.A. and training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF COM 7004 - ACa

Rehabilitation of Mutsamudu-Sima-

Pomoni road at Aujouan. 5.6 mECU.

Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'équipement (DG Travaux Publiques). Works (41 km) by int. tender, supervision by direct agreement after short-list. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF COM/7001 - ABd

CONGO

National Road n°1 Brazzaville- Kinkala

(Matoumbou). 0.950 mECU. Resp. Auth.: Direction Générale des Travaux Publics. Environmental economical technical studies, execution project and tender dossier. Project on appraisal. EDF 4 and 7.

EDF COB 7001/000 - ABd

Support programme for the visual arts.

1 mECU. Global development in the visual arts sector. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF COB 7010 - AEz

COTE D'IVOIRE

Support for the structural adjustment programme (GIP V). Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 25.5 mECU. General

import programme. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF IVC 7200/004 - AAc

Provision of basic health services for Liberian refugees and local population.

0.700 mECU. Assistance to refugees and indigenous population. T.A. Financing date January 97. EDF 7.

AGz

Improved water and sanitation facilities for Liberian refugees and local population. 1.441 mECU.

Assistance to refugees and indigenous population. T.A. and supply of equipment. Financing date January 97. EDF 7.

ABb

DJIBOUTI

Fight against desertification and development of livestock husbandry in Western-Djibouti. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural. 1.665 mECU. Supply of equipment, studies, T.A. Project

suspended. EDF 7.

EDF DI 6008 - ACa

Rehabilitation and construction of veterinary infrastructures and supply of equipment. Economical and social investment. 0.212 mECU. Resp. Auth.: Direction de l'Élevage et des Pêches.

Renovation of existing buildings, laboratory construction, purchase of a refrigerator car. Works by acc. proc. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF DI/5002/001 - ACa

Support for the structural adjustment programme 1996-1997. General import programme. 4.100 mECU. T.A. foreseen. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF DI 7200/001 - AAc

Rehabilitation and construction of school infrastructure and supply of materials for the Djibouti State Secondary School. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 0.385 mECU. Construction and modernisation of classroom facilities.

Works by acc. proc. Restricted tender: supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF DI 7008 - AFa

DOMINICA

Eco-Tourism Site Development. Resp.

Auth.: Ministry of Trade Industry and Tourism (MTIT). Estimated total cost 0.558 mECU. Works, equipment and training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF DOM 6002/001 - ACa

Agricultural Diversification

Programme. Resp. Auth.: Diversification Implementation Unit. (DIU). 2.25 mECU.

Production Credit Scheme. Abattoir Project, Citrus Processing Study, Shipping and Transportation System Project, Quality Assurance, Market Information Service, Export Credit Programme, Monitoring Evaluation, T.A. Works by acc. tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF DOM 7002 - ACa

Disposal of solid waste. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Communications, Works and Housing. 1.650 mECU. Restoration of two

depots for household waste. Installation of a new waste disposal depot. T.A. by restricted tender. Works by acc. Proc. Project in execution. EDF 7
EDF DOM 7003 - ABz

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Support programme to prevent STD/HIV/AIDS. EDF part 1.350 mECU. Training, T.A., supplies, evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF DO 7016 - AGz

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Essential goods import programme. Resp. Auth.: Presidency of the Republic. Estimated cost 1.5 mECU. Hard currency allowance to import essential goods. Project on appraisal. EDF 5 and 6.
EDF EG - AAc

Conservation and rational utilisation of the forest ecosystems. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock farming, Fisheries and Forests. Directorate General for Forests. 5.070 mECU. Land Classification and Use Master Plan - National System of Conservation Units - Forest Training and Research Centre. T.A. and supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.
EDF EG 6001 - ACc,e,i

Rural development programme in the South-East. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Agriculture. 4.500 mECU. Works, supplies and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF EG 6005(7001) - ACa

ERITREA

Sector study on national water and irrigation potential. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Energy, Mines and Water resources 4.5 mECU. Assess the various demands for those resources, determine the potential for their sustainable development, present strategies for their development, and lay the foundations for their management. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF ERY 7002 - ABb

Upgrading of the Nefasit-Dekemhare-Tera Imni road. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Construction. Estimated total cost 20 mECU. Road works. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ERY 7004 - ABd

Rehabilitation of transmission lines, substations and distribution system in Massawa area. Resp. Auth.: Eritrean Electric Authority. Estimated total cost 10-12 mECU. Works, supplies and T.A. Feasibility study: INYPSA (Sp). Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ERY 7001 - ABa,i

Livestock Promotion, support for the Improvement of the Sanitary Environment of the National Herd. Estimated cost 1.2 mECU. Equipment, infrastructure, vaccines, training of veterinary services personnel. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ERY 7005/000 -AGz, AfD

ETHIOPIA

Reintegration of displaced Ethiopian nationals from Eritrea. Estimated cost 2 mECU. Works, training, line of credit, T.A. and supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 7255/001 - AHb,e

SME development programme. Estimated total cost 25 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 7003 - AEz

Rehabilitation of the Addis Ababa-Jima road, Addis Ababa-Abelti (180 km).

Estimated total cost 35 mECU. Improvement of the road network. Works and supplies. T.A. Feasibility studies and dossiers projects preparation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 7005/002 - ABd

Transport sector support project (TSSP). Estimated total cost 2 mECU. Works and supplies. T.A. Development transport policy, improvement of programme management road handling capacity, activities coordination. Resp. Auth.: Ethiopia Road Authority. Financing date January 97. EDF 7.
EDF 7005/001 - ABd

Addis Ababa's water supply and sanitation. Resp. Auth.: Addis Ababa Water Supply Authority. AAWSA. Estimated total cost 35 mECU. Works, equipment, T.A., Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 5006/002 - ABb

Training programme. Trainers' training, staff, supply of equipment. Estimated cost 6.900 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF ET 7016 - AFc

Strengthening national training and research capacity in economics. Resp. Auth.: Department of Economics. 1.05 mECU. T.A. and supply of equipment. T.A. by CSAE (Centre for the Study of African Economies of Oxford University). Evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF ET 6101/001 - AFb

FIJI

Rural Health Infrastructure, Naitasiri. Construction of a new hospital in Vunidawa, construction, modification and upgrading of various health centres and nursing stations. Estimated total cost 4.315 mECU. Study: short-list already done. Project on appraisal. EDF 4, 5, 6 and 7.
EDF FIJ 7007 - AGa

Reconstruction of Delainivesi, Natua and Nacaugai bridges. Resp. Auth.: Public Works Dept. 1.895 mECU. Two bridges by direct labour. Natua bridge by acc. tender. Project in execution. EDF 4, 5, 6.
ABd

GAMBIA

General Import Programme. Support for Structural Adjustment. Hard currency allowance to import ACP and EC goods,

with negative list. 1.400 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF GM 7200/002 - AAc

GHANA

Human resources development programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development. 3.8 mECU. Supply of equipment, T.A., evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7
EDF GH 7003 - AFz

Western Region Agricultural Development Project. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Food and Agriculture. 12 mECU. T.A., buildings and training, supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF GH - ACa

Woodworking Sector Development. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Lands and Forestry. 4.85 mECU. Training and equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF GH - ACc

Transport Infrastructure Programme. Phase II. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Roads & Highways. 54 mECU. Axle load control equipment, consultancy studies, training of Highway Sector staff. Project in execution. EDF 6 and 7.
EDF GH 6001 - ABd

Small towns water supply project. Resp. Auth.: Ghana Water and Sewerage Corporation. Estimated total cost 15 mECU. Construction of water supply systems. Strengthening of institutions responsible for operations and maintenance. Works. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF GH 6006 - ABb

Decentralised Cooperation Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 1.500 mECU. Equipment, construction, training and current inputs of grassroots programmes. TA for implementation and evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF GH 7008 - AJz

Support for STD and HIV/AIDS control activities. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health. 1.897 mECU. Supplies (drugs, laboratory, equipment), training and specific education, studies, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.
EDF GH 7009 - AGb

4th Microprojects Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 9 mECU. Intervention in the field of water, sanitation and health, education, agricultural production, processing and marketing, rural transport, socio-economic infrastructure, environment and income generation. Consultancy for T.A., supervision, audit and evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF GH - AHb

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme. General Import Programme. 15 mECU. Financing date November 96. EDF 7.
EDF GH 7200/005 - AAc

Rural electrification programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Mines and Energy. 9.5

mECU. Supply and erection of electricity lines, supervision, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF GH - ABa,i

GRENADA

Microprojects programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry Labour, Social Service Community Development. 0.220 mECU. Water supply, road improvements repairs and extension of schools, medical and community centre and sports grounds. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF GRD 7102 - ABz

Rehabilitation of the Bellevue-Grenville Section of the Eastern Main Road - Grenville - Mama Cannes section.

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works. 2 mECU. Works by direct labour, small T.A. and supply of equipment for repairs. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF GRD 7002/00 - 1ABd

GUINEA

Development of secondary towns.

Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire. Estimated cost 7 mECU. Buildings, market, railway stations, roads T.A. and training management, work supervision, supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF GUI 7008 - AHab

Extension of the Family Plantation Programme in Soguipah.

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forests. Estimated cost 5.5 mECU. Cultivation of rice fields and rubber plantations and the development of transport infrastructures. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF GUI 6008/001 - ACe, AHe, AHf

Urban health support project.

Estimated cost 1.2 m ECU. T.A., studies Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF GUI 6005/000 - AGz

GUINEA BISSAU

João Landim bridge construction.

Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux Publics. Estimated cost 26.500 mECU. Date foreseen for financing December 96. EDF 7.

EDF GUB 7013 - ABd

Support to create environmental legislation.

Resp. Auth.: National Council for Environment. (CNA) 0.500 mECU. T.A., seminars, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF GUB 7011 - ACf

Project support to develop the livestock sector.

Development and improvement of natural resources. 1.3 mECU. Consolidate programme for veterinary input distribution, improvement of epidemiological information, accompany actions and training. Services, supplies by restr. tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF GUB/REG/5007/003 - ACa,b

HAITI

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme.

Resp. Auth.: Ministère des

Finances. 23 mECU. General Import Programme with negative list. Different T.A. with individual experts. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF HA 7200 - AAc

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme II.

10.800 mECU. Date foreseen for financing December 96. EDF 7.

EDF HA 7200/001 - AAc

JAMAICA

Credit scheme for micro and small enterprises.

Resp. Auth.: Planning Institute of Jamaica. Implementation by Apex Institution and Coordination and Monitoring Unit 7 mECU. Line of credit, T.A. and evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 5, 6 and 7.

EDF JM 5020 - ADz, AEz

Institutional strengthening programme.

Resp. Auth.: National Water Commission (NWC). Estimated cost 3 mECU. Works, supplies and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF JM 7005 - AHa,b,c

Agricultural sector support programme (ASSAP).

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture - Rural and Agriculture Dev. Auth. (RADA). 5m ECU. More sustainable farming systems, soil conservation, reforestation and Community education. Works, supply of vehicles, equipment, T.A. studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF JM 7004 - ACA

Return and reintegration of qualified nationals II.

Estimated cost 0.647 mECU. Supply of technical equipment, training, information and support system. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF JM 7002/001 - AFe.

KENYA

Farming in tsetse infested areas.

Estimated total cost 14.600 mECU. Refine the techniques to trap the tsetse fly and develop better technologies to prevent infections. Monitor the environmental impact of the techniques. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF KE 7011 - ACA

Family Health Programme. Estimated total cost 28.710 mECU. Reproduction health status of Kenyans family planning services broadened. EDF 14.810 mECU, ODA (UK) 13.900 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 6

EDF KE 7015 - AGb

Technical Education. 5 mECU. Raising the level of performance of existing teaching institutions. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF KE 6005/001 - AFb

Trade Development Programme.

Resp. Auth.: Export Promotion Council and a Special TDP Committee composed of private and public sector members and the European Commission. 4 mECU. Trade Promotion and Marketing Programme, Training, Equipment, T.A. and Monitoring and Evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF KE 7008 - AEz

Small scale and informal sector enterprises. Estimated total cost 10 mECU. Development of micro-enterprises and informal sector of the economy. Project in execution. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF KE 7009 - AEe,f

Sultan Hamud-Mtito Road rehabilitation.

Estimated total cost 30 mECU. To rehabilitate priority roads and establish sustainable maintenance organisation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7

EDF KE 7010/002 - ABd

Mai-Mahiu/Naivasha Road rehabilitation

Estimated total cost 25 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF KE 7010/003 - ABd

Community development.

Poverty alleviation. Estimated total cost 12.500 mECU. Financial facility aimed at priority activities identified by local communities. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF KE 7018 - AHb

Support for the establishment of key functions and programmes at the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA).

Resp. Auth.: Ministries of Planning and National Development and Finance and Office of the President. 1.993 mECU. Training, Consulting and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF KE 7016/00 - AAb

Establishment of sustainable tourism development.

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife. 1.970 mECU. Advice on and design of a financially self-sustainable Tourism Board. T.A., equipment, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF KE 7014 - AEc

Support Services Programme (SSP).

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. 1.795 mECU. Ad hoc support and project preparation, monitoring and evaluation facility. Framework contract. Support for the office of the NAO. Training and equipment. Framework contract by rest. tender after short-list. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF KE 7012 - AAc

Agriculture/livestock research programme.

Estimated total cost 8.3 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.

EDF KE 6003/001 - ACa

KIRIBATI

Recycling programme in South Tarawa.

Resp. Auth. Ministries of Environment & Natural Resources, and of Works & Energy. Estimated total cost 0.495 mECU. Building and equipping a treatment centre for the recycling of machines and abandoned vehicles. Supply of equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF KI 7008 - AHf

LESOTHO

Urban Water Supply and Sanitation.

Resp. Auth.: Water and Sanitation Authority. Estimated total cost 4 mECU. Implementation of urgent water-supply

and sanitation systems in the urban and peri-urban areas. Feasibility study and contract document. Preparation for urgent water supply and sanitation intervention. Short-lists to be done. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF LSO 7002 - ABb, AHa

Fourth Structural Adjustment

Programme (SASP 4) 96-97. General Import Programme. Resp. Auth.: Central Bank of Lesotho. 8.6 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF LSO 7200/003 - AAc

MADAGASCAR

Kalmolandy Bridge Reconstruction.

Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux Publics. 1.540 mECU. Submersible-type bridge. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.

EDF MAG 6027 - ABd

Road infrastructure rehabilitation.

Resp. Auth. Ministère des Travaux Publics. 72.500 mECU. Rehabilitation works, supervision. Project in execution. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF MAG 7004 - ABd

Support programme to rehabilitate social and economic infrastructures.

Interventions after cyclones. EDF part 17.500 mECU. Railways and road rehabilitation, small hydraulic works. Social infrastructure rehabilitation. Technical expertise study to be done for roads. Works, supplies, supervision and control, evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF MAG 7009 - ABd

First decentralized cooperation

programme. Resp. Auth.: National Authorising officer and Head of EU Delegation and authorized NGOs. 1.900 mECU. Works Purchase of equipment by direct agreement, restr. tender or int. tender. Project on appraisal EDF 7

EDF MAG 7022/000 - AGz, AHz

Support-training for rural

development. Resp. Auth.: Ministère du développement rural et de la réforme foncière. 1.200 mECU. Developing the farmer's organisations role. Training, supplies and technical cooperation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAG 7029/000 - ACb

Micro-hydraulic rice project.

Resp. Auth: Ministère de l'Agriculture. 1.975 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7

EDF MAG 6001/001 - ACa

Decentralized training programme for regional private tourism operators.

Resp. Auth.: Ministère du Tourisme. 1.910 mECU. T.A. training, evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 1, 2, 3 and 4.

EDF MAG 6039 - AEc

Professional organisation of rural

sector and agricultural loans. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Dév. Rural. 1.910 mECU. T.A., training, evaluation. Works, supplies, T.A. and services. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAG 7003 - ACa

Support for Training Programme (FORMFED) Phase II.

Resp. Auth.:

Ministry of Finance. 0.900 mECU. T.A., equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAG 7028 - AFd

Support for the Structural Adjustment programme 1997-98.

27 mECU. General Import Programme. Financing date February 97. EDF 7.

EDF MAG 7200 - AAc

MALAWI

Soil Conservation and rural

production. Resp. Auth.: MOALD. 23 mECU. EDF 15.500 mECU, local 1.3 mECU, counterpart funds 5.7 mECU. Water supply, sanitation, supply of fertilizers, T.A. and training. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI 5001/002 - ACa

Information, education and communication population

programme. Resp. Auth.: NAO -Ministry for Women and Children's Affairs, Community and Social Services - Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Estimated total cost 4 mECU. Increase awareness and promote behaviour change as regards reproductive health, including disease prevention. Supply of equipment and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAI 6009/001 - AGb,c

Support to the Forestry Department.

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Natural Resources. Estimated total cost 4 mECU. T.A. and supply of equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7

EDF MAI 5001/003 - ACa

Health Programme. Strengthening

Health Ministry capacities in the framework of planning, decentralisation and equipment maintenance. Training, infrastructures, equipments and T.A. Estimated total cost 20 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAI 6009/002 - AGe

2nd Lomé IV Micro-project

Programme. Improvement of infrastructures in the farmer framework with the EC participation. Building, school's rehabilitation, health centres, water points. Estimated total cost 6 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAI 7012/038 - AGz, AHz, ABb

Customary Land Utilisation Study. 1 mECU. Studies. T.A. survey. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAI 6029 - AAg

Karonga-Chilumba-Chiweta Road.

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works and Supplies. Estimated total cost 25.2 mECU. Construction, supervision of works, training of technical staff. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF MAI 6022 - ABd

ASYCUDA (Automatic system for treatment of customs information) - infrastructure component.

Resp. Auth. Government of Malawi. 1.885 mECU. Construction and renovation. All by Acc. tender. Financing date November 96. EDF 7.

EDF MAI 7012 - AAa

MALI

Development of livestock in the North-east. 4.5 mECU. EDF 6 and 7. Project in execution.

EDF MLI 5006/001 - ACa

Better use of surface waters in the 5th region.

Consolidation. Resp. Auth.: Governorat de Mopti. EDF 4.300 mECU. Works, irrigation, supply of pumps, inputs, T.A. follow-up and evaluation, training, research. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MLI 6005/002 - ACa

Support for the democratic process.

Resp. Auth. National Electoral Commission. Total estimated cost 14.800 mECU. Mission to study and identify an action plan. *Shortlist not established.* EDF 7.

EDF MLI 7019 - AAc

Support for the 1996-97 Structural Adjustment Programme.

General import programme. Estimated total cost 14.800 mECU. Financing date November 96. EDF 7.

EDF MLI 7200/003 - AAc

Support for the electoral process.

Resp. Auth.: Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI). Estimated cost 1.950 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MLI 7019 - AAc

Geological and mining sector survey.

Adm. Resp: Ministère de l'Energie et des mines. Estimated cost 15m ECU. Aerial geophysical prospecting, geological mapping, mining prospecting, sector-based survey. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MLI 9999 - ADa

MAURITANIA

Kaédi and Mederda water supply.

Estimated total cost 2.8 mECU. Improvement of the living conditions. Works and T.A. Rehabilitation, strengthening and improvement of water systems. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAU 7012/000 - ABb

Support for the programme to

strengthen institutional capacity (PRCI). Resp. Auth. Ministry of Planning and Finance. 1.865 mECU. T.A. to strengthen the effectiveness of administration. Supply of equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MAU 7200/002 - AAc

MAURITIUS

National solid waste management

project. Resp. Auth: Ministry of Environment and Quality of Life. Estimate 8.650 mECU. EDF 7mECU. Construction of a fully engineered landfill to cater for about 600 t of solid waste per day. Works and supplies by int. tender. T.A. for supervision and evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAS 6017 - AHb,c,f

First microprojects programme.

0.500 mECU. Works, supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAS 7007 - AFz, AGz, AHz

Irrigation of the Northern Plains. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture. Estimated cost 9 mECU. Works, supplies, T.A. Restricted tender for T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF MAS 7002 - ABb

Mahebourg market. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Local Government. Estimated cost 1.850 mECU. To promote agricultural diversification, and also to upgrade the city centre. Feasibility study. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAS 7008 - ACe

Phoenix-Nouvelle France road. Estimated cost 4mECU. Upgrading the existing Phoenix-Nouvelle France road to a dual carriageway. Works, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MAS 7010/001 - ABd

MOZAMBIQUE

Socio-economic reintegration of young people. Estimated cost 1.950 mECU. Supplies, T.A. and pilot actions. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.

EDF MOZ 7017 - AHb

Rehabilitation of the rural health system. Estimated cost 22mECU. Rehabilitation and renovation of 3 rural hospitals and 2 health centres. Supply of essential medicines and equipment, T.A. Project on appraisal. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MOZ 7018 - AGa,e

Support for the development of an environmentally friendly tourism sector (foundation phase). Resp. Auth.: DINATUR, EC delegation in Maputo - Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Action. 1.500 mECU. Two T.A. teams for Institutional Support and for Physical Planning. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MOZ 7020 - AEc

Social reintegration in Zambezia and Niassa provinces. 5.600 mECU. Health, education, rural life (farming, fishing, setting up of micro-enterprises), urban economic development. The projects will be carried out by NGO's and the provincial authorities. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MOZ 7255/06 - AFz, AGz, AHz

Support for the Mozambican STD/HIV strategy within the health system.

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health - National Directorate of Health, 5 mECU. Services (T.A. training supervision), supplies (educational materials, drugs laboratory reagents, condoms) and equipment (laboratory equipment, medical equipment). Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF MOZ 8000/001 - AGb,c

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme. GIP II. 15 mECU. Project in execution.

EDF MOZ 7200/001 - AAc

Support for the judicial system. Estimated total cost 2 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF MOZ 7022 - Alz

Computerised system for the population register and issue of identity cards. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Internal Affairs. Estimated cost 1.995 mECU. Supplies, T.A. Int. Tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.
EDF MOZ 7024 - AAz

NAMIBIA

Namibia Integrated Health Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health and Social Services. 13.500 mECU. Infrastructures, equipment, training and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NAM 7007 - AGz

Expansion of NBC transmitter network and production facilities for educational broadcasting.

Resp. Auth.: Namibian Broadcasting Corporation. Estimated total cost 5.7 mECU. EDF 5 mECU, local 0.700 mECU. Works, supply of equipment, technical training and technical consultancies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF NAM 7005 - AFi

Rural Development Support Programme for the Northern Communal Areas.

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development. 7.7 mECU. Strengthening of the agricultural extension service, training of extension officers and establishment of a rural credit system. Supply of office equipment, vehicles, agricultural inputs, T.A., training, evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NAM 7011 - ACa

Rural Towns Sewerage Schemes.

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Local Government and Housing. Works, supplies and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NAM 7015 - AHc

Namibia Tourism Development Programme. (Foundation Phase).

Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Environment and Tourism. 1.882 mECU. Establishment of a Tourism Board and commercialisation of the Government resorts (Namibian Wildlife Resorts). Staff training. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF NAM 7010 - AEc

Livestock Marketing Project. Resp. Auth.: Directorate of Veterinary Services - Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Dept., 3.750 mECU. Construction of buildings, water and road infrastructure, provision of equipment materials, tractors for quarantine farms in the Northern Communal Areas. All by acc. tenders or restr. tenders. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF NAM 7020 - ACa

Support Programme for the Trypanosomiasis and Tsetse fly regional control programme.

Resp. Auth.: Department of Veterinary Services. Estimated total cost 0.390 mECU. Protection of the East Caprivi and control of the Katima Mulilo Bovine Trypanosomiasis. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 5420/003 - AGe

Support for implementation of the Cross Border Initiative. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Trade and Industry. 5.370 mECU. To promote a strengthen Namibia's economic integration. T.A., supplies and line of credit. Financing date November 96. EDF 7.
EDF REG 70012/22 - AEed,e

NIGER

Fishery development in the southern Zinder zone. Resp. Auth.: NGO under control of Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Environnement. Estimated total cost 0.500 mECU. Professional sector organisation, strengthening of fish marketing. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF NIR 7014 - ACA

Environmental protection programme in the lower Tarka Valley. Estimated total cost 10 mECU. To stop ecological and economical destruction of the zone. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF NIR 6002/002 - ACA

Support programme for the electoral process. 1.840 mECU. Supply of voting materials by acc. Tender. T.A. and training. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF NIR 7024 - AAc

NIGEPAC. Safeguarding cultural heritage. Estimated total cost 1 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 8.

EDF NIR 7017 - AHi

Support for the 1996 Structural Adjustment Programme. General import programme. 14 mECU. Imports on basis of negative list. T.A. for implementation and institutional support. Project on appraisal. EDF 6 and 7.

EDF NIR 7200/002 - AAc

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Human resources development programme, phase II (HRDP II). Estimated cost 20mECU. Construction of and improvements to educational buildings. Scholarships, training and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.
EDF PNG 6008/002 - AFb

RWANDA

Return and social reintegration of students currently still in the central and east european states. Estimated cost 0.996 mECU. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7

EDF RW 7012/002 - AAc

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme. 0.900 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF STP 7200/001 - AAc

SENEGAL

St-Louis regional development programme. 22.5 mECU. Job creation, lines of credit, T.A. to the S.M.E's, training studies. Health centres, clinics, medical equipment and consumables, training, information, T.A. to the Direction

Régionale in St-Louis and to the Service des Grandes Endémies in Podor. Drainage network, sanitation. Environmental protection with wind breaks. T.A. Study of a water-engineering scheme in Podor. Works by acc. tender. Supplies by int. tender. T.A. by restr. tender. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF SE 6002/7002 - ACa

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme. General Import Programme with negative list. 20.100 mECU. T.A. foreseen. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF SL 7200/002 - AAc

SEYCHELLES

La Digue Environment and Transport project. Resp. Auth.: Land Transport and Environmental Divisions. 0.650 mECU. Preservation and protection of environment and transport infrastructure. Rehabilitation main road (1.8 km). Works by acc. tender, equipment and T.A. Supervision and evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 6 and 7.

EDF SEY 7009 - ABc,d

Victoria market rehabilitation. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture. Estimated total cost 1 mECU. EDF 0.770 mECU, local 0.230 mECU. Works and improvements. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDY SEY 7011 - ACB

SIERRA LEONE

Improvement of Freetown - Conakry road link. Estimated cost 30 mECU. Reconstruction of about 120 kms of road from Masiaka in Sierra Leone to Farmoreah in Guinea. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF SL 7004 - ABd

Sierra Leone roads authority (SLRA) support programme. Resp. Auth.: SLRA. 22.500 mECU. To strengthen SLRA's management capacity, to support maintenance operations, rehabilitate 160 km of road, provide training and equipment to enable local private contractors to increase their role in road works. Rehabilitation works, equipment, T.A. to SLRA. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF SL 7002 - ABd

Management and protection of wildlife in Outamba Kilimi National Park (OKNP). Resp. Auth.: NAO. Estimated cost 1.980 mECU. Development of sound management plan for sustainable protection of wildlife and ecosystem in park. Improvement of local infrastructure and community development. Works, supplies, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF SL 7003 - AEi, AHi

West North West Artisanal Fisheries and Community Development, phase II. 1.98 mECU. Technical cooperation in fisheries. T.A. and training. Financing date January 97. EDF 7. SL 6004/001 - ACd

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Guadalcanal road: Aola-Matau. Resp. Auth. Ministry of Transport, Works and Utilities. Estimated total cost 6 mECU. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF SOL 7001 - ABd

SOMALIA

2nd rehabilitation programme. 47 mECU. Inter-sectoral approach. The project will be implemented by NGOs and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

EDF SO 6029 - AAc

SURINAME

Timber Institute. Control of logging and reforestation activities. Estimated total cost 3.5 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7

EDF SUR 7005 - ACc

SWAZILAND

Maize marketing and storage. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. 1.555 mECU. Rehabilitation and expansion works by acc. tender. Project in execution. EDF 7. EDF SW 5005/02 - ACa

Support for implementation of the Cross Border Initiative. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Commerce and Industry. 1.5 mECU. T.A., training, supply of equipment. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7012/024 - AAz

TANZANIA

Support for Aids Control in Tanzania. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Health. 4 mECU. To strengthen health and other support services. Supply of equipment and T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF TA 0800/000 (7001) - AGc

Mwanza-Nyanguge Road Rehabilitation. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Transport and Communications. Estimated cost 35 mECU. Rehabilitation of 62 km of trunk roads (Nyanguge-Mwanza and Mwanza airport) and rehabilitation of Mwanza sewerage system (main works). Design study ongoing. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 6021 - ABd

Mwanza Water Supply. Phase II. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Water energy and minerals. Estimated cost 11.100 mECU. Works, pumping equipment, studies and supervision. Short-list done. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF TA 5005(7) - ABb

Iringa Water Supply. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals. Estimated cost 9.100 mECU. Pumping, treatment, storage and distribution. Works, equipment, design and supervision. Short-list done. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF TA 7009 - ABz

Support for the Structural Adjustment Programme. General Import Programme. Phase III.

Resp. Auth.: Bank of Tanzania. 35 mECU. T.A. foreseen. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 7200/002 - AAc

Assistance for the electoral process. Estimated cost 1.700 mECU. Supply of voting material and equipment. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF TA 7017 - AAc

Ruvuma-Mbeya Environment Programme. Resp. Auth.: Regional Development Authorities. Estimate 10 mECU. Improvement of forest conservation and use. Supplies, T.A., studies, training, management. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF TA 7018 - ACc

Support for coffee research. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Agriculture. Estimated total cost 1.980 mECU. T.A. and supply of equipment for the research centres, training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 6001/002 - ACa

Road rehabilitation and maintenance (Ruvuma and Iringa Regions). Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Transport and Communications. Estimated total cost 15 mECU. EDF 12 mECU, local 3 mECU. Road rehabilitation, support to regional and district engineers' offices, training of local contractors. T.A. and supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF TA 7011 - ABd

Rehabilitation of Bagamoyo to Wazo Hill junction road. Studies and supervision. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works. Estimated total cost 15.8 mECU. EDF part 1.750 mECU. for design studies and tender documents and supervision services for the rehabilitation of the +/- 45 Km road. Short-list to be done. Rehabilitation works funded by Italy: 14 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF TA 7020 - ABd

Rehabilitation of the Mwanza/Shinyanga-Nzega road. Resp. Auth. Ministry of Works. Estimated total cost 70 mECU. Project at identification stage. EDF 6, 7 and 8. EDF TA 7012 - ABd

Rehabilitation of the Dodoma to Singida Road. Estimated cost 90 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 8. EDF TA 7024/000 - ABd

TOGO

Aid for the voluntary reintegration of refugees from Togo. Resp. Auth.: Min. Du Plan. Estimated cost 0.430 mECU. Project under the direction of CARE Togo. Socio-economic contribution for the reintegration of 17 000 Togo refugees in their place of origin. EDF 7. EDF TO 7006 - AHn

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Training project for young farmers (AYTRAP). Assistance for the young farmer to create rural enterprises. Estimated cost 7.300 mECU. EDF 5 mECU. local 2.300 mECU. Line of credit,

T.A. and monitoring. Project on appraisal. EDF 6 and 7.

EDF TR 7002 - ACa

Support for Structural Adjustment Programme - General Import Programme II. Resp. Auth.: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. 4.300 mECU. Hard currency allowance to import ACP and EU goods with negative list. T.A. foreseen for short term missions by an international consultant and counter part local consultant, who should be trained in order to help monitoring the programme as well as with the organization and follow-up of the missions. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF TR 7200/001 - AAC

TUVALU

Outer Island Primary School Rehabilitation. (Nukufetau and Nanumea). Resp. Auth.: Department of Education. 0.300 mECU. Works and supplies by restr. tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 5 & 7.

EDF TV 7004 - AFa

UGANDA

Support for the External Aid Coordination Department (EACA) - NAO's Office. Resp. Auth.: National Authorising Officer (NAO). Estimated total cost 5 mECU. T.A., training, equipment and operating costs. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDG UG 6023/001 - AAC

Water supply in Hoima, Masindi and Mubende. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Natural Resources. Estimated total cost 12 mECU. Rehabilitation of catchments, treatment plants and water distribution network. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF UG 7010 - ABb

Support for the Microprojects Programmes Coordination Unit (MPCU). 2 mECU. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF UG 7102 - AAC

VANUATU

Expansion of the National Technical Institute of Vanuatu (INTV) - tourism section. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Education. Estimated total cost 0.950 mECU. Building and supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF VA 7008 - AFb

WESTERN SAMOA

Rural water supply programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance. Estimated cost 16.7 mECU. Preparatory study, works, supplies, project management. Project on appraisal. EDF 7 and 8.

EDF WSO 7002/000 - ABb

ZAIRE

Rehabilitation Support Programme. Resp. Auth.: Coordination and Management Unit. Estimated total cost EDF 84 mECU. and an indicative amount of 6 mECU from the Commission's

budget under heading B7-5076 'Rehabilitation and reconstruction measures for developing countries'. Regions selected: Kinshasa's economic hinterland, the Greater Kivu and the two provinces of Kagai. Rehabilitation and maintenance of roads and farm access roads. Support for production and Omarketing, support for basic social infrastructure. T.A. and evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF ZR 6033 - AAC

Support programme for the reinsertion of displaced persons in the Kasai province (PARK). 2 mECU. The programme will be implemented by Caritas (NI), Oxfam (UK), Nuova Frontiera (I), Gret (F), and Raoul Follereau (F). Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF ZR 7255/001 - ACa

Strengthening of the provisional health support programme. Rehabilitation of health service structures in Kinshasa, Kasai and Kivu. Support for the health service at the basic and intermediate levels. Reinforcement of basic juridical services. Works, supplies and T.A. Date foreseen for financing; 1st half 97. EDF 7.

EDF ZR 6029/001 - AGz

Support programme for the preparation of elections. Resp. Auth.: Commission Nationale des Elections (CNE). 30.000 mECU. T.A., support for democratization. Date foreseen for financing March 1997. EDF 7.

EDF ZR 6034/00 - AAC

ZAMBIA

Forestry management for sustainable woodfuel production in Zambia (along the railway line). Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Environment. Estimated total cost 2 mECU. Training supply of equipment, studies and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF ZA 7009 - ACc

Rehabilitation of the Kabwe-Kapiri Mposhi and Chisamba Road. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works and Supply. Estimated total cost 15.360 mECU. Works and supervision. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF ZA 6014/001 - ABd

Economic Management and Planning Support Programme. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. 1.500 mECU. T.A. for long and short-term duration. Restr. Tender. Lists to be established. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ZA 7018 - AAC

ZIMBABWE

OMAY Kanyati and Gatshe Gatshe land use and health programme. Resp. Auth.: A.D.A. 4.6 mECU. Raising the standard of living of rural population. Conservation and improved utilisation of the wildlife resources, support to agriculture and improvement of social infrastructure. Road network, water, sanitation, building of a district hospital,

equipment and supplies. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ZIM 6004/7002 - ACa

Gokwe north and south rural water supply and sanitation project. 6.100 mECU. Rehabilitation of existing water-points, new domestic water points, latrines, maintenance, health education. T.A., training, evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF ZIM 7001 - ABb

Minefield clearance in N.E. Zimbabwe. Rural development, clearance of landmines. Zimbabwe minefields survey. Shortlist to be done. Estimated 10 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF ZIM 7004 - ACa

OVERSEAS COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

ARUBA

T.A. for managerial training. 1.900 mECU. A training unit will train private and public executives and will advise companies on demand. Supplies T.A. and evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF ARU 6006 - AFb

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES - ARUBA

Tourism development programme. 5 mECU. Training, T.A., marketing in Europe. Project on appraisal. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7835 - AEC

NEW CALEDONIA

Support for the diversification and development of the mining sector. Resp. Auth.: Le Service des Mines et l'Energie de Territoire. 2.670 mECU. Works, feasibility study of the re-opening of an established chromite mine, identification of new ore deposits, redevelopment of former mining sites. Date foreseen for financing March 1997. EDF 6 & 7.

EDF NC 9999/000 - ADz

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Bora-Bora Island Sanitation. Tourism Development. Resp. Auth.: Direction Territoriale de l'Equipement. 1.250 mECU. Lagoon environmental protection. Works by acc.tender. Project on appraisal. EDF 6 and 7.

EDF POF 6009/000 - AHb, AGe

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

Water and sewerage in Providenciales. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Works, 3.700 mECU. Water supply works and pipes. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF TC 7001 - AHb,c

ST. HELENA

Wharf improvement project. Resp. Auth.: Public Works and Service Department. Estimated total cost 1.743 mECU. To increase the safety and efficiency of Jamestown Port by upgrading wharf facilities for passenger and cargo handling. Works, supplies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF SH 7001 - ABd

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

Holo-Fakatoi Road in Wallis (RT2). EDF 0.600 mECU. Bitumen road. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF WF 7001 - ABd

Construction of territorial road N° 1 in Futuna. 0.840 mECU. Works and rehabilitation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF WF 7003 - ABd

REGIONAL PROJECTS

UGANDA, RWANDA, KENYA

Agro-forestry network for the East African Highlands. Provision of vehicles and motorbikes, audio and office equipment, weather stations and various laboratory and field equipment. Training, workshops, monitoring, evaluation. Project on appraisal. 4.850 mECU. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7309 - ACa

EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Statistical training centre for Eastern Africa in Tanzania.

Resp. Auth.: Secretariat of the centre. 5 mECU, Widening of capacity. Construction of class-rooms, offices and housing. Project on appraisal. EDF 5.

EDF REG 5311 (7) - AFb

Combatting the tse tse fly in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda). 20 mECU. Evaluation, training and research. T.A., equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 736 ACa - ACe

Rehabilitation programme for refugee affected areas and related infrastructure in Tanzania. Estimated cost 20 mECU. Rehabilitation of roads, Mnanza airport, protection of forests. Survey, works, equipment, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7322/001 - ABd, AHf

CAMEROON, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Bertua-Garoua Boulai Road. Resp. Auth.: Ministère des Travaux Publics (Cameroon). Rehabilitation and improvement of transport infrastructures between Douala and Bangui. Estimated total cost 50 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.

EDF REG, CM-CA-7002/001 - ABd

MALI, GUINEA

Flood forecast and control, hydrological simulation for the Niger upper basin. Estimated total cost 6 mECU EDF, 5.175 mECU, France (foreseen) 0.375 mECU, Denmark (foreseen) 0.150 mECU, Mali-Guinea (foreseen) 0.300 mECU. Flood forecast system, hydrological model of local simulation with parametric regionalisation. Warning system via telecommunication and satellite teletransmission. Statistical studies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 6181 - AHf, g

CENTRAL AFRICA

CIESPAC, Public Health Education Centre in Central Africa. 1.980mECU. Student accommodation, equipment, scholarships. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7205 - AFb

ECOFAC II, Forest ecosystems. Resp. Auth.: Ministère du Plan. République du Congo. Estimated total cost 16.000 mECU. To develop national and regional capacities for good management of forest resources. Works, supplies and T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 6203/001 - ACc

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN COMMISSION (IOC) - COMORES, MADAGASCAR, MAURITIUS, SEYCHELLES

Integrated Regional Programme for Trade Development (PRIDE). Resp. Auth.: I.O.C. Secretariat. EDF 9.3 mECU. Equipment. T.A., training, management. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7503 - AEz

Establishment of a University in the Indian Ocean region. Resp. Auth.: Indian Ocean Commission. Estimated cost 2.150 mECU. Creation of a network of research and training institutions providing support for existing institutions. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7501 - AFb

COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CBI

Standardization and quality assurance. Resp. Auth.: COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa). Estimated total cost 2.543 mECU. To develop harmonized standardization and quality control practices. T.A. and training. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7321 - AEe

Regional Integration in Eastern and Southern Africa. Assistance to COMESA Secretariat. 1.950 mECU. Training, supply of equipment, evaluation and services. T.A. short-term. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7316 - AAC

Regional Telematics Network Services (RTNS). Trade development. Estimated total cost 1.930 mECU. T.A. short-term

by restr. tender. Publicity for the project, network implementation, maintenance and evaluation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG/RPR/517 - AAC

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF ECOWAS Guarantee Fund for Private Investment Financing in Western Africa. FGIPAO, Lomé. Creation of a Guarantee Fund to cover partially credit risks given by Banks to the private sector. Total estimated cost 22.5 mECU. EDF 3.8 mECU, Others: France, Germany, EIB., Commercial Banks (E.U.). Development Agencies. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7115 - AEz

Regional programme to combat drugs. Estimated total cost 5.1mECU.

Elaboration of training programmes and national plans. Date foreseen for financing first half 97. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7135 - AGz

BENIN, CAMEROON, COTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, GUINEA, TOGO

Regional Programme to relaunch pineapple production in West and Central Africa. Resp. Auth.: Execution unit composed of one senior expert, T.A. and one junior expert. 1.995 mECU. T.A. studies, evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7138 - ACa

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF IGADD

IGADD Household Energy Programme. Resp. Auth.: IGADD Executive Secretary. Estimated total cost 1.900 mECU. T.A. to initiate pilot projects in the area of household energy, define the role and organize the setting up of a regional unit to coordinate activities, and develop working relationships with national and sub-region institutions in IGADD's member countries. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG - ABa

Development of the Artisanal Fisheries Sector. The promotion of artisanal fisheries and fisheries trade. Improvement of the level of services available in the post-harvest field of artisanal fisheries in IGADD member states. Estimated total cost 7.8 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG/7314/000 - ACd, AFd

Cereals markets training programme. Resp. Auth. IGADD Executive Secretary. 1.990 mECU. T.A., equipment, evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 5359 - ACa

BURKINA FASO, CAPE VERDE, GAMBIA, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, SENEGAL, CHAD

Regional environmental training and information programme. Resp. Auth.: Institut de Sahel in Bamako. 16 mECU. T.A. training, supply of equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 6147/001 - AFz, AHz

SAHEL COUNTRIES

Support to strengthen vaccine independence in Sahel Africa. 9.5 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7. EDF REG 7012 - ACa

BENIN, BURKINA FASO, COTE D'IVOIRE, MALI, NIGER, SENEGAL, TOGO

Support for the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA). Promotion of regional economic integration. Resp. Auth. UEMOA Commission. 12 mECU. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7106/02 - AAF

Support for the ENAREF. 0.900 mECU. T.A., training, equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7106/003 - AAc, AFd

10 MEMBER COUNTRIES OF AGM - BURKINA FASO, CAMEROON, COTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, MALI, NIGER, NIGERIA, SENEGAL, CHAD, TOGO

Promotion of a regional grain market in West and Central Africa. Resp. Auth.: NAO-Mali. Estimated cost 12 mECU. Creation of a regional grain market. Promotion and strengthening of initiatives by private operators. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 6175 - ACf

MEMBER COUNTRIES OF P.T.A.

Regional integration in East and Southern Africa. Assistance to PTA Secretariat. (Preferential Trade Area). Short and long-term. T.A., studies, training. Estimated cost 1.5 mECU. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7316 - AAb

PACIFIC ACP STATES

Pacific regional civil aviation. Phase II. Resp. Auth.: Forum Secretariat. Fiji. 4.9 mECU. Supply of security, air traffic control, navigation and meteorology, and training equipment. T.A. Project in execution. EDF 6 and 7.

EDF REG 7704 - ABc,d

Pacific Regional Waste Awareness and Education Programme. Resp. Auth.: Forum Secretariat. 0.600 mECU. T.A. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7714 - AHF

SADC

T.A. for the SADC Secretariat. Resp. Auth. SADC Secretariat. 1.700 mECU. T.A., training. Project in execution. September 96. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7422 - AAc

SADC Hydrological Cycle Observing System (SADC-HYCOS). Resp. Auth.: SADC Secretariat. 1.964 mECU. Programme for the improvement of regional integrated water resources. Supply of equipment by int. Tender. T.A. by restricted tender. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 6450 - ABb

BENIN, COTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA BISSAU, TOGO

Regional programme to boost natural resource protection in coastal West African countries. Resp. Auth.: Ministère de l'Environnement, Togo. Estimated cost 10 mECU. Priorities: fight against bush fires and deforestation, and for soil protection. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.

EDF REG 6113 - ACe

KENYA, UGANDA, TANZANIA

Lake Victoria Fisheries Research Project (Phase II). Project headquarters in Jinja, Uganda at FIRI-Fisheries Research Institute. EDF part 8.400 mECU. T.A., supplies, training, monitoring and evaluation. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 5316/001 - ACd

ALL ACP STATES

Strengthening of fisheries and biodiversity management in ACP countries. Resp. Auth.: ICLARM, Manila (Philippines). 5mECU. T.A., management, supply of equipment, data base creation. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 70012/016 - ACa

COLEACP, Interim Project. Commercial development in exports and in the field of horticulture. Estimated cost 1.860 mECU. Training, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 6900/002 - AEe

Support for AFRISTAT (economic and statistical control). 0.900 mECU. Improvement in the quality of statistical information. T.A., supplies and equipment. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7106/004 - AAc, AFd

Training Programme. Estimated cost 3mECU. T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7012/026 - AFz

Road from Nickerie to the Suriname-Guyana ferry terminal. Resp. Auth.: Ministry of Public Works. Estimated cost 8.4 mECU. Construction of 29.5 km of road, culverts, pavement, placing of road signs and markings. Works, T.A. Project on appraisal. EDF 6.

EDF REG 5602/001 - ABd

CARIBBEAN REGION

University level programme. Resp. Auth.: S.G. Cariforum. 21 mECU. To train a critical mass of Caribbean ACP nationals at masters degree level in development economics, business administration, public administration, agricultural diversification, natural resources, management and architecture, works, educational equipment, T.A., scholarships. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7604 - AFb

Caribbean Postal Union.

Resp. Auth.: S.G. Cariforum. 0.500 mECU. T.A. and other action necessary

for the creation of the Caribbean Postal Union. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7605 - ABc

Caribbean Telecommunication Union. Resp. Auth.: S.G. Cariforum. 0.500 MECU. T.A. for the accomplishment of the C.T.U. and the harmonisation of legislation on telecommunications within the Cariforum member states. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7605/001 - ABc

Education policy and dialogue. Resp. Auth.: Cariforum S.G. 0.450 mECU. T.A. for regional common policies in three education areas: basic education, technical and vocational training, language teaching. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7607 - AFa,d

Cultural Centres. Resp. Auth.: S.G. Cariforum. 1.965 mECU. Promote cultural identity and foster mutual knowledge of the rich cultural panorama. Restoration of buildings, supply of equipment, T.A. in artistic fields and management. Financing date January 97. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7610 - AHl

Tertiary level programme. Estimated total cost 5.946 mECU. Upgrading tertiary level education and teacher training. Project in execution. EDF 7.

EDF REG 6628/001 - AFb

Cariforum Regional Environment Programme. Resp. Auth.: SG Cariforum. Estimated total cost 11 mECU. Environmental management action, programme for protected areas and community development, management and expansion of marine and coastal park and protected areas. Terrestrial parks. Project on appraisal. EDF 7.

EDF REG 7613 - AHF

Programming Unit Cariforum Secretariat. 0.725 mECU. Equipment, office supplies, T.A. Project in execution. EDF 7

EDF REG 7615 - AAc

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(251 1) 612877

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Telex DELEGFED 5511 GO -
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Fax (241) 736554

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Road,
P.O. Box 9505, (Kotoka International
Airport), Accra.
Tel (233 21) 774201 - 774202 -
774236
Telex 2069 DELCOM - GH
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(Diplomatic Bag Section - B1/123),
Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels.
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Fax (224) 411874

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Bairro da Penha,
C.P. 359, 1113 Bissau.
Tel. (245) 251027 - 251071 - 251469 -
251471
Fax (245) 251044

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P.O. Box 10847, Georgetown.
Tel. (592 2) 64004 - 65424
Telex 2258 DELEG GY -
GEORGETOWN
Fax (592 2) 62615

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Delmas 60, Impasse Brave n°1,
B.P. 15588, Petion Ville, Port au
Prince.
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Fax 490246

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8 Olivier Road, P.O. Box 463,
Constant Spring, Kingston 8.
Tel (1 809) 9246333/4/5/6/7
Telex 2391 DELEGECC - JA
Fax (1 809) 9246339

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Union Insurance Building, Ragati
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712860 - 712905 - 712906
Telex 22483 DELEUR - KE

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Telex 22327 DELFED - MG
Fax (261 2) 32169

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Europa House,
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Lilongwe 3
Tel. (265) 783199 - 783124 - 782743
Telex 44260 DELEGEUR MI -
LILONGWE
Fax (265) 783534

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B.P. 115, Bamako.
Tel. (223) 222356 - 222065
Telex 2526 DELEGFED - BAMA
Fax (223) 223670

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Ilot V, Lot 24,
B.P. 213, Nouakchott.
Tel. (222 2) 52724 - 52732
Telex 5549 DELEG MTN -
NOUAKCHOTT
Fax (222 2) 53524

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Rue St. Denis,
Port Louis, B.P. 1148
Tel. (230) 2116295 (6 lines)
Fax. (230) 2116624
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490271
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Fax (258 1) 491866

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Independence Avenue,
Windhoek.
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Telex 419 COMEU WK
Fax (264 61) 235135

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Fax (599 9) 618423

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Telex 5267 NI DELEGFED - NIAMEY
Fax (227) 732322

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Victoria Island
P.M.B. 12767, Lagos
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Fax (234 1) 2617248
E-mail: ecnig@infoweb.abs.net

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5233146
Fax (234 9) 5233147

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Telex 2311 DELECOM FJ - SUVA
Fax (679) 300370

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Fax (675) 217850

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Telex 22515 DECCE RW
Fax (250) 74313

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12 Avenue Albert Sarraut,
B.P. 3345, Dakar.
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Fax (221) 236885

Sierra Leone

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Fax (232 22) 225212

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Fax (249 11) 775393

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117475 - 117476
Telex 41353 DELCOMEUR TZ
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B.P. 1657 Lomé.
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Fax (228) 211300

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Telex 40440 DECEC ZA
Fax (260 1) 250906

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752835
Telex 24811 DELEUR ZW
Fax (263 4) 725360

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Fax (1 809) 4404151

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Fax (687) 288707

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Denmark
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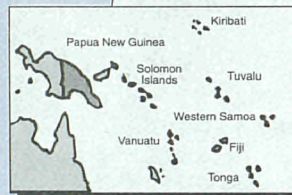
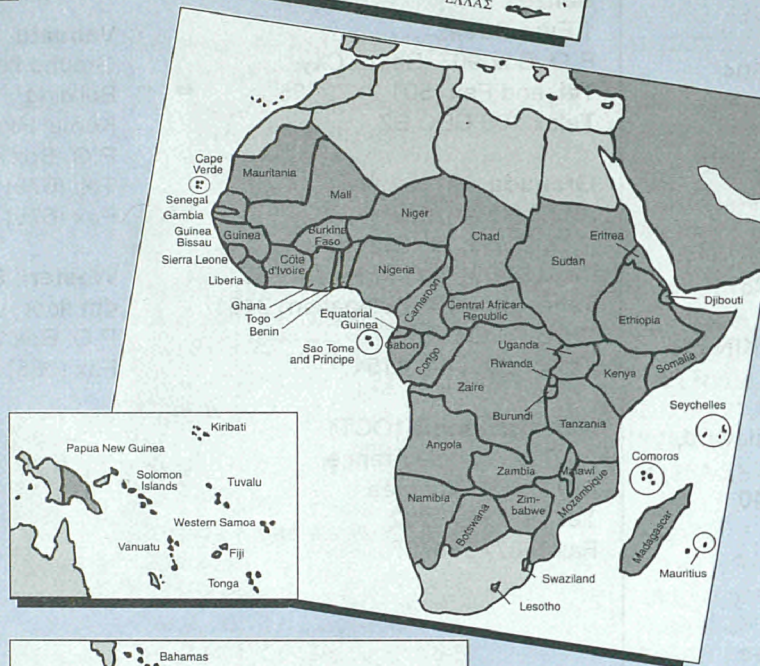
France
(Territorial collectivities)
Mayotte
St Pierre and Miquelon
(Overseas territories)
New Caledonia and dependencies
French Polynesia
French Southern and Antarctic
Territories
Wallis and Futuna Islands

Netherlands
(Overseas countries)
Netherlands Antilles
(Bonaire, Curaçao,
St Martin,
Saba, St Eustache)
Aruba

Denmark
(Country having special
relations with Denmark)
Greenland

United Kingdom
(Overseas countries and
territories)
Anguilla
British Antarctic Territory
British Indian Ocean Territory
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Falkland Islands
Southern Sandwich Islands
and dependencies
Montserrat
Pitcairn Island
St Helena and dependencies
Turks and Caicos Islands

THE EUROPEAN UNION



THE 70 ACP STATES

Angola
Antigua & Barbuda
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Fiji
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
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Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica
Kenya
Kiribati
Lesotho
Liberia
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Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Papua New Guinea
Rwanda
St Kitts and Nevis
St Lucia
St Vincent
and the Grenadines
Sao Tome & Principe
Senegal
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Solomon Islands
Somalia
Sudan
Suriname
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Tonga
Trinidad & Tobago
Tuvalu
Uganda
Western Samoa
Vanuatu
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

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now or in the future.
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nor prejudice the status of any state
or territory

Getting used to the Euro

Until a few months ago, the term Euro was merely a descriptive prefix. Then the European Council (Heads of Government) 'promoted' it to the status of a noun, and if all goes according to plan, it will soon be part of the daily vocabulary of hundreds of millions of people. The decision to name the EU's proposed single currency the Euro did not meet with unanimous approval. Eurosceptics were understandably dismissive. They make no secret of their preference for pounds, francs, marks etc. and like to give the 'E'-word (or prefix!) a more negative connotation (as in Eurocrat). Europhiles might have preferred something punchier but were happy in the knowledge that the leaders had got past this awkward hurdle. In macroeconomic terms, the name is hardly crucial, but the choice had to be made nonetheless and it was an important symbolic step towards currency union. The aforementioned Eurocrats loyally accept the decision of their political masters - but quite a few regret the impending demise of the Ecu which they have come to know - if not actually love. All Community expenditures are currently expressed in Ecus which means that many officials are familiar with this 'non-currency' (based on a basket of existing European currencies) - and even have a reasonable idea of how much it is worth. They needn't worry about having to grapple with any new mathematical challenges though. The value of the Euro will be the same as the Ecu.

The Euro is due to come into being in 1999. In those EU Member States that qualify for membership - and choose to participate - it will be possible initially to

ENDPIECE

have bank accounts denominated in Euros, and to make 'cashless' transactions, although notes and coins will not be issued until a few years later. In the meantime, national currencies - set at a fixed rate against the Euro - will be used in tandem.

There are still a number of question marks over the new currency. For example, how many Member States will qualify to join at the outset? Most EU countries are keen to be in the first wave, but they must meet the stringent 'convergence criteria' laid down at Maastricht on inflation rates, budget deficits and national debt. What will happen to the currencies of Member States that are outside the system? In principle, these should join a new exchange rate mechanism linked to the Euro, but a decision is needed on how far they will be able to fluctuate. And who will control interest rates - the politicians, or the new European Central Bank?

Some people who oppose monetary union on national sovereignty grounds are still suggesting that the Euro will never see the light of day. Enthusiasts disagree, pointing to the political momentum that drives the project in most EU capitals. The arguments will no doubt continue but most financial commentators take the view that the single currency will happen on time. Meanwhile, people in Europe are gradually getting used to the idea that the prefix that is now a noun will one day feature on the notes and coins in their wallets.

S.H.



Climate change

