Building an international research program

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http://blogs.clemson.edu/cuafrica/
Introduction

Building an international program is hard work!!
Introduction

What is your motivation?
Introduction

Is it to help the country?

Is it to travel and see beautiful sunsets?
Introduction

Is it to further your scholarship?
Issues

Cultural Differences
Protocols
Priorities
Traditions
Work styles
Issues

It's all about relationships!!
Issues

Whatever can go wrong, does go wrong!
Issues

Time is not an issue, or time is always an issue depending upon your perspective!
Assets

The people are great!!
Assets

They are highly motivated, receptive, and resourceful!
How does it work!

• **In-country contacts are critical**
  • They need to open the doors for you

• **May need to provide technical guidance**

• **Know the potential funders**
  • Governments-USA, China, Netherlands, Norway, Germany, UK, Belgium
  • NGO’s-WB, UNDP, UNESCO
  • Foundations-Rockefeller, Ford, Gates, Microsoft, large multi-national companies

• **Communicate with program officers**
How does it work!

Know their priorities!

- **UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG)**
  - Eight Development Goals
  - Post-2015 Development Agenda

- **USAID Country Development Cooperative Strategies (CDCS)**
  - Each country has a set of strategies
How does it work!

Project management is essential!

• Have a solid team
• Make sure everyone clearly understands the end product
• Make sure you know the capabilities of all team members
• Clearly outline deliverables and who is responsible
• Estimate time and cost for all activities
• Develop a schedule
• Meet regularly
How does it work!

In-Country Requirements and Regulations

- Research license
- IRB approvals
- Export Control issues
- Labor and tax laws
How does it work!

In-Country Requirements and Regulations

• Kenya Research Institutes
  • Agriculture
  • Medical Research
  • Forestry http://www.kefri.org/
How does it work!

What are funders looking for in developing countries?

• Depends on funding source!
  • Issue of breadth versus depth!!
  • Development versus research protocol!
    • Project objectives versus research questions or hypotheses

• Clearly demonstrate impact
  • Rigorous evaluation plan
How does it work!

What are funders looking for in developing countries?

• Looking for direct involvement and engagement of in-country professionals and/or residents
• Want to promote capacity building efforts
  • Provide the skills and resources to be able to adapt to new local circumstances and conditions
• Want sustainable efforts
How does it work!

What are funders looking for in developing countries?

• Significance; broad impact(s)
• Innovation
• Solid research plan
• Strong team
East Africa Center for Integrated Community-based Development

- East Africa is in the bottom third of all nations on GDP, per capita income, and the Human Development Index (World Bank, 2011).

- Economic development, governance, poverty, environment, sustainability, literacy, education, access to health care and gender equality continue to be major challenges to the well-being of the people of East Africa.
East Africa Center for Integrated Community-based Development

Vision:

Serve as a hub of excellence that can build strategies for sustainable communities; empower local leadership; increase incomes through sustainable enterprise/business development; impact quality of life through education and health services; and encourage the adoption of sustainable land practices.
East Africa Center for Integrated Community-based Development

Goals:
1. Increase the capacity building capabilities of both universities and communities;
2. Create sustainable teams of content and outreach experts at partnering universities (UPs);
3. Develop a seamless system of global connectivity via advanced cyber-infrastructure for greater accessibility and integrated communication among partners; and
4. Directly impact the health, education, environment, and economics of developing communities and countries.
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Environment & Natural Resources:
- Improve rural livelihoods while conserving biodiversity
- Foster community-based conservation and develop policies that integrate conservation
- Create enterprises that lead to benefits from sustainable use of resources
- Improve natural resource management and climate change adaptation in order to improve agricultural sector growth

East Africa Focus Areas*

Education:
- Improve lower primary education in reading, math and science
- Strengthen professional development and resource support for instruction
- Strengthen policies and management related to instruction

Health:
- Improve health and nutrition through access to quality health services
- Strengthen family planning and maternal and child health services
- Create integrated health service provisions
- Strengthen health management information systems

*Focus areas obtained from country-specific USAID and related US government strategic plans.
When it all comes together!
It is life changing!