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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

Consideration and Approval of Country Programmes

EXTENSION OF THE SECOND COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR BENIN

UNDP assistance requested by the Government of Benin for
the period 1 January-31 December 1983

Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986: \$33.5 million

I. Justification

1. A second extension of the country programme for Benin, to cover the period 1 January-31 December 1983, is being proposed by the Government of Benin in the light of the continuation of the objectives of the first State Plan 1978-1980 during the formulation in 1981 and 1982 of a second State Plan. This Plan, which will cover the period 1983-1987, will reflect the new approaches adopted by the Government in implementing its development strategy. The first extension of the second country programme was approved by the Administrator 1/ for one year (1982). The Governing Council, at its special meeting in February 1983, took note of that extension in decision 83/2.

2. The justification for the present request for an extension is the fact that the Government wishes to secure information on external sources of financing before specifying the objectives of a new multi-year programme of UNDP assistance. This

* The second country programme for Benin was approved by the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session and covered the period 1977-1981. See document DP/GC/BEN/R.2.

information will be the product of the round table of funding agencies and economic development partners held from 28 February to 4 March 1983, pursuant to the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Paris, September 1981).

II. Objectives

3. The objectives of the extension are still those which were laid down for the individual sectors in the second country programme (1977-1981). The primary emphasis in that programme was on the catalytic role UNDP could play in attracting investment to the productive sectors and on UNDP's contribution to strengthening the national planning and co-ordination departments and those responsible for monitoring project implementation.

4. The sectoral breakdown of UNDP resources changed slightly during the implementation of the programme for the second cycle and its extension. For example, whereas the 1977-1981 country programme allocated 43 per cent of the available resources to the rural development sector, that share declined to 26 per cent during the period of the extension. In contrast, the resources allocated to the "human resources" and "development planning and administration" sectors rise from 19 to 28 per cent for the former and from 12 to 21 per cent for the latter. The fact is that a number of rural development projects are approaching completion, while a few important training and planning projects are in full swing after a period of gestation.

III. Description of the programme: its relationship to rural development objectives

A. Rural development

5. In this sector UNDP's contribution is \$1,275,500. It must be noted, however, that this figure does not include three important projects dealing with the development of rural areas: rural water supply (BEN/78/004), development of onchocerciasis-free areas (BEN/80/002) and rural roads (BEN/78/005). (See para. 18)

6. The extension covers, first, the completion of two ongoing projects: assistance to the National Irrigation and Agricultural Water Supply Company (SONIAH) (BEN/77/001) and assistance to the National Livestock Development Company (SODERA) (BEN/77/002). Because of the large-scale restructuring in the institutions responsible for activities in this field ordered by the Government in April 1982, the present projects will end in 1983. This will make it possible to develop new guidelines for possible assistance during the third cycle.

7. Secondly, the extension covers the continuation of some ongoing pilot activities, such as assistance to small-scale ocean fishing (BEN/79/005), in conjunction with the West African Development Bank (WADB), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations

Decade for Women. It will also cover some institutional strengthening projects, such as assistance for soil science laboratories (BEN/78/006) and for crop protection laboratories (BEN/80/010).

8. Two projects for technical strengthening of the Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture (MDRAC) will end in 1983 and will be taken over by other financing sources; they are rural programming (BEN/73/020) and strengthening the plant protection service (BEN/79/004).

9. In view of the growing interest being taken in the development of forestry by such external financing sources as the African Development Bank (ADB), the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden and the World Bank, a new assistance project in this field (BEN/81/003) was approved in 1981 for strengthening the Forestry Department.

10. Two further new activities were recently approved and are to become operational during the 1983 extension. They are: support for the Agro-meteorological Unit (BEN/82/003), set up within the Meteorological Service as a result of the climatic fluctuations of recent years, and assistance to the National Fruit and Vegetables Company (SONAFEL) (BEN/81/005). The latter company has for some years been experiencing serious technical and financial difficulties in carrying out its production programmes, and UNDP assistance will be used at this stage to prepare a recovery plan.

B. Human resources

11. In this sector UNDP's contribution is \$1,362,500. In education, the educational planning and reform project (BEN/75/006), which started in 1975, is to end in 1983. In vocational training, the project on the Advanced Training Centre for the Staff of Enterprises (BEN/75/012) became operational only in 1981 owing to delays in completing the buildings and installing the equipment.

12. The Government has embarked on a human resources planning drive, and the manpower planning project (BEN/77/007) is continuing to contribute to that effort, in close co-operation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) as regards demographic studies and with the subregional activities of the Employment and Technical Skills Programme for Africa (PECTA).

13. As was noted in the 1977-1981 programme document, the Government is continuing its efforts to give administrative staff advanced training. Thus, the introduction of the new national accounts plan for enterprise accounting is being backed up by assistance to the National Centre for Accountancy Training (BEN/81/007).

14. Two new activities planned for 1983 are designed to bring about better use of human resources through methods that have been tried out at the interregional level. Under a project to support the special public works programme (BEN/81/016) a survey will be conducted in rural areas as a preliminary to the execution of a joint project financed by a special grant from Norway and UNDP interregional funds. Provision is also being made for starting a TOKTEN project (transfer of know-how through expatriate nationals).

C. Natural resources

15. The UNDP contribution in this sector is \$481,500, 10 per cent of the resources available for the one-year extension.

16. The overall geological exploration conducted with UNDP assistance since 1972 ended in the course of the 1977-1981 programme. More detailed studies are now in progress with a view to pilot mining projects at the sites of the auriferous deposits discovered in the north of the country and newly-discovered deposits of building materials.

D. Infrastructure

17. The UNDP contribution in this sector is \$555,000, 11 per cent of the resources available in 1983.

18. This sector has two projects which provide technical input for the establishment of support infrastructures in rural areas. One is the village water supply project (BEN/78/004), which will in future support the Water Supply Department in its function of co-ordinating external assistance in connection with the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade, and the other is the rural road-building project (BEN/78/005), which also receives support from UNCDF. A third project included in the reserve list of the 1977-1981 programme is now providing support for the establishment of basic infrastructure in rural areas: the project on assistance for the organization of postal services in rural areas (BEN/79/001).

19. Two other projects on transport administration infrastructure are also to be extended, that on assistance to civil aviation (BEN/78/001), the aim of which is to improve aviation safety and to develop secondary airports, and that on shipping administration and safety (BEN/80/004).

E. Development planning and administration

20. The UNDP contribution in this sector is \$1,044,500.

21. As stated in part II of this document, UNDP assistance to central planning (BEN/77/006) increased considerably at the time of the preparatory work for the second State Plan 1983-1987 and at the time of the technical preparations for the round table of economic and social development partners. It will continue during 1983 and will henceforth be applied to the evaluation and monitoring of projects formulated under the second Plan.

22. The process of defining development objectives and strategies has again shown the need for reliable basic statistics, up-to-date economic statistics and accurate national accounts data. A project for assistance to the National Institute for

Statistics and Economic Analysis (INSAE) (BEN/81/013) will start operating in 1983 in close co-operation with other external financing sources, such as the European Development Fund (EDF), the Fund for Aid and Co-operation (FAC) and the World Bank.

23. Two projects are directly connected with the holding of the round table of economic and social development partners: a one-time project of assistance for the technical and logistic organization of the meeting (BEN/83/001) and a project of assistance for the setting up of a system for the monitoring and management of external co-operation (BEN/81/012).

24. With a view to making the organization, management and supervision of public and semi-public enterprises more effective, the Government has developed, with UNDP assistance, an auditing system within the Ministry for the Inspection of Public and Semi-Public Enterprises (BEN/81/004). The aims of this project are to devise appropriate methods and to train the senior staff concerned.

F. Others

25. Under the heading "Others" are three projects of support to certain United Nations programmes of technical co-operation the extension of which in 1983 is likewise being sought. The UNDP contribution to these three projects is \$165,000, 4 per cent of the resources available in 1983.

Notes

1/ See document DP/CP/BEN/EXTENSION of 28 October 1982.

Annex

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A. Resources

<u>IPF and other resources</u>	\$
(i) Illustrative IPF for 1982-1986	33 500 000
(ii) Less unprogrammed balance a/	(6 700 000)
(iii) Less expenditure in 1982 and authorized budget leads for 1984, 1985 and 1986	(22 281 000)
(iv) Previous IPF cycle balance	(219 000)
(v) Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries	540 000
Total resources available for programming:	<u>4 840 000</u>

B. Use of resources

(a) Programmed

(i) Ongoing projects	3 210 000
(ii) New projects and new phases of ongoing projects included in the country programme	1 630 000
Total programmed:	<u>4 840 000</u>

C. Financial breakdown of programme resources, by sector

<u>Sector b/</u>	<u>Ongoing projects</u> \$	<u>New projects</u> \$	<u>Total</u> \$
02 General development issues	404 500	640 000	1 044 500
03 Natural resources	487 500	-	487 500
04 Agriculture, forestry and fisheries	666 500	609 000	1 275 500
09 Human settlements	284 000	271 000	555 000
12 Employment	1 252 500	1 101 000	110 000
17 Other	165 000	-	165 000
TOTAL	2 260 000	2 621 000	3 637 500

a/ Representing 20 per cent of the illustrative IPF which has not been taken into account for programming.

b/ According to ACC classification.
