

**EAGER/Public Strategies for Growth with Equity**

**PEER REVIEWS OF ROUND 2 RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

February 28, 1997

## PEER REVIEWS OF ROUND 2 RESEARCH PROPOSALS - FEBRUARY 28, 1997

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**Summary scores assigned by peer reviews (#1 and #2)**

#	Title	Lead Inst.	Prin. Investig.	Scores	
				#1	#2
26	Contrib. of Business Linkages to Growth of Productive Employment Among Micro & Small Enterprises in S.Africa	MichState	Mead	4	4
27	The Legal Infrastructure for Economic Development in Tanzania	HIID	Pistor	2	2
28	Stock Markets, Financial Sector Development, and Growth	DAI	Isimbabi	1	2
29	Enhancing Gender Equity in Voc. Education & Training Policies & Programs: Strategies for Econ. Growth in Kenya	DAI	El-Sanabary	3	3
30	The Cost of Doing Business: The LRJ environment in Tanzania and Benin	AIRD	Stryker	2.5	3
31	Restarting and Sustaining Growth and Development in Africa	HIID	McPherson	3.5	4
32	Legal Institutions and Efficient Contracting in Selected African Countries	IRIS	Kähkönen	3	2
33	Estimating Tax Incidence: Models to Assess the Equity Impact of Tax Reforms	IRIS	Korsun	2	1
34	Stimulating Global Competitiveness in Ghana and Zambia	Howard	Kulkarni	2	1*
35	Provision of Health Care in Rural Kenya: The Role of Women in Formal and Informal Caregiving	Howard	Bonner	3	3
36	Privatization of state-owned enterprises: procedures and the method of quantifying benefits	Howard	Ekanem	2	3
37	Provincial and municipal government financing, including revenue sources, collection of rates, and grants-in-aid	Howard	Ekanem	2+	3
38	Enhancing Fiscal Discipline and Efficiency of Public Expenditures	Howard	Wadhawan	3	3
39	Competition Policies for Growth: Legal and Regulatory Framework for SSA Countries	IRIS	Korsun	4	3
40	Optimizing the Role of Women in Publicly-Financed Agribusiness	DAI	Sherchand	4	3
41	Impact of Financial Sector Reform on Bank Efficiency & Savings Mobiliz. for Growth in Kenya/Tanzania/Zambia	Howard	Ziorklui	3	4
42	The Development of Capital Markets and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa	Howard	Ziorklui	3	**
43	Financial Sector Reforms and Growth in Kenya and Tanzania	UDSM	Rutasitara	3	2/3
44	Small Scale Enterprises and the Changing Policy Environment in Tanzania	UDSM	Likweli	3	2
45	Presumptive Taxation: Problems and Prospects: Case Studies of Tanzania and Ghana	UDSM	Mwinyimvua	2	2+
46	Employment Generation & Incomes Under Adjustment Processes in Tanzania: Gender & Rural/Urban Dimensions	UDSM	Mtatifikolo	2	3

Notes:

\* Review says topic falls under EAGER/Trade Regimes, not PSGE.

\*\* Review recommends integration with Proposal No. 31.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 26 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: The contribution of Business Linkages to the Growth of Productive Employment Among Micro and Small Enterprises in South Africa.

Principal Investigator(s): Donald Mead, MSU

Conformity to selection criteria:

Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity

This proposal directly addresses the need to rapidly increase employment of people in an industrializing economy such as South Africa's. It focuses on the role of small scale enterprises which, because of their ability to multiply rapidly and grow individually, may hold particular promise as a source of increasing employment. The proposal focuses on the linkages between these small enterprises and the more formal and larger established firms as important for their success and growth.

Relevance of study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity

The proposal addresses areas of policy both with respect to better designed projects to support links between small and larger enterprises, and with respect to the issue of whether these small enterprises should be subject to the same regulations as larger enterprises in areas such as taxation, labor benefits, union rules etc.

Given the importance of these enterprises to economic activity, and the direct link between employment and spread effects of this growth, the proposal has an obvious and strong relevance to both growth and equity issues.

Technical feasibility/quality of proposed research, and qualifications of researchers

The proposal has a well thought out series of issues to be addressed. The proposal has also already gone a long way towards identifying the regions, sectoral focuses and enterprise clusters that it might investigate. The team is highly qualified, has considerable experience in the issues raised, and is well placed to undertake the research.

Curiously, the proposal does not discuss the methods/ tools that will be used to assess the various issues that are raised. It is presumed that this will entail enterprise surveys.

Likelihood that research results will be used

Given the intrinsic importance of the study to current concerns of the government, and the relevance of the work to the subsectors that will be the subject of the study, it is very likely that the work will receive a lot of attention. Moreover, the dissemination strategy identifies agencies which already have an interest in the findings of the study.

Level of interest on part of host-country clients

Applicability to multiple countries in SSA

The study should be particularly relevant to other countries that are beginning to develop a substantial industrial sector. The proposal already identifies the interest of Zimbabwe in the study findings. In addition, countries like Kenya, the Ivory Coast and Ghana may find the results to be particularly interesting.

Involvement of local researchers; potential for increasing local research capacity and research/policy linkages

The proposed study would include three teams of local researchers and give each substantial autonomy in their research. Moreover each research group appears to have senior researchers who should be well placed to influence policy makers. The dissemination activity calls for three workshops which will contribute to linkage building to policy making. Thus it appears to have great potential for increasing local research capacity and policy links.

Overall evaluation score: 4

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

This is a carefully thought out proposal. It addresses an interesting set of issues which promise to clarify how policy can help to stimulate employment and economic growth among micro and small scale enterprises. The proposal builds on previous work, the proposed investigators are well qualified, and the research is likely to have direct policy relevance.

The proposal needs to spell out more clearly how it will go about investigating the issues it raises. What data are required? How will the data be evaluated to address the issues raised? How will the data be obtained?

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 26 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: The Contribution of Business Linkages to the Growth of Productive Employment Among Micro and Small Enterprises in South Africa

Principal Investigator(s): Donald Mead

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

Highly important issue for growth and equity.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Directly relevant. Indeed, comes from a stated policy.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Well-structured, well-motivated research. The researchers are eminently qualified for the task.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Highly likely. Results are awaited and expected.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Requested by the clients.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

This study is widely applicable. Indeed, the study could be profitably linked to proposal number 44.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Locals are directly involved.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 4

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 27 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: The Legal Infrastructure for Economic Development in Tanzania

Principal Investigator(s): Katharina Pistor

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

The topic has intrinsic importance. The legal impediments to and support for economic development in-country must be understood to allow policymakers to make adjustments that will promote economic success for businesses.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

An analysis of the legal infrastructure for economic development would certainly assist policymakers. However the research project, as described, might be too narrowly focused (property rights, contracts, dispute settlement). The issues described under ENTRY (p3) are important but do not include access to credit, competitive conditions, possibilities for non-corporate entities (e.g. cooperatives) & laws re. local investment/exchanges.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

The research described is simple and does not require sophisticated modeling. The PI has experience relevant to the project and the methodology described.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

The research results could be useful, but as stated above, will not provide the full range of information needed to develop an adequate legal infrastructure for economic development.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Not known

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

The research results will be specific to Tanzania, although other countries might need to address the same issues.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

The proposed research involves local professionals, whose capacity for policy oriented research would be enhanced. A business person should be involved or, at least, consulted in Tanzania.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

Revise scope of proposal to focus more on entry into business, legal and financial support for economic development, general institutional involvement; downplay dispute resolution unless it is an impediment to economic development (e.g. lack of knowledgeable judges, reluctance to use courts, attitude toward ADR)

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 27 - Peer Review #2

Proposal Name: The Legal Infrastructure for Economic Development  
in Tanzania

Principal Investigator(s): Katharina Pistor

Conformity to selection criteria (with brief comment):

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential  
impact on growth and equity.

High.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting  
growth and equity.

High, in Tanzania. The use of case studies in the style of de  
Soto should have a policy impact similar to de Soto's impact in  
Peru.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research,  
and qualification of researchers.

The research proposal lacks focus and a clear idea of what steps  
will be taken. The local researchers are not identified but  
presumably can be recruited during the final design.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

Since Tanzania appears to be reforming, it is likely that the  
results will be used. Another proposal, # 39, has a more  
specific set of policies to be studied.

e. Level of interest (as known) on part of host country clients.

High.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Specific findings may not have high replicability elsewhere,  
since the study is of local institutions.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing  
local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between  
local researchers and policy makers.

Unknown pending final design.

Following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4: Excellent conformity to indicated criteria
- 3: Recommended after modest revision
- 2: Substantial changes required
- 1: Not meriting further consideration

[4= go-ahead, 3= provisional subject to modification, 2= reject for this round, 1= reject)

Overall evaluation score:   2  

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Strong institutional approach, which makes this useful for Tanzania but apparently limited for replicability elsewhere. This would be a good subset of #39, which has more clearly defined policy variables.

The emphasis on dispute settlement institutions (DSI) is good and would be a good core for a cross-country study.

Recommendations on conditional for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only)

Requires clear set of policy variables to be studied, such as the DSI, in a cross-country study. Could be folded into study # 39.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 28 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Stock Markets, Financial Sector Development and Growth

Principal Investigator(s): Michael J. Isimbabi, DAI

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

Not very important

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Not very relevant for local growth, since most African countries do not yet have significant indigenous individual savings or a tradition in investing in the stock market.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

In view of the replies to a. and b. above, the following questions in my opinion are not relevant.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 1

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 28 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Stock Markets, Financial Sector Development, and Growth

Principal Investigator(s): Michael J. Isimbabi

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

The topic could be important if it were properly motivated.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Little direct indication that the study, as framed, is relevant.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

The research is technically feasible; the researchers are qualified.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

This is where serious questions exist.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

No overwhelming interest.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

No solid case is made for the extension of results from (essentially) Ghana.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Local researchers involved.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The study has no clear direction. It will review the literature and then decide on a focus. Financial development is important in Africa. Organized equity markets might be important. But some clearly focused hypotheses are needed.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 29 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Enhancing Gender Equity in Vocational Education and Training Policies and Programs: Strategies for Economic Growth in Kenya

Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Nagat El-Sanabary

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

- a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

This is a very relevant topic and will bring balance in the research program under EAGER.

- b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity.

Study results could point to some policy measures to promote growth and equity.

- c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers.

The author states the questions to be addressed very clearly and well qualified to address those questions.

- d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

Given the interest in gender issues, it is likely that research results will be used.

- e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources.

The author provides no indication of country interest.

- f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Applicable to multiple countries.

- g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers.

The author has given the names of two qualified local researchers.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

- The difficulty I have with this proposal is that I am not sure of what new knowledge the research will contribute. The author's own references show that there have been extensive studies on this topic, and in the case of Kenya, the World Bank and others have addressed this topic. The author should give some indication of what is missing from the studies and the gaps he plans to fill. As currently proposed, the study merely rides on the fact that gender issues are important. Beyond this, there is not much that I find in the proposal.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

- The author must give some indication of what is missing from current studies. The research questions listed on P4 do not give any indication of new insights to be obtained from the results of the study. Ideally, the author should supply a set of specific hypothesis to be explored in the study.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 29 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Enhancing Gender Equity in Vocational Education and Training Policies and Programs: Strategies for Economic Growth in Kenya

Principal Investigator(s): El-Sanabary

Conformity to selection criteria:

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity

This proposal focuses on evaluating gender biases in vocational education and training programs in Kenya. The topic is therefore particularly important with regard to equity concerns (ensuring that females have equal access to education and training opportunities). However, because mounting evidence in the development literature suggests that well-educated women have fewer children, thereby contribute to a lessened burden on established resource bases, earn higher incomes, and with their increased incomes are better able to care for their families and thus improve welfare, the topic has important broader implications for growth as well.

b. Relevance of study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity

The researcher proposes to "identify and analyze gender issues in Kenya's policies and programs for vocational education and training." She goes on to suggest that possible economic policy reforms, legal or regulatory reforms, and institutional interventions will be considered for their linkages to this topic. Specific examples of these are not cited.

c. Technical feasibility/quality of proposed research, and qualifications of researchers

Proposed research: The research proposal is organized in the standard three phases (literature review, data collection and analysis, dissemination). Issues to be covered in the lit review are adequately sketched. However, more precise definition of the kinds of information to be gathered would be useful in the final design. Moreover, the methodology section has no discussion of the kinds of analysis to be conducted using the data.

Proposed researchers: At present, the only US-based researcher specified is the proposal author. Her background is in gender and education (though specifics are scarce in the one-page summary included with the pre-proposal), and her work experience would appear to be limited to the Middle East and Near East Asia. The proposal indicates that a collaborating US-based researcher with expertise in gender research is being sought. This reviewer suggests that rather than seeking a second gender specialist,

someone with expertise in the education and training fields should be recruited, preferably someone with some previous African research experience.

As potential Kenyan collaborators, the Sociology chair at University of Nairobi is mentioned (she is also included in the "Provision of Health Care in Rural Kenya" proposal), as is a researcher from the Institute of Development Studies. Their areas of specialization are not mentioned.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used

No institutional linkage between the proposed research and a Government Ministry or Department is mentioned. Therefore, it is highly difficult to feel confident in the direct policy application of research results.

e. Level of interest on part of host-country clients

See "d" above. As for USAID/Nairobi, the discussions held in Washington in July 1996 at the EAGER Workshop suggest that this kind of topic would now be favorably received; however, except for mention of gender issues as a "possibly maturing" topic for 1997, there is no specific mention in RP#1 of education/training issues.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in SSA

This is a topic with wide applicability to multiple countries in SSA.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for increasing local research capacity and research/policy linkages

Assuming that a team of Kenyan researchers can be finalized during final research design, the proposed research will be an excellent opportunity for local researcher collaboration. However, as mentioned above, discussion of research-policy maker linkages is absent.

Overall evaluation score: 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The study should be pursued, in the interest of increasing EAGER/PSGE's exposure in the gender/ equity research area. However, it remains to be seen whether the vocational education/training area is of interest to the Nairobi USAID mission.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration:

In order for the proposal to receive final approval:

1. The research needs to be linked to the education policy environment in Kenya, and to policy institutions. The

researchers should specify with which Ministry or Department they will dialogue on these issues, and make a convincing argument that the results of the analysis will actually feed into policy discussions and policy making.

2. It would be useful to specify more carefully what kinds of data will be collected, perhaps by including a draft questionnaire in an appendix to the final research design, and to outline the kinds of analysis which are expected to be run. This is not just for the reader, but for the researchers themselves, to formalize the kinds of information they require and assure against asking for information which ultimately will not be used in the analysis.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 30 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: The Cost of Doing Business: The LRJ Environment in Tanzania and Benin

Principal Investigator(s): Stryker, et al

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

The proposed project would represent an extension of a study on the same topic under implementation/final design in Ghana, Madagascar and Tanzania approved in the first round. AID/Benin has expressed an interest in this area in conjunction with their governance initiatives and the authors indicate that the Tanzanian study would involve a different aspect of the LRJ environment than is included in the study currently underway.

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

The topic of the legal, regulatory, and judicial environment is of intrinsic importance to future economic growth and equity because of its role in establishing the framework within which economic transactions (and transactions that have economic value) take place.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Both Benin and Tanzania are in the process of a transformation from centrally controlled to more market-oriented economies. The nature of the LRJ environment is critical in this transformation and in determining the pace and nature of future economic activity.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

The technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research are difficult to determine because although some 15 research questions are stated, the methodology is stated only in general terms. The authors indicate that their methods will include a review of existing literature, and data collection and analysis. No details are provided as to which questions are to be addressed using which techniques or sources of data.

The proposed U.S.-based research team is highly qualified to conduct the proposed study, in part by virtue of their current involvement in a related multicountry study.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

It appears highly likely that the research results can be useful to policy makers assuming that they are specific enough to the local situation.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Listed as a high priority topic in Research Prospectus #1 for Tanzania, as evidenced by current final design/implementation of a project on this topic there. Research Prospectus #2 indicates USAID/Benin expressed an interest in LRJ and legal support of credit studies approved from first round.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

Clearly this topic is applicable in many country contexts.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

One local Tanzanian researcher identified, none identified in Benin. Indicates possibility that necessary links are not yet established.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2.5

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Given that many of these same authors are currently involved in a multicountry LRJ study, it would be useful to have the benefit of some insights from that study incorporated in this proposal. The one instance where this occurs is to indicate that the proposed study would not duplicate work already underway in Tanzania because that work is focused on contract enforcement while the proposed study will have a broader focus. This raises a concern as to whether it would be desirable to add another LRJ study in Tanzania without the benefit of the fruits of the study currently underway. Also, while the proposal suggests that LRJ studies that are broader in scope may be preferable to more narrow ones, and proposes to somehow quantify the importance of specific LRJ changes, the nature of the LRJ environment makes potential

impacts of specific proposed changes difficult to evaluate, let alone to quantify.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

The authors should be encouraged to revise the proposal to be more specific in detailing how the findings of the current LRJ study inform the proposed study, particularly as to Tanzania. Alternatively, given the differences in focus of the two studies, consideration might be given to conducting the proposed study in Benin and another country. In any case, more information should be included in the revised proposal as to local collaborators, the types of information that will be obtained using which information gathering techniques, and who will be the focus of survey questionnaires and interviews.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 30 - Peer Review #2

Proposal Name: The Cost of Doing Business: The LRJ environment in Tanzania and Benin

Principal Investigator(s): Stryker, Beltchika, et al.

Conformity to selection criteria (with brief comment):

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity.

Fundamental importance throughout the region for encouraging growth and growth with equity.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity.

Central

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualification of researchers.

The countries have such different socio-legal and economic environments that it is difficult to justify the two countries chosen. It certainly would not be a "benchmarking" study or a comparative study. Because of the vast differences between the two, the costs of gathering and analyzing comparable data will be immense. The researchers are well qualified but the country choice is weak. For the past decade the French government has sponsored similar work in reforming the business law environment in Central and West Africa; this it appears would duplicate some of that work.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

It is unlikely this two-country choice will produce information of use to countries outside the two in the sample, given the differences between the ex-French and ex-British environments.

e. Level of interest (as known) on part of host country clients.

High in Tanzania; I do not know about the interest of the current government of Benin.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Low, unless the researchers can pull off a major coup.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers.

Good

Following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4: Excellent conformity to indicated criteria
- 3: Recommended after modest revision
- 2: Substantial changes required
- 1: Not meriting further consideration

[4= go-ahead, 3= provisional subject to modification, 2= reject for this round, 1= reject)

Overall evaluation score:   3  

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

A comparative study is good, which is a strength of this study. The researchers have identified proper targets for their analysis.

The range of actions to be covered is very broad, and the countries differ so greatly in their socio-legal and economic institutional environments, that it will be difficult to compare the two or to produce an analysis which will serve as a benchmark or a guidance to other governments in either system.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only)

Change one of the two countries to make a set which is more comparable and the conclusions of which will be more robust for some of the countries in Africa.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 31 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Restarting and Sustaining Growth and Development in Africa

Principal Investigator(s): Malcolm McPherson, James Duesenberry, Richard Goldman, John Cohen, Catherine Hill, Kwesi Botchwey, Richard Mann, Clive Gray, Fernando Fernholz, Parker Shipton, Robert Bates, Jeffrey Sachs, David Bloom, John Gallup, HIID; J. Dirck Stryker, Selina Pandolfi, Lucie Colvin Phillips, AIRD; Deborah Brautigam, IRIS.

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

The proposed research deals with one of the most important development challenges of today -- the African development challenge. Few would deny that generating sustained development in Africa has become a global imperative: to alleviate growing poverty and provide a future with hope for millions of young Africans.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

The central objective of the study being to determine policies that generate sustained development and reduce poverty: it is loaded with great promise to promote growth and equity. The topic is indeed, in perfect consonance with the requirements of EAGER research.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

The researchers are eminently qualified to carry out the research. The African researchers are not identified. The methodology of the study is rather sketchy in its current form.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

The likelihood of the research generating usable results is high, given that a team of researchers with proven credentials will research on a topic of very high priority. A good and proven analysis with its policy recommendations could be highly influential.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Given that seven countries are on board for the proposed study, the level of interest appears to be high.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

The study ipso facto bears multi-country applicability. The methodology will allow identification of causes, factors, and remedies for stagnant growth in the seven selected African countries and therefore provide insight for other SSA countries to generate sustainable growth and development.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

The proposal does not identify specific African collaborators. Nevertheless, it has the potential to enhance local capacity both in local government and wider research circles.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3.5

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

- The proposed study relates to development concern of great importance: stimulating economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa is arguably the most urgent global development priority.
- The proposed research is perfectly in tune with the EAGER objectives and criteria. It also brings together the expertise from the PSGE and Trade Regimes -- the two components of the EAGER, to study an all important area.
- The study is designed to study seven countries and therefore would provide a valuable opportunity for cross-country comparison of their growth performance. It is also expected to draw on the key lessons from Asia that African countries should internalize as they think through the policy reforms to nurture their sustained development.
- But the study proposal in its present form is couched in very broad terms. There is absence of a well defined framework (or model) and there are no specific hypotheses informed by the existing factors and institutional framework of selected countries. A little more specificity is desirable even at this early stage.
- Also, the methodology as envisioned by researchers requires further development. Some ideas of what techniques of

analysis (econometrics and/or others) are likely to be used in the study should be given.

- The study may, in its final design etc., like to pay attention to the issue of optimal sequencing of policy reforms. The conventional sequence (as advanced in the literature suggests liberalization of goods market, then the financial system and finally the capital account transactions) may not always prove to be the best course. For instance, Indonesia implemented its reforms in the reverse order with great success. Similarly, it may be useful for the study to undertake an analysis of the pacing of reforms -- say in terms of short-term, medium-term, and long-term.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 31 - Peer Review #2

Proposal Name: Restructuring and Sustaining growth and Development in Africa

Principal Investigator(s): Malcolm McPherson, James Duesenberry; and others.

Conformity to Selection Criteria:

a: Intrinsic Importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity

The topic is important in terms of its potential impact on economic growth in Africa. The impact on equity deserves special consideration. The researchers may use this excellent opportunity to verify the assumption that "growth leads to equity." This is not necessarily true.

b: Relevance of the Study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity

The relevance of the study to potential policy measures can be assessed and enhanced through a participatory approach to project design in which African policy makers and researchers are involved in framing research questions and identifying their potential policy implications.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research. and qualifications of the researchers.

The proposed research is well conceived, designed, and technically feasible. The researchers are highly qualified. However, the only African researcher identified at this point is a senior Ghanaian economist and development advisor.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

It is likely that the findings and recommendations of this research will be used because of the importance of the issues addressed; the excellent dissemination plan proposed, and the researchers' awareness of the sensitivity of some of the previously proposed solutions to Africa's economic problems.

e. Level of interest on the part of host country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources

The interest is definitely there, as can be gleaned from the trip report and the Howard conference discussions.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa

With seven participating countries, the proposed research is applicable.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers.

It is not clear from the proposal to what extent African researchers will be involved. Hence, the local capacity building component of the project is unclear.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4: Excellent conformity to indicated criteria
- 3: Recommended after modest revision
- 2: Substantial changes required
- 1: Not meriting further consideration

[4= go-ahead, 3= provisional subject to modification, 2= reject for this round, 1= reject)

Overall evaluation score: 4

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The proposed research is very strong in many ways, in the caliber of the researchers; the range of countries included; the critical issues to be addressed; the research plan; and dissemination strategy. Its main weakness is that it does not give adequate attention to equity considerations, based on the assumption that "growth will foster equity and reduce poverty." The UNDP Human Development Report for 1996, indicated that despite an annual GDP growth rate of 5% in five Sub-Saharan African countries, about 170 million people (nearly a third of the region's population do not get enough to eat (p. 42). Gender equity is particularly important and needs special attention in this multi-country study. Several studies have noted the negative impact on women of economic reform and adjustment programs. Instead of arguing that "reducing the social costs of adjustment," whose burden falls mostly on women, as a "fad," the researchers may use this opportunity to explore the impacts of government policies and other economic measures on gender equity and economic growth. Differences in the development and utilization of the potential of women should be explored as a factor in economic growth. Sex disaggregated data should include differential statistics on economic activity rates; growth in dependency rates as a result of high fertility and low female labor force participation particularly in the formal economy; and differences in male/female schooling and educational attainment. As Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of Brazil noted, "If growth is an indispensable pre-requisite, particularly in poor countries, human development will have to be sustained

by values that show how economic gain acquires social meaning. (UNDP Human Development Report 1996, p. 44).

Recommendations on conditional for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only)

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 32 - Peer Review #1.

Proposal Name: Legal institutions and efficient contracting  
in selected African countries

Principal Investigator(s): Satu Kähkönen and Patrick  
Meagher

Conformity to selection criteria (with brief comment):

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential  
impact on growth and equity.

High

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures  
promoting growth and equity.

High

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed  
research, and qualification of researchers.

Based on previous study, so incremental and appears  
feasible. The researchers are qualified.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

This depends upon the dissemination. As designed,  
dissemination is weak.

e. Level of interest (as known) on part of host country  
clients.

High

f. Applicability to multiple countries in sub-Saharan  
Africa.

High, combined with previous study.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for  
enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and  
links between local researchers and policy makers.

Depends upon final design.

Following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4: Excellent conformity to indicated criteria
- 3: Recommended after modest revision
- 2: Substantial changes required
- 1: Not meriting further consideration

[4= go-ahead, 3= provisional subject to modification, 2= reject for this round, 1= reject)

Overall evaluation score:   3  

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The major weakness is the dissemination plan, which consists of a book, working papers and distribution of results. For a topic which is supposed to be of such importance, this is weak. While dissemination is not technically the concern of this contract, more attention should be given to the relationship of this research for actual policy change.

Recommendations on conditional for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only) See above.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 32 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Legal Institutions and Efficient Contracting  
in Selected African Countries

Principal Investigator(s): Satu Kahkonen, IRIS  
Patrick Meagher, IRIS

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential  
impact on growth and equity:

Important

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures  
promoting growth and equity:

Relevant

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed  
research, and qualifications of researchers:

Goals of project are relatively modest, hence probably  
feasible. Unlike Kenya and to a lesser degree Senegal,  
there are very few agribusiness and manufacturing businesses  
in Benin. I am concerned about the statement on page 2 that  
the analytical framework will be refined in light of further  
theoretical literature, rather than by empirical evidence  
from field research. Researchers appear to be qualified.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

In present circumstances with the new government's other  
challenges, probably unlikely in Benin.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-  
country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE  
trip reports and other sources:

There appears to be interest on the part of AID missions in  
this topic.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan  
Africa:

While the topic has general relevance, the context is quite  
different in the three countries. The level of development  
and external investment is significantly larger in Kenya  
than in the two francophone countries.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

None specified as yet.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

There seems to be little understanding of the private sector environment in Benin. Indeed very little is said about the situation in any of the three countries. It seems that proposers, in addition to setting a methodological framework for a study, should indicate some knowledge of the host country context.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

Must indicate some understanding of the local context and ensure that African researchers have impact on final project design.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 33 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Estimating Tax Incidence: Models to Assess the Equity Impact of Tax Reforms

Principal Investigator(s): George Korsun, IRIS  
Patrick Meagher, IRIS

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

The topic is important in terms of the potential impact on growth and equity.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Theoretically, CGE models and analysis of tax incidence have relevance to policy. But their actual track record has been somewhat disappointing; and the PIs offer no convincing reasons that the proposed models would fare any better.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

The technical feasibility is not obvious from the proposal. It is not clear how the real challenges of CGE modeling are to be handled: finding stable relations, separating goals from instruments, and calibrating the model. Also, more attention is needed to articulate the questions to which answers are sought. The PIs are qualified and seasoned but their CVs do not reflect any track record in CGE modeling.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Potentially useful but actual usability uncertain. Models which are built by outsiders are not likely to be used much. This, in fact, is the problem with all large models: they are black boxes and this reduces their persuasiveness.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Unclear

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

The CGE models need to be tailor-made for each country. Of course, it is true that it is helpful to start with a template that can be modified. Given that the specificity

of conditions across the countries may vary considerably, it would be difficult to replicate the models for countries other than those covered by the proposal.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

This aspect is not well-developed in the proposal. The challenge of finding the right local economists to build the proposed CGE models should not be underestimated.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The proposal is ambitious. It only sketches in a generic way the CGE model and provides no details of the model to be used. It is not clear how the study will recommend the policy reforms for realizing the objective of growth with equity. The methodology for estimation of tax incidence under alternative policy options is not specified. This is particularly so since it is not clear how the presence of informal markets will be taken care of -- especially for countries of sub-Saharan Africa where they vary regionally. Also, the study proposes to use the country-specific socio-economic groupings, instead of simple income stratifications for analyzing the distributional effects. This raises a whole lot of questions: is primary data to be used? How this primary data collection will be done is not spelled out? What kind of survey is to be used? Who will be surveyed and what information is targeted, etc? Further, it is not clear how the distributional effects of improved tax administration, decentralization, etc. will be assessed? How improved tax administration, decentralization, etc., will be quantified? Therefore, the technical feasibility and usability of research is uncertain. On the plus side the general topic is important.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

See a - g

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 33 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Estimating Tax Incidence: Models to Assess the Equity Impact of Tax Reforms

Principal Investigator(s): Georges Korsum, Patrick Meagher

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

This is not earth-shattering research. Tax incidence studies have been done routinely for years. (Ministries of finance, even weak ones, have to come up with rudimentary analyses in order to make a budget.)

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Not relevant.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

This study falls down on the technical proposal. A general equilibrium model of a system under reform suffers from the Lucas critique. What can effectively be said about a reforming tax system based on historical data? This issue is ignored.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Unlikely

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Not evident that host-country clients appreciate the limitations of such a study.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

Not applicable with any sense of effectiveness.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:  
Involved.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 1

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Mis-directed effort.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 34 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Stimulating Global Competitiveness in Ghana and Zambia

Principal Investigator(s): Subodh Kulkarni, George Gyan-Baffour

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

Important for growth, much less clear for equity.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Policy impact unclear, in particular about how government can affect competitiveness without damaging competition. No mention of equity.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Unclear from proposal. The collection of data is described, but there is no indication of how the data will be analyzed or used to design policy recommendations. Main researchers appear qualified from short descriptions provided.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Unclear (see b. and c. above.) Presumably the presence of a prominent Ghanaian professor on the research team would facilitate use of the results for policy making.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Topic not mentioned specifically by host-country clients, except to the extent it affects employment creation.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

In principle, potentially high, but not as described in proposal. Apparently the 1-year project covers only Ghana study; Zambia work appears to be little more than a possible spin off, but does not appear to bear equal weight in the proposal. No local counterparts in Zambia.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Principal local researchers already identified; presumably others will be hired for the work. Potential for enhancing local policy-oriented research unclear.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Potential impact on growth in Ghana, but no indication of impact on equity; no description of analytical approach and use of collectable data for policymaking. In essence a one-country study. No detailed budget.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

Please address comments.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 34 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Stimulating Global Competitiveness in Ghana and Zambia

Principal Investigator(s): Subodh Kulkarni, George Gyan-Baffour, Kwadwo Bawuah, Yaw Badu, Kwadwo Tutu, Anthony Osei

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

This is not an EAGER/PSGE study. Because trade regimes are covered under a different stream of EAGER, this topic is specifically excluded from the EAGER/PSGE cooperative agreement.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria

- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 1 \*

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Not relevant to the guidelines under EAGER/PGSE

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 35 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Provision of Health Care in Rural Kenya: The Role of Women in Formal and Informal Caregiving

Principal Investigator(s): Florence Bonner, Howard University; Rebecca Reviere, Howard University

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

HIV/AIDS in those areas such as Kenya where the incidence is quite high can and has had an impact on growth, since it tends to affect the younger, better educated, more mobile individuals in the prime of their productive years. It also creates a strain on government health care resources.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Topic has an indirect impact on growth as stated above. Studies have shown that women are more likely than men to be infected by HIV/AIDS in cases of heterosexual transmission. Cultural beliefs and practices in certain ethnic groups can also put widows and girls at greater risk for HIV/AIDS infection.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Looking at one village may not be enough. What are the criteria for selection? One assumption is incorrect. Generally there is no treatment for HIV/AIDS in most of Africa. A recent article on a local medication that is being used in Kenya to "cure" AIDS has indicated that its promise was greatly overrated. Proposers have not touched on all of the equity issues involved in HIV/AIDS issues. While proposal states that educational levels are quite high, understanding about HIV/AIDS, particularly in the rural areas, is quite low based on field research conducted by one of our Ph.D. candidates during the past two summers. Sexual matters are quite private, particularly in rural African societies. It may take time to build up relations of trust for local informants to discuss these issues. In HIV/AIDS caregiving, there is no payment. Moreover, we know that women generally prepare and bring food to their sick relatives in the hospital and wives, grandmothers and young girls provide the only ongoing home nursing care. Often the main health care provider in a village is the midwife, in addition to the traditional medical practitioners, who in some societies tend to be men. They probably should have an MD on the US team.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Depends on final project design and contacts with locals.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

There does appear to be interest in this topic.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

HIV/AIDS is becoming a major problem in several African countries (Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Cameroon) and, with the possible exception of South Africa, the conditions for treatment and status of women in the medical field are quite similar.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

The proposers have made some contacts in Kenya, but clearly need to learn much more about the local context.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses: Proposal should include all aspects of equity issues, i.e., not only status of women in the health professions, but also greater predisposition for HIV/AIDS infection, cultural traditions that subordinate women and give them little power with respect to sexual rights. They should also do a sample of villages, chosen on basis of such variables as ethnicity, size and proximity to large cities, as well as try to provide evidence of the connection between HIV/AIDS incidence and economic productivity.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only): See answer above.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 35 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Provision of Health Care in Rural Kenya

Principal Investigator(s): Bonner and Reviere

Conformity to selection criteria:

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity

The proposed research sets out two large tasks in its initial objective statement: to evaluate the care of rural poor with HIV/AIDS and to assess the role of women in both setting rural health care policy and implementing rural health care. In fact, the research is far more about the latter than it is about the former. In any case, both are vital to concerns regarding the future of economic growth and social equity in Kenya.

b. Relevance of study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity

This research proposal argues that improvement in health care delivery in Kenya requires consideration of gender equity in rural health care policy and delivery in the future, as the health care delivery system becomes less urban- and less acute disorder- focused. It is not clear to this reviewer that such consideration is currently on the HIV/AIDS policy makers' agenda in Kenya; one of the objectives of the research should be to make it so.

c. Technical feasibility/quality of proposed research, and qualifications of researchers

Proposed research: The strength of the technical quality is in its emphasis on field collection of primary qualitative data to assess the shape and magnitude of women's involvement in HIV/AIDS policy making and care, drawing from a rural health care sociology perspective.

The research proposal is less specific about the kind of analysis it intends to undertake. This reviewer is not an epidemiologist, nor a health economist. However, it is felt that in their expected deliverables the researchers need to go beyond an institutional outline, a description of gender distribution at various levels of the HIV/AIDS health care system, and measures of wage equity in their analysis.

Proposed researchers: The proposed researchers are strong in health sociology and gender issues. They are far less strong in epidemiology and would appear to have no prior research experience in Africa. They have identified a

strong collaborator at the University of Nairobi (assuming the chair of the Sociology Department there has the time to devote to this), who will help them bridge this gap.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used

The proposal is currently quite tentative about its linkage to policy recommendations ("...we will make recommendations, if deemed appropriate, for policy and programs to increase gender equity throughout the health care system..."), and needs to be far less so. This is precisely why the donor would want this research funded.

e. Level of interest on part of host-country clients

The proposed research conforms to three research priorities identified in RP#1 for Kenya, although to quite different degrees. It frames its primary research questions regarding gender equity in participation of rural health care policy design and care implementation (identified as a possibly maturing topic in RP#1 and stressed strongly at the July 96 EAGER workshop in DC) within the context of improving the efficiency of HIV/AIDS rural health care services. It therefore should greatly appeal to USAID.

It is less clear, however, that the Kenyan Ministry of Health is "on board" on the topic, and this linkage to public health policy makers would need to be more solidly demonstrated in the final design.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in SSA

The research has great potential applicability to other SSA countries, particularly in east, central, and southern Africa where the HIV/AIDS epidemic has hit hardest. The research team has already identified a potential collaborator outside of Kenya (at Makerere Medical School in Kampala), and might want to consider extra-Kenyan institutions as part of its dissemination strategy.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for increasing local research capacity and research/policy linkages

This proposal expects to involve students from both the University of Nairobi and Howard University in the collection (and presumably interpretation?) of primary data, making an important contribution to improving local policy-oriented research capacity. However, given that the research/policy linkages are weak in the proposal, it is as yet unclear how the research will contribute to enhancing the links between local researchers and policy makers.

Overall evaluation score: 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The subject of the proposed research, the role of women in rural HIV/AIDS health care policy and delivery, is important to issues of growth and equity in Kenya and throughout much of SSA. The profiles of the two principal investigators are strong in health sociology and gender, and therefore appropriate to the proposal.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration:

Therefore, the final research design needs to sharpen its discussion of the link to policy and the analytic contribution expected of the final deliverable in order for it to receive unconditional support.

As mentioned above, the final proposal should convince reviewers that some part of the Ministry of Health is interested in this issue. It should go on to identify specific policy measures (either under present or for potential consideration by the Ministry of Health) which this research would address. These may include gender aspects of health care training, health care wage policy (mentioned, albeit somewhat indirectly), rural health care delivery mechanisms/ institutions, public health education strategies and implementation, etc.

The final proposal also must sharpen its proposed analytic framework. The Pls need to ask: "how can we use the information we gather to convince policy makers that gender matters in defining rural health care policy?" In essence, a model is needed which will evaluate for policy makers the pluses and minuses of involving/not involving women in rural HIV/AIDS care. This may take the form of case studies, which may evaluate the effectiveness of rural HIV/AIDS health care in two different kinds of village systems, one which involves women in an important way and one which does not. Or it may choose a more epidemiological approach, which might evaluate morbidity and mortality of HIV/AIDS patients in several regions which differ according to the degree of women's involvement in rural health care.

The final research proposal should also identify complementary research activities which may currently be ongoing in Kenya, in order to take care to avoid duplication. Academics in Kenya, PVOs, international organizations such as UNICEF and WHO, and other donor agencies should be consulted. It would also be important to integrate some public health issues into the proposal, if the aspect of improved HIV/AIDS care is to be adequately addressed.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 36 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Privatization of State Owned Enterprises:  
Procedures for Privatizing and the Method of Quantifying the  
Benefits of Privatization

Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Nkanta F. Ekanem, Howard  
University; Dr. William Aponsah, Mayatech

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential  
impact on growth and equity:

The topic is important, particularly in the country in  
question has a large number of parastatal organizations that  
can be made viable.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures  
promoting growth and equity:

The topic is relevant, but the research design seems to have  
some flaws, i.e., appears to be confusion between what is to  
be studied and what proposers' can implement, i.e., under  
IV(1) they speak of a focal group of experts they will  
appoint "who will implement the privatization program."

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed  
research, and qualifications of researchers:

Again there are concerns about the research design, i.e.,  
under VII (2) they talk about "determination of the mood of  
privatization." What do they mean and how will it be  
measured? No biographical information on Dr. Amponsah is  
provided.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Will be dependent on the findings and access of the US based  
researchers.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-  
country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE  
trip reports and other sources:

There does appear to be interest in the study.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan  
Africa:

The theme is relevant for other Sub-Saharan African  
countries, but has not this topic been studied to death.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

The proposal lists one Investigator and several categories of consultants.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The issue of privatization has been an integral part of SAPs and for some of the reasons listed in the abstract this topic is relevant to growth and equity. However, the proposal needs to be reexamined.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

Rewriting of the proposal with more factual information on Tanzania, elimination of the sections that imply that the researchers and the local consultants will actually implement the policy, or more evidence that this is likely to occur. Grammar and punctuation can be improved.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 36 - Peer Review #2

Proposal Name: Privatization of state owned enterprises: procedures for privatizing and the method of quantifying the benefits of privatization.

Principal Investigator(s): Nkanta F. Ekanem and William Amponsah

Conformity to selection criteria (with brief comment):

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity.

High

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity.

In this time period the study must focus on first-round effects of privatization rather than impacts. Research elsewhere gets mixed results. Ahmed Galal et al Welfare Consequences of Selling Public Enterprises: An Empirical Analysis (1994) under the leadership of Leroy Jones demonstrates the difficult data requirement to relate privatization transactions to growth and equity.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualification of researchers.

The bibliography discusses mostly policy issues of privatization, not measurement. Elliot Berg et al (The Economic Impacts of Privatization, CAER Monograph, 1966) demonstrate the problems of measurement even in developed countries. It is unlikely that the authors will be able to get unambiguous for anything but the most important first round effects (government budget, employment within the enterprise).

If one of the researchers already has historical data, and preferably data on a potential control firm, this can yield good results. Otherwise it is likely to remain impressionistic.

The authors have the qualifications to perform firm-level analysis as required by this study.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

If significant results were achieved for a small sample of enterprises, this would illuminate greatly the debate concerning privatization and inspire one side or the other. The problem remains that the short time period will raise doubts about the results among policy makers.

e. Level of interest (as known) on part of host country clients.

High

f. Applicability to multiple countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Besides Tanzania, only Kenya has expressed interest in the research prospectus; the prospectus for Ghana showed a strong disinclination. If it works, the methodology might convince others.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers.

Two local researchers. The links to policy makers are not clear from the proposal.

Following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4: Excellent conformity to indicated criteria
- 3: Recommended after modest revision
- 2: Substantial changes required
- 1: Not meriting further consideration

[4= go-ahead, 3= provisional subject to modification, 2= reject for this round, 1= reject)

Overall evaluation score:   3  

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

This is a study which needs to be done. The doubts revolve around (1) the ability to do it, given the data requirements encountered elsewhere, and (2) the impact of the results on policy making. If historical data are available for comparative purposes, it will be possible to quantify the benefits of privatization. If not, the study is only capable of measuring first round effects. This is not in itself a bad thing, but the study must be recast to reflect this. The authors do not appear to have strong ideas as to what quantitative variables will be important, but this may be approach rather than substance.

Recommendations on conditional for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only)

The authors should review Berg et al and the sources it reviews (especially Galal et al) and on the basis of that choose a smaller aspect of this topic which can contribute to the wider debate. If they can define a do-able study with acceptable measures of first-round effects (or even impact) this should be reconsidered favorably.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 37 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Provincial and municipal government financing including revenue sources, collection of rates, and grants-in-aid

Principal Investigator(s):  
Nkanta F. Ekanem, Howard U.  
Ciyata D. Coleman, Mayatech

Conformity to selection criteria:

Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity

This proposal seeks to examine the issues of how better to raise public revenues at local and regional levels in a developing country context. The proposal also proposes to examine expenditures of local government to determine where these may be reduced. As noted below, however, this may be more difficult to carry out.

This research should contribute to the establishment of fiscally sound local and regional governments, and therefore improve governance capacity and contribute to macroeconomic stability. As such it is of relevance to the broader themes of growth and equity.

Relevance of study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity

Regarding equity, the proposal rightly identifies the potential of different taxes to be progressive/ regressive with respect to various segments of the population, to which equity concerns may be attached (socioeconomic status, race etc.)

The link between revenue raising and policy measures promoting growth is not clearly made in the proposal but they clearly exist. In particular, taxation schemes can have widely different effects on economic incentives to invest and use resources and therefore affect economic performance - IE growth.

Technical feasibility/quality of proposed research, and qualifications of researchers

The proposal does not clearly lay out its hypotheses with respect to revenue collection at local, municipal levels. It does explain its focus on evaluating the revenue elasticity of various local tax bases using econometric techniques. It is not clear that the proposed econometric techniques will be sufficient to capture the impact of

institutional / legal changes that could strongly affect the willingness to comply with tax laws, and the efficiency of tax collection. Moreover, it is not clear how the study will model the impact of taxation on incentives to invest, the resultant impact on economic growth, and therefore on the tax base

Expected sources of revenue data are not clearly identified, and therefore it is hard to evaluate the feasibility of the analyses that are dependent on them. The proposal does call for working for two weeks with national and regional governments to obtain the necessary data. This seems optimistic unless this is an exercise that they are already participants in.

While it concentrates on the issue of revenue generation, at several points the proposal also proposes an expenditure analysis. Although revenue levels clearly affect expenditure levels, the need to evaluate expenditures to assess revenue options and behavior is not make clear. Expenditure analysis is likely to be very time consuming, requiring a lot of background and detailed information and is less generalizable beyond the local context. The authors should consider dropping this aspect of the proposal.

The proposal is strengthened by the fact that it appears to be an extension of past work that Dr. Ekanem has already conducted in taxation issues at the municipal level. His past experience working for the Nigerian Government appears to be good background experience for this research. No information is provided on the other researchers.

Likelihood that research results will be used

The inclusion of Dr. Pundy Pillay, who is identified as the director of the financial and fiscal commission for South Africa, in the research team suggests that the study will receive close attention of at least his commission. The role of this commission is not clear. A seminar is called for, but institutions or individuals who would be targeted with the research results are not identified.

Level of interest on part of host-country clients

The reviewer did not have access to the circulars which discussed country expressions of interest for PSGE, however, the proposal suggests that this was an issue raised by the South Africans.

Applicability to multiple countries in SSA

Local level revenue generation is clearly relevant to all countries in SSA. The applicability of results to other countries may be limited however, by the a) differences in taxation authority between levels of government, b) the type of economic base of a locality or region, c) differences in expenditure priorities. The research should therefore be explicit in identification/definition of these variables in the areas investigated.

The expenditure analysis activity is presumably a) highly specific to local economic, social, political etc. conditions. Judgment of good versus bad expenditures is likely to require substantial background, and micro analysis, and so to be nearly as useful more broadly.

Involvement of local researchers; potential for increasing local research capacity and research/policy linkages

The pre-proposal calls for a local South African and five assistants to conduct the data collection and expenditure analysis. This suggests a high degree of involvement in the data collection and one component of the analysis. Assuming the expenditure analysis is dropped from the proposal, however, the PI should attempt to integrate local researchers into the revenue analysis.

Overall evaluation score: 2+

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

While the issues raised by the proposal are intrinsically interesting, the approach is not clearly described. Moreover, carefully thought out.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration:

The proposal should focus on either revenue or expenditure issues or make clear the need to evaluate both.

The proposal needs to identify more clearly what its sources of data will be and the likelihood of obtaining the necessary data.

The proposal needs to state more explicitly the hypotheses that it will attempt to evaluate.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 37 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Provincial and Municipal Government Financing, Including Revenue Sources, Collection of Rates and Grants-in-Aid

Principal Investigator(s): Nkanta F. Ekanem, Howard University; Ciyata D. Coleman, Mayatech

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

Tax policy generally reflects national group power relations, but can with sufficient political will be used to bring about greater equity. Greater equity may not necessarily lead to higher growth.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Tax policy is already being used in South Africa under the new dispensation as a means for forging greater equity, i.e., property taxes on whites. However, the government is encountering great resistance.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Unlike other sub-Saharan African countries, South Africa has many large cities and townships. The researchers have not indicated if they plan to collect data for all cities.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

This is a topical, yet politically charged issue in South Africa. Whether it is used may depend more about its findings and recommendations, than the inherent validity of the study. Historical data may not be very useful given the fundamental recent political changes in South Africa.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

The topic appears to be of interest.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

This study would not be applicable to many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, since most of them do not have local governments with tax levying powers.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Only one researcher body has been mentioned and that appears to be a government or parastatal body. They may wish to involve some local academics.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses: This is a timely and relevant topic, but highly charged topic. The proposal did not provide sufficient information about the geographical scope of the study or insights into the local realities with respect to this issue. There are several improper word usages or typographical errors.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

Greater clarity about the type of taxes to be examined, and more indication that the proposers are familiar with the unique nature of the local situation should be required. They not only will have to suggest the imposition of higher taxes in certain categories, but also the political feasibility of such proposals.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 38 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Enhancing fiscal Discipline and Efficiency of Public Expenditures

Principal Investigator(s): Satish Wadhawan

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

Very important and relevant to EAGER objectives.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity.

The proposed study has potential policy implications on growth and equity.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers.

Researcher is highly qualified and objectives of the proposal well written.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

There is a strong likelihood of research results being used.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources.

There is clear demonstration that host-country clients are interested.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

There is a good chance of study being applied to other SSA countries.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers.

Clear indication that local researchers will be involved.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The author demonstrates knowledge of the circumstances in the first-tier countries, and seems to have laid down the local network for a successful project. I am bothered by what the author has promised to deliver within one year. I understand from the proposal that the author will develop a macro-model for the two countries which can be used to make projections. In addition, the author plans to undertake the activities listed on pages 2 - 4 of the issues page. I am skeptical about the author's ability to accomplish all of these.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

Trim the objectives to some manageable size. Else, the author must give some indication of his knowledge about the data situation in the countries and why he finds them so easily amenable to macroeconomic modeling.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 38 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Enhancing Fiscal Discipline and Efficiency of Public Expenditures

Principal Investigator(s): Satish Wadhawan

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

High for both growth and equity.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Unclear, but most likely overambitious. Proposal seems to suggest that study itself will be a sufficient step to "enhance fiscal discipline", "create a stable macroeconomic environment", "encourage domestic and foreign investment; and thereby further growth and employment."

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Unclear how proposed elements of research plan will enhance fiscal discipline. What specific data will be collected, and how will it contribute to reaching the goals of the research plan? Mentions "improving monetary programming" (no explained link with stated goal of study) under the guidance of Clive Gray. Is Clive's participation secured, and if so, in what role?

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

No indication.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

High.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Apparently good in both countries, although the Zambian collaborator and other researchers are on government payroll: conflict of interest?

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Potentially important topic, but unclear analytical framework, methodology and translation into policy. Probably overambitious. No detailed budget.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

Please address comments.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 39 - Peer Review #1

Proposal Name: Competition Policies for Growth: Legal and Regulatory Framework for SSA Countries

Principal Investigator(s): Georges Korsun, Andrew Gavil, William Kovacic

Conformity to selection criteria (with brief comment):

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity.

Fundamental importance throughout the region for encouraging growth and growth with equity.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity.

Central

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualification of researchers.

The topic is feasible; the fear is that it has already been done, and that the research can be performed using secondary sources and interviews with the researchers who provided the primary research. This is an empirical question to be determined during final design and literature review.

Highly qualified researchers who know the topic well; high chances for success.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

Very high, in several countries.

e. Level of interest (as known) on part of host country clients.

High

f. Applicability to multiple countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Definitely

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers.

As the proposal states, because the final countries have not been chosen yet the authors are unable to address this.

This appears to be a conditionality for approval of the final design.

Following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4: Excellent conformity to indicated criteria
- 3: Recommended after modest revision
- 2: Substantial changes required
- 1: Not meriting further consideration

[4= go-ahead, 3= provisional subject to modification, 2= reject for this round, 1= reject)

Overall evaluation score: 4

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The hypothesis "developing countries, while unique in many ways, exhibit certain 'competition-related' characteristics as they liberalize and progress towards market economy status." does not appear to be operational. Some of the implications given appear to be logical policy steps, however, whether or not the researchers are able to develop a sequence of market environments. One hopes it will be refined in the final design.

The principal question raised is how much of this work has already been done. Studies like this have been sponsored by donors in several of the countries mentioned, and in some there are active groups within or outside government working on these very reforms. The research planned may be able to synthesize studies already done in several of the countries which have identified this as a key issue; this should emerge in the final design.

This project appears to be highly similar to #27 which is limited to Tanzania and the two might be combined, with Tanzania one of the countries studied. This one (#39) is the better organized and more focused of the two studies. #39 has certain strengths in studying dispute resolution.

Recommendations on conditional for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only)

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 39 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Competition Policies for Growth: Legal and Regulatory Framework for SSA Countries

Principal Investigator(s): Georges Korsun, Andrew Gavil, William Kovacic

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

This topic is virtually untouched by any of the proposed studies under the EAGER program to date. Results could have major impact on growth and equity.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity.

This study has potential to contribute to policy measures promoting growth and equity.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers.

The authors are qualified to address to address the issues in the area of antitrust law. However, their objectives are not clearly stated. I am not exactly clear where the hypothesis is headed.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

Very high.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources.

Authors did not address this issue.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Very high.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers.

Authors did not provide any credible indication of collaboration with local researchers.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

I am personally very interested in this topic and I think the authors have touched on a topic that deserves some attention. The authors are also tops in the field and there is no doubt about their research capabilities. I am, however, not clear what the authors propose to do.

1. If the authors wish to examine conditions in different countries and then recommend what type of antitrust legislation the country may have, they must state so.
2. On the other hand, if the authors are interested in demonstrating how a competitive market will contribute to economic growth, then they should give some indication as to how they plan to do this.
3. We may note that Kenya has a competition law in place already so I am curious as to what type of Mission interest the authors are referring to. Also, I am not sure but suspect that South Africa may have a law in place already.

All these lead me to conclude that even though the authors have excellent credentials in this area they may not have given a serious thought about the African situation.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

In order for this research to be useful, the authors should give some indication of what they have gathered from the countries that already have this law. What do they plan to do in, say, Kenya which has the law in place versus Tanzania that does not have the law? Their hypothesis needs to be clearly specified. I am not sure whether the hypothesis is falsifiable as stated. I am forced not give this proposal a perfect score until the authors have demonstrated some knowledge of what is going on in these countries, who they

plan to work with, and how they plan to show its impact on growth and equity.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 40 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Optimizing the Role of women in Publicly-Financed Agribusiness

Principal Investigator(s): David Wilcock, Bagie Scherchand, Phillip Boyle

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

This topic is important and will bring balance to the EAGER research program. Potential impact on growth and equity is high.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity.

Very high

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers.

Proposal is well prepared and the researchers are qualified

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

Very high likelihood that results will be used.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources.

I am impressed with the author's identification of Zimbabwe as "control" country. Zimbabwe has made significant progress in integrating women in the economy.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Results will be applicable to other countries

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers.

No strong indication given.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 4

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The topic is relevant to the EAGER research program. I am, however, concerned that the results may repeat what we already know - lack of capital, biased laws, lack of education, etc. I do not believe that the constraints facing women as participants in any business activity are different from those facing them as participants in agribusinesses. Once we strip the study off the agri business connotation, the proposal reduces to simply looking at constraints facing women in business participation. Else, the authors should explain how participation in agribusiness differs from participation in any other activity. I am also uncomfortable with the word "optimizing." There is a tendency to apply these terms to formal modeling. This study does not need these "scientific" terms to be useful.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

I recommend funding of this study. I suggest strongly that the two gender-related studies from DAI be merged with this one. The authors should work together to formulate a study which addresses the constraints facing women as participants in the economy. The authors may merge the countries they have proposed in their separate studies. EAGER will benefit from this merger. We simply cannot neglect gender-based studies.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 40 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Optimizing the Role of Women in Publicly-Financed Agribusiness

Principal Investigator(s): David Wilcock

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

More relevant for gender-based equity (especially in view of the prominent role of women in African agriculture) than for growth.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Because of the focus on publicly-owned businesses, one would assume that the potential impact would be significant, but the proposal does not describe the channels through which policymaking would be influenced.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Technically feasible, but heavy reliance on qualitative work. The process through which the information would be used to "distillate" ideas on project design is not explained.

Qualifications of researchers are difficult to establish on the basis of the information provided. Apparently no contact has been established with potential researchers in-country.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Unclear.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Topic not mentioned as relevant by host countries. In addition, it is not clear whether the exclusion of agriculture-related topics from EAGER research is likely to disqualify this proposal.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

High.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Not specified.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3, but only if topic not rejected for being too agro-based with respect to EAGER/PSGE priorities.

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Clearly an important issue for women, but relevance directly dependent on the proportion of women who have the opportunity to engage in cash crops (unclear from the proposal). Methodology is vague, relies only on literature review and interviews, and the topic may not be in accordance with overall EAGER priorities.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

Please address comments.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 41 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: The Impact of Financial Sector Reform on Bank Efficiency and Savings Mobilization for Growth in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia

Principal Investigator(s): Sam Ziorklui and Lemma W. Senbet

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

Important

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Relevant to policy makers

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Technically feasible; but should be integrated in a broader study of growth in Africa such as proposal #31

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Highly likely but more likely if part of a broader study.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Interest expressed

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

Applicable

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Involved.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The study should be redesigned to fit under the "Restarting Growth" initiative.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 41 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: The Impact of Financial Sector Reform on Bank Efficiency and Savings Mobilization for Growth in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia

Principal Investigator(s): Sam Ziorklui, Howard University; Lemma W. Senbet, IRIS

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

Very important

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Quite relevant

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Project seems technically feasible and researcher well qualified

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Unable to predict

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Of interest

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

This appears to be a major problem in many SAP African countries

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Local researchers have not yet been identified. This may present some problem with respect to subsequent use of research. Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision

2 = substantial changes required  
1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 4

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The topic is a very good one and the proposers appear to be familiar with the basic writing on this subject and trends in Africa in this area. However, the authors do not indicate that they have established any contacts in the target countries.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 42 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: The Development of Capital Markets and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa

Principal Investigator(s): Dr. Sam Ziorklui, Dr. Lemma W. Senbet

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

This is a very important topic and one which is currently being explored by several researchers.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity.

Study results could lead to policy measures to promote growth and equity.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers.

Proposal is well prepared and the authors are eminently qualified to address the questions raised.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

Very high given the frustration of governments in the effort to raise long-term capital. In the case of Ghana, however, the results may be redundant.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources.

The authors give no indication of host country interest.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Very likely.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers.

No indication given in the proposal.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The topic raised by the authors is very important. However, the authors do not tell us how the proposed study will fill gaps in on-going studies in the proposed countries. In the case of Ghana, for example, there is an on-going study on NBF1, and I wonder what else the authors propose to add. The authors' interest in "globalizing" stock markets in these countries to put them on equal footing with those in Southeast Asia is quite ambitious. I suspect that such an undertaking would involve some extensive discussion of the politics-economic milieu within which the stock exchanges in the proposed countries are currently functioning. The proposed study will last about one and half years. In the case of Ghana the results from the study may be late.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

The authors raise one issue which I believe needs to be explored and made the core issue in their submission. The issue is the possibility of a "regional capital market" in Sub-Saharan Africa. I suggest that the authors should focus on this. In a regional context, the region may catch up with Asia. As individual countries, I think we may have to wait for a while. I recommend that the authors consider working with the West Africa Private Enterprise Network, headquartered in Ghana to explore how the "regional" concept may be nurtured. As currently written, I am unable to recommend this project for immediate funding.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 42 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: The Development of Capital Markets and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa

Principal Investigator(s): Sam Ziorklui and Lemma W. Senbet

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

Important but the general direction is similar to #42.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Relevant with above qualification.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Feasible but better as part of more integrated study.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Likely to be used; more so if they contribute to broader findings.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Interested.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

Applicable

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Involved.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = Integrate with "Restarting Growth"

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Because of the overlap with #41, the two proposals should be combined and make a contribution to the broader study of "Restarting Growth".

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 43 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Financial Sector Reforms and Growth in Kenya and Tanzania

Principal Investigator(s):

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

The topic is very important and has a direct bearing on savings mobilization, investment, and growth.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

The topic is relevant for the policy issues of financial sector reforms, interest rate policy, efficiency, and the related issues of poverty reduction (equity).

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Fair. No basis to evaluate the qualification of the researcher. No available information on the author's publication record and professional experience.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

there is the strong likelihood that the results of the research will be used if there is a local participation of the research implementation.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

High

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

High

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

High

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Strong recommendation for collaboration with the proposal #41.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 43 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Financial Sector Reforms and Growth in Kenya and Tanzania

Principal Investigator(s): Longinus Rutasitara (UDSM)

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

- a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

Highly important

- b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

Potentially highly relevant

- c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Certainly there is useful work to be done in this area, however the proposal defers discussion of methodology and does not cite extensive previous IBRD and IMF work in both countries. Proposer's qualifications are difficult to evaluate in the absence of his c.v.

- d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Difficult to say given lack of specifics about the proposed research.

- e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Interest is high, as indicated by USAID mission, interpreting recent expressions of concern by high GoT officials

- f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

Study is proposed to cover two countries; issues are current in most of SSA.

- g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Proposal originates from local economist; relevant potential is very high

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2/3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses; recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only): [comments on these two points are combined]

The proposal is not yet adequately developed but the topic is of sufficient priority to warrant contacting the proposer in the near term to verify his credentials and engage him in a dialogue about methodology and other issues. It might make sense to incorporate the proposal into the Restarting Growth study.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 44 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Small Scale Enterprises and the Changing Policy Environment in Tanzania

Principal Investigator(s): Servacius Likwelile

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

The topic is important in terms of potential impact on growth and equity.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity.

The author gives a clear statement of the policy context. Even though the discussion is very general, it seems that the author has some specific policies in mind.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers.

The author is qualified to address the issue raised in the proposal. However, the proposal is poorly prepared. There is no indication of data to be used, hypotheses to be tested, analytical procedures to be used, timing, etc.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used.

Very likely given that the research is being conducted from within the country.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources.

No indication given. However, since this proposal is part of a multi-team effort, it is likely that the authors will be able to spark domestic interest.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Possible. As currently proposed, the study is very country specific.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and

links between local researchers and policy makers.

Proposal will significantly enhance local capacity.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The major strength of the proposal is that it identifies a particular policy regime and attempts to examine the effect of this regime on an identifiable sector - small Scale Enterprises. However, the proposal gives no indication of any of the specific elements of this policy regime which may or may not affect small enterprise development. The definition of the policy regime is too general to allow the specification of hypotheses to be tested. The author should also give some indication of the data to be collected and how this data will be collected. There should be some indication of the nature of existing literature, what questions have been left unanswered in the literature, and how the proposed study fills the gap.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

The participation of local researchers in the EAGER process is most welcome. I recommend that the author tie this study to some other study under EAGER so that the results will have a broader application to other countries. The author needs to sharpen the policy questions and provide some background of the relevant literature.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 44 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Small Scale Enterprises and the Changing Policy Environment in Tanzania

Principal Investigator(s): Servacius Likwelile

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

- a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

Very important, given the role of SMEs in employment and income generation. Appropriate importance given to the impact of the policy environment on SME performance.

- b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

High.

- c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

Technically feasible, but extremely vague as to methodology and analysis techniques. Researcher qualifications unknown; PI not presented.

- d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Unclear from proposal.

- e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Not specified as focus area by Tanzanian counterparts, but presumably compatible with stated interests.

- f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

Potentially high, but only Tanzania is proposed as a subject for the study.

- g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Unclear from proposal.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Very vague proposal, no real methodology, one-country study.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

Would suggest PI contact DAI, which has experience in this field and develop common proposal with appropriate analytical and policy focus, and proven methodology. Budget should be provided.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 45 - Peer Review #1

Proposal name: Presumptive taxation: Problems and Prospects:  
Case Studies of Tanzania and Ghana

Principal Investigator(s): Hamisi Mwinyimvua

Conformity to selection criteria (please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity:

High for both.

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity:

High for both.

c. Technical feasibility and quality of the proposed research, and qualifications of researchers:

The concept of presumptive taxation is not sufficiently developed in the proposal to allow this reviewer to reach an opinion. However, any method that has successfully increased the tax base in other SSA countries should be studied for replication, although it is unclear how this method would address the fiscal status of unregistered and unreporting businesses. Extremely sketchy methodology. No basis to determine qualification of researchers.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used:

Unspecified in proposal.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host-country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources:

Main focus area in Tanzania; not mentioned in Ghana.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in Sub-Saharan Africa:

Potentially high, but Ghana apparently used only as control country in the study.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers:

Involvement of local researchers not specified, but presumably high. Information to determine other issues not provided in proposal.

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria
- 3 = recommended after modest revision
- 2 = substantial changes required
- 1 = not meriting further consideration

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reject for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

Important topic, but proposal weak on methodology. One-country study, with Ghana acting as a control.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

Develop analytical framework, research methodology and expand on potential role of other countries.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 45 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Presumptive Taxation: Problems and Prospects:  
Case studies of Tanzania and Ghana.

Principal Investigator(s): Hamisi Mwinyimvua

Conformity to selection criteria:

Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential  
impact on growth and equity

The proposed research seeks to examine the issues of how to raise public revenues through simplified techniques of tax assessment. This research should contribute to strategies for increasing the fiscal health and therefore macroeconomic stability of developing countries. The contention that presumptive taxation also improves the equity of the taxation burden in developing economies is also an important issue to be assessed.

Relevance of study to potential policy measures  
promoting growth and equity

Revenue generation is obviously fundamental to sustained public investments for growth or equity reasons. Moreover, taxation schemes can have widely different effects on economic incentives to invest and use resources and therefore affect economic performance - ie growth. Understanding these effects is therefore necessary for developing fiscal policy consistent with growth objectives.

Presumptive taxes, like other taxes, have a particular incidence pattern on different segments of the population to which equity concerns are attached (socioeconomic status, race, gender). In this regard, the proposal claims that presumptive taxation improves on the horizontal and vertical equity of taxation. Understanding these patterns is therefore necessary to address equity issues through tax policy.

Technical feasibility/quality of proposed research, and qualifications of researchers

The proposal is not clear as to the approach that will be used to assess the issues it raises. It only states that literature reviews, field surveys and various quantitative methods will be used.

Specific hypotheses to be tested need to be identified, as well as the specific methods that will be used to test them. The proposal does propose to learn from the experience in Ghana with presumptive taxation. It also proposes to use a survey of tax collectors /administrators to understand

the extent of their use, and their impact in Tanzania. The content nor dimensions of the survey are not provided. The qualifications of the team are also not discussed.

#### Likelihood that research results will be used

The research should to be useful to the Government of Tanzania in improving the administration of taxes, the compliance rate and the tax base and therefore revenue collection.

#### Level of interest on part of host-country clients

The research should be highly interesting to the revenue board of Tanzania as it seeks more effective ways to raise revenues. Evidence of this interest is also provided in Tanzania's expressions of interest to the PSG team. .

#### Applicability to multiple countries in SSA

The benefits and problems of presumptive taxation are likely to be of considerable interest to most other SSA, who face similar issues of raising tax revenues.

#### Involvement of local researchers; potential for increasing local research capacity and research/policy linkages

The proposal is a product of local initiative in Tanzania and will be undertaken by a local research group with strong linkages to policy makers. The proposal does not provide detail on how this linkage will be maintained or fostered, however.

Overall evaluation score: 2+

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

This research is highly relevant to fiscal policy, addresses an important issue for Tanzania and other SSA countries, and is likely to receive the attention of Tanzanian policy makers.

However, the proposal is not sufficiently elaborated with respect to hypotheses to be tested, the methods that will be used to test them, nor the experience and qualifications of the researchers.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration:

The study should be developed into a full fledged proposal. A revised preproposal should be developed.

The study should be developed in consultation with the two ongoing tax studies by North Eastern and HIID, both of which are covering some areas covered by this study.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 46 - Peer Review #1

Proposal Name: Employment Generation and Incomes Under Adjustment Processes in Tanzania: The Gender and Rural Divide

Principal Investigators:

Nathanael Luvanga and Fidelis Mtatifikolo (Proposal #46)

Conformity to Selected Criteria (Please comment briefly:)

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential on growth and equity:

Very important

b. Relevance of the study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity.

Excellent

c. Technical feasibility and quality of proposed research, and qualifications of researchers.

I have a problem with the hypotheses to be tested. They have been cast in a form that does not make good sense. For instance "in the short run owners of capital gain disproportionately." Is this supposed to be a relationship between capital gain and time? or what? Granted that this is so how do they operationalize short run and long run.

Granted these temporal relationships are O.K. and these hypothesis are tested and supported for example yes in the long run no significant loss of equity occurs! So what? This leads to the likelihood of research use. What should the results be used for.

I am not sure about the sampling procedure. For example how did they arrive at the magic # of 50 households in each town and 20 in each village. Are the towns (villages) of equal sizes? Are they of equal importance in terms of the relevant variables. Should there be some stratification?

Likelihood that research results will be used.

The likelihood of use is not very clear to me.

e. (So far as known) Level of interest on the part of host country clients, taking into account previous EAGER/PSGE trip reports and other sources.

Employment generation is generally of interests to the mission

f. Applicability to multiple countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for enhancing local capacity for policy-oriented research and links between local researchers and policy makers.

Excellent

Please use the following scale for your overall evaluation score:

- 4 = excellent conformity to the indicated criteria.
- 3 = recommended after modest revision.
- 2 = substantial changes required.
- 1 = not meriting further consideration.

In effect, 4 means a go-ahead; 3 means provisional approval subject to modifications; 2 means reflect for now but PIs may try again in the next round; and 1 is a straight rejection.

Overall evaluation score = 2

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

See above

Recommendations on conditionality for consideration (for proposals scored as 3 or 2, only):

I think the study needs to be re-organized to conform with the adopted outline. I think doing that will sharpen the focus better. I also think that the hypotheses need to be revisited. A hypothesis should relate 2 or more variables - unless of course the "temporal" issue is a critical variable here, I don't see those statements as hypotheses

By the way take a look at p14 .. ...the two dimensions - gender and the rural-urban divide are evident under all .... but the more conspicuous ones are seen to have more bearing on them are such measures that involve public sector shrinkage..... does this imply that public sector shrinkage disproportionately affected one gender or the other. Did it affect the rural areas more than the urban centers? This is how I read it ... clarify.

EAGER/PSGE  
Proposal No. 46 - Peer Review #2

Proposal name: Employment Generation and Incomes Under Adjustment Processes in Tanzania: The Gender and Rural/Urban Dimensions (#46)

Principal Investigator(s): Luvanga and Mtatifikolo

Conformity to selection criteria:

a. Intrinsic importance of the topic in terms of potential impact on growth and equity

The researchers propose a household survey to be undertaken in five (or eight? the proposal mentions both figures ... ) regions of the country to collect primary data on trends in household income (self and wage). This will be used in complement with secondary macro and census data to establish sources, sizes, and destinations of private and household incomes during the adjustment period, highlighting distributional disparities (rural/urban, gender) where necessary.

This topic is vital for understanding economic growth and the equitable distribution of its benefits in a country, such as Tanzania, which has been subject to "adjustment programming" for a significant period of time.

However, the research agenda will already be full if it examines sources and sizes of income, without also considering destinations thereof. The researchers may instead wish to consider determinants of income.

b. Relevance of study to potential policy measures promoting growth and equity

Employment/income generation is at the heart of development's objectives. Understanding distributional biases in employment/income trends is important to any policy maker wishing to nuance his/her understanding of the impact of adjustment on his/her people. Virtually all public policies bear to some extent on employment/income generation, especially public works programs, small business generation programs, labor market regulations, agricultural marketing and trade liberalization (which presumably bear positively on income-generating possibilities in the agricultural sector),... These policy linkages, however, are not identified in the research proposal.

c. Technical feasibility/quality of proposed research, and qualifications of researchers

Proposed research: Given that two studies on employment and labor markets have recently been completed in Tanzania, a

fair amount of general empirical data should be available. The proposed research fits nicely, therefore, by exploring in greater depth the tandem issue of distributional biases. The proposal appears to confirm the researchers' abilities to generate, process, and analyze large primary data sets.

There is little said in the proposal about the kind of data analysis envisioned. It would appear that the bulk of the analysis will be largely a cross-tabs analysis of data. If possible, the researchers may also wish to consider an econometric analysis looking at correlations between independent (such as expenditure trends, policy changes, and other adjustment-related factors) and dependent variables (such as aggregate employment or income, and rural/urban or male/female distributions of employment or income).

Proposed researchers: The proposal does not offer backgrounds of the researchers.

d. Likelihood that research results will be used

Given the discussion in "e" below, mentioning the lack of direct link between the proposed research and policy makers, it is unclear that the results of the research would be utilized directly.

e. Level of interest on part of host-country clients

Presumably, the Government of Tanzania has a great interest in knowing the degree to which its recent history of adjustment programming has positively or negatively affected Tanzanian households' employment and income generating opportunities, and the extent to which the rural/urban or gender biases have been strengthened or ameliorated. It is not clear from the proposal, however, if the proposed research enjoys a "client relationship" with a particular Ministry or public policy institute. On the other hand, neither employment/income generation nor distributional aspects thereof were highlighted in RP#1 as priority topics for the country.

f. Applicability to multiple countries in SSA

This topic is of vital importance to all "adjusting" countries in SSA.

g. Involvement of local researchers; potential for increasing local research capacity and research/policy linkages

Given that the proposed researchers are "local," there is little doubt that the research would help support them.

With respect to the research-policy maker linkage, the establishment of a "policy advisory committee" a la EAGER/Trade would help to facilitate communication between the two communities.

Overall evaluation score: 3

Comments on strengths and weaknesses:

The proposal is strongest in its topic identification, for the issue is vitally important not just to Tanzania, but to virtually all countries in the project.

However, the linkage to policy in Tanzania is ignored, the analytic framework needs to be strengthened, and the profiles of the researchers themselves need to be discussed.

Recommendations on conditionality for reconsideration:

This reviewer would recommend approval of the proposal for final funding subject to three revisions:

1. The research needs to be linked to the policy environment in Tanzania, and to policy institutions. The researchers should specify with which Ministry or Department they will dialogue on these issues, and make a convincing argument that the results of the analysis will actually feed into policy discussions and policy making.
2. It would be useful to specify more carefully what kinds of data will be collected, perhaps by including a draft questionnaire in an appendix to the final research design, and to outline the kinds of analysis which are expected to be run. This is not just for the reader, but for the researchers themselves, to formalize the kinds of information they require and assure against asking for information which ultimately will not be used in the analysis.
3. The researchers should indicate their backgrounds and expertise in the subject areas.