

BACKGROUNDER ON



PARTNERSHIP AFRICA CANADA

Who we are

Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) is a Canadian non-governmental organization with offices in Ottawa (Canada) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). In collaboration with its partners and other organizations, PAC undertakes research and policy dialogue initiatives on issues of human rights, human security and sustainable development affecting Africa.

History

From 1986 to 1995, Partnership Africa Canada managed a substantial funding programme, which supported hundreds of innovative projects in Africa. In 1996, PAC changed its programme to focus on research and policy dialogue. In 2003, PAC was co-nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mandate

Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) works in partnership with organizations in Africa, Canada and internationally to build sustainable human development in Africa. The objectives of PAC's work are to:

- Strengthen African and Canadian efforts in research and policy dialogue relating to sustainable human development in Africa.
- Facilitate, among African, Canadian and international decision-makers, the adoption and implementation of policies that foster sustainable human development in Africa.
- Promote greater understanding of and commitment to sustainable human development in Africa.

Programmes

PAC undertakes a number of inter-related activities with the broad aim of promoting sustainable human development in Africa. It focuses on several inter-connected themes, each of which has an impact on human security and development in Africa:

- Natural Resources, Human Security and Development
- Governance

The initiatives undertaken in these areas are varied, but each serves to develop the central goal of deepening our understanding of issues critical to the development of Africa, particularly in regions that have experienced conflict. In carrying out this programme, PAC sees its role as a forum for research, dialogue and action on African development.

PAC's most important programme deals with natural resource extraction and human security. In 2000, PAC helped identify the problem of conflict diamonds and participated actively in the creation of the Kimberley Process. PAC currently participates in all aspects of the work of the Kimberley Process, is a member of three committees and helps coordinate civil society participation. At the same time, PAC is working with civil society organizations, governments and other stakeholders in several African countries to identify ways of helping artisanal diamond miners and their communities enjoy better and more sustainable livelihoods.

Other main programmes include support for:

- Civil society participation in the African Peer Review Mechanism, a programme to strengthen governance in Africa.
- A civil society programme to promote biodiversity in West Africa.
- A civil society programme to prevent violence against women in DRC.

PAC's Impact on Policy

Since 1996, PAC has given support to African NGO networks and has undertaken a number of significant research and policy work initiatives. PAC's investigative research has been followed by policy dialogue activities with partner organizations. Examples of these initiatives include:

- Organizing the *UN-NADAF NGO Forum* in New York (1996), co-organizing a *Policy Work Conference for African NGOs* in Addis Ababa (1998), and organizing a *Conference on African Countries in Crisis* in Hull, Quebec (1998).
- Undertaking research and campaign activities with respect to Sierra Leone's diamond trade and rebel war (publication: *The Heart of the Matter: Sierra Leone, Diamonds and Human Security*, January 2000). This study helped lead to the creation of the Kimberley Process.
- Undertaking research into the question of violence against women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (publication: *Why Gender still Matters: Sexual violence and the need to confront militarized masculinity*, December 2004). This study led to the development of a civil society campaign in DRC to eliminate violence against women.
- Undertaking research into the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), which is promoting better governance in Africa (publication: *Between Hope and Scepticism: Civil Society and the African Peer Review Mechanism*, October 2005). This study helped civil society organizations in many African countries understand the APRM and become involved in it.

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