





Partnerships

In the Ilelele region of the Niger, crescent-shaped excavations, called *half moons*, catch rainwater and protect seedlings from erosion. An IFAD-supported project is scaling up such techniques to improve soil fertility and boost agropastoral production in the plain of Aguié.

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IFAD was established as a global partnership and partnerships have always been fundamental to its work. The organization focuses on building strategic and selective partnerships that multiply its impact on rural poverty.

IFAD's key partners include developing country governments, development organizations, NGOs and the private sector, and poor rural people and their organizations. As a signatory to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (see page 74), IFAD works with other donors and partners to fulfil its partnership commitments: country ownership, donor-partner alignment, inter-agency harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability. IFAD is working more systematically through partnerships at the same time as it improves its own ways of working to become a better partner for others.

In 2007 IFAD forged ahead with the Farmers' Forum, the framework for its partnership with farmers' organizations around the world (see page 76). It played an active role in the Delivering as One UN pilot project, which was launched in 2007 to improve coherence and coordination among United Nations organizations at country level (see page 62). It also focused particular attention on improving cooperation with the Rome-based United Nations agencies FAO and WFP (see page 77). In partnership with the World Bank, IFAD was one of the contributors to the *World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development* (see page 75).

Belgian Survival Fund

The Belgian Survival Fund (BSF) was created in 1983 by the Belgian Parliament to support populations threatened by famine. The Joint Programme with IFAD (BSFJP) started work the following year. In 2005 the independent external evaluation of IFAD highlighted the partnership as very relevant to the organization's work. The improvements in basic social services made through BSF grants mean that the increased incomes resulting from agricultural loan projects also translate into improved food and nutritional security for poor farmers and their families. During 2007, the BSFJP continued to play its catalytic and advocacy role to strengthen IFAD's work to reduce poverty.

During the year, work in the field focused on supporting the implementation of 12 ongoing projects and the design of two new IFAD/BSFJP projects. The Belgian Government approved BSF cofinancing of €2.7 million (US\$3.7 million) for the IFAD-supported Kidal Integrated Rural Development Programme in Mali. The grant will be used to give poor rural people better access to social infrastructure and to services like health and education. A BSF grant agreement of €4.6 million (US\$6.2 million) was also signed for the Agricultural and Rural Rehabilitation and Development Initiative Project in the Niger to improve access to drinking water and support the national school feeding programme. Through the BSFJP, by the end of 2007, Belgium had contributed about €146 million (US\$193 million) in grants to IFAD-supported projects.

In 2007, the BSFJP intensified its innovative approach to project design by using the comprehensive participatory planning and evaluation approach in projects in Burundi and Somalia. The approach ensures the participation of poor rural people in both the planning and evaluation of projects. Building on previous successful experiences, the BSFJP finalized the formulation of its component of the IFAD-supported Transitional Programme of Post-conflict Reconstruction in Burundi. This was done following an inclusive baseline survey conducted by local institutions under the guidance of the Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium. A grant of around €4.5 million (US\$6.3 million) was approved and will be signed in early 2008 to fund poverty reduction and improvement in the health and nutrition of vulnerable rural populations in the province of Bujumbura Rural, Burundi.

The BSFJP took a similar approach in formulating the consolidation phase of the North-western Integrated Community Development Project in Somalia, taking into account the recommendations of an independent evaluation of the ongoing phase of the project. The consolidation phase will focus on ensuring sustainable impact when the project closes. Experiences in Burundi and Somalia show that impact assessments undertaken by qualified and well-trained local staff are an affordable, simple and efficient means of generating information. The participatory approach ensured that indicators were relevant and that they built capacity, empowered project and local government staff, and laid the foundation for monitoring and evaluation systems.

With years of experience in financing programmes in the rural water, sanitation, health and nutrition sectors, the BSFJP is in a good position to share relevant knowledge. Work continued on the thematic water and health review begun in 2006. This will identify key findings and lessons learned from development initiatives, and it will make recommendations on the overall strategic orientation of future programmes. It will also build understanding of the interdependence of IFAD-supported economic development programmes and BSF-funded social programmes. The final paper will be issued in 2008. It will be presented in a technical workshop on the theme of Harvesting IFAD-BSF Synergies and will be a starting point for discussions about a new IFAD/BSF strategy for a possible follow-up phase of the BSF.

During the year, the independent external overall evaluation of the BSF, undertaken by the ADE-HIVA consortium of Belgium, continued its work and presented a first desk review report to all BSF partners. The evaluation team also made field visits to IFAD-BSF projects in Ethiopia, Mali, the Niger, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to add to the preliminary findings. The desk review report indicated two main conclusions.

- The BSF's holistic and participatory approaches for tackling food insecurity remain valid.
- Although real impact resulting from BSF work is visible in many domains and sectors, improved monitoring and evaluation mechanisms could quantify such impact.

A final report is expected at the beginning of 2008 and will be submitted to the Belgian Parliament. The conclusions of the evaluation will serve as a starting point for the resource mobilization exercise required to initiate a possible follow-up phase of the BSF.

Global Mechanism

IFAD hosts the Global Mechanism (GM), a subsidiary body of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Since 1999 the GM has been working to increase cooperation with IFAD. In recent years, it has focused entirely on providing financial advisory services to country Parties to the UNCCD, in response to the international community's call for harmonization and alignment at the national level. In September 2007, the GM attended the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8) to the UNCCD. COP 8 adopted the ten-year Strategic Plan and Framework to Enhance the Implementation of the Convention, setting the stage for the GM's work over the next decade.

Outside the formal sessions, the GM organized side events on several topics, including:

- channelling climate change funding into UNCCD implementation
- strengthening women's capacity to invest in sustainable land management
- promoting the GM's engagement approach at country level

All the GM side events aimed to build a common understanding among UNCCD stakeholders on how to approach financial resource mobilization. The GM stressed the need for more financing for sustainable land management within the United Nations reform process known as Delivering as One. It also called for improved collaborative arrangements within the United Nations system, such as the hosting agreement between the GM and IFAD, to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

IFAD's Strategic Framework 2007-2010 contains clear points of convergence both with the GM's results-based management framework and engagement strategy and with the UNCCD Ten-Year Strategic Plan. This provides grounds for increased cooperation between IFAD and the GM to enhance the integration of IFAD investments into countries' overall development programmes, as advocated in the GM's integrated financing strategy.

The GM collaborated with the policy reference group on climate change, supporting the development of IFAD's position on the issue. At the operational level, the GM and IFAD started work on their first pilot initiative in Viet Nam, ensuring that the COSOP reflected the linkages between climate change and land degradation. They also identified financial opportunities offered by mitigation and adaptation mechanisms that could support UNCCD implementation and at the same time complement IFAD investments, so that the benefits reach poor rural people. At the regional level, the GM is working with IFAD in the Asia and the Pacific and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions to design approaches to access climate change funding for rural poverty reduction and rehabilitation of degraded lands.

At COP 8, the World Bank was one of the international financial institutions that expressed interest in adopting an innovative methodology developed by the GM to review investments in sustainable land management. IFAD pilot-tested the methodology in a joint review with the GM of the relevance of IFAD's portfolio to UNCCD objectives. The outcomes of this review were positive, showing increasing investments by IFAD in sustainable land management.

The GM's report to COP 8 contains a comprehensive review of activities in 2007. The report is available on the GM website (www.global-mechanism.org).

International Land Coalition

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance that promotes secure and equitable access to land for poor women and men. The ILC supports poor people's rights to land through advocacy, dialogue and capacity-building. In particular, it works to increase opportunities for poor families and communities to negotiate collectively and secure their land rights.

An autonomous coalition of civil society and intergovernmental organizations, the ILC works through partnerships with rural people's associations, NGOs, governments and international agencies in more than 40 countries worldwide. IFAD hosts the ILC secretariat.

In 2007 the ILC launched a series of web and print publications called Knowledge for Change. The series provides high-quality analysis of themes related to land access. Four documents have been published. They draw on practical, community-based knowledge and experience from across the ILC network. The documents treated:

- access to common property
- pastoralist tenure systems and livelihoods
- participatory mapping
- the land rights of indigenous peoples and their neighbours

ILC members in Asia and Latin America started campaigns to monitor poor people's land tenure security and government adherence to international commitments regarding land access.

In Africa, the ILC worked with IFAD and the Belgian Survival Fund on the Collaborative Action on Land Issues initiative. The programme uses action research to gather evidence supporting poor families' efforts to claim and protect their land rights. It supports existing community organizations by strengthening their members' ability to use evidence-based research to defend their rights in negotiations with policymakers at the local and national levels.

The ILC's third Biennial Assembly of Members took place in Uganda in April. The Uganda Land Alliance was its host. Members reviewed progress and approved a new strategic framework for the five-year period ending in 2011. The framework will transform the ILC into a member-led coalition working through decentralized regional offices, and it will improve the Coalition's relevance and effectiveness at the country level. During the year, ILC members and partners took part in regional planning meetings in Africa and Latin America, and they took the first steps towards decentralization in Asia.

During 2007, the Canadian International Development Agency, the European Commission, the International Development Research Centre, IFAD, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation and the World Bank made contributions in support of the ILC's work.

Promoting innovation and research partnerships: the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research

IFAD's investment in agricultural research and development led by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) continues to focus on adaptive research to generate and field-test sustainable agricultural technologies and enable poor rural people to adopt them. In 2007, IFAD approved grants worth a total of US\$11.6 million for 12 CGIAR-led programmes.

In 2007, the European Commission (EC) entered into a strategic partnership with IFAD to support the CGIAR. The EC made an annual contribution of about €43 million to all 15 CGIAR centres, and it transferred the funds through IFAD. The organization now houses the Secretariat of the Alliance Executive of CGIAR Centres.

IFAD also continued to support the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), which promotes worldwide collaborative research partnerships. IFAD chairs the donor support group of the GFAR and is on its steering committee, working to build cost-effective research partnerships and strategic alliances to reduce rural poverty.

Consultative Group to Assist the Poor

The Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) works to build inclusive financial systems that serve poor people. It is an important technical partner and strategic resource for IFAD in rural finance. The CGAP is a consortium of 33 funding organizations that engage in microfinance. It encourages and promotes innovative ideas, products and technology to expand access to finance. IFAD works closely with the CGAP in many areas, collaborating in the Rural Pro-Poor Innovation Challenge initiative, participating in CGAP-led training workshops, and undergoing the Microfinance Donor Peer Reviews. IFAD continued to work with the CGAP in 2007, drawing on the group's expertise in consultations throughout project cycles. The CGAP further strengthened the collaboration by contributing to the IFAD-led Financing Facility for Remittances and participating in its Steering Committee (see page 72).

Financing Facility for Remittances

The US\$10-million Financing Facility for Remittances was launched in February to reduce rural poverty and promote development. The facility is a partnership among IFAD, the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, the Governments of Luxembourg and Spain, and the United Nations Capital Development Fund. It supports the development of innovative, cost-effective and easily accessible remittance services that enable migrant workers to send money home to their families and communities. An IFAD-supported report entitled *Sending money home* was presented to the International Forum on Remittances held in Washington D.C. in October. The study is the first attempt to map global flows in remittances. It found that in 2006 migrant workers worldwide sent home more than US\$300 billion in remittances.

In 2007, the facility called for proposals to initiate the selection of the first round of grant recipients. A competitive review process followed. The facility's donors selected eligible institutions such as non-profit NGOs, and awarded grants of a maximum of €200,000 to implement projects for:

- improving access to remittance services in rural areas
- linking remittances to additional financial services and products
- developing innovative and productive rural investment channels for migrants and community-based organizations

The facility promotes strategic partnerships among formal financial intermediaries, remittance providers, microfinance institutions, financial cooperatives and postal networks.

Gender

In 2007, IFAD published a book entitled *Polishing the stone: a journey through the promotion of gender equality in development projects*. The book was written and published in collaboration with the Centre for Latin American Research and Documentation (CEDLA). It presents practical methods for promoting gender equality in rural development. It discusses the relationship between gender equality and poverty reduction and presents testimonies from women and men in rural communities. The Government of Japan provided a grant to finance the publication. IFAD, CEDLA and the Institute of Social Studies jointly launched the book in The Hague, Netherlands, in October. *Polishing the stone* was presented to the media and discussed on Italian television in December.

Partnerships with intergovernmental agencies

African Union

During 2007, IFAD continued to work with the African Union (AU) to put agricultural development and rural poverty reduction at the top of their agenda. IFAD approved two grants in support of the African Union. The first will focus on access to land and the second on rural livelihood issues. IFAD is also preparing an additional grant support to the African Union's Programme Against African Trypanosomiasis (PAAT) Secretariat. This is in response to a request from the Office of the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture. The PAAT support programme will contribute to improving food security and reducing rural poverty through improving animal health services and disease control. FAO, PAAT and other partners will cofinance this activity which has a total cost of about US\$3.5 million. IFAD will provide about US\$1.5 million.

New Partnership for Africa's Development

IFAD met senior managers of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Secretariat in summer 2007 to review progress made towards the common objectives outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between IFAD and NEPAD.

As NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) moves towards implementation, IFAD continued to implement the Regional Cassava Processing and Marketing Initiative (RCPMI) for Western and Central Africa. This is a three-year programme supported by Italy that began work in 2006. It is part of NEPAD's Pan African Cassava Initiative (NPACI), one of the CAADP's flagship programmes.

The marketing programme's first regional workshop was held in Douala, Cameroon in October. It focused on fostering the poverty-reducing impact of cassava through the development of value chains. Participants from four national roots and tubers development programmes supported by IFAD in Benin, Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria took part. The workshop drew up an action plan to upgrade traditional processing units, establish high quality cassava flour commodity chains and integrate smallholders into outgrower systems that will make cassava available as an industrial raw material. IFAD also supported and took part in the NPACI steering committee meeting held in Malawi in December.

During the year IFAD worked with farmers' organizations to finalize their publication *African producers speak out*, on the development of NEPAD's agriculture programme. And it took part in follow-up meetings to implement resolutions of the Abuja Food Security Summit held in December 2006 and hosted by the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Partnership with Arab states and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

In 2007, IFAD continued to strengthen its cooperation with country states of the Gulf Cooperation Council. This year, following a 2006 visit to Saudi Arabia, IFAD's President visited Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. This was an opportunity to inform Gulf leaders about IFAD's work to reduce rural poverty and to enlist their support for enhanced collaboration.

In February the President took part in the High Level Meeting of the Heads of the Coordination Group Institutions and the International Donors and Development Institutions, which was hosted by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait. At the meeting, the President highlighted the importance of agricultural development and its contribution to growth and poverty reduction. He also explored areas for enhanced cooperation with key partner institutions.

IFAD's President and the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council met in February, when IFAD invited the Secretary-General to deliver a statement at the opening session of the Governing Council. The meeting was the occasion of the launch of a publication on IFAD's partnership with the Gulf Cooperation Council, *IFAD and the Gulf Cooperation Council: A partnership to eradicate rural poverty*.

In June, IFAD took part in the Coordination Meeting of Arab Funds hosted by OFID in Vienna, Austria. It was the first time that IFAD had been invited to participate in the meeting. The organization's presence underscored the importance it attributes to building cooperation with Arab development funds and institutions. In November IFAD took part in the third OPEC Summit Ministerial Symposium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Harmonization and alignment follow-up

As a signatory to the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, IFAD works with other donors and partner countries to fulfil the partnership commitments it embodies.

IFAD is involved in various harmonization initiatives at country and international level. During 2007, IFAD participated actively in the Joint Venture on Managing for Development Results of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD-DAC), and co-sponsored the Third Round Table on Managing for Development Results held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in February. The President of IFAD was a member of the United Nations High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, and IFAD is taking part in all of the One UN country pilots (see page 62). IFAD is also working with the other Rome-based United Nations agencies to promote harmonization in various areas such as policy, knowledge management and administration (see page 77). And it is an active member of the Multilateral Financial Institutions Working Group on Environment (see page 65).

The first Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness stated that IFAD is already conforming with the Paris Declaration's commitments by:

- aligning IFAD-financed initiatives with relevant partner country strategies
- using country systems as far as possible within its current policies and procedures
- taking part in coordination mechanisms at the country level
- supporting the ownership of the Paris agenda by partner countries
- engaging in a wide variety of partnerships
- putting all of its own systems on a 'managing for results' basis

The Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness will take place in Accra, Ghana, in September 2008. IFAD will once again take part in the survey in preparation for the forum. The organization will also contribute by sharing its experience at the partner country level of implementing partnership commitments in the rural development context.

IFAD's independent Office of Evaluation is taking part in the joint evaluation of the implementation of the Paris Declaration.

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development

The Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) is a joint initiative of donor organizations established in 2003. IFAD has been a member since it was established. The platform is committed to donor harmonization and alignment, as defined by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness of March 2005. It works to improve the coordination of institutional policies and procedures for rural development and to jointly support the development programmes of partner country governments, with the aim of reducing poverty in rural areas. The website www.donorplatform.org provides an overview of the platform's work, including the 2006 annual report, released in April 2007.

The platform's outputs are based on three complementary pillars:

- outreach, to give a voice to poor rural people and attract more private and public investment to rural areas
- shared learning, to raise the quality of rural development investment and heighten its impact through better practice, networking and shared learning
- aid effectiveness, to deepen insights into how to foster donor harmonization and alignment efforts in rural development and agriculture

IFAD is lead agency for a series of country case studies sponsored by the platform on the rural focus of poverty reduction strategies. In September, IFAD and seven other members of the platform took part in a retreat. Discussions focused on building a common vision and understanding of platform activities and of how the platform was strategically positioned and organized to contribute to greater and more effective investments in agricultural and rural development.

International Food Policy Research Institute

In 2007, IFAD and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) initiated a strategic partnership in policy innovation and communication. The partnership will improve IFAD capabilities for pro-poor policy dialogue, innovation and knowledge management, in line with the recommendations of the Independent External Evaluation and with the Strategic Framework.

During the start-up phase, IFAD and IFPRI identified key policy challenges facing poor rural people in relation to natural resource governance and market access. They then prepared three concept notes on these challenges. The two organizations held a workshop in Rome in September to design the joint programme.

IFAD's involvement with the World Development Report 2008

IFAD gave financial support for and took part in the review process of the World Bank's *World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development*. IFAD's main contribution was to underline the importance of livelihoods in the report, which is predominantly oriented towards agriculture as a sector. The organization also took part in the launch of the report, particularly during the Global Forum on Agriculture hosted by FAO in November (see page 63). IFAD facilitated the involvement of farmers' organizations in the review process. As a result, the World Bank requested that IFAD continue to assist in the engagement of farmers' organizations in applying the findings of this year's World Development Report at country level.

Child labour in agriculture

Globally, 132 million children under the age of 14 work in agriculture. They are often severely exploited and exposed to hazardous conditions. Assuming household averages of four people, over half a billion people depend wholly or partly on income from child labour. IFAD works to improve these families' livelihoods and remove the driving need that is behind child labour. This allows girls and boys to attend school and in this way promotes sustainable poverty reduction.

In 2007, under the lead of the International Labour Office (ILO), IFAD, FAO, IFPRI and other partners started working together to integrate the issue of child labour in agriculture into their mainstream activities and achieve greater policy coherence. This year's World Day Against Child Labour focused on agriculture. On this occasion the partners signed a Declaration of Intent to abolish hazardous child labour in agriculture. After this, IFAD staff took part in a training course run by FAO and the ILO. Trainees learned about the worst forms of child labour in agriculture and the main means of action to combat it at national, regional and global levels.

RuralStruc programme

This programme works to improve understanding of current trends in the transformation of agriculture and rural economies, and to propose policy options. It focuses on the role structural policies play in overall rural development, poverty reduction and smallholder agriculture. IFAD is cofinancing it together with the World Bank, France and Switzerland.

Farmers' Forum process

The Farmers' Forum is the framework for IFAD's partnership with farmers' organizations around the world. It is a consultation, dialogue and cooperation process. Every two years, a global consultation of the Farmers' Forum is held in conjunction with IFAD's Governing Council.

During 2007, IFAD held ten country consultations and a regional consultation with farmers' organizations and government officials in Asia. The meetings drew up a three-year programme for cooperation between IFAD and farmers' organizations in the region. IFAD also supported inclusive consultations among peasants' organizations and government officials in Nepal, in anticipation of the constituent assembly.

In March, a regional consultation with farmers' organizations was organized in Cotonou, Benin. About 50 leaders from regional and national farmers' organizations took part, representing 20 countries. This was the first sub-Saharan regional consultation for the Farmers' Forum.

During 2007, several programmes were initiated or supported by IFAD in support of farmers' organizations.

- Empowering smallholder farmers in markets. This research programme works to enable farmers' organizations in developing countries to influence the policy environment. It was initiated by the International Federation of Agricultural Producers in partnership with the European Consortium for Agricultural Research in the Tropics. It also fosters institutional frameworks that empower smallholders in the agricultural marketing system. IFAD supported the inception phase in 2007 and will cofinance the next phase in 2008.
- Commission on Family Farming/MERCOSUR (REAF). REAF is the result of a process promoted by civil society and the Brazilian government. It was created in 2004 to strengthen family agriculture policies in MERCOSUR countries. It promotes dialogue among governments and farmers' organizations in member countries. Since November 2004, IFAD's regional programme FIDA-MERCOSUR has provided technical assistance and secretariat services for REAF. IFAD has also carried out an evaluation of this experience, which will be completed in 2008.
- Building capacity of farmers' organizations in sub-Saharan Africa and supporting the Farmers' Forum process (the alliance of agri-agencies – AgriCord). This programme enables farmers' organizations to participate more fully in national and international forums on agricultural issues. It has four components: mapping and profiling farmers' organizations, participatory policy generation in and by farmers' organizations, building farmers' organizations' staff capacity for financial management and planning, and evaluation and lessons learned.

- As requested by farmers' organization leaders during the first session of the Farmers' Forum of February 2004, FAO, IFAD and European NGOs started a programme to support the involvement of farmers' organizations in the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) process. In 2007, IFAD provided five small grants to regional farmers' organization networks for advocacy and dissemination work in the EPA regional process. In April, IFAD, FAO and European NGOs organized a side event to the 66th Session of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems on the linkages between Economic Partnership Agreements, regional integration and food sovereignty.

Cooperation with Rome-based agencies

In February, IFAD, FAO and WFP, the three main Rome-based United Nations agencies, started a mapping exercise to identify and report on their collaboration at the global, regional and country levels. The information compiled was organized around four pillars:

- increased investments in agricultural and rural development
- policy formulation, capacity-building, knowledge management and advocacy
- emergency and rehabilitation, including disaster risk management
- administration

The mapping exercise showed that there is a great deal of ongoing collaboration in various spheres, and that it is mainly initiated by staff at working level. Collaboration in operations, particularly between IFAD and FAO, has a long history. Joint advocacy work at regional and international level also has a good track record, while joint policy work is more recent. The latter includes work on trade issues, in particular Economic Partnership Agreements, and on engagement with farmers' organizations, as well as preliminary work on climate change. IFAD has also collaborated with FAO in developing Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development policy briefs on various topics. For the future, collaboration between the three agencies will be planned strategically. Work on this will start in 2008.