

**CICRED 2001-2005**  
**Activity report**

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**Executive Director**

# **CICRED 2001-2005**

## **Activity report**

### **Statement by the Executive Director**

#### **1. Report on the 2001-2004 period**

##### **1.1. Introduction**

CICRED was created in 1972 in the field of population research to foster the development of cooperation between national demographic institutes. In spite of remaining a small organization, this goal has been achieved and CICRED has matured over the years into a permanent feature of the international demographic scene. CICRED is collaborating today on joint actions and projects with some of the main institutional and scientific players in the world of demography, while remaining an association open to all institutions operating in the field of demography in the world. This nodal position within the institutional web of demographic centres gives it a strong capacity for institutional link-up and allows it to play a central role to bring together actors and structures and to help them build new relations.

Its primary aspiration has barely changed over the years and the need for international cooperation in demography has not diminished today. Indeed, the current international mobilization around a new set of development objectives has meant that the demand for the expertise and know-how of regional and national population institutes will keep on increasing. The need for quality demographic knowledge and monitoring capabilities of current-day ecological or health crises (to name a few among today's most prominent challenges) will continue growing as the international community is likely to sustain and even increase significantly their funding efforts in the coming years. This environment provides CICRED a new scope for development and rejuvenation. CICRED Council members have rightly pointed out that the current period witnessing the international redefinition of research priorities offers CICRED a "window of opportunity" that should not be missed.

While the contents of CICRED's actions have been significantly altered during this long span of time, it has by no means lost the dynamism and the drive of its original founders. In this 2001-2005 Activity report, I am pleased to share with you the highs and lows of the last four years. The report examines the period that followed the previous IUSSP Conference in Salvador de Bahia in 2001, even when some of the activities carried out during this period originate from actions initiated by CICRED before 2001. The first part of the report starts with a brief reminder of our operating structure and resources, followed by a summary of our activities. A separate section of this report is the financial report of CICRED. The second part of this report highlights our recent activities and discusses our potential for future development. Many of the latter items need to be discussed among member centres and the coming General Assembly of CICRED (followed by its Council meeting) should provide ample scope for this.

Please note that this Activity Report is offered in a much lighter format that was previously done. This is, I believe, not to be construed as the result of an actual reduction in our undertaking; it rather reflects the fact that over the recent months most materials that may

attest of CICRED's activities have now been made accessible online in our website and offer ample demonstration of the gamut of activities.

## **1.2. Structure**

CICRED is an association of research centres dealing in demography and other population-related themes. Its member centres are now 699, spread over 136 countries. The geographical distribution of the centres indicates that Europe and Asia account respectively for a third and a quarter of this number, followed by Africa (17 %), North America (12%) and Latin America (11 %). This number may be slightly overstated as it includes some centres that are short-lived or diminutive structures or whose active involvement in demographic studies is in fact limited or accidental. Our regular exchanges with our member centres (from elections to the call for proposals) reveal however that more than half of all centres are permanent structures that react and interact regularly with us. They constitute CICRED's backbone and its prime resource as a force to mobilize the demographic institutions in the world. They also represent the interest of several hundreds of individual demographers who are often less integrated in the world scientific communities.

CICRED is run by a Council comprising 7 centres which is elected by all member centres every four years. Centres from Cairo (Egypt), Campinas (Brazil), Montreal (Canada), Mumbai (India), Pretoria (South Africa), Rabat (Morocco) and Rostock (Germany) joined the Council in 2002 and Prof. Gavin Jones was elected its new Chairperson. Elections are underway in 2005 for the future Council that will start its term in 2006. Since its election, the Council has met every year in Paris to discuss the progress of current activities and decide about CICRED's future orientations. Its next meeting is also scheduled this year in Tours following CICRED's General Assembly (see appendix 1).

CICRED's structure is housed on the premises of the French National Institute of Demographic Studies (INED) in Paris, France. INED as its host institution is one of the first backers of CICRED and provides facilities such as office space, staff (including its director till 2004) and the budget from the French government. Like CICRED's website (see below), its computer network suffered from lack of maintenance. The computer network at the end of 2004 remained based on a complex and obsolete system that was both oversized (housing its own web server) and fragile (requiring external help for basic maintenance duties). It was also deprived of efficient communication and publication capabilities.

The permanent staff comprises today three members: a director, an assistant to the director (deputed from INED) and a demographer (on CICRED payrolls). CZ Guilmoto (demographer deputed by the French Research Institute for Development -IRD) was appointed in January 2005 as the new director. A main accountant is also in charge of CICRED's finances (with support from an additional international auditor as need arises). Other personnel may also be employed for the Paris office on limited terms (secretariat, computer network or web management, archiving, etc.).

A second ring of collaborators contribute regularly or on an ad hoc basis to various CICRED activities such as project evaluation, scientific editing, seminar organization, etc. They play a crucial role in the diversification and extension of our activities.

### **1.3. Research**

CICRED has always had a sizeable research component within its activities. As CICRED's own research capacities are minimal, its main role lies in the coordination of international research programmes. For the last two years, PRIPODE has been the main research programme hosted by CICRED. However, other FAO-funded programmes have been also active in the recent past.

#### **PRIPODE**

PRIPODE is an international programme launched in 2002 for the study of the interlinkages between Population, Environment and Development. The programme is directed towards centres in developing countries that are part of the French "Priority Solidarity Zone" that includes mostly countries in Africa as well as a few countries in the Caribbean, West and East Asia and elsewhere. PRIPODE is managed by CICRED through a grant from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. PRIPODE's scientific committee was then constituted under the leadership of George Martine and includes well-known scientists from various countries. This committee is responsible for the selection of teams supported by PRIPODE and for the scientific monitoring of their progress. CICRED's former chair Francis Gendreau acted as its coordinator till 2004 and was then replaced by CICRED's executive director.

CICRED circulated an initial call for proposals among the CICRED member centres attracting a large response (83), including from centres that were still inexperienced in this field. The received proposals shed light on the research needs and thematic priorities of centres. While most studies on the population-environment interactions are conducted from industrialized countries, it is important to stress that PRIPODE was targeted towards Southern countries. The programme does indeed intend to mobilize existing research capacities in the South and contribute thus to institutional consolidation and to the renewal of research themes among demographic centres.

Twenty research teams were finally selected in 2003 from sixteen different countries: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Laos, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria (2), Palestinian Territories, South Africa, Togo, Uganda (2) and Vietnam (2). Examination of their projects shows the great diversity of methodological approaches and their focal points stretch from environment policy issues and rural development to migration impact and urban management (see appendix 2).

The programme provides a two-year grant to each project (between 25 and 60,000 euros) with a midterm progress review. While a first batch of 13 teams were able to start their two-year projects in the fall 2003, financial difficulties at the French Ministry caused a serious delay for the second batch of 7 teams who received the first installment of their grant only in July 2004. As a result, these two groups were obliged to follow different schedules in their operations; this has been a source of complications for the management of the programme by CICRED and for the evaluation rounds by the scientific committee. More recently, PRIPODE had to renegotiate its schedule with the French authorities. This allowed for a substantial redefinition of the project's objectives and of the planned final conference.

## **Population Dynamics, Available Lands and Adapting Land Tenure**

This programme devoted to the relationship between demographic change and land tenure focused on a small number of national case studies. Teams from Burkina Faso, Niger and Tunisia were first selected for this series of monographs, to which the Philippines was added later on. Funding from various donors channeled through FAO gave national teams the possibility to confront demographic data with agricultural statistics in order to understand the interaction between land and population dynamics.

While first reports derived from the projects were available by the end of 2001, the following period allowed team members to turn their original research reports into fully-fledged monographs to be published by CICRED. This was made possible through the action of scientific coordinators and other colleagues who acted as scientific editors. A first batch of three books was published in 2003 as CICRED-FAO joint publications. Meanwhile, the publication of the Tunisia study, a heavy volume of more than 300 pages, has been seriously delayed. At the time of this report, the final version of this monograph has been prepared and will be submitted to FAO for approval before publication.

The possible extension of the monograph approach to other countries in the developing world has been regularly mentioned in CICRED's yearly reports for Benin, Ethiopia, Laos and Morocco in 2001 or for Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mexico, and China in 2003. However, no further funding through FAO ever materialized and the extension of the project has come to a halt.

### **1.4. Seminars**

One of the oldest and most regular dimensions of CICRED activities has been the organization of international seminars and workshops. CICRED organizes on average one seminar a year and the list of the four seminars organized in 2001-2004: (see appendix 3).

These seminars are organized through the CICRED network and have often been funded by UNFPA. Their organization usually follows a standard pattern that can be briefly summarized here without going into details for each seminar.

Firstly, after consultation with the Council and the potential donors, a topic is identified along with seminar coordinators and conveners. Traditionally, CICRED has felt inclined to favor topics that were both innovative and under-studied or under-recognized within demographic institutions. During the last four years, an effort has been made to identify seminar themes pertaining to specific demographic aspects of the Millennium Development Goals defined by the United Nations. Secondly, the final call for proposals is circulated among CICRED centres and centres are invited to designate one of their scholars to present the centre's work on the seminar's topic. The large number of proposals has at times made the selection procedure very delicate as CICRED is rarely in a position to invite scholars from more than 15 centres to its seminars. The seminar itself is not the end of the project as it is for instance followed by a publication of the proceedings or in recent cases, of a policy paper.

## 1.5. Publications

There has been during the period under review an unusual level of publishing activities. The following table is the list of all publications that appeared in 2001-2005. (See appendix 4).

This quantity of publications is in part due to the fact that almost no new CICRED books had appeared in 1997-2001 and that the publication backlog in 2001 was considerable. Furthermore, exceptional support in 2003 from UNFPA allowed CICRED to print several volumes during that year. These publications were all the results of both CICRED seminars and research programmes.

CICRED's publications are often bilingual, though this strategy takes at times different forms: some publications are published in French and English separately while some edited volumes bring together contributions that may be in English or in French.

These publications usually followed after a long phase of paper revision and editing that involved not only the original programme or seminar coordinators, but also external editors (a special mention need to be made here of support extended to CICRED by Eric Vilquin, from UCL, Belgium). CICRED, strictly speaking, is not in charge of the contents of these publications in any way, except for small-size publications. It is on the other hand responsible for the final layout, the cover design and the printing. The delay between the original activity and the final publication has greatly varied, extending from a couple of months to a few years (e.g. a seminar held in 1998 was published only in 2003).

At the same time, CICRED has continued to publish a bilingual newsletter once or twice a year. This newsletter helped to popularize some of the research conducted under CICRED's auspices (such as PRIPODE) but its major focus was on other research activities in the population field conducted by other research networks or institutions throughout the world. However, the Review of Review – a journal bringing regularly together abstracts of population journals- died a slow demise during the period. In 2000, the Review became a web only publication and the publication of the review was finally halted in 2002. Resuming its regular publication now seems impracticable.

One particular project seems to have born little fruit, i.e. the updating of the Multilingual Population Thesaurus. The last (third) edition of the Population Thesaurus was published in English, in French and in Spanish in 1993. Ever since the 1995 Thesaurus meeting, CICRED has invested a lot of resources (human and otherwise) in the revision of this Thesaurus, bringing together the expertise of many demographers and other specialists. However, the project appears to come to a standstill and no (electronic or paper) publication has appeared after a decade of work. The announced restructuring of this Thesaurus has been in fact discontinued and the amount of effort necessary to resume the project (originally due in 2004) remains unclear.

CICRED's distribution policy is directed towards its member centres and a few institutional partners (such as UNFPA or French Ministries that support specific projects). As its books are not intended for sale, costs of printing, storage and distribution are usually borne only by CICRED. This acts as a financial disincentive to a more proactive diffusion strategy that would give CICRED publications the outreach of some of its former series (such as the 1974 monographs). Many recent publications were not printed in adequate numbers and the distribution was therefore curtailed. While some seminar papers and at times entire

printed volumes were made available online, others were missing or available in unusual format for web users. The diffusion of CICRED publications through our website suffered greatly from the progressive abandonment of the website maintenance from 2002 onwards.

As the website was allowed to become obsolete, recent publications and other CICRED materials were usually not available online and their diffusion via the website became irregular and left unmonitored. The regular updating of the CICRED website was itself discontinued in 2003 and no detailed information was provided on current CICRED activities such as the 2004 seminars it organized, a development blamed on the lack of trained personnel. This poor web coverage did create a serious communication gap between CICRED and its stakeholders and has tended to reduce significantly its worldwide visibility.

## **1.6. Capacity Monitoring and Building**

Several regular activities of CICRED such as international research programmes and seminars include an important component related to capacity building as they have involved centres from different parts of the world (such as Panama, Surinam, Brazil, China, Philippines, India, Indonesia, the Gambia, Burkina Faso, Botswana, Egypt, Fiji, etc.). This at best is capacity-building “by doing”. But CICRED has also continued to function as an institutional observatory by conducting a regular monitoring of demographic centres. During the period under review, it enlarged its membership to new demographic centres. In 2005, 700 centres are part of the CICRED network as against the 686 centres listed in the directory published in 2000. CICRED also convened a new regional assembly for Asia in Bangkok in June 2002. In spite of some deficiencies in coverage and updating, CICRED’s database (also known by its French acronym ACERD) remains a source for direct access to almost all demographic centres in the world and will continue to be one of its vital resources.

CICRED launched a major effort to review the variety of existing demographic centres around the world in 2002. It involved a systematic updating of our database of population centres (ACERD), followed by an intensive survey among its member centres carried out by F. Gendreau and S. Adamets-Huix with the help of other CICRED collaborators. By combining questionnaires and information gathered electronically, the survey canvassed information from more than 420 centres on both their infrastructure and administrative status as well as on their research priorities (RIERDEN database). This work resulted in an important publication in 2003 (*Institutional and Scientific Overview of Population Research in the World*) whose contents details among others:

- The geographical distribution of demographic centres
- Their size and administrative structure
- Their current research projects

The two most recent meetings of the CICRED Council have given for CICRED to become more proactive in participating to capacity-building operations. CICRED relied on its database to launch a short survey of needs and capacities in 2005. Results of this pilot survey presented in Tours will help to formulate CICRED’s new objectives in capacity mobilization and consolidation.

## 1.7. Expenditures and income

### Expenditures

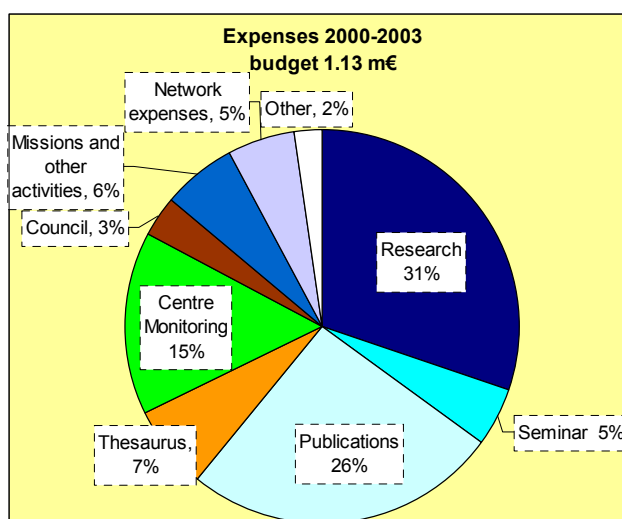
CICRED accounts are presented on a yearly basis to its Council for approval. Here, we have tried to bring together total expenses over five years that are amenable to yearly fluctuations of our activities and of our funding.

Till 2004, they have been prepared in a way that renders detailed analysis CICRED's expenditures difficult for both currency and software reasons). Analytical budgeting should become a priority objective from 2005.

The following table uses the format of the previous accounts (2000-2003) as presented in the yearly Activity Reports.

Research (land tenure, PRIPODE)	345 k€
Seminar organization	52 k€
Publications newsletter, books, etc.)	295 k€
Thesaurus	76 k€
Centre monitoring & survey	173 k€
Council meetings	37 k€
Missions and other expenses	69 k€
Computer network expenses	61 k€
Other	27 k€
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 135 k€</b>

This profile of expenses however combines both routine activities (such as CICRED councils, centre monitoring, newsletter publication, etc.) and exceptional, project-based expenditures. Expenses are not distributed in usual accounting categories, but according to their destination. The largest part, viz. research (Land tenure and PRIPODE programmes), is exclusively funded from external grants. Only two seminars were conducted during this period whereas many publications were brought out, including the now discontinued Review of Reviews (12.6% of the total budget). The rather important share of expenses devoted to Centre Monitoring is related to the survey conducted from 2002, which was published in 2003.





A breakdown of the budget for 2003 and 2004 is however possible for paid expenditures.

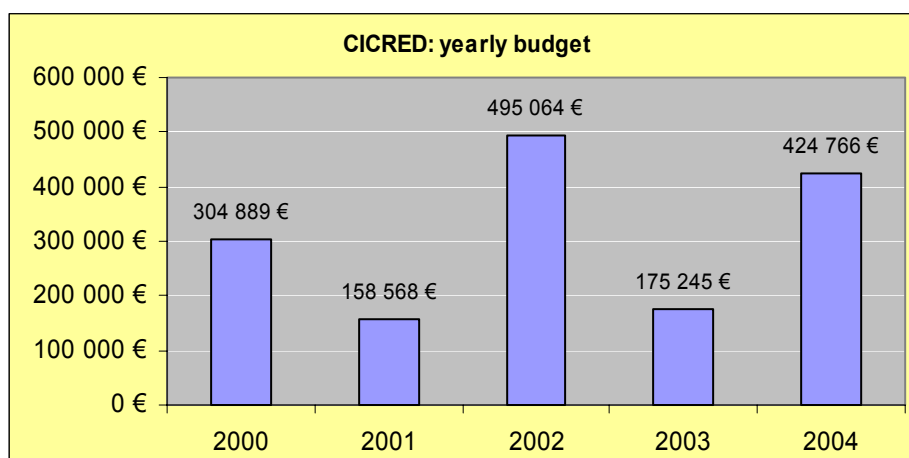
	<b>Total 2003-04</b>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>Total 2003-04</i>
Research grants	<b>227,095</b>	29.45%	41.05%	35.46%
Travel expenses	<b>141,513</b>	32.10%	12.80%	22.10%
Salaries and other expenses	<b>129,738</b>	15.29%	24.88%	20.26%
Stationery/ documentation	<b>6,898</b>	1.54%	0.65%	1.08%
Subcontracting	<b>75,513</b>	11.72%	11.86%	11.79%
Honoraries	<b>26,967</b>	5.72%	2.81%	4.21%
Maintenance	<b>20,727</b>	2.36%	4.06%	3.24%
Other expenses	<b>11,949</b>	1.82%	1.90%	1.87%
<b>Total</b>	<b>640,400 €</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The share of research subsidies declined in 2004 because of the PRIPODE programme, while the expenditures for travel expenses almost tripled due to the three seminars organized that year.

## Income

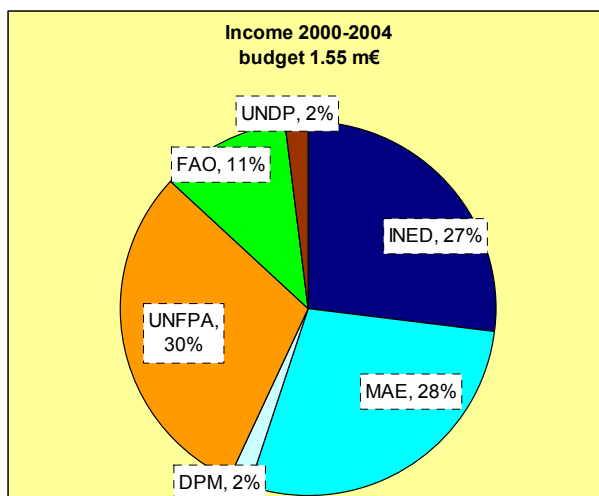
The rest of this section examines the yearly flow of resources flowing to CICRED over the period 2000-2004. At the outset, it is necessary to underline the fact that the host institution (INED) provides many unaccounted resources, including CICRED's premises in the INED building, salaries of deputed staff, mail and phone facilities.

This exercise shows both the irregularity of annual income flows over the years as well as relative diversification of CICRED's resources. The average yearly budget of CICRED stands at 311 K€ over the period 2000-2004. This amount has however widely fluctuated over the years, from 150 K€ in 2001-2002 to 424 K€ in 2004. It is here important to distinguish our yearly subvention paid by INED (about 87 K€ a year) from other sources that are strictly project-based. This grant covers our basic operating costs (salary, accounting expenses, Council meetings, etc.).



The origin of the CICRED funding may give a better idea of the reasons for these yearly variations. Three main sources provide the largest share of CICRED funding, viz.: yearly funding from INED (host centre), project-based funding from UNFPA, and recent

PRIPODE funding by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE). Each of the three donors has contributed almost 30% of our budget. UNFPA is the leading international provider of United Nations assistance and its support to CICRED's activities has crucial to our development. An additional 15% originated from FAO in the early 2000s, as well as from UNDP and the French Ministry of Social Affaires (DPM).



The detailed budget breakdown indicates that funding has been closely linked to the development of various projects by CICRED: be it the research projects funded by FAO or the French MAE or the regular international seminars often supported by UNFPA. Donors also supported various activities such as our publications, the policy paper series, the development of our website or the work on the Thesaurus project.

These sources for CICRED's income are diverse and account for almost 75% of our expenses. However, most of the external grants received are not spent on CICRED, but are redirected elsewhere: to other institutions (seminar organizations, research grants, etc.), to colleagues (travel expenses, honorary, etc.) or to private parties (printing, data entry, etc.).

## 2. Recent developments and perspectives

### 2.1. Structure

CICRED's activities during the first six months of 2005 have been almost entirely devoted to the transformation and the improvement of CICRED's operating structure. Both the computer and web system have been replaced by a more appropriate system that can be easily operated. This implied installing a new internal network, as well as new computer equipment and updated applications in order to be able to perform our basic tasks (emailing, web publishing, editing, etc.) and training the personnel. Similarly, a great effort has been directed towards the inventory of CICRED publications and the modernization of our accounting tools, two areas in which streamlining was overdue. As this report is being written, these tasks are not fully completed but it is estimated that they will be by the end of 2005. These changes will allow CICRED to have an efficient, modernized operating structure by next year.

Our own capacity is limited by the size of our permanent staff in Paris (two persons employed full-time). The director is appointed on a part-time basis. Various CICRED activities (like web development, editorial assistance for publication, seminar organization, policy paper preparation etc.) have to be contracted out to other institutions and colleagues, or to private companies. While this gives us the flexibility to adjust to budget

fluctuations, we have also found ourselves dependent on the heavy agenda of other colleagues and this has at times resulted in serious delays in the implementation of our activities, this being especially true for the publication projects.

In order to enlarge its array of activities, CICRED will need to enlarge and to diversify its human resources. Funding will be an essential aspect of this strategy in that it will allow recruiting associates for short- or long-term assignments in order to free gradually the permanent staff from some of the activities.

A specific point pertains to CICRED's statutes that obviously require some minor revisions. Rationale for these modifications stem mainly from the fact that some articles appear to be outdated as they refer to a period when CICRED used to function as a French NGO in relative isolation from its Council.

Among suggestions for revisions:

- Improved definition and simplification of the election procedures
- Improved definition of the procedure for appointing the executive director
- Deletion of obsolete references and isolated discrepancies in the functioning of CICRED authorities

## **2.2. Finance**

As it will remain mostly project-based, CICRED must identify activities that are in line with the current development of international population assistance. A large bulk of this international assistance money is presently assigned to the goals and targets defined by the ICPD and the Millennium Summit. These flows of financial resources are already significant and probably growing in view of the increasing commitments of the nations to the objectives of the Millennium.

CICRED's contribution has been significant, especially as is indicated by our recent meetings (on aids and spatial mobility, poverty and mortality, etc.) that focused on the demographic contents of several MDGs. But this contribution has been restricted mostly to the organization of seminars followed by publications.

Moreover, CICRED's resources may appear at times quite narrow and renders it dependent on some irregular income sources as our financial review has shown. A modernized structure with a more flexible functioning should allow CICRED to respond in the coming years more dynamically to new opportunities offered by donor organizations.

## **2.3. Editorial and dissemination strategy**

Two aspects need to be discussed. What kind of documents does CICRED want to produce? How to disseminate the research findings efficiently?

The first question refers to CICRED's role as a nexus for collaborative research among population centres in the world. Its strategy relies to a great extent to its active participation in international research ventures, for which regular publication tasks are crucial. Downsizing this activity might be contrary to CICRED's long-term standing within the demographers' community although this emphasis on publication may at times vary with relation to its other objectives. To a large extent, the main check to CICRED's publication activities derive from the various costs associated with it and from the fact that CICRED has to rely to its network of associates to carry out the revision and final edition of the

manuscript. While joint publication is at times a solution, it tends to dilute the CICRED brand name and may potentially prevent CICRED from freely distributing its materials for copyright or other reasons.

In spite of the importance of web-based materials for sharing research results and other offshoots of CICRED's activities, printed volumes remain favored by most authors and users as electronic publications are often of uncertain quality. This has to be balanced against the growing cost of printing and distributing volumes, on the one hand, and the increasing downloading and storage capacity of computer users on the other. While the quality of Internet access is very unequally shared among CICRED centres, with centres in developing countries at a serious disadvantage in this matter, trends point to a rapid increase in the number and quality of the Internet infrastructure everywhere. The progress in underprivileged countries is however sustained and has helped many institutions and researchers to catch up with the development of web-based facilities.

The change in early 2005 in the website maintenance procedures has meant that all recent publications and seminar papers are now instantly posted online. The website has been at the same time entirely revamped in March 2005, which was long overdue in view of its progressive decay (the site had in 2004 no information on recent or current activities). The changes in our website management have resulted in a far greater level of handiness as most contents can be distributed online from our office computers -without recourse to costly technical expertise as was previously the case. The web site now includes all publications from 1997 to 2005, as well as papers from recent seminars. Most recent CICRED-related documents (such as activity reports, our brochure, etc.) are also online.

Further efforts will be directed at carrying out the systematic digitization of prior CICRED literature, including the 1974 monographs. Many of these publications still attract a lot of interest from demographers and should be made available online. Care will be taken to digitize these materials in a readable PDF format rather than as large-scale scanned image files (that are both bulky and non-searchable files). A first estimate of the load to be digitized indicates that more than 10,000 pages will have to be processed. If this project is carried out as planned, CICRED will have within a year no previous material left for digitization.

While the new web portal is not final, it has by now become a crucial instrument in our communication strategy. As of now, it is visited by more than 1100 visitors (and 2450 hits) per day, which is a rather encouraging result for a recently renovated site. The most consulted pages are the home page, the Thesaurus pages and the seminar and book pages. The overall bounce rate (i.e. entrances resulting in exits without viewing any other page) is of 58% for 2005, a high rate that reflects the limited contents available and should decline in the future.

Recent paper publications in 2005 include two volumes derived from seminars held in 2002 and 2005 (in press). CICRED has also launched this year its new Policy Paper Series: after a first release in Tours, it will publish another two policy papers by the end of year. These Policy Paper documents are linked to each seminar organized by CICRED and are intended to explore their political implications. Another volume (Tunisia monograph) should be published before the end of the year. The volume derived from the last seminar (February 2005) is under preparation. Publications to be planned for 2006 will originate from the PRIPODE programme, as both policy papers and research findings from

research teams become available. The format to be given to these publications is however still open.

CICRED will meanwhile decide on its strategic options regarding publication for the future and explore the possible links between its capacity-building and publication activities. New successful activities may generate new avenues of publication.

#### **2.4. Research and seminar programme strategy**

Here again, two aspects need to be discussed. Does CICRED want to promote research by keeping a role as a platform for international research programmes and seminars? What specific contents or “flavor” should it give to the research actions it runs?

There is a regular debate regarding CICRED’s involvement in international research programmes. It has been often observed that CICRED’s role does not consist in the promotion of research and that its former programmes have not been very efficient in encouraging the kind of collaboration and knowledge transfers that were expected. Similarly, there is at times a feeling that CICRED’s first role is not to organize seminars. However, irrespective of the new emphasis laid on institutional development, CICRED’s intimate link to research has to be maintained and derives directly from its original mandate. In the absence of any research capacities within CICRED, it should however restrict its role to facilitating or administering international research programmes or seminars. So far, this has been possible only when CICRED turned out to be the initiator of such programmes, forcing CICRED to take specific research initiatives and invest in lobbying and fund-raising.

While CICRED should not become a mere research hub, the derived benefits from running international research programmes for CICRED are numerous: it improves its international image in research communities, it fosters close association with many research centres in developing countries, it establishes inter-institutional liaison, it generates additional resources for its operating base, it promotes topics that are often closely related to the MDGs etc. These advantages are well illustrated by PRIPODE, a programme that aims at promoting research on the environment-population nexus. This research programme involves research communities from no less than 20-odd research institutes in some of the least developed countries in the world. This programme is sufficiently well-funded to be run independently from CICRED’s routine operations.

The new schedule for PRIPODE envisioned in 2005 includes now a new blueprint for the final conference in early 2007. This should combine the discussion of research findings with the policy implications of these original research programmes. To achieve this, the conference will involve the most successful research teams as well as outside experts designated by PRIPODE’s scientific committee. The conference should also coincide with the publications of research results and policy papers, giving to PRIPODE programme a larger impact in both scientific and policy communities.

Regarding seminars, they require less involvement as many aspects are directly delegate to partner institutions (e.g. for the venue of seminars) and to colleagues (e.g. for subsequent publications). Apart from the research benefits, these meetings give CICRED a chance to have regular encounters with representatives of various centres in the world.

The only scheduled seminar in near future is devoted to female deficit in Asia and will be held in Singapore in December 2005. It will be hosted by the Asian MetaCentre and co-

organized by CEPED (a French research consortium), CICRED and INED. The call for papers has met a great success by attracting 65 proposals and the selection procedure is under way. No UNFPA-sponsored seminar is planned for 2005.

Next seminar projects should be linked to some of the demographic dimensions of the MDGs whenever possible as has been done so far (on HIV-aids, gender issues, poverty, etc.). They should also involve the know-how of demographers as population data suppliers and analysts, stressing the benefits of their technical approach to the monitoring of social development progress. The list shown in Appendix 5 includes several potential topics for future research programmes and seminars and should serve only as a catalyst for the discussion during the general Assembly.

Another aspect of this strategy is the contents and the approach that CICRED should follow in devising and implementing these seminars and research programmes. More attention should be given to bottom-up consultation and to the active involvement of research communities in the developing world in running the actions (definition of research objectives, scientific and impact monitoring, etc.).

## **2.5. Capacity Monitoring and Building**

This is one line of activities in which the Council has over the years expressed its wish to see CICRED get more involved. Population institutions (from better- to poorly-resourced population centres) need to go beyond scientific contents towards capacity development and resource sharing and CICRED should play a leading interface role in this development.

CICRED intends to respond to this call by increasing and enlarging its participation in effective capacity-building operations. The first step has been taken by conducting a short survey among its members in May 2005. Results of this sample survey (about 15 % of centres have responded) will allow CICRED to design a larger survey plan to implement by the end of 2005. Critical in this assessment will be the e-readiness (capacity to respond to Internet-based opportunities) of population institutions in the less developed nations. The digital divide (the gap between institutions in terms of access to ICT-information and communication technology) is as much related to differing levels of technical skills as to the varied quality of accessible digital content. Developing countries should be able to fully exploit the benefits from the rapidly expanding Internet resources to close the knowledge gap as envisioned by the MDGs (this is the last target of the MDGs). Connecting institutions in developing regions to the Internet will have a positive impact in complementing locally available information, accelerating knowledge flows, and delivering innovative training.

A first framework for developing CB (capacity building) activities identifies two main activities.

1. A first enterprise will revolve around CB sessions to be organized in identified regional centres after the diagnostic phase.

### *1. diagnostic phase*

This phase will be based on the exploitation of the pilot survey conducted in May-June 2005 followed by a more in-depth survey.

Objectives of these surveys are:

- Needs and potentials (demand and supply) of centres with respect to assistance and training.

- Best format to be given to these regionally-based CB sessions: identification of regional lead centres as linkage institutions providing both the infrastructure and logistics for CB sessions
- Contents definition of CB sessions (ICT awareness, web designing, project-writing, technical and scientific support, etc.)

## 2. *implementation and evaluation phase*

This phase will start only after the complete analysis of the first phase results.

Ideally, it will be based on regionally organized CB sessions on identified priority items.

CB materials from successful sessions should form the base for a CICRED series of technical papers on specialized training topics (to be published online)

CB sessions will have built-in evaluation instruments to monitor the efficiency of the session format as well as their contents.

2. Simultaneously, CICRED will offer new web-based instruments to favor communication across centres. Results of the survey will inform the contents to be given to these tools.

Two such mechanisms are already contemplated:

- Web hosting.

CICRED will offer basic facilities to host a web site for specific centres or projects.

This help should however not involve the regular updating of websites

- Forum and exchange.

CICRED will set up specific discussion boards allowing demographers to put their queries to other users. Forum may be divided into special themes (fund raising, technical questions, ICT, etc.).

### **3. CICRED's future objectives and guiding principles**

This report is not a final strategy document, but offers pointers for a new development of CICRED that still require more consultation with CICRED's stakeholders. This section offers a glimpse at what our strategic options should be and how they should govern the identification of our priority and key actions for the future.

1. It is essential to visualize CICRED's role in the future as a platform to enhance collaboration among centres towards the achievement of today's major challenges. CICRED's first task is neither to enunciate nor to prioritize these goals but to act as a bridge between institutions and between actors that wish to decide on their goals and are ready to pool resources to attain these goals. The first objective should be to increase the productivity of demographic research towards the achievements of social development objectives that are environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable. Old and new activities should be linked to these objectives.

2. The institutional mobilization in the face of the demographic challenges identified during the ICPD and also as spelt out in the MDGs will involve CICRED centres of various resource levels. Only a parallel effort from all institutions will create the best synergy and CICRED has a natural responsibility in this linking process. Though based in France, CICRED has for the last ten years gradually moved towards issues directly related to the major challenges facing developing countries and in the process firmed up its rapport with them.

3. CICRED has to become more explicitly engaged in capacity-building, with the demand for institutional support going now beyond sheer monetary transfers. Institutional consolidation may become the key ingredient in the response capacity of demographic centres to widening opportunities. Strengthening of institutional capacities can be achieved through different means that have to be explored: training and education, transfer or provision of access to technology and other forms of assistance designed to improve institutional efficiency and formulate an appropriate policy framework for the definition of research objectives among population centres.

4. The expansion of the resources of CICRED is a necessary feature of the development, but efforts have to be adequately monitored so that resources and priorities are efficiently streamlined. This means that CICRED should provide tools for capacity building that include monitoring and evaluation instruments. All resources mobilized should be accountable and set against the progress in our objectives' achievements in a way that make efforts and their impact cumulative for all our stakeholders.

5. CICRED's new activities will start after an initial period of diagnostics during which our stakeholders will be consulted and priority areas identified. Contents and modalities of the actions to follow should remain plural so that they could accommodate the needs and potentials of our partners. In spite of the shared agenda put forth by international agencies, each regional setting determines particular priorities and CICRED should respond to these.

6. Achieving these objectives requires a small organization like CICRED to adopt an operational strategy based first and foremost on information technologies that will efficiently increase communication among institutions. This includes a systematic inclusion of an information technology component into collaborative ventures and the ability to keep apace of new communication tools.



## 4. Appendices

### Appendix 1: CICRED structure

#### **CICRED Council 2001-2005**

**Chairman:** Gavin JONES (National University of Singapore, Singapore)

#### **Member Centres**

- ◆ Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC), Ministry of Population and Family Welfare, Cairo, Egypt
- ◆ Nucleo de Estudos de População (NEPO), Universidade Estadual de Campinas, Brazil
- ◆ Centre for Population Studies (CENPOPS), Department of Sociology, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- ◆ International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, India
- ◆ Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany
- ◆ Centre Interuniversitaire d'Études Démographiques, Université de Montréal, Canada
- ◆ Centre d'Études et de Recherches Démographiques (CERED), Rabat, Morocco.

#### **Members ex-officio**

- ◆ United Nations Population Division, New York, U.S.A
- ◆ United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), New York, U.S.A.
- ◆ International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP), Paris, France

#### **Permanent Office**

**Executive Director:** Christophe Z. GUILMOTO (IRD)

**Assistant:** Hartati AYRAL (INED)

**Technical Department:** Silvia HUIX-ADAMETS (CICRED)

**Consultants:** Pierre CHAPELET, Jacques du GUERNY, Susana LERNER (Colegio de México), George MARTINE (UNFPA), Ian POOL (Un. of Waikato), André QUESNEL (IRD), Eric VILQUIN (UCL), Dominique TABUTIN (UCL)

### Appendix 2: PRIPODE teams

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Centre</b>
Mobilité spatiale de la population : nécessité de développement et risques de dégradation de l'environnement dans l'Est et le Sud-Ouest du Burkina Faso	CNRST
Brazzaville, pauvreté et problèmes environnementaux	CEREGE
Environmental degradation, disaster risk construction and vulnerability in the Caribbean	FLACSO
Study on dynamic resource use and land cover transition in Northern Laos	FoF, NUOL
Population, développement et environnement dans le Souss	ORMES
Croissance démographique, développement de la culture du coton, et gestion durable des ressources naturelles en zone Mali-Sud	IER
Quelles transitions agraires en zones semi-arides à forte croissance démographique : le cas du Niger	Fac. d'Agro
Rural-Urban migration, poverty and sustainable environment: the case of Nigeria	UNAAB

Population dynamics, real sector development and environmental consequences : a comparative analysis of the Nigerian agricultural and industrial sector	NISER
Policy tools towards sustainable land use and urban environmental management at municipal level under a transitional political context-the case of Bethlehem district, Palestine	ARIJ
Urban Development, Population and the Environment in Uganda. The Case of Kampala and its Environ.	Makerere University
Développement économique, urbanisation et changements de l'environnement à Hô Chi Minh Ville, Vietnam : interrelations et politiques publiques	IRE, Hô Chi Minh Ville
Développement économique et problèmes de l'environnement au Vietnam dans un contexte de forte pression démographique	DSA-INSA
Les déterminants socio-environnementaux de la morbidité diarrhéique des enfants de moins de 5 ans en milieu urbain camerounais : les villes de Ebolowa et Maroua	IFORD
Circulations migratoires transsahariennes et développement urbain au Sahara Central	Dép. Aménagement
Population, development and environment in metropolitan Accra : a two-phase study	ISSER
Perception de l'environnement et attitudes des paysans malgaches face aux projets de développement rural	ICM
Peuplement, mobilité et développement dans un milieu défavorisé : le cas de la région des savanes au Togo	URD
Population, development and environment linkage at farm level in Uganda	MUIE
Household characteristics in rural South Africa : implications for natural resources and development	CAE

#### Appendix 3: Seminars

- 23-25 February 2005, Trivandrum, India : *Mortality as both a determinant and a consequence of poverty and hunger*, Navaneetham K. and Caselli G, with Ian Pool. (Coordinators).
- 1-3 September 2004, Paris, France: *Inter-relations between development, spatial mobility and HIV/AIDS*, HSU L. and du Guerny J. (Coordinators)
- 23-26 February 2004, Paris France : *Age-Structure transition: Demographic Bonuses, but emerging challenges for population and sustainable development*, Pool I. (Coordinator)
- 25-29 November 2002, Bangkok, Thailand: *Reproductive Health, Unmet Needs and Poverty: Issues of access and quality of Service*, Lerner S (Coordinator)

#### Appendix 4: Publications

- *Policy Implications of Age-Structural Changes*, CICRED Policy Paper number one, CICRED, Paris, 2005, 21 p.
- *Development, Spatial Mobility and HIV/AIDS*, Bangkok, UNDP-CICRED, 2004, 96 p.
- *Social and Economic Patterning of Health among Women / Les facteurs sociaux et économiques de la santé des femmes*, Arber S. and Khlat M., (eds.), Paris, CICRED, 2003, 511 p.

- *Education, Family and Population Dynamics / Education, famille et dynamiques familiales*, Cosio M. E., Marcoux R., Pilon M., Quesnel A., (eds.), Paris, CICRED, 2003, 363 p.
- *Poverty, Fertility and Family Planning / Pauvreté, fécondité et planification familiale*, Cosio-Zavala M. E., (ed.), Paris, CICRED, 2003, 358 p.
- *Population Dynamics, Land Availability and Adapting Land Tenure Systems : Philippines, a case Study*, Office of Population Studies (University of San Carlos), Farm and Agriculture Resource Management Institute and Center for Social Research (Leyte State University), Gultiano S., Balbarino E., Saz E., Urich P. (coord.), Paris, CICRED, FAO, 2003, 201 p.
- *Dynamique des populations, disponibilités en terres et adaptation des régimes fonciers : le Burkina Faso, une étude de cas*, Institut National des Sciences des Sociétés (INSS), Institut National de la Statistique et de la Démographie (INSD), Drabo I., Ilboudo F., Tallet B. (coord.), Paris, CICRED, FAO, 2003, 114 p.
- *Dynamique des populations, disponibilités en terres et adaptation des régimes fonciers : le Niger, une étude de cas*, Faculté d'Agronomie de l'Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey, Direction de la Statistique et des Comptes Nationaux (DSCN), Guengant J.-P. (coord.), Banoïn M., Paris, CICRED, FAO, 2003, 157 p.
- *Panorama institutionnel et scientifique de la recherche démographique dans le monde / Institutional and Scientific Overview of Population Research in the World*, F. Gendreau, S. Huix-Adamets, Paris, CICRED, 2003, 99 p.

#### Appendix 5: Sample of possible topics for seminars and research programmes

- Old age and poverty: the relationship between population aging and poverty in developing countries when traditional support systems weaken.
- Computing maternal mortality: new and old techniques to estimate maternal mortality from survey and registration data
- Measuring sexual violence: the inputs of demographic analysis to the study of sexual violence from survey and other sources
- Closing the gender gap in education: measurement and interpretations in recent trends in sex differentials in school enrolment across the world.
- Refugees and demography: the contribution of demographic approach to the analysis of structure and behavior of refugee populations.
- Infant mortality differentials: estimating and mapping the social and geographic disparities in infant mortality and their trends.
- Urban mortality: the challenge to improving morbidity and mortality conditions in urban areas
- The changing role of individual vs. contextual factors in mortality differentials
- Environment and mobility: can population redistribution be favorable to environmental conditions?
- Migration networks: South-to-North mobility studied from both origin and destination areas
- Migration pockets: a comparative analysis of migration-prone areas across the world
- GIS and MDGs: the cartography of MDG indicators: techniques and lessons