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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AID DELIVERY
A COMPARATIVE STUDY

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Philosophy in Development Studies
at Massey University

by

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DEDICATION

Dedicated to the memory of Aiden Jack Beveni
1953 - 1994
Principal Forest Officer
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ABSTRACT

This study sets up a process for the systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of aid agencies in aid delivery through evaluating the projects and programmes that they are implementing. It evaluates and compares five different aid agencies comprising of a bilateral aid donor, non-government organisation, community based organisation, development bank and multilateral aid donor. The common ground for comparison is that these agencies have all been providing assistance to, or working in, the forestry sector in the Solomon Islands over a relatively long period.

The study found that it is possible to apply a systematic comparative evaluation process to aid agencies, and the projects and programmes that they were implementing, despite seemingly large differences in aid philosophy and aid management among them. By applying systematic comparative evaluations such as the one set up in this study it is possible to learn from all agencies how to enhance the effectiveness of aid delivery for the ultimate benefit of donor and recipient alike.

The study found that none of the agencies reviewed in the study were necessarily more effective than any other agency in aid delivery. There was likewise no evidence that any one theoretical position on development, or any particular approach to aid delivery was necessarily any more effective when it came to implementing aid projects or programmes. There are too many variables affecting the implementation of projects and programmes for any one approach to aid delivery or theoretical position to be the most effective in all cases.
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Tim Thorpe
Wellington
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ABBREVIATIONS

ACP - African, Caribbean and Pacific
ADAB - Australian Development Assistance Bureau
AIDAB - Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (formerly ADAB)
CD&W - Commonwealth Development and Welfare Funds
CDC - Commonwealth Development Corporation
CFI - Commonwealth Forestry Institute
CIDA - Canadian International Development Agency
CSIRO - Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DSE - Development Services Exchange
EC - European Community (formerly the EEC)
EDF - European Development Fund
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation
FD - Forestry Division (of the Ministry of Natural Resources)
FRIS - Forest Resource Information System
ICVA - International Council of Voluntary Agencies
JICA - Japanese International Cooperation Agency
JOAA - Japanese Overseas Afforesting Agency
KFPL - Kolombangara Forest Products Ltd
KTC - Komuniboli Training Centre
MERT - Ministry of External Relations and Trade
MLENR - Ministry of Lands, Energy and Natural Resources
MMC - Monopolies and Mergers Commission
MNR - Ministry of Natural Resources
MOU - Memorandum of Understanding
MTM - Mobile Team Member
NFAP - National Forestry Action Plan
NFRI - National Forest Resource Inventory
NGO - Non-Government Organisation
ODA - Overseas Development Assistance, but British Overseas Development Administration
OECD - Organisation For Economic Cooperation and Development
Yes, development fashions have changed over the last three decades, and that is why gradually the files, the archives, the case-books of the development establishment - which consists of the multi- and bilateral development and financing agencies, with their supporting theorists in the universities and the foundations, never forgetting their protégés in the planning ministries of the underdeveloped world - have come to resemble the private cemetery of a fantastic zoo, a cemetery stuffed with the corpses of wild geese, lame ducks, red herrings, white elephants and dead horses.

(Jack Westoby, The Purpose of Forests)