IFS Collaborative Research Workshop
“Getting Started”
Ouidah, Benin
8 – 11 December 2014
Introduction

With support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York (Carnegie) and the Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo), IFS – together with the University of Abomey Calavi (UAC) Benin – organised a Collaborative Research Workshop entitled “Getting Started” at the Diaspora Hotel in Ouidah, Benin, from 8-11th December, 2014.

The workshop was a collaborative research capability building event for members of the 13 research teams whose applications – submitted during 2014 –, had passed prescreening, the first selection step in the IFS review process. Biodiversity was the overall research theme for this the second IFS Collaborative Research Grant pilot in 2014.

Part of the workshop programme was designed to overlap with the workshop entitled “Sharing our Progress” held simultaneously, bringing together team coordinators from 9 of the 10 research teams that received IFS Collaborative Research Grants in 2013 to investigate Neglected and Underutilized Species. This arrangement allowed for the 2014 cohort of applicants to learn from the experiences of the 2013 grantees regarding different aspects of planning, organizing and carrying out of collaborative research.

The participants came from eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, both French- and English-speaking, i.e. Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda, respectively. The total number of participants, including organizing staff and resource people was 62, with more than 40% of the applicants being women. The full list of workshop participants is given in the report Participants Presentations (https://podio.com/ifsse/benin-workshop-2014/apps/document-library/items/38).

Purpose of the workshop

The overall purpose of the workshop was to aim to improve the quality and effectiveness of collaborative research on biodiversity through building capability of early-career scientists in collaborative research design and analysis. More specifically, the workshop aimed at:

- Introducing participants to concepts and approaches of working together in collaborative research.
- Introducing participants to current key concepts and issues in biodiversity and relating these to their own research proposals.
- Familiarizing participants with key concepts and procedures in the preparation and assessment of research applications.
- Learning lessons from researchers already actively involved in collaborative research.
- Broadening the scientific networks of the workshop participants and strengthening their research collaboration potential.
• Providing the opportunity for the individual team members to better get to know their fellow team members.

Method of the workshop

Before the workshops, draft workshop programmes were distributed (for details please see the report ‘Sharing our Progress’ https://files.podio.com/145581337). Because the workshop was participatory, the programme was continuously adapted, based on participants’ own research and experience, as well as on the key principles and problems identified and questions raised during group and plenary debates and discussions throughout the workshop. In addition to the group works, plenary debates, discussions and presentations, some keynote lectures and introductory presentations were given.

Applicants used their applications as an instrument to work with to help them to understand general principles and issues related to doing collaborative research on biodiversity issues.

All group sessions centered on the thirteen teams, providing additional opportunities for individual team members to get to know each other better by working together. Before the workshop, individual team members had come to know each other through different social media networks, principally the IFS Collaborative Research social networking platform built on PODIO (https://podio.com/ifssse/).

During the workshop, the participants themselves – supported by resources people – found ways of answering most of the questions raised during the workshop. The digital workspaces and the materials provided on PODIO (https://podio.com/ifssse/benin-workshop-2014) will remain available after the workshop for participants to continue their collaborations.

Short summary of workshop activities

Day 1: Monday 8 December

Morning session:
- Workshop opening and welcome by Prof. Achille Assobadjo, chair of the IFS/Benin Alumni Association and local organizer of the workshop, and Dr. Graham Haylor IFS director.
- Presentation by Dr Nighisty Ghezae, head of programme at IFS, introducing the aims and objectives and the modes of operation during the workshop.
- Time for individual workshop participants to prepare for an individual poster presentation (on flip chart paper or through a computer presentation) to introduce themselves to each other based on key characteristics of their own research background. Participants were also asked to highlight their expectations regarding the outcome of the workshop (see https://podio.com/ifssse/benin-workshop-2014/apps/document-library/items/38).
- Official opening statement by former IFS grantee Dr Enoch Achigan Dako from the University of Abomey Calavi, followed by a key presentation on his own biodiversity related research.

Afternoon session:
- Plenary presentations of individual workshop participants and their projects (summarized in https://podio.com/ifssse/benin-workshop-2014/apps/document-library/items/38, where individual researchers were grouped by team). The presentations showed the potential of young
African researchers in a wide variety of scientific fields (including: animal and human health, plant and animal genetics, systematics, resource management and conservation, and agriculture).

- A presentation on biodiversity by Dr Marie-Lucie Susini from the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Belgium. The presentation dealt with a definition of biodiversity, its values, threats, and solutions to try halting biodiversity loss. She also briefly presented the CEBioS programme, a capacity building programme for partners of the Belgian cooperation in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable management administered by her home institution.

- Dr Flora Chadare from the Faculty of Agronomic Science, Université d’Abomey Calavi, presented the results of her work on ‘African fermented foods: Microbial diversity in past, present and future tradition of Africa.’ This presentation generated a lively debate on the use of traditional knowledge, intellectual property rights, and other issues.

- The afternoon session concluded with a demonstration of the video “Effective team work and collaboration” as an introduction to the challenges and opportunities of working together (for the list see Annex 1).

Tuesday 9 December:

Morning session:

- Repetition of yesterday’s video.

- Role-playing game exemplifying one of the difficulties of working together, i.e. the use of different languages and terminologies. Several workshop participants gave a short presentation in French, a language not understood by most participants. The role play demonstrated the consequences that a lack of understanding may generate in group members feeling excluded.

- Presentation by Nighisty Ghezae followed by plenary discussion on key concepts in collaborative research. Nighisty particularly highlighted the document “The African Manifesto for Science, Technology and Innovation (2010)”, which stresses the importance of local scientists to work together in order to be able to contribute to the development of their country/region. Important topics identified and discussed by the participants were conflict and conflict resolution as well as ways of involving concerned stakeholders and particularly of ways to influence policy makers. These discussions lead to the decision to send a clear message from this workshop to policy makers. A group of six people volunteered to draft key messages on behalf of the participants and, ultimately, a statement aiming at informing policy makers was passed on to the local media and several articles were published in La Gazette du Golfe, a national weekly (https://podio.com/ifsse/benin-workshop-2014/apps/document-library/items/51).

- Ingrid Leemans from IFS gave a presentation on the most important elements of the review process applied by many research granting organizations and provided clues and tips on how to prepare a winning proposal. She stressed the importance of getting to know your donor and to follow the guidelines, and to provide an interesting, complete but concise, realistic proposal addressing existing knowledge gaps and well articulated research objectives by providing answers to the following questions: who?; what?; why?; when and where?; how?; for whom?

- Group work: the teams were asked to prepare posters on their IFS applications concentrating on collaborative aspects, i.e. why a collaborative or interdisciplinary approach is needed, the scientific disciplines of researchers involved and how disciplines will be integrated, etc.
leadership role, the process and management strategy used to deliver the project outcomes, a plan for the involvement of end users and stakeholders in the project, the budget needs for the project, as well as a description on how interdisciplinarity will be reflected in the project outputs and outcomes.

Afternoon session:

- Plenary presentation by the nine team leaders of the 1st group of IFS collaborative research teams working on Neglected and Underutilized Species participating in the workshop “Sharing our Progress”, on the lessons learnt from their ongoing projects followed by discussions. These lessons can be divided into 6 main areas:
  1. Use your networking opportunities (even outside the IFS project team, bringing in colleagues within your lab, etc.)
  2. Interpersonal skills (be open to new ideas, have mutual respect, value expertise of each other, coordinators having to go ‘the extra-mile’, manage quiet partners, manage deadlines, manage expectations, etc.)
  3. Handling finances (how to deal with costs incurred by team members that are lost to the group, waiver of indirect costs with institution, delay in institutions releasing funds, lending/sourcing funds from collaborators)
  4. Cross border shipments within Africa (handling shipping agents and customs, getting the right information (import permits needed, etc…))
  5. Learning to rely on others (for sample identifications e.g. plant species, setting realistic goals/scope/sample size)
  6. Beyond the IFS grant (leveraging additional funds as a team).

It was very interesting to hear from their experience, the challenges, the problems they faced and also the creative solutions they found to solve the problems.

- Presentations of the morning’s group work by the 13 leaders of the teams focusing on the collaborative aspects of their work.

Wednesday 10 December:

Morning session:

- Teams had more time to work on their projects, in order to better incorporate biodiversity and collaboration aspects.
- Upon request from the participants Marie-Lucie gave an additional presentation on the Aichi targets (https://files.podio.com/140292660).

Afternoon session:

- Group work focusing on scientific aspects of their projects.
- Plenary presentations of the projects where each team was asked to present their project in a few minutes, while another team was asked to act as reviewers of the project, briefly but concisely critiquing the presentations by giving both positive and negative comments, followed by comments from all participants. In their presentations, teams were asked to focus on one of the following aspects:
1) project title and summary
2) background justification and identification of knowledge gaps
3) research objectives and scientific hypothesis

The discussion became very much heated and the review group sometimes became harsh in their comments while presenters became defensive when their project was criticized and at times even became offended and were having difficulties in accepting criticism.

- Intervention by resource people with a presentation by Nighisty on how to give and receive criticism. She explained that criticism is at the core of good science. How to give and receive criticism is often neglected in research training programmes, but it is essential to understand that every researcher is required to think, to be open and say what he/she thinks. Participants were reminded that the aim of these discussions and looking at the project critically was to improve the research quality and their research skills. Improvement is a continuous process and we learn more through discussing topics with other people. When we debate an issue with our peers, the arguments we pose become clearer and the strengths and weakness of both sides are exposed. At the heart of any debate is conflict. When two or more people are arguing a point, their different arguments and point of view bring more information, knowledge and enlightenment to the table. Rather than play down the role of conflict in a discussion embrace it.

- Continuation of project critiques.

Thursday 11 December:

Morning session:
- The morning was dedicated to guided tours from the city centre of Ouidah, along the ‘Slave Route’, the old town of Ouidah and the Door of No Return, dedicated to the memory of the West African Slave trade in earlier centuries.

Afternoon session:
- Delegates from the two sub-groups of participants summarized their impressions of the workshop. They expressed their great satisfaction with the workshop and thanked IFS and the local organizer for organizing it. They also expressed their gratitude to IFS for what it does for young researchers in Africa.
- A volume of the bilingual book ‘Biodiversity Atlas of West Africa (Volume 1: Benin)’, by Brice Sinsin & Dorothea Kampmann (eds), 2010, was made available to a delegate of each of the eight countries represented at the workshop. The books had generously been made available by Prof Achille Assobadjo.
- A USB memory stick with all workshop material was distributed to each participant. It contained the different presentations and lectures as well as all materials generated by the workshop participants themselves during the workshop. For a list of presentations see Annex 1. Background reading materials and links to relevant organizations and documents were also given and are listed in Annex 2). These presentations, links and downloads can be requested from the IFS secretariat at info@ifs.se
- Official closing of the workshop by Graham Haylor. Special thanks were directed to Prof Assobadjo and Dr Chadare and their team of local organizers, and to Brian Porter who will retire at the end of the year and whose inputs to manage the electronic workspace have been
instrumental in making it possible for the applicants to connect, to work together and to submit their team applications.

- Workshop evaluation: all participants were asked to individually provide their written comments on the strongest elements of the workshop as well as those that could be improved. Their findings are summarized in Annex 6.

Concluding remarks

The IFS Collaborative Research Workshop “Getting Started”, was organized by IFS in collaboration with the University of Abomey Calavi through the national IFS alumni association, in Ouidah, Benin, 8 – 11 December 2014, with financial support from the Carnegie Corporation (Carnegie) and the Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo). The workshop brought together 45 researchers anticipating to become involved in collaborative research on biodiversity, nine researchers already actively involved in the IFS collaborative approach and resource people to learn from each other. The participants came from eight sub-Saharan countries in Africa. The workshop was very much appreciated by all participants and achieved its expected outputs in that it generated:

- Increased awareness of the opportunities and challenges of doing collaborative research
- Increased awareness of the key issues in biodiversity and conservation in African contexts
- Increased awareness of donor assessment of research proposals
- Increased awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the projects discussed during the workshop
- Opportunities for early career African biodiversity researchers to widen and strengthen their scientific networks
- Increased confidence of workshop participants regarding their own capacities in successfully applying for future individual and/or collaborative research grants
- Increased confidence of workshop participants in their own capacities to contribute meaningfully in identifying key research questions and in designing relevant research projects in their own and related field of expertise
- Increased confidence of workshop participants to engage in future collaborative research opportunities.
Annex 1: List of Keynote lectures and presentations generated during the workshop

Annex 2: Overview of background material for workshop

Annex 3: Summary of workshop evaluations
ANNEX 1

IFS Collaborative Research Workshop ‘Getting Started’, Ouidah, Benin, 8-11 Dec 2014

List of keynote presentations and summaries generated at the workshop

Keynote presentations:

Dr Flora Chadare:

Dr Nighisty Ghezae:
- Workshop aims and methods (https://files.podio.com/140291712)
- Collaborative research at IFS (https://files.podio.com/140291864), including YouTube video “Effective team work and collaboration” at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsndhCQ5hRY
- Team presentation focusing on collaborative aspects- using your IFS team application (https://files.podio.com/140292003)
- Giving and receiving criticism (https://files.podio.com/140291946)

Dr Ingrid Leemans:
- How to prepare a winning research proposal

Dr Marie-Lucie Susini:
- Biodiversity, the tapestry of life (https://files.podio.com/140292839)
- The Aichi Targets (https://files.podio.com/140292660)

Presentations and summaries generated during the workshop by the participants:


- Team presentations African Researchers
- Team presentations Amkid
- Team presentations Arthropod Diversity
- Team presentations Avi-West
- Team presentations Bio-divers
- Team presentations Biodiversity and Oil
- Team presentations Inv-Africa
- Team presentations LivingStones
- Team presentations Maize Genetics
- Team presentations NTPF Biodiversity
- Team presentations Panorama
- Team presentations PhytoDiversity 2014
- Team presentations Soil Biodiversity
ANNEX 2

IFS Collaborative Research Workshops, Ouidah, Benin, 8-11 Dec 2014

Overview of documents and links on USB memory stick and posted on Podio

Background materials

This list of links to useful internet sites and downloaded background documents is in no way complete. It just provides some information that hopefully can help in placing one’s own research into the broader context of collaborative biodiversity research for sustainable development. It is divided in four subfolders, i.e. biodiversity related, collaboration related, science related and other topics. French versions of the various documents are sometimes available through the website of the organization, so it may be useful to check.

Biodiversity related

Links:

- ABN, the African Biodiversity Network http://africanbiodiversity.org/, based in Kenya
- Alert, the Alliance of Leading Environmental Researchers & Thinkers, https://alert-conservation.squarespace.com/about-us/, promoting and disseminating environmental research mainly through social media
- Biodiversa, a network of European research funding agencies with some interesting resources http://www.biodiversa.org/
- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, for tracking global biodiversity http://www.bipindicators.net/
- Bioversity International, a CGIAR centre researching agricultural and tree biodiversity http://www.bioversityinternational.org/
- Diversitas, a programme aiming at integrating biodiversity science for human well-being http://www.diversitas-international.org/
- ESPA, Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation, a UK funded international research programme established in 2010, with some interesting links and examples of research projects, http://www.espa.ac.uk/
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), an international open data facility, http://www.gbif.org/
- IPBES, the intergovernmental science policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystems services http://www.ipbes.net/
- Poverty and Conservation, the information portal of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group, UK based and linked to IIED, the International Institute for Environment and Development (http://www.iied.org/), with lots of interesting links to relevant organisations and documents (some downloaded on your USB) http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pclg-publications
- Issuu, a free platform for magazines, catalogues, newspapers, etc. where many international organisations put their reports. An example for a search on “biodiversity and poverty alleviation” generates a lot of potentially interesting documents: http://issuu.com/search?q=biodiversity+and+poverty+alleviation
- PEN, Poverty Environment Network, working on tropical forests and poverty http://www1.cifor.org/pen.html , with a lot of useful resources including prototype questionnaires
- PROLINNOVA, Promoting Local Innovation, http://www.prolinnova.net/, an international network under the umbrella of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), to promote local innovation in ecologically oriented agriculture and natural resource management
- Ramsar at http://www.ramsar.org/ , information on the Ramsar convention, a convention on wetlands of international importance, as one example of the many different organisations aiming at the conservation and wise use of specific ecosystems
- SANBI, South African National Biodiversity Institute, with many resources http://www.sanbi.org/information
- Tropical Biology Association http://www.tropical-biology.org/ with many useful resources including information on training opportunities, manuals and a newsletter, as well as an African alumni association.
- Various: Research papers from different scientific journals. Generally speaking, it should not be difficult for any of you to get hold of scientific papers through your institutional libraries. However, in case it turns out to be difficult, you could always try to send an e-mail to the corresponding author. Remember that nowadays many subscription journals every now and provide open access articles. Usually, you can subscribe to these through an RSS feed. Here an example of a recent open access articles from Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/18773435/9 , where the open access articles are marked in a different colour, and another one from a new open access journal from Springer group: http://www.forestecosyst.com/
- WRI, World Resources Institute, http://www.wri.org/ , a non-governmental global research organisation on sustainable natural resource management.

Downloaded documents:
- Building capacity to implement the Nagoya Protocol, a review of GEF support (2014) (https://files.podio.com/140290068)
- Ecosystems services guide for decision makers (2008), a product from WRI (https://files.podio.com/140290119)
- Integrating Biodiversity Conservation into National Development Policy: a case study of Cameroon (2012), a PCLG discussion paper providing a country example of how conservation and development can be linked (https://files.podio.com/140290236)
- Key Knowledge for Developing Successful Biodiversity indicators (2014), a document on the development and use of biodiversity indicators by the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership (https://files.podio.com/140290316)
- Tracking key trends in biodiversity science and policy, a UNESCO publication of 2013 (https://files.podio.com/140290620)

Videos:
- Greg Asner: Ecology from the air (2013), http://www.ted.com/talks/greg_asner_ecology_from_the_air?utm_content=awesm-publisher&utm_medium=on.ted.com-static&awesm=on.ted.com_Asner&utm_campaign=&utm_source=ideas.ted.com#t-320808, and a written comment learning about biodiversity through aerial technology: http://ideas.ted.com/2013/11/19/birds-eye-science-what-were-learning-about-the-planet-using-aerial-technology/, as an example of the type of research that can be done using modern technologies from different disciplines
- Alex Staffen: The route to a sustainable future (2005) http://www.ted.com/talks/alex_steffen_sees_a_sustainable_future
- Scale – Time – Complexity: engaging, entangling, and communicating ecology; Jamieson, N; Denton, A; Reay, S 2012
- Toward a greener future: Conservation success stories from Africa
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUZvXQg71Jc, a promotion video by the World Bank

Collaboration related

Links:

- Institute of Development Studies: http://www.ids.ac.uk/, with several interesting links and resources, i.e. IDS Policy briefings:
  http://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/4021/PB68.PDF?sequence=1;
  on foresight to cope with uncertainty:
  http://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/4021/PB68.PDF?sequence=1;
  knowledge services http://www.ids.ac.uk/knowledge-services/evidence-into-action
- Various medical sites. The health sector provides many good examples of collaboration and the science of collaboration that can be very useful for non-health professionals and for scientists from other disciplines:
  o The Sept 2014 issue of the Journal of Translational Medicine and Epidemiology is entirely devoted to collaboration science and translational medicine and can be freely downloaded from
  o Team Science Toolkit, managed by the National Cancer Institute (US)
    https://www.teamsciencetoolkit.cancer.gov/public/Home.aspx. This site has many resources that are very useful to scientists other than those working on health related issues. A good place to start on this site is to look at the Editor’s Pick, under the resources heading in the right hand column, or to check their blogs for interesting items, i.e. https://www.teamsciencetoolkit.cancer.gov/public/ExpertBlog.aspx?tid=4.

Downloaded documents:

- A short guide to leading interdisciplinary initiatives (2011)
- Creative Collaborations (2012) by the Helsinki Design Lab
- Iass workshop3 Interdisciplinarity Discussion paper
- Interdisciplinary Teams, key concepts, a short ICRA document, in the ICRA learning materials series.

Videos:

Several videos on interdisciplinary leadership Videos for Interdisciplinary Leadership.

- IDEO ABC News
  - Part One http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M66ZU2PCIcM
  - Part Two http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVZ8pmkg1do&feature=related
  - Part Three http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyugyrCQTuw&feature=related
- Where Good Ideas Come From http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NugRZGDbPFU&feature=related

Science related

Links:

- Caast Net Plus, a network on Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation between Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe http://www.caast-net-plus.org/ funded by the EU.
- Impact toolkit, a website by the Economic and Social Research Council in the UK at http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/impact-toolkit/. Although focussing on the UK, it has resources that are useful outside UK also.
- IFS Individual research application form can be downloaded from the IFS web www.ifs.se at times when there is a call open. The actual application form can be downloaded until 31 Dec 2014.
- Sense about Science, a UK based NGO promoting the public understanding of science. Although this organisation is focussing on the UK, it provides interesting links to other organisations and documents (some downloaded on this stick) http://www.senseaboutscience.org/

Downloaded documents:


**Other topics**

Documents:

ANNEX 3

Workshop evaluation by participants

Good aspects

- Well designed planning.
- Good way to meet our team members.
- Great capacity building talks.
- Fruitful discussion between teams, within teams and between groups (1 & 2).
- Unique opportunity to ‘self-review’ the proposals.
- Have made networking / collaboration possible.
- Made me learn what a winning proposal entails.
- Made me learn from other African scientists.
- Educative presentation / resourceful people.
- Collaborative aspect improved beyond PODIO.
- Well coordinated / logistics.
- Combination of francophones and English speakers.
- Well prepared and organized.
- Presentations that were given provided a lot of exposure to new ideas and explained other also better known ideas.
- Upkeep was motivating.
- Presentations on biodiversity, collaborations and scientific writing of proposals were appropriate.
- Workshop venue was appropriate with no external interruptions of the workshop proceedings.
- Good meals provided.
- Ability to bring different collaborations from different disciplines together.
- Share of experiences from people who have already gone through the programme.
- Presentation by group 1 was very useful.
- Effective moderation.
- Transport and accommodation were excellent.
- Invitation and travel arrangements were very timely and convenient.
- Workshop approach was very holistic and inclusive, paying attention to participants expectations.
- All my expectations were met.
- Interactive sessions.
- Nice presentation on how to give and receive critics.
- Talk on Biodiversity by ML Susini was very informative.
- Very educative.
- Improvements of English skills for French speaking researchers.
- Facilitators passed the teachings across very well.
- Facilitators were very friendly, respectful and cheerful.
- Good learning environment.
- Good way to make contacts with colleagues in Africa.
Aspects that could be improved:

- During preparation, IFS does not provide a contact list for participants to know each other better before participating in the workshop.
- Language banners with others (En vs Fr).
- Internet connection too bad.
- Limited extracurricular issues.
- Disconnection from internet for most days.
- Would be more effective if conducted before proposal submission.
- Amount paid for travel allowance was not uniform for every participant and does not reflect reality.
- Poor quality of accommodation (rooms).
- Maybe improve time management.
- Should provide a 24 h free internet service during subsequent event.
- Timing of the workshop programme should be adhered to.
- Maybe announce grant winners at the end of the workshop in the future.
- The start and end time was not so comfortable, we should better have worked from 8 am to 5 pm.
- Housekeeping was not done in rooms, thus they were very sandy.
- Long sessions.
- In the future, IFS should increase effort in training people in writing winning proposals. Should invite reviewers with experience on winning proposals and what they want to see in proposals.
- Field trip was not a way to touch biodiversity in Benin.
- Need for sweets on the table to keep people from dozing off at times.
- Presentations should be projected so that people are all carried along.
- It would have been better if people travelling from the same country had an idea of each other.
- Problems with flight arrangements – some routes were too long.
- Maybe for other groups to comment on others work, it would have been better if they had read the projects before, in order to give the right comments.