



## PAISAC - International support Program to the African and Caribbean Sport

Sports Complex Claude-Robillard 1000, Emile-Journault Street, Montreal (Quebec) H2M 2S7  
Tel.: (514) 352-6787 Fax: (514) 352-4645 e-mail : info@paisac.org Internet : www.paisac.org

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### PAISAC: History – Mandate – Vision

#### History

The International support Program to the African and Caribbean Sport with the acronym PAISAC, is an international, Canadian-African sport development project. It was elaborated between 1997 and '99 on the Ivory Coast, under the initiative of the teaching staff in physical education and sports of the National Institute of Youth and Sports in Abidjan on one hand and on the other hand of the sports environment of Abidjan with the contribution from coaches from Gabon and Senegal. Finally, high-level athletes from the International Centre of athletics in Dakar also participated in its elaboration.

Principally, the program is focused on the training of coaches in *applied sports sciences*, a gap that has been unanimously identified in all of the African training programs for coaches by the 170 technical managers, administrators and high representatives from Sports Federations that participated in the exploratory survey that preceded the elaboration of the PAISAC project.

#### Mandate

During its elaboration, the mandate and vision of PAISAC have been projected and prioritized by the sports environment through the definition of three main objectives:

- The first objective focuses on the improvement of the coaches, men and women, in applied sports sciences within a context of *competency development* as established by the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) of the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC);
- The second objective aims at encouraging, promoting and increasing the *presence of women* in their national sports systems, thanks to the specific training followed with PAISAC;
- The third objective tries to help, accompany and/or support the *implementation of national training programs* for coaches in applied sports sciences inspired by the Canadian model. *Under the guidance of the high-level coaches* trained by PAISAC, this will permit countries and/or National Sports Federations to ensure their *sustainable* mid-term and long-term *autonomy/self-sufficiency* in this particular field.

This third objective is in line with PAISAC's mid- and long-term vision.

Under the auspices of UNESCO, the project has started 2002 in Montreal. Since then and up to now it exists thanks to the funding of the Olympic Scholarship Program for Coaches of the Olympic Solidarity (IOC) and of the partial funding of the International Sports Directorate and International Affairs Branch of the Canadian Heritage.

In addition to the above-mentioned organizations, the other principal partners of PAISAC are: the National Olympic Committees of Africa and the Caribbean for the coaches that they register for the training sessions; the CAC for carrying out the NCCP that PAISAC is using and for the acknowledgement as well as the as recording of the coaches in their database; the National Multi-sport Centre – Montreal (CNMM) and its National Training Institute for Coaches (INFE) for the supervision of the advanced study program in

coaching, level 4; the City of Montreal; the real estate company STESA.M and finally the "Boutique endurance".

After six years of activity and 11 training sessions, PAISAC's activity report speaks on its own as can be seen when looking at the results indicators since its instigation in 2002:

- 51 coaches trained, from which 13 women (25%);
- 14 coaches accredited by the NCCP, level 2 (17%);
- 32 coaches accredited by the NCCP, level 3 (63%); from which 10 women (31%);
- 5 coaches certified level 4 by the NCCP, prepared to serve as expert trainers for other trainers (course conductors).

A video production about the coaches in training that was realized at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> session (autumn 2007) shows the high level of satisfaction with regard to both the contents and the course conductors of the Canadian program. This particular satisfaction has also been mentioned previously in the written reports submitted by all coaches in training.

Responding to the request of these coaches to enable their colleagues to also become beneficiaries from the Canadian program that they have followed, PAISAC is currently in the process of presenting, promoting and researching funds in order to start a *pilot project* with the aim of conducting *training sessions for coaches in applied sports sciences directly in Africa* from 2010 onwards. The courses within the training program of this pilot project elaborated by high-level coaches of PAISAC will be given directly by themselves. These coaches are the first to be African expert trainers especially formed for this purpose.

Two Olympic Committees have been retained for starting this pilot project: Benin and Guinea.

## **Vision**

The pilot project falls exactly into the vision of PAISAC as expressed in its 3<sup>rd</sup> objective: "to help, accompany and/or support the **implementation of national training programs** for coaches in applied sports sciences inspired by the Canadian model. **Under the guidance of the high-level coaches**, this will permit countries and/or National Sports Federations to ensure their **sustainable** mid-term and long-term **autonomy/self-sufficiency** in this particular field."

## **The other objectives of the pilot project are:**

1. To offer the possibility to a greater number of African and Caribbean coaches to follow a training program in applied sports sciences, focused on the development of competencies directly in Africa under the supervision of expert trainers (trainers of trainers);
2. To increase the training opportunities and/or the number of courses/trainings given in this field;
3. To detect and to select the coaches that would be likely to integrate and to expand the group of expert trainers.

## **The mid-term and long-term impact:**

### **On sports, training and education:**

- Proven program in applied sports sciences, uniform and coherent focused on the development of competencies;
- Rigorous course content which responds to the needs and realities of African sports with regard to training;
- The amelioration of the level of knowledge in the field of applied sports sciences;
- An increase in the number of trainings as well as educated coaches, trained and qualified in their specific field of intervention.

### **On a professional and political level:**

- Acknowledgement and valorization of the role of the coach in the eyes of political representatives, the education environment and the population which will - in the mid- and long-term - have the following consequences:
  - The commitment of national, qualified and competent coaches to lead national teams;
  - The professionalization of the profession “coach” with motivating and adequate employment conditions including salary etc.;
  - The existence of training programs that will ensure a sustainable autonomy and self-sufficiency for the countries;
  - The political awareness raising concerning the necessity to encourage and support the implementation of national training programs for coaches, focused on applied sports sciences and the development of competencies aiming at the education of qualified and competent coaches.

### **On a financial level**

- Important reduction of the organizational and realization costs of the coaches’ training sessions with regard to:
  - The increasing number of trainings that will be organized in Africa;
  - The increasing number of well-trained coaches;
  - The increasing number of African expert trainers that can be recognized as such by their International Sports Federations for leading courses/trainings in Africa.