

Fiche Contradictoire

Responses to, and Action taken on, the main Recommendations arising from the 2002 Evaluation Report on the Commission's Country Strategy for South Africa

Recommendations :	Responses of Commission Services:	Follow-up (one year later)
1. The Commission should order interventions around the <u>Core Theme of Sustainable Livelihoods</u> as an identifiable and measurable overall objective for all actions to address the poverty and inequality gap, categorising interventions (i) by priority in an integrated strategy, (ii) under a <u>two-pronged strategy</u> aimed at (a) short-term delivery and (b) longer-term strengthening of economic assets and comparative advantages of South Africa, integrating all interventions into a global framework operating in an environment of good governance for monitoring and support purposes. [§xxx]	<p>This recommendation has not been accepted. It was strongly criticised by DEV/C/3, by the delegation and by the South African authorities and representatives from civil society.</p> <p>The new Country Strategy Paper and Multi-annual Indicative Programme defines the overall objectives as follows: “support SA policies and strategies to reduce inequality, poverty and vulnerability (...) and to mitigate the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its impact on society”. Although this is “an integrated strategy”, it is not based on a “two pronged short-term/long-term strategy”.</p>	As this recommendation is not accepted and the strategy has been fully defined in the new CSP/MIP, follow-up does not seem necessary.
2. The Commission should address and take specific actions to deal with the <u>cross-cutting constraints</u> and future capacity challenges, if possible co-funded and shared with other donors, including: (i) capacity-building programme for CSOs; (ii) piloting provincial donors co-ordinating units; (iii) tackling the expected impact of HIV/AIDS through targeted programmes and /or by including relevant components in all programmes; (iv) investing in building the capacity of local government to play a key development enabling role, with a particular focus on promoting good governance. [§xxxi]	<p>This recommendation has been partially accepted. The new CSP/MIP has a strong emphasis on integrating the cross-cutting issues; these include HIV/AIDS, involvement of non-state actors, capacity building and good governance (in addition to gender and the environment).</p> <p>However, recommendation ii (provincial donor coordination units) has not been taken up, although the importance of capacity building with local government is fully recognised (see CSP 5.3.2.)</p>	<p>A system is in place to improve gender mainstreaming in new and future projects. Similar systems will be established for the remaining cross cutting issues.</p> <p>The Delegation is making an effort to give more attention to institutional issues during the design of new projects. The revised PCM guidelines will also contribute.</p>
3. The Commission should develop new <u>knowledge tools</u> to analyse, monitor and disseminate information, also co-funded for the sake of complementarity, including (i) improved implementation strategies, and tools to support institutional development and capacity building, (ii) mapping of CSOs and their capacity by sector, (iii) dissemination tools for lessons learned, and (iv) a monitoring contractor to perform systemic review of programmes. [§xxxii]	The recommendation’s aim to improve knowledge tools for analysis, monitoring and information dissemination is accepted. It is felt, however, that the recommendation is rather too detailed and restrictive on the way this is to be implemented.	Monitoring has been intensified and follow up structured.
4. The Commission should carry out <u>sector reviews</u> of ‘weak performers’ to determine whether to drop components or re-orientate objectives. [§xxxiii]	This recommendation has been accepted and is being implemented	Sector reviews are taking place mainly in the context of the move towards and preparation of SPSPs. For the remaining sectors, the programme approach remains dominant.
5. The Commission should (i) continue to pursue sector support programmes (SSPs) in view of their support for national policy and strategy, and enhanced dialogue and donor co-operation; (ii) apply the lessons of good practice from focused programmes in the design of future SSPs and SWAps. [§xxxvi / xlv]	This recommendation has been accepted and is reflected in point 6.3 of the CSP/MIP	Move towards SPSP is taking place. A training session in February 2004 has contributed to this process.

6. The Commission should (i) maintain <u>support to CSOs</u> involved in service delivery and watchdog functions while improving modalities of dialogue and co-operation, (ii) continue to encourage public-CSO partnerships, in the interests of sustainability, cost-effective delivery mechanisms, and a closer approach to the beneficiaries. [§§xxxiv / xlv]	This recommendation has been accepted and is reflected in points 5.2, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, 6.2 and 6.4.3 of the CSP/MIP	Co-operation with CSO has been hampered by the New Financial Regulation (NFR). Notwithstanding this a programme to support civil society advocacy was approved in 2003.
7. The Commission should continue support to the key Education & Training (Skills Development) and Health sectors, especially on effective training, qualifications and district PHC programmes. [§xxvii]	This recommendation has been accepted and is reflected in the first focal area of the CSP/MIP	The preparation of new programmes in this sector is ongoing and in Health is taking place earlier than foreseen in the MIP.
8. To consolidate the progressive move from NGO support to sector wide approach (SWAp), the Commission should: (i) continue its support for coherent and relevant strategies in the Water and Sanitation sector, (ii) contribute to the consolidation of the sustainability of the delivery system, (iii) consider extending its support to SADC with a regional water sector support. [§xxviii]	This recommendation has been accepted and is reflected in the first focal area of the CSP/MIP	The SPSP approach is being strengthened in the Masibambane II water programme FP. Regional programme to support SADC water management is ongoing although progress in regional cooperation generally is slow and below expectations
9. In support of the Urban Development and Housing sector, the Commission should (i) consider the impact on sustainability of high staff turnover, diminishing private sector financial availability and tensions within the NGO sector, (ii) support attempts to replicate successful projects, (iii) consider whether the rental housing programme is able to accommodate poorer urban households by using other financial and institutional instruments. [§xxix]	This recommendation has been accepted and is reflected in the CSP/MIP In fact the three specific recommendations were ongoing concerns already under the previous MIP	Additional support was provided to the USN to contribute to policy debate and document lessons learned. The experience of Cato Manor is now captured in the new ABMD programme. Social Housing is relaunching activities within the existing policy framework, while policy is being reviewed.
10. To enhance the overall effectiveness and impact of future support, the Commission should (i) shift priority attention to the good governance agenda (functioning of democratic societies), (ii) consolidate the sector -wide approach in cluster sector justice and safety and security, (iii) provide institutional support for local governance, (iv) improve overall delivery. [§xl]	This recommendation has been largely accepted. However, point ii seems a duplicate of the general recommendation Nr 5. The Commission will promote the sector wide approach wherever possible .	(See point 5)
11. The Commission should consider direct impact through Private Sector Development, and Local Economic Development should be based on holistic approach to enhance the competitive advantages of specific localities. [§xli]	This recommendation has been accepted and is reflected in the second focal area of the CSP/MIP	The recommendation is taken into account in the design of the new LED programme for Eastern Cape, currently under preparation.
12. The Commission should make much more <u>strategic use of regional co-operation</u> across EPRD sectors, to ensure the integration of the regional dimensions of a given policy objective or to promote an exchange of good practices on common themes in the region. [§xxv]	This recommendation has been accepted in principle but its implementation must take account of priorities set by all partners in the region.	
13. On the regional dimension, the Commission should choose between: (a)	This recommendation has not been accepted, as the Commission is	The Commission proposal for amending

eliminating the regional dimension of the EPRD (which would entail revision of the Cotonou Agreement); (b) integrating regional EPRD funding into EDF, to ensure greater coherence between their respective regional dimensions; or (c) shared allocation of EPRD funds to different regional frameworks. [§xlii]	not in a position to unilaterally impose this choice. Regional cooperation will in practice be a mix of options b and c. With SADC a more coherent implementation mechanism is being put in place.	the SA Regulation simplifies EDF/EPRD co-funding of regional programmes.
14. The Commission should simplify as much as possible the management of development programmes, adapting procedures as appropriate while recognising the difficulties and shortcomings of implementation authorities. [§xliii]	This recommendation has been accepted, insofar as existing legal requirements of financial management, tendering etc. permit.	The NFR which entered into force in January 2003 has introduced additional demanding requirements on implementing agencies as well as Commission services and reduced flexibility.
15. The Commission should continue its efforts to improve the quality of dialogue at the overall level. [§xliv]	This recommendation has been accepted and is reflected throughout the CSP/MIP	Enhancing the quality of dialogue remains a high priority, although it has not been a feature of 2003, as the agenda has been dominated by “damage control” after the introduction of the NFR.