



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: NIGERIA



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Project details

Title:	Democracy Programme Supporting National and State Assemblies - Nigeria
Status:	Closed
Duration:	17 months (2004 -2005)
Budget:	5,922,364 euros
Donor partner:	European Commission, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Background

The IPU and the National Planning Commission of Nigeria in July 2004 signed a service contract to implement a Democracy Programme Supporting the National and State Assemblies in Nigeria. The project was co-funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria and the European Commission.

The programme was designed in the context of a cooperation between the European Union and the Federal Government of Nigeria, which was intended to foster economic and political reform in Nigeria. This cooperation was intended to sustain the trend of democratization in Nigeria.

Objectives

The programme targeted the legislative sector, which is responsible for developing the legal framework that governs the functioning of society and its various sectors of activity. It is this branch of government that holds the executive branch to account to ensure that public management is done in a transparent and responsible manner and that government policies and actions are beneficial to all. The legislative branch also ensures that the people's interests and rights are adequately articulated and that resources are allocated for addressing them.

The Democracy programme was intended to help the National Assembly and six local state assemblies, those of Cross River, Kebbi, Plateau, Gombe, Abia and Osun, to perform their tasks efficiently and effectively.

The overall development objective of the project was to strengthen the democratic system in Nigeria by enabling the National Assembly and state assemblies to perform their functions (law-making, oversight and representation) efficiently and effectively.

The objectives of the project included:

- The establishment of effective communication policies, constituency relations and more democratic patterns of interaction between legislators and the electorate;

- The strengthening of the support structure which carries out information, research and documentation tasks so that it may do so in a focused, timely and targeted manner and enable legislators to make informed decisions and to effectively carry out their oversight functions;
- The optimization of the legislatures' organization.



National Assembly of Nigeria

Target beneficiaries

The beneficiaries included members and staff of the National Assembly and state assemblies of Nigeria, domestic institutions, Nigerian civil society and the Nigerian public.

Outcomes

The programme resulted in improved effective communication policies and constituency relations as well as more democratic patterns of interaction between legislators and the electorate. It also strengthened the support structure which carries out information, research and documentation tasks thus enabling legislators to make informed decisions and to effectively carry out their oversight duties.

Experts providing advice to the project include:

- Mr. Bernard Nzo-Nguty, retired Deputy Secretary-General of the National Assembly of Cameroon,
- Mr. Mwelwa Chibesakunda, former Clerk, National Assembly of Zambia,
- Mr. Josep Antonio Delgado, Human Rights Expert