

USAID ARTS/FARA/PARTS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP REPORT

JUNE TO JULY 1994

By

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Major Objectives:

The major objectives of the fellowship were three-fold. First ensure African participation in research and analysis of African issues being conducted by US-based organisations; second to provide fellowship holders with opportunities for professional growth; and third to foster and maintain links among US and African scientists and decision-makers in order to address development issues.

Principal Host Institution in the U.S.A.

(i) World Resources Institute (WRI), Washington DC. June 1st to August 26th 1994

Professional Program in the U.S.A.

At the World Resources Institute:

I had the opportunity to work closely with the researchers dealing with natural resources management policies and programs in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia both at WRI and USAID Bureau for Africa. For three months (for the third month support was provided for by Fulbright) I was able to integrate my theoretical and practical experience to real development issues.

I spent eight weeks on a desk study, surveying literature on Environment and Development Policies and programs issues in Africa after the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP). The main thrust was on the Sub-national Level Democratic Participatory Planning Process for Natural Resources Management. During this period, I contacted and had discussions with officials and scientists/researchers at the USAID Bureau for Africa, the

Department of State, the World Bank, UN missions in New York. The output was a paper titled "*A Search for Sub-national Level Participatory Planning Approaches to Natural Resources Management in Africa*"

The paper will be published as a monograph by the World Resources Institute's Series, From the Ground UP.

While working with USAID Africa Bureau, I was also involved in the preliminary preparatory research project on the impact of Refugees on the Environment in Tanzania. This program is expected to take off in November 1994. The focus zone is the Kagera region and its environs.

I was particularly privileged to join a three-man mission to visit Tanzania between July 26th and August 11th 1994 and participate in the assessment of the on-going formulation of the National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) process. This is one of the 26 sample studies by WRI that seek to generate lessons for Africa, regarding environment and development issues, being implemented by the Network for Environment and Sustainable Development for Africa (NESDA) based in Abidjan.

During this time, I also had the opportunity to make a follow-up to a project on Sub-national Level Natural Resources Management. The objective was to investigate the possibility of "co-management" of forest resources by village communities and the Government in the Usambara High Canopy Forests, Northeastern Tanzania.

The output is that I have since been a member of the WRI research team. We are currently working out modalities towards developing a co-management agreement amongst the forest resource stakeholders. We are planning a workshop for this project come mid-November, '94. The project is expected to serve as a model for managing other natural resources in Tanzania and elsewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa with similar ecological and land tenure systems.

I had an occasion to attend a talk at the State Department on the new United States policy on Environment both national and international delivered by the Undersecretary of State and his deputies. This was impressive to me noting that the issues of environment are on top of the development agenda not only in UDC, where NEAPS are being developed under the guidance of the World Bank but also in the industrialized North.

The other interesting lecture was on Agriculture and Natural Resources policy for Developing countries especially Africa by USAID consultants also presented at the Department of State. The talk highlighted common policy dilemma cutting across Africa.

I also had a golden opportunity to hold discussions with officials at the NGO-PVOs -NRMS project consisting of the World Wildlife Fund; World Learning and Care on Natural Resources management issues in Sub-Saharan Africa in general and Tanzania in particular. We focused on the design of participatory

methodologies that will lead to improved natural resources management through facilitating partnership between communities, government and NGOs.

While at the Institute, I had an opportunity to attend several brown-bag seminars on development policy issues ranging from Latin America through Africa to Asia organised by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The fact that these continents share similar problems under the SAP, the degree of severity notwithstanding, was an interesting observation coming out of these seminars. These, too, offered an avenue to learn from each continents' experiences of successes and failures.

At the end of my stay, I delivered a lecture at the USAID Africa Bureau on my research activities in the USA for the last twelve months entitled " Professional Achievements in the USA September 1993 to August 1994". The talk was well attended and debated.

Other Achievements

Given my close working relationship with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), my sabbatical leave experience will have a positive impact in the NEAP process currently being reformulated at sub-national level, country-wide, including the emerging NGO community and the private sector.

Conclusion

By way of summary, I wish to acknowledge with thanks the Government of the United States of America for both the Fulbright and ARTS/FARA/PARTS FELLOWSHIPS granted to me on behalf of the Government of Tanzania. May I reiterate that the objectives of the two programs have been fully realized. During the twelve month period, I was able to integrate theory and practice at Clark University and also to extend the same at the WRI and USAID Africa Bureau. All these professional interactions provided me with an enabling environment to meet, discuss, analyze issues and try out the implementation of natural resources management policy and program research of interest to both the American and Tanzanian societies. It is my sincere hope that this cooperation will be sustained by both sides.

Currently, I am in the process of being hooked to the University E-mail facility for ease of communication with fellow researchers in this ever shrinking global village.

Acknowledgements:

I wish to record my sincere thanks to the University of Dar-es-Salaam for allowing me a one year leave in the US; to the USAID that offered me a two month fellowship; to the WRI who provided me with accommodation for my family, office space and other facilities; and to individuals and institutions that made my study-leave a success.