



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



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Project Details

Title:	Development of the parliamentary library at the National Assembly of Tanzania
Status:	Closed
Duration:	2 Years (1993-1995)
Budget:	US\$ 73,943
Donor Partner:	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

Background

In late 1992, at the request of the National Assembly of the Republic of Tanzania, the IPU sent an expert mission to the Tanzanian capital, Dodoma. Its objective was to undertake a detailed needs assessment of the parliamentary library with a view to formulating a comprehensive proposal for its development.

The findings and recommendations were contained in a report, which was submitted as a project document to the Norwegian Foreign Ministry. The Norwegian Government agreed to provide funding through its international development agency, NORAD.

Areas of activity

The premises of the library, concerning size and location, were satisfactory but its stock of material, its technical equipment and the skills level of its staff needed to be improved.

Particular areas of activity included:

- Compilation of a basic reference collection, consisting of a number of core reference books and subscriptions to periodicals.
- Training of staff in Tanzania and abroad. This included a six-week internship for the Chief Librarian at the library of the British House of Commons and funding for a Bachelor of Arts programme in library sciences for another library staff in Newcastle, England.
- Provision of equipment, including electronic typewriters, a Kardex system for registration and a microfilm-reader.
- Establishment of a library committee consisting of MPs, parliamentary officials and heads of departments.

Target beneficiaries

The main beneficiaries were the staff members of the library who received training and updated material. An improvement of the library was also translated into gains for the Parliament as a whole, making it much easier for MPs to enact

progressive legislation in the interest of the people they represent.



The National Assembly of Tanzania

Results

In 1995 the IPU prepared an evaluation report to sum up the outcomes of the project. The report concluded that the capacities and services of the library had improved considerably. Most notably, the following results were achieved:

- Current information sources had been made available to its users, new equipment had been purchased as planned and the staff had received the necessary training to use it efficiently.
- Promotion of contacts with other parliamentary libraries, universities and international organizations. For instance, the attendance of the 1993 meeting of the International Federation of Library Associations by the chief librarian was organized.
- Through the library committee, a sounding board and advisory group for the head librarian had been provided.
- By 1995 the library finally was integrated into a growing network of relevant institutions in the region, in Europe and the United States.

Based on the success of the Project, the National Assembly applied for further aid and, with assistance from the IPU, a follow-up project financed and implemented by UNDP was developed.

Experts providing advice to the project included:

- Mrs. Brit Floistad, Chief Librarian of the Norwegian Parliament.
- Mr. Gunnar Hals, Chief Secretary of the Committee on Finance of the Norwegian Parliament.

Parliaments supporting the project were:

- The British House of Commons
- The Norwegian Parliament

United Republic of Tanzania

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Documents archived:

Admin. and Finance:

- Finance (divided as found in the four files)
- Project documents
- Mission reports
- Interim and evaluation Reports
- ToRs: Missions
- Correspondence (NORAD, National Assembly, acquisition of material)

Activities:

- Orders of reference works
- BA programme for one staff in the UK
- Subscriptions to periodicals
- Further staff training
- Attendance of the IFLA conference in 1993 by the Chief Librarian

General

- Press and background material

Follow-up activities

- Capacity-building programme (Correspondence, Projects documents)

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