

Report of the African Studies Centre Evaluation  
Committee

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Review 1997-2003 of the African Studies Centre,  
Leiden



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# 1. Introduction

The African Studies Centre (ASC) is situated in Leiden, the Netherlands. Its formal objectives (Appendix 1) are to:

- promote scientific research on sub-Saharan Africa, in particular in the social and legal sciences;
- function as the national focal point for African studies and, in this context, promote an appropriate combination of scientific research and academic education in the social and legal sciences as related to sub-Saharan Africa;
- promote the dissemination of knowledge of African societies and cultures.

The three distinctive target groups of the ASC are: researchers, policy-makers and a broader public.

The most recent evaluation of the ASC took place in 1997/1998 and covered the period 1992-1996. The Curatorium of the ASC has requested the Board of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (in Dutch: Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen/KNAW) to evaluate the ASC's activities between 1997 and 2003.

The Board of the Academy installed an evaluation committee consisting of:

- Prof. Bert van der Knaap, Faculty of Economics at Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands (chair);
- Dr Christopher Cramer, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London, United Kingdom;
- Dr David Easterbrook, Melville J. Herskovits Library of African Studies at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, United States;
- Prof. Henrik Secher Marcussen, Faculty of Geography and International Development Studies at the University of Roskilde, Denmark;
- Dr Claudius A. Bamidele Olowu, Institute of Social Studies, the Netherlands, and African Development Bank, Tunisia.

Dr Ans Vollering, Academy, is the secretary of the evaluation committee.

The evaluation committee was appointed to assess the research activities and the Library, Documentation and Information (LDI) activities of the ASC between 1997 and 2003. Appendix 2 presents the global outlines of the work programme of the ASC evaluation committee.

The ASC provided the evaluation committee with the following documentation:

- Self-evaluation Report 1997-2003, revised version, April 2004;
- A list of ASC researchers by Theme Group as per 1 June 2004 (Appendix 3);
- Key publications of the Theme Groups and Working Groups (Appendix 4 presents a list of these publications);
- Notitie Collectievorming 2003 (in Dutch), January 2004, version 1.2 (not included in this report).

Unfortunately, it was not possible for all members of the evaluation committee to be present at the ASC during an overall site visit. Since the LDI holds a special place within the ASC, it was decided to schedule one site visit focusing on the LDI's activities and another site visit oriented towards the research activities. The two site visits were complementary. The evaluation committee prepared the general outline of the site visits during its meeting at the ASC on 19 May 2004. Appendices 5 and 6 contain the programmes of the site visits.

The site visit focusing on the LDI activities took place on 9 June 2004. During this site visit, the evaluation committee had discussions with two different types of users: a group of ASC researchers who use the LDI to satisfy their information needs, and a group of students and lecturers in the field of African studies, a journalist and a policy-maker.

The site visit focusing on the research activities took place on 24 and 25 June 2004. During this site visit, the evaluation committee had discussions with the Management Team, a delegation from the Curatorium and a delegation from the Scientific Advisory Council. The evaluation committee, having analysed the research programmes of the Theme Groups 'Culture, Politics and Inequality in Africa' (CPI), 'Economy, Ecology and Exclusion' (EEE), and 'Agency in Africa' (AA), also had discussions with the leaders and some of the members of these Theme Groups.

*The Standard Evaluation Protocol 2003-2009 For Public Research Organisations (SEP)*, a joint publication of the Association of the Universities in the Netherlands (in Dutch: Vereniging van Universiteiten/vsnu), the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (in Dutch: Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek/NWO) and the Academy, served as a guideline for the evaluation. The SEP includes a standard scoring table, which the evaluation committee used for additional information in assessing the ASC's research activities.

Additional external consultations took place. The evaluation committee collected information on the ASC from a selected number of sister institutions in Europe and Africa. It also consulted the scientific director of CERES (Research School for Resource Studies for Development) and the Director of the Africa Directorate of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Section 2 briefly reviews the structure and main functions of the ASC. The results of the evaluations of the research and LDI activities are to be found in Sections 3 and 4 respectively. Section 5 presents the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation committee. The recommendations throughout the whole report are printed in bold.

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## 2. Brief review of ASC's structure and main functions 1997-2003

### 2.1 Governance and management structure

The ASC's new governing structure came into being in 1996. Important changes were the installation of the Curatorium (Board of Governors) and a Scientific Advisory Council.

The Curatorium is the highest decision-making body of the ASC. The five members of the Curatorium come from different backgrounds and are officially appointed by the Board of Governors of Leiden University.

The members of the Scientific Advisory Council represent most of the relevant Dutch academic institutions. The role of the Scientific Advisory Council has become clearer during the 1997-2003 period and at present it functions as a sounding board for the ASC Scientific Team (in Dutch: Wetenschapsteam/WT).

There were also changes to the ASC's internal management structure between 1996 and 2003. A new management structure was introduced in 1997 which gave the director full responsibility for all day-to-day decisions. The Management Team (MT), consisting of the director and five other members, assisted the director.

This structure was revised and the new structure implemented on 1 April 2002: the old style MT was divided into a new style MT and a Scientific Team (WT), placing responsibility for scientific affairs with the WT and management affairs with the MT. The MT further divided its tasks between its members. At present, there is a direct line of accountability between each of the four support staff clusters ('administration and personnel', 'management support', 'information and IT', and 'communication and publications') and one of the MT members. This also meant a change in the job description of the head of the LDI department, from 'co-worker/leader' of the LDI to full-time management (leader of the LDI department and member of the MT). The final responsibility for all decisions remained with the director.

The Management Team (MT) consists of the director, the head of the LDI department (spends 50% of working time on MT tasks), and the researcher/manager (a member of the research staff, but not being a representative of the research staff; spends 50% of working time on MT tasks). The Scientific Team (WT) consists of the director and the three Theme Group leaders

(spending 40% of working time on WT tasks). The implementation of the new management structure in 2002 encouraged discussion of research-related matters and has made the Management Team more decisive.

Each year the director discusses current and future policy with the three funding ministries of the ASC. He/she also has annual meetings with the university's management. The director is accountable to the Curatorium.

The new director as per 1 September 2004 will receive a professorship at Leiden University.

The ASC is an independent research institute with administrative links to Leiden University. It uses some of Leiden University's facilities, e.g. the internet server and the library system. The ASC is housed in the building of the Faculty of Social Sciences and its budget figures in the overall budget of Leiden University, be it that the funding is earmarked for the ASC.

## **2.2 Funding and expenditure**

The ASC is subsidized by the ministries of Education, Foreign Affairs and Agriculture. Most of the subsidy comes from the Ministry of Development Cooperation, part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the 1997-2001 period, the nominal subsidy was stable. This basic funding amounted to EUR 2,094,000 in 1997 and EUR 2,603,000 in 2001. However, in 2002 and 2003 the government introduced a number of general budget cuts that reduced this subsidy. The annual budget will be gradually cut by EUR 41,000 in 2003, rising to EUR 198,000 in 2007 and the years thereafter: the basic funding will therefore decrease with approximately 4% in the 2003-2007 period.

The ASC has no other substantial, structural sources of income and therefore hardly any additional funding. The basic funding received from the three ministries accounted for an average of 90% of expenditure in the 1997-2003 period and the additional funding (e.g., subsidies from European sciences foundations, legacies, income from contracts) for the rest (10%). Subsidies from e.g. the NWO research council contributed only marginally to ASC's income.

Starting in 1997, expenditure has gradually risen to EUR 2,953,000 in 2003. More than half of this relates to personnel costs. Between 1997 and 2002, however, expenditure on major equipment and material upgrades (ICT and the LDI department) weighed heavily on the budget. In 2003 the tem-

porary hiring freeze was lifted. As a result, in 2003 personnel costs rose to account for 75% of total expenditure.

## **2.3 Personnel**

The ASC has two divisions: the research department and the LDI department.

Research at the ASC is divided into Theme Groups. Each Theme Group consists of 5 to 8 researchers and, by definition, is temporary in nature. Section 3 will discuss the Theme Groups, the ASC's research programme and its research profile.

Appendix 7 presents personnel figures as per 31 December between 1997 and 2003. Of the total staff on the ASC payroll during the 1997-2003 period, 46.5% worked in the research department and 25% in the LDI department. A further 7.9% were categorised as management and 20.6% as support staff. The management and support staff account for a fairly large percentage of staff at ASC.

By the year 2003, research staff had been reduced to 44.6% and LDI staff to 23.4% of the total staff on the ASC payroll.

## **2.4 International knowledge exchange**

The ASC is a founding member and the headquarters of the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS). This is a research network of 15 African studies centres in Europe that aims to create synergies between experts and institutions. ASC researchers contribute actively to AEGIS working groups and at AEGIS thematic conferences and summer schools.

The ASC maintained in the 1997-2003 period close contacts with higher education institutions outside Europe, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, and had formal cooperation agreements with a number of African academic institutions.

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## 3. Research activities

### 3.1 Introduction

This section presents an analysis of the research performance of the Theme Groups and Working Groups and an evaluation of the research activities of the ASC as a whole.

### 3.2 Theme groups and working groups

#### *The old Theme groups*

The Theme Groups ‘Control, Conciliation and Conflict in Africa’ (CCC), ‘Society and Resources in Africa: Resource management and social security in the context of a changing natural environment’ (SRA), ‘Globalisation and Sociocultural Transformation in Africa’ (Glob), and ‘De-Agrarianization: Labour, locality and identity in transformation’ (DeAg) were set up in 1997. The latter Theme Group was discontinued in 1999 owing to the small size of the group; the other three Theme Groups were discontinued in 2002. Appendix 8 presents summaries of the research programmes of these old Theme Groups.

The Theme Groups have been very productive with respect to the number of publications (see the subparagraph ‘Quality’ below). Almost fifty African guest researchers (visiting fellows) joined one of the Theme Groups; half of them were associated with the CCC Theme Group, a quarter with the SRA Theme Group, about 10% with the Glob Theme Group and about 15% with the DeAg Theme Group.

The evaluation committee considers the consistency and the continuity of the research performed in these Theme Groups to be a point of critique. By the end of the 1996-2002 period, no state-of-the-art papers had been written and it was therefore unclear whether the research questions within the old themes had really been answered before the ASC’s attention switched to the new themes. There were also doubts about the cooperation within and between the Theme Groups.

#### *From old Theme Groups to new Theme Groups and Working Groups*

In 2000, an internal steering committee chaired by the director supervised the process of future research agenda-setting. The research staff, the subject specialists of the LDI and the Scientific Advisory Council were involved

in the process. A range of factors influenced this reformulation of ASC's research agenda. Most of these were internal factors at the ASC, e.g. lessons learned working with the old Theme Groups, the strengths of the ASC's research fields, the ASC researchers giving their best to research projects in the new Theme Groups, and the desire for cooperation within and between the Theme Groups. Other factors were external, e.g. the then recent debate about developments in sub-Saharan Africa, and research on Africa performed elsewhere in the Netherlands and in other countries.

The research agenda-setting process concluded successfully with the introduction of the new ASC research programme. The new Theme Groups were: 'Culture, Politics and Inequality in Africa' (CPI), 'Economy, Ecology and Exclusion' (EEE) and 'Agency in Africa' (AA). The ASC also created two Working Groups: 'Networks of Uncertainty' and 'Urban Dynamics'. The aim of these Working Groups, which focused on broad themes, was to stimulate knowledge exchange between the new Theme Groups.

On 1 April 2002 the old Theme Groups were discontinued and the new Theme Groups and two Working Groups were installed. Appendix 9 summarises the research programmes of the new Theme Groups.

In terms of personnel, the CPI, EEE and AA Theme Groups were largely a continuation of the three previous ones (CCC, SRA and Glob). In light of the aim of the Working Groups, research staff in all the Theme Groups should contribute to the Working Groups. The research projects of the new Theme Groups should be completed in 2006.

The Theme Groups CPI, EEE and AA focus on fundamental research and policy-relevant research, which is different from policy-driven research.

The Theme Group CPI performs more policy-relevant (and therefore less fundamental) research than the Theme Group EEE, and the latter performs more policy-relevant (and therefore less fundamental) research than the Theme Group AA.

### *'Culture, Politics and Inequality in Africa' Theme Group (CPI)*

Research in this Theme Group is interdisciplinary in nature, which means that the same topic is considered from different disciplinary angles. The members of the Theme Group have a common view on topics, but the individual members pursue their own lines of enquiry.

Although the approach to the theme is mainly sociological, anthropological and political, the Theme Group also has two historians as members because they fit in with the research framework of the group.

On 1 June 2004, the number of FTES involved in the Theme Group was 6.6 (Appendix 3).

Two members of the Theme Group were encouraged to publish an average of two articles per year in high-level journals (an 'A journal', see the subsection on 'Quality' below). There was no explicit publication policy for the other members.

During its monthly meetings, the Theme Group also discussed proposals for projects by its individual members. Theme Group members also worked together on book projects (e.g. editing) and on organizing seminars on methodological issues. The added value of the Theme Group is that its members felt committed to the group and discussed one another's research. The members of the Theme Group occasionally worked with members of the other Theme Groups.

#### *'Economy, Ecology and Exclusion' Theme Group (EEE)*

The research conducted by this Theme Group focuses on economic issues on the one hand and on ecology on the other. All of the research is related to the topic of exclusion or poverty. The aim is to publish a yearbook on EEE, especially on exclusion, at the end of the Theme Group period.

The Theme Group's main challenge is in the field of economics research. Fortunately, at present, a critical but very small group of economists is performing research at the ASC. The evaluation committee expects, however, that the economists will not remain working at the ASC if this critical group is not enlarged. A full-fledged economics department within the ASC probably will not be possible due to budget constraints, but **the evaluation committee thinks that at least two qualified, senior economists should be appointed at the ASC and that the ASC should collaborate more with economists working at Dutch universities. Furthermore, the ASC should offer a limited number of young economists, including from Africa, two-year appointments. Given the ASC's commitment to multi- and interdisciplinary research, the evaluation committee believes the ASC should prioritise the cultivation of more expertise in political economy – that is, in the kind of economic analysis that is itself interdisciplinary.**

On 1 June 2004 the number of FTES in the Theme Group came to 6.9 (Appendix 3). There were Theme Group discussions of books or articles by Theme Group members. Group discussions of methodological issues and literature discussions have been productive.

### *'Agency in Africa' Theme Group (AA)*

This Theme Group is concerned with the same issues as the other Theme Groups, but from a different perspective. It is therefore complementary to both of the other Theme Groups. There is some overlap of activities of the Theme Group with those of both other Theme Groups but there is also specialization in the Theme Group.

The output of the Theme Group will be two workshops and, later, a book edited by three members of the Theme Group.

On 1 June 2004 the number of FTEs in the Theme Group was 6.6 (Appendix 3). The emphasis on anthropological input has slowly diminished; for example, the newest Theme Group member is a researcher with a background in history.

Most members attended the monthly meetings of the Theme Group, where they discussed working papers and articles and presented their new research initiatives. Seminars and book projects brought the members into contact with members of the other Theme Groups.

### *'Networks of Uncertainty' Working Group*

This Working Group had a 'flying start' and invited people from all over the world to take part. However, it soon had capacity problems owing to research staff shortages. One thing becomes clear: the ambitious goal of this Working Group has not been met yet.

### *'Urban Dynamics' Working Group*

The goal of the 'Urban Dynamics' Working Group is limited to organising a small conference later in 2004. The papers presented at the conference will be published in a volume of African Dynamics. Also in this case, the original objective of a Working Group has not been realised. The evaluation committee considers that the Working Group, given its reduced task, in practice will achieve its goal.

## **3.3 Overall evaluation**

### *Quality*

#### ACTIVITIES, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The main research activities and products in the 1997-2003 period were the following:

#### (a) Publications

The ASC is a research institute that also has a wider role in society. The ASC research results are therefore published in various ways. It has developed a

publication policy to meet a broader, public demand for information on African issues, parallel to publishing in high profiled international publication outlets (journals, books, book sections). Appendix 10 presents the numbers of academic and non-academic publications in the 1997-2003 period.

In order to assess the academic performance of the ASC, the evaluation committee has followed the methodology of the CERES research school. The reasons for using the CERES methodology are threefold: (1) CERES holds certain qualitative and quantitative standards for the academic performance of researchers; (2) the ASC is an affiliated member of CERES; and (3) more than half of the ASC research staff are CERES members.

Appendix 11 gives the CERES/ASC methodology for rating of publications. The following table presents the number of publications by CERES rating in the 1997-2002 period.

Table. Number of publications by CERES rating (only CERES-rated publications), 1997-2002

	A	B	C	D	TOTAL
Journal articles	18	14	34	42	108
Book sections	99(a)		46	38	183
Books	26(a)		16	8	50
Total	157		96	88	341

Note (a): Categories A and B are combined because of the tentative character of the CERES book publishers rating at the time.

Source: additional ASC information.

This table makes clear that in the 1997-2002 period, the ABC output was 253 publications (66 journal articles, 145 book sections and 42 books).

#### (b) Organizing seminars and conferences

More than 200 seminars and conferences took place between 1997 and 2003; most of these (122) were regular seminars, covering a broad variety of topics and open to the public, with an average attendance of about twenty persons. Nineteen international conferences were also held, some of these co-organized by other research institutions, and two seminars for and with Dutch PhD students, in keeping with the ASC's new policy of enhancing its contribution to PhD teaching in the Netherlands.

(c) Cooperating with other researchers and research institutes

Within the research network of AEGIS, ASC research staff members contributed actively to working groups, at thematic conferences and summer schools.

**The evaluation committee recommends that the ASC firms up its intellectual links with its sister institutions in the AEGIS framework, e.g. by research staff exchanges, joint collaborative research work and regular programme exchanges.**

The ASC has put a great deal of effort into reaching the academic community in Africa. Some examples are the following:

- The ASC offered African researchers participating in research with ASC research staff the opportunity to publish in co-authorship with the ASC researcher.
- ASC research staff disseminated knowledge at local seminars and workshops.
- ASC research staff members frequently received visiting fellows and visitors, mostly from Africa. Between 1997 and 2003, 74 visiting fellows and visitors were received.
- The ASC sent all its publications to a select number of libraries all around Africa, free of charge.
- ASC research staff published almost half of its articles in the 1997-2003 period in regional, i.e. Africa-focused, journals that are more accessible to the African academic community than general, i.e. non-regional, journals.

**The evaluation committee advises the ASC to intensify its knowledge exchange on a one-to-one, fifty-fifty basis, with the best sister institutions in Africa, e.g. the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) in Senegal. Such cooperation can take the form of research staff exchanges, inviting high-profile African intellectuals to participate in workshop and conference programmes, and involving them in decision-making on the ASC's future research agenda.**

(d) Working for and with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The ASC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been involved in a number of joint activities that were co-financed by the Ministry on a project basis.

In performing these activities, the ASC maintained a good balance between purely academic/basic research and policy-oriented/applied research. Some examples are:

- ASC researchers performed research, advised the Ministry and wrote reports for the Ministry. For example, they conducted a – large edition – survey of the literature on democratisation at the Ministry’s request, a study of the Kenyan elections in 1997 at the request of the Dutch embassy in Nairobi, and a study, also on request, of the history of the Ministry’s Policy and Operations Evaluation Department (IOB). These publications are of course listed in the table under the heading ‘Publications’ found above in this section.
- ASC researchers and the Ministry organized a number of seminars and conferences, referred to under ‘Organizing seminars and conferences’ earlier in this section, e.g., the annual seminar for Ministry representatives and ASC researchers offering them the opportunity to reflect on their views of Africa, and the meeting in 1999 for the members of the Dutch Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs.
- A select number of ASC researchers were invited by the Ministry to comment on the new *Afrika Notitie* policy document in 2003.

#### (e) Teaching

Although the ASC is not a teaching institute, between 1997 and 2003 it endeavoured to make its research output available through the universities and engaged in several different teaching activities. Some examples:

- Some research staff members held, and still hold, a chair at a Dutch university and in that capacity gave scheduled courses.
- Other research staff members gave lectures as part of annual courses.
- All ASC research staff members gave lectures at Dutch and foreign academic institutions.
- Most research staff members were involved in supervising PhD students, either as promoters, co-promoters, supervisors or external examiners.

A new teaching initiative should be mentioned here as well. The ASC and the Faculties of Arts and of Social Sciences at Leiden University are developing a Research Masters in African Studies, which will be open to Dutch and foreign students.

#### (f) Media exposure

ASC research staff members gave a total of 342 interviews (almost 50 interviews a year) between 1997 and 2003, most of these on radio and to a lesser extent on television and in journals. Of the 342 interviews, eleven were intended for African media.

## SEP TABLE

The evaluation committee furthermore assessed the quality of the research of the ASC by looking at the items in a standardized table, derived from the Standard Evaluation Protocol 2003-2009 For Public Research Organisations (SEP):

	SCORE
Originality of the approach and ideas	4
Significance of the contribution to the field	3
Coherence of the programme	3
Publication strategy	3
Prominence of the programme director	3
Prominence of the other members of the research group	3
Quality of scientific publications (scientific impact)	4
Quality of other results	4

Scores: 5 = excellent, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = satisfactory, 1 = unsatisfactory

### Additional comments on the table:

- The evaluation committee considers the ASC's research contribution in the 1997-2003 period to be good, although the research may not be termed 'cutting-edge'. The themes were very broad, and this broad perspective meant that the research was not really coherent.
- The evaluation committee observed that the ASC had a general publication requirement for its research staff members, viz. a limited number of published books and articles over a five-year period. In addition to this, it observed that some of the staff members had an impressive publication track record, while the track records of other staff members were not very impressive.
- Although the new Theme Groups have only existed for two years, their leaders are prominent in their fields.
- Some members of the Theme Groups are fairly prominent in their fields.
- The 'other results' relate to the ASC's strong European networking activities.

## CONCLUSION

*On the basis of the above observations, the evaluation committee considers the overall quality of the research to be very good.*

### *Productivity*

#### PERFORMANCE PROFILE

ASC researchers spend 70% of their working time on research and writing publications, the director 10%, the researcher/manager 50%, and the Theme Group leaders 60% (Self-evaluation Report, p. 30). The time the research staff on the ASC payroll spent on research and writing publications during the 1997-2002 period was the equivalent of 69.2 FTEs. With the number of publications, classified as ABC in the CERES rating, during the 1997-2002 period standing at 253, the average number of these publications came to 3.7 per FTE per year spent on research and writing publications.

The number of non-academic publications during the 1997-2003 period came to 124 (14 reports and 110 publications for a wider readership). The average number of these publications was 1.8 per FTE per year spent on research and writing publications.

The ASC management evaluated researchers on their written output within a five-year period. For instance, researchers must have published one book and a number of articles, classified as ABC in the CERES rating, within five years.

The evaluation committee believes that the time invested by the ASC research staff, with (at least) 11 academic courses, (at least) 192 academic lectures and 117 PhD projects between 1997 and 2003, must have been considerable. However, this time has not been compensated financially. **The evaluation committee naturally considers teaching to be a positive stimulus for ASC research, but the ASC should put more effort into convincing the universities that it cannot provide its teaching activities for free. In the meantime, the ASC should mobilise its teaching contributions more coherently around the strategic development of PhD training.**

## SEP TABLE

The evaluation committee furthermore assessed the productivity of the ASC research by looking at the items in a standardized SEP table:

	SCORE
Number of PhD theses	Not relevant
Number of scientific publications	4
Number of professional publications	3
Other results (if applicable)	4
Distribution of published output within the group	3

Scores: 5 = excellent, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = satisfactory, 1 = unsatisfactory

Additional comments on the table:

- The evaluation committee considers neither the number of PhD projects nor, e.g., the number of courses given to be good indicators of the ASC's productivity, because the ASC is not a teaching institute.
- The number of ABC articles, book sections and books (CERES-rated) is considered to be good and the number of professional (non-academic) publications to be sufficient.
- The 'other results' relate to the number of seminars and conferences organized by the ASC.

## CONCLUSION

*On the basis of the above observations, the evaluation committee considers the ASC's overall research productivity to be very good.*

## Relevance

### TARGET GROUPS

With respect to the 'researchers' target group, the evaluation committee considers the ASC to perform research on a professional level. **The ASC should therefore focus primarily on the academic community, which is global by nature.**

The ASC has a good reputation as a research institute. It has a critical mass of good and in some cases excellent researchers, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to fieldwork. However, the focus of ASC research is very broad and not always at the heart of the important issues in African development. For example, the ASC has also been concerned with issues in

the Netherlands (e.g. 'Africans in the Diaspora'). The present research programme does not take a 'problem-solving' approach.

With respect to the 'policy-makers' target group, the relationship between ASC researchers and delegates from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs intensified during the 1997-2003 period. Some of the activities that the ASC carried out for and with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs were mentioned earlier in the subsection on 'Quality'. The ASC has a good reputation as an expertise centre on Africa with a focus on the social sciences in a broader sense. However, its knowledge of policy-related issues that concern important driving forces in African countries, such as health issues (HIV/AIDS) or ICT issues, is rather limited.

With respect to the 'the broader public' target group (including bachelor and PhD students), the ASC developed many activities for this group in the 1997-2003 period. Examples are (see also the subsection on 'Quality' earlier):

- 122 regular seminars covering a broad variety of topics;
- 342 interviews for radio, television and journals;
- more than 100 lectures for non-academic audiences in the Netherlands (such as the Red Cross, the Association of Dutch Municipalities, and several museums);
- seminars and workshops during which research findings are presented to local stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa;
- the ASC and Africanist websites, set up to disseminate knowledge of African societies and cultures among a broader public. The ASC website was developed in 1997 and face-lifted in 2000. At present the ASC website provides an outline of ASC research projects. It is considered to be a useful tool for a broader public, especially those wanting to get a first glimpse of ASC research projects. The Africanist website, available via the ASC website, was set up jointly by the Netherlands Association for African Studies (in Dutch: Nederlandse Vereniging voor Afrika Studies/NVAS), the Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (in Dutch: Nederlandse Organisatie voor Internationale Samenwerking in het Hoger Onderwijs/NUFFIC), the Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa (in Dutch: Nederlands Instituut voor Zuidelijk Afrika/NIZA) and the ASC. It lists a large number of Africa researchers in the Netherlands. The website is a useful tool for persons who have general or more specific questions regarding Africa studies.

Despite this overwhelming number of ASC activities, the evaluation commit-

tee was not able to assess the relevance of ASC research to the broader public because no systematic information has been made available on how such knowledge of African societies and cultures has been received. Even when the broader public is narrowed down to the group of bachelor and PhD students, no systematic information is available on their ‘customer satisfaction’. Quantifying the impact of ASC’s knowledge is very difficult. It is clear, however, that the ASC has contributed to disseminating its knowledge among the broader public, in particular among Dutch and African students.

#### SEP TABLE

The evaluation committee has also assessed the relevance of ASC research by considering the items of a standardized SEP table:

	SCORE
The advancement of knowledge	4
The dissemination of knowledge	4
The implementation of knowledge	?

Scores: 5 = excellent, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = satisfactory, 1 = unsatisfactory

Additional comments on the table:

- The ASC made sound contributions to the advancement of knowledge.
- The ASC disseminated its knowledge among all its target groups.
- The evaluation committee was not able to assess the implementation of ASC’s knowledge.

#### CONCLUSION

*On the basis of the above observations in the subsection ‘TARGET GROUPS’ and the additional observations in the subsection ‘SEP table’, the overall relevance of the ASC’s research is considered to be good.*

#### *Viability*

The viability of the ASC research activities has at least two sides. The first one is the future potential of the research programme as a whole. The second one relates to the contributions of the individual research staff members to the research activities.

## RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The evaluation committee observed that the ASC, based on its scientific performance, showed an impressive gain in the 1997-2003 period.

The evaluation committee also concluded that the research programme of the ASC is the sum of the research programmes of the Theme Groups. In 2006, when the present Theme Groups will be discontinued, the ASC will probably decide to retain the concept of Theme Groups as an organisational tool. If the ASC decides to continue with the same three groups of researchers and present Theme Group leaders, as it did in the year 2002 with the transition from the old Theme Groups to the present ones, **the evaluation committee recommends that the ASC should use the Theme Groups to define ‘cutting-edge’ problems for coordinated research.**

The goal of the Working Groups was to further the generalisation and conceptual development of the ASC’s research. The evaluation committee concludes, however, that the Working Groups have not yet played a structural role in ASC research activities and therefore have not yet achieved their goal. The Working Groups have acted as dedicated project groups. This raised the question of the viability of the concept of the Working Groups. **The evaluation committee concluded that this concept is not viable for a small sized institute like the ASC.**

## RESEARCH STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

The evaluation committee is convinced that joint research work between the individual researchers has intensified during the evaluation period.

The research staff was, and still is, multidisciplinary in nature. Between 1997 and 2003, the number of tenured staff with an anthropological or historical background increased and the number of tenured staff with a background in human geography declined. The percentage of tenured staff from other disciplinary backgrounds (e.g. economics, political science, sociology, human nutrition) remained the same during that period. At the end of 2003, a third of the tenured staff had an anthropological background.

In light of this development, the ASC’s management is concerned about the profile of the institute: its profile should not be ‘classical anthropology, but social sciences in the broader sense. **The evaluation committee therefore advises the ASC to maintain a good balance between tenured staff with an anthropological background and tenured staff with a background in other social sciences. ASC’s recruitment policy should reflect**

## **the broader dimensions of the research programmes of the Theme Groups.**

Two prominent senior researchers who were regarded as the prime bearers of ASC publications left the ASC, at least temporarily, after 2003, but in general the research staff mobility was low. On 31 December 2003, the average age of research staff was 50 years. The evaluation committee believes that these characteristics could prevent ASC research work from being more innovative. **It therefore recommends that the ASC should improve the age composition of its research staff, e.g. by one-year exchanges of young African and ASC researchers, and by creating a postdoctoral fellowship programme,** thereby improving research staff mobility and enhancing cross-fertilization.

### SEP TABLE

The evaluation committee also assessed the viability of ASC research by considering the items of a standardized SEP table:

	SCORE
Based on past scientific performance	4
Based on future plans and ideas	3
Based on staff age and mobility	2

Scores: 5 = excellent, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = satisfactory, 1 = unsatisfactory

Additional comments on the table:

- Based on past scientific performance, the evaluation committee observed that the ASC showed an impressive gain in the 1997-2003 period. The ASC, however, does not yet have very clear plans or ideas for its future research programme. The Scientific Team (WT) was installed in 2002 and has only just started developing a research strategy for the ASC as a whole.
- The research staff age and mobility score is worrying. **The evaluation committee considers this to be a serious human resources problem and advises the ASC to develop a strategy to solve it.**

## CONCLUSION

*On the basis of the above observations, the overall vitality and feasibility of the research are considered to be good.*

### *Other items in the SEP table*

The evaluation committee also reviewed ASC research activities in light of a number of other items mentioned in the standardized SEP table:

	SCORE
Leadership	3
Mission and goals	3
Strategy and policy	2
Adequacy of the resources	4
Funding policies	3
Facilities	5
Academic reputation	4
Societal relevance	3
Balance of the strengths and weaknesses	3

Scores: 5 = excellent, 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2 = satisfactory, 1 = unsatisfactory

Additional comments on the table:

- The evaluation committee observed that there was little top-down leadership from the Scientific Team (WT), leaving much room for individual exploration by researchers, and that the mission and goals of the ASC were very broadly formulated. The ambiguity in the ASC's mission is, e.g., revealed by the theme 'Africans in the Diaspora' (Africans in the Netherlands and to a lesser degree in Europe). It also observed a lack of an explicit strategy and policy with respect to research activities.
- The evaluation committee observed that the ASC relied strongly on one funding source and did not have an active funding policy. **It advises the ASC to develop a more active funding policy, particularly as there is the prospect of cuts in the budget obtained from that funding source.** A more active funding policy may also help to solve other problems, e.g. the age composition of the staff.

- With respect to the support facilities, the evaluation committee observed that the LDI provided excellent support for the research activities. The evaluation committee will elaborate on the LDI's activities in the following section. Other support facilities concerned include administration and personnel, management support, information and IT, and communication and publications. The evaluation committee also regards these facilities to be excellent.
- The evaluation committee considers the societal relevance of ASC research to be good.
- The balance of strengths and weaknesses is considered to have been good in the 1997-2003 period. However, the evaluation committee expects that the future balance will be distorted because of ASC's potential funding and human resources vulnerabilities.

*On the basis of the above observations, the other aspects of the research are considered to be very good.*

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## 4. Library, documentation and information activities

### 4.1 Introduction

The LDI department's main policy aim is to develop the library into the key information and documentation centre on Africa in the Netherlands. The LDI department should be defined by the high quality of its collection, its products and services, and by its offering access to other sources, files and organisations, for example through cooperation with institutions in the Netherlands, Europe and Africa (Self-evaluation Report, p. 7). The evaluation of the LDI's activities presented below is based on this policy perspective.

The evaluation committee used the general topics from the SEP (e.g. productivity and viability) as an implicit guideline for the evaluation of the library, documentation and information activities. It was not able to use the SEP as an explicit guideline, however, because the SEP is a protocol for assessing public research activities and not for library, documentation and information activities. The evaluation committee therefore couldn't use the SEP standard scoring table either.

### 4.2 Activities, products and services

Between 1997 and 2003, the *library system* was modernised and improved on a continuous basis. LDI staff were involved in these ICT upgrades, their particular task being to define user requirements. The LDI staff also invested a great deal of effort in developing, managing and improving the ASC website. Starting in 2000, several LDI products and services have gradually become accessible via the ASC website. The following are available online and free of charge:

- the updated catalogue;
- an updated list of periodicals, including a list of links to free, Africa-related, online journals;
- the library acquisitions list, updated each month;
- the African Studies Abstracts (ASA) journals, a quarterly journal with an average of 425 abstracts;
- web dossiers, providing bibliographic information on topical subjects or recent developments in Africa, with an average of four web dossiers a year. The web dossiers resulted from the collaborative efforts of the LDI staff and the ASC researchers.

The main collection-related activities of the LDI staff in the 1997-2003 period were the following:

- Developing the collection. The LDI staff processed on average 1680 books titles a year, with priority being given to ASC publications and publications by ASC researchers. They also processed 450 journal titles a year and updated journal subscriptions. With respect to the video collection, the LDI staff converted all 16 mm films to video format. The total budget for collection development grew from EUR 56,725 in 1997 to EUR 72,500 in 2003. Although its budget has increased between 1997 and 2003, the LDI was selective in its acquisitions. The subject specialists (more than half of the LDI staff are subject specialists) decided on the composition of the collection, together with the Library Committee. The evaluation committee would like the LDI to make its acquisition and archiving policy and strategy with respect to its collection more explicit. This will help the LDI management make policy decisions.
- Subject-indexing. The LDI staff is building a more user-friendly thesaurus system, and is translating the 8,500 UDC codes into English terms, linking those to other terms in various kinds of relationships, and checking terms with other specialists in the field.
- Abstracting the collection. Book and journal article abstracts ease the way for all users in their catalogue searches and point researchers to books and journal articles. In 1997, the LDI staff ceased abstracting books and journal articles on North Africa as well as monographs whose titles reflect the contents. In 2000, the LDI staff ceased abstracting books, except for edited works and publications by ASC research staff. On the other hand, since 2002 the LDI staff has included the journal abstracts provided by authors in its abstracting activities.
- Acquisitions. Since 2001, the LDI staff has made increasing use of online ordering mechanisms and internet bookshops. However, it was a time-consuming job acquiring African book titles and journals. The LDI is taking over these journals one by one from subscription agent EBSCO.
- Cataloguing the collection. In 1999/2000, ICT consultant Ingressus carried out a retrospective cataloguing project (library IT), entering book titles and journal titles into the PICA cataloguing system.
- Managing the collection. The LDI staff made books, journals, videos and microforms available in open stacks and drawers, stored older material etc. in the basement, and conserved books, journals and videos to the best of their ability.

The LDI has a collection consisting of (Self-evaluation Report, p. 40):

- 60,000 books and 450 current serials subscriptions. The total serials holdings amount to approximately 2,000;
- more than 400 films and documentaries on video, available to the public;
- 15,000 microfiches of newspapers and 9,500 of development plans for all African countries;
- grey literature: government reports, reports of international organizations, brochures, pamphlets.

The LDI's collection is specialized but comprehensive and includes primary historical sources, rare books, modern African literature and scientific publications. It consists mainly of printed documents in the social sciences and the humanities covering all African countries. The emphasis is on material on sub-Saharan Africa, firstly because ASC research limits itself to sub-Saharan Africa and secondly because no other Dutch library is devoted to collecting and preserving materials from sub-Saharan Africa. The size of a country collection within the LDI collection depends on the political, economic and demographic importance of that country.

One important guideline for the LDI staff in the 1997-2003 period was to maintain and continue building up the collection. Material on 'Africans in the Diaspora' formed a relatively new part of the collection (Africans in the Netherlands and to a lesser degree in Europe). Further additions included travel guides, e.g. the Lonely Planet series, insofar as these provided general information on a region or country. The collection profile has not changed dramatically in the past two decades.

The LDI will pay more attention to African arts and African cinema in its future collection, because these areas are regarded to be important subjects in university curricula. The evaluation committee suggests extending the LDI collection to include comparative research, e.g. comparison of Africa with Latin America, on such themes as regional development and adjustment and transformation problems.

The LDI's main activities with respect to the other sources, files and organisations during the 1997-2003 period involved exploiting its production output (bibliographic descriptions, abstracts, web dossiers, etc.).

**The evaluation committee advises the LDI to subscribe to e-journals (or e-journal packages), thereby making journals available online, and to survey the possibility of cross-referencing with other libraries, such as the library of Leiden University and the AEGIS partner libraries. The LDI should give priority to filling these gaps above further exploiting LDI's production output.**

Dissemination by the LDI staff took the following forms:

- lending, photocopying and delivering documents on demand;
- instructing users and potential users on how to use the collection, on demand;
- performing literature searches on demand. Once the LDI's OPAC was accessible via the internet, users were able to perform their own literature searches. LDI staff have therefore stopped performing literature searches;
- providing ASC researchers with regular outlines of the tables of contents of journals in the collection and lists of press clippings;
- alerting ASC researchers to book reviews of titles they have published;
- providing ASC researchers with literature lists in order to support workshops and seminars organised by them;
- bibliographic support of research needs.

### **4.3 Productivity**

In the 1997-2003 period, the LDI staff stood at about 8.5 FTES per year (12 persons). There were two categories of staff: subject specialists (about 55% of all LDI staff) and the assistant librarians (about 45% of all LDI staff).

In 1998, the automated system modules became available (administration of acquisitions, user registration, lending facilities). As a result, the lending desk became more efficient, leading to more books being lent per user.

In the same period, working processes related to abstracting books and journal articles were organized more efficiently. The LDI staff discontinued some of its abstracting activities; journal abstracts provided by authors were included so as to keep up the quantity of the LDI's abstracting service.

### **4.4 Target groups**

The LDI collection is open to the public and borrowing is free of charge. A library card (EUR 2.50, valid for two years) was, and still is, needed to borrow from the LDI.

Between 1997 and 2003, there were on average 5,236 visitors to the LDI premises a year. An average of 6,180 persons visited annually between 1991 and 1996, so the number of visitors has fallen slightly. This was probably due to the accessibility of the ASC website and its excellent search functions. ASC researchers and visiting fellows accounted for a relatively small proportion of all the LDI's visitors. About 70% of the visitors were students.

The LDI described its target groups as follows: (a) researchers and students; and (b) others interested in Africa and African studies, for example journalists, policy-makers, employees of NGOs, interested persons from the business community, etc. The evaluation committee, however, deviates from the LDI's description of its target groups. It considers the LDI to be a part of the ASC and the target groups should therefore be the same. The ASC target groups are: researchers, policy-makers and a broader public.

With respect to the 'researchers' target group, the LDI acquired books and articles whenever ASC researchers needed these. The LDI also provided ASC researchers with regular outlines of the table of contents of journals in the collection, lists of press clippings, and literature lists in order to support their workshops and seminars. The LDI also alerted ASC researchers to book reviews of titles they had published.

Regarding knowledge dissemination to African researchers, the LDI sent print copies of the African Studies Abstracts (ASA) journals to thirty African institutions that did not have access to the internet.

With respect to the 'policy-makers' target group, it was clear that other libraries (e.g. of the Institute of Social Studies) and information sources were important as well. The LDI was one of many sources of information for policy-makers.

With respect to the 'broader public' target group, a study was conducted among LDI users in 1996, but no systematic information is currently available to the evaluation committee with respect to 'user satisfaction' among this target group.

Additional comments:

- The evaluation committee was generally impressed by the positive customer service attitude of the LDI staff and the excellent LDI collection.
- It is clear that, although most users of the LDI also 'shop' elsewhere, they greatly appreciated the LDI collection and information provision.
- The evaluation committee considers the online catalogue to be an asset.
- The evaluation committee regards the abstracting service of the LDI to be very informative and useful for all target groups. One can browse through the summaries on the web.
- The evaluation committee observed that the video collection was used mainly for lectures.

- The evaluation committee also observed that the web dossiers were relatively unknown to the target groups. **It therefore recommends that the LDI invest more effort in publicising the web dossiers among website users and evaluate the ‘user satisfaction’ level with respect to the web dossiers in a few years time. The evaluation committee also recommends that web dossiers should be further cross-linked to ASC research.**

## 4.5 Viability

The evaluation committee observed that the LDI had some excellent facilities: a spacious reading room, five computer terminals for processing the catalogue and the internet, viewing facilities for videos, a microfiche reader, photocopiers for visitor use, and – last but not least – its ICT facilities.

However, there are bottlenecks with respect to other facilities. To begin with, the presently available archiving space is very worrying, and, secondly, within five years there will be no shelving space left (for books etc.). **The evaluation committee advises the ASC to solve both problems at short notice.** Thirdly, there are also clear problems when it comes to the conservation and preservation of films and videos. In order to solve these problems, the LDI might consider joining an enterprise such as the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP)<sup>1</sup>; membership costs USD 1,000 per year. Of course, there are other enterprises similar to CAMP that are involved in collecting and archiving cooperatively materials in microform, e.g. books, papers, journals, films and videos in many European and African languages. CAMP and similar enterprises are also exploring the application of digital technologies to archival concerns. **The evaluation committee advises the LDI to weigh up the costs and benefits of these enterprises and to select the best ones to archive its materials.**

## 4.6 Conclusion

*On the basis of the above observations, the library, documentation and information activities are considered to be excellent.*

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<sup>1</sup> CAMP is an international collecting and preservation enterprise based at the Center for Research Libraries. It draws upon the knowledge, skills and energies of North America's foremost Africanists to identify documents and other primary sources of importance to scholars, and ensures their long-term availability. Nearly 200 research libraries and universities support and benefit from CRL efforts to preserve the richness and diversity of research sources.

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## 5. Conclusions and recommendations

### 5.1 Mission statement

On the one hand the ASC is a knowledge and information centre oriented towards the Netherlands, on the other hand oriented towards Africa. The evaluation committee considers it positive that the ASC aims to focus the attention of the Netherlands on Africa. Overall, the ASC has been fulfilling its existing mission statement very well. However, the mission statement of the ASC could be considered to be too broad and therefore unclear for all those concerned, including the researchers themselves. **The evaluation committee advises the ASC to narrow down its mission statement.**

**The focus of the ASC is and should remain on fundamental and policy-relevant research. The evaluation committee recommends that the ASC should emphasize its multidisciplinary research, and focus – in line with current scientific developments – on thematic and comparative research, linking micro and macro developments.** This will lead to a clearer research profile. The evaluation committee expects that the ASC will benefit from a clear research profile, externally as well as internally.

### 5.2 Funding

The ASC is mainly financed through a single source (three ministries). This source provides for the long-term, basic funding of approximately 90% of ASC's income. The evaluation committee considers that with only 10% of funding coming from other sources, the ASC is potentially vulnerable to budget cuts from its primary funding source. **It therefore advises the ASC to make a major effort to gain more additional sources of funding, thereby gradually increasing the present 10% of additional funding to a maximum of 20% in the future. Of course, the ASC should maintain a good balance between the number of funding sources and its research autonomy. The aim should be to avoid depending on only a limited number of funding sources. The ASC could, for example, generate – presently negligible – funds from the NWO research council – although this is always a difficult process, requiring much work to prepare a research proposal and with only a small chance of being rewarded. Furthermore, the ASC could discuss with the universities the added value of its research staff's contribution to teaching in their bachelor and PhD programmes and in the Research Masters in African Studies which is**

scheduled to commence soon. The universities should compensate the ASC financially for its contribution to teaching, thereby generating additional funding for the ASC.

The new director, appointed as of 1 September 2004, and the newly appointed project coordinator should contribute significantly to the quest for additional funding. Future ASC research staff members should focus on this issue as well.

### **5.3 Human resources**

The ASC is also potentially vulnerable with respect to its human resources. The average age of the research staff is 50 years and the external research staff mobility is low. **The evaluation committee advises the ASC to work on the age composition of its research staff, for example by appointing young researchers.** It considers that a more active funding policy and temporarily appointing post-docs would also be helpful in solving this problem. Moreover, a deliberate policy of diversifying the social science specialisation of the ASC research staff is advisable in future recruitment activities.

### **5.4 Research facilities**

The evaluation committee considers the ASC research facilities (LDI, ICT, support staff) to be excellent. At present, the ASC is a small research institute that has to cater for these facilities itself. The research facilities provide a solid basis for the future ASC research activities.

### **5.5 Future research programme**

The research projects from the present Theme Groups should be concluded by the year 2006. **The evaluation committee advises the ASC to commence the research agenda-setting process now and to let the research agenda guide future research staff recruitment. In developing its future research agenda, the ASC should intensify participation in international scientific debates, exchanging knowledge with the best African sister institutions and high-profile African intellectuals. The latter should also be involved in decision making on ASC's future research agenda.**

Moreover, **the evaluation committee recommends that the ASC should use a foresight methodology with respect to its research agenda-setting.** This methodology is also used by the Academy in foresight exercises concerning multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research. A foresight study

from a scientific perspective is generally concerned with helping Dutch research in the foresight field to tie in more effectively with possible future trends and developments in the national and international scientific contexts. Key questions include: Where are the opportunities? Are there threats? What is the subject of consensus? What recommendations can be made?

## 5.6 Linking the LDI and ASC research

**The evaluation committee recommends that the ASC cross-links the web dossiers of the LDI department to ASC research.** By doing so, the ASC's researchers can use the web dossiers as a tool to communicate with a broader public, and the LDI and research functions of the ASC can be more closely integrated.

## 5.7 Management

**The evaluation committee advises the Curatorium to evaluate the responsibilities of the management layers (Curatorium, Scientific Advisory Council, Management Team, Scientific Team) and the actual forms of communication between these layers. It should, where necessary, adjust these responsibilities and forms of communication. Interaction between the management layers could be improved.**

The internal management structure, with both a Scientific Team (WT) and a Management Team (MT), seems complicated and top heavy. **The evaluation committee therefore recommends to discontinue the Management Team in its present form, bringing all managerial tasks under the direct executive responsibility of the new director. The director must be the academic leader of the ASC as well. The ASC could consider to appoint a part-time deputy director for internal managerial affairs.**

The Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) is a sounding board for the Scientific Team (WT). In the past the SAC has had sharp discussions about important ASC issues, but the impact of these discussions has not been entirely clear to the evaluation committee. **It therefore recommends that the WT derives greater benefits from the SAC**, for example when it comes to the academic direction and agenda-setting processes. **The role of the SAC should be strengthened.** This stronger role may have consequences for the composition and size of the SAC. The size of the SAC could sharply be reduced.

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## Appendix 1. Mission and goals of the ASC

Source: Self-evaluation Report, pp. 2-3.

The ASC was founded in 1948. It is an independent, inter-university research institute with the following *formal objectives*:

- promote scientific research on sub-Saharan Africa, in particular in the social and legal sciences;
- function as the national focal point for African studies and, in this context, promote an appropriate combination of scientific research and academic education in the social and legal sciences as related to sub-Saharan Africa;
- promote the dissemination of knowledge of African societies and cultures.

The ASC endeavours to accomplish these goals in the following ways:

- maintain an institute in Leiden, including a library and documentation on Africa;
- carry out scientific research, contribute to academic education, and cooperate with universities and other institutions in the Netherlands active in the Centre's field;
- carry out its research in cooperation with African institutions and in such a way that the results are of importance for the population of the countries concerned;
- provide information and advice based on the results and insights gained from research;
- publish scientific writings on Africa by ASC staff members or non-members;
- promote and maintain international academic relationships in the field of African studies;
- everything else that can contribute to the Centre's objectives.

In defining its *mission*, the Centre aspires to be

- the key centre for African studies in the Netherlands;
- the key knowledge and information centre on Africa in the Netherlands.

In addition, the Centre aspires to be

- an important 'sounding board' and facilitator for reflection for Africa researchers, as well as a 'foothold' for capacity building;
- an active player in the worldwide networks of Africanists;

- a discussion partner and source of inspiration for policy-makers and politicians in the Netherlands and Africa.

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## Appendix 2. Global outline of the work programme of the ASC evaluation committee

### Terms of reference

The Curatorium of the ASC has requested the Board of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (in Dutch: Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen /KNAW) to evaluate the ASC's activities between 1997 and 2003. On the basis of this request, the Board of the Academy has decided to install an evaluation committee that will assess the activities and comment on the ASC's plans for future research. The Board of the Academy has appointed Prof. Bert van der Knaap, Erasmus University Rotterdam and member of the Academy, as the chairman of the evaluation committee and Dr Ans Vollering, staff member of the Academy, as secretary.

### Evaluation committee members

In consultation with the Curatorium of the ASC, the chair of the evaluation committee has invited a number of members to join the evaluation committee of the ASC. The members have been selected following external recommendations and based on their experience and status in the field.

The Board of the Academy has appointed the members of the evaluation committee.

### Schedule of work

The evaluation committee had a half-day meeting in Leiden in the second half of May 2004 to discuss the Self-evaluation Report and its site visit in June 2004. The exact dates of the meetings, both of which took place at the ASC's premises in Leiden, were determined in consultation with all the members of the evaluation committee. The meeting to discuss the Self-evaluation Report took place on 19 May 2004.

It was not possible for all members of the evaluation committee to be present at the ASC during an overall site visit in June 2004. Two separate but complementary site visits were therefore organised, one focusing on the LDI's activities (9 June 2004) and the other on the ASC's research activities (24 and 25 June 2004).

In week 38, Prof. Bert van der Knaap sent the draft report of the evaluation committee to the Curatorium of the ASC.

The evaluation committee used the Standard Evaluation Protocol 2003-2009 for Public Research Organizations (SEP) to assess the ASC's research activities.

## **Finance**

The members of the evaluation committee have been fully reimbursed for their travel expenses (travel fare economy class) and the cost of their stay (lodging, lunches and dinners) during both visits to Leiden. An allowance of EUR 500 per meeting day was also made available to each member of the evaluation committee.

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## Appendix 3. List of ASC researchers by Theme Group as per 1 June 2004

Source: Additional information ASC.

	FTE	discipline
<b>Culture, Politics and Inequality</b>		
Prof. Jan Abbink (head)	1.0	political anthropology
Dr Stephen Ellis	1.0	history
Dr Mayke Kaag (since 2003)	0.8	anthropology
Dr Piet Konings	1.0	sociology
Dr Ben Soares (since 2003)	1.0	anthropology/Islam
Dr Ineke van Kessel	0.8	history
Dr Klaas van Walraven	1.0	political science
<b>Economy, Ecology and Exclusion</b>		
Dr Deborah Bryceson	0.2	economic geography
Dr Dick Foeken	1.0	human geography
Prof. Jan Hoorweg	1.0	psychology/human ecology
Ir. Wijnand Klaver	0.4	human nutrition
Dr André Leliveld (since 2003)	0.5	economy
Drs Henk Meilink	1.0	economy
Dr Marcel Rutten (head)	1.0	human geography
Prof. John Sender (since 2003)	1.0	economy
Dr Han van Dijk	0.8	forestry/anthropology
<b>Agency in Africa</b>		
Dr Mirjam de Bruijn (head)	1.0	anthropology
Julie Duran (WOTRO)	0.6	anthropology
Dr Jan-Bart Gewald (since 2002)	1.0	history
Karin Nijenhuis (WOTRO)	0.6	law/human geography
Dr Wouter van Beek (since 2002)	0.4	anthropology
Prof. Wim van Binsbergen	1.0	anthropology
Dr Rijk van Dijk	1.0	anthropology
Kiky van Til (WOTRO)	1.0	anthropology

### **Theme group changes during the 1997-2003 period**

During the 1997-2003 period, two changes took place.

The first one was the discontinuation of the De-Agrarianization (DeAg) Theme Group in 1999. Its members went to the three other Theme Groups: Globalisation (Glob), CCC and SRA.

Secondly, as per April 1, 2002, the three old Theme Groups were replaced by the three present ones. As a consequence, group memberships changed for a limited number of persons. In terms of personnel, the three new Groups (AA, CPI and EEE) were to a great extent a continuation of the three previous ones (Glob, CCC and SRA, respectively).

### **Former Theme Group members**

	<b>TG</b>
Dr Anneke Breedveld (WOTRO)	Glob
Dr Rob Buijtenhuijs	CCC
Dr Tjalling Dijkstra	SRA
Prof. Vernie February	Glob
Dr Patricia Paravano	DeAg
Dr Thera Rasing (WOTRO)	Glob
Elly Rijnierse (WOTRO)	CCC
Dr Nina Tellegen	DeAg/Glob
Dr Laurens van der Laan	SRA
Prof. Emile van Rouveroy van Nieuwaal	Glob

### **Finally**

The following persons appear on the List of written output (Annex 18) but are/were not members of a Theme Group:

Elvire Eijkman	LDI
Katrien Polman	LDI
Dr Marijke van den Engel	assistant to the director
Marlene van Doorn	LDI
Willem Veerman	IT

The director, Dr Gerti Hesseling, was officially a member of the SRA Theme Group, but that was more on paper than in practice. She is therefore not a member of any of the three current Theme Groups.

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## Appendix 4. List of key publications

The key publications below are provided by the ASC to the evaluation committee as a part of the procedure for the evaluation.

Key publications ‘Culture, Politics and Inequality in Africa: Formations of power and identity’ Theme Group (CPI):

- Robert Launay and Benjamin F. Soares: ‘The formation of an ‘Islamic sphere’ in French Colonial West Africa’, in: *Economy and Society*, volume 28, number 4, November 1999
- Jon Abbink: ‘Badme and the Ethio-Eritrean Border: The Challenge of Demarcation in the Post-War Period’, in: *Africa*, LVIII, 2, 2003
- Piet Konings: ‘Organised Labour and Neo-Liberal Economic and Political Reforms in West and Central Africa’, in: *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 21, 3, September 2003
- Stephen Ellis: *The Mask of Anarchy: The destruction of Liberia and the religious dimension of an African civil war*, New York: New York University Press, 1999
- Ineke van Kessel: *Beyond our wildest dreams: The United Democratic Front and the transformation of South Africa*, London/Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2000

Key publications ‘Economy, Ecology and Exclusion’ Theme Group (EEE):

- André Leliveld: ‘The Effects of Restrictive South African Migrant Labor Policy on the Survival of Rural Households in Southern Africa: A Case Study from Rural Swaziland’, in: *World Development*, volume 25, number 11, November 1997
- John Sender: ‘Africa’s Economic Performance: Limitations of the Current Consensus’, in: *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, volume 13, number 3, Summer 1999
- Dick Foeken and Alice Mwangi: ‘Increasing food security through urban farming in Nairobi’, in: Bakker, N., Dubbeling, M., Gündel, S., Sabel-Koschella, U., and Henk de Zeeuw (editors): *Growing Cities, Growing Food. Urban Agriculture on the Policy Agenda. A reader on Urban Agriculture*, Deutsche Stiftung für internationale Entwicklung (DSE), April 2000
- Debora Fahy Bryceson: ‘The Scramble in Africa: Reorienting Rural Livelihoods’, in: *World Development*, volume 30, number 5, May 2002
- Han van Dijk: ‘Risk, Agro-Pastoral Decision Making and the Natural

- Resource Management in Fulbe Society, Central Mali', in: *Nomadic Peoples* (1)1, 108-132, 1997
- Marcel Rutten: 'Parks beyond Parks: Genuine community-based wildlife eco-tourism or just another loss of land for Maasai pastoralists in Kenya?', *Issue paper no. 111*, IIED, June 2002
  - Deborah Bryceson, Cristobal Kay and Jos Mooij, eds.: *Disappearing Peasantries: Rural Labour in Africa, Asia and Latin America*. London: ITDG, 2000
  - Jan Hoorweg, Dick Foeken, R.A. Obudho, eds.: *Kenya Coast Handbook: Culture, resources and development in the east African littoral*. Hamburg: Lit, 2000

Key publications 'Agency in Africa: Understanding socio-cultural transformations in time and space' Theme Group (AA):

- Wim van Binsbergen and Rijk van Dijk, eds.: *Situating Globality: African Agency in the Appropriation of Global Culture*. Leiden/Boston, Brill, 2004
- Jan Bart Gewald: *Herero Heroes. A Socio-Political History of the Herero of Namibia 1890-1923*. Oxford, James Currey; Cape town, David Philip; Athens, Ohio University Press, 1999
- Mirjam de Bruijn, Rijk van Dijk en Dick Foeken, eds.: *Mobile Africa: Changing patterns of movement in Africa and beyond*. Leiden, Brill, 2001
- Rijk van Dijk, Ria Reis and Marja Spierenburg, eds.: *The Quest for fruition through Ngoma: The political aspects of the healing in Southern Africa*. Oxford: James Currey, 2000

Key publications 'Networks of Uncertainty' Working Group:

- 'Networks of uncertainty'. International workshop African Studies Centre, Leiden, 15-17 May 2002

Key publications 'Urban Dynamics' Working Group:

- Working Group Urban Dynamics in Africa (Rijk van Dijk, Mirjam de Bruijn, Dick Foeken): 'Exploring the wealth of the African neighbourhood: the sustainability and creativity of urban life', Colloquium organized by the African Studies Centre, Leiden, 16-17 September 2004

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## Appendix 5. Programme site visit 9 June 2004

9-10h: preparation by Dr David Easterbrook, Prof. Bert van der Knaap, Dr Ans Vollering.

10-10.30h: discussion with ASC management team.

- Dr Dick Foeken, researcher/ manager.
- Dr Gerti Hesselning, director.
- Titia van der Werf, head LDI.

10.30-12h: discussion with documentalists of the LDI.

- Marlene van Doorn, deputy head LDI, native English speaker. Her tasks are: abstracting and coding; library automation; thesaurus project.
- Elvire Eijkman. Her tasks are: forming of collection French material; abstracting and coding French material; documentary support (bibliography).
- Tiny Kraan. Her tasks are: forming of collection and acquiring films; film seminars; documentary support (web dossiers).

12-13h: lunch with sandwiches in the meeting room for Dr David Easterbrook, Prof. Bert van der Knaap, Dr Ans Vollering.

13-14.30h: discussion with group of 'internal' users LDI.

- Dr Rijk A. van Dijk. Researcher ASC Theme Group 'Agency in Africa: Understanding socio-cultural transformations in time and space' (AA).
- Dr André H.M. Leliveld. Researcher ASC Theme Group 'Economy, Ecology and Exclusion' (EEE).
- Dr Klaas van Walraven. Researcher ASC Theme Group 'Culture, Politics and Inequality in Africa: Formations of power and identity' (CPI).

14.30-16h: discussion with group of 'external' users LDI.

- Jos van Aken. Documentalist at the Department Immigration and Naturalisation (IND) of the Ministry of Justice.
- Dr Daniela Merolla. Researcher/teacher African linguistics, African studies, Faculty of Arts, Leiden University.
- Serge Veldhuizen. Student political sciences (international relations) at the University of Amsterdam.

- Karin Willemse. Assistant professor at the Faculty Historical and Art Sciences, Erasmus University Rotterdam.

16-16.30h: discussion of preliminary findings with ASC management team.

- Dr Dick Foeken, researcher/ manager.
- Dr Gerti Hesseling, director.
- Titia van der Werf, head LDI.

16.30-17.30h: overall discussion of the report of the evaluation committee by Dr David Easterbrook, Prof. Bert van der Knaap, Dr Ans Vollering.

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## Appendix 6. Programme site visit 24/25 June 2004

### Thursday 24 June

12-12.45h: Lunch (optional).

12.45-13h: Preparation of next discussion.

13-14h: Discussion with Management Team.

- Dr Dick Foeken, researcher/ manager
- Dr Gerti Hesselings, director
- Titia van der Werf, head LDI

14-14.30h: Evaluation of previous discussion; preparation of following discussion.

14.30-15.30h: Discussion with delegation from Curatorium.

- E.M.A. Schmitz, chair 1999 -
- Prof. (Em.) G. Lycklama à Nijeholt, member 1997-
- E.W. Wits, member 1997-2003

15.30-16h: Evaluation of previous discussion; preparation of following discussion.

16-17h: Discussion with delegation from Scientific Advisory Council.

- Prof. L.J. de Haan, chair 2001-
- Prof. P.L. Geschiere, member 1997-2002
- Dr M.B. O’Laughlin, member 2001-
- Prof. M.P. van Dijk, member 2001-

17-17.30h: Evaluation of previous discussion; rounding off the day.

From 19h: Dinner for Dr. Christopher Cramer, Prof. Bert van der Knaap, Prof. Henrik Marcussen, Dr Dele Olowu and Dr Ans Vollering in restaurant In den Doofpot, Turfmarkt 9 in Leiden.

## Friday 25 June

Dr Christopher Cramer leads the discussions of CPI Theme Group  
Prof. Henrik Marcussen leads the discussions of EEE Theme Group  
Dr Dele Olowu leads the discussions of AA Theme Group

8.45-9h: Preparation of following discussions.

9-9.30h: Discussion with Prof. Jan Abbink (head CPI Theme Group).

9.30-10h: Discussion with Dr Piet Konings and Dr Ben Soares (members CPI Theme Group).

10-10.30h: Evaluation of previous discussions; preparation of following discussions.

10.30-11h: Discussion with Dr Marcel Rutten (head EEE Theme Group).

11-11.30h: Discussion with Prof. John Sender and Dr Han van Dijk (members EEE Theme Group).

11.30-12h: Evaluation of previous discussions; preparation of following discussions.

12-12.30h: Discussion with Dr Mirjan de Bruijn (head AA Theme Group).

12.30-13h: Discussion with Prof. Wim van Binsbergen and Dr Rijk van Dijk (members AA Theme Group).

13-14h: Lunch.

14-16h: Evaluation of previous discussions; preparation of all discussions during the site visit; preliminary conclusions.

16-17h: Discussion of preliminary conclusions with Management Team.

- Dr Dick Foeken, researcher/ manager
- Dr Gerti Hesseling, director
- Titia van der Werf, head LDI

## Appendix 7. Personnel as per 31 December, 1997-2003 in FTES

Source: Self-evaluation report, p. 8.

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total 97-03	As % of total staff
<b>Management*</b>	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	3.4	3.4	18.7	7.9
<b>Research staff</b>									
main researcher	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	5.4	5.1	24.0	10.1
senior researcher	7.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.0	8.3	47.3	20.0
researcher	4.1	6.5	7.1	7.1	6.6	2.4	1.4	35.2	14.9
junior researcher				1.1	1.1	0.6	0.8	3.6	1.5
<i>Sub-total research staff</i>	<i>14.2</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>14.4</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>110.1</i>	<i>46.5</i>
junior researcher, external**	3.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	1.1	1.4	2.0		
staff member at own request**	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0		
<i>Total research staff</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>19.0</i>	<i>20.6</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>17.9</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>17.6</i>		
<b>LDI staff</b>									
Head***	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.5	1.1
Subject specialist	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	31.5	13.3
Assistant librarian	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.7	25.2	10.6
<i>Total LDI staff</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>8.4</i>	<i>8.4</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>59.2</i>	<i>25.0</i>
<b>Support staff****</b>	5.8	7.7	7.3	7.1	6.2	6.8	7.8	48.7	20.6
<b>Total all staff</b>	34.9	37.8	38.9	37.6	34.9	34.1	37.0	255.2	
<b>Total staff on ASC pay roll</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>32.7</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>236.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 1997-2001: director (100%), head Library (50%), theme group leaders (30%); 2002 - 2003: director (100%), head LDI (100%), researcher/manager (50%), theme group leaders (= WT; 30%).

\*\* Not on ASC pay roll. The staff members concerned were an individual who continued to work part-time after his retirement, and another individual who was attached to the DARE programme for a short time.

\*\*\* 1997 - 2001: head was 'co-worker/superior'; 2002 - 2003: head is full-time manager, partly as head of LDI, partly as MT member, appearing under 'management'.

\*\*\*\* 2003: includes temporary assistant for archive work (0.4 FTE).

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## Appendix 8. Summaries of the research programmes of the old theme groups

Source: Annexes to the Self-evaluation Report, pp. 10-11.

### *Theme Group 'Control, Conciliation and Conflict in Africa' (CCC)*

The central research theme is the study of processes and historical conditions of political change in Africa after the period of one-party state hegemony. Roughly since 1990, Africa has embarked on a course of 'political liberalization', resulting in changes or adjustments in political systems and regime structures. This is evidenced in part by a succession of national conferences, multi-party elections and changes of government in a number of countries. The political landscape of Africa has thus undergone drastic transformations. The research in this theme group addresses four interrelated domains: a) the extent and meaning of processes of political change in relation to changing theories of African states/regimes, governance, hegemonic strategies, and African 'political culture'; b) the role and impact of violent conflict as it relates to the political process; c) changes in state bureaucracies and the phenomenon of the 'criminalization' of African states/regimes; and d) connections and relations that the countries studies have with their neighbours and with the international political-economic order, which figures as a subtext in many processes of political change. Attention to historical context and comparison are an underlying concern.

### *Theme Group ('Society and Resources in Africa: Resource management and social security in the context of a changing natural environment' (SRA))*

Environmental issues are closely intertwined with the social and economic crisis in Africa. Major environmental problems in Sub-Saharan Africa are drought and desertification; land degradation and deforestation; urban decay; and coastal degradation. Despite the large potential of natural resources in Africa, environmental degradation, in combination with population growth, economic stagnation and political conflict, results in resource decline and impoverishment. Inequalities between population groups are both causes and results of environmental problems. The research programme highlights the relationships between resources and society, situating ecology in a historical, political and social context. Altering the management of resources is a central issue in the programme. These include natural resources

(land, water, cattle, trees, etc.), human resources (labour, capital, indigenous knowledge) and social resources (social relations, commercial networks), all in relation to the natural environment. The programme comprises four themes: tenure of natural resources, resource management, livelihood strategies, and social security. Research is conducted in the drylands of West and East Africa and in the coastal zones of East Africa, and both rural and urban areas are examined. The programme has an interdisciplinary perspective and an important comparative element. It will also be of value for the formulation of policy in ecology and resource management.

### *Theme Group 'Globalisation and Sociocultural Transformation in Africa' (Glob)*

Globalization is broadly defined as a process of intensifying contact between cultures and social formations in the economic, political and cultural domains, forging new and pervasive links of interdependence between various localities. It is fuelled by the tendency towards reducing the costs of space and time and has transformative and dislocating effects on human collectivities, in socio-cultural, ideological and political-economic senses. At present, globalization is typically being produced under conditions of modern industrial technology, with its unprecedented mastery of space and time in transport, communication, information and media, speaking their new language of decontextualized images and signs. The impact of globalization does not depend primarily on the actual distribution of such technologies to every corner of the globe (or, in our case, the African continent), but on the diffusion of globalizing phenomena in the domains of politics, economics and cultural exchange, making them frames of reference for more and more people. These phenomena redefine social and cultural ideals, challenging people's local identity and self-understanding. Hence, globalization will also be studied in its historical manifestations that preceded modern, industrial developments. The clearly identifiable sociocultural transformations resulting from globalization at virtually all levels of society – now largely informed by the dynamics of world economic markets – will be the object of study. Economic aspects of globalization feature in the programme to the extent that they provide relevant frameworks for the analysis of sociocultural manifestations of globalization.

*Theme Group 'De-Agrarianization: Labour, locality and identity in transformation' (DeAg)*

This theme group focuses on changing labour patterns, forms of employment and related rural-urban interaction in Sub-Saharan Africa. The concept of 'de-agrarianization' is defined as a long-term process of (1) occupational change, (2) income-earning reorientation, (3) social identification, and (4) spatial relocation of rural dwellers, away from strictly peasant modes of agrarian existence. Not all facets of the de-agrarianization process necessarily unfold simultaneously. In fact, asynchronic development is the norm. (...) There are numerous permutations of the de-agrarianization process, so much so that the overall tendency towards non-agrarian phenomena can be masked by the welter of variation. Nonetheless, broad continental tendencies towards residential and occupational change over time are emerging. The theme group aims to disaggregate and trace the de-agrarianization process in particular geographical localities, as well as at a general continental level. Not only are its various manifestations and patterns identified, but also the root causes and ultimate outcomes of this process are traced. The value of doing so lies partly in the fact that de-agrarianization, as a multi-dimensional process, has been generally ignored in the literature despite its pervasiveness in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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## Appendix 9. Summaries of the programmes of the new theme groups

Source: Self-evaluation Report, p. 18.

### *'Culture, Politics and Inequality in Africa' Theme Group (CPI)*

The CPI theme group is concerned with the study of political dynamics and conflict within African societies, with reference to historical and cultural factors. Its members look at the formation of political power and emerging inequality patterns, as well as to the international global system as it impinges on these processes in Africa. Set in the theoretical framework of the theme group's programme, empirical research is carried out both in archives and through fieldwork and direct observation. Based on the realization that many current developments and aspects of African societies are affected by long-term structural processes, considerable attention was devoted to the historical perspective of the research programme. A continuing central concern of the theme group is the study of violent conflict. CPI has been calling urgent attention to the understudied dimension of long-term causative factors shaping manifestations of current violent political formations. One topic that receives specific attention is the role of youth and generational conflict. The historical focus of the research work is connected to CPI's central research question about how cultural resources are used to construct new configurations of power and identity. The growing role of religion in the public sphere and its role in the formation of collective movements is also addressed in this context.

### *'Economy, Ecology and Exclusion' Theme Group (EEE)*

The focus of this theme group is twofold: (1) Africa in the world economy, a topic that will be further developed during the coming period, and (2) decision-making in the livelihood sphere. Local economic, institutional and environmental conditions and their variability are considered as the basic factors to which local actors respond when making decisions and organizing production and consumption. The current situation in most countries in Africa is critical. The continent has become the largest beneficiary of food aid and has gone from being a key exporter of agricultural commodities into a net importer. Some 200 million people are chronically hungry and nearly 30 million Africans require emergency food and agricultural assistance. Also, almost 10 million youngsters enter the African job market, albeit without

much success. Finally, the number of poor is still on the rise, in spite of the Millennium Goals to half poverty by the year 2015. Members of the EEE theme group are specifically addressing the situation of these excluded members of society, whether they be poor, pastoralist, marginalised fishermen or rural and urban farmers.

*‘Agency in Africa’ Theme Group (AA)*

The choice of ‘agency’ underscores the need for a renewed focus in African studies on the local actor’s understanding, perceptions, ideas, emotions and even fantasies with regard to the world African societies find themselves engulfed in. The point of departure in ‘agency’ research is the resilience and creativity of actors (individuals and social groups) demonstrated in their reaction to dilemmas posed in their daily lives. These dilemmas are informed by the structural changes in people’s environments caused by ecological changes, structural adjustment programmes, conflict and war. Research is concentrated in a number of thematic areas. These are: (1) issues of mobility in Africa, (2) the workings of power, contestation and confrontation, and (3) issues of knowledge production and reflexivity. The methodological approach is empirical-historical and contemporary but also philosophical and reflexive. Alongside the description of real-life situations in Africa, the theme group envisages the development of a ‘theory’ of research in Africa that takes agency as its point of departure.

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## Appendix 10. Publications by category 1997-2003

Source: Self-evaluation report, p. 37.

	Number	%
Academic publications, of which	447	100
- Articles	132	30
- Book sections	212	47
- Books	57	13
- Scientific reports	10	2
- Working papers	26	6
- Inaugural lectures	2	0
- Films	1	0
- Other	7	2
Non-academic publications, of which	124	
- Reports	14	
- Wider audience	110	

Remarks:

(a) Academic publications are intended for scientists and researchers.

(b) Scientific reports, not always official publications, report on the results of scientific research for a readership of scientists and possibly other stakeholders.

(c) Working papers present research findings, usually (though not necessarily) as 'work in progress'.

(d) Films are based on scientific research and aimed at a learned audience; hence, they fall under academic output.

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## Appendix 11. CERES/ASC methodology for rating of publications

Source: Annexes to the Self-evaluation report, p. 39.

CERES defines articles in journals as follows (ISI means Institute for Scientific Information):

- A journal      scientific journal, on ISI list, high impact score
- B journal      scientific journal, on ISI list, lower impact score
- C journal      scientific journal, not on ISI list, but use referee system
- D journal      scientific journal, not on ISI list, no referee system
- E journal      non-scientific journal, newsletter

CERES defines books (monographs, edited volumes) and sections in books as follows:

- A publisher    CERES choice of top publishers
- B publisher    CERES choice of other leading publishers
- C publisher    CERES choice of less important publishers, with referee system
- D publisher    publishers not using a referee system
- E publisher    non-scientific publishers

