



CONSORTIUM FOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS (CDP)

NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

CDP II is nearing completion! The teams involved in this program are finalizing their research reports and, already, we have turned towards the next steps, with major challenges! The challenges include the publication and dissemination of the results obtained by CDP-II, and especially, the continuation of this rich experience: a third phase for CDP which, we all hope will be launched in early 2012. Tackling such challenges requires the commitment and contribution of all members of the CDP, its partners and supporters. This contribution can take many forms: your involvement in the finalization of reports, your views on the experience and results of CDP-II, your suggestions regarding CDP-III, your input to the design and success of CDP-III, etc. Please send your e-mails to Bruno Sonko at CODESRIA and/ or Linda van de Kamp at ASC Leiden, at the following addresses:

bruno.sonko@codesria.sn or
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Enjoy reading this newsletter!

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Visit of ASC Leiden team to CODESRIA (24th-25th August, 2011)

CODESRIA was visited by its partners from the African Studies Centre in Leiden, Netherlands (ASC Leiden) on 24th and 25th August, 2011. The ASC delegation was led by its director, Ton Dietz (director of the centre) and was comprised, in addition to its director, of Mirjam De Bruijn and Linda Van de Kamp, in charge of the implementation of the CDP at ASC Leiden. The visit was an opportunity to continue and deepen the discussions already initiated between the two institutions in March 2011 (see Newsletter N° 2) and, more concretely, to assess the operation of the CDP, the cooperation between CODESRIA and ASC Leiden, and preparations for the next steps. More specifically, the following points were discussed:

- Strengthening the partnership between CODESRIA and ASC Leiden and its extension to other areas of collaboration, particularly in terms of doctoral training. This led to the updating of the framework document of this collaboration (MOU);
- Access to research funding and relations with donors, which are becoming increasingly difficult;
- Capacity building for member institutions of the CDP and improving their operation/performance, their position and prestige in Africa and worldwide, etc.
- The operation of the CDP: its approach, topics to be covered, countries to be involved;

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- Reviewing and considering the new orientations/ requirements of the the Netherlands' government, particularly regarding themes, countries to be covered, etc. and their consistency with the philosophy and approach of the CDP;
- The outline of the document about the research projects for CDP III;
- The establishment of a strategy for the funding of CDP III, including the search for new donors, partners, etc.
- Deepening the reflection on the type of knowledge we wish to develop;
- The quality of the research reports of CDP II and their finalization as soon as possible thanks to a greater involvement of coordinators;
- The production by national teams of quality concept notes for Phase III.



The coordination team of the CDP, Dakar

The 5th meeting of the CDP Steering Committee (Dakar, 26th-27th August, 2011)

The CDP Steering Committee held its 5th meeting (the 2nd for CDP II) in Dakar (Senegal) on 26th-27th August, 2011. The meeting was attended by about fifteen scholars, including coordinators of the program at CODESRIA and ASC. Unfortunately, the representative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs could not attend this meeting due to her very busy work schedule. The following coordinators attended the meeting:

Anthony Ikpi (Nigeria – Agribusiness), Shehu Dalhatu (Nigeria – Financing Democracy), Moussa Sissoko (Mali – Local Governance), Oluyemisi Bamgbose (Nigeria – Access to

Justice), Eghosa Osaghae (Nigeria – Local Conflicts), Emanuel Debrah (Ghana – Financing Democracy), Peter Quartey (Ghana – Agribusiness), Victor Brobbey (CDD-Ghana - Modeling Success), Paul Yao Ahiave (CDD West Africa – Ecowas and Modeling Success), Chabi Imourou Azizou (Bénin – Modeling Succes), Dimitri Régis Balima (Burkina Faso – Media), Ebrima Sall (Senegal – CODESRIA), Bernard Lututala (Senegal – CODESRIA), Bruno Sonko (Senegal – CODESRIA), Mirjam de Bruijn (Netherlands - ASC Leiden), Linda van de Kamp (Netherlands - ASC Leiden)

The specific objectives of the meeting were the following:

- i) To assess the progress of CDP-II;
- ii) To present and discuss the final reports of the teams, the results obtained and the recommendations;
- iii) To share the main experiences during the CDP-II;
- iv) To examine the applications for membership of new members and identify new partners;
- v) To identify strategies to strengthen cooperation between decision-makers (policy-makers), civil society organizations and other stakeholders on the themes of the CDP;
- vi) To validate the concept paper of CDP-III: fundraising strategies; themes and countries to be covered; launch and implementation mechanisms, coordination and partnership mechanisms; envisaged capacity building strategies, the usefulness and utilization of research by policy-makers, etc.
- vii) To discuss next steps.

In terms of operation, significant progress was noted in the collaboration and communication between teams and coordinators of the program (CODESRIA and ASC). This progress is to be maintained and even strengthened in order to achieve an optimal operation of the CDP network, its scientific influence, the valorization of research results on issues both important and vital to African societies. Similarly, the collaboration between some research teams (Financing Democracy, Nigeria and Ghana) needs to be improved.

Following the retrospective and review of the achievements of CDP-II, participants unanimously proposed to continue the CDP experience, to enrich and share it with other research organizations on the African continent. They formally decided to launch a third phase, CDP-III, whose main objective is to continue the reflection and research on themes already explored in CDP I and CDP II, including governance, consolidation of democracy, conflict resolution and poverty reduction in Africa. But also to open up to other themes: regional economic exchanges, access to land and land-related crises, justice and human rights, etc. and to other regions. While being aware of the need to diversify sources of funding, participants expressed their hope to continue to benefit from the generosity of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Overall, a total commitment of all was noted for the survival and sustainability of the program. It was the same in terms of fundraising. This was stressed several times, since the beginning of the CDP program.



Meeting of the CDP Steering Committee, Dakar

The new orientations of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

CDP-I and-II received considerable grants from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The new Dutch government intends to introduce major changes in its development policy and this will affect CDP-III. The new policy being developed would like to restrict bilateral development assistance to fifteen priority countries: ten in Africa and five in

Asia, (before, there were 33 countries, including South America). The ten African countries would be: Mali, Mozambique, Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia and South-Sudan. Severe cuts in the budgets available are expected and the criteria to benefit from support are likely to change; the Ministry will begin a tender process. The call for proposals will be based on a strategy for production of new knowledge that would focus on four themes:

- 1) Food security;
- 2) Water;
- 3) Security and governance;
- 4) Sexual and reproductive rights.

In addition, special emphasis will be laid on public/private partnerships.

We are awaiting the enactment of this new knowledge production strategy of the Ministry in which the guidelines will be unveiled. Only then can we submit CDP-III projects that will be in line with this new policy.

Prospects: Research avenues for CDP III

The members of the network noted that CDP-III should continue to help tackle the challenges of governance, the consolidation of democracy, conflict resolution and poverty reduction in Africa.

However, new research themes have been identified, not only to consider other facts, realities and challenges for Africa, but also to take account of the new orientations of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, regarding priority themes and countries to be covered. Three new themes have been identified: regional economic exchanges, access to land and land-related crises, justice and human rights.

These themes take account of the current challenges for the development of the African continent, but also of the changing environment of research on Africa, particularly with regard to the development of knowledge and its use by stakeholders and decision-makers.

This problem adds up to the major issue of relationships between the research world and that of decision-making: Decision-makers want to have quick and accurate answers to specific issues; while researchers demand more time and sufficient resources to carry out studies and provide the expected answers.

What partners for CDP III?

So far, the CDP has been implemented in West Africa and the members of network have felt that the time has come to export the CDP model to other parts of the continent, and to involve new European or even American and Asian partners interested in the African continent. This is an opportunity to invite all research institutions, NGOs, think-tanks, the civil society, decision-makers, both from the North and the South, that interested in and/or working on the African continent, to join the CDP-III network. The teams have been mandated to discuss with potential partners that are in their respective countries.

The institutions responsible for coordinating the CDP program (CODESRIA and ASC Leiden) are in the dynamic of searching for new partnerships and an agenda and a strategy of visits is being developed..

In Europe, apart from the Dutch Ministry, other support agencies could be involved in various European countries and the European Union. At the last Steering Committee meeting, it was suggested that the CDP program be strengthened with new European partners and that CDP should be more integrated in the AEGIS (Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies), a network of universities of the European Union and research institutions involved in studies on Africa. Within the AEGIS, the ASC is responsible for this component, but also for searching for new partners worldwide. This should help to create partnerships around the CDP themes and to implement overall packages/strategies for the various funding agencies.

New CDP publications

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The CDP program continues to report the results of research teams. A number of publications are available (see website of CODESRIA and the ASC Leiden). In addition, a commitment was made to publish all research reports of Phase I before the General Assembly of CODESRIA to be held in Rabat (Morocco) from 5th to 9th December, 2011.

The latest publications are the following:

-Moussa Djiré, Amadou Keïta and Rokia Traoré Dembélé. *Appropriation des instruments de la fiscalité: élaboration du budget de la commune rurale de Kalabancoro*. Dakar, CODESRIA, 2011, research report n° 8, 44 p.

-Jean Euloge Gbaguidi, Clémentine Lokonon, Maxime Ahotondji and Léa Yemadjro. *Presse audiovisuelle et construction démocratique au Bénin: de la nécessité de deux niveaux de lecture des mutations en cours*. Dakar, CODESRIA, 2011, research report n° 10, 40 p.

-Bakary Camara, Bakary F. Traoré, Bréma E. Dicko and Moro Sidibé. *Migrations et tensions sociales dans le sud du Mali*. Dakar, CODESRIA, 2011, research report n° 9, 99 p

-Bréhima Kassibo and Boureima Touré. *Appropriation des instruments de gestion des ressources naturelles par les acteurs locaux de la commune de Madiam, cercle de Djenné*. Dakar, CODESRIA, 2011, research report n° 6, 77 p.

Following is an overview of works already published:

-*A Study of Ghana's Electoral Commission*
(www.codesria.org/spip.php?article772)

-*A Study of the independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of Nigeria*
(www.codesria.org/spip.php?article771);

- *Appropriation des instruments de la fiscalité: élaboration du budget de la commune rurale de Kalabancoro*.
(www.codesria.org/spip.php?article1437);

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-Youths Militias, Self Determination and Resource Control Struggles in the Niger-delta Region of Nigeria

(www.codesria.org/spip.php?article1261);

-L'appropriation de la gouvernance budgétaire au niveau des communes rurales du Burkina Faso.

(www.codesria.org/spip.php?article1260);

-Local power Struggles, Conflicts and Conflicts Resolution. The causes, Dynamics and Policy Implications of Land-related Conflicts in the Greater Accra and Eastern Regions of Ghana

(www.codesria.org/spip.php?article1259);

CDP roundtable program at the GA of CODESRIA

The General Assembly of CODESRIA to be held in Rabat December 2011 will be an opportunity to inform the research community about the objectives, results and prospects of the CDP program. The scientific credibility of the CDP program, as a major research actor at sub-regional and international levels depends partly on its ability to not only disseminate the results of its research and innovations to the scientific community, but also to heighten the awareness of stakeholders and decision-makers about the relevance of its results, and the need to consider them in the decision-making process. This requires an effective communication strategy.

For this reason, the CDP Program will host a panel during the General Assembly of CODESRIA. Some researchers who are members of the consortium will be invited to present their research results. The panel will be entitled: "State Capacities in Africa"

The CDP in one word

The CDP is an international research network involving different institutions and scholars devoted to conducting collaborative research in Africa. The research is relevant to policy issues of economic development, democratization and conflict resolution.

The CDP is a unique intra-regional network in Africa that provides opportunities for young scholars, NGOs, the civil society and policy-makers to interact with senior scholars to enhance research capacities.

This network is coordinated by CODESRIA and the African Studies Centre in Leiden.

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