



CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

JULY, 2009

Beginning of PARP

- PARP was established by the instrument of Grant agreement number 105 between Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and National Assembly of Nigeria. The motivation was the recognition of lack of experience of the Legislature that was just 1 year old when negotiation started in 2000, and the desire to fast track its effectiveness.
- Senate, at its sitting on the 21st November 2002 approved the establishment of PARP as an agency to build the capacity of departmental staff in NASS.
- The House of Representatives had earlier approved the establishment of PARP through a Resolution.

Effective Take Off

- Operations did not take off effectively until September 2004. ACBF provided a grant of \$2 million while NASS was to provide \$1.8 million covering a period of 4 years.
- The Grant Agreement was renewed for another 4 years in March 2008. It should be noted that NASS up-scaled its contribution from 2005 to \$3.5 million annually and in 2009 \$7.5 million.

PARP's Mandate & Objectives

PARP is to assist the National Assembly to:

- Build its capacity to effectively initiate and evaluate bills by providing the required research, analytical and dissemination resources.
- Improve the capabilities of its staff through training of core legislative and research staff.
- Play a central role in the design, analysis and evaluation of development policies.

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- Build and consolidate database on relevant development issues for utilization in drafting of, and deliberation on bills and the communication functions of the National Assembly.
- Stock and improve the quality of library information for in-house and public uses.
- Design and coordinate short-term training modules for members and staff of the National Assembly

Phase II Areas of Special Focus

- PARP II started in 2008 with a special focus on:
 - **Committee Clerks**
 - **Official Reporters**
 - **Parliamentarians**
- This was a result of the high turnover (70%) of parliamentarians after the April 2007 elections;
- and the recognition of the work of Committee Clerks and Official Reporters as critical success factors in legislative effectiveness, yet their capacities could be rated as inadequate.

• Profile of Program Implementation: 2005 - 2008

S/N	Activity	PARP PHASE I Total Achievements						PARP PHASE II Total Achievements			
		Grant Target	2005	2006	2007	Total	Variance	2008 Work Plan Target	2008 Total Achieved	Total	Variance
1.	Training Workshops & Seminars	24	Local - 8	Local - 17	Local - 16 Foreign - 17	60	+36	19	Local - 17 Foreign - 2	19	0
2.	Short-term Courses	8	Foreign - 5	Foreign - 13	Foreign - 9 Local - 5	32	+24	10	Local - 4 Foreign - 6	10	0
3.	Conferences	6	Foreign - 3	Local - 8 Foreign - 9	Local - 4 Foreign - 8	35	+29	7	Local 1 Foreign - 8	9	+2
4.	Exchange of Experiences Attachments	7	-	Foreign - 9 Foreign - 2	Foreign - 3 Foreign - 1	15	+8	8	Foreign - 9 Foreign - 2	11	+3
5.	Consultative Forum	16	Foreign - 1	Local - 4	-	5	-11	-	-	-	-
6.	Studies/ Research	8	1	5	9	15	+7	4	5	5	0
7.	Policy Analysis	-	1	3	2	6	+6	5	3	5	0
8.	Bill Analysis	-	8	35	11	54	+54	-	34	34	0
9.	Bill Tracking	-	300	273	82	725	725	-	179	179	0
10.	Publications	32	2	13	20	35	+3	-	8	8	0

Annual Distribution of Workshops/Seminar/ Short-courses

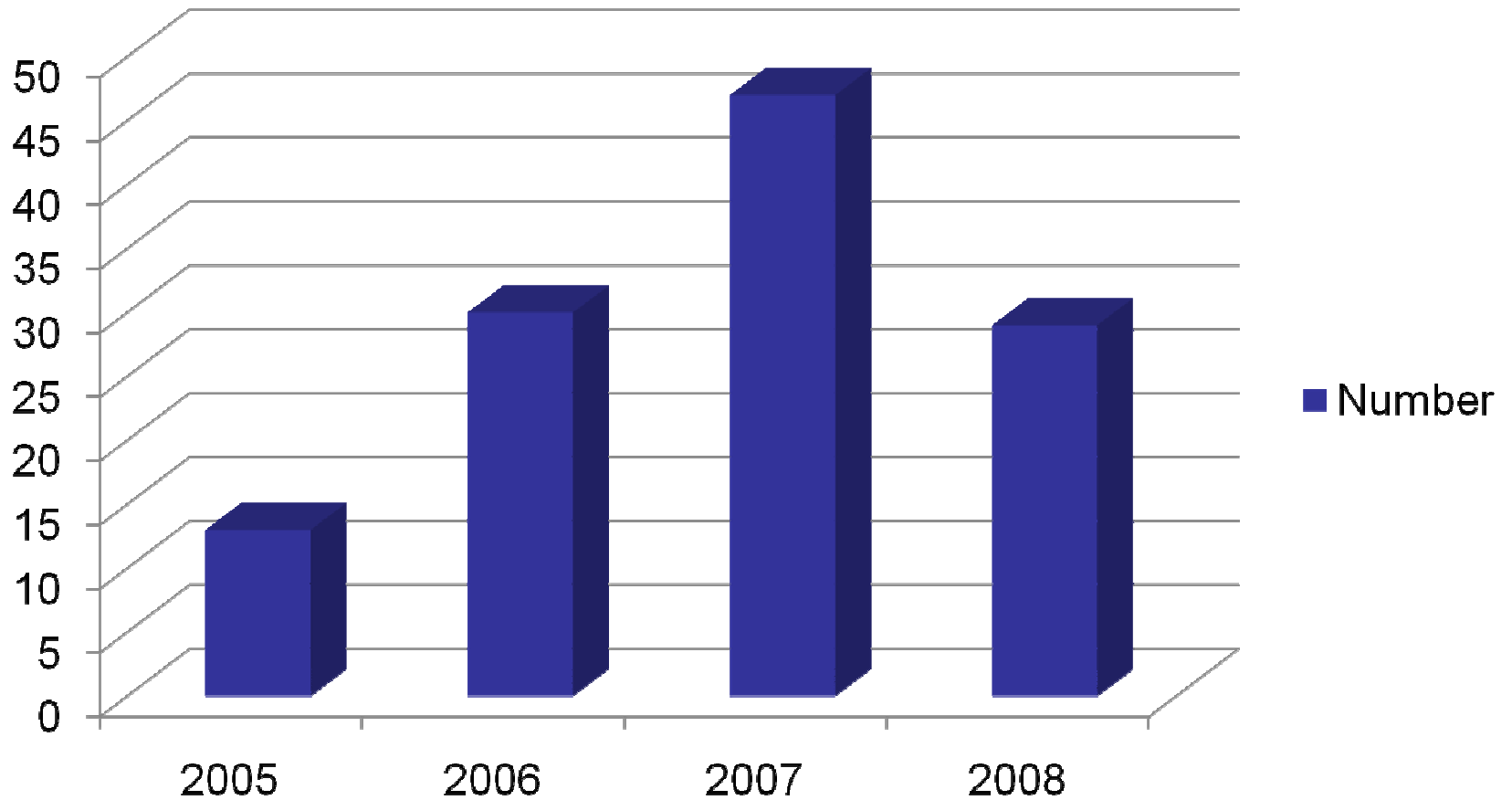
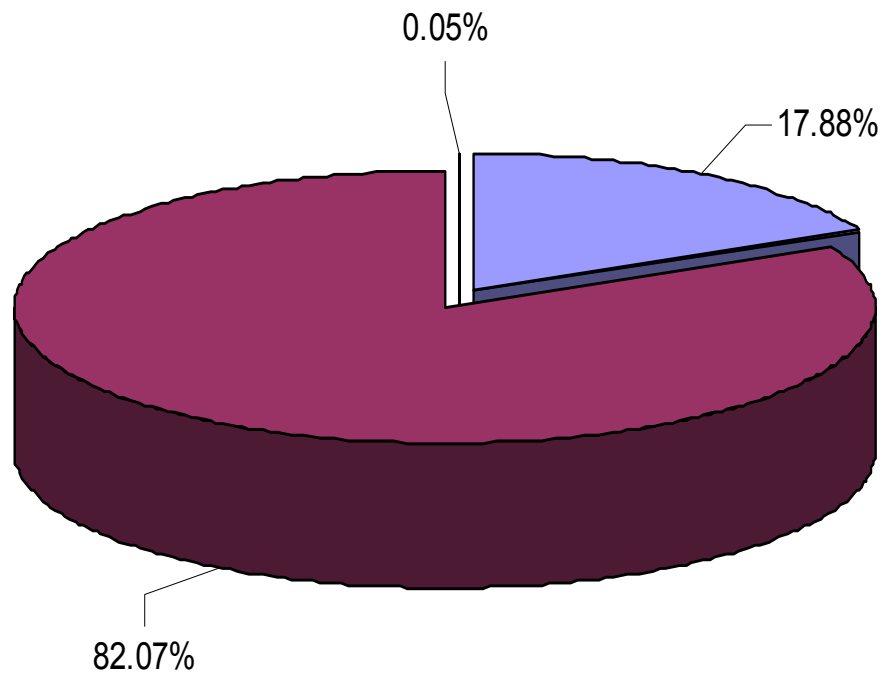


Table 3 Funds received by PARP, by Source (\$)

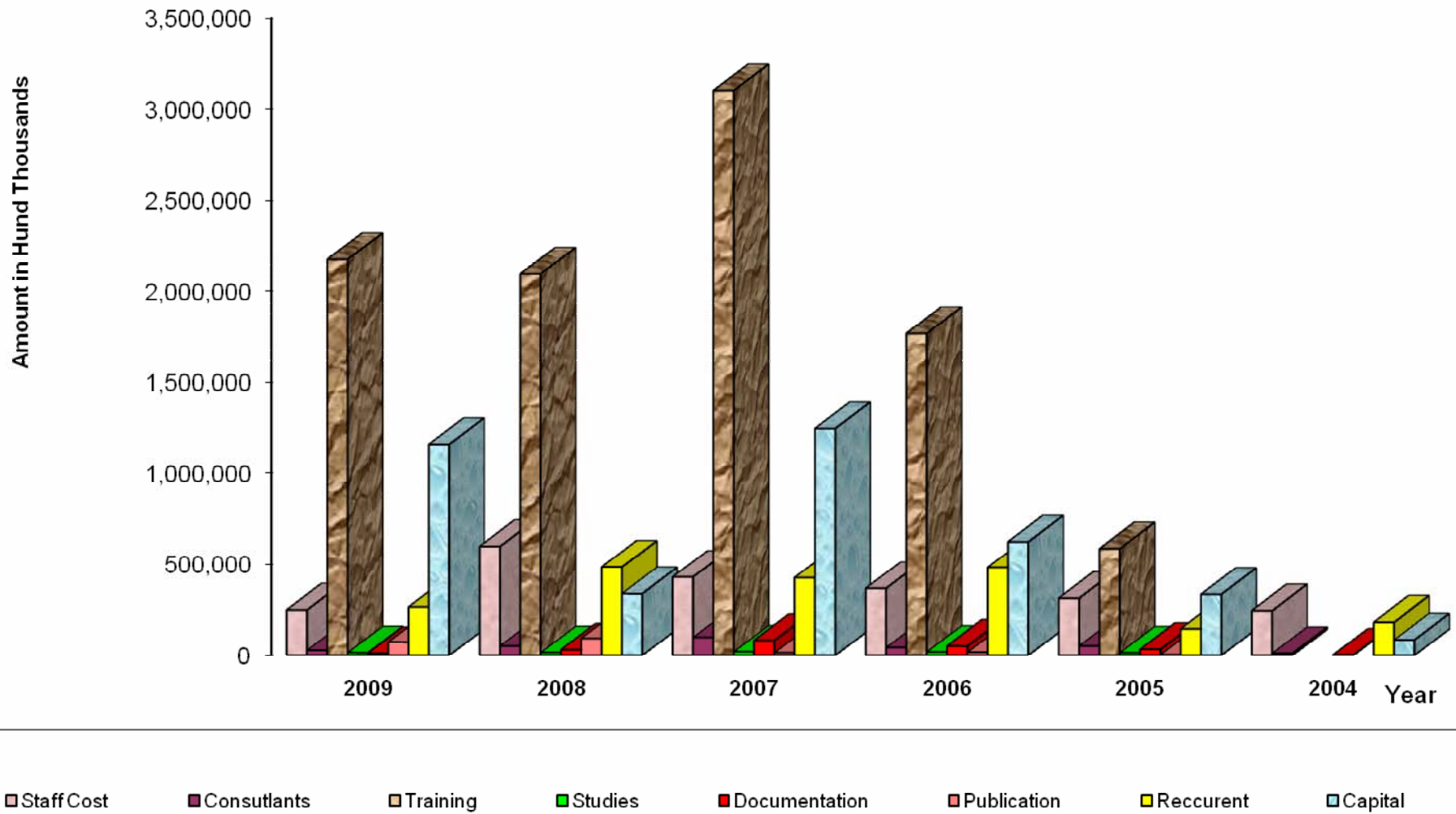
Year	From ACBF	From NASS	Internally generated Revenue	Total
2004	152,344	524,040	5,915	682,299
2005	453,636	2,208,646	623	2,662,906
2006	614,640	3,033,233	10	3,647,884
2007	683,917	3,317,703	491	4,002,111
2008	655,647	2,670,817	326	3,326,790
2009 Jan – Sept.	333,179	5,120,000	0	5,453,179
Total	2,893,363	16,874,439	7,365	19,775,167
Percentage share	14.63	85.33	0.04	100

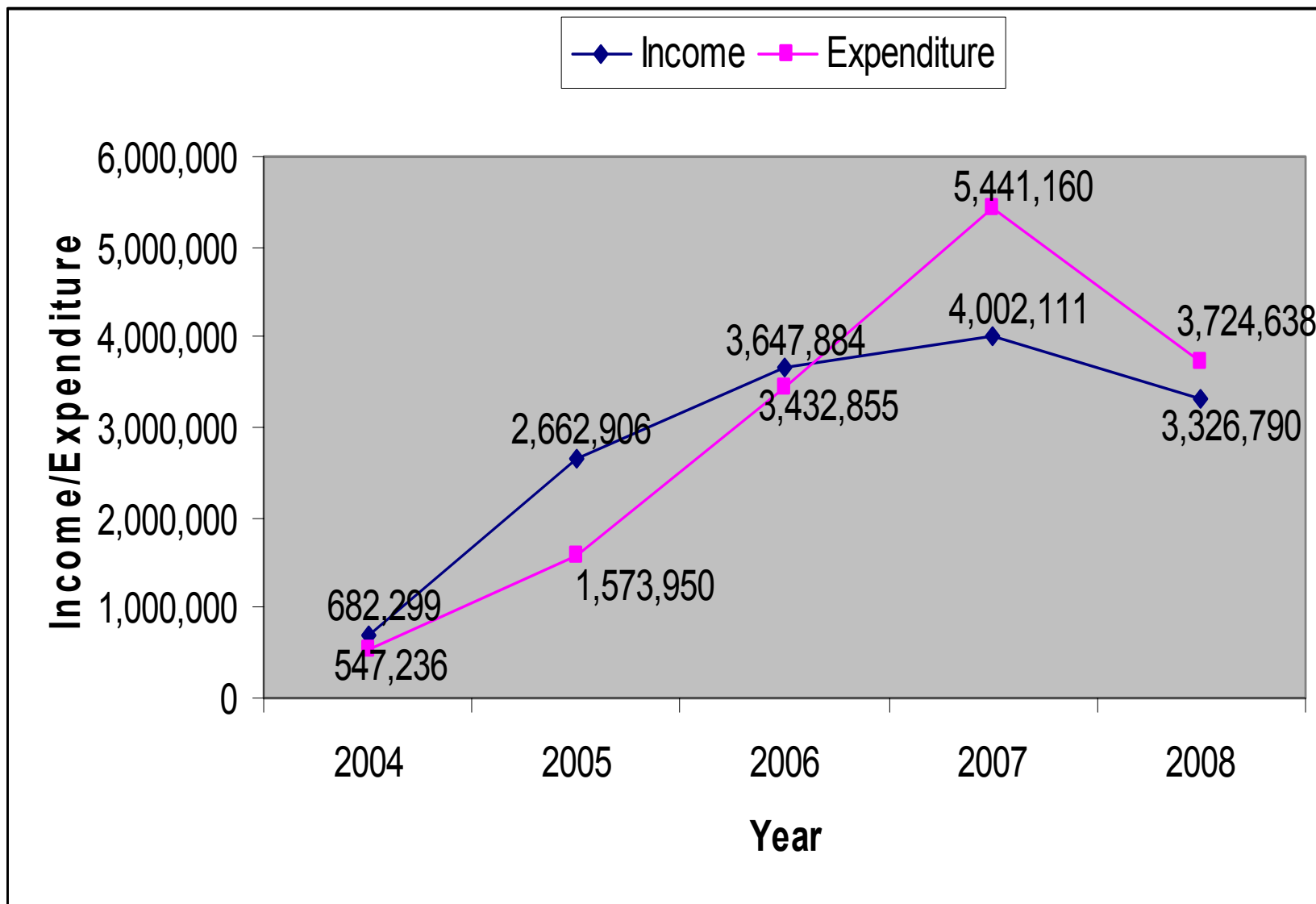
■ ACBF ■ NASS, Nigeria ■ Internally Generated Revenue



S/N	HEADING/CLASSIFICATION OF	HALF YR TO	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	TOTAL
	<u>PROJECT EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>JUNE, 2009</u>	<u>FIN. YR</u>	<u>FIN. YR</u>	<u>FIN. YR</u>	<u>FIN. YR</u>	<u>FIN. YR</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1	STAFF COSTS	247,718	598,302	428,677	365,480	311,907	243,546	2,195,630
2	CONSULTANTS/RESEARCHERS COST	27,414	52,013	98,679	42,770	52,105	10,556	283,537
3	TRAINING COST	2,175,761	2,094,891	3,102,984	1,767,003	585,722	-	9,726,361
4	COMMUNICATION COST	2,500	13,170	19,413	50,728	10,298	-	96,109
5	STUDIES COSTS	13,914	14,333	18,380	17,977	13,148	-	77,752
6	DOCUMENTATION COSTS	10,716	30,659	81,713	51,107	32,688	1,309	208,192
7	PUBLICATIONS COSTS	72,529	93,622	13,180	15,688	1,953	-	196,972
8	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE (FIXED ASSETS)	1,158,444	336,556	1,245,693	623,252	332,861	84,750	3,781,556
9	AUDIT FEES/COSTS	7,937	7,083	3,664	3,664	3,664	3,664	29,676
10	RECURRENT EXPENDITURE	264,068	484,009	424,872	481,688	145,440	181,359	1,981,436
11	MISCELLANEOUS COSTS	-	-	3,906	13,499	84,163	22,052	123,620
	TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURE	3,981,001	3,724,638	5,441,161	3,432,856	1,573,949	547,236	18,700,841
	YEARLY PERCENTAGE SHARE	21.29	19.92	29.10	18.36	8.42	2.93	100

PROJECT EXPENDITURE PROFILE: 2004 - 2009





MODEST OUTCOME OF ACTIVITIES

Some of the outcomes of PARP activities include:

- Development of National Assembly website that not only make the work of National assembly accessible to the public but also in archiving of official documents such as bills and votes and proceedings.
- Growing confidence of members of National Assembly in relating with the Executive arm of Government, especially over the budget process. Analysis of Appropriation Bills and discussion of same during PARP organized retreats for relevant Committees in no small measure exposed Members to techniques of assessing and revising executive presentations.

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- PARP organized training programs have impacted greatly on work capabilities of both Members and Parliamentary staff to discharge their responsibilities more effectively and efficiently. An independent Impact Assessment survey attested to that. Singled out, the Department of Legal services between 2005-June 2009 benefitted from the following training programs:

– Local Training Workshops organized by PARP (minimum of 60 participants for each workshop)	10
– International Workshop/Seminars/Conferences	9
– Short courses Outside Nigeria	5
– Exchange Visits/Study tour Outside Nigeria	1

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- As a result, the Department qualified to host conference of Commonwealth Association of Legal Counsel
- Interview with the leadership of the Department indicated significant improvement in legislative drafting and research skills of legal officers. Some newly employed staff of the Department got fresher training from PARP.
- PARP networking activities such as organizing parliamentary exchange visits and attachment programs exposed staff and members of National Assembly to international best practices. The 6th National Assembly has been most active so far in implementing innovative measures in parliamentary administration and legislative processes.

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- PARP has contributed greatly to the development of IT infrastructure and its awareness in the National Assembly
- PARP publications are becoming a regular knowledge resource base for National Assembly members and staff. Comments received so far from a good number of end users of PARP's publications are an attestation.
- Regular bill analysis/reports by of PARP Experts on continue to shape legislations. There is a growing demand by Legislative Committees for inputs of PARP on referred Bills.

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- PARP has also been a training ground for staff of National Assembly posted as Interns. The Interns serve as research assistants to PARP researchers. The internship program has continued to grow.
- PARP introduced the Management Seminar series in 2008. For the first time, a discussion forum that included all heads of divisions (160 management staff) was introduced. Heads of administration of some European Parliaments attended to share best practices on modernization of parliamentary administration.

Why Is PARP Considered An Innovation?/ Key To Success

- Most emerging legislatures in Africa may have the regular Research Departments and training units under Human Resources Departments. But few, if any, recognized within the first year the need to take extraordinary measures to fast track capacity building.
- The governance modalities of PARP is also unique and innovative. The Project is anchored in the Office of the Clerk to National Assembly(Secretary general) while the governing board is dominated by Legislators (Deputy President of the Senate, Deputy Speaker and 6 Chairmen of various Committees). Effectively: All the 3 sections of National Assembly have joint ownership.

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- PARP's annual budget is jointly decided upon by the 3 sections of NASS thus removing potential tensions thus facilitating sustainability and growth.
- Rather than being supervised by a Committee, PARP is supervised Jointly by presiding officers of Senate and House of Representatives which up-scaled PARP's profile.
- Work is in process to upgrade PARP into a full Institute of the National Assembly. It is intended that the Institute will serve capacity development needs of State Assemblies and later West African Parliaments.

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- Dynamism of governance mechanism and operating procedures reduced tension through adaptability.
1. Initial reporting was found too cumbersome and had the potential to slow down work. During mid-term review in 2006, the decision to do away with the Technical Committee was made but took effect in 2008.
 2. PARP was not initially properly anchored within National Assembly. The Project was anchored in a department. Since inception, the Project was effectively anchored in the Office of the C.N.A. This was formalized after mid-term review in 2006. The visibility of PARP was enhanced and bureaucratic red tapes cut out.

3. As NASS increased counterpart funding, ACBF addressed the possible conflict with provisions of Grant Agreement by categorization of funding into A and B. Category A cover funds provided for in Grant Agreement. Category B covered funds in excess of Grant Provision. Category A programs are subject to full ACBF procedures while supervision of category B activities is limited to general compliance to Grant objectives and annual appraisal of workplan implementation.

4. Tension over stipend rates and travel class of ACBF and that of the Nigerian Government was also addressed through Categorization. Category A activities are guided by ACBF *World Bank rates) and Category B, C, and D activities by Nigerian Government rates.

- The ACBF approves the appointment of Project Coordinator, Project Accountant and all Experts (Schedule 1.III of Grant Agreement). Staff positions are fixed by the Grant Agreement. Changes would have to be justified and approved by ACBF.
- PARP top professional staff are selected strictly based on principles of competition.
- Only advertized positions based on the approved organogram are filled. Patrimony/nepotism is ruled out.

- Aware of ACBF's firm demand on transparency/accountability, work culture of sticking approved workplan, Work output , work outcome and regular appraisals, value for money and performance based budgeting and expenditure practices in PARP.
- Committed/hardworking and effective leadership in PARP put the Project in a vantage position to be highly productive
- Support by the C.N.A and the JSC frees the Project to adhere to work targets.

CHALLENGES

- Project has only 6 Experts (research staff) and 20 interns.
- Poor publicity of PARP activities within NASS was a source of concern. The Project has made good efforts in publicity. The Enhancement of PARP's budget in 2009 and the emergence of a more involved JSC has popularized PARP so that its now a household name in the Assembly.
- Compliance to World Bank procedures of appraisals and reporting as well as transparency create a great deal tension among stakeholders.

- The need to maintain a strict regime of work plans, plan implementation and compliance to ACBF rules and procedures require a tough supervisory posture so that targets are met. Each Project is now rated annually on program implementation/output, management, accounts and institutional sustainability. This may not go down well with many stakeholders.

Thank You!!!!

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