



THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Distribution
LIMITED

UNU/C/32/L.9
5 December 1988

Original: ENGLISH

COUNCIL OF THE UNITED
NATIONS UNIVERSITY

Thirty-Second Session
Tokyo, Japan

5 - 10 December 1988

Fundação Guiar o Futuro
PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSTITUTE FOR NATURAL

RESOURCES IN AFRICA (INRA)

- can we start as it was decided?
or do we need to give to it another configuration?
- World Bank → network?
- director ??

lessons to be learned:

- ~~the Council cannot~~ don't let yourselves be rushed into a decision which cannot be implemented
- be realistic
- acknowledging the amount of scientific information present in the former colonial powers
- convention Lomé (including France)



*Brundland report
to the IRENA → follow up report
→ human resources report
Africa*

1. Since the Council session in Brasilia in July 1988, the Rector has continued the efforts to secure the payment of the necessary basic funds needed for the commencement of INRA's operations, especially in respect of Côte d'Ivoire, the main host country for INRA. The University has been advised informally that Côte d'Ivoire would need more time to effectuate the payment.

2. Meanwhile, the University has made progress in the consultations with the World Bank. The Vice-President for the African region has recently written to the Rector that the World Bank is exploring the feasibility of providing technical assistance to cover the costs of two senior staff, and is willing to help actively in seeking further funding for two or three additional senior staff from other sources such as bilateral agencies. It is understood that such technical assistance arrangements will be for a duration of three years. The World Bank expects to make a decision before 1 July 1989. It is also prepared to take a lead in organizing a working group meeting with potential donors in early spring 1989. This might make it possible to initiate activities in the latter part of 1989. (Please refer to the attached letter from the World Bank).

3. This promising initiative by the World Bank should be seen in conjunction with UNDP's commitment of US\$5.6 million in the first instance for training programmes and related activities. Provided, therefore, that the African host countries will be in a position to make the necessary endowment fund payments, it would hopefully be possible to put together a realistic funding package to ensure the long-term viability of the Institute. (Please refer to the attached up-to-date note on INRA).

4. At the Rector's request, the distinguished African scientist, who has been identified for the directorship of INRA, is now preparing an initial programme of work for INRA for the first three years. The World Bank will utilize this proposal in its consultations with potential donors. It is, accordingly, envisaged that once the Director and the other initial senior scientific staff are in place, they will develop a network of co-operating national and other institutions in Africa, establish the necessary institutional framework for INRA, and carry out initial research and training activities. This will in turn enable INRA to attract additional funds from potential donors which have already indicated their interest in considering project support after INRA has become operational.

SUMMARY

I. Background

Relevant Council decision:

Thirty-first session - In taking note of the progress report on the Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (INRA), expressed regret that financial difficulties have hampered the pace of the start-up of INRA activities; urged the Rector to redouble efforts to secure the necessary basic funds and explore the possibility of setting up a programme to commence the activities of INRA as soon as possible; and report to the Council on these matters at its thirty-second session in December 1988.

II. Abstract

Not necessary.

III. Action Required

For Council information.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro

{ college of researchers
+ network

Thirty-three sessions - In taking note of the progress reported in the Institute for Research in Africa (IRA) during the past year that financial difficulties have hampered the pace of the start-up of IRA activities; urged the Board to redouble efforts to secure the necessary funds and explore the possibility of setting up a programme to commence the activities of IRA as soon as possible; and report to the Council on these matters at its thirty-second session in December 1983.

I. Background

Reference Council decision:

II. Abstract

Not necessary.

III. Action Required

For Council information.

Fundação Cuidar o Futuro