Consolidation and Renewal

CODESRIA in the New Millennium

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Executive Summary

The report evaluates CODESRIA, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, with headquarters in Dakar for the period 2000–2006. It speaks of *consolidation and renewal,* underscoring a remarkable comeback after a crisis of external and internal legitimacy that marked the late 1990s. African scholarship is fragmented along disciplinary, geographic and linguistic lines. The Council organises across those boundaries, challenging fragmentation. The report examines its research programme and the publications that it generates. It looks at the problems of disseminating research results and the frontiers of electronic documentation. Research is supported by a programme of training, grants and fellowships. The evaluation team has visited local communities of scholars to gauge the Council's impact. While visiting the Secretariat in Dakar special attention was paid to administration and finance..

Why CODESRIA should be supported

How relevant are CODESRIA's research and training programmes? What is the quality and impact? Are research results effectively disseminated to key stakeholders and users? How adequate and appropriate is the system aimed at facilitating the process? Does the Council contribute effectively to capacity building and institutional strengthening within the field of social science research? What role do its members play in shaping the Council's research agenda? Is the Council sustainable in organisational and financial terms? We summarise our findings in response to the questions posed in the terms of reference (encl.1).

How relevant is the Council? Our findings suggest that the issue of relevance has to be discussed differently depending on where the orientation of the research is discussed and decided. On the one hand, there are the programmes that are initiated by the Council itself, as guided by an 'intellectual agenda' that is partly enshrined in key policy documents like the Charter and in long-term strategic planning. These are issues that are debated and developed by the General Assembly, the Scientific Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Secretariat. Different groups of researchers have their own input in this process, including those engaged in gender research and academic freedom. They take their own principled positions that become integrated into the Council's 'philosophy'. On the other hand, there are the activities that depend on local initiatives, including proposals for National Working Groups and individual research grants. Although the 'intellectual agenda' may have an influence also in this case, the Council's process of assessing relevance is different. In this case, only academic quality, proficiency and feasibility are expected to guide the peer reviewers. In either case, we are satisfied that the issue of relevance is adequately handled by the Council. In the first respect, we find that the question of relevance is guided by a commitment to an intellectual agenda that confronts central issues of popular welfare, democracy and development and by an effort to transcend divisions based on gender, generation, and discipline. In the second case, we note that a distinct upgrading of the quality of the review process has contributed importantly to ensure scholarly relevance.

How do we judge the quality and impact of the output? Are research results effectively disseminated to key stakeholders and users? The Council has a massive publication programme, including a number of journals, produced either in-house or in cooperation with groups of scholars elsewhere. We have examined a range of publications and we are satisfied that they meet high academic standards. The problems identified by us are two. Although the leadership argues strongly that the average time for publication compares favourably with many of the other leading publishers in the field, the constituency of researchers are still jittery over what they see as an unduly lengthy and obscure process. Of course, as also pointed out, much of the delay is related to the groups of researchers themselves and their modes of coordination and direction. It is difficult for us to judge how long it will take before a

manuscript that is now "in the process of publication" will actually be out. It looks as if a backlog is building up. It suggests the need to consider alternative forms of publishing even more aggressively than, as we know, is currently done. But there is also a second problem. How does the research supported by CODESRIA actually reach out? Much dissemination is through the networks of the constituencies of researchers themselves, including the free distribution to university libraries and institutions. But is that enough? In much of Africa, the commercial systems are weak or non-existent. There is the need of concerted effort to strengthen that system but it may also be a question of choosing alternative forms of publishing that have their own access to local markets.

How adequate and appropriate is the system aimed at facilitating the process? The team has taken a close look at the system that has been developed for initiating and reviewing proposals, selecting candidates, and assessing manuscripts for publication. Each programme has made its files available to us for examination. We feel reassured that the system has developed importantly in professional terms both in the formulation of proposals and in the written assessments produced by the peer reviewers. Above all, we note the transparency of the process and the way in which criteria for selection are discussed and reviews are made available to those affected. We have also been in a position to discuss the process with scholars in the field. While there may still be some suspicions that access is unduly influenced by personal relations and other considerations, we get the impression that this problem has been greatly reduced by the new commitment to transparency.

Does the Council contribute effectively to capacity building and institutional strengthening within the field of social science research in Africa? We have no hesitation to answer yes to that question. On the one hand, we have been in a position to note how individual scholars have had their skills as scholars, their training, exposure, theoretical and methodological awareness greatly upgraded by participating in the programmes of the Council. On the other hand, we have been able to observe how the networks of scholars supported by the Council have contributed importantly to the institutional fabric and competence of Africa's academia. The networks themselves can claim to be institutions that have been strengthened. Even more importantly, we note, in both respects, both individually and collectively, a significant feedback into the system of higher education. Individual scholars take their new skills back with them to their departments, faculties, and universities, infusing the system with a greater awareness of the issues involved, not least the propagation of a 'proposal-writing culture'. Simultaneously, local networks, project groups and members of the 'CODESRIA family' contribute collectively to the restoration and upkeep of scholarly commitments within the institutions, strengthening their capacity to contribute to relevant, high quality research. Recent innovations like the support for 'Faculty Seminars' and 'Conferences of Deans' suggest that the Council takes a direct and active part in the process of institutional strengthening within the university system itself.

What role do its members play in the shaping of the Council's research agenda? It depends on what is meant by 'members'. If it is looked at in formal terms the picture is blurred by the small number of formal members and the chequered development from what was originally membership based on institutions to individual membership. However, if we think of the local constituencies that we encountered during our country visits, formal membership was not the issue but a much wider identification with CODESRIA as a joint collective concern, a continental 'project' committed to scholarly emancipation and mutual support. In that vaguer, but still highly significant respect, we feel that the Council rests on and is driven by a widely dispersed but a collectively constituted 'membership'.

Is CODESRIA sustainable? Finally, in assessing the organisational and financial sustainability of the Council the evaluation team notes that this has a short-term and a long-term dimension. In the short-term what seems most important is that sustainability has been credibly restored in an organisation that not far ago was at the brink of collapse. The main message of this evaluation is that this process of restoration, here spoken of as consolidation and renewal, in our considered view, has been admirably and effectively pursued and achieved. CODESRIA has bounced back as credible development partner.

In as longer-term perspective, however, there may be good reasons to be cautious, not the least in view of the manner in which earlier achievements were swiftly eroded by the crisis of the late 1990s, as suggested by the former President of the Council (Zenebewerke Tadesse 070918). The concerted effort to strengthen *all* the organs of the Council, including the professional upgrading of the Secretariat and the enhanced role of the Scientific Committee, suggests that it is aware of such risks and is anxious to make itself less vulnerable. Sustainability in this context relates to more issues. How can the Council sustain itself financially? What is the role of foreign donors? What is the scope for diversification of funding, including tapping into local sources? Do the present arrangements provide sufficiently for predictability and stability with respect to financial sources and methods of finance? CODESRIA may have achieved a remarkable come back as a credible development partner. But will it last? The need to ensure local sources of funding continues to be a major concern. The efforts to engage in 'Policy Dialogue', although important in its own right, are also prompted, as suggested by the former President, by the need to "revive public funding for research … re-establishing the legitimacy and importance of research as an important component of 'development'" (Ibid). The issue of an 'Endowment Fund' is part of this complex. Having since long outgrown its premises, the Secretariat has strong hopes of getting a building that is more commensurate to its needs. A separate 'Endowment Fund' has been created for that purpose as some regular donors are prevented by their own rules from participating in the venture. Alternative sources for the Fund have been solicited and prospective contributors have been identified. As suggested by the former President, the Fund indicates, in a modest way, an avenue for generating alternative and more local sources of funding (Ibid).

Conclusions: CODESRIA is a small organisation. It is efficiently run and has a major impact, partly due to its ability to decentralise, partly to the efficiency of the Secretariat. It has an articulate intellectual agenda. The process of initiating and reviewing proposals, selecting candidates, and assessing manuscripts has developed importantly in professional terms. It is transparent in the way in which criteria are applied, discussed and communicated. The organs of the Council have been strengthened, the Secretariat has been professionally upgraded, the Scientific Committee has been reinforced. A long-term commitment, mutual respect and autonomy are important for a sustainable partnership. CODESRIA's relationship with Sida/NORAD is a major achievement in this respect.

Recommendations: Achievements so far have been facilitated by a high degree of decentralisation. More efforts in this direction are on the way and should be encouraged in order to resolve problems of bottlenecks and to enhance participation by the scholarly community. Alternative avenues should be explored for publications and dissemination. More support is needed for translations into Africa's main professional languages. The evaluation team recommends continued and enhanced support to CODESRIA. There is a strong demand from below and the Secretariat has the capacity to use additional resources. The Secretariat needs a bigger office. Sida and NORAD may encourage others to contribute to the 'endowment fund' that has been launched for the purpose. The Council's funding has been diversified but costs of coordination are high. A greater effort on the side of donors in this respect is recommended.

Wider Relevance: CODESRIA provides both support and an alternative to the university system, pointing to the role for NGOs in public sector reform. A partnership based on respect for autonomy and long-term commitments may suggest a vision of wider relevance for international development cooperation. The interactive process of evaluation is a case in point.

1.   Introducing the Report

The External Evaluation Team (EET)[1] that has been asked to discuss the achievements and problems of CODESRIA, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, a Pan-African social science research council, with its headquarters in Dakar. For an overview of the organisation, see chapter 2. The evaluation, as directed by its terms of reference (encl. 1), has examined how CODESRIA's research is organised, how research groups are formed, the calls for applications, the system of peer-reviews, and the quality of the output. Although commissioned by Sida, it is a joint Sida/NORAD undertaking. It covers the Council's activities in general and not only those funded by Sida and NORAD. The focus is on a period of seven years, from 2000 to 2006. Some attention is given to the late 1990s when the Council underwent a major crisis since what follows is seen, both by the leadership and the EET, as a period of consolidation and renewal prompted by that crisis, hence the title of the report. We have also been asked to address the wider context of developments in African society and higher education as they affect the orientation of the Council. In line with the terms of reference, the evaluation is primarily based on CODESRIA's own documentation, its Charter, strategic plans, work plans, and publications. It also draws heavily on discussions with CODESRIA's leadership and staff at Headquarters in Dakar and the documentation specially prepared for the EET by them. The team has linked up with the network members and beneficiaries of research grants and/or training, interviewing also other 'stakeholders' in Dakar and in the various countries visited as part of the evaluation. The evaluation is an interactive exercise where the evaluated organisation plays a central role, not just as the object of evaluation but as a facilitator and partner. The Council has been committed to the evaluation, drawing on its independent scholarly competence in reviewing activities, identifying problems, and educating staff. In line with the interactive mode of evaluation that makes the Council a key participant in the process the drafts produced by the EET have been copied to the Secretariat, asking for reactions and comments. This is in no way to pre-empt the comments that the Council may wish to submit once the report has been officially submitted but to ensure that reports reflect and benefit from this interactive process.

The evaluation discusses the relevance, quality and impact of CODESRIA's research, the appropriateness of the system and structures in place to facilitate the research process, and the effectiveness of dissemination of research results. The report assesses the contribution of the Council to capacity building and institutional strengthening. It looks at the role of the Council's members in shaping the research agenda and at the organisational and financial sustainability of the organisation. The report is concerned with the relevance of the research programmes in relation to the major problems facing the African continent. We discuss the quality and relevance of both the Council's own publications and the output that it is supporting. We have also sampled the quality of the peer reviewers engaged by the Council, including the reports from its Scientific Committee. The extent that publications are used for teaching and research is another measure of quality.

The Evaluation Process

The task to evaluate CODESRIA was assigned to the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University. Björn Beckman, a Professor in the Department, was asked to head the evaluation team. The other members are Inga Brandell, an Associate Professor, Södertörn University College, Stockholm, Lloyd Sachikonye, a Professor in the Institute of Development Studies, University of Zimbabwe, and Mohamed Salih, a Professor in the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague. Associate Professor

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[1]   The team has been made up of Professor Björn Beckman, Stockholm University (team leader), Associate Professor Inga Brandell,, Södertörn University College, Stockholm, Professor Lloyd Sachikonye, Institute of Development Studies, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, and Mohamed Salih, Professor, Institute of Social Studies, The Hague.

Claes Linde in the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, was asked to coordinate the evaluation, assisted by Susanna Lindberg, a staff of the Department. A planning meeting of the EET was held in Stockholm 2–3 April 2007 with the President and Executive Secretary of CODESRIA and the relevant officers of Sida, the Swedish International Development Authority. Dates were agreed for a visit to the headquarters in Dakar (7–11 May, 2007) and for a provisional division of countries to be visited by the individual members of the team. The Secretariat in Dakar ensured that the visit was mutually fruitful. The departments had compiled special reports covering the evaluation period as well as other key background documents for the occasion (CODESRIA 2007a, b). Members of the Executive Committee of the Council, including its President and Vice-President participated in the meetings. A list of participants is enclosed. The process was interactive. The visit of the EET was treated as an integral part in the development of the Council and its programmes. It served to develop the awareness of the staff of the issues at stake, including basic values, joint experiences, and intellectual history. The joint meetings reviewed the history, governance structures, and programmes of the Council. Separate discussions were held with individual programme officers. Sessions were held with civil society groups and international organisations based in Dakar as well as with representatives of Senegalese government departments that are engaged in activities supported by the Council. A visit was paid to the Ambassador of Sweden. A meeting was held with Senegalese scholars, mostly professors and heads of departments from UCAD, the university in Dakar, and Université Gaston Berger of Saint Louis. A separate meeting was held with the Rector (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Abdou Salam Sall, of UCAD. A meeting was also held with a group of researchers from Mali that had been invited to Dakar by CODESRIA to interact with the EET. Lists had been drawn up by the Secretariat of those who had participated in Council programmes during the relevant period to facilitate the country visits. All had been notified about the likely visit of a member of the EET. The country visits were undertaken from late May to early July 2007. The reports are summarised in Chapter 6. The full reports are available on request.

A meeting to discuss the draft report was held in Stockholm on 7 September 2007. It included the President and Executive Secretary of CODESRIA, the relevant officers of Sida, representatives of NORAD as well as other stake-holders, including the representatives of the Danish and Dutch Foreign Ministries and other interested. After comments and revisions the final report was submitted in early October 2007.

An Outline of the Report

Chapter 1, *Introduction*, summarises the assignment, indicates major conclusions, and reviews the evaluation process. Chapter 2 introduces CODESRIA as an organisation, including its commitment to pan-Africanism which is situated both historically and in the context of what the leadership would speak of as 'neo-liberal globalisation''. It discusses the context of higher education and social science research in Africa. It reviews the recent history of the Council, in particular the crisis at the turn of the century, which we see as central in explaining the process of 'consolidation and renewal' that marks the period of evaluation. The chapter concludes with the self-evaluation of the Council provided by the Executive Secretary in his report to the Dakar meeting of the EET. The subsequent chapters follow the logic of the research programme. First out is the Research Department (Chapter 3) focusing on the 'Core Programmes', the Multinational Working Groups, the National Working Groups, and the Comparative Research Networks. It contains a discussion of programmes – Gender, Child and Youth, Academic Freedom, and the Lusophone Africa initiative – that have been selected for closer scrutiny. Chapter 4 combines the *Publications, Dissemination and Documentation (CODICE) Programmes*. Chapter 5 addresses the Research Training and Fellowship Programme and its central role in capacity building and institutional strengthening. Chapter 6 summarises key features of the country visits. The full reports are available on request. A conspicuous element of the country visits were the individual grievances. What weight should be attributed to these? The chapter includes a methodological discussion. The contribution of

the Department on Administration and Finance to the reform process is highlighted in Chapter 7. Chapter 8, Conclusions, summarises the findings. This is followed by *Recommendations* in chapter 9 and, finally, in chapter 10, we raise issues of *Wider relevance*. A list of *references* is added. Only works that have been specifically used for reference purposes have been included. It means that the numerous titles of books, journals, articles, and papers that are mentioned in the text, in Chapter 4 in particular, are not listed. The *Enclosures* contain the terms of reference and a brief presentation of the members of the EET. They are also used to document the visits to Dakar and the selected countries and, in particular, listing the staff and scholars who participated in meetings and offered views and services. The tables that support the conclusions in Chapter 5 are also enclosed. The full reports of the country visits are available on request. Here follow some highlights of the main report.

Transparency and Communication

Transparency in the interaction between the Council and its constituency is a hallmark of the post-2000 regime, including the administration of peer reviews and grants, the role of the Scientific Committee, the management of working groups, and the support structures. Transparency is vital not least in managing divisions between regions, language groups, big and small nations, old and new university communities, men and women, etc. Although such potential divisions require a sensitive and responsive leadership that seeks to manage them in a respectful and equitable way, transparency in all processes is crucial when tackling lingering resentments. Transparency is the most effective recipe against suspected bias in recruitment, selection, and other aspects of the Council's activities that involve individual assessments. The report notes the Council's strong commitment in this direction.

Efficiency in the way in which the Council communicates within its complex networks is another major issues that was raised during the country visits. There are methodological problems in how to assess such concerns that are discussed in chapter 6. What is justifiably or unjustifiably seen as delays in the distribution of notices, the payment of awards, the submission of peer-reviews, the editing and publication of reports etc. seem to generate their own interpretations that have to be addressed. In particular, the perceived failure of communication was a major local concern. The activities of the Council have expanded tremendously during the period, including the number of workshops, conferences, seminars, and symposia, reports and policy-briefs, electronic transmissions, the development of the website and the documentation system, participation in book fairs, etc. In all this we see major advances, especially in comparison with the crisis-ridden state of affairs that marked the beginning of the period.

Impact and Country Studies

A separate evaluation of impact based on country case studies will be undertaken by NORAD. The visits to selected countries by the EET confirm the Council's critical role in capacity building and institutional strengthening. The universities provide the dominant arena for its local engagement and the scholars engaged with the Council are primarily university based. Our interaction with university leaders, Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Deans of Social Faculties, and others, confirm the importance of CODESRIA's contribution to the university system. The local scholars are emphatic in their acclaim, even if there are also complaints of publishing delays, the size of grants, and problems of communication etc. CODESRIA offers an important additional opening for training and research. The Council has developed strong roots in the scholarly community.

Is CODESRIA Sustainable?

In concluding the report we return to the issue of sustainability. Facing an initial crisis of foreign funding in the year 2000 when virtually all major donors had either terminated or suspended funding, as recalled in Chapter 2, CODESRIA has achieved a noteworthy come back as a credible development partner. By the year 2006, the Council's annual revenue has virtually doubled as compared with pre-crisis levels, most donors had been brought back on board, and the leadership is confident in continued expansion. The recovery is, of course, primarily the result of the performance of the current leadership and its capacity to inspire confidence and commitment. We note the reorganisation of the Administration and Finance Department and its professionalism that has succeeded in installing financial discipline and rectitude. But it is also very much an issue of intellectual leadership, an ability to inspire both staff and scholars all over the continent.

2.   Introducing CODESRIA

The Council was established in 1973 as a joint initiative of social science institutes. It was prompted by a commitment to pan-Africanism, intellectual freedom, scholarly autonomy, professionalism, and academic integrity. It challenged and sought to transcend "the fragmenting effects of the colonial heritage" (CODESRIA 2002: 5–6). Marginalisation, precarious material conditions, political repression and brain drain have added to the challenges. The Council is introduced in a 40 page booklet, *CODESRIA and its activities,* first published in 2002, that reviews the Council's 'founding principles' and mandate, how it is structured and its role in facilitating and supporting social science research. The booklet identifies core research activities, pin points policy oriented and collaborative research projects, and outlines the Council's documentation services and the dissemination of research results. The mandate is contained in the CODESRIA *Charter* with its subsequent amendments. It emphasises multidisciplinary research and research-based publishing, integrating gender perspectives, and dialogue between disciplines and generations of scholars. The Council is concerned with strengthening the institutional basis of research being "organically tied to the needs and concerns of the universities and centres of advanced research" that supply the bulk of its membership (Ibid: 8). It serves as a "voice for African scholars in the international arena" (Ibid).

The Charter identifies three main organs, the triennial General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat, which is headed by an Executive Secretary. The major innovations in the period of evaluation is the upgrading of the Scientific Committee, an advisory body "made up of eminent African scholars with a distinguished track record" (Ibid:10). As will be discussed further in section 6, an important distinction is made between local staff and professionals who are internationally recruited. The Secretariat is currently organised in three scientific departments, (1) research, (2) training, grants and fellowships, (3) publications and dissemination. CODICE, the CODESRIA Documentation and Information Centre, earlier a part of the Research Department, is now an autonomous unit. In addition to the scientific departments there is a Department of Administration and Finance. The evaluation report follows the organisation of the Secretariat in its discussion of the activities of the Council. Each chapter begins with an overview of the activities falling within that department. In this chapter, special attention is devoted to the context of the activities, first the commitment to pan-Africanism and what it implies in the context of globalisation, second the crisis of the system of higher education in Africa and how the Council situates itself in that context. The focus of our report is on the process of consolidation and renewal that characterises the activities of the Council in the period examined by us. The process can only be properly understood if situated in the context of the recent history of the organisation and in particular, the crisis around the turn of the century that threatened the very

survival of the organisation. In introducing the Council we therefore also include a section that reviews that crisis. In concluding the chapter, we give voice to the current leadership of the Council and its self-assessment.

The Context of Pan-Africanism and Gobalisation

The relevance of CODESRIA's programme must be assessed on the basis of its own objectives and an understanding of the challenges that Africa faces in the socio-economic and political field. These are informed by a view that Africa's low levels of development are rooted in its disadvantaged position in the global order, historically related to colonialism and more recently to neo-liberal globalisation. Its understanding of the global context is captured by the conference that was held in Dakar in December 2003 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Council under the caption "Intellectuals, Nationalism and the Pan-African Idea". The anniversary conference has resulted in important contributions in the series 'Africa in the new Millennium' that is jointly published with Zed Books. The conference was "critically revisiting issues of nation-building, pan-Africanism, development and democracy" and the issues that "devastate the lives of so many of us – poverty, wars, repression" (Mkandawire 2005a). One volume in the series is based on a conference jointly organised by CODESRIA and Third World Network-Africa in Accra in 2002. It addresses NEPAD as a response to globalisation. Although the volume also contains a defence of NEPAD, it is predominantly critical of its ability to offer an alternative to the "the stranglehold of the Washington Consensus over economic policy". To the editors, NEPAD is a "repudiation of the social compact that marked the nationalist project" (Adésìnà *et al.* 2006:5ff). Neo-liberal globalisation was not always a central concern of the Council.: It was only at a point when African governments began embracing World Bank and IMF-promoted Structural Adjustment Programmes that serious attention was paid to policy and the need to get involved (CODESRIA 2007a). Issues of policy relevance, theory and method go closely together: The Council challenges the African social science community to face the task of "understanding, assessing, and redressing the problems of livelihood in Africa at a time when inherited concepts that inform analysis are increasingly inadequate for capturing the multi-dimensional nature of the dynamics of economy, politics, culture and society" (Ibid).

The Context of Higher Education

Higher education is CODESRIA's immediate context. In the beginning the universities were fewer, smaller, and better funded. They had a privileged position in the national development project. The problem was that they had in most cases a history of close association with European universities. The original objective of the Council was therefore to ensure greater autonomy and relevance in empirical focus and theoretical perspectives. Horizontal links were few, and researchers were isolated and dispersed. The Council's mission was to organise a properly networked community with a shared intellectual agenda. Although Africa's economic crisis started earlier, it was only in the 1990s that higher education was more profoundly affected, with the decline in physical infrastructure, the cessation of research funding, the collapse of seminars, massive brain drain, book famine, the closure of university presses and academic journals etc. Staff incomes were eroded, and proper research was replaced by donor-driven consultancies. Simultaneously, the intake of students exploded and new universities were established, both public and private. For most of the period that is examined by the EET, CODESRIA was guided by the Strategic Plan for 2002–2006 that pays particular attention to these dramatic changes in the academic context (CODESRIA 2001). The Council claims to offer a programme for "innovation, diversification and relevance" in response to the prolonged crisis (CODESRIA 2007a), that is, to ensure that the stagnation and decline of the university system is combated, to offer alternative avenues for scholarly progress on an individual and collective basis in view of the extreme constraints characterizing the system, and in particular, to assist in the development of research that is relevant to the

fundamental needs confronting African society. The "asymmetries of power in the production of knowledge about Africa" are further reinforced (Ibid). Very little scholarship about African problems is produced in the context of African society but reflects a skewed relation of power globally. As pointed out by Yusuf Bangura (2007), the crisis of the universities places additional burdens on the Council: Instead of specialising in a limited number of initiatives such as fostering multinational and multi-disciplinary research and intervening in debates on social, economic and political development in the continent, the Council is compelled to engage in a wide range of capacity building ventures for which it does not have the resources, including crash programmes of methodology for university based scholars.

The crisis in African higher education has been widely documented, not the least by CODESRIA itself and by the Association of African Universities (Assié-Lumumba 2005, 2006; Sawyerr 2004). Two volumes of essays were published by CODESRIA in 2004 on *African Universities in the Twenty-First Century,* based on a joint venture with Center for African Studies, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) with a strong 'Diaspora' contribution (Zeleza and Olukohsi 2004). The first volume pays particular attention to the growth of private universities, the second looks more at the substance of knowledge production and the problems of dissemination. A new *Journal on Higher Education in Africa* (from 2003) marks the intensified concern of the Council with the crisis of higher education. It looks at the role of the universities in social transformation, as in the contribution by Ebrima Sall (2003) in the maiden issue. Much, of course, concerns the policy of higher education itself, including the new signals from the World Bank, taking a more benevolent view than it earlier had done (vol 2:3). Assié-Lumumba's substantial 'Green Book' (2006) serves as a background text to a Multinational Working Group on higher education.

Consolidation and Renewal: The Crisis

The consolidation and renewal of activities since year 2000 can only be fully appreciated if placed within the context of the crisis from which the Council emerged. The Sida perspective is recalled in the "Narrative of Sida-CODESRIA research cooperation 1998–2001" (Sida 2001a). At the General Assembly in Dakar, December 1998, critique was levelled against the leadership. Delegates questioned how funds were being used and the way decisions were taken. The critique prompted a series of meetings with Sida. A major concern was the lack of transparency in financial transactions. An audit commissioned by the Council failed to respond to the issues at stake. Sida's payments were suspended in April 2000. An external evaluation was equally aborted. It failed to satisfy either side in the multifaceted conflict and was seen as overreaching its mandate (Sida/CODESRIA 2001). An agreement was reached on the resumption of payments and an agenda of reforms. In fact a Governance Reform Committee headed by Professor Issa Shivji of Dar es Salaam had been given a far-reaching mandate already at the 1998 General Assembly. A new substantive head of the Secretariat was appointed by the Executive Committee and a three-year agreement with Sida was concluded for the 2002–2004 period. With long-term funding assured the process of reconstruction could start in earnest. A strategic workshop was held for Council staff in June 2001. An auditor was placed to the disposal of the council, sharing expertise on financial planning. The problem of financial maladministration was central to both the internal and the external dimensions of the crisis.

The Achievement: The Self-assessment of the Council

How does the Council assess its achievements in the period of evaluation? The Executive Secretary speaks of it as "the premier centre of multidisciplinary social research production and dissemination in Africa", contributing to the "institutionalisation of a culture of excellence in the African academy". He suggests that its General Assembly has become "the single most important triennial gathering of social researchers on the African continent" (CODESRIA 2007a). The leadership is particularly proud of the Council's achievements in raising consciousness of gender and generational issues, as well as

expanding the participation of Lusophone researchers. For the first time in the history of the Council, a General Assembly, held in Maputo, Mozambique, witnessed the use of Portuguese alongside English and French for presentations (CODESRIA 2007a). The 'consolidation and renewal' that is central to the Council's claims does not suggest a breach with the past. In fact, the leadership takes pride in the longevity of the Council and its capacity to stay committed to core values. The current leaders acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation the clear-headedness of those donors who have been steadfast in supporting the Council. However, a particular pride is taken in the way in which the crisis at the turn of the century was resolved from within, not as a result of intervention from outside. In this sense the Council feels that it was able to retain full 'ownership' of its heritage. The ability to manage, survive, and expand out of the crisis has reinforced the self-confidence that seems to be the ultimate antidote of the donor dependence that mars so much of Africa's relationship to the West. The correct handling of the donor relationship is central to its ideological commitment, sometimes spoken of as its 'intellectual agenda'.

Does CODESRIA live up to the confident self-assessment that characterises the Executive Secretary's report that opened the Evaluation? The evaluation report looks more closely at the experience of the Council, its remarkable achievements but also its outstanding problems.

3. The Research Programme

This chapter discusses the activities grouped under the departmental heading, *'The Research Programme'*. Of course, other departments as well, as we shall see below, are also engaged in research or support for research, including funding, dissemination, and documentation. However, the Research Programme is central to much of it. Since the foundation in 1973, research has been the main activity of the Council and its reputation has been profoundly shaped by perceptions about its quality and relevance. The institutional mandate is to facilitate social science research in a broad sense, based on a holistic understanding of the historical and contemporary experiences that have shaped human life on the African continent both as a goal in its own right, and as a condition for social transformation (CODESRIA 2007a). In pursuing its objectives, it seeks to strengthen the institutional basis of knowledge production in Africa by proactively engaging and supporting other research institutions and their networks of scholars within its programme of activities, the universities in particular. It encourages inter-generational and gender-sensitive dialogue in the African academy, promoting capacity in the use of different perspectives for knowledge production. The organisation has been emphatic in defining its broad historic role. In this view, knowledge production about Africa is fragmented along narrow disciplinary, geographic and linguistic lines. In order to be able to offer an alternative, African scholarship has to be sufficiently integrated to generate an independent interpretative analysis (Ibid). By creating thematic research networks that transcend those disciplinary, geographical and linguistic boundaries the Council seeks to challenge fragmentation and promote an autonomous pan-African perspective.

Organisation, Structures, Activities

Research is organised into a series of structures and activities of which the reports of the Secretariat give a full account (CODESRIA 2007a, b; see also the Council's *Annual Reports* and current Departmental Reports, e.g. in this case 'Research Programme, Report on 2006 Activities'; for an overview, see also *CODESRIA and its Activities*, 2002a). Core research activities include the *Green Books* that are specially commissioned background documents on themes within the intellectual agenda of the Council. They are expected to provide the point of departure for Multinational Working Groups. The commis-

sioned scholars are of high academic standing and expertise. The documents are of varying length, some are brochures, other full-length books as in the case of the 'Green book' by Assié-Lumumba (2006) on higher education. Green Books, it seems from the review of publications in chapter 5, have become less central as an instrument of the programme. The Programme Summary Sheet (Tab 2) lists 12 Green Books having been initiated between 2000 and 2005, nine of which for 2002 alone (CODESRIA 2007a: 29). Only in three instances have the reports been published. In five cases have manuscripts been completed. Of the nine titles listed in the annual report of the department from 2006 one had been published, three had been both assessed and revised, while three had not been received. The backlog suggests that the Green Books are less able to provide a platform for the wider programme.

Multinational Working Groups (MWG) are 'flagship' research instruments. The general theme of a MWG is proposed by the Secretariat in response to the issues raised in the General Assembly and discussed within the Executive Committee and by the Research Committee which takes an active part in the process. The issues are expected to reflect the research agenda of the Council as collectively crystallised. Of the four themes chosen for the 2004 programme, for instance, one focused on the problems of higher education, its crisis, reforms, and transformation, another the land struggles and how they relate to issues of democracy and development. A third MWG addressed the question of citizenship and identity, and a fourth the political economy of the welfare and rights of HIV/AIDS patients. Once the theme has been agreed researchers from all over the continent are invited to submit the proposals. These are professionally assessed by peer-reviews. We have looked into the review process and note that most of the reviews are carefully argued by scholars of good standing. In view of the widening number of programmes that require such a peer-review process the list of reviewers is a potential bottleneck. The period proposed by the Secretariat for submitting reviews is normally respected but occasionally the Secretariat is compelled to write repeated reminders. A new reviewer is selected if the first one contacted fails to deliver. The reviewers are encouraged to make suggestions about improvements and their reports are made available to those who have submitted the proposals. From our interaction with local scholars during the country visits we can note that the reviews are much appreciated as an input in the research process. Moreover, they contribute importantly to ensure that a particular project is seen as continental concern. The scholars currently involved as reviewers for all different programmes constitute an important part of CODESRIA's constituency. They interact regularly with the Secretariat and are exposed on a current basis to the research considerations of the leading organs of the Council. Ten MWGs were launched during the period 2000–2006, eight of which are presented by basic statistics in the Secretariat Report, four commencing already in year 2000 and another four in 2004. None are listed for either 2001, 2002, and 2003. The two initiated in 2005 have selected participants but remain to be fully launched, according to the Report (CODESRIA 2007a: 30). The ones initiated in 2004 have been encouraged to hold joint methodology and review workshops. Eight of the ten MWGs that began during the period have completed their work, two books have been published, one is in the press, and a fourth MWG, as reported below, has yielded articles for a special issue of Feminist Africa. The publication process takes time to complete and the programme has been constrained by an early backlog. The Council has clearly been cautious in initiating new MWGs. The number of participants during the period of evaluation has been 116 or virtually half of the 218 who have been engaged in NWGs discussed below.

National Working Groups are also part of the 'core' research activities of the Council. Unlike the MWGs discussed above the themes are proposed locally on the basis of local priorities. A wide range of proposals are received and submitted to peer-reviewing. While the theme itself is locally decided, the Council's input is primarily to encourage the successful applicants to ensure that multidisciplinary, gender, and generational concerns are observed in the composition of national teams of researchers and in the design of specific contributions. The NWGs are particularly important in supporting the development of national research capacity and its responsiveness in these respects. The approved NWGs are encouraged to hold methodological workshops, mid-term reviews and a final workshop. This is also happen-

ing. As observed during our country visits, these workshops are key events in the life of an NWG and the work of the local coordinator is focused on making participants deliver in time for such occasions. At the tail end, a book-length manuscript is submitted to the Council which then begins the process of peer-reviewing, revisions, final editing, and proof-reading. It is a lengthy process, now involving full manuscripts that are often quite cumbersome to assess, being made up of different contributions not quite as well-integrated in an edited whole as in the original proposals. Our sampling of files at the Secretariat end suggests that the review process takes much time and is occasionally stalled as the reviewer contacted has been given other assignments, including visiting positions elsewhere. We sympa- thise with the staff of the publishing department and the delays that the process is likely to experience. As discussed at greater length elsewhere in this report, we suggest possible ways of reducing the work load of the Secretariat in this field, and of speeding up the process of publication. Alternative forms of publishing may also be supportive of more effective dissemination.

Over the period 2000 to 2006, 40 NWGs were established in 25 countries, according to departmental reports (CODESRIA 2007a: 35). In 2003 over 100 applications were received and 12 approved. We have looked at the selection process as the Dakar end. The proposals that have been accepted are developed in scholarly terms, including a clear problematic, a proper account of literature in the field, and a discussion of methodology. Most of the proposals are quite substantive and represent a major research effort in their own right. We have also studied proposals and project reports as part of the country visits where we have interacted with participating scholars. Of the 14 NWGs from the pre- 2003 bump six have been published while another six find themselves in an advanced stage of publica- tion. Only one from the bumper-year itself has been able to make it to the public so far, Kwame Boafo- Arthur (ed), *Ghana. One Decade of the Liberal State* (London & Dakar etc. 2007) that has been selected for the prestigious joint publishing programme with Zed Books 'Africa in the New Millennium'. It is a high quality publication with contributions from major local scholars that can be expected to have a signifi- cant impact on both scholarship and policy. A similarly important collection on Kenya edited by Godwin R. Murungu and Shadrack W. Nasong'o, *Kenya: The Struggle for Democracy* (London & Dakar etc. 2007) has been published in the same series. These are 'flagship' publications that serve to raise the prestige of the NWG programme.

Comparative Research Networks (CRN) is a more recent framework for engaging in cross-country and multidisciplinary research. As in the case of the MWGs, applications are invited for proposals within themes that have been identified by the Council, drawing on the discussions in the General Assembly and the advise of the Scientific Committee. Judging from the files examined in Dakar the Committee plays an active role in examining and advising on proposals. Since its launching in 2002 (until 2006) a total of 21 CRNs have been established with participants from 27 countries on the basis of 84 propos- als. Typically, four proposals are accepted every year. Four books have come out of the 2002 pro- gramme and most of the manuscripts from the subsequent two years have been completed and are awaiting publication. In the case of 2005 and 2006 most CRNs are still engaged in research. As in the case of the MWGs and NWGs, the country visits have allowed us to interact with local researchers that participate in one or more of these research programmes. The most common worry, as discussed both in the chapters 5 and 7, seems to be that the final publications are not coming out swiftly enough. 109 researchers have participated in the CRNs during the period of evaluation, that is, roughly the same numbers as in the MWGs, but only half when compared to the NWGs.

The core research programme also contains a series of thematic programmes, including Gender Research, Child and Youth Studies, and the Academic Freedom Programme that have been selected for closer discussion below. The thematic programmes contain an Economic Research Programme and the Humanities Programme. In addition to the core programmes there are 'Special initiatives', including the Lusophone Africa Initiative that is discussed below and the CODESRIA Programme on Social History which is a joint effort with SEPHIS, a Dutch organisation. While targeting historians it is open

to all scholars with an interest in the field of social history and issues of methodology. While commenced in the late 1990s, the programme has greatly expanded in the period concerned, including workshops on gender, labour, and family, later with class and ethnicity added. In each case proposals have been revised and convenors have submitted reports but these have not been published. Lecture tours have been arranged in recent years and the lectures presented have been published. An additional feature is interdisciplinary training workshops on alternative historical sources where papers have also been revised and reports submitted. The programme has its own 'Steering Committee Meetings' on an annual basis. In addition, repeated 'brainstorming' meetings have discussed new collaborative ventures and funding strategies. A new feature is the 'transnational' dimension where the programme is part of the South-South dialogue supported by the Council.

The *'Collaborative Initiatives'*, another major and expanding programme of the Council, is the primary hat for these South-South ventures. The 2006 report of the Research Programme demonstrates that the Collaborative Initiatives, here discussed as *Strategic Partnerships*, have in fact expanded into a major frontier of the Council, absorbing 40 per cent of the total budget of the Research Programme, although seen as "only complementary" to the Core Programme (CODESRIA 2007c: 14 ff). Apart from the South-South Exchange Programme in cooperation with SEPHIS, the report lists altogether 22 such collaborative ventures, including prominently the South-South Research Programme with CLACSO and APISA, CODESRIA's Latin American and Asian equivalents. Typically, such collaborative ventures have multiple sources of funding with the number of partners varying from one, as in the case of the Bergen-based CROP (Centre for Research on Poverties), to many, as in the case of the 'Consortium for Development Partnership' involving 15 institutes, 11 in West Africa. Some of the partners in other ventures participated in the hearings held in Dakar by the EET, allowing us to familiarise ourselves, for instance, with the 'Civil Society and Governance in West Africa' undertaken with OSIWA (Open Society Initiative) and very specialised collaborative initiatives as 'Democratic Decentralization of Forest Management in Senegal' with its primary focus on charcoal production. We realise that the numerous and varied 'collaborative initiatives' with their multitude of partners are complex to monitor and administration intensive. Simultaneously, they are clearly attractive in the way in which funding is diversified for specific projects. They play a crucial role in lubricating a wider network, making sure that CODESRIA is widely recognised as a development partner. Yet, there is clearly a risk that the financial resources of the programme get tied to activities where CODESRIA has limited control over the outcome. Similarly, the administrative efforts involved in handling these complex arrangements, even if intended to be "only complementary", may constrain attention to core activities.

The Local Constituencies

Many of the local scholars who we were able to meet during our country visits are or have been active in the groupings reviewed above, especially NWGs, MWGs, and CRNs which play an important role in integrating local scholars into CODESRIA's networks. The participants constitute the mature core of the 'CODESRIA communities'. The local visits suggest that the CODESRIA-supported research groups, whether national, multinational, or comparative, constitute a critical forum for Africa's research communities. They provide a scholarly infrastructure that is essential for the academic credibility of African universities. They are also essential in sustaining intellectual self-respect and purpose within these communities. In this, they are critical to combating the brain drain that has been the consequences of the prolonged crisis of African higher education. The country visits suggest that the self-respect does not stop with the networked scholars themselves but is shared by the institutions within which they work, including the universities that proudly measure their own achievements in terms of their connections to the pan-African context provided by the Council. The full documentation of the individual programmes was made available to the EET during the visit to Dakar, including information on modes of selection, peer reviews, and the state of reporting. It allowed us to explore the process, including its relevance in relation to the wider programme. The Council's *Annual Report* for 2005, the most recent

one that had been published at the time of the May 2007 visit, lists the themes of current MWGs, including 'Higher education in Africa: Transforming within, preparing the future', 'Citizenship and identity in contemporary Africa' and 'Land and agrarian issues in the struggle for democracy and human rights'. In the context of current scholarly and political debates in Africa these are topical issues where the Council plays a vital role in encouraging a scholarly contribution. This can also be illustrated with the research on 'Health, society and politics', especially on the impact of HIV-AIDS, that is currently supported. It underscores the critical role of the Council in bringing social-science perspectives to bear on fields that otherwise would be seen as the concern of the sciences or the medical profession. In our overall review of the activities of the Council we get the strong impression that it supports cutting-edge research that has a considerable bearing on public policy and debate. This is reinforced when listening to researchers that we have met in the field during our country visits. There is clearly a serious effort within the CODESRIA 'family' to be relevant in relation to the socio-economic and political challenges on the continent. This includes being relevant to policy analysts and policy-makers, in many instances to institutions in civil society, e.g. academic staff unions and others, who occasionally are more credible local partners than government institutions in the pursuit of the Council's agenda.

The notion of relevance is, of course, strongly coloured by the Council's own traditions, including the historical context in which it has emerged and is reproducing itself, as discussed in chapter 2 of the report. A crucial asset in this respect that ensures that the issues of relevance keep being critically re-examined and contested is the pivotal role of the General Assembly in defining the agenda of the Council. The debates at the Assembly have a direct bearing on the themes for new research that are encouraged and supported. The Executive Committee and the Scientific Committee play a crucial role in advising it in this respect. The choice of themes and issues of relevance are ultimately determined by the range of scholars who form the General Assembly.

The EET has looked more closely at three thematic programmes and one 'special initiative', Gender Research, Child and Youth Studies, Academic Freedom, and the Lusophone Initiative.

The Gender Programme

African society, including its scholarly community, continues to be dominated by male power structures that perpetuate themselves either by ignoring, frustrating or actively resisting the emancipation of women as human beings and as scholars (Mama 2005; Mkandawire 2005a). This, of course, is also true for the rest of the world but each place has its own frontiers (UNRISD 2005). The Council's Gender Programme, launched in 1983 and turned into a 'core programme' in 1996, is part of a dynamic and expansionary process, central to the activities of the Council. Past highlights include the workshop on 'Gender Analysis and African Social Science' in 1991 and the path-breaking collection *Engendering African Social Sciences* edited by Ayesha Imam, Amina Mama and Fatou Sow, that was first published in 1997. The achievements in the period of evaluation are substantial. A list of publications produced under the auspices of the Council's Gender Programme is included in the report to the EET (CODESRIA 2007a: 64–69). It contains a list of monographs and articles in CODESRIA edited or supported journals, including six articles in *Africa Development,* ten in *African Sociological Review* and 37 (!) in the *CODESRIA Bulletin.* The list relates to the period of evaluation (2000–2006) alone.

The field of gender studies seems particularly suitable to illustrate the "potential for critical intellectual work to advance liberatory agendas for development, democratisation, and social justice" located as they are in "epistemologies that are likely to owe as much to Africa's social movements, civil societies and independent research communities and networks as they owe to the formal academic establishments" (Mama 2004:2). In fact, gender studies epitomise, according to Amina Mama, a prominent scholar in the field, "the key commitments of African intellectualism: a focus on continental challenges,

a willingness to work across the disciplines, a strong sense of social responsibility (particularly towards women's liberation) and an insistence on maintaining the engagement between theory and practice" (Mama 2002:10). Most of those who work in gender studies are motivated, she says, by "a deeply-felt commitment to gender activism as a key route to effecting democratisation and social justice".

However, the Council's achievement is not without its critics. Does it respond credibly enough to the push for gender equality? Some see it as insufficiently committed, too male dominated, or as failing in adequately recognising the important work of feminist scholars and research centres elsewhere in Africa. From this point of view, despite the expansion, there is too much 'tokenism' in the manner in which the Council's seeks to build gender issues into its programmes, including in the way female scholars 'are allowed' to organise panels and participate in General Assemblies, working groups, etc. Such criticisms are rejected by the leadership of the organisation that feels proud of its commitment "to challenge the masculinities underpinning the structures of repression that target women" (Olukoshi and Nyamnjoh 2004). In fact it criticises in its turn tendencies within African feminist research that tend to generate 'essentialism' and 'sexism in reverse', quoting support at length from Mamphela Ramphele, a South African scholar who has served as "the first female and first black Vice-Chancellor of University of Cape Town", a prestigious and white dominated institution (Olukoshi and Nyamnjoh 2006).

The critique directed by the Council's gender programme, especially when coming from leading scholars in the field, needs to be taken seriously. The evidence of significant expansion is clearly there. Gender Institutes have been organised for research training on an annual basis since 1994. Although falling under 'Training', a separate department (see chapter 4), the Institutes have demonstrated themselves to be powerful means of exposing young scholars to the 'frontiers of research', as for instance, in 2005 when the theme was 'Masculinities in Contemporary Africa'. The comprehensive report submitted by the Director of the Institute underscores the importance of this instrument (CODESRIA 2005). The institutes were joined in 2002 by the Gender Symposia, a forum for more advanced research, and on an annual basis since 2004, all held in Cairo in cooperation with the Africa Arab Research Centre. In 2002, the theme was general, "Gender Research in the New Millennium", in 2005 "Gender Alternatives – Theory, Methods and Evidence", in 2006 the focus was on "Gender in the Construction of the Democratic Developmental State". A Multinational Working Group (MWG) on "Gender and National Politics" was completed with a final workshop in Cape Town in May 2002 in conjunction with the African Gender Institute. The extensive report confirms that the initiative is a major contribution to gender scholarship (CODESRIA 2002). A selection of papers has been published in *Feminist Africa*. Special sessions on gender are regularly inserted into all conference programmes, including the General Assemblies (2002, 2005) and the 30th Anniversary Conference (2003). Apart from the AARC in Cairo, special partnerships on gender have been developed with UNIFEM, Sida/SAREC and others (see also pamphlet 'Gender at CODESRIA').

The resources devoted to publications in this field have greatly increased (CODESRIA 2007a). Contributions to the symposia have been published in a 'Gender Series' (the one from the 2006 symposium is forthcoming). A bibliography of the Council's publications was prepared by CODICE, the documentation centre, for the 2006 Symposium (CODESRIA 2006). We have paid special attention to the Gender Series where No. 1 is titled *African Gender Scholarship: Concepts, Methodologies and Paradigms* (2004), No. 2, *Gender, Economies and Entitlements in Africa* (2004); No. 3, *Gender Activism and Studies in Africa* (2004), No. 4, *Gender, Literature and Religion in Africa* (2005), and No. 5, *Hommes et femmes entre spheres publique et privée* (2005). Taken together these books represent a powerful intervention by CODESRIA in the field of gender research, matching the high expectations of the Council's leadership that the series would "capture current debates", "showcasing the best in African gender research" as well as providing a platform for "new talents to flower" (Olukoshi and Nyamnjoh 2006). They have been produced swiftly and attractively and the contributions are of high quality. Only in the last case (No. 5) is a specific editor indicated, Penda Mbow. A "Special Issue on The African Woman" published by the *CODESRIA bulletin*

(Nos.1&2, 2006) should also be mentioned, marking that 20 years have passed since the 1985 Nairobi World Congress on Women and ten since the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Unlike the volumes in the Gender Series, these are primarily short debating pieces, in fact as many as 25, assessing the achievements of the movements for women's rights and identifying the frontiers of research and activism.

A final note on gender does not relate to the Gender Programme alone but to the manner in which all Secretariat reports presented to the EET in Dakar identify the proportion of women participating in the activities and institutions of the Council, including as recipients of fellowships and grants. It allows us to follow, year by year, how the gender balance within the organisation has significantly shifted towards the greater inclusion of women. This is no mean achievement in a social context dominated by resilient patriarchal structures. Simultaneously, it also allows us to follow the limitations of the overall impact. In the case of the MWGs, for instance, female participants are roughly one quarter, but in the case of the NWG they are less than one sixth. Four of the coordinators of the CRNs were women, while 19 were men, just to take some examples. Of course, the proportions compares favourably with the glaring lack of gender equality that still marks much of academia. It is probable that the very exposure of these inequities provides incentives for the forces of change. While the Council may continue to be suspected of not doing enough or paying lip-service this is an inevitable function of a wider contest. There is no other way of advancing the frontiers in this field than to keep questioning one's own 'gender sensitivity'.

Child and Youth Studies

This programme was launched in 1994 with the aim of building research capacity on child and youth studies as well as promoting linkages between researchers and users of the research. The programme has a collaborative element as the Council is a member of an international network, 'Childwatch International' (CWI). Useful work is currently being undertaken by the National Working Groups (NWG) in Benin, Kenya, Zanzibar and Zimbabwe. The focus differs. The one in Zanzibar probes into the impact of tourism on children and youth, the one in Benin concerns the question how agricultural mechanisation affects children's education. Other projects assess policies on sexuality and the rights of youth (Kenya) and the experiences of youth in the activities of religious sects (Zimbabwe). The research sites in Zanzibar and Zimbabwe were visited as part of the evaluation and discussions were held with members of the NWGs (see chapter 7 on the country visits). Not only is the research topical and relevant, the national authorities and policy makers (ministry officials in Zanzibar and community leaders in Zimbabwe) have developed particular interest in its social and policy dimensions. At the time of the visit, in mid-2007, the research is still to be completed but the findings are expected to generate much interest in research and policy circles.

Research within the network includes path-breaking studies on youth violence in the context of the war in Sierra Leone. It may be used here to illustrate CODESRIA's claim to intellectual autonomy and its support for alternative, Africa-based research. An NWG was set up, including eminent Sierra Leonean scholars such as Ibrahim Abdullah, Yusuf Bangura and Jimmy Kandeh. The work was published in a special issue of *Africa Development,* the CODESRIA journal, and later as a book (Abdullah 2003). Western scholarship exhibits a number of weaknesses, according to the Sierra Leonean researchers, including outlandish explanations that are uncritically derived from other African conflicts. It is a 'one shoe fits all' approach, which is applied in particular by Africanist scholars who have made it their task to interpret Africa to the outside world. 'Warlords' are seen all over and, in the wake of the collapse of the notorious 'neo-patrimonial state', 'strong men' and 'political entrepreneurs' are assumed to be struggling for the control over 'markets and access to resources'. The book resulting from the NWG convincingly explains what propelled internal actors to tread multiple but conflicting pathways to state power. It argues that to reduce these 'thick' descriptions/histories to a footnote in a narrative that

privileges the economic factor (for instance, the struggle for diamonds) as some Western Africanists have done is to devalorise research and scholarship in understanding and changing reality. The critique gives a flavour of some of the cutting-edge debates and research that CODESRIA has encouraged within this programme.

Academic Freedom

As in the case of gender, academic freedom is central to the Council's emancipatory agenda, involving issues of politics and democracy. As in the case of gender, there is a firm interface with activism; in this case the political agenda of academic staff unions in particular but also wider issues are involved including unionism, freedom of association, collective bargaining, authoritarianism, and corruption. As with gender and the path-braking *Engendering African Social Sciences* (1997), the engagement with academic freedom points to a dramatic historical break-through that is proudly recalled in the annals of the Council, in this case the Kampala conference in 1990, resulting in the "Kampala Declaration on Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility" and the book, *Academic Freedom in Africa*, edited by Mamadou Diouf and Mahmood Mamdani (Dakar 1994). The Kampala conference, according to Thandika Mkandawire (2005b:30, 49), was the "single most important manifestation" of the new boldness of African academics to speak out against authoritarianism and nationalist decay. The "authoritarian reflexes" of most governments, however, persist and they keep violating the "freedom of research, restrict the autonomy of the universities, and dictate the structures and content of the teaching curriculum" (CODESRIA 2007a: 51). Academic freedom plays a key role in CODESRIA's involvement in the policies of higher education. This stands out clearly in reviewing the Council's own publications in the field, including in particular the new *Journal of Higher Education in Africa* (2003 ff.). Academic freedom is a recurrent topic as reflected, for instance, in the contributions by Zeleza (2003), Kanywnyi (2006), Mama (2006) and the special issue on 'Academic Freedom: Global Changes, African Experiences' edited by Sall and Mangu (2005). In browsing through the material in the *Journal* as well as that in *Africa Development* and *CODESRIA Bulletin* one realises that the bulk of what is written on the policies of higher education in the CODESRIA context touches on issues of academic freedom. Privatisation, 'extra-mural' diploma courses, the decline in infrastructure etc., all contain a dimension that concerns the governance of the universities, the power relations by which it is informed, and strategies for reform and democratisation.

The Secretariat Report provides detailed information on the academic freedom conferences organised by CODESRIA during 2004–2006, including themes, locations, local partners and the status of the reports/publications, three each in 2001 and 2005, one or two in the other years of the period, including one in Kinshasa in June 2004 (in cooperation with the university), in Dar es Salam in February 2005 (with UDASA, the Academic Staff Assembly), and in Alexandria in September 2005 (with UNESCO, the Arab African Research Centre, and the Swedish Institute). It also gives detailed statistics on the number of abstracts received, selected, and full papers presented on those occasions. The files placed to the disposal of the EET allow for the verification of the information and a sampling of the peer-reviews that underlie selections and decisions to publish. We have looked in particular at the conference on "Reforming the Nigerian Higher Education System" organised in cooperation with the Academic Staff Union of the Universities (ASUU) at Abuja in March 2005. Beckman had the opportunity to interview the leadership of ASUU in June 2007 as part of the Nigeria country visit. ASUU at this point was engaged in a protracted confrontation with a hostile and dismissive state. Yet, its enthusiasm for the 2005 conference was not to be mistaken. It had engaged a wide constituency of its members and also major policy-makers from the government. It served an important role in reinforcing the social and political, and above all, democratic commitments of the scholars. Although the manuscript documenting the conference remains to be finally edited – and the ASUU leaders take full responsibility for the delay – the engagement with CODESRIA is seen as a long-term effort to ensure that the issues of higher education and academic freedom are taken seriously at all levels.

Special Initiatives: The Lusophone Initiative

'Special initiatives' have different origins. Many of the 'core activities' identified above commenced as 'Special initiatives'. The extensive and fruitful cooperation with SEPHIS, for instance, is prompted by a strong conviction in the CODESRIA leadership that the social sciences must be properly informed by un understanding of history. It is a counterweight to a predominant tendency of specialisation. Another source of 'Special initiatives' is the regional imbalances of Africa as shaped by colonial experiences and other exposures, a third is the need to respond to particular crises. These put scholarship to the test in raising basic issues of relevance and focus. But it is also an issue of expressing solidarity with the people that suffer. The civil war in Sierra Leone, for instance, was a decisive point in the development of the Child & Youth Studies discussed above. A recent case in point is the crisis in Guinea Conakry. The documentary evidence supplied at the request of the EET shows that the Council plays an active role in organising solidarity among 'concerned African scholars'. The crisis in Cote d'Ivoire is another illustration.

The visit of the EET to Mozambique allows us to discuss the Lusophone initiative that informs CODESRIA contribution to the building of research capacity. It enhances the capabilities of local researchers to become part of a pan-African research network as well as to form robust national and sub-national networks of their own. The initiative was launched in 2004 in order to strengthen the presence of Portuguese-speaking African researchers in CODESRIA and boost their participation in its research, training programmes, and other activities. The objective is to integrate an important but marginalised section of the African social research community into the CODESRIA network. It serves to transcend linguistic and geographical barriers. As part of the initiative, a number of institutions have already signed memoranda of understanding with CODESRIA, including INEP and the Amilcar Cabral University in Bissau, the Amilcar Cabral Foundation in Praia, Cape Verde, Agostinho Neto University and the Catholic University in Luanda, Angola. Others are being negotiated. The initiative is not a 'closed shop' for Portuguese-speaking African scholars. It is also open to English and French-speaking researchers interested in comparative research on Portuguese-speaking African countries and vice versa. The objective is to foster scholarly exchange and collaboration. A summary of activities undertaken within the Lusophone Initiative and detailed information on the National Working Groups and conferences established and hosted within it are available in the Secretariat Report (CODESRIA 2007a:78ff). The achievements so far are commendable, especially considering the short period since the programme was established.

Our visits to individual countries as part of the evaluation exercise have brought home to us how the Council's presence in different countries and parts of countries varies strongly. While largely to be explained by sets of historical circumstances that have generated favourable conditions in some places and not in others, this uneven coverage is bound to constitute a major challenge that goes far beyond issues of the systematic exclusion of Portuguese or Arab speaking scholars. As illustrated in the Nigerian case, for instance, such uneven coverage co-varies with other important and divisive features such as region. It suggests to us that the commendable notions of expanding the inclusion that inform the Lusophone Initiative need to be explored in relation to a much wider range of scholarly communities in Africa that are marginal in relation to the services provided by CODESRIA.

4.   Publications, Dissemination, and Documentation

CODESRIA has an extensive record of published books, journals, articles, research reports and working papers. This is indeed the case for the period under evaluation. More than 120 books and reports were published between 2000 and 2006, to which should be added issues of its own journals. The latter increased during the period from five to ten. It is a great achievement by a small team in a complex matter, demanding intense communication with the many persons involved: authors, editors, peer-reviewers, language editors, designers and typists, indexers, and proof-readers. It requires control over complex logistics, lay-out, cover, printing, storing, distribution etc. A selection was made for the evaluation of content, quality and relevance. The Publication and Dissemination policy, adopted by CODESRIA's Executive Committee in 2004 and the guidelines for authors produced the year before, both available in English and French on CODESRIA's website, are also used in the evaluation together with the documentation specially prepared by the Council for the evaluation. We begin with an overview of the publications, followed by a discussion of the constraints. We review the channels for dissemination. We discuss the quality of select publications and their possible impact. Finally, we consider the strategic choices that CODESRIA is facing in this field against the background of the policy adopted in 2004.

It is not altogether easy to grasp the totality of CODESRIA's publications and the rationale behind their division into separate series, their connection to the programmes and to the organisation of the Secretariat. A recent publication catalogue covers only part of the period (2003–06). With some exceptions (the Gender series) the series do not correspond to systematic differences. They bear witness of strategic initiatives and policies adopted at different points in time. Some publications were planned by the previous leadership and are part of abandoned policies. This appears to be the case, for instance, with some 'Green Books' that have not resulted in any research programmes. In this overview, books and research reports are discussed together, irrespectively of their place in different series, while journals will be presented separately.

An overview: Books and Research Reports

CODESRIA books and monographs vary considerably in form and content; to take one example, from a thorough survey of knowledge relating to texts in Arabic and local languages presented in a modest brochure that has been authored by one person (Kane, *Intellectuels non europhones*, Document de travail/ Green Book, 2003), to volumes of almost 500 pages on large themes containing contributions by twenty scholars or more (Zeleza, *The Study of Africa*, CODESRIA Book Series, 2006, with a second volume edited in 2007). Between these two extremes, one will find conference collections (Tchouassi and Pidika Mukawa, *Afrique Centrale – crises économiques et mécanismes de survie*, CODESRIA Book Series 2005, or Ntanrangwi, Mills, Babiker *African Anthropologies*, Africa in the New Millenium, 2006), or focused research volumes containing a small number of contributions and presenting the results of a working group (Sindjoun, *Comment peut-on être opposant au Cameroun?*, CODESRIA Book Series 2004), but also shorter reports of 30 to 50 pages from field-work on specific empirical issues (Dialigué Bâ, *Le quota est mort, vive le quota!,* and Kanté, *Décentralisation sans représentation,* both 2006, Série de Monographies – i.e. the conditions for political decentralisation in the context of the local economy (charcoal production) in Senegal).

In the total output during the period, the 30th Anniversary of CODESRIA in 2003 has a special place. A series of thematic regional conferences were organised and ten publications, with more to come, are edited collections from these events. A couple of other publications assemble contributions presented at the Council's General Assemblies. Among the remaining about one third can be identified as direct outputs of what CODESRIA calls its Core Programme. Of these approximately 35 publications, less than five have their origin in a Multinational Working Group, and less than ten in a National Working

Group. The MWGs have a long gestation period and, although few, the number of MWG publications is higher than at any one point in the history, according to the Council's 'initial feedback' (CODESRIA 2007d). The Comparative Research Networks, the third of the general research programmes, have resulted in three publications. Two of these are authored by one person and should perhaps not be presented as an outcome of the actual network, at least not in its totality. Thematically oriented programmes, as on Gender Research and the Academic Freedom, and the commissioned Green Books, represent most of the rest of the Core Programme publications. Special Initiatives represent ten publications, a majority from the joint programme with SEPHIS, the Dutch South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development, a little less from the Lusophone initiative, while 'Strategic Partnerships' have resulted in a handful of books and monographs. Of the remaining publications, the Training and Education Programme accounts for at least fifteen titles, of which several are products of the Working Group on Higher Education, mostly case studies of education finance published in cooperation with the Association for the Development of Education in Africa. Others originate in CODESRIA institutes (e.g. Mbow, *Hommes et femmes entre sphère publique et privée*, Gender Series, 2004). The ten volumes in the series 'Africa in the new Millennium', which CODESRIA launched in 2005 in cooperation with the London-based Zed Press, have diverse origins: working groups, conferences or other. Many publications are not directly related to CODESRIA's programmes as, for instance, three volumes from the Canadian IDRC's Acacia initiative on new information technologies in Africa, or the interesting work by Zeleza already mentioned, originating in a seminar series at the University of Illinois. Other volumes have their origin in conferences organised independently of CODESRIA. This is the case for several volumes in the Africa in the New Millenium Series, and also for the very timely and interesting book edited by Paulin J. Hountondji *(La rationalité, une ou plurielle?*, CODESRIA Book Series, 2007), that also benefited from a UNESCO support, or the remarkable volume on *African Linguistics and the Development of African Communities* (E.N. Chia, ed. CODESRIA Book Series, 2006). "Targeting of certain established authors and categories of work also represents an important part of the CODESRIA effort to strengthen its publications brand by including compulsory reading" (CODESRIA 2007d). This is in line with the Publication Policy of 2004, and an issue that will be touched upon below. All in all only a handful of the books are without any direct link to CODESRIA funded research, while the majority of the publications are in one way or another fruits of collaboration with other institutions.

Journals

CODESRIA runs its own journals from an early point, *Africa Development/Afrique Développement* (1976-, quarterly) and the *CODESRIA Bulletin* (1987- quarterly). *African Sociological Review* (biannual) was added in 1997 and *African Journal of International Affairs* (also biannual) a year later. In 2005 it launched the *African Review of Books/La Revue Africaine des Livres* which, as its name indicates, has a wider and less scholarly scope than the scientific journals. This bilingual review is edited in Addis Ababa (Forum for Social Studies) and in Oran for the French part (Crasc) but printed and distributed from Dakar. Some journals are run in cooperation with other institutions, *Identity, Culture and Politics* (2000- biannual, Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka), *Africa Media Review* (1992-/2004-, three times a year, African Council for Communication Education), and the *Journal of Higher Education in Africa* (2003-, three times a year, Center for Higher Education in Africa, Boston College). The latter was taken over wholly by CODESRIA in 2006. CODESRIA also runs journals on behalf of professional associations, as *Afrika Zamani* (1973-/1993?-, biannual; Association of African Historians), and *The African Anthropologist* (1993-/2005-, biannual; Pan African Anthropological Association). In those cases, the Council intervened when financial problems threatened to jeopardise the continued publication. Finally, a selection of articles from the journals are translated into Arabic and co-published by CODESRIA and the Arab African Research Center (Cairo) in an annual *Afro-Arab Selection of Social Sciences*. The journals are presented on the Council's website and several are on open access.

Constraints of the Publication Programme

The printing of CODESRIA books was initially taking place in Europe, and with the increase in quality of output, mainly in Senegal and to some extent in South Africa. The efficiency and quality of the publication process has been steadily raised. It is a complex process in particular if best price and quality are to be found. At the end of the evaluation period a number of manuscripts had been delivered, awaiting publication. Around twenty are in the pipe-line, while another forty are at the beginning of the process. The research department accounts for 46 waiting manuscripts, of which 35 come from the Core programme. The remaining ones, contained in the longer list presented by the publication department, are mainly volumes coming from the different training programmes, institutes and methodological workshops. The backlog as regards issues of the journals is not included in those figures.

For some, as in the case of the Algerian National Working Group, their book, *Algérie face à la mondialisation,* was needed in a quickly changing economic and political setting. It could have had an impact like the one on Sierra Leone (Abdullah, 2004) discussed elsewhere in the report. Others, especially young researchers having participated in institutes or seminars, need to present peer-reviewed papers, in the Algerian case in order to get the right to defend their doctoral thesis, in most others to be eligible for tenure or promotion. The grants from CODESRIA are based on a contract where the researcher undertakes to deliver a manuscript. Without doubt publication processes are always long, more than you expect and wish. Ongoing research projects and training activities will add new manuscripts to the list. There is no evidence that the publication process of the Council is any longer, on the average, than with other publishers. The specific case of the Algerian book mentioned above was convincingly explained by the Council to be due to the extensive and the scholarly advanced nature of the peer-review process. The time it takes is still a problem and the EET wants to raise the issue of the priorities in the publication policy.

Dissemination

The recognition of a research institution depends on the quality of its publications and the use that can be made of them by other researchers and the public. Publications have to be made available. In the case of CODESRIA there are two relatively distinct issues, the distribution within Africa and the distribution outside. In both cases, it is a matter of the channels for distribution that are available and pricing policies involved. From an early point CODESRIA's choice was free distribution of its publications to African libraries, both universities and research institutes. Around 600 copies are distributed this way. The cost calculation of the publications is based on external costs (printing, copy-editing, reviewers etc.) and does not include the internal CODESRIA costs. The pricing is non-profit, but puts at least part of the costs of the free copies on the price of the commercially distributed books. This makes them relatively expensive. Outside Africa, CODESRIA is mainly relying on the African Book Collective, based in the UK, with Michigan State University Press as its distributor in the United States, and with a beginning procedure of Print on Demand. CODESRIA is exposing and selling its publications in Book Fairs, such as the ones in Harare and in Cairo, and at events organised by CODESRIA or in which its staff participates. An idea of the distribution that is undertaken commercially can perhaps be had from the income under 'Books' in the accounts. It varies between USD 20,000 and 30,000 per annum, with a peak in 2005 of USD 65,000. This would correspond to a maximum of 2000 copies per year (except in 2005), which is not far from the figures that can be found in some of the Annual Reports. Assuming that it is mostly question about sales of recent publications the result is an average sale of around 80 copies/year/book (if we assume that different 25 titles are sold), and 20 copies/year/book (if we assume that different 100 titles are sold). Included in this figure is of course the copies sold not only to individuals, but also to research centres and libraries not benefiting from free distribution or exchange programmes.

The research initiated and published by CODESRIA is primarily disseminated through its own networks. If you are not, or not any longer, part of the network, you may easily remain ignorant about what is being published. Since two years the *Review of African Books,* for instance, is edited in its French part in Oran while scholars in the Algerian capital have not heard of it. Book distribution is always a terribly difficult and costly affair, even more so if there are transportation problems, a postal network that does not function, lack of or no bookshops, no funds to buy books, or as some suggest even "no culture of reading". CODESRIA is investigating the possibility of 'Print on Demand' in South Africa, which it considers may be a way of overcoming some of the problems. It is also investigating the possibility of developing commercial distribution through bookshops in larger markets such as Nigeria and South Africa. The distribution outside is important. We have looked, for instance, at the acquisition of CODESRIA books in French by French scholarly libraries. An earlier collaboration with a French publisher, Karthala, was ended due to disagreement over the financial conditions. However, the books that were distributed by Karthala were present in almost twenty libraries. Those that were not were only found in three. This was the case, for instance, with a 'Green Book' by Moudileno (2003) on African francophone literature, which would normally have found a readership far beyond the Africanist circles. Two books on Madagascar by the same author (Randrianja) were also compared; the one edited in Paris was found in 17 French university libraries, another edited by CODESRIA (and distributed by ABC) in three. These differences are suggestive of problems of 'visibility' even if the external market for CODESRIA books might have grown elsewhere as in South Africa, Britain and the USA.

Quality, Impact, and Strategic Choices

The members of the evaluation team have selected eighteen books and eight journals in order to assess the quality of the publications. The selection has covered all types of publications, from short research reports to major collections, stemming from the NWGs, MWGs and other core programmes, as well as from conferences. Most of the readings have been accounted for elsewhere in the report, in the first place as part of the discussion of the individual research programmes. The titles have been included in the list of references and marked with an asterisk. An academic assessment suggests that the publications meet good or even high standards. The research problems are well stated and discussed, in a majority of cases new and original data are presented, and the analysis is well linked to earlier research as well as theoretical developments in the field. In most cases it is a question of solid research, with well grounded results, sometimes opening for policy recommendations. Four books and one journal have been selected randomly for more detailed discussion at this point. The commissioned Green Book on *Intellectuels non europhones* by Ousmane Kane is, in spite of its modest format, an important and pathbreaking contribution. It takes its starting point in the analyses and discussion by Mudimbe (1988, 1994) and Appiah (1992), both scholars from Africa active in the US (Stanford and Princeton) and claiming – in short – that the European "colonial library" was and still is decisive for the production of knowledge about Africa and in Africa, and that most intellectuals in Africa are "europhones" and a product of the encounter with the West. The author, Ousmane Kane, who has a doctorate in political science and a diploma in Arab and Islamic studies, is one of the editors of the CODESRIA journal *Identity, Culture and Politics – An Afro-Asian Dialogue,* and holds a position at Columbia University. His argument is that parallel to, and before the "European" or "europhone" production of knowledge about Africa, there has been and still is a huge production of knowledge and debates taking place in Arabic or local African languages written with Arabic script. An exhaustive and clear presentation of historiography, sources, description of the different types of documents and texts, is followed by a presentation of the Arabic and Islamic learning centres where Arabized students from Africa south of Sahara are currently studying and a discussion of the situation in the different African countries concerned in the first place. The book has a certain focus on West Africa: Nigeria, Senegal, Mali, Niger, but takes into account the Islamic universities in both Niger and Uganda. To someone knowledgeable about Islamic and Arabic thought these parts of Kane's book are not new. What is new is of course the

systematic search for the "African connection". John Hunwick and others have published on Arabic literature of Africa, and Kane is giving all the references. The exhaustive overview, the linkage of several theoretical and empirical fields, turns Kane's small book into an interesting contribution, fully fit to play its heuristic role, i.e. to inspire new research and new research collaboration. The reader is convinced that there is also another sort of intellectuals than the "europhones", whose impact and approach is vital to study, as well as their encounters and blending with the "europhones".

The collection edited by Mwenda Ntarangwi, David Mills and Mustafa Babiker, *African Anthropologies. History, Critique and Practices*, is an altogether different publication, made up by contributions by established anthropologists working on different parts of Africa south of Sahara, of which some were presented at a meeting of the Association of Social Anthropologists from the UK and the Commonwealth. Both African and Africanist anthropologists contribute. A common theme is the link between the academic study of anthropology and the anthropological input into policy making and implementation in important fields, as for example public health. Anthropological studies are increasingly demanded by NGO's and other development agencies. The reader is presented with both historical and contemporary descriptions of the role and institutions of anthropology and anthropological "data" in connection with particular research projects and involvement with policy making. This is a "meta-study" in that its main purpose is not to present new anthropological findings but to reflect on this branch of social science and its practitioners. It serves as a general reference for an on-going discussion of the discipline and its practices.

Les trajectoires d'un Etat-frontière. Espaces, évolution politique et transformations sociales en Mauritanie, under the direction of Zekeria Ould Ahmed Salem (2005), professor of political science at the University of Nouakchott, is also a fore-runner. The political science contributions in particular, mostly by Mauritanians, are innovative but comprehensive social science analysis of Mauritania is generally rare. Several important issues are analysed: the impact of ecology (draught) and demography (distribution of the population, language issues etc.), elite conflicts in a historical and contemporary perspective, the transformation of social and religious organisations and their importance for the political development of the country – and, of course, the nature of democratisation from 1991 onwards. The theoretical approach that unites the contributions concerns the linkages between ecological setting, social organisation, and the policies of a state at the interface between globalisation and domestic development. The book contains interesting and informative analyses.

The book edited by Thandika Mkandawire (2005) on *African Intellectuals* is one of the important publications coming out of CODESRIA's 30th Anniversary conference in Dakar. Amongst the themes explored in this book is the relationship of African intellectuals to nationalism and the Pan African project; how the developmentalist orientation of state policies affected intellectual roles and outlooks; how the language question relates to a social gulf between African intellectuals and their societies; the rising profile of women intellectuals and gender studies and the limitations that still constrain their impact on mainstream society and policy; and finally the potential roles of the expanding African academic diaspora especially in the United States. It is a good example of a mature and masterly assessment of the roles of intellectuals in society and their coming of age.

As regards the journals, they were all assessed. We looked at *Africa Development* which is perhaps the earliest flagship publication of CODESRIA, making a random selection of issues Vol. XXV111 nos. 1 and 2 of 2003 as well as Vol.XX1X no. 2 of 2004 for closer examination. First, one can make the observation that the international advisory board of *Africa Development* consists of a wide diversity and spectrum of scholars drawn from the various sub-regions of Africa and beyond. Prominent African, Arab and Western scholars constitute the board and are valued for their expert advice and sometimes they also make article contributions. Our assessment of the issue of Vol. XXV111 is that it contains articles of a generally high quality. Put together by respected prominent scholars, Chachage and Kanyinga, the articles contained in that issue focused on *Globalization and Citizenship in Africa*.

Assessing the concepts of globalization and citizenship and how they relate to the African experience, the articles drew from cutting edge research being conducted under the MWG group on 'Globalization and Citizenship'. Opening with a masterly conceptual survey of the 'African nationalist discourse', it then drew on insightful case-studies on how globalization relates and affects citizenship in such countries as Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania and regions like Southern Africa. For example, the Cameroon article reported on youth experiences and discourses of citizenship; the Kenyan one on how different dimensions of globalization have shaped the construction of citizenship amongst some of its communities; and the Tanzania article on post-colonial states in the region have deprived the Wamaasai people of land through the creation of national parks and game reserves under the guise of conservation policies as well as through the privatization of communal land. A product of sensitive field work, the empirical material deployed in these articles is impressive, fresh and up to date. The other issue of *Africa Development* (Volume XX1X no.2) that was selected for special reporting focussed on 'Political Structures and Processes' with articles on decentralisation, re-inventing federalism, regional integration as well as on multi-partyism and neo-liberalism. These well argued articles drew from nationally grounded case-studies on Mali, Cameroon, Malawi and Nigeria. In our view, the level of quality compares favourably with most international journals on African politics and political economy.

The publications also meet formal scientific standards. The Publication and Dissemination Department has developed a system for reviewing, copy-editing, proof-reading, indexing and presenting its publications in a manner that adds to their quality. There are relatively few book reviews available at the CODESRIA Secretariat. In earlier years there were complaints about editorial shortcomings such as lack of proof-reading. It is the impression of the evaluation team that these problems have been largely overcome. Contemporary scholarship is increasingly using 'bibliometric' methods, that is, citation indices, and publications/reviews in journals and books that are 'internationally acknowledged' as evidence of quality. In this context it would be less useful in view of the way in which existing systems tend to give priority to publications from the USA and to some extent from Europe. In some African countries, the Council's publications constitute the main source of reference for social science research concerning that country. The Council has advanced plans to institute its own, continent-based mode of referencing scholarly output, on line with what is being attempted in India, another 'continent' that has a scholarly life and vitality of its own.

The revival and expansion of the programmes of research and training have resulted in an enormous increase in demand on its publication and dissemination department. While it is important to make sure that the outcome of individual and collective research is produced in a publishable form, it is an open question if it should always be published by the Council itself. As suggested in the 'Initial feedback' "in CODESRIA's history and mission mandate, publications and research represent a unity, existing together as part of a collective strategy such that publications constitute the other side of the research coin" (CODESRIA 2007d). Still, research and publication are different trades. A great effort has been put into the formalisation of the publication process, to make sure that the books, reports and journals meet high academic standards. Publication itself, however, is not sufficient, it has to be linked to effective dissemination in order to ensure the proper academic exposure that is the intention of both the publisher and the author. The Council is of course conscious of this as its launching of new initiatives such as the 'Africa in the New Millennium' series and its involvement in South African and Nigerian book markets suggest. Some of the researchers may be happy that their work is available in their own country. Others are concerned with visibility in the rest of Africa or internationally. Others still may only be concerned with having their articles accepted in peer-reviewed journals to facilitate tenure. Yet, there is no doubt that having the "the CODESRIA identity on a publication is immensely empowering for many" (CODESRIA 2007d). Co-publishing is of course one way of addressing the distribution problem. The Council is having co-publishing agreements and is discussing the possibility of having more. University presses in most countries have great difficulties but new publishers keep emerging. Co-publishing with local publishers for books that focus on one country could be part of the answer.

Collective works are not always the best solution for the dissemination of research. Individual contributions are difficult to trace through professional systems of indexation while articles in journals are normally indexed and hence more easy to find. Some of the outcome of the Council's programmes are already published in its journals. The question is if this could be extended, limiting the publication of edited books to those where the contributions have a common focus or are thematically related to each other. The open access on the website, and in the future the integration of new search engines, can make peer-reviewed research more easily accessed. More use could be made of the professional journals, the Council's own or others that have their own peer-review systems, being less dependent on the peer-reviewers that are prepared to show 'solidarity' with CODESRIA. When the Council takes on the responsibility of publishing the individual researcher should be able to go elsewhere if he or she sees undue delay. This could be part of a normal editorial contract, specifying the time frames involved. There is a case for giving higher priority to the output of the Council's own core research programmes in the production schedule of the Publishing Department. It would help to reinforce the synergy between the two. An effective cooperation agreement with a French publishing house may help improve distribution. It could be followed later with one in Portugal and another in an Arab-speaking country, Lebanon or Egypt in the first place. This would also strengthen visibility and boost CODESRIA's reputation as a major bilingual and increasingly multilingual publisher.

Documentation

CODICE, the Documentation and Information Centre, is at the very heart of CODESRIA's mandate and mode of functioning. It has a series of responsibilities in relation to the programmes for research and training. A condition for the production of scientific knowledge is the access to previous studies and theoretical contributions. It is a difficult part of all research that is not easily handled by the individual researcher despite the new facilities offered by information and communication technologies.
The production of a relevant bibliography is both a starting point and a continuous part of the research process. CODICE has, during the period evaluated, compiled 48 thematic bibliographies, totalling around 15,000 entries. More than half of the bibliographies (27) have been produced to serve the different training institutes and methodological seminars organised by the Council. The remaining (21) have been produced for specific research programmes, including 'Green Books' (15), the HIV programme (1), the Gender Symposium (3), and research on Governance in West Africa (2).
The bibliographies have been made available not only to the researchers involved in the programmes, but also (with the exception of the ones for the 'Green Books') through e-mail to all CODESRIA's members and networks. In recent years they are also placed on the web-site. Alongside this work, CODICE meets individual and collective demands for bibliographical support.

The bibliography is only a first step. In the case of the training sessions and seminars the books and articles are to a great extent made available by CODICE at the Documentation Centre (the reference library) in Dakar for consultation or photocopying. Included in the allowance for researchers participating in CODESRIA activities is the free copying of 1000 pages. According to CODICE no researcher leaves without fully using the allowance. CODICE' s input here is crucial, not only for the quality of research, but also as a contribution to the creation of a common frame of reference for young researchers from different African countries and thereby a platform for interaction and future research cooperation. Most African libraries and documentation centres do not have similar services to offer, nor, by the way, do most research institutions elsewhere. A precondition for CODICE's ability to perform these tasks is the development of its own collections. At the end of the evaluation period the total collection consists of almost 14,000 titles (books, articles, theses, dissertations, conference papers etc.). As in the case of most research libraries, the central part of the collection is made up of scientific journals and unpublished theses. CODICE takes at an average 117 journals, constituting around 70% of the total acquisition costs. Information about the content of some of the journals is circulated by e-mail and on the website through a 'Current content' that is issued twice a year. Almost a thousand theses and

dissertations from African universities are available in the library. These are generally not published and exist only in a few copies at the relevant universities, while often representing meticulous and detailed empirical research. A catalogue of those that have benefited from the Small Grants programme (253 presented for a degree between 1996–2006) is placed on the website. CODICE is investigating the possibilities of making them directly available through its website. The library collection is dominated by the two main working languages of CODESRIA, English and French.

Having been hosted on two different US university websites, CODESRIA has its own website since 2001. While hosted in the US and updated at the request of CODESRIA by a consultant in Sweden, advanced plans exist for moving it to Senegal and have it directly updated by CODESRIA staff. This would also allow the catalogues of the reference library to be placed on-line which is not the case so far. The documents on the CODESRIA website are currently mainly linked to the Council's own programmes and activities and used for announcing calls for applications. An electronic mailing-list with institutional and individual addresses is also managed by CODICE. There is a regional imbalance and only few institutions and individuals from North Africa feature in the CODICE system which may partly explain why there are so few researchers from this part of Africa in the different working groups of the Council. CODICE has begun to place research reports on the website for downloading as mentioned above. In the first place this applies to the CODESRIA journals, which with some exceptions are available since the year 2000, in some instances for the downloading of individual articles, in some cases of issues as a whole. Some books (15), in the CODESRIA language called monographs, and edited volumes (3) have also been made available. The monitoring done by CODICE during one month shows frequent visits to the website, particularly for publications.

CODICE is active in the indexing of African social science research institutes and researchers. It has also taken the lead by organising two conferences on Electronic Publishing and Dissemination, the first one in Dakar, the second in Leiden, in cooperation with the African Studies Centre. Its transformation into an autonomous unit in 2006, and the recruitment of a senior researcher as its head with a solid background in social science as well as information and communication technology and science, have reinforced the standing of CODICE in the Secretariat. Issues arising are of course to what extent the wide range of activities taking place in Dakar – in particular most of the institutes, and the development of an important agenda linked to the new technologies – may restrain the capacity of CODICE to service the needs of a wider research community, especially the working groups dispersed all over the continent. While the participants in the different institutes and seminars in Dakar are enthusiastic about the provision of documents and bibliographies, working group participants in countries visited have expressed that they would appreciate more support in this respect. New aspects of the website, more interactivity, more public access to catalogues online, the digitalization of more documents, and more documents online in full text will, of course, also offer new solutions for the researchers in the field requesting more bibliographical support. The services rendered by CODICE are exceptional in the world of research as a whole. The new interactive possibilities offered by IT technology will certainly require additional human resources, infrastructural and equipment, at least if the established services of compiling bibliographies and making research available are not to be abandoned.

5.   Training, Grants and Fellowships Programme

The chapter reviews the activities of the Research Training, Grants and Fellowships Programme and their role in capacity building and institutional strengthening in social science research. Drawing on CODESRIA's presentations to the Dakar meeting it surveys the content of activities as well as its philosophical underpinnings, that is, why CODESRIA is engaged, what its aims are (the 'mission'), and what is its 'vision' of results. The chapter evaluates the Council's contribution, drawing on the parameters indicated by the terms of reference, that is, relevance, quality, effectiveness, and transparency. The chapter begins with an overview of activities undertaken by the programme.

An Overview

CODESRIA is engaged in a number of complementary programmes for capacity building and institutional strengthening, including Small Grants for Thesis Writing, Methodology Workshops, the Prize for Doctoral Theses, the Text Book Programme, the Annual Social Science Campus, and the various CODESRIA Institutes. The latter include institutes for Gender, Governance, Child and Youth, Health, and the Humanities Institute. The Small Grants for Thesis Writing offers primarily financial support for graduate researchers in order to facilitate fieldwork. Initiated in 1988, it has awarded grants to over one thousand candidates from various universities in Africa. By focusing on a younger generation of scholars it is central to capacity building and institutional strengthening both at the level of the individual researcher and the system of higher education. The laureates of the Small Grants Programme enjoy a training session in the form of a regional Methodology Workshops, exposing them to the latest research tools and the experience of proven researchers from within and beyond the continent. The interaction promotes a structured system of 'mentoring' and encourages an inter-generational and multidisciplinary dialogue. As an off-shoot the Council for a period of time organised a separate Summer School in Quantitative Methods. It was phased out in 2002 and its curriculum integrated into the regular methodological workshops. The Prize for Doctoral Theses award was introduced in 2002. Three prizes are offered annually for the best theses produced within Africa. Beneficiaries of the CODESRIA Small Grants Programme are encouraged to participate in the competition which is open to all postgraduate students. An independent jury of eminent scholars manages the award process.

The Text Books Programme is a response to the book famine but is also concerned with renewing and updating the curriculum, addressing questions of the quality and relevance of instruction. It involves experienced and acknowledged African scholars in close collaboration with African universities and professional associations. The Annual Social Science Campus is a forum for advanced research dialogue that is both multidisciplinary and inter-generational. It is organised around a specific theme with up to 15 scholars interacting intensely for one week. It promotes critical dialogue and advances theory, methodology and practice. Selection is based on draft papers that are judged to be innovative. A co-ordinator elaborates the programme and manages the debates.

The first CODESRIA institute to be launched was the Democratic Governance Institute in 1992. Each year since 1996 CODESRIA has organised a Gender Institute which brings together some 12 to 15 researchers for a period of 4 weeks. During the first few years, its main objective was to promote gender awareness. The Institute has subsequently been organised around specific themes to promote the strengthening of gender analysis in African social science research. The Child and Youth Institute is the newest of the annual institutes, launched in 2002 as an offshoot of the Child and Youth Studies Programme. It assists in building and sustaining capacity, contributing to a critical mass of networked scholars and policy intellectuals. It formulates innovative policy interventions attuned to the African context. An experimental institute on Health, Politics and Society has been launched in a bid to promote multidisciplinary research. The initiative flows from the current CODESRIA strategic plan and

its emphasis on promoting a social science approach in a dialogue with Health and Biomedical Sciences. It comes at a time when the African continent is faced with one of the most severe health crises in its history as epitomised by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. But also malaria takes a heavy toll and tuberculosis and polio, once under control, are resurging, prompted by impoverishment and a prolonged economic crisis that has been exacerbated by inappropriate adjustment measures prescribed by the International Financial Institutions. The crisis has been aggravated by a massive brain drain from the health sector.

The Humanities Institute launched in 1997 is located at the University of Ghana, Legon, the first annual institute to be located outside of the Council's headquarters. It is a forum for dialogue between the social sciences and the humanities, combating the isolation and fragmentation of research in the humanities. The participants are generally more experienced, incorporating practitioners as well as scholars.

The range of programmes is broad, covering a wide diversity of sectors and cutting across disciplines. They illustrate well CODESRIA's principles and commitments, including a multidisciplinary and cross-national/pan-African orientation, integrating gender, geographical, linguistic and political divisions. Recent strife has added to the divisions within the research community. In response to this diversity, CODESRIA has focussed on issues that have been deemed to be of fundamental interests to the African continent, reinforcing the interface between scholarship and policy. Capacity-building programmes have been carefully targeted. They should be seen to be complementary to those conducted at various institutions of higher learning. The crisis in higher education makes them particularly appreciated. CODESRIA has a special contribution to make with its regional, cross-national orientation, widening the scope of comparative methodologies.

The programme is highly decentralised, particularly in the case of the National Working Groups. Autonomy is given to resource persons, and the universities have taken on responsibility for implementing certain activities (the Institutes, in particular the Humanities Institute, which is located at Legon University). However, given the Council's earlier experiences, financial management continues to be highly centralized. As have been verified through documentation and interviews within and outside CODESRIA (with its diverse stakeholders), it depends on and promotes the development of an African expertise within the African institutions that host the programme. They themselves provide the 'experts', drawing resource persons from local sources. This is attested, for instance, in the case of the field visits to Egypt and Mozambique undertaken as part of the evaluation. CODESRIA's deliberate and systematic efforts as manifested in objectives and practices are particularly laudable in ensuring the participation of up-coming researchers and women.

Philosophical Underpinnings

The philosophical underpinnings of the programme are expressed in the founding objectives of the Council to "strengthen the institutional basis of knowledge production in Africa by proactively engaging and supporting other research institutions and their networks of scholars within its programs of activities". It also "encourages cooperation and collaboration among African universities, research organizations and other training institutions". The CODESRIA Charter (2005) speaks of "reinforcing the research and training capacity of African universities, through the provision of fellowships and grants". The Strategic Plan (2002–2006) mentions the need to address "the alleviation of some of the problems of capacity in the universities associated with the twin and inter-related problems of politico-economic crises and the brain-drain through a summer school on methodology, the institutes on gender and governance, the textbook–writing project, etc.". The Council envisages the need to reinforce its role in the training of junior and mid-career scholars through the renewal and expansion of the annual institutes, the small grants programme, and the summer methodological sessions which have been an

integral part of its core activities. The annual institutes, according to the plan, are expected to rotate among different universities and regions as part of a strategy of decentralisation and de-concentration. The Department of Training and Grants is expected to respond creatively and speedily to the training needs of African researchers while encouraging innovation and experimentation in the development of new activities designed to cater to the ever-changing terrain of social research on the continent and in the wider international system. These developments are closely tied to the changing context of teaching and learning in African universities. Programmes are developed to fill observed gaps, strengthen new, interesting trends, and encourage innovation and originality. The objectives are discussed and agreed upon by the General Assembly. The process is informed by participatory ethos, a 'social contract' between the Council and its members.

Relevance

The relevance of the programme for capacity-building can be assessed in relation to key criteria, including first of all the fundamental problems confronting the African continent. It needs to be discussed in terms of the objectives identified by the Council and their philosophical underpinnings. Special attention is devoted to the deficits in capacity and the institutional weaknesses demonstrated by universities and other institutions for research training as well as the individual researchers. The ability of the programme to address the needs of women researchers, upcoming researchers, and communities of researchers under stress should be particularly considered when assessing relevance. A matrix has been developed for evaluating how the programme meets the above criteria of relevance. The 'Small Grants for Thesis Writing', for instance, are shown to be a valuable response to shortage of funding. In the wide range of topics chosen they demonstrate their relevance to the problems confronting Africa's social development. The programme is responsive to the deficiencies of the university system and the completed theses have policy relevance to stake holders. The selection of candidates reflect the Council's concerns with gender and generational issues, helping to empower women and young people. For details, see Table 1 in Enclosure 3, which provides similarly details on the other components of the programme handled by the training department. In all cases, the relevance for capacity building and institutional strengthening is demonstrated.

Quality

In evaluating the quality of the capacity building that takes place within the Research, Training and Fellowships Programme the report has first of all looked at the structure and content of the programme and the clarity and practicability by which its objectives have been pursued. It has paid attention to the expertise and education levels of the instructors, the modes of management and delivery, the assessment methods applied, and, finally, the way in which outcomes and impact have been measured. The parameters have been used to organise the information that is summarised in the enclosed tables. The evaluation of quality is also based on extensive reports and interviews conducted at the CODESRIA HQ and as part of the country studies. The programme scores high in account of all the parameters employed which suggests that the capacity-building and institutional strengthening activities of the programme are of good quality. The way in which this conclusion has been reached is accounted for programme-by-programme in Table 2, Enclosure 3. The impact may be difficult to gauge within the time frame of the study. However, there is strong quantitative and qualitative evidence suggesting a commendable output. The council capacity building efforts address all three areas pertinent to this field: 1) Human capacity building for individual researchers, in particular the young generation of researchers in methods and writing skills, PhD grants etc. 2) Education and research institutions (i.e. organisational) capacity building as a result of participation in various training institutes and the social science campuses. 3) Institutional capacity by providing opportunities for education and research institutions to improve their overall ability to manage higher education institutions or manage research

grants. Although CODESRIA contribution to human or individual capacity building is apparent, its financial capacity to undertake systematic and deliberate large-scale organisational and institutional capacity building is limited. A separate study may be needed to fully evaluate the impact considering the importance of the capacity building programmes undertaken by the Department in its effort to strengthen research and educational institutions.

Effectiveness and Transparency

In assessing the effectiveness and transparency for capacity building and institutional strengthening the following criteria have been examined. First we have looked at the way in which beneficiaries of the various programmes have been selected, secondly, at the administration of grants. Special attention (thirdly) has been devoted to the role and functions of the Scientific Committee. In addition, we have looked (fourthly) at the overall management and coordination of the programmes and finally (fifthly) at the support structures and resources that have been placed to the service of the programme. Effectiveness and transparency in this context refer to the extent to which resources are used for the purposes for which they are allocated and the openness and accountability demonstrated in the process. It also involves the transparency in communication and the flow of information. Transparency and consistency in the disbursement and allocation of resources are also considered, including the manner in which gender parity and the inflow of younger scholars are ensured. By the criteria applied, the programme can be judged as effective and transparent. We particularly note the way applicants are vetted by independent jurors and committees according to well developed criteria for assessing applications and proposals.

The activities of the programme are widely publicised through adverts, posters and the Internet which ensures the open and free flow of information. The selection of beneficiaries follows strict selection procedures. It is an open and transparent process and its results are communicated efficiently – also given the rural-urban digital divide and the collapse of the postal system. The way in which grants are managed reflects an efficient financial system and effective financial transparency. This is confirmed in interviews with beneficiaries and stakeholders as well as by the documentation made available to the EET at HQ. Activities are managed by officers and coordinators who command relevant expertise both in relation to management and to the scientific content of the programme. At the CODESRIA HQ level, regular and periodic coordination with other programmes and the Scientific Committee is maintained, thus ensuring synergy and cross-programme transparency. Accountability in governance is primarily achieved through the involvement of the General Assembly and the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committees plays a pro-active role in assessing results and holding the Executive accountable for the quality of the programme, including examining the complaints that might be lodged by unsuccessful applicants. The programme can fall back on effective support structures, it is lean in its mode of administration, and it is managed by competent professionals. The demand for grants, and training facilities outstrip the resources of the department. However, the current resource base is effectively managed.

6. The Country Visits: The Local Constituencies

CODESRIA is not just the Secretariat in Dakar or its representative organs, the Executive Committee, the Scientific Committee and the General Assembly. Above all it is a community of scholars, scattered all over the continent, participating in the programmes supported by the Council and engaged in a wide range of initiatives of their own for which they seek CODESRIA support. This was brought home to us powerfully as the EET visited the seven countries selected for inclusion in the study: Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Each section of the report uses our country visits to illustrate particular points. The full reports from the visits are available on request. In this chapter we highlight some of the main issues. A separate evaluation of impact based on country case studies is to be undertaken by NORAD. Especially at the continental level it is easy to see that the Council's mission has a bearing on the direction of the thinking that takes place. As discussed in chapter 2, its commitment to pan-Africanism goes beyond ensuring multinational, continent-based networks of scholars.

CODESRIA's impact can only be gauged when visiting the communities of scholars that make up its constituency. This is where we see the various instruments of the Council's interventions at work. This is also the level where it is most easy to confirm the Council's critical role in capacity building and institutional strengthening. The universities provide the dominant arena for its local engagement. University leaders, Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Deans of Social and Economic Faculties, and others, confirm that CODESRIA's contribution is essential. The scholars themselves, even if some complain of publishing delays, the size of grants etc., are emphatic in their acclaim: the Council is vitally needed as an additional opening for training and research. Those who had participated in the training programmes and the Council's Institutes were particularly appreciative, having often visited another African country for the first time, interacted with fellow African scholars and with their seniors, the directors, coordinators or resource persons. Being a 'laureate' of an Institute or a recipient of a Grant added importantly to academic status. Decentralisation is a central precondition for the Council's ability to multiply its local engagement. Simultaneously, decentralisation reflects the vitality of the local constituency, its pluralism and urge for autonomy within a academic system that in most cases is severely constrained, not just by lack of resources, but by its incorporation into authoritarian state structures that have either a dismissive or instrumental view of scholarship. CODESRIA can justifiably be seen as a key actor in the effort to renovate the system.

Methodological Considerations

The Council is engaged in an overwhelming majority of Africa's countries. The EET was encouraged to make a selection of a few – one or two countries for each of the four participants of the team. Of course, we were in no position to make a 'representative sample' of country experiences. In the first place we chose those countries where we have special access by virtue of our experiences as scholars or because of language proficiency. We depended entirely on those local scholars who were prepared (and in a position) to take time to attend meetings and interact with us. Our observations are therefore bound to be random in a rather unsystematic way. However, all of us greatly value the exposure and believe that it was vital in informing our understanding of the challenges confronting the organisation. We were awed by the extreme variety of conditions characterising the individual countries as motivated by historical formation, their colonial and post-colonial experience, and the manner in which this has affected the system of higher education and the context of CODESRIA's interventions. Not the least to remind ourselves of those decisive differences and the manner in which they affect the Council's mode of operating we believe it is important to include these country visits in the main report, even if only the highlights. We invite the readers to look more closely at the full reports that are available on request from Sida.

We realise, of course, the need to be cautious in using the visits as a basis for drawing general conclusions. What do we make out of the individual grievances that we encountered? As pointed out in the 'Initial Feedback on the Draft Report' there are major methodological problems (CODESRIA 2007d). How, for instance, do we "balance between the practicalities of continental institution-building and the general wishes of a diversified constituency with multiple, sometimes conflicting expectations?" Our solution to this dilemma was simple: to listen carefully and convey the messages that we encountered to those with operational concerns. Individual grievances are real enough even if based on an a distorted view of the practicalities involved.

Algeria: A Traumatised Community Renews its Links to the Council

Historically, Algerian scholars have played a central role in CODESRIA. The traumatic crisis of the 1990s in that country affected universities and institutes profoundly. Leading scholars were exiled or even murdered, others were obliged to withdraw from the public arena. The links with CODESRIA were virtually cut. The Centre de Recherche en Anthropologie (Crasc) in Oran has played a seminal role in renewing the links. Since 2005 it edits the French part of the African Book Review/Revue Africaine du Livre. Algeria's presence in CODESRIA has been boosted at the level of the Executive Committee and the Scientific Committee. Two National Working Groups have been active during the period and local researchers have participated in workshops or institutes. Surprisingly, in view of the size of the population and the academic community, no Algerians have benefited from the Small Grants in the period. The expansion of the student intake, the transition from French to Arabic as a teaching language, and the exodus of university teachers have combined to produce a decline in the quality of higher education. Although financial resources exist for research, the issue of the training is crucial. A recurrent demand is that CODESRIA should sponsor more workshops in Arabic. The crisis and the cutting of links make knowledge of CODESRIA rather limited. Scholars are anxious for more personal contacts and joint research programmes to break Algeria's continued isolation and in providing a wider African perspective. The Council's handling of applications, project assessments etc. is seen as more objective, comparing favourably with the national process.

Cameroon: A Formidable CODESRIA Presence, Despite Academic Decline

Two things stand out: an astonishing number of local researchers take part in the Council's programmes while local conditions of teaching and research are in serious disarray. Apart from the two universities in Yaoundé there are four other public ones in Douala, Buea, Dschang and Ngaoundéré. There is one private Catholic university in Yaoundé. The expansion of the university system has coincided with a disastrous decline in the economy. Universities had no appropriate funding and research institutes hardly survived. Arrears in salaries since 1996 were only paid in 2007. Access to the internet is poor and libraries can only seat a small minority of a vastly increased student population. Economic and political liberalisation encouraged underpaid staff to look elsewhere for income. CODESRIA is decisive in offering opportunities for training and research. More than one hundred scholars participated in its programmes during the period evaluated (2000–06), a majority from the capital but many from other institutions, including the far north. Most participated in Institutes and training workshops or were recipients of Small Grants, others contributed to Multinational Working Groups on higher education, land, and citizenship. A Comparative Research Network on Health Systems was led by a local scholar. National Working Groups addressed issues on civil society, development alternatives as well as gender and small enterprises. "Nothing is written on Cameroon without references to CODESRIA publications", according to one scholar. CODESRIA is a 'passage obligé' where most young researchers learn to write research proposals, develop methodology, and give priority to publishing. The competence acquired is used in approaching other sources of funding. Scholars seem well linked into networks both at the African and the international level. Grievances were of course raised. Some thought that there

should be more emphasis on 'excellence' in the programmes of the Council. Some wanted more basic data collection, others more 'universalism'. However, they all seemed to agree on the Council's importance for social science in Cameroon. Although its publications, in their view, are poorly distributed in the country, they also agreed that they had a considerable impact, for instance, in raising the quality of teaching. There is also a wider social impact. CODESRIA scholars advise the President and Prime Minister, many are involved with the government, others with media, including the private radio stations.

Egypt: Close Cooperation with one Institution, the AARC

Higher education in Egypt has a long history. There are currently 17 major public universities. The medium of instruction is Arabic and the intellectual orientation is towards the Arab-speaking world. The scholarly interaction with non-Arab speaking Africa is weak. Moreover, conditions for research are not conducive, authoritarianism is rampant, and research funds are limited. Central to CODESRIA's involvement in Egypt is the Arab African Research Centre (AARC), an NGO, headed by Helmi Sharawi. In close cooperation with AARC, the Council has been involved in building bridges, while providing some autonomous space within a restrictive environment. Egyptian researchers have benefited greatly from interacting with a wider pan-African research community. AARC is important for CODESRIA's North African network, contributing to an Arab-Francophone research community. AARC is bridging the divide to Arab-speaking Africa, translating major CODESRIA publications into Arabic. The two institutions are likeminded. They are both concerned with creating autonomous space for a critical research. They challenge the prevailing global power structure and the claims to intellectual monopoly. In the Egyptian context, they provide an opening for innovative research that the universities have been incapable of offering. Seven workshops and conferences were organised jointly by AARC and CODESRIA in Egypt during the period of evaluation. In addition, AARC has co-hosted the Gender Symposia that are central to the Gender Programme discussed in chapter 3. Young scholars who had participated in CODESRIA programmes spoke of the benefits they received from the training, for instance, in how to make an oral presentation to an academic forum, improve paper writing skills, access new literature, interact with other researchers in the field etc. These are clearly capacity-building skills. They were particularly appreciative of the methodology workshops where they were shown how senior researchers conceptualise their work and the linkages between theory, method, and data collection.

The translation of CODESRIA's books and journals into Arabic is a particularly important function of the AARC as in the case of *Academic and Intellectual Freedom* (2000), *Perspectives on Popular Culture in Egypt* (2003) and *Social Structures in the African Great Lakes* (2007), to take major books from the period of evaluation only. Many more have been translated in the past. In recent years the Centre has also translated books on 'Private Indirect Government' (2000), 'Youth and Violence in Kinshasa' (2000) and 'Non-Europhone African Intellectuals' (2003). The translation of nine volumes of the Journal *Afro-Arab Selections in Social Sciences* (1999–2006) from English or French into Arabic is an achievement that should be particularly commended.

Mozambique: A Frontier of the Lusophone Africa Initiative

The emergence of a research community associated with CODESRIA dates back to the post-civil war period. At Eduardo Mondlane University the war took its toll, including a drastic drop in the student population. On the eve of independence most staff and students were of Portuguese origin. The institutions of higher education that have been added since then are not primarily concerned with the social sciences. Faculty members continue to be mainly trained overseas and the number of university-trained professionals in society as a whole is low. Scholars interested in research have to struggle on many fronts. There is a shortage of up-to-date literature, salaries are low, and staff is compelled to seek other sources of income, for instance, in consultancies and part-time teaching elsewhere. Interaction between lectur-

ers and students is poor and there is little academic life and debates. Young scholars are discouraged to go into research. Role models and mentors are few. Those engaged with CODESRIA seek to change the situation. The main challenge is to ensure a critical mass of scholars committed to a culture of active research.

The Centre of African Studies of Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo is CODESRIA's main partner. By cooperating with CODESRIA, the Centre is able to create opportunities for scholars across divisions of generations and gender. National Working Groups are coordinated by researchers based at the Centre, one analysing 'Socio-spatial dynamics in Nampula city', exploring contradictions and inequalities in the production of urban space, another studying local politics in the city of Beira. A workshop on 'Visual South: using visual sources as alternative history' has been conducted as part of the 'South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development'. The cooperation between the Centre and the Council culminated in the hosting of CODESRIA's 11th General Assembly in Maputo in December 2005. The then Director of the Centre, Teresa Cruz e Silva, was elected the President of the Council. Although the network is rather recent the list of publications is substantial, including seven books during the period of evaluation with at least two more in the pipeline. 14 articles and chapters have been published in peer reviewed journals and books. There is a common appreciation of the work done in the Gender Institutes, the themes they have addressed, the quality of materials used, and the competence of instructors. Young scholars are particularly appreciative of the methodology workshops. Mozambique's involvement with CODESRIA has benefited from the 'Lusophone Africa initiative' that was discussed in chapter 3 as part of the Council's Research Programme.

Nigeria: A Focus on Three of More than Eighty Universities

Nigeria's university system is mushrooming. With a population of some 140 million, according to a recent census, oil, and military prowess, Nigeria dominates the region. In 1999 it was supposed to have 410,000 students (Jibril 2005). By that time the universities were officially 36. Since then numbers have grown exponentially. An informed guess suggests that they are now close to 90 (Shettima, interview 2007). A 'first-generation' was established in the late 1950s and early 1960s. By 1970 they were six. A 'second generation' joined in the mid-1970 and from 1979 the states (Nigeria is a federation) began to establish their own. The most recent additions are the private ones. Three well-established, first-generation institutions in the south west, University of Ibadan (UI), Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) in Ile-Ife, and University of Lagos (UNILAG) account for the overwhelming number of the CODESRIA-linked scholars during the period. They operate within a turbulent, highly diverse scholarly environment that is rift with divisions. The UNILAG (Lagos) meetings involved a strong contingent from sociology, including participants in National Working Groups (NWG) on the 'Politics of Antiretroviral Therapy for People Living with HIV/AIDS' and 'Globalisation and Citizenship'. The projects demonstrated professional commitment and competence with a strong interdisciplinary focus. In Ibadan (UI) special attention was devoted to the NWG on 'Popular Forms of Accountability', a high-powered project that builds on an earlier successful publication. The high-powered list of participants suffers from assignments elsewhere, as VCs, DVCs, etc. The core is Ibadan based, well-connected internationally, committed and professional. CODESRIA has a radical reputation, UI has not. It was a surprise to many to find that UI was so dominant in the Council's Nigeria network.

Unlike in Lagos and Ibadan there are no 'flagship' NWG in OAU (Ile-Ife) around which the community converges. However, OAU impressed by its wide range of involvements with the Council as well as the number of different disciplines participating. On all three campuses, issues relating to Small Grants, the various Institutes of the Council (Governance, Gender, Health, Youth), and the Methodology Workshops dominated. Participants saw the visit as an occasion for voicing grievances. A frequent complaint related to failures of communication with Dakar although it was agreed that it had improved during the

new regime. Another common complaint concerned assumed delays in publication. As discussed elsewhere in the report, the Council has strong objections to what is considers to unfair claims in this respect (CODESRIA 2007d). The professional review process was seen as another source of delay. Recipients of Small Grants had their own complaints concerning transfers, outstanding payments etc. Again, the impression is that there was a distinct improvement after CODESRIA's crisis at the turn of the century. There were also many expressions of appreciation: "What would social science in Africa be without CODESRIA?". The Council is seen as a vital means for linking up with scholars elsewhere on the continent. It performs a critical role in supplementing the meagre funds that are made available by the universities themselves. People kept returning to the fact that what makes CODESRIA important is its concern with social relevance. Others expressed appreciation of its interdisciplinary focus. The Institutes were generally praised. Being a 'Laureate' of an Institute is proudly added to your CV. Above all, according to one voice in Ibadan, it is about developing a 'proposal-writing culture'.

Tanzania: An Early CODESRIA Stronghold

Tanzania has a long association with the Council both by participating in its programmes and by providing members of the executive. It is a context of steady economic growth and democratisation. The University of Dar es Salaam (UD) is the oldest and largest with an estimated 13,500 students. There are now 12 other universities out of which four are private. The combined student enrolment is modest. Like elsewhere in Africa, proliferation has not been accompanied by a commensurate growth in facilities and staff. To compensate for low salaries lecturers look for income elsewhere, including consultancies. Research is adversely affected. Many academics opt for public office. A major activity was the conference on 'The State of Academic Freedom in Tanzania' organised by the UD Academic Staff Assembly (UDASA) in 2005. Papers and discussions were of good quality with a key resolution attacking the role of the government, IFIs and other donors in imposing 'market dictates' and causing academic decline. The National Working Groups are the mainstay of CODESRIA's presence. A NWG based in Zanzibar raises relevant questions on the shift from agriculture to a service sector such as tourism and the problems posed by sex tourism. A mainland group does research on banana production, making good use of 'value chain' analysis and how it is affected by cultural barriers. With its focus on income generation and women participation it is an example of research that has both academic and policy relevance. Both projects are inter-disciplinary. CODESRIA's role in supporting research, training, and dissemination is much appreciated. A Vice-Chancellor maintained that it "is one of the few organizations that have survived to offer a service to African scholars". Young scholars spoke with appreciation of the small grants. Disbursements were said to be timely. More problems were seen with the dissemination of reports and publications as well as with communication. Some researchers spoke of long periods of 'silence' after they had submitted their manuscripts. The process of getting published was seen as "simply too long".

Zimbabwe: Avoiding Scholarly Isolation

Also Zimbabwe has a long association with the Council. The political and academic context, however, differs radically. In Zimbabwe, the political and economic crisis keeps deepening with intensified authoritarianism, isolation, and massive out-migration. As elsewhere in Africa, the number of universities has increased but funding and staff are affected by the crisis. At the University of Zimbabwe, the oldest and largest with some 12,000 students, some departments have between 50 and 60 per cent staff vacancies. Other universities are much smaller, some do not cater for the social sciences. In addition, there are several church-affiliated universities. The funding base remains fragile. The research groups supported by CODESRIA are primarily based at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) and the African Institute of Agrarian Studies; some members are at Masvingo State University. Key projects include 'Globalization and International Migration', paying special attention to the aspirations of the migrants

and the impact on those left behind. Another looks at 'Religion, Citizenship and Identity' with focus on independent churches and their role in cross-border trading. 'The Girl Child' is a challenging study of a local religious sect. A project on 'Land and Agrarian Reform' is of course particularly topical in view of the current crisis. Others look at the impact of HIV-AIDS. The fieldwork for the projects is well underway. There is an interesting generational and gender mix in the research teams and a reasonably high level of enthusiasm. CODESRIA is one of the few sources of research funding left for Zimbabwean scholars. For some, the Council is the sole provider in this respect.

Political polarisation affects the universities. By and large, it does not appear to have affected the choice of research topics or the composition of the research teams in the CODESRIA supported project. The project on land and agrarian reform may be an exception as the proposal is unduly dismissive of the research by other Zimbabwean scholars. In sum, the country features prominently in CODESRIA's programmes. The Council is anxious not to pursue policies that contribute to the isolation of the local scholarly community, especially in view of the disastrous experience of Algeria.

7. Administration and Finance

The Administration and Finance Department plays a central role in the Secretariat. Apart from handling obvious issues of planning, budgeting, accounting and audits for the Council as a whole it is also responsible for the financial administration of the research programmes, monitoring progress, ensuring that funds are received, and providing back-up support, including hotels, tickets, visas, venues, etc. Its responsibilities include the signing of contracts and effectuating payments for the research grants that constitute the Council's main expenditure. USD 5.5. million worth of contracts were signed during the period examined (CODESRIA 2007a:403). The protocol, purchases, accounting and travel services of the other departments have been centralised to the Administration and Finance, ensuring that it is professionally handled. It plays a leading role in budgeting and planning also in interaction with the other departments, organising an Annual Programming Seminar in November each year that is central to this process. The Council has been able to raise the amount received from donors (and the Senegalese government) from just below USD 3 million in 2000 to 5.9 million in 2006, virtually doubling the amount (Ibid: 386). Vastly improved financial discipline, transparency and accountability have gone a long way in grappling with the tensions generated in the earlier phase. An important element in the reform process has been to upgrade heads of department to a professional level that requires international recruitment and the involvement of the Executive Committee. The recovery of the Council is closely linked to the reorganisation of the Administration and Finance Department and its professional leadership that has succeeded in installing financial discipline and rectitude. In its interaction with the EET the department impressed as professionally efficient and open. Apart from the general presentation and discussions of the activities of the Department that took place in plenum, separate discussions were held during our Dakar visit with the staff of the Department.

The Council prides itself with having secured the collaboration of over 50 donors during the period at an average of 20 per annum (Ibid: 391). The great bulk of these are either involved in collaborative projects with other institutions or with specific projects. The list of 'core donors', that is donors with a long-term engagement including core funding, are eight, according to the list that was supplied to us. As can be seen from Table 6 (Ibid:393), four stand out as the major one, Sida (by far the largest), Ford Foundation, NORAD, and CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency. Facing an initial crisis of foreign funding in the year 2000, when virtually all major donors had either terminated or suspended funding due to the internal crisis of the organisation, CODESRIA has achieved a remarkable come back as a credible development partner. By the year 2006 most donors had been brought

back on board, financial commitments have steadily increased, and the leadership is confidently planning for continued expansion.

Having since long outgrown its increasingly cramped original premises, the Secretariat has also strong hopes of getting a building of its own that is more commensurate to its needs. The Head of Administration & Finance, for instance, is housed in room without windows. A separate 'Endowment Fund' is created for the construction as some regular donors are prevented by their own rules from participating in the venture. Alternative sources for the Fund have been solicited and prospective contributors have been identified.

Is the Council financially sustainable? What is the scope for the 'diversification' of funding? It is common to bemoan the dependence of programmes, particularly in Africa, on foreign donors. At one level, it may look as if CODESRIA is a case in point. The problems of donor dependence are many, including the risks of changing political regimes and priorities in donor countries, excessive meddling, and not the least that an excessive amount of Secretariat staff and resources become bogged down in servicing special donor requirements for reporting, evaluation, etc. This problem is specifically addressed in the report from Administration and Finance. For instance, apart from the annual external audit carried out by an independent, internationally recognised audit firm, various donors carry out their specific audits where they depend on the services of the Department (Ibid:384). In Table 9 (Ibid:398) it displays an awesome schedule of the distinct reporting, disbursement, and auditing requirements of each major donor. While CODESRIA has been exceptionally successful in diversifying its sources of funding this has in turn caused an increase in the work-load devoted to donor-specific obligations. In recent years it has sought to "negotiate the possibility of designing standard reporting formats" (Ibid: 391). There is no doubt that the leadership would warmly welcome if donors would be able to 'rationalise' their own operations in this respect. The relationship between Sida/NORAD and CODESRIA point to a vision of partnership based on long-term commitment, autonomy, and respect. If the risks of instability and meddling are in fact central to the problem of donor dependence, CODESRIA seems to have been exceptionally fortunate with its Scandinavian partners who have demonstrated both great perseverance in times of crisis and respect for the Council's own agenda.

8.   Conclusions: Summary of Findings

A Social Science Research Council for Africa: CODESRIA's achievement

CODESRIA is a small organisation in terms of resources and staff. The efficient way in which these have been employed has allowed the Council to have a major impact both within the university system and in society at large. Much is due to its ability to decentralise responsibility to the researchers themselves, as individuals or as organised in national, multinational, and comparative research networks and other collective ventures. Much is also due to the efficient organisation of the Secretariat and its ability to provide services to its constituency. In our view, the system put in place to facilitate the research process and the dissemination of research results is appropriate although not without its problems. The volume and quality of publications, books, and articles generated by its networks of scholars are impressive. The relevance and quality of the training programmes offered by the Council are high, including the institutes, schools and training workshops. In the course of the evaluation, especially as part of the interaction with individual researchers in the field, the EET has encountered grievances and suggestions of improvements in routines, not the least in the areas of transfers and communications. However, the overall findings suggest that CODESRIA is doing well. The performance has improved

dramatically as compared with the crisis-ridden years around the turn of the century when both the external and internal credibility of the organisation was at its lowest point. It has been a period of consolidation and renewal that has confirmed CODESRIA in its role as a crucial vehicle for the advance of African social science. While consolidation has been a key feature there has also been remarkable renewal and expansion, with new initiatives, structures and processes coming on line. While important as a backdrop, the comparison with the crisis years does not necessarily do justice to the achievements of the Council. Nor does its remarkable performance suggest that the Council or major donors can afford to lean back in contentment. On the contrary, precisely because of the successful recovery, the expectations on the Council are high while it continues to be vulnerable, albeit at a higher level, to the divisions that permeate Africa's scholarly communities as well as African societies at large. It is as important as ever that CODESRIA continues to demonstrate its ability to be responsive to such divisions and to the real or imagined grievances on which they feed.

Our report documents a process of effective capacity building, both in terms of the Council itself and its various organs, the Secretariat in particular, and more generally in terms of social science scholarship in Africa. We note the way in which the Council's activities are supportive of the rejuvenation of the university system, while at one point it may have been argued that CODESRIA was needed as a separate outlet in view of the profound incapacities of the universities and the politically repressive atmosphere within which they were operating. In our view, the supportive and complementary role performed by the Council contributes importantly to the revival of the universities. The notion of CODESRIA as a 'Social Science Research Council for Africa', a respected and integral part of the system of higher education, has been reinforced. The role of the General Assembly and the Scientific Committee in particular in setting the scientific agenda has been enhanced.

The post-2000 regime in CODESRIA has assigned crucial importance to transparency in all its interactions with its constituency, including the peer review system, the administration of grants, and the selection of programmes and participants. The evaluation has allowed us to examine how these processes have functioned in practice. Documentation in the Secretariat makes it possible to follow the quality of the assessments delivered within the peer review system when proposals, manuscripts, or applications are submitted. We note, for instance, that the reviews have become more elaborate and professional. We have also been able to listen to the experiences of scholars in the field. 'Due process' is vital for maintaining external and internal credibility and for handling divisions within the community and the concomitant 'theories' about why some get access to resources and others not. Transparency, we agree, is the most effective recipe against unwarranted suspicions of bias. The commitment of the leadership to transparency and due process seems to us as the single most encouraging feature of the period examined by us. In listening to the grievances in the field, we need to remind ourselves of the abundant obstacles to effective communication that characterise the local environment, including inefficient postal services, unreliable banks, and weak and highly uneven electronic facilities and phone links. We therefore take particular note of the manner in which swift communication has been made a central concern of the Secretariat as part of the drive towards consolidation and renewal.

A Relevant and Dynamic Research Programme

The Council's reputation as key player in African social science depends primarily on the quality and relevance of its research programme. Its strong commitment to a pan-African agenda, the high priority given to gender studies, and the importance attributed to academic freedom are some of the prominent features that suggest that this is an organisation that takes its 'intellectual agenda' seriously. The Council's mission is to be 'socially relevant' to the problems confronting African society. In that sense, CODESRIA sets up its own criteria for quality and relevance by which it expects to be judged. There is no doubt that it has succeeded in building its own constituency and promoting its own agenda in this respect. The themes selected for programmes initiated from the centre as the Multinational Working Groups

(MWG), Comparative Research Networks (CRN), anniversary conferences, and preferred collaborative ventures reflect this orientation. Because of its commitment to an alternative development agenda it has an obvious policy relevance. It does not necessarily endear it to the authorities who are often stuck with a more 'conventional' perspective. Simultaneously, however, the organisation depends on initiatives that emerge from a local definition of the problem as in the case of the National Working Groups (NWG). These do not necessarily reflect the Council's intellectual agenda. In this case, those who do peer reviewing and selections are less assisted by collectively promoted criteria of policy relevance in assessing quality. We have examined the MWGs, CRNs and NWGs, being at the core of the Council's 'Core Programmes', drawing both on the documentation available in Dakar and on interaction with participants at the country level. We have been able to examine proposals and output, including information on modes of selection, peer reviews, and the state of reporting. We are satisfied that the judgements applied meet sound professional standards.

Special attention has been paid to the dynamic expansion of the Gender Programme. In its mix of multidisciplinary scholarship and an activist commitment it fits eminently into the Council's intellectual agenda. The achievements in the period of evaluation are substantial, including the number and quality of the publications that have been produced. A second area for special attention is the programme of Child and Youth Studies. It serves as good illustration of the Council's commitment to critical research that engages 'Western scholarship' from an African platform. Generally, the programme illustrates the Council's concern to promote linkages between researchers and users of the research. 'Academic freedom' is the third area singled out for special attention. Like Gender it is centrally located on the Council's intellectual agenda. Academic freedom provides a frontier in the struggle for democracy within the system of higher education and in society in general. Excellent work has been produced, for instance, in Kenya. We are reminded of the Council's dual mission of supporting high quality research and ensuring that it is informed by a commitment to democracy and social transformation.

Two 'Special initiatives' were promoted energetically and successfully by the Council in the period, one was research in social history, the other integrating Portuguese-speaking African scholars more fully. The latter initiative aims at correcting the imbalances that affect the continent, partly as a result of differences in colonial occupation and consequent language exposure. We have looked at the Lusophone initiative in conjunction with the country visit to Mozambique. The initiative is a landmark in the Council's programme. We note the proliferation of 'collaborative initiatives' within the Research Programme. They provide an opportunity for new contacts with research institutions and organisations in other parts of the world, especially as part of the South-South collaboration. They also contribute significantly to the diversification of funding. Simultaneously, the collaborative initiatives, 22 in the annual report of the Research Programme for 2006, commit resources and staff, potentially diverting them from core activities.

Publications: An Impressive Output but who is Reached?

The number of published books, journals, research reports and working papers have been expanding in the new millennium. It is an important achievement, not the least when considering the few people handling the department. The Council's 'core' research programmes, National Working Groups, Multinational Working Groups, Comparative Research Networks, Gender, Academic Freedom, and the Special Initiatives account for one third of the books. The 30th Anniversary in 2003 has left a special mark, including volumes in the series 'Africa in the new Millennium' with Zed Press. The number of journals either published directly or supported by the Council has also been steadily on the increase. Striking new additions are the *Journal of Higher Education in Africa* and the *African Review of Books / La Revue Africaine des Livres* with editorial responsibilities decentralised (Oran, Addis Ababa), emphasising its pan-African mission. A selection is translated and published in Arabic. A growing number of the Council's

journals are accessible on the internet. The publication programme faces constraints. There is a considerable backlog. Can the process be accelerated? The report discusses alternatives that may reduce the pressure on the Secretariat.

The publications assessed are of high quality. But are they also effectively accessible? Much is primarily distributed through the Council's own networks. It makes publications available free of charge to a wide range of African institutions. The commercial channels are poor and unreliable. Various possibilities are explored, including 'Print on Demand' and support for commercial distribution in large markets. But also outside distribution is weak. It is a question of the visibility of African research and researchers.

CODESRIA has grown into a publishing house of some standing. There is a tension, however, between the Council's efforts as a publisher and its role in promoting research. There is an outpour of manuscripts due for reviewing, editing, and publication. Should it necessarily all be published by CODESRIA? The EET has no ready answers. It seems important, however, that the Council takes an additional look at the alternative channels that it may use to reach its audience. Maybe scholars should be encouraged to take their conference papers to other journals, especially as open access to journals improves overall access. A cooperation agreement with a French publisher, followed by similar deals in the Portuguese and Arab-speaking worlds, may help making African research more visible.

CODICE, the Centre for Documentation, is central to CODESRIA's mandate and internet has made it even more important. It assists in building a common frame of reference, drawing on a massive data bank, annotating journals, monitoring unpublished theses, and developing the Council's website. An increasing number of CODESRIA journals publications can be accessed online. The electronic revolution generates new opportunities for addressing bottlenecks in communication. For many African universities, however, poor electronic facilities may further add to backwardness and isolation.

Training and Grants: Successful Capacity Building

By offering training, research grants and fellowships for social science scholars, the Council builds research capacity and strengthens institutions, especially within the university system. The programme includes support for methodology workshops, and annual campuses, and training in textbook production. The core is the small grants for thesis writing and the various 'Institutes', that is, annual events where (mostly) young scholars are exposed to each other and to experts in the field. During the country visits we met with numerous participants in these activities. They were generally enthusiastic and proud of the experience. The institutes and small grants are crucial in reinforcing capacity building both in the individual researcher and in the higher education system. The methodology workshops are a valuable addition. They have expanded during the period, with institutes convened in new areas, more workshops, and support for new categories of scholars. Institutes on Child & Youth as well as Health have been added to those on Governance and Gender. In a category of its own is the Legon (Ghana) based Humanities Institute which cater for more senior scholars. It is also the first one located outside Dakar. More are likely to be 'decentralised' according to plans. Judging from the views during country visits, this is a move which will receive wide support, even if some of the technicalities remain to be resolved.

CODESRIA's programme for training, grants and fellowship with its various additions are well suited for building capacity and strengthening institutions. It is multidisciplinary in orientation and tallies well with the Council's overall commitments, including its pan-African orientation and its emphasis on gender, generation, region, and linguistic diversity. The focus is on 'social issues' of continental relevance, responding well to the needs of the African research community. The programme is complementary and supportive of the training that takes place within the institutions of higher education. Decentralisation is an important feature, involving universities throughout the African continent, promoting an African expertise.

The report has emphasised effectiveness and transparency. In relation to this training programme we have looked at the selection of beneficiaries, the administration of grants, the role of the Scientific Committee, management and coordination, and the availability of appropriate support structures. The process is effective and transparent. The quality of applicants, for instance, are vetted by independent jurors and committees according to well developed criteria for assessing applications and proposals. Programmes are widely publicised and results are communicated effectively – also given the rural-urban digital divide within Africa and the collapse of the postal system. The programme shows managerial competence, scientific expertise, and accountability. In particular, we note the important role of the Scientific Committee in assessing the quality of results and obliging the Executive to render account when complaints are lodged, for instance, by unsuccessful applicants. The support structures are lean but efficient. Although demand clearly outstrips resources, what is there is effectively managed.

Local Constituencies: Grievances and Pride of Belonging

As part of the evaluation the team visited seven countries. Apart from the Egyptian case that was marked by a close special relation to one institution, the AARC, and the case of Mozambique that currently benefits from special relations due to the Lusophone Initiative, the other communities visited – in Algeria, Cameroon, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe – expressed grievances over hitches in the process by which they were able to access CODESRIA services or over what they considered to be undue delays in the processes of publication. We also met with speculations about the domination of the Council by one region or the other. As underscored by the Secretariat and recalled in chapter 6, there are major methodological problems in interpreting the grievances. We agree with the Secretariat, that there is no other way to address the suspicions of bias than being meticulously transparent and professional in all processes of assessment and selection. Simultaneously, local scholars were full of praise for CODESRIA's role in supporting local research. There was also a general understanding that the performance of the Council, not the least in communicating with its constituencies, had greatly improved after the crisis at the turn of the century. Many expressed a distinct pride in having been able to benefit from the programmes of the organisation and in belonging to the 'CODESRIA community'.

One issue arising from the local visits stands out. How can a correct balance be struck between academic merit and regional belonging? The report has paid special attention to development of the Council's capacity to undertake independent scholarly assessments and peer reviewing. The achievements are noteworthy and go a long way to satisfy the need for reasonably objective criteria. But what about 'regional balance'? In this case, the problem is more judgemental. It is widely accepted, for instance, that regions that have been marginalised because of the inevitable dominance of English and French should be specially accommodated. But should it be at the expense of academic merit? What is 'academic merit' anyway in a context marked by very different academic traditions? The Nigerian case underscores that balanced recruitment is also a problem at the internal, national level. If an overwhelming number of 'good' applications come from campuses in one end of the country and not from another does it suggest that the latter are too 'weak' to qualify? Or does it reflect differences in the manner in which academic communities have been unevenly plugged into the CODESRIA network? Should it be the policy of the Secretariat to correct such imbalances or should it rely on an autonomous assessment of merit alone? There is no obvious solution to this dilemma. One is to adhere religiously to a procedure based on merit while using other means ('special initiatives' etc.) to ensure that potential constituencies that have been marginalised, nationally or continentally, are included in the network while simultaneously raising awareness about the differences in outlook and academic traditions. Another route is to be even more explicit on the regional considerations by which merit-based recruitment is adjusted to secure greater balance and address historical inequities. In any case, the transparency of procedures is paramount in ensuring confidence and cooperation. It is also important that the criteria agreed are effectively communicated, understood, and accepted within the scholarly community, not just by those who have been in a position to benefit from the Council's services. We believe that

more could be done in this direction. While the commitment to transparency seems to us as the most invaluable feature, the criteria themselves must be sufficiently explicit to stand public scrutiny.

Administration and Finance: The New Transparency

The report is primarily concerned with the organisation of research. Special attention, however, is devoted to the Department of Administration and Finance. This is due to its role in the process of consolidation and renewal that stands at the centre of the report. The efficient administration of finance has paved the way for this process. It has been instrumental in regaining the confidence of both its continental constituency and the donors. Justifiably, the leadership of the Council is confident that expansion will continue. It is in a uniquely strong position for soliciting further support. The report has discussed some of the bottlenecks of further expansion, including the scope for diversification of funding, and the need for more stable, long-term financial arrangements, including the problems of accommodating an expanded Secretariat. As scholars we are convinced that the primary reason for this remarkable comeback is the continued intellectual relevance of the Council in a world order that is grossly skewed to Africa's disadvantage. It is an understanding that is shared by major donors. We have no doubt, however, about the centrality of the Department of Administration and Finance in this remarkable achievement. Without its efficient reorganisation and professional staffing the Council's potentials to contribute may still have been in disarray. Its ability to install financial discipline and rectitude in the affairs of the Council has been decisive. The Council has been greatly assisted in designing more appropriate routines in financing, reporting and accounting by drawing on the sympathetic and professional expertise that has been mediated by Sida/SAREC. The successful diversification of funding, however, has generated its own problems of overlapping reporting and accounting. Monitoring and evaluation as well suffer from such overlap and lack of coordination. The Secretariat would be in a position to utilise its resources more efficiently in support of African social science if the diversification of funding went with a greater understanding among the donors of the substantial 'costs' of such overlapping routines.

Concluding Note

As pointed out in an incisive comment by the former President of the Council, a key issue concerns the role that the Council is able to play in the revival and sustenance of functioning national research communities: "Can CODESRIA in conjunction with institutions of higher learning generate a 'local/ regional core'? How can it effectively use or create synergies between its research, training and publication programmes towards achieving this goal?" (Zenebewerke Tadesse 070918). Our report suggests that the Council has succeeded in creating one important element of such a system: an all-African Research Council that is widely respected for its scholarly integrity, its pan-African commitment, and its rich and imaginative range of instruments of support for local scholarship. In our view, it is precisely the effective combination of its support for research, training, publishing, and dissemination that makes it attractive as a 'partner' to the local scholarly communities. As pointed out, there are all sorts of hitches in the smooth functioning of the Council in this respect, not the least from the views of individual beneficiaries as documented by the country visits. It is crucial, of course, that the Council is not unduly dismissive or defensive in relation to such grievances. On the contrary, each grievance needs to be carefully examined in the effort to build a community of mutual trust. The discord that informed and exacerbated the crisis at the beginning of the period may well continue to influence the work of the Council. It is apparent from our study, however, that it has provided a strong incentive to the new leadership to comport itself in a manner that does not open itself to accusations of undue partisanship. We believe that it strives hard to be fair and balanced in the processes of assessment and selection.

9.   Recommendations

The evaluation team is satisfied that CODESRIA's activities are highly relevant both to the development of the social sciences in Africa, to the university system, and to African society in general. Our report has acknowledged the quality of the Council's programmes, the dedication of its staff, the constructive impact of its interventions, and the appropriateness of the system and structures that are put in place to facilitate research. It also notes the high quality of the publication programme although it has expressed concern with the difficulties faced by effective dissemination, especially in a situation where the commercial lines of communication are deeply problematic and deficient. Despite these problems, the report notes that the Council makes an outstanding contribution to capacity building and the institutional strengthening of social science research in Africa. Its research agenda is responsive to an African scholarly community that manifests itself in the various representative organs of the Council, the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, and the Scientific Committee. We are particularly impressed by the capacity of the Council to achieve organisational and financial sustainability through professional leadership, transparency, accountability, and financial discipline. The Council has made a remarkable comeback after the loss of external and internal credibility that marked the inception of the period. The process of consolidation and renewal has generated institutional confidence and opened up for a period of expansion.

Continued and Enhanced Support

We therefore strongly recommend continued and enhanced support to CODESRIA. The Secretariat has the intellectual and professional capacity to make good use of a major increase in resources. The Draft Strategic Plan for the period 2007–2011 contains a range of suggestions how such additional resources can be effectively employed. Our contacts with local communities of scholars indicate that an increase in the numbers and the levels the Small Grants for Theses Writing, and more openings for training at Institutes, Methodological workshops etc. would be widely welcomed.

Decentralisation as a Way of Enhancing Capacity

Any further expansion, however, needs to address the problems and constraints that are associated with the achievements so far. The organisation at the centre seems lean and efficient. But is it also over-reached? Does it throw its nets too widely? Does it have the capacity to handle its growing commitments? The achievements have been facilitated by a high degree of decentralisation of responsibilities to the directors and coordinators of specific programmes of research and training. Further decentralisation is actively pursued, for instance the decision to invite universities in different parts of the continent to host the training institutes currently held in Dakar. Can problems of congestion at the centre be handled through more decentralisation? The scope may be there but it is also likely to carry its own costs in terms of monitoring and funding, especially in an initial phase. A special effort may be needed to ensure that decentralisation generates an autonomous institutional capacity to manage an expanded programme in the field.

The Publications Backlog: A Case for More Decentralisation

The report has noted the large volume and the high quality of the Council's publications. This is clearly a major achievement. However, we are also worried by the backlog in the publications department. How should it be addressed? Is the solution to increase the resources available at the Secretariat end? What is the scope for the decentralisation of responsibilities? These have already been spread, for instance, by the new journals supported by the Council that have generated more editorial groups capable

of handling some of the manuscripts that are in the pipeline. More efforts seem to be needed, however, to facilitate alternative modes of publishing for an expanding scholarly community. While prestigious joint arrangements, as in the case of the 'Africa in the New Millennium' series with Zed Books, may address some of the publishing needs, for most of the participants in working groups, institutes, and networks more modest and localised joint arrangements may have to be developed. While this is a case for further decentralising within the Council's own programme, there may simultaneously be the need to encourage CODESRIA funded scholars to look for its own alternative outlets.

How to Increase the Visibility of Research Findings

In important respects the search for alternative and not necessarily CODESRIA-based publishing is a question of encouraging a more diverse range of disseminating research findings, enhancing the visibility of African scholarly contributions both inside and outside the continent. The distribution of books and journals in Africa faces multiple difficulties and most of the bottlenecks are beyond what the Council on its own can be expected to tackle. While the free distribution of Council publications to university libraries and institutes is highly commendable, its ability to contribute to the strengthening of existing commercial networks is equally important. Joint agreements with other publishers, especially local ones, with their own lines of access to the market may be one way. We know that this line is actively pursued by the Council. Journals may be a crucial means of reaching a wider scholarly audience, especially with the rapid spread and improvement in internet access and internet publishing. We note that the capacity of CODICE, the Council's Documentation Centre, has been greatly enhanced at the Secretariat end. Yet, much depends on the ability of the scholars to develop a commensurate capacity to access this expanding facility. Here again the problem may go beyond CODESRIA. However, the Council may play a strategic role in facilitating donor support for a major upgrading of capacity at that end.

More Translations – Costly but Worth It

CODESRIA makes a major contribution in supporting translations into Africa's other main professional languages. The report from Egypt points to the important work of the Arab African Research Centre in this respect, even if it is high time that more scholarship in Arabic is also translated to other major languages. The Lusophone Initiative contains an important element of translation. It is an area where additional resources can be easily absorbed. As discussed in Chapter 4, special efforts are also needed to make CODESRIA's research more accessible in a Francophone context.

Find Ways to Support the Endowment Fund

CODESRIA's remarkable expansion has taken place within an extremely limited office space. Daily interaction during our visit demonstrated vividly the cramped conditions of the Secretariat and the need for a new, bigger office. We are made to understand that current donor practices do not allow for the required funding and that a special 'endowment fund' therefore has been initiated. We strongly recommend that Sida and NORAD look closely at this issue and take active part in ensuring an appropriate solution, including soliciting and mediating other sources of funding even if prevented from contributing more directly.

Better Coordination at the Funding End

A key feature of the process of consolidation and renewal has been the ability of the Council to diversify its funding, as discussed in Chapter 7. An inordinate amount of Secretariat staff and resources, however, are bogged down in servicing special donor requirements for reporting, evaluation, etc. While CODESRIA has been successful in diversifying its sources of funding this has in turn caused an increase in the work-load devoted to donor-specific obligations. The Council would welcome if donors

were able to 'rationalise' their operations in this respect, including agreeing on joint formats and dates for reporting, accounting, and auditing.

10. Wider Relevance

We have concluded the main task of evaluating CODESRIA. It remains to ask ourselves if there are lessons to be learnt from this exercise or general conclusions for wider application, that is, findings that can be generalised beyond the specific case of the Council.

Evaluation and Partnership

The first thing that comes to mind is the process of evaluation itself. At a formal level it is something that donors undertake on a regular basis to monitor performance, being themselves obliged to account to parliaments and governments for the money they spend. They are also accountable for the terms of reference that they give to evaluating teams as these are supposed to reflect the donor's mandate. International development cooperation, however, is special in the sense that the recipient is not a subordinate body but a sovereign legal agent in its own right. It therefore supposed to be based on negotiations between equals. This is where the notion of partnership comes in. Although formally accountable in their own national fiscal and political context, an evaluation, just as any transaction within the relationship, has to be negotiated and agreed. This may be easily forgotten at the donor end, especially when dealing with weak institutions that are prepared to be treated as a subordinate in order to protect their access to specific sources of finance, not the least in view of the obvious scope for unilateral sanctions: the withdrawal or suspension of funding. A deliberate effort is therefore required on both sides to ensure that an evaluation truly reflects a negotiated partnership. The EET notes that the leadership of the Council has demonstrated a firm commitment to realising the partnership that is potentially inherent in the evaluation exercise. This was brought home to us during our visit to the CODESRIA headquarters in Dakar. The manner in which it engaged the Secretariat and the Executive Committee, the attendance of meetings, and the massive compilation of documentation underscored that the CODESRIA's leadership was anxious to integrate the external evaluation into its own processes of monitoring, planning, and training. The EET on its side has been anxious to involve the Council's leadership on a continuous basis, copying all exchanges between ourselves and with the Sida/SAREC to the CODESRIA Secretariat. We have also on a continuous basis invited comments from that end. The Secretariat has responded in the spirit of this partnership not just in facilitating access but to offer its own input into the process, as in the case of the substantive 'Initial feedback' on the Draft Report (CODESRIA 2007d). This seems to us to have wider relevance. It suggests a model that should, in our view, be aimed at in development cooperation generally. It is not just an ideal, an abstract concern with the 'ethos' of development cooperation; it is also very much a practical issue of ensuring that cooperation is well grounded in respect, understanding, and mutual confidence, all of which are key issues for capacity, sustainability, and institution-building. As a foot note: Is not the notion of an 'evaluated intervention' (in this case, support for CODESRIA) a rather counterproductive misnomer if we are concerned with a partnership between equals? Does it not sound rather unilateral and from above?

State Versus Civil Society?

A second observation that seems to have wider relevance concerns the relationship between research and social development. At least in the Nordic countries, we are used to see the funding of university-based research, especially in the social sciences, as primarily a state responsibility, even if private foundations play a role. From a Nordic perspective, CODESRIA may therefore be seen as an anomaly.

Africa is apparently different in this respect. Why is this so? What are the implications? State institutions (ministries, university commissions, and the universities themselves) have a more limited capacity and in the absence of credible, publicly funded but reasonably autonomous research councils, CODESRIA plays a vital role in supporting research within the universities. Should not the objective of development cooperation be to transcend this apparent anomaly? There is, of course, a strong case for building institutional capacity to handle research funding within the system of higher education itself. But this is not the only issue at stake. CODESRIA stands for an *alternative* notion of development that is critical of the existing world order and its dominant institutions, a world order that equally constrains international development cooperation. The dependence and subordination of the local state to the world order makes it particularly important to support autonomous institutions if Africa's disadvantaged position is to be transcended. In that context CODESRIA stands out as a particularly valiant 'break-out' attempt. It has implications beyond the area of research funding.

The Role of Civil Society in State Reform

There is a further dimension to this that relates to relationship between state and civil society.

It is widely assumed that the rise in donor interest in civil society is related to a major shift in 'development thinking' where civil society-based institutions are seen as an alternative avenue in a situation where an originally state-led development effort has capsized. It has fostered a dichotomized view where state and civil society have been counter-posed. The CODESRIA experience suggests a rather different perspective where one is supportive of the other. The successful development of CODESRIA is not at the expense of capacity-building in the primarily state-sponsored university sector. On the contrary, our findings suggest that it plays a vital role in the reconstitution of the universities as a basis for research and scholarly advance. The conclusion has wider implications for development cooperation. It suggests that even where there is primary commitment to advancing the development capacity of the state and its institutions, civil society organisations, like CODESRIA, may provide the appropriate means.

Mutual Respect and Autonomy

A final point refers to the notion of 'partnership', commonly used by donors and often obscuring the uneven power relations built into international development cooperation. We have already discussed how the process of evaluation can be developed in an equitable way, reflecting a more enlightened understanding of what partnership ought to be about. CODESRIA's experience with its donors, however, suggests another dimension that may contribute to make 'partnership' more genuine and less hypocritical. As discussed in Chapter 2, the crisis of external and internal credibility faced by the Council at the turn of the millennium was successfully resolved through major institutional reforms, including in particular the financial administration of the Council. As is clear from the account, donors took an active part in facilitating the reconstruction. They did so, we believe, on the basis of respect for the autonomy of the organisation and its long-term commitment. It suggests to us an alternative vision of partnership that could be of wider relevance to the way in which international development cooperation is organised.

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Journals

Africa Development

African Journal of International Affairs

Africa Media Review

Africa Review of Books

African Sociological Review

Africa Zamani

Journal of Higher Education in Africa

Appendix 1 Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the evaluation of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA)

CODESRIA is a pan-African social science research organisation established in 1973 with its Head Office in Dakar, Senegal. The main objectives of CODESRIA include:

• Promote and facilitate research and knowledge production in Africa using a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach.

• Promote the publication and dissemination of the results of research undertaken by African scholars

• Strengthen the institutional basis of knowledge production in Africa by proactively engaging and supporting other research institutions and their networks of scholars within its programmes of activities. As part of this goal, the Council also actively encourages cooperation and collaboration among African universities, research organisations and other training institutions

CODESRIA research is organised into National, Multinational and Trans-national Working Groups and Comparative Research Networks. These research groups are formed through a process of open calls for application and a system of peer review is used to screen application and subsequent quality assurance of the research process and output. In this sense CODESRIA functions as a pan-African social science research council.

This evaluation is a joint Sida/NORAD undertaking commissioned by Sida. As both Sida and NORAD provide core support to CODESRIA the evaluation should cover CODESRIA's research and research support and capacity building activities in general and not confined to Sida/NORAD funded activities alone. This evaluation is expected to cover the activities of CODESRIA over the last 7 years (2000–2006).

Overall Objective of the Evaluation

The evaluation should assess the relevance, quality and impact of CODESRIA's research, the adequacy and appropriateness of the system and structures in place to facilitate the research process, the effectiveness of dissemination of research results to key stakeholders and users and its impact, CODESRIA's contribution to capacity building and institutional strengthening of social science research in Africa. The evaluation should also assess the participation and influence of members of CODESRIA, in shaping the research agenda. Last but not least the evaluation should assess the organisational and financial sustainability of CODESRIA.

Specific Objectives

1. Relevance of the research programmes: Relevance of the research programmes should be analysed in relation to the major problems facing the African continent, to concerns of major stakeholders like policymakers in government, regional organisations and civil society. The extent of participation of major stakeholders in the process of research agenda setting in the organisation should also be investigated.

2. Quality of CODESRIA publications: Quality of CODESRIAS's publications can be assessed using bibliometric methods like citations' index, publications in international journals of research supported by CODESRIA, internationally acknowledged/reviewed books and publications. Since one of the rationale for the creation of CODESRIA was to give publication outlet for African scholars facing selection bias by international journals, the quality assessment should not be confined to bibliometric

methods. It should be complemented by the team's own assessment of carefully selected sample of CODESRIA publications which have not been internationally reviewed. The quality assessment should also consider reports from CODESRIA peer reviewers and reports from the scientific committee. Academic utilisation for teaching and research can also be another measure of quality.

3. The effectiveness and transparency of the research system: The peer review mechanism, the granting and administration of grants, the role, and functions of the scientific committee, the management and coordination of working groups, the support structures and resources (methodology workshops, provision of literature, information database like CODICE) should be assessed.

4. The effectiveness of dissemination of research results: The extent and type of dissemination of research results and their effectiveness: conferences, seminars, policy-briefs, electronic mail systems, web-visits, bookstores, book fairs, etc.

5. Impact of CODESRIA's research: A separate evaluation of impact based on country case studies will be undertaken by NORAD. Therefore, this evaluation should concentrate on the impact of CODESRIA's work on the work of continental organisations like AU and NEPAD or sub-regional organisations like ECOWAS, SADC, NGOs and civil society organisations. Impact could be assessed for example through CODESRIA's direct input in the policy process, utilisation of CODESRIA publications as input into policy preparation, demand for training by institutions entrusted with policymaking.

6. Capacity building and institutional strengthening: The collaboration between CODESRIA and National Universities and CODESRIA's contribution to strengthening such institutions should be assessed. Particular focus in countries with weaker research environments (the choice of countries will be made in consultation with Sida/SAREC and CODESRIA). What is the role of local institutions in various CODESRIA activities (organising seminars, conducting training, participating in CODESRIA research)? The impact of CODESRIA's training activities like the various institutes and methodology workshops should also be analysed.

7. Sustainability: The sustainability of CODESRIA should be addressed 1) with respect to sustainability of the organisation in its present form in the changing environment for social science research in Africa: capacity to adapt and to change, 2) with respect to its financial sources and method of finance: predictability, stability and diversification.

The Evaluation Method and Approach

The evaluation should pay adequate attention to the evolution of the general environment of higher education and that of social science research in Africa and CODESRIA's mission. The evaluation should be based on CODESRIA documents (the charter, strategic plans, work plans, internal and external assessments and evaluations, etc.), CODESRIA publications, interviews with CODESRIA management bodies and staff, interviews with carefully selected member organisations, network members, beneficiaries of CODESRIA research grants and/or training as well as interviews with various stakeholders. A combination of face to face, mail or telephone contacts can be used as appropriate (with regard to time, cost and response effectiveness).

In its first meeting the evaluation team will work out an appropriate methodology, approach and workplan and decide on the distribution of tasks among team members.

The evaluation team will consist of Professor Björn Beckman (Team Leader), Professor Lloyd Sachikonye, Professor Mohamed Salih and Associate Professor Inga Brandell.

The evaluation is estimated to require a total of 20 man-weeks and is expected to be completed by August 2007. A planning meeting will be held 2–3 April 2007 in Stockholm. The team will travel to Senegal to visit CODESRIA in Dakar at the end of April or early May to gather information and interview staff and management of CODESRIA. While in Dakar the team, jointly and/or individually, will visit institutions (universities, research institutes, regional organisations, relevant government Ministries, the Swedish Embassy, the Norwegian Embassy and other relevant agencies). In May each team member will visit one or two countries in Africa which will be decided during the team's visit to Dakar.

Reporting

Team members submit their reports to the Team Leader as will be specified in their individual contracts.

The Team Leader should submit a draft report to Sida latest by 31 August 2007. The main report must be in English and should not exceed 50 pages together with an Executive summary of three to five pages and should follow the "Format for Sida Evaluations". The report should specifically respond to the issues outlined in the Terms of Reference.

A meeting will be held at Sida the first week of September 2007 where the Team Leader will present the team's findings.

Sida and Norad will provide comments latest by 15 September 2007. The Team leader should submit final report to Sida latest by 30 September 2007.

Appendix 2 List of Participants

CODESRIA, Dakar 7–11 May 2007-11-02

Björn Beckman, Stockholm University (Stockholm)

Inga Brandell, Södertörn University College (Stockholm)

Lloyd Sachikonye, University of Zimbabwe (Harare)

Mohamed Salih, Institute of Social Studies (The Hague)

Teresa Cruz e Silva, President, CODESRIA (Maputo)

Georges Kobou, Vice-President, CODESRIA (Yaoundé)

Jimi Adesina, Executive Committee Member (Grahamstown)

Abouhany Abdelghani, Executive Committee Member (Rabat)

Adebayo Olukoshi, Executive Secretary

Jean Bernard Ouedraogo, Deputy Executive Secretary

Francis Nyamnjoh, Head Publications and Dissemination

Ebrima Sall, Head of Research Department

Takayi Chibanda, Director of Admin. & Finance

Carlos Cardoso, Program Officer, Research

Pinkie Mekgwe, Program Officer Research

Mohamed Cherif Diarra, Program Coordinator

Olivier Sagna, Program Officer, CODICE

Sulaiman Adebowale, Managing Editor

Roseline Achieng, Program Manager

Richard Akum, Program Manager

Ecoma Alaga, Program Manager

Abou Moussa Ndongo, Chief Librarian

Jean Pierre Diouf, Librarian

Virginie Niang, Program Assistant

Abdon Sofonnou, Program Assistant

Bruno Sonko, Program Assistant

Marie Ndiaye, Membership Officer

Algeria

Nasser Djabi, Sociologist, CREAD, University of Algiers

Nouria Remaoun, Sociologist, Director of CRASC, Member of CODESRIA Executive Committee

Hassan Remaoun, Historian, University of Oran, CRASC, Editor of the *African Review of Books*

Tayeb Chenntouf, Historian, University of Oran, former member of CODESRIA Executive Committee, Scientific Committee for Deans' Conference (NWG 2002)

Omar Benbekhti, Rural development, University of Oran (NWG 2002)

Mohammed Mebtoul, Anthropologist, Director of Research Group on the Anthropology of Health (GRASP), University of Oran, Resource person for Methodology Workshops

Mansour Margouma, Sociologist, University of Mostaganem, CRASC

Kahina Bouanane, Anthropologist, University of Oran, CRASC

Brahim Salhi, Antropologist, University of Tizi-Ozou (MWG 2004)

Kouider Boutaleb, Economist, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Tlemcen (by mail).

Rachid Tlemcani, International Politics and Security, University of Algiers

Mohamed Benguerna, Sociologist, President of AARDESS (Algerian Association for the Developments of Research in Social Sciences)

Fatima Zohra Sai, Faculty of Law, University of Oran (NWG 2002)

Nahas M. Mahieddin, Faculty of Law, University of Oran (NWG 2002)

Mohamed Yassine Ferfera, Economist, Director of the Centre for Research on Development and Applied Economics (CREAD), Algiers

Fatima Oufriha, Sociologist, Researcher CREAD

Cherifa Idder-Labi, Medicine du Travail, Faculty of Medicin, University of Algiers

Nadera Benhalima, Assistant, *African Review of Books*, CRASC, Oran

In addition discussions were held with a group of 20 mainly younger researchers, most linked to CRASC, of whom two-thirds had participated and one-third had not participated in CODESRIA Institutes or Methodological Workshops.

Cameroon

Professor Georges Kobou, Faculté des Sciences Economiques et de Gestion, Univ. de Yaoundé II-Soa

Dr. Gérard Tchouassi, Faculté des Sciences Economiques et de Gestion, Université de Yaoundé II-Soa

Dr. Robert Nkendah, Faculté des Sciences Economiques, Univ. de Douala

Prof. Léopold Donfack Sokeng, GRASP, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Univ. of Douala, Min. of Higher Education

Dr. Luc Ngwe, Faculty of Law and Political Science, Univ. of Douala (interviewed in Paris)

Dr. Blaise-Jacques Nkene, GRASP, Department of Political Science, Univ. of Yaoundé II

Dr. Yves-Alexandre Chouala, IRIC, Grasp, Dept. of Pol. Sc., Univ. of Yaoundé II

Dr. Arsene Nkama, Fac. of Economics and Management, Univ. de Yaoundé II

Prof. Emmanuel Kamdem, Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economique et Sociales, Univ. of Douala

Prof. Luc Sindjoun, GRASP, Dept. of Pol. Sc., Univ. of Yaoundé II, Council of the Presidency

Prof. Emmanuel Yenshu Vubo, Dept. of Sociology, Univ. of Buea

Prof. Paul Nkwi, Institut de Recherche Anthropologique, Univ. of Yaoundé I, editor African Anthropologies (by phone)

Prof. Emmanuel N. Chia, Department of Linguistics, Univ. of Buea (by mail).

Egypt

Professor Helmi Sharawy, Director, Arab and African Research Centre, Cairo

Professor Mona Al Baradii, Dean, Faculty of Economics and Political Science,

Cairo University

Dr. Shahida El Baz, International Consultant/Political Economist, Giza

Ms. Rawya Mohamed Tawfiq, Lecturer, Dept of Political Science, Cairo University

Ms. Azza Khalil, Arab-African Research Centre, Cairo

Ms. Hanan Ramadan, Arab-African Research Centre, Cairo

Eglala Rafat, Director, African Studies Programme, Cairo University

Dr. Eglal Raafat, Institute of National Planning, Cairo

Dr. Mustafa Kamil

Dr. Mohamed Saed Saaid, Institute of National Planning, Cairo

Ummaya and Abdel Ghaffar

NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, Cairo

Mozambique

Prof. Teresa Cruz e Silva, Centro de Estudos Africanos (CEA),
    Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), Maputo

Prof Joao-Paulo Coelho, CEA, Maputo

Filimoni Maigos, Department of Sociology, UEM, Maputo

Professor Carlos Serra, CEA, Maputo

Professor Orlando Quilambo, Vice-rector, UEM, Maputo

Inês Raimundo, Centre for Population Studies, UEM, Maputo

Marcelino Liphola, Former Director, CEA, Maputo

Sandra Manuel, Lecturer, UEM, Maputo

Filimone Meigos, Faculty of Letters, UEM, Maputo

Nigeria

Adeoti, Gbemisola, Ile-Ife

Agbaje, Adigun et al., Ibadan

Favole, W.A. et al., Ile-Ife

Ibrahim, Jibrin, Abuja

Olurode, Lai et al., Lagos

Okunola, R.A., et al., Ibadan

Oyekanmi, Felicia et al., Lagos

Pereiria, Charmaine, Abuja.

Shettima, Kole, Abuja

Sule Kano, Abdulahi et al., Abuja

Ujomu, Philip, Ibadan

Ukeje, Charles et al., Ile-Ife

Tanzania

Prof. R. Mukandala, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dar es Salaam (UD)

Dr. M. Bakari, Political Science/Academic Freedom Conference organizer, UD Prof. M. Baregu, Political Science, UD

Prof. S. Yahya-Othman, Research and Publications, UD

Dr. A. Mkenda, Associate Dean, Arts and Social Science, UD

Mr. R. Mbunda et al. Junior Lecturers in Social Sciences, UD

Prof. M. Mbilinyi, Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, UD

Prof. I. Shivji, formerly Professor of Law/Chair of CODESRIA Governance Committee, UD/Law Chambers

Dr. A. Mbwambo, Director, Dar Campus, Mzumbe University

Dr. S. Ali Vuai, NWG on Children and Youth, State Univ. of Zanzibar (SUZA)

Mr. Hassan Faki, NWG on Children and Youth, SUZA

Mr. Mmanga Mjawiri, NWG on Child and Youth, SUZA

Dr. A. Kandura, Registrar, SUZA

Dr. Z. Khamis, Dean of Education, SUZA

Prof. M. Mohammed, Director of Research, SUZA

Zimbabwe

Prof. V. Muzvidziwa, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Univ. of Zimbabwe (UZ), and CODESRIA Workshop Facilitator

Prof. R. Gaidzanwa, Sociology, UZ, and CODESRIA Institute Facilitator

Dr. D. Chimanikire, IDS, UZ, CODESRIA research group coordinator

Dr. N. Wekwete, IDS, ZU

Mr. L. Masuko, IDS, UZ

Dr. F. Maphosa, Sociology, UZ

Ms. R. Mathe, Sociology, UZ, and NWG Coordinator

Dr. T. Shoko, Religious Studies and Philosophy, UZ

Dr. T. Chagonda, UZ, NWG Coordinator in Child and Youth Studies

Dr. S. Shamu, College of Medicine, UZ, and Writing Workshop attendant

Ms. A. Hobane, UZ, Small Grants recipient

Mr. W. Chambati, African Institute of Agrarian Studies (AIAS), Harare, Workshop attendant/member of the NWG on Land and Agrarian Studies

Appendix 3 Training, Grants, and Fellowships: Tables/Parameters

Table 1. Relevance of CODESRIA Programmes and Activities to Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening

Relevance Criterion	Small Grants for Thesis Writing	Methodology Workshops	Doctorate Prize	Textbook Production	Annual Social Science Campus	CODESRIA Institutes*
1. CODESRIA values and identity	Reinforcing the research and training capacity of African universities, through the provision of fellowships and grants. Responds to considerable shortfall in research-cum-thesis writing financial resources.	Develop the social sciences in Africa by mobilizing the African social science community to undertake fundamental as well as policy-oriented research from a perspective that is relevant to the demands of the African people. Consistent with CODERIA objectives and values.	Promoting the publication and distribution of the research output of African scholars. Creating an African network for the dissemination of information in the social sciences.	Promoting the publication and distribution of the research output of African Scholars. Part of CODESRIA responsibility to its main constituency (universities, research training institutions) by ensuring that the knowledge produced is readily available for usage.	Encourage and support comparative research with a continental perspective expressing the specificity of development processes in Africa. Retooling, capacity development and networking for engaging major global, regional and cross-country developments in the social sciences.	Promoting the exchange of academic staff among African universities and research institutes. All Institutes activities respond adequately to CODESRIA networking for capacity development.
2. Fundamental "social" problems confronting the African continent	The sectoral and multi-disciplinary titles of the theses address most of the major social problems confronting the conflict.	The quality of the knowledge generated through research and its usefulness to policy intervention is as good as the methods used to generate it.	The winning theses deal with fundamental social problems and are published and popularised.	Response to the "book hunger" in university libraries that can no longer afford to buy textbooks from outside.	The Campuses provide reflections for assessing both social science development in Africa and accompanying implications for policy development.	From governance to health and from gender to youth, children, and the humanities CODESRIA Institutes address issues pertaining to the fundamental social problems confronting the African continent.
3. Capacity deficit and institutional weakness pertaining to research capabilities in universities, research training institutions and/or individual researchers.	Address an apparent deficit in mechanisms and resources within the African university structures to respond to needs pertaining to the provision of grants covering research in pertinent social science research areas.	Bridges the deficit in methodology training also noted as the weakest link in African university social science curriculum.	Excellent theses hardly see the light of day and the knowledge they contain remain dormant in special sections of the university. Thesis publication is a great opportunity for developing capacities in translating such work into books, a craft very few African academic and scholars are exposed to in the universities.	With the collapse of the University publishing and printing faculties due to the African crisis, the African universities have suffered greatly from the lack of relevant and up-dated textbooks. This programme plugs in an important deficit in this regard.	Despite the existence of an Association of African Universities (AAU), African faculty has no research network and platform where such annual compusses are held for assessing the research capacity development.	The African universities suffer huge teaching deficit in the subject matter of the CODESRIA Institutes continent as their multi-disciplinary nature does make them apparent candidates for inclusion in disciplinary curricula.

Relevance Criterion	Small Grants for Thesis Writing	Methodology Workshops	Doctorate Prize	Textbook Production	Annual Social Science Campus	CODESRIA Institutes*
4. Policy-research interfaces for government and regional organisations.	The theses completed have an apparent policy relevance to CODESRIA multiple-stakeholders.	Methodology workshops are strictly for imparting research methods skills. Their direct contribution to policy-research interfaces lies in the value of applied policy research and evaluation methods.	The published and popularized theses completed have an apparent policy relevance.	Textbooks are strictly textbooks to the letter and are expected to impart knowledge potentially transferable to the policy domain. However, there are no readily available causal linkages.	Assessing the research capacity development under the promise of promoting policy-relevant research.	The multi-disciplinary focus of CODESRIA Institutes and the issues around which they are conducted are of significant policy relevance and add considerable and demonstrable dimension to the policy research interface.
5. Civil society engagement in public policy agenda setting, influencing agenda and even changing agenda.	The extent to which small grants can engender civic associations' activism is difficult to verify. However, what is verifiable is that some of those who wrote their theses on subjects related to these sectors have been employed by these organizations thus improving their capacity to address pertinent social issues more competently.	The research methodology relevance to civic associations engagement is relevant in the area of action research.	Some of the PhD prizes were won by civil society engaged activists and professionals, a fact which contributes to knowledge-based interventions.	The extent to which textbooks are also good for civil society engagement can be gauged both at wider promise of education in enabling engaged citizenship. UKWUELI textbook series are used by civil society activists. Several civil society organisations and NGOs receive CODESRIA textbooks.	The Annual Social Science Campus has been opened to the participation of senior NGOs and civic intellectuals.	By their nature, the Institutes have strong civic engagement content and are therefore of direct relevance to civic associations' policy agenda setting and influencing. The Institutes have also been opened to NGOS and civil Society participation.
6. Empowering women researchers, upcoming researchers research communities under stress.	CODESRIA has implemented its gender policy, and support of up-coming and young researchers is in fact reflected in the distribution of the small grants and in the beneficiaries.	CODESRIA maintains gender parity and special emphasis on the participation of young and upcoming researchers and research communities under stress.	CODESRIA has implemented its gender policy, and support of up-coming and young researchers is in fact reflected in the distribution and in the beneficiaries.	Textbook publishing and production is more attuned to senior academics, while gender parity is reflected in the distribution of opportunities thereof.	CODESRIA has implemented its gender policy, and support of up-coming and young researchers is in fact reflected in the distribution and in the beneficiaries from the Social Science Campus.	All institutes implement CODESRIA Gender policy and support of up-coming and young researchers in fact is reflected in the distribution of and beneficiaries.

Table 2. Quality of CODESRIA Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening

Quality Parameters	Small Grants for Thesis Writing	Methodology Workshops	Doctorate Prize	Textbook Production	Annual Social Science Campus	CODESRIA Institutes*
Structure and content.	Well-structured programme, prudent selection criterion that guarantees commendable research content. However, this has not prevented minor cases of defaulters (8%) which is far less than what is observed in similar situations.	After almost 17 years of conducting methodology workshops, this programme is structured as research seminars, the workshops. The content is at the cutting-edge of methods teaching and research in most respected universities.	The programme is designed to add value to the Small Grants for Thesis Writing programme for participation in the competition for the prizes but not limited to CODESRIA grant holders.	The programme responds to the serious problem of book famine and the collapse of social science library collections in African universities. Published textbooks also emphasize the teaching-research linkages.	Excellent quality, state-of-the-art review of the most recent developments in the social science. Well structured to also serve other research and capacity development activities such as CODESRIA Institute and Methodology Workshops, among others.	To restore the culture of research seminars around specific themes, using the campus as a metaphor for the vibrancy of the local academic community.
Clarity of capacity development objectives	Institutional strengthening with the aim to address the serious problem of book famine and the collapse of social science library collections in African universities as economic crises.	Strengthening the research capacity in the university in general and the post-graduate research system in particular.	Individual and institutional capacity development instrument targeted at supporting eligible African doctoral students to compete for the prizes	Institutional strengthening offers a platform to senior and experienced researchers to draw on their knowledge to produce books that could be employed as teaching materials in African universities.	Uses the campus idea, whereby contemporary knowledge, methodologies and trends are discussed, thus building the capacity of institutions and individual participants across generations.	Capacity development and institutional strengthening in pertinent social, economic and political issues and problems confronting the African continent.
	The pooling together of Africa-wide instructors and mentors with academic track record in the areas of their expertise offers the post graduates the best possible supervision, with good quality education at the postgraduate level.	CODESRIA applies strict criteria for selecting potential instructors and mentors. This has been documented as well as alluded to by the interviews conducted with beneficiaries.	Doctorate grants and prizes are vetted by instructors and mentors who are experts in their field known both at the regional and international levels, with high academic quality and research production.	The textbooks are published by a network of competent senior scholars, with curriculum development expertise and experience in African university textbook needs as well as current teaching aid tools.	Conducted by highly qualified faculty, while ensuring an excellent mix of inter and intra-generations of researchers	A competitive open system to select the Institute Directors responsible for curricular development and capacity development materials to ensure that the best instructors in a particular field are recruited.

Quality Parameters	Small Grants for Thesis Writing	Methodology Workshops	Doctorate Prize	Textbook Production	Annual Social Science Campus	CODESRIA Institutes*
a. Instructors & mentors expertise and education levels b. Management and delivery modes.	Joint management in partnership between CODESRIA and host institutions. The management of the education programme and the mode of delivery are commensurate with best practices, ensuring cross-fertilization of continent-wide efforts.		In common with the Small Grants, the Doctorate Prize programme is managed through CODESRIA HQ but the referees and peer reviews are conducted according to the highest level of academic standards, with very clear criteria for eligibility and quality control measures.	The system of textbook production is CODESRIA managed and supported by a network of researchers, faculty and universities. The delivery modality goes beyond CODESRIA involving Deans of Faculties.	The educational management of the Campus is shared between CODESRIA and the Directors.	The educational management of the Institutes is shared between CODESRIA and the Institute Directors.
Internal monitoring and external assessment methods.		CODESRIA officers at the Department of training level, the host institutions, closely monitor the methodology workshops and seminars. Participants' assessment is routinely conducted in order to ameliorate good practices and address shortcomings.	CODESRIA officers at the Department of training level, the host institutions, closely monitor the process leading to the awards, including ensuring of gender parity and transparency.	CODESRIA monitors and follow-up writing, universities assure availability of textbook authors and lecturers assess the quality through teaching and feedback.	CODESRIA monitors and follow-up the Campus activities, the faculty manage the academic programme, while the participants fill in an end-of-Campus assessment form.	While CODESRIA conducts internal monitoring and reporting, the participants assess the Institute in its entirety from the quality of instruction material to communication and quality of delivery etc.
Outcome/impact assessment*	Impact has been registered in terms of sustenance of postgraduate research and capacity development, adding quality (and quantity) of PhD theses produced in African universities. On-line accessibility helps disseminate original scholarship.	There is a clear impact in terms of renewal of and introduction of capacity in methodology with larger number of beneficiaries publishing in peer reviewed journals and books.	It is the only doctoral prize in Africa for the Social Sciences; it became an incentive for publishing in the prestigious African Millennium series.	Impact on curriculum and CODESRIA books are used for teaching in African Universities. There is also a measurable increase in citations of CODESRIA books.	Nurturing intergenerational networks of scholarship domiciled in Africa. Using the skills acquired in the campus and to develop also trainers-of-trainers.	Nurturing intergenerational networks of scholarship domiciled in Africa. Using the skills acquired in the Institute to develop also trainers-of-trainers.

* While CODESRIA output is well documented outcome/impact assessments and measurements are lengthy as well as time and resource intensive. CODESRIA's partners are encouraged to commission studies that go beyond this evaluation.

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