



EVALUATIVE COMMENTS FROM INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Significance of the Diseases

	Columbia	Ethiopia	France	Kenya	Thailand
1	Endemic, all clinical manifestations.	VL, CL, MCL and diffuse.	Endemic to VL in Nice but mainly in dogs.	Endemic for VL, CL and MCL.	Non-endemic, sporadic cases in immuno-compromised hosts.
2	Leishmaniasis is highly endemic in Columbia.	Leishmaniasis is highly endemic in Ethiopia.	Leishmaniasis is endemic in southern France.	Leishmaniasis is endemic in Kenya.	The disease is not significantly important in Thailand.
3	Highly endemic country. Leishmaniasis represents a major public health threat. Three defined transmission cycles. Large number of permissive sand fly species. Different parasite species causing different forms of the disease. ca 10,000 new cases annually.	The region is at the epicenter of CL and VL together with neighboring countries.	Only sporadic human disease. Focus of canine but not human infection. After WL6 in Spain this is again an European location – low priority.	Leishmaniasis is endemic and emerging in Kenya. Kenya could be a great hub that will facilitate participation from surrounding (highly endemic) African countries.	Endemic Leishmania infection has been recently identified, also in neighboring Myanmar. Only few cases reported, but disease likely emerging.

4	Cutaneous and mucocutaneous human leishmaniasis are common and caused by several <i>Leishmania</i> species (such as <i>L. braziliensis</i> , <i>L. mexicana</i> , <i>L. panamensis</i> , <i>L. guyanensis</i> and <i>L. amazonensis</i>). Visceral human leishmaniasis due to <i>L. infantum</i> is rarer.	Cutaneous and visceral human leishmaniasis due to <i>L. aethiopica</i> , <i>L. major</i> , <i>L. tropica</i> and <i>L. donovani</i> are common and widespread in the country.	Cutaneous, mucocutaneous and visceral leishmaniasis due to <i>L. infantum</i> and canine leishmaniasis due to <i>L. infantum</i> only in the Mediterranean areas of France. France has human and animal cases but it is not the most endemic country in the Mediterranean region.	Cutaneous and visceral human leishmaniasis due to <i>L. aethiopica</i> , <i>L. major</i> , and <i>L. tropica</i> . <i>L. donovani</i> is less endemic when compared with Ethiopia. However, outbreaks are frequent in this country.	Emerging disease that was not considered endemic before 1996. Cutaneous and visceral human leishmaniasis due to <i>L. orientalis</i> and <i>L. martiniquensis</i> in some areas of Thailand.
5	New World Leishmaniasis is very frequent on incidence and prevalence in the country, both cutaneous and visceral leishmaniasis.	Old World Leishmaniasis is very frequent on incidence and prevalence in the country, especially visceral leishmaniasis.	Visceral Leishmaniasis presents some incidence prevalence in the country, especially canine visceral leishmaniasis.	Old World Leishmaniasis is very frequent on incidence and prevalence in the country, in special visceral leishmaniasis.	Old World Leishmaniasis presents incidence and prevalence in the country.
6	Leishmaniasis is endemic in Colombia and neighboring countries.	Ethiopia and neighboring countries including Sudan are highly endemic for leishmaniasis. So significance of disease is high.	The number of cases of leishmaniasis in France is not high compared to other countries competing to host WL7.	Leishmaniasis is emerging in this country.	To date leishmaniasis is not a major health issue in this country.
7	Endemic, second only to Brazil in # cases in SA.	Endemic, important Public Health problem.	Endemic.	Endemic.	Does not seem to have a big tradition on Leishmaniasis research. The meeting might be an incentive?
8	Highly significant.	Very significant.	It is localized in South of France, though it will be attractive to those working on leishmaniasis.	Burden of leishmaniasis not very high in Kenya.	There are occasional case reports, no outbreak.

9	Leishmaniasis is a big problem. See more cases than any of other applicants. Mostly CL, some VL.	Leishmaniasis is a big problem. Mix of VL, HIV-VL and CL. More VL and CL than others, except Colombia.	Endemic region, but few human cases. Mostly canine VL, some HIV-VL and asymptomatic disease.	Leishmaniasis is a problem. Mostly VL and some CL. Long history of research on the subject.	Few cases of leishmaniasis, but new species. Maybe under reported?
10	Clearly an important disease in this country.	An emerging and important disease in Ethiopia and surrounding countries.	Leishmania infantum has been a problem in this region for many years.	An important growing disease burden in this part of the world.	Not a very significant disease in Thailand.
11	A country where leishmaniasis is endemic	A country where leishmaniasis is endemic	A place where leishmaniasis is endemic	A country where leishmaniasis are endemic despite the lack of background in the field of leishmaniasis regarding the WL organizing team.	The country where leishmaniasis is emerging.
12	Has faced epidemics of CL, has highest number of Leishmania species like <i>braziliensis</i> , <i>guyanensis</i> , <i>panamensis</i> , also VL infantum, and HIV Leish co-infection.	Ethiopia is endemic to both visceral (VL) and cutaneous leishmaniasis (CL) which is caused by a unique species, <i>L. aethiopica</i> . Exceptionally, CL in Ethiopia can be caused by other species (<i>L. major</i> , <i>L. tropica</i> , <i>L. donovani</i>). The disease is zoonotic, Two vectors have been implicated: <i>P. longipes</i> and <i>P. pedifer</i> .	France is area of autochthonous human and canine disease. Human VL caused by <i>L. infantum</i> has been reported in France since the 1920s. Humans are only occasional hosts. Dogs are the main reservoir. Cases of Leishmania/HIV co-infection are also diagnosed.	Kenya is endemic for VL, CL, mucocutaneous leishmaniasis (ML) and has cases of PKDL. Kenya is reporting a large outbreak of visceral leishmaniasis (Kala Azar).	Autochthonous leishmaniasis; leishmaniasis mainly constituted imported cases before 1999; publication history of leishmaniasis short and relatively new from 1999 to 2016.

13	Colombia is second in Latin America for CL. This congress could be unique opportunities to advocate for CL. There are two VL foci in the country.	VL is highly endemic with some 4000 Cases annually. CL is highly endemic although no figures exist. May be 30,000 cases occur annually.	VL and CL are residual diseases in France. The interest in leishmaniasis has decreased considerably among French scientists in the past decade.	VL is well known in Kenya with special implications among parasitologists. The institution of the PI is leading in research in Kenya. CL is also well known although there is no control program for this form.	Leishmaniasis poorly known in Thailand, from both epidemiological and parasitological point of views. Not well explained in the proposal.
14	High endemicity for leishmaniasis.	High endemicity for leishmaniasis.	Low endemicity for leishmaniasis but there is L. infantum cases (many in dogs).	Endemic for leishmaniasis.	Low endemicity for leishmaniasis.
15	Many clinical forms, including canine leishmaniasis. One health issue.	2 clinical forms, currently worldwide hotspot.	VL endemic country (low for humans, but important for dogs. One health issue.	Different clinical forms.	Sporadic cases.
16	-	-	-	-	Cases are not numerous but it is an emerging disease.
17	Well-recognized endemicity of different epidemiological forms of the diseases in a wide-range of landscapes.	Well-known endemic sites of different disease forms, but less well-studied. Of archeological significance in parallel to human evolution.	Diversity of leishmaniasis limited to L. infantum VL. According to applicants' own account, exhaustive investigation in the past has reduced the human VL to a negligible level.	The existence of different epidemiological types has been known and examined sporadically in several sites by international investigators.	New endemic sites with causative species different from those in central, south and east Asia. Much of the epidemiology remains to be explored. While human cases are few, the potential significance is worthy of investigation as a representative of the entire southeast Asia.

18	It is an endemic country for different clinical forms of leishmaniasis.	Leishmaniasis with different clinical types is very important for Ethiopia.	Mainly Canine leishmaniasis is endemic and only import cases of human leishmaniasis are seen in France.	Leishmaniasis with different clinical types is very important for Kenya	It is a new endemic site for leishmaniasis and needs more research to make clear epidemiological picture.
19	Colombia is amongst the top countries in terms of human CL and MCL incidences, CanL prevalence, variety of Leishmania subgenera and species, as well as of phlebotomine sand fly genera (as per Galati's classification) and species.	Ethiopia is amongst the top countries in terms of human anthroponotic (and possibly zoonotic?) VL incidence mostly associated with HIV co-infection, and CL incidence mainly caused by an endemic Leishmania species.	In southern France, mono-specific leishmaniasis is mainly associated with asymptomatic human infections and elevated prevalence of CanL. Very similar to Mediterranean countries where some of the previous VLs took place.	Kenya is amongst the top countries in terms of human anthroponotic (and possibly zoonotic?) VL incidence, and CL incidence caused by a variety of Leishmania species.	For Thailand, the term "significance of the diseases" should be associated with "... as regards to biology and evolution of leishmanial agents and their vectors", rather than "... impact on public health". In fact, in face of a few recent endemic cases in humans, novel parasites subgenera and species are emerging in this country, without a clear life cycle (i.e. an exciting field of investigation for leishmaniacs).
20	Leishmaniasis a major public health problem throughout South America.	VL and CL represent major public health problem in Africa/Ethiopia.	Mostly a Canine issue in France.	VL and CL represent major public health problem in Africa/Kenya.	Relatively few cases compared to Africa.
21	All three forms (CL, ML, VL) is endemic in different areas.	Highly endemic mostly for CL and then for VL.	Nice only endemic for VL.	Several outbreaks due to VL in different area even in 2019.	Several reports for leishmaniasis cases.

22	<p>Endemic for different clinical forms of the disease with identification of the epidemiological transmission cycles (i.e. vector and parasite species) and of the risk factors associated with human infection in each of them. One of the countries with the highest number of CL cases reported (according to WHO). Treatment and vaccine clinical trials have been conducted in the country. Annual national meeting on Leishmaniasis conducted in the last years to share knowledge and research advancements.</p>	<p>Endemic for VL caused by <i>L. donovani</i> complex parasites and CL caused by <i>L. aethiopica</i>. Two ecotypes of VL present in the country. One of the countries with the highest number of VL cases reported (according to WHO). <i>Leishmania</i>-HIV co-infection in the north of the country responsible for outbreaks. Deep knowledge on the different determinants of VL and CL epidemiology. Treatment and vaccine clinical trials have been conducted in the country. National guidelines for control of leishmaniasis developed by the MoH.</p>	<p>Endemic for zoonotic leishmaniasis caused by <i>L. infantum</i>. Human VL frequently associated with HIV co-infection; asymptomatic carries can have a role in parasite transmission.</p>	<p>Endemic for different clinical forms of the disease; recent outbreaks of both VL and CL; One of the countries with the highest number of VL cases reported (according to WHO). Identification of the vectors and reservoirs of CL, analysis of risks factors associated with human VL and CL. National guidelines for control of VL developed by the MoH.</p>	<p>Recent endemicity (previously only imported cases from surrounding countries). Clinical cases of visceral, cutaneous and visceral cutaneous presentation caused by two <i>Leishmania</i> species only recently described as pathogenic to humans. Efforts have been made to identify the vectors and possible reservoirs.</p>
23	High burden of disease.	High burden of disease.	Endemic for leishmaniasis, but not a major focus.	Some disease, but endemic in East Africa in general.	Very low burden of disease.
24	Highly significant in the country and in Latin America. Substantial knowledge has been generated in Colombia notably as regards vaccine and drug trials.	Highly significant in this country and in this part of the world.	The disease is sporadic in the area of Nice.	Highly significant in this country and in this part of the world.	The disease is emerging in Thailand caused by <i>L. martiniquensis</i> and <i>L. enriettii</i> species. Vectors and reservoirs not known yet. Magnitude of the disease?
25	Lots of VL and CL.	Lots of VL and CL.	Endemic VL.	Local VL and CL.	CL and VL.

27	All 3 major clinical forms and emerging forms of leishmaniasis present.	VL in Ethiopia understudied.	Canine leishmaniosis and human VL.	VL in Kenya.	Emerging Mundinia sub-genus. Not a lot of ongoing leishmaniasis research.
28	Very significant.	Very significant.	A pre-existing and emerging disease.	Very significant.	An emerging infectious disease.
29	Prominent endemicity of leishmaniasis (CL and VL).	Prominent endemicity of leishmaniasis (CL and VL).	Limited endemicity for leishmaniasis (L. infantum; mostly VL).	Endemicity for leishmaniasis (mostly VL, L. donovani).	Small number of autcutaneous cases of VL and CL.
30	Endemic for CL, DCL, VL, CanL but not in top 5 countries.	Country with most new VL, also CL	Has VL in south in dogs, rare people but Nice is the region.	Has both VL and CL, recent outbreaks.	Has had emergent disease since 1996.

2. Benefits of WL7 to The Organizing Country

	Columbia	Ethiopia	France	Kenya	Thailand
1	International exposure and recognition, global networking, revenue generation, access to influence makers. Spur interest from the local Government to raise awareness and support research and control initiatives.	First time a World Leish to be held in Africa. Spur interest of the African/Ethiopian govt. to support research and VL/CL control initiatives.	Not really sure of the benefits for the country but strong scientific community. WL6 was in Madrid (Europe) last time.	First time a World Leish to be held in Africa. Spur interest of the African/Kenyan govt. to support research and VL/CL/MCL control initiatives.	Spur interest of the Asian/Thailand govt. to raise awareness and support research. Not convinced of the final impact.

2	Because the disease is endemic in Columbia, holding a world conference on leishmaniasis would put it on the spot and agenda of government. However, there is no indication of the involvement of the government in the bid.	Leishmaniasis is highly endemic in Ethiopia. Therefore, holding a world conference on leishmaniasis would put focus on the disease and agenda of government. However, there is no indication of the involvement of the government in this bid.	Although leishmaniasis is endemic in Southern France, I do not foresee how holding a worldleish be of benefit to further increase interest about the disease. There is no indication of the involvement of the local government in this bid.	Because the disease is endemic in Kenya, holding a world conference on leishmaniasis would put it on the spot and agenda of the country's government. The bid is in partnership with the Ministry of Health, indicating the importance of the disease to the country.	Given that the disease is not significantly important, I am not sure there will be benefits of holding the meeting in Thailand.
3	Excellent national epidemiological, clinical and translational research efforts that will gain world-wide visibilitywill incite a large number of novel regional and transcontinental collaborations.	The meeting will provide a unique opportunity to promote visibility and scientific collaboration with colleagues from sub-Saharan endemic areas	All EU countries are very well connected to the international Leishmania community. Unclear how many scientists from a highly endemic area will be able to attend due to high travel/ accommodation costs.	The Kenyan venue will facilitate attendance of scientists from other, highly endemic African countries I expect an important benefit for not only Kenya but foremost the entire sub-Saharan region	Despite the very little critical mass of researchers the meeting could create important new collaborations to investigate emergence
4	I think that Colombia will benefit from hosting WL7 from the professional and economical points of view.	I think that Ethiopia will benefit a lot from hosting WL7 from the professional and economical points of view.	I see more limited benefit to France because the importance of this disease in humans is more questionable when compared with Colombia, Ethiopia or Kenya.	I think that Kenya will benefit a lot from hosting WL7 from the professional and economical points of view.	I see more limited benefit to Thailand because the importance of these diseases is more questionable when compared with Colombia, Ethiopia or Kenya.

5	Very important and relevant. Colombia, besides Brazil, is a country with many research teams in the area and with tradition on research and contributions to understanding of epidemiology and others relevant aspects of biology of reservoirs, vectors and control.	Relevant because there is an important incidence of disease.	Important because the incidence of visceral leishmaniasis and many researches in leishmaniasis.	Relevant because there is an important incidence of disease.	Relevant because there is incidence of disease.
6	Will promote regional and international collaborations. Provide opportunity for scientists and students from the Latin America region to interact with leaders in the field. Could lead to development of new partnerships.	WL has never been hosted in African subcontinent. Given the significance of the disease and ongoing economic development in Ethiopia, WL will promote regional collaborations, strengthen local capacity building, advance educational mission and help local Govt and health care bodies for developing new strategies for disease prevention and control in the region and East Africa.	Could benefit developing new partnerships.	WL has never been hosted in African subcontinent. Similar to Ethiopia, hosting WL in Kenya could help promoting regional and international collaborations, capacity building, and development of new partnerships. Perhaps, organizers from Ethiopia and Kenya could jointly host WL7.	Help forming new alliances.

7	I think all applicants would benefit from hosting the meeting, from prestige to interactions with foreign scientists. This applies to all countries.	I think all applicants would benefit from hosting the meeting, from prestige to interactions with foreign scientists. This applies to all countries. Might attract more official attention to the problem.	I think all applicants would benefit from hosting the meeting, from prestige to interactions with foreign scientists. This applies to all countries.	I think all applicants would benefit from hosting the meeting, from prestige to interactions with foreign scientists. This applies to all countries.	I think all applicants would benefit from hosting the meeting, from prestige to interactions with foreign scientists. This applies to all countries.
8	A large number of labs and scientists are working on leishmaniasis in Colombia, thus the country will be benefitted.	Ethiopia has traditionally contributed in the field of leishmaniasis.	Although every WL held in any part of the world is likely to benefit, not sure about France.	Likely to be beneficial.	Since there are no lab working on leishmaniasis, not sure how Thailand will be benefitted.
9	Lots of groups working on parasite. Interaction good for students and researchers.	Several groups working on parasite. Interaction good for students and researchers. Could generate more local interest & support.	Good access for European and North African students, limited benefit to the organizing country, lots opportunity to attend other meetings.	Several groups working on parasite. Interaction good for students and researchers. Could generate more local interest & support.	Not much local history of research on leishmaniasis. Hosting meeting might benefit, by bringing new local researchers/students, into the field.
10	I believe this would be a boost for leishmaniasis research in Columbia and surrounding countries.	The meeting would shine a spotlight on leishmaniasis in this region and potentially open up some much-needed collaboration.	Although the focus on L. infantum may be helpful, it is likely that scientists from this area already have extensive collaborations and funding to work on the disease, so benefits are less clear compared with other disease endemic regions.	Similar to Ethiopia, this meeting may open up new opportunities for collaboration and establishment of field sites.	May help increase interest in local parasite and disease.

12	Colombia has made substantial contribution to world knowledge on leishmaniasis, conducted many clinical trials, many national meetings of repute have already been organized there on leishmaniasis in last four years. It receives great government support and attention for research and for drawing various meetings so what I mean is that it is fortunate to be already grabbing the limelight and reaping research monetary benefits.	While there is currently a national VL program in Ethiopia, a national CL program providing CL treatment is lacking. CL due to <i>L. aethiopica</i> has been largely ignored by the scientific community and health policy makers. WL7 can draw the attention of government for an effective disease control program.	Well justified. VL causing species <i>Leishmania infantum</i> was first described by the French bacteriologist Charles Jules Henry Nicolle (1866–1936).	Compared to Ethiopia Kenya is of low disease burden so there is competition for funds, however now amply supported by DNDi and WHO.	Not justified; Organization of this meeting will not be of much benefit to the country.
13	Very interactive proposal among Colombian institutions, including MoH, as well as with other American ones (Venezuela, Paraguay, Brazil).	There is no a plan on how the congress can benefit other research institutions or the national program.	There is no a plan on how the congress could catalyze back the interest of French scientists in leishmaniasis.	Quite interactive within Kenyan institutions, including the MoH. No regional implications mentioned which a lost opportunity is considering that this could be the 1 st WL in Africa.	There is no a plan on how the congress can benefit other research institutions or the national program.

14	-	1 st WL in Africa	-	1 st WL in Africa; The close collaboration of KEMRI, CREATEs, and the Ministry of Health for organizing the WL7 meeting is a plus; KEMRI currently hosts the African office of DNDi coordinating Leishmania research in Africa.	-
15	Excellent window for the many Colombian labs active in Leish. Track record excellent about organizing country: 466 papers published (Pubmed).	Very good window for research in Ethiopia (by Ethiopian groups, but also many Northern African countries active: local ownership?). Track record about organizing country: 377 papers published (Pubmed).	Excellent window for the many French labs active in Leishmaniasis. Track record about organizing country: 1029 papers published (Pubmed).	Very good window for local groups (but domain of research on Leishmaniasis is not broad), lack of a strong driver with track record (surprised not to see the name of M. Wasunna). Track record about organizing country: 312 papers published (Pubmed).	Poor considering the low significance of disease. Track record about organizing country: 84 papers published (Pubmed).
17	Strengthen the position of Colombia as a center for Leishmaniasis study in expertise, experience and international collaboration.	Raise national, regional and international awareness and attention to the significant problem of leishmaniasis not only in Ethiopia but also in Eastern Africa and in Africa as a whole.	Hard to see much of benefits to the host country with so little impact of the disease on human health. The organizers may benefit participants by teaching them how to reduce asymptomatic infection (50% by qPCR?) and how to control canVL, but this was not clearly described.	Raise national, regional and international awareness and attention to the problem of leishmaniasis not only in Kenya, but also in Eastern Africa and in Africa as a whole.	Raise national, regional and international awareness and attention to the potential problems of leishmaniasis not only in Thailand but also in southeast Asia as a whole.

18	WL7 will apparently increase the international collaborations for Columbian scientists.	WL7 will apparently increase the international collaborations and new funds for Ethiopian scientists.	Leishmaniasis is well known by the scientists and authorities. I do not think WL7 will bring more potential benefit.	WL7 will apparently increase the international collaborations for Kenyan scientists.	WL7 can bring attention of authorities for leishmaniasis not only in Thailand but also in Southeast Asia.
19	It appears that WL7 could be a good opportunity to stimulate leishmaniasis research capacity in several countries of the Latin America which rarely attended WLs.	First time of WL in sub-Saharan Africa. The applicants emphasize benefits for the whole region of eastern Africa, consisting of strengthening of research and control capacities in leishmaniasis. Not overlook the fact that the current WHO Director-General (5-year term 2017-2022) is an Ethiopian doctor who served as Ethiopia's Minister of Health, which may contribute to increase visibility of leishmaniasis globally.	No significant benefit can be expected.	First time of WL in sub-Saharan Africa. The applicants emphasize the benefits of strengthening leishmaniasis research and control capacities in Kenya.	The involvement of academic Thai institutions and the attendance from other countries of southeast Asia may contribute to the awareness of the health problem and to capacity building in leishmaniasis research.
20	Would increase visibility to CL in Columbia and South America.	Would increase visibility and problems associated with VL and CL in Ethiopia.	Could increase research priority on leishmaniasis in Europe. But WL6 was recently held in Europe.	Would increase visibility and problems associated with VL and CL in Kenya.	Would increase awareness of leishmaniasis in Thailand.

21	More interaction with active groups on leishmaniasis. Both basic & applied research will be benefited.	WL7 in Addis Ababa will be the first in Africa. This will spur interest of stakeholders and African governments to engage in leishmaniasis control initiatives.	WL organization will be an apotheosis for their research team.	WL7 will increase networking, and exchange ideas. More clinical and basic research in CL control, and promote general education in leishmaniasis.	WL 7 will help in increasing awareness about leishmaniasis.
22	No statement in the application regarding the benefits of WL7 to the organizing country. My score reflects the activities mentioned in the application, namely the importance of developing research capacity in the Latin America region.	The organizers expressed an altruistic feeling about the organization of WL as the benefits would be shared by East-African countries endemic of leishmaniasis, namely: increase awareness of stakeholders and African governments to be engaged in leishmaniasis control initiatives and increased scientific awareness of sub-Sahara leishmaniasis. First time that WL will be held by an African country.	According to what it is written in the proposal the organization of WL will be a way to exchange experience on (Mediterranean) VL and to share with the scientific community the work developed by the French team throughout the years.	No statement in the application regarding the benefits of WL7 to the organizing country. My score is due to the letter of support of MoH, which stated that the organization of WL will be an opportunity for Kenyan researchers to share and exchange experience on leishmaniasis, as well as an opportunity for the country to design control programs on leishmaniasis.	Improvement of public awareness of leishmaniasis in Thailand and neighboring countries of south east Asia.
23	Vigorous community of leishmaniases. WL7 likely to have a very positive impact on research in the country.	Vigorous community of leishmaniases. WL7 likely to have a very positive impact on research in the country.	A small but strong leishmaniasis community. WL7 not likely to have a huge impact on Leishmania research in the country.	Negligible leishmaniasis research in Kenya, but important for the region. WL7 not likely to have a huge impact on Leishmania research in the country.	Negligible leishmaniasis research in Thailand – Organization of conference unlikely to boost research.

24	The applicants refer to previous meetings during the last 4 years that have created opportunities for students and professional to meet and exchange and to motivate younger researchers to investigate the disease. Expectations about this one was not explicit.	As stated in the application: "It is hoped that the WL7 events in Addis Ababa will spur interest of stakeholders and African governments to engage in leishmaniasis control initiatives. "So, it is highly beneficial to the country but also to the African continent.	The meeting will strengthen the position of the organizing group as leading group in parasitology in France.	The well detailed and well written application did not really address this issue. The MoH has taken the needed measures to control the disease.	The meeting is expected to draw attention towards the disease in Thailand.
25	Local researchers and clinicians will benefit immensely.	Local researchers and clinicians will benefit immensely.		Local researchers and clinicians will benefit immensely.	Local researchers and clinicians will benefit immensely.
27	WL has only been held in S. America once before, despite much research being done in these countries.	Never held in Ethiopia; will increase visibility of this country.	Comfortable, easy but held in Europe last time.	Seem quite good, large enough.	Will increase visibility. Never held in SE Asia.
28	Increased awareness and research activity.	Increased awareness and research activity.	Will raise awareness. Last WL was in Spain, doubt it will change research investment.	Increased awareness and research activity.	Will raise awareness but disease is only now emerging.

29	Colombian scientists/ Leishmania researchers will certainly profit from the meeting, considering the labile political situation in Colombia and neighboring Venezuela.	Effect on the country unclear, in the light of the non-democratic government and widespread poverty. For the scientists it would certainly be a huge acknowledgement.	Scientific conferences in Europe usually do not have benefits for the organizing country.	International conference will certainly highlight the already existing recognition of Nairobi (KEMRI institute) as a leading infectious disease research center in Africa.	Due to the limited number of Leishmania cases in Thailand the public awareness for the disease and the conference is anticipated to be small. Impact for the organizers hard to judge.
30	Could draw more attention to leishmaniasis in area.	Chance to showcase new Ethiopian Airlines hotel, archeology museum/Lucy.	High income country, tourist-focused area, we will not make a big difference.	Chance to showcase progressive modern city in Africa.	Would bring needed attention to VL and CL if meeting was there.

3. Organizers and Local Committee

	Columbia	Ethiopia	France	Kenya	Thailand
1	Excellent professional background of committee, local support group well defined and with the appropriate experience.	Organisers have good mix of expertise. No mention of names of local support group but Asrat Hailu will likely do a great job.	Main organisers have the relevant expertise. No mention of names of local support group or of other groups in France.	Not clear if main organisers have experience in organizing conferences. Biosketches missing. However there appears to be a lot of local support from the institutes that the organisers belong to.	Main organisers have the relevant expertise and are currently organizing the 20 th International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria in 2020.

2	The local organizing team is in place and names of international ad hoc scientific committee were proposed although there is no evidence to suggest that these individuals have been contacted.	The local organizing team is in place from Universities and Research Institutes.	The local organizing team is in place and members are mostly from Academia. The team has demonstrable evidence of organizing conferences.	Local organizers spanning from academia (2 universities), research institute and government are assembled. However, the group has not made any contact with potential international researchers to join as members of organizing committee.	Local organizers (3) are identified.
3	Team of outstanding scientists. National and regional leaders in Leishmania research. Very good track record in organizing large regional meetings.	Team of recognized experts. Unclear to what extent they have previously worked together to organize such a large event.	Experts in the field of Leishmania. Good experience in organizing previous meetings.	No biosketches were provided. The CV of the chair is attached and he is a leading scientist and institute director.	Well established scientists but not clear if they have been previously involved in organizing big meetings.
4	The biosketch of one of local organizers is missing (Carlos Muskus). Experience on cutaneous leishmaniosis. Conference functions not described. Only one institution involved.	Interdisciplinary team with lot of experience in visceral leishmaniosis. Experience in organizing conferences.	Experience on human leishmaniosis due to <i>L. infantum</i> . Experience in organizing conferences. Conference functions not described.	Joint application with several institutions involved. Multidisciplinary local committee with experience in organizing conferences. Experience in human visceral leishmaniosis.	Experience in human leishmaniosis in Thailand. Experience in organizing conferences. Conference functions not described. Two institutions involved.

5	Excellent, I. Velez and colleagues are experienced in coordinating international projects interacting with many collaborators in South America, US and Europe, helping also Jorge Alvar in organizing the WL6 in Toledo, Spain.	Good.	Very Good.	Good.	Good.
6	Organizers are leading investigators in the field of leishmaniasis with experience in organizing meetings.	Organizers are leading investigators in the field of leishmaniasis with experience in organizing meetings.	Organizers are leading investigators in the field of leishmaniasis. They have considerable experience to host scientific meetings.	Team is appropriate and comprised of individuals from KEMRI, MOH, Strathmore University and University of Nairobi. However, they would benefit from including ICIPE which could mobilize additional resources.	Organizers will be hosting ICTMM2020 in 2020. It may challenge to organize another meeting such as WL7 in 2021.
7	Excellent.	Excellent.	Excellent.	Excellent.	Excellent.
8	Likely to make excellent arrangements.	Not sure, how will it be handled?	Very good.	Looks very good.	There is vast experience of organizing big international meeting, this should be easy for them.
9	Excellent local organizers and good, support by other local research infrastructure.	OK	Excellent organizational capabilities.	Hosted by four groups which have experience, and connection to local MOH.	Seems OK. 2/3 involved in organizing big meeting - Trop Med Malaria

11	Strong background in the organization of international congress.	An experimented team.	A team mixing background and youth.	A valuable team but involved in research on infectious diseases excluding leishmaniasis.	Interesting background in the field of emerging leishmaniasis.
12	Well published well known.	Dedicated leishmaniac.	Participated in most of the Worldleish congress.	Mostly health officials - the ministry of Health will take the lead for oversight of the congress; not solely research personnel having long term contribution towards Leishmaniasis research.	Not suitable as have had no contribution towards previous WorldLeish meetings; Also, they are already committed to organizing an international event (ICTMM2020).
13	The PI of the proposal is a worldwide recognized scientist and the team involved outstanding in leishmaniasis and other tropical diseases. The scientific committee is well explained. A Local committee is also established to ensure a smooth organization of the scientific part.	The main applicant is a well known scientist who centralizes most of the research in Ethiopia. The second applicant has some background in leishmaniasis in a prominent research institution. A third scientist is also involved. Apart of them, there is no mention to have scientific or organizing committees.	The main applicant is a known scientist and in a much lower degree, the other two applicants. Apart of them, there is no mention to have scientific or organizing committees.	None of the three applicants is specialist in leishmaniasis. They represent three complementary institutions, including MoH. The proposal lacks a minimum of scientific coordination, background or planning, contrasting with the well-defined managerial structure and logistics.	The applicants are almost unknown in the leish context. Apart of them, there is no mention to have scientific or organizing committees.
14	Excellent organizers and experienced; many support letters provided.	Excellent organizers.	Excellent organizers and experienced.	Excellent organizers; many support letters provided.	-

15	Broad scientific expertise, Ivan Velez, authority; no indication on experience in congress organization.	A. Hailu, authority, no indication on experience in congress organization.	Good track record in congress organization; P. Marty, authority.	Visibility of local scientific organizers and their own track record? But involvement of MoH.	Good track record in congress organization; track record of local scientists?
17	All three organizers are well-qualified, judging from the long history of their research and publications in the subject matter. Committees were set up with lists of qualified members.	The principal organizer is well-qualified as a Leishmania expert, although the group is not particularly active as a whole. Few members listed for the local committee.	All organizers listed are seasoned investigators and highly qualified to organize WL7. A number of other groups were mentioned, but their participation in the organizing committee was not documented.	The organizers appear highly qualified as expert in the area of NTDs, including leishmaniasis. Description was too general and too sketchy, making it difficult to identify key Leishmania experts.	The principal organizers have developed expertise in Leishmania and vector research, although this is a young and emerging group.
18	The organizers are well known and can easily manage scientific part with the help of local and proposed international scientific committee.	The main organizers have capacity to manage the meeting but local support is not so clear.	The main organizers have capacity to manage the meeting but local and national support is not so clear.	The organizers have experience to manage the meeting but local support is not so clear.	Because it is a new endemic area, I guess, the main organizers have limited experience on leishmaniasis and sand flies.
19	Excellent staff of organizers with huge experience in the topic.	Excellent staff of organizers with huge experience in the topic.	Excellent staff of organizers with good experience in the topic.	Excellent staff of organizers with good experience in the topic.	Good staff of organizers with limited experience in the topic.
20	Strong effort, well organized. Strong team.	Strong organizer, Asrat Hailu, excellent scientists.	Well organized, have organized previous meetings.	Not a lot of details provided.	Are well organized and have relevant experience.
21	Bases on research activity of three organizers.	Bases on research activity of three organizers.	Bases on research activity of three organizers.	Bases on research activity of three organizers.	Bases on research activity of three organizers.

22	Long experience in leishmaniasis. One of the names of local organizers (Carlos Muskus) in the application was changed in supplementary documents by Liliana Carvajal. None with experience in organizing conferences.	Long experience in topics related with visceral leishmaniasis. Only one of the members with experience in organizing international conferences.	Long experience in several leishmaniasis topics related with <i>Leishmania infantum</i> . Some experience in organizing conferences.	The local organizers themselves do not seem to have expertise on leishmania, but the KEMRI has several researchers with published work on the topic. Experience in organizing international conferences mentioned in supporting letters.	Recent experience in working on different aspects of leishmaniasis. Few experience in holding international conferences.
23	Strong organizing team, with excellent links to Ministry of Health.	World leading leishmaniasis researchers with strong links to LEAP. Strong team.	Strong organizing team with well-respected researchers leading the bid.	Good organizing team, but little evidence of expertise or interest in leishmaniasis.	Okay organizing team, but few links with leishmaniasis research.
24	The organizers are involved in clinical assays for vaccines and drugs and in epidemiology studies. They are involved in leishmaniasis research and in policy. They were involved in other meetings organization. There are strong letters of support from a range of institutions, and academic centers and learned societies. Letters from outside Colombia (Venezuela, Paraguay, Brazil) are also attached. The society of immunology in Colombia is ready to offer financial support (level of support not given).	The organizers are involved in a range of excellent research aspects to control the disease in Ethiopia and elsewhere. The CVs are attached demonstrating involvement in leishmaniasis research and policy.	The organizers have expertise with aspects in Leishmania biology, diagnosis and epidemiology. They have also organized meetings of the French parasitology society.	The meeting will be jointly organized by KEMRI, University of Nairobi, Strathmore University & Ministry of Health. Only one CV is attached (Pr. Ogutu Bernhards Ragama) who has a thorough expertise on Malaria research. There is no CV attached for the other 2 members. Letters of support are attached which testify on the relevance of the organizers and their institutions.	The organizers are active in the field of Leishmania vector and parasite biology. Leishmaniasis is just being studied in the country. They are involved in the organization of an international meeting on malaria.
25	They all seem pretty junior.	A good mix of experience.	Plenty of experience.	A good mix of experience.	A good mix of experience.

27	Skilled group, have been very organized so far.	Skilled committee.	Organizers have experience.	Not sure who organizers are.	Organizers have experience.
28	Not clear what previous experience main organizers have with large conference.	Strong group but not clear the amount of previous experience with a large conference.	Team has previous international Conference experience.	Not much information here, no indication of previous organizing experience.	Organizers are involved in ICTMM2020 which will stretch resources and time.
29	Two of the local organizers are Leishmania researchers (one clinical, one preclinical).	Two of the local organizers are Leishmania researchers (one very experienced [A. Hailu]).	Three leishmania researchers as local organizers (one very experienced [P. Marty]).	None of the lead local organizers is a Leishmania researcher. Dr. Ogutu is an established, well recognized clinical scientist at KEMRI.	Two of the local organizers are Leishmania researchers.
30	Only 1 main group, limited input from others.	Only 1 group, limited input from others.	Not stellar but not bad organizing group.	Has MOH support, two universities and KEMRI.	Has mainly academic support at this time.

4. Accessibility of the Meeting Location

	Columbia	Ethiopia	France	Kenya	Thailand
1	May require a change of flight from certain destinations (change at Bogota). No visa required for most countries.	Direct flights to over 100 destinations and 64 countries. Visa required for almost all countries.	Quite easily accessible. May require a change of flight for certain countries with a connection at Paris. Visa not required for all EU/Schengen and several other countries.	Direct flights to over 50 destinations. Visa required for most countries.	Direct flights to Bangkok from most countries (except Nth and Sth America). Visa not required for many EU and Australasia countries in general.

2	Cartagena is strategically located and has 17 daily flights from Bogota, and 10 direct international flights from USA, South America and Europe (KLM).	Addis Ababa is a regional hub for East Africa and Ethiopian Airways is among the best airlines in Africa and flies to over 50 destinations around the world.	Nice is directly accessible by flight from 43 countries and the city is served by regular buses, trams and trains.	Nairobi is a regional hub for Eastern and Southern African countries. There are direct flights from many major European and African cities Nairobi. The organizers could have done better to discuss this.	-
3	Detailed information of flight connections is provided. Multiple weekly flights from each destination.	Venue is the main capital. Sponsor is Ethiopian Airlines with many direct flights from various international locations.	Close to airport. Perfect ground transportation (there is always a risk of strikes...). Local airport internationally connected, but likely additional internal flight required (Paris – Nice).	Close to airport. Capital city.	The meeting will be held in the capital city Bangkok. The venue is not yet identified.
4	Well described section (application and annex). However, the accessibility of Cartagena de Indias is more limited than Bogota and therefore, several flights will be needed for the majority of participants.	Limited information regarding this topic. However, good accessibility as the capital of the country.	Well described section (application and annex). However, Nice's accessibility is more limited than Paris and therefore, several flights will be needed for the majority of participants.	Missing information regarding this topic. However, good accessibility as the capital of the country.	Limited information regarding this topic. However, good accessibility as the capital of the country.
5	Excellent, Cartagena is an historical and beautiful place to venue meetings with a lot of previous congresses held in the city.	Limited.	Very Good.	Limited.	Good.

6	Travel for people coming from SE Asia could be difficult as there are no direct flights from there to Colombia. In addition, additional internal flight may be required. Visas may be required for individuals from some countries.	Addis Ababa is centrally located so travel will be easy. Based on my personal experience travel to Ethiopia is easy and most nationalities can get visa on arrival. Several airlines have direct flights to Addis Ababa.	This is central location but travel to Europe may be expensive and difficult for individuals from the developing countries. In addition, Schengen Visa will be required, which adds additional costs and efforts. Travel to Nice will require additional transportation for folks arriving in Paris.	Nairobi is centrally located so travel will be easy. Based on my personal experience travel to Ethiopia is easy and most nationalities can get visa on arrival. One issue could be the weather in June which is summer in Kenya.	Bangkok will be easy to travel and easily accessible although I am not sure about visa requirement for different nationalities.
7	Easy from South/North America, Europe.	Lengthy and expensive, might be a problem to Americans (S and N) and Europeans. On the other hand, might attract African participants.	Good mostly for Europeans.	Lengthy and expensive, might be a problem to Americans (S and N) and Europeans. On the other hand, might attract African participants.	Lengthy and expensive, might be a problem to Americans (S and N) and Europeans. On the other hand, might attract Asian participants.
8	Very accessible.	Although the applicant has made a good case, I am not sure.	Should be Excellent.	Not sure but should be good. Onsite assessors of WL should look at this aspect carefully.	Excellent.
9	Problem only direct flights - east coast US, Lima, Amsterdam, etc. Most attendees need to transfer via Bogota. Means 2 -3 flights. Capital has good connections US, Latin America, Europe; no connections all Africa, Mid East, Asia.	Direct flights Africa, Europe, Sao Paulo, India, Asia Mid East is poor/no coverage North Africa, Latin America.	Good connections from Europe, North Africa, Mid East (\pm), no direct flights Africa, Asia, Latin America, North America just NYC, Montreal.	\$50 visa Direct flights Africa, Europe/NYC/ Mid East & Mumbai. No flights North Africa, US & Latin America.	Direct flights Europe /Asia/Australia/far East /Mid East, Kenya Ethiopia. No flights North and South America, north Africa.

10	Relatively difficult location to access from Europe, African and Asia.	Reasonable access from Europe and Asia, but more difficult from the Americas.	Relatively easy access, except from South America. Transport in and around Nice is also very good.	Reasonable access from Europe and Asia, but more difficult from the Americas.	Relatively easy access for all.
11	Relatively easy to access.	Many direct flights to Addis Ababa from all over the World.	Relatively easy to access.	A city easy to access.	The most accessible place for WL7.
12	Expensive and extremely long air travel.	Location seems easily accessible.	Easily accessible.	Already the most popular conference destination in Africa.	Not defined satisfactorily means only airport stated but no commitment worked out with airlines.
13	Cartagena is one of the most fascinating cities in America, very touristic and safe. To reach Cartagena requires two steps travel within Colombia.	Addis Ababa is well connected with all continents. Ethiopian Airlines is a remarkable company that will be in charge of participant travels.	To reach Nice will require a two-steps trip in France. Nice is a very expensive town for many scientists and students, including internal displacements.	Nairobi is well connected with many countries worldwide and the venue is centric.	Bangkok is well connected with many countries.
14	Easy access from South and North America and Europe; no visa requirements for more than 85 countries.	No easy access from South and North America and Asia; travelling may be expensive; visa requirement.	Nice seems very well connected with many places in Europe (many direct flights although not clear if this is also the case early on April) and the rest of the world through Paris.	Access more difficult from South America and Asia but it is ok for Africa and Europe; tickets may be expensive for students (although they provide 80 student awards) and researchers from endemic countries.	Too far away; destination difficult to reach from many endemic countries around the world.
15	Lower accessibility for Africa and Asia.	Lower accessibility for America and Asia.	France is centrally located and the only country easily available for each of the 3 continents.	Lower accessibility for Asia and America.	Lower accessibility to Africa and Latin America.

17	The location is well-chosen as a relatively new convention site conveniently located with direct flights to and from major national and international cities. Visa not required for >80 countries and expedited for others.	The city is not frequented by international travelers, although direct flights were said to cover >100 destinations in 64 countries. Visa required for most, if not all foreign visitors & not expedited for scientific meetings.	As accessible as most cities of medium size in Europe, requiring connection for most via Paris. Visa not required for many, e.g. all EU/Schengen & application familiar to, albeit not expedited for the others.	Not frequented by most, except perhaps for Safari tourists with Direct flights to & from 50 destinations. Visa required for most countries and not expedited for scientific meetings.	Accessible with direct or cheap flights to large cities worldwide. Visa not required for many EU & Australasian countries in general. Visa applications not complicated. Expedition for scientific meetings is known, but not stated.
18	To access to country and city looks easy. Only the travel expenses will be high for European, African and Asian scientists.	Visa issue may be problematic for some countries.	Visa may be problematic for some Middle East and Asian countries.	Visa may be required for many countries.	Because of Thailand is now popular touristic location, no problem can be expected for flights or visa.
19	Good connections and accessibility the WL location mainly from the Americas, less so from the rest of the world.	Excellent connections and accessibility the WL location from all over the world	Excellent connections and accessibility the WL location from all over the world	Excellent connections and accessibility the WL location from all over the world.	Excellent connections and accessibility the WL location from all over the world.
20	Few visa requirements, relatively well accessible.	Many visa requirements but relatively well accessible.	Few visa requirements, easily accessible.	Many visa requirements but relatively well accessible.	Unsure about visa requirements, relatively far for many countries.
21	Very far for many countries which are highly endemic for leishmaniasis especially in Africa and Asia.	More accessible for highly endemic countries including Africa and Asia.	More accessible for highly endemic countries, but still there are more difficulties for getting visa for highly endemic countries in Africa and Asia.	More accessible for highly endemic countries including Africa and Asia.	More accessible for highly endemic countries including Africa and Asia.

22	According to supplementary documents, one-hour flight to Cartagena de las Indias from Bogota; direct flights from Europe only 4 per week departing from Amsterdam. Several direct flights from North America. Cartagena Airport only 10 min away from city centre.	Direct flights to Addis Ababa (85 destinations across five continents). 10 min from conference centre. The organizers mentioned 2 possible conference centers, one of them (Ethiopian skylight hotel is 10 min walk from airport).	Nice is directly connected to Europe's biggest cities, Middle East, North Africa and North America (Montreal, New York). Tramway to reach the city-centre directly from the airport. 20 min by bus.	Direct flights from America, Europe, Asia and other African countries to Nairobi. Airport 16Km from central business district with access to public and private transport services (i.e. bus, hotel shuttles, taxi).	Direct flights from the different continents. Airport rail link connects airport with central Bangkok. Two rapid transit systems in Bangkok connecting business and entertainment areas.
23	Good international connections.	Good international connections.	Good international connections. Central location.	Good international connections.	Good international connections, but a long way from many leishmaniasis researchers.
24	The meeting will be held in Cartagena de Indias, a culturally and historically rich city. It is accessible from Bogota and there are some cities in North America and Amsterdam in Europe that have direct connection with Cartagena.	Addis Ababa is well accessible via airlines, and the venue will be close to the airport, in a business area. Accommodation facilities are around the venue.	Nice is well accessible through airlines. The venue is appropriate.	Nairobi is well accessible via airlines. The venue is in the center of Nairobi.	Bangkok is well accessible via airlines.
25	Few direct flights from Europe/Asia.	Few direct flights. Visa required.	Central location for most participants.	Central location for most participants. Visa required.	Long flights for many attendees.
27	Seems OK to me although I'm not familiar with the area.	Visa may not be hard to get.	Visas easy, easy flights.	Travel to E Africa expensive for S Americans.	Close location for many (except N/S Americans). Brazilians likely will not attend due to cost.
28	Moderately to very accessible.	Moderately to very accessible.	Very accessible.	Moderately to very accessible.	Moderately accessible.

29	Transcontinental direct accessibility from North, Central and South America. For other countries / continents mostly via Bogota.	Location within the capital of Ethiopia, which is internationally well connected.	Transcontinental accessibility via direct flights very limited (e.g. New York). Direct connections to Nice only within Europe.	As capital of Kenya Nairobi is accessible from around the world.	As capital of Thailand Bangkok is accessible from around the world.
30	Major city has good connections	Addis is a major airline hub in Africa	Many direct flights to Europe, US and Asia	One of the largest airports in Africa	Bangkok is very accessible, although flights long.

5. Venue and meeting facilities

	Columbia	Ethiopia	France	Kenya	Thailand
1	Proposed venue well adapted for the number of participants either all together during plenary sessions and for parallel sessions.	One of the proposed venues (ECA conf. centre) could be too small for the number of expected delegates. Total capacity of other venue (UN venue) is 1300 delegates (hopefully big enough?) WL6 had over 1400 participants.	Adequate size of venue and meeting facilities.	Adequate size of venue and meeting facilities. Not clear if meeting rooms are big enough for parallel sessions.	Up to 1500 participants. No detail or brochure provided on venue/meeting facilities.
2	Very good facility and space at the Cartagena Convention Centre.	Venue is not yet selected. It is being proposed to hold at the Ethiopian Airways Hotel although considerations are also given to the UNCC-AA and African Union Centre.	The meeting will take place at the Acropolis Convention Centre in Nice. This is an ultramodern facility with world-class amenities.	Excellent facility and space at the Nairobi convention center.	No venue is yet selected. It is proposed to hold the meeting in a 5-star hotel (not yet named).

3	Highly frequented, cutting edge convention center. International visibility and reputation Capacity to host over 4,000 attendants and organize many parallel sessions.	Three facilities are presented. one venue being prioritized (Ethiopian Skylight Hotel) No quotes yet.	One of Europe's top convention centers. Perfectly equipped to host the event.	Top convention center. Perfectly equipped to host the event.	Unclear, convention centers are available but not yet identified.
4	Venue already decided with excellent meeting facilities.	2 different venues are given with good meeting facilities. But, it is not clear why the applicants have not chosen one congress venue site.	Venue already decided with excellent meeting facilities.	Venue already decided with excellent meeting facilities.	Not much detail in this section.
5	Cartagena presents all the conditions to host the next WL7 in all these aspects.	Satisfactory.	Excellent, with many options of transportation coming by Paris.	Sufficient.	Very adequate.
6	The facilities are excellent and adequate.	ECA conference center in Addis is excellent facility to hold the congress.	Nice Acropolis Congress and exhibition center is excellent for holding the congress.	KICC is an excellent venue for the congress. The facilities are adequate.	Lacks detailed information on facilities.
7	Excellent.	Excellent, although not much is said about the city.	Excellent.	Excellent.	Not many details.
8	Excellent.	Not very well-known to be of high standard.	I have attended two leish meetings at Marseilles, and both were of very high standard.	Appears to be very good.	Should be perfect.
9	Venue is among best, has everything; located in center Old City; Facilities up to 3200 attendees & many options available.	Sky hotel is new and seems best site to host conference. Capacity of alternative site a bit small, only 1300. Otherwise OK.	Good, but main hall bit smaller, 2500; located in center of Nice. Good tourist site. Conference facilities complete.	Good facilities recently renovated and can host up to max 4000 participants.	Bangkok convention center can provide all needed. Good tourist site, but location in shopping center might be a drawback i.e., lack of attendance at sessions.

10	The venue looks fine, but it is difficult to gauge the technological capacity (eg. Quality of wifi, etc).	Limited information available on the venue, facilities and technological capacity.	Facilities look excellent.	Limited information available on the venue, facilities and technological capacity.	Limited information available on the venue, facilities and technological capacity.
11	Very well studied.	Some lacking.	Nice building.	Sounds good.	Seems nice according to the website of the hotel. Some details lack.
12	Adequate description.	Somewhat tight; they commit hosting for 2000 participants anticipate 1300 participants.	Adequate description.	Dedicated excellent venue.	Superficial description, not addressed as detailed commitments.
13	The old town and the modern town are extremely well developed for hosting visitors and congresses. The venue chosen fulfill all need to ensure a successful congress.	There are two un-explored options for the venue that a priori seem to be fine.	The venue and facilities seem to be excellent for the congress.	The venue has all facilities required for a successful congress.	The exact place for the congress is not fully confirmed. The specific facilities at the congress venue are vague.
14	Excellent location; historical and cultural city; nice facilities for the meeting.	Facilities to host approx. 2000 persons; limited and not always suitable conference rooms; configuration not optimal?	Excellent location; Excellent facilities for the meeting at the Nice Acropolis Convention Center; post-congress activities.	5 meeting rooms of reasonable capacity are available but their configuration (especially the KICC amphitheater and the Aberdare and Lenana Hall) seems not optimal.	No sufficient info was provided.
15	Excellent facilities.	Vague description.	Excellent facilities.	Excellent facilities.	Incomplete file.
16	-	Only Sky link hotel has halls big enough.	-	-	-

17	Offers modern facilities for meeting rooms of different capacity to accommodate variable numbers of audience for plenary sessions, concurrent meetings and poster sessions.	Venues limited to two, of which one (ECA conf. center) is evidently too small to accommodate the expected number of >1,000. participants for WL.	Venues described are adequate as expected for the chosen site of Nice familiar to many in the West.	Description of venues looks adequate, but unclear as to whether enough rooms of different sizes are available for concurrent sessions.	Large international congresses with >1,000 participants have been held successfully over the years in Bangkok, although details of the venues were not fully described in this application.
18	The meeting place has enough capacity to held WL7.	The UN Centre has enough capacity to held WL/ but it could be better to get a support letter from UN for its availability during the proposed dates.	The meeting place has enough capacity to held WL7.	The meeting place has enough capacity to held WL7, but some details could be nice.	Although there is no so much details about the meeting place, it looks adequate.
19	The proposed venue is more than adequate for the expected WL attendance.	Both the proposed venues are more than adequate for the expected WL attendance.	The proposed venue is more than adequate for the expected WL attendance.	The proposed venue is more than adequate for the expected WL attendance.	The proposed venue, which remained anonymous, seems to be adequate for the expected WL attendance.
20	Up to date convention center can handle large group. Facilities look excellent.	Less well developed, not clear which of 3 facilities will be used. Big enough?	Venue is very good, excellent location.	Venue looks very good.	Less well developed.
21	Meeting facilities and venue are well defined.	The venue and facilities are adequate for this purpose.	Meeting facilities and venue are well defined.	Meeting facilities and venue are well defined.	Weak justification, there is not enough description for this issue so not clear enough.

22	Several meeting rooms (modular space). Large poster hall. Large hall for registration, coffee breaks and booths. No mention of briefing rooms.	Both conference centers have several meeting rooms (modular space). Skylight center does not seem to have briefing rooms. Maximum capacity from 864 and up to 1500 and space to set exhibit the posters (100 at one time). Exhibition hall for booths (from 50 to 88). No mention of space for registration, for coffee breaks.	Reception hall for registration, 3 auditoriums, (up to 2500 seats), one multi- purpose hall with 4 meeting rooms + poster space. No mention of space for coffee breaks	Several meeting rooms with total capacity up to 4000 people (maximum capacity in amphitheater 880). Space for registration, poster presentation, for coffee breaks and booths.	Several meeting rooms (Large conference room accommodation up to 1500 people; capacity of the rooms not provided), one large space for poster presentation. No mention of space for registration, coffee breaks (although it is written that lunches and coffee breaks will be provided in coordination with meeting schedules) or booths.
23	Excellent facilities in a world heritage site.	International quality conference facilities and hotels.	Excellent facilities, one of the best in Europe.	Excellent conference facilities.	Insufficient details to evaluate properly.
24	The center is well described and appears quite appropriate for holding the meeting.	There is a very good choice of facilities. 3 are considered including the UNCC, the skylight hotel (EAL hotel).	The Nice Acropolis Conference center is well appropriate for holding such a meeting.	The KICC is well described and appears as excellent for holding the meeting.	One large room (1500 pax) and 7 meeting rooms at least. This sounds appropriate. However more details about the expected venue were missing.
25	Looks more than adequate.	Limited choice and no decision made yet.	More than adequate.	More than adequate.	Not well described. Max capacity of 1000.
27	Excellent, large meeting rooms.	Excellent conference site.	Excellent. Beautiful location.	Nairobi is dangerous. Many Americans (including myself) could not attend due to State Department warnings.	Seem good.

28	Looks very good.	Maximum capacity room is 1500. Application indicates they can handle 2000 registrant max.	Excellent.	Excellent.	Single, stand-alone, hotel-based event space.
29	Excellent meeting facilities; World heritage and touristic city.	Conference venue not yet settled (Ethiopian Skylight Hotel? United Nations Conference Center??). Both facilities in principle very good, but possibly quite expensive.	Excellent meeting facilities, very touristic city.	The Kenyatta International Conference Center is certainly an excellent meeting place.	Conference venue not yet settled (presumably one of 5 star World class hotels inside the metropolitan area of Bangkok).
30	Nice venue but not evidence that has already spoken to them.	Two facilities were mentioned but EA one was highlighted.	Very nice site and conference center.	Very nice conference center.	All in one big hotel, would keep everything very centralized, clostrophobic?

6. Hotel/Transportation/ Environment

	Columbia	Ethiopia	France	Kenya	Thailand
1	Excellent local hotels and transport.	Hotel affordable but not clear how close hotels are to venue. No map is provided in annex IV	Excellent local hotels and transport.	List of hotels provided but lacking details and maps. Temperature could be very hot in June and Nairobi is maybe not the safest city in the world.	List of hotels and map not provided. Temp. very hot.

2	Both 2, 3, 4 and 5 star hotels are available, permitting options depending on resources. The cost of the hotel rooms gives this city a unique advantage over others.	Both 3, 4 and 5 star hotels are available in Addis Ababa with reasonable prices.	1-5-star hotels are available, presenting different options for attendees based on their budget.	Both 3, 4 and 5 star hotels are available, permitting options depending on resources.	No information provided.
3	A detailed transportation plan is given. There are many hotels of different categories with around 2500 rooms close to the venue. Safe city. Spectacular location – UNESCO heritage site.	The preferred venue is a hotel (Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, >300 rooms). Walking distance from international airport. Other hotels in walking distance. Environment unclear, likely urban.	>3000 rooms available in walking distance. No information is given on hotel prices. Scenic environment	There are many hotels of different categories with around 2500 rooms close to the venue	Certainly OK given that the meeting will be held in capital city, but again only little info is given
4	Adequate information regarding this section.	Adequate information regarding this section.	Adequate information regarding this section.	Adequate information regarding this section.	Limited information regarding this topic.
5	Excellent.	Very good.	Excellent.	Very good.	Excellent.
6	Several hotel choices are available with special rates. Environment looks great.	Several hotels are available in Addis to accommodate delegates. Although it was not clear who will provide the transportation from the hotels to the congress venue. Delegates will have several choices for other touristic activities.	Several hotel choices are available for delegates. Environment is excellent and other activities are also available. However, the costs for accommodation were not stated. This will be an important factor for attendees from the developing countries.	Several hotels are available in Nairobi for delegates. However, some information on price range as well as transportation from hotels to venue was not provided. Delegates will have several choices for other touristic activities. Environment is excellent.	Lacks details on hotels, rates etc.
7	Excellent.	Not too many details, apparently places are walking distance.	Excellent.	Excellent.	Also not many details, seems OK.

8	A large number of hotels available in Cartagena.	Standards are not very well known.	Should be quite good.	Not sure of the transport (local) in Nairobi. Was very bad when I visited Kenya.	Perfect.
9	Lots of hotels/rooms; varied prices, most hotels within walking distance of venue & environment: restaurants; tourism, safety looks good.	Good selection hotels and price range; 350 rooms in Sky hotel & close to airport; environment OK and enough to see in Addis. Restaurants±; lots tourism in Ethiopia.	Good connection airport & transportation in city; wide selection hotels & prices, environment: safe, restaurants; ± what to see, no beach in April.	Hotels good and price range. Traffic jams from airport and walking after dark not recommend; Tourism Kenya - Safari, restaurants, shopping	Airport link to conference center, but taxis also environment looks good. Big tourism site, wide selection hotels & prices, restaurants.
10	A good price ranges. Unclear whether walking to conference venue is only option.	A range of accommodation options available in Addis Ababa, but unclear how close they are to the conference venue.	There are a lot of accommodation options near the conference venue. My only concern is whether there are cheaper options available for conference participants unable to pay 3 stars prices.	A range of accommodation options available, but not clear where they are in relation to the conference venue.	A range of accommodation options available in Bangkok, but not described.
11	Highly favorable.	Not well documented.	Very favorable.	Full of facilities.	Easy to find accommodation in Bangkok but not well documented.
12	Adequate description.	Adequate.	Adequate description	Well defined.	Superficial description, not addressed as detailed commitments.

13	The colonial town of Cartagena is very well connected with the modern part with taxis, shuttles, etc. in less than 15 minutes. Security and health coverage issues are well addressed in the proposal.	Hotel facilities are fine although considering that they expect 1300 participants, more clarity on how the various hotels will be inter-connected should be better explained, even more taking into account the poor public transport services. Security issues are not explained.	Hotel facilities are fine for the expected number of participants. Public transport services are ensured. Very expensive town that jeopardizes the participation of many students and scientists of developing countries. There is no a generalized plan to circumvent this serious limitation.	Hotel facilities are fine although considering that they expect 1300 participants, more clarity on how the various hotels will be inter-connected should be better explained, even more taking into account the poor public transport services. Security issues are well explained.	No information provided regarding hotel facilities.
14	Excellent!	Accommodations close to the conference location??	Lots of choice of very nice hotels and for all budgets.	Lots of choice; transportation not detailed.	No sufficient info was provided.
15	Many hotels of quality at all costs.	4 and 5 stars hotels; no info on quality and local transport.	Many hotels of quality at all costs (but more expensive than other countries).	Many hotels, no info on cost.	Incomplete file.
17	The meeting location is developed and suitable for WL-type meetings with availability of local hotels for all budgetary needs and excellent transportation services. Caribbean environment with cultural & historical heritage is excellent.	Historical sites are expected in the environment of Addis Ababa, considering the long history of Ethiopia. This may not have been described or only to a limited extent, as is also the case for hotels with respect to a map for their locations relative to the venues.	Excellent environment of renown French Riviera with many local hotels (expensive ?) and good transport services. Rich environment of cultural heritage and Mediterranean climate.	A list of hotels and photos are provided, indicative of good facilities, although details and maps are not given. Climate and other environmental factors of Nairobi in June were not described and may be a concern for some.	Website provided shows an example of many large hotels well-known for their excellence for international meetings, although a List of hotels and a map for their location not provided. Good cultural and climate environments, but not described.

18	The hotels, transportation and environment are well described and adequate for the participants. The city chosen has nice weather and cultural heritage.	The city is good for the meeting but especially transportation possibilities are not well explained. Hotels will not be problem in the city.	There are many hotels in the area and transportation is not problem.	Hotels will not be problem in the city but no details about transportations.	No information was provided, but the hotels will not be problem in this city.
19	This issue is well described. There is very good capacity of accommodation, most at safe walking distances and at special rate for WL attendants. Touristic tours are organized.	Several hotels nearby the proposed venues. One of the venues includes hundreds of hotel rooms. Safety of walking from hotels to the venue is not mentioned. Touristic tours are organized.	There is very good capacity of accommodation, most at safe walking distances. Touristic tours are organized.	Several hotels nearby the venue. Safety of walking from hotels to the venue is not mentioned. Touristic tours are organized.	These issues were not adequately described.
20	Well described. Hotels look excellent with various options and prices.	Close to airport, main venue is in large hotel.	Great location with many options for hotels, could be more expensive hotel options.	Unclear if Nairobi is as safe as other options. How far are the hotels?	Few details provided.
21	Well defined.	Well defined.	Well defined.	Well defined.	Not well defined.
22	2500 hotel rooms (wide range to accommodate all budgets) within 5Km from conference centre. Special rates to WL7. Description of the environment and "unique experiences". Tourist information available and a person in charge of organizing the different tours will be present.	One of the conference centers has 350 beds and several 3-5 stars hotels in its vicinity (it is not mentioned if within walking distance or if it needs transportation). Discount rates will be negotiated. Pre-post conference tours described.	3254 hotel rooms (3-5 stars) within walking distance from conference centre. Range of prices available in application. Pre-post conference tours described.	33 top rated hotels (3-5 stars) with almost 5000 rooms (range of price not available). It is not mentioned if hotels are within walking distance from conference centre or if it needs transportation. Pre-post conference tours described.	The only information about hotels is their range from 1 to 5 stars. Two rapid transit systems in Bangkok connecting business and entertainment areas.

23	Numerous hotels in the vicinity of the conference centre.	Numerous hotels in the vicinity of the conference centre – reasonably priced.	Excellent hotels, but likely to be expensive.	Very good hotels and close to conference centre.	Few details, but plenty of hotels in Thailand.
24	There is a good selection of hotels with a range of reasonable fares. Special fares will be applied for WL7. It is clear from the map provided that hotels are around the area of the conference center. It was expected to have a match between the map and the list provided. Transportation provided for special guests only.	Good selection of hotels. Hotel fares are reasonable and still to be negotiated. A map is missing. No details about transportation.	There are many hotels in down town Nice at walking distance. A map is provided with a range of prices. From the map the reader estimate it to be 15-20 mn walk to the conference center. Map also shows transport lines.	A list of hotels having different standards is provided. But hotel fares and maps are not provided. The budget plans buses to ensure transportation of the attendees to the conference.	General information is given. Hotel fares and maps not provided.
25	Relatively few hotels, but rates are good.	Limited choice of hotels. Ground transport unclear.	Plenty of options available	Good options available	Not described
27	Exchange rate is bad for Brazilians but good for visitors. Adequate hotel rooms.	Hard to tell how many hotel rooms. Travel may be expensive for S Americans. Cost likely good in Ethiopia.	Housing may be expensive for some. Lots of hotel rooms.	Large, nice facilities. Unclear how many hotel rooms.	Unclear how many hotel rooms.
28	Very good.	Very good.	Excellent.	Very good.	Very good.
29	Broad spectrum of hotels; No big distances, all in the vicinity of the meeting site.	Many hotels available in the immediate vicinity of the airport; Western standard hotels very(!) expensive.	No big distances, all in the vicinity of the meeting site; hotels depending on the season more on the expensive side.	Sufficient numbers of hotel rooms; prices, location and distances not given in the bid, but highly variable (own search).	Public transportation readily available in Bangkok. However, details depend on the exact meeting site.
30	Many good hotel options, on coast, walkable.	EA hotel sounds strong, others around, near airport which is convenient but not very scenic.	Many good hotels, lovely location.	Many hotel options of 5-star, 4 and 3 stars levels.	As pitched, all in one big sky-rise hotel.

7. Budget, Financial Plan and Sources

	Columbia	Ethiopia	France	Kenya	Thailand
1	Budget well defined, to detail and realistic.	Financial plan not detailed. Big question as to whether the country can secure govt. financing and sponsoring. Financial risk?	Provisional budget a bit optimistic stating that total revenue will exactly equal total expenses. Lacks detail and does not mention % to cover unexpected expenses. Potential sponsors mentioned.	Budget well defined, to detail and realistic. Back up funding well thought through but political instability could jeopardize their support.	Budget not provided. Potential support from local University. Financial risk?
2	The budget while moderate is very thin on details.	No information provided.	The budget is relatively on the high side.	The budget is relatively on the high side.	No information provided.
3	quote from meeting venue provided. Detailed budget plan. Budget is balanced with a large positive margin sponsors have been identified to cover 50% of the meeting costs but no sponsor yet committed	No quotes. No detailed time plan. No committed financial support	Very detailed plan for sponsoring. Local, national and European support is expected and realistic.	I like that the fees are stratified according to income of country. The budget is nearly the double compared to other venues (1M€) but according to calculations it should be balanced (if the sponsors are identified).	No budget provided. Only 'promise' that enough funds will be available.
4	Detailed budget with the majority of items for the organization of WL taken into account.	Limited information about the budget is given when compared with Colombia or Kenya.	Good budget but not as detailed as the ones presented by Colombia and Kenya.	Detailed budget with the majority of items for the organization of WL taken into account.	Not much detail on this section. Very poor budget.

6	The budget is appropriate and financial plan is reasonable. Letters of commitment from others add strength.	A \$ amount is provided but the budget lacks details of financial plan and sources.	Financial plan and sources for raising funds seem reasonable. Budget is little high but may be necessary for holding event in Nice.	Budget is detailed. The costs over \$1 million seem little high. Raising that amount could be a challenge.	Lacks detailed budget.
7	Seems well covered and planned	Still ongoing, nothing very clear so far. But good plans.	Good plans...	Good plans...	Not too many details.
8	Very good.	Relies mostly on two-three hotels These are not well known.	OK	OK	Should be quite good.
9	Very detailed budget. Total est. cost low, Reg: \$US res/400-490 st/250-335 reasonable & like others, 2X coffee/lunch included; gala included; 50 guest speakers cover all expenses; 100 st just reg and accom, not travel; budget est might be too low; extra sources finances; Total 610K	Not much info given; budget missing; support EAirline/DNDI/gov suggested; no info on # students & # invited speakers supported; registration price similar \$US res/420-500 st/200-300; lunch 2X coffee, not clear if gala is extra. Total 650K	very detailed, reg Euro res/ 400-550 st/230-370 bit higher; 90 students young res <35 yrs, not clear if cover all cost or only part E1000 ea; gala extra, lunch 2X coffee included; not clear # invited speakers and what covered E1500 ea; Extra finances E44650 city of Nice. Total 809K	very detailed, registration bit lower 3 stage fees \$US res/LIC 250-400 res/HIC 350-450 st/150-250; 10 invited speakers \$4300 ea, 80 students all included. Extra funds \$1720 ea no existing commitments; gala dinner included. Total 1,102K	No detailed budget. Registration not clearly given. \$US res/LIC 450-500 res/HIC 550-600 st/250-300 ?; only 2 invited speakers, not clear # students supported; if give registration wavier, have support but amt not yet clear welcome dinner included; 2X coffee & lunch included. Commitment funding University amt? Total ??
10	A little unclear about the likelihood of success in securing sponsorship funding, especially with the named organizations. For example, are there links to these organizations that will be used?	Difficult to assess the financial plan due to lack of specific data.	Again, a little unclear about the likelihood of success in securing sponsorship funding, but it seems there are relatively strong links with several named organizations.	This section was very underdeveloped and gave little confidence that sufficient funding would be raised.	Very underdeveloped/ absent.

11	Very strongly documented.	Missing data.	Well documented and anticipated.	Very strongly documented.	Not documented and the fees are approximately indicated.
12	Adequate and capable.	Have started soliciting funds, have contacted DNDi and have already procured various other commitments.	Chalked out well but no commitments as yet although associations of various companies work in favour.	Tentative funding sources listed but provide no support letters or commitment.	No commitment; uncertain.
13	The budget is very well detailed and rigorous, and the financial plan is clear.	There is no a proper financial plan which is much needed considering that they estimate the congress cost in more than 650,000 €.	This is a very expensive proposal, over 800,000 €. The list of possible sponsors is given but there is no a realistic financial plan.	The budget is very well detailed. It is the most expensive proposal. There are budget lines that require better explanation or be eliminated (i.e., honorarium of secretariat). There are some lines exaggerated like secretariat expenses, congress committee, etc. The income from sponsors is too optimistic.	There is no a financial plan.
14	Registration fees are ok; the budget seems reasonable at 516,000 \$; Support for 50 invited speakers and 100 students.	Registration fees are ok; Budget at 650,000 Euro; no details were provided on the budget (65% registration/35% sponsors??	Registration fees seem reasonable; budget at 800,000 Euros; support from different European parasitology societies, DNDi, WHO and the pharmaceutical industry but not details were provided; it seems ok.	Extensively detailed budget was provided but the meeting seems costly (1.1 M\$) compared to 0.6 M\$ in average in the other applications; Insufficient number of invited speakers.	No info provided.
15	+/_ 1000 participants, 500,000 dollars, balance; realistic?	1300 participants, 650,000 euros; vague plan on incomes. Realistic?	1500 participants, 809,500 euros, balance.	Detailed planning; 1,100,000 USD, balance.	Incomplete file.

17	Well-planned and itemized in details for a total budget of ~500K USD with a list of realistic and justifiable funding sources.	Lack of detail breakdowns for the estimated budget given (650K Euro), as is also the case for the financial sources. Although DNDi and other sources were mentioned, there were limited details, especially the support expected from government sponsorship.	A provisional budget estimates for a total of ~800K Euro seems reasonable for the given site as a luxury resort at Nice, although no breakdowns to fine details. A realistic list of potential sponsors was given. Expectation of local support is credible, considering the financially rich environment.	Very detailed breakdowns provided for an estimated total budget of >1 million USD, which seems inflated and long in administrative expenses. Funding sources were thought-out and given in some details, although there are inherent limitation of uncertainties.	No estimated total budget was provided. Financial support was rather uncertain, although it was supposed to come from University sources?
18	The financial plan is well planned. All items are given in details.	There is very few details for financial plan.	The financial plan is reasonable for this location. Because of it is popular touristic place, the expenses look very high.	Although the financial plan is given in the proposal, there are some uncertain issues to get final decision.	There is no financial plan in the proposal. The financial support is not clear.
19	The organizers seem to be confident with their budget planning, based largely on sponsors. Support to students and invited speakers are considered.	The organizers seem to be confident with their budget planning, based on sponsors for approximately one third. Several details were not given.	The organizers seem to be confident with their budget planning, based on sponsors for approximately one third. Support to students and invited speakers are considered.	At the comparative examination of budgets from other applicants, it seems that the Kenyan one is excessive (for example, twice what the Columbian applicants have estimated). Furthermore, it is unclear in some parts. Support to students and invited speakers are considered.	There is practically no budget estimation and breakdown in the application.

20	Detailed budget provided, sponsors listed.	Few details provided, budget unclear.	Sponsors listed, budget is well organized.	Very well prepared detailed budget. Unclear how realistic.	Few details provided.
21	Clear estimation. Different sponsors with predicted values are available in their application.	Almost clear explanation for national and international sponsors.	Almost clear estimation for national and international agencies.	Clear estimation for national and international sponsors.	No clear estimation and explanation for this section.
22	Total costs 515981,00 USD; 50% be raised by sponsors, is it not too risky? No mention of registration fee to regular industry or accompanying people. 50 special guests and speakers with transportation, accommodation and registration expenses covered (too many?). 100 students with registration and accommodation expenses covered.	Total budget 650000,00€; 35% of the budget will be solicited from donors/sponsors. Several stakeholders identified. It is not described what it is included in registration fees. No mention about how many invited speakers and students will be supported by the congress.	Total budget 809500,00€ (242500,00€ supported by public and private sponsors, i.e. 30% solicitation from sponsors). No mention of registration fee to regular industry or accompanying people. 3 people of WL committee will have costs covered for site-visit. 90 students and young scientists (younger than 35 years of age) whose abstracts are accepted as first authors and need financial support, will have transportation, and/or accommodation and registration expenses covered. It is also mentioned 30 chairman/guest speakers (1500,00€/person) will have expenses covered (does it cover all expenses or some?)	Total budget 1102584,00 USD; is it necessary to pay 5% indirect costs; what for? Although in 6A it is stated the predicted amounts supported/committed by local, national and international entities, the information it is not provided. 3 people of WL committee will have costs covered for site-visit. 80 students with transportation, meals and accommodation expenses covered. 10 invited speakers with transportation, accommodation and meal expenses covered.	It is not mentioned the final budget neither the percentage to be supported by private and public sponsors. Apparently, some sponsors have already confirmed their availability to support some of the costs (although it is not mentioned the amount of funds). Registration fees will range between 250-550 USD (100USD discount for those coming from countries of lower/middle income). Expenses for 2 keynote speakers as well as for 3 WL delegates for site-visit will be covered. According to organizers, financial support for students/participants from resource poor countries will be considered on an individually basis, by who?

23	<p>I don't think it will be necessary to pay travel and expenses for "special" guests – most "special guests" can afford to pay their own travel and will accept invitations for plenary lectures etc. Good to provide 100 bursaries for students. I'm not convinced 50% of cost will come from sponsorship – seems a lot, but cannot compare with Toledo as I don't have the details.</p>	<p>Funding not secure – costings seem reasonable. 35% dependent on sponsorship. Seems like a reasonable plan for raising funds. Same comments as the Colombian bid with respect to invited speakers. Good plans for supporting resource constrained students.</p>	<p>Well-conceived budget – good chance for sponsorship. Also good plans for supporting young scientists, but would have been nice to have a focus on resource-poor students.</p>	<p>Cheaper than some of the other bids, but unclear on how sponsorship would be landed. Detailed budget presented. Overall, more expensive than other bids. Same comments as the Colombian bid with respect to invited speakers.</p>	<p>No real budget to evaluate.</p>
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24	<p>The plans are set for <u>1200</u> participants (1100 + 100). Accommodation and registration of 100 students is planned. About 50 % of the income would come from the registration. Total costs are expected to be 516000 USD. The applicants expect to seek support from diverse local and international sources. Budget is well detailed. (My estimate: The cost/participant would be 430 USD). Registration fees: two deadlines are planned (max: 450 & 290 USD for regular participants and students respectively) + last minute (490 & 335 USD).</p>	<p>It is planned to support fully or partially young researchers in need from resources-constrained countries (number not given).Some sponsors (DNDi, EAL (Ethiopian airlines) already declared interest. DNDi would sponsor 30-40 participants and would subscribe to a session. EAL engaged into the process but details are to be discussed (meeting facilities, fares of flights etc). 65% of budget from the registration and sponsorship. 35% to be leveraged from donors some of which are already identified. African union and Ethiopian government will also be reached out for financial and political support. Expected costs of the meeting would be about 650 000 euros (about 718 230 USD). About <u>1500</u> participants are expected. No details were provided as regards the budget breakdown. (My estimate: The cost /participant would be 479 USD). Registration fees: two deadlines (max: 470 & 300 USD for regular academic and students. respectively).</p>	<p>Support of 90 students and young researchers in need is envisioned. About 70 % of the budget are expected from the late registration of <u>1400</u> academic and student participants while le 30% would come from the public sponsors (a good list is provided) and sponsors from the private sector (a good list is also provided). The total expenses would be 809 500 euros (about 894470 USD). Are costs of the logistics (website, mobile app for the participants to manage meeting schedule, ..) included in the cost of the event organizer? It is unlikely that 1400 participants do their registration late. The bulk of the expenses will be to renting the space. (My estimate: The cost/participant would be: 639 USD). Registration fees: two deadlines (max: 450 and 270 <u>EUROS</u>) + on site (550 & 370).</p>	<p>Plans for the support of 80 fellows. About <u>1500</u> participants are expected. There are plans to leverage money from local institutions, national research fund and international sources. However, the levels of amounts to be expected or requested are not given. In the income plans, it is planned that about 40% will come from the registration and 60% from the sponsoring. The budget breakdown is thoroughly detailed. Total costs would be more that 1 million USD. The budget seems to be quite high however and some items are too expensive or over estimated. (My estimate: The cost/ participant would be: 735.056 USD). The organizers plan to apply different registration costs according to income level of the participants' country, and to have 3 deadlines for reg fee (early, mid, late) in addition to the onsite. The max of reg fees will be 450 USD. For students, max will be 250 USD.</p>	<p>No thorough details provided at this stage. However, a good point is the <u>100 USD discount on registration fees of participants from southern countries</u>. Plus, financial support of students from resource poor countries will be considered on an individual basis. There are plans to raise support from international agencies and from the government. The applicant also state that they have funds available (Chulalongkorn University, TCBE) but it is not clear to the reader what amount is at stake and what are the expected levels of expenses on the meeting logistics and the other items related to the meeting organization and venue. The organizers anticipate developing details once the site is selected. No details given about the registration fees but they expect it to be in the range of 200-500 USD.</p>
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25	\$500K may be unrealistically low.	No real plan at this stage.	May be too optimistic in terms of sponsors.	Very detailed, but perhaps optimistic in terms of sponsorship.	No real plan at this stage.
27	Well-planned.	Travel to E Africa expensive for S Americans. Budget not well developed. Budget details not provided.	Carefully planned.	Carefully detailed plans.	No details.
28	Full budget submitted.	Application is saying all the right things but no full budget submitted.	Excellent.	Funds seem to be very dependent upon early registration. Plans for sponsors are present but tentative. Budget is very good.	Not well addressed, no specifics.
29	Realistic plan in terms of registration revenues. Intended sponsoring well described. Governmental support desirable, but not necessarily warranted	Detailed budget plan still missing. Registration fees apparently thought to cover 65% of the costs. Sponsoring unsecure	Overall realistic budget plan, although the expenses for the lunch and coffee breaks are calculated far too high as compared to the convention centre. Clear ideas about public, scientific and industrial sponsors.	Extremely high expenses expected (more than 1 Mio USD!!); hard to imagine that this amount of Money can be raised by registration fees (based on 1500 participants) and sponsoring.	No outline of the budget(neither in terms of expected revenues)
30	Ties with sponsors etc not highlighted in app. Have letters, but are superficial.	Have already gotten commitments for airfare discount from EA and support from DNDi.	Also has superficial letter from DNDi, mentioned other potential sponsors but didn't see commitment (Ceva, etc).	On the high side- and requested indirect costs?!	Very limited info, seemed preliminary.

8. Program Management and Scientific Theme

	Columbia	Ethiopia	France	Kenya	Thailand
1	Well thought through and well presented. Excellent support letters, time line well thought. Excellent presentation of pre-conference brochure and tourist brochure.	Program management information is sparse. No support letters. No timeline provided.	Some detail is provided. Example there is a timeline and some detail in their plan. No support letters.	Well thought through and well presented. Good support letters, time line well thought. Good presentation of pre-conference brochure.	Program management information is sparse. No support letters. No timeline provided
3	Detailed Gantt chart showing all critical deadlines.	Dates are given but no time lines are defined.	Detailed chart showing all critical deadlines.	No chart but timeline very well defined.	Other than a putative date the planning is not detailed.
5	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
6	Excellent	Very good	Excellent	Very good	Inadequate
8	Very good management is expected.	Good management is expected.	The organizers should be able to perform well.	Since the infrastructure is limited in Kenya, I suspect few glitches in this area.	Management should be quite good.
9	Appears well organized. Very involved in science program. Company.	Probably run by organizers; no company or IT person, less detailed. Involved in science program. Arrangement with local airline.	Travel agent identified; congress organizer not identified; less detailed, though time line detailed. Involved in science program.	Run by company seems well organized; field trip included. Involved in science program.	Seems in hands of company Science program SciCom.

10	Unclear whether the organizers have Program management experience. Key local organizers do not appear to have leishmaniasis as their main research focus.	African leishmaniasis is a strong theme, but would be made stronger with involvement from Sudan.	VL caused by <i>L. infantum</i> is quite limited, but presumably the theme would move beyond this. Relatively strong management proposal.	Leishmaniasis is a serious problem in Kenya and surrounding countries, but I have concerns about whether the meeting will get off the ground based on the information provided. The financial plan is of most concern.	The application seems a little ad hoc. No real theme and program management is difficult to assess.
12	Sufficient information is provided.	Good idea to organize a symposium in Gondar town of north Ethiopia, where DNDi has a clinical trial facility close by the endemic areas of visceral leishmaniasis.	Sufficient information is provided for a basic scientific program.	Sufficient information is provided.	No information provided.
13	The managerial plan is well described with a comprehensive and realistic chronogram. The scientific structure is detailed.	Although the program management is explained, there is no a scientific structure.	The program management is poorly explained. A Gantt chart provides some clarity on how the organization will happen. There is no a scientific structure.	Congress management is quite well explained meanwhile scientific structure is almost absent.	There is no explanation on how the program will be managed nor a scientific plan.
15	Professional planning and presentation; sci theme to further develop.	Poorer presentation than other candidates.	Very good planning; sci theme to further develops.	High-tech.	Poor description.

17	Programs and time-line pretty well-thought out and well presented. Letters of support provided. Both scientific and non-scientific programs well-illustrated and documented.	Program management was not well-developed or not well-described, providing no time-line, insufficient information of relevance, and no letters of support.	Programs were described in some details with time-line and examples, but no letters of collaborative support	Programs were thought out in some details with time-line, documentation of relevant information and supporting letters.	Program management was not well-developed and sketchily described without time-line, no documentation of relevant information and no letters of support.
18	It is well documented. Both scientific and non-scientific programs are given in detail.	Program and scientific theme are not well given.	Time line is given for the preparations and program. There are no support letters	Program and scientific theme are not well given.	It is not well documented.
19	Excellent presentation of the scientific program management. Appropriate timeline of the events. Evening poster presentation (at the manner of WL3-Sicily) much appreciated.	Fair presentation of the scientific program management, however no detailed timeline of the events was provided. Timing of poster presentation not considered.	Excellent presentation of the scientific program management. Appropriate timeline of the events. Evening poster presentation (at the manner of WL3-Sicily) much appreciated.	Good presentation of the scientific program management, however no detailed timeline of the events was provided. Evening poster presentation (at the manner of WL3-Sicily) much appreciated.	Limited presentation of the scientific program management. No detailed timeline of the events was provided. Evening poster presentation (at the manner of WL3-Sicily) much appreciated.
20	Well defined management plan with GANTT chart. Has support letters.	Few details provided, no timelines.	Timelines provided, well organized. No support letters.	Well organized with timelines and support letters.	Few details provided, no support letters.
21	Very well presented with clear explanation for different involved sections.	Not clear explanation.	Weak explanation.	Weak explanation.	Weak explanation.

22	<p>No description of the awards for the best oral and poster presentations. Organizers described the efforts that will be made to keep meeting on time and to avoid no shows-session cancellations. Poster session in the evening to avoid conflict with oral presentations. Website will be developed 14 months before event. A tour to VL focus is scheduled. City tour included in the program.</p>	<p>No mention of awards for the best oral/poster presentations. Organizers described the efforts that will be made to keep meeting on time and to avoid no shows-session cancellations. It is not stated if poster session will be run in parallel with oral presentations. No timeline for publicizing the meeting, with dates of early, late registration, call for abstracts ect. is available. A symposium (limited to 60 participants) held in DNDi's facility in Gondar (north of Ethiopia) is planned post-WL7 (funds to be sponsored by Ethiopian).</p>	<p>10 prices (1000,00€/each) for best oral and poster presentations and punctuality. Poster session in the evening to avoid conflict with oral presentations. Development of a mobile APP with all information about congress. Organizers described the efforts that will be made to keep meeting on time and to avoid no shows-session cancellations. Visit to endemic site depending on finding a sponsor.</p>	<p>No mention of awards for the best oral/poster presentations. Development of a mobile APP with all information about congress. Website will be developed 1 year before event. No timeline for publicizing the meeting, with dates of early, late registration, call for abstracts ect. is available. No explanation how to keep presentations on time. Poster session in the evening to avoid conflict with oral presentations. Visit to the endemic VL focus in Baringo county will be available for 60 participants (as already stated in the budget).</p>	<p>No description of the awards for the best oral and poster presentations. The organizers stated that they will hire a company to keep meeting on schedule, to avoid no shows/session cancellations and to ascertain the presence of poster presenters but there is no explanation how it will be done. No timeline for publicizing the meeting, with dates of early, late registration, call for abstracts ect. is available. Poster session in the evening to avoid conflict with oral presentations. No example of a possible visit to endemic sites/institutions working on leishmaniasis.</p>
23	<p>High quality bid, easy to find the important information, convincing.</p>	<p>Good quality bid, clearly a lot of thought has gone into the detail.</p>	<p>Very good quality bid, with good program management.</p>	<p>Seems like competent management, a good bid.</p>	<p>Under-developed bid.</p>

24	Posters will be presented late afternoon in 2-3 min in a dedicated convivial space (like in Palermo). Animal health (canine leishmaniasis) will get special attention	An event planner will manage the event. Scientific theme: "Leish in Sub-Saharan Africa"	An event planner will manage the meeting. Check in to the meeting will be automated. An application will be used. No theme specified.	There are plans for the development of a mobile application to facilitate management of the schedule by the participant. It is yet to be developed. No overlap between posters and verbal sessions. No theme specified.	An IT company and an event planner will work together on the event. No overlap between poster and verbal session. No theme specified.
25	Not well addressed in the proposal.	Not immediately obvious.	Not well addressed in the proposal.	Not well addressed in the proposal.	Not well addressed in the proposal.
27	Well-developed plans.	Plans adequate.	Well-developed.	Theme/scientific not outlined well. Rest of planning seems good however.	Plans are not provided in detail. Organizers need to consider mites as vectors for <i>L. Mundinia</i> spp.
28	-	-		The 'online solution' appears to be in development which poses a risk.	Poorly addressed, no specifics.
29	Organizational aspects OK. Could not find too many details on the program and science.	Organizational aspects OK. Could not find too many details on the program and science.	Organizational aspects OK. Could not find too many details on the program and science.	Organizational aspects OK. Could not find too many details on the program and science.	Very provisional outline.
30	program was not well thought out.	Initial program thoughts seem appropriate.	Initial program seems fine. Lovely pre and post options.	Initial program and ideas are fine.	Also, quite preliminary info.

Other Specific Issues of Concern

Although it would be important to have once a WL meeting in Africa, I am not convinced of the political stability in Kenya these days and I am a bit concerned by the accessibility for foreigners. (1)

We have to consider the fact that Worldleish has never been held in Africa. Previous meetings have been in Europe (4 times), South America (once) and Asia (once). The last three meetings were in Lucknow, India (Asia), Porto de Galinhas, Brazil (South America) and Toledo, Spain (Europe). It is appropriate to seriously consider Africa given the importance and endemicity of the disease in this continent. (2)

I believe that even though France provides a great venue it would be unfair to the other locations to host WL again in Europe. I feel that Thailand will be a great future option but the organizers need to be 'mentored' to provide a more convincing application. While Colombia has the most complete and strongest application file in my opinion, the fact that WL5 was hosted in South America somewhat reduces enthusiasm. I feel strongest about the two African applications, notably the one from Kenya. This location is a good compromise to have a first-class environment and venue while at the same time attracting lots of sub-Saharan scientists from neighboring countries. This setting will also attract certainly more inter-continental response compared to the Ethiopian venue, which ultimately will be essential to create new collaborative links with colleagues from the EU, Asia and the Americas. (3)

I think that wordleish has never been carried out in Africa and I believe that leishmanioses are important diseases in this continent. This should be taken into account also in the final decision. Instead, worldeish has taken place in Europe several times and once in Asia and South America. (4)

Considering many aspects involved in organizing the congress and in special the place of Cartagena de las Indias, an beautiful and historical city in South America, I strongly recommends Colombia to host the next WL7. (5)

Perhaps Kenya and Ethiopia organizers could consider holding congress jointly. (6)

I found all the applications very good. In my opinion Colombia is the most complete and compelling. Nevertheless, I think other issues should be considered besides the scores below (which are very close as you can see). For instance, to me it does not make sense to have the meeting in France considering the last WL was in Spain. I believe it would be very interesting to have a WL in Africa, and from the two proponents the Kenya proposal is more convincing, although Ethiopia has a bigger problem with leishmaniasis than Kenya, and might gain more from the meeting. On the other hand, getting to the African countries is lengthy and expensive, which might keep American (South and North) and European participants away, mostly the young ones. On the bright side, it might attract more African participants. It will be a hard decision. (7)

No further comments. (8)

Would be nice to hold it in Africa, as meeting has been taken place multiple times in Europe, once in SA (Brazil) and once in Asia (India). (9)

The proposal from Nice is clearly the strongest, but I am conscious that the last WorldLeish was in Spain and there may be a perception of bias towards Europe if we choose Nice. However, I think the risks associated with all other locations are very high, especially in terms of financial plans and poor attendance at the meeting. I think that Nice is the only realistic option. (10)

Columbia : very strong file, well presented and documented. Ethiopia : an interesting candidature. I feel it missed the expectation (i.e. the venue is not defined). France: a strong candidature. Kenya: a good candidature but carried by people which are not Leishmaniacs. Thailand: a short document for the candidature. Unfortunately, some details missing. (11)

No further comments (12)

Colombia: this is the most outstanding proposal with a rigorous approach regarding the financial plan, a clear pathway to reach the congress without major concerns. The scientific level of the PI and team, and the planned scientific structure ensure a high quality. The national and regional connections and explained in the proposal imply a shared benefit for the regional leishmaniasis community. Ethiopia: main concern is the lack of a financial plan and, in general, the proposal is weak, and scientifically and managerially not sufficiently structured. France: health facilities are well described but there is no financial coverage in case of accident/disease. In general, the proposal is weak, and scientifically and managerially not sufficiently structured. This would be the 5th WL congress in Europe. Kenya: This would be the 1st congress in Africa although it is a lost opportunity to engage other countries endemic in the region. There are serious concerns on the capacity of the organizers to manage scientifically the congress. The budget is huge and the chances to balance with incomes unrealistic. Thailand: This is a weak proposal at all levels, not ensuring a successful congress. (13)

No further comments (14)

Security in Kenya and Ethiopia? Thailand definitively out. (15)

Europe hosted the previous Worldleish. It would be unfair for the rest of the World to organize WL7 in Europe again. Moreover, it is a bad idea to organize the congress about the disease of the poorest people in the most expensive location. (16)

No further comments (17)

No further comments (18)

No further comments (19)

The last meeting was in Europe so I think it would be hard to justify France this time. It could be good to consider Africa, although it is likely fewer people would attend due to security concerns in the stronger application from Kenya/Nairobi. Having WL7 in Columbia now being a highly endemic country with CL and VL pathologies, would strengthen awareness and research in this region. (20)

The best application is from Colombia and it seems to be the best place for holding the WL7, although this country is very far from highly endemic counties located in Africa and Asia. The cost of travel is very high and not affordable by many scientists. (21)

Personally, I have some concerns about the level of security in Kenya (22)

Kenya: Security concerns (23)

Leishmaniasis are neglected diseases especially in Africa where other infectious diseases are getting most attention; WL7 outcome would therefore be highly impactful. Cost of travels for participants of some LMIC countries could be an issue for some destination. (24)

I do not support having the conference in Europe in 2021, since it was there (in Toledo) in 2017. My inclination is to give preference to Kenya, since there has not yet been a WL conference in Africa. (25)

I have read through all the proposals and compared them carefully, and attached please find my scores for the five proposals. I have not put any comments on the form in the interests of time but you can be assured that I have given them all thorough consideration. However, I will give the following comments here. Prior to reviewing the proposals my hope was that I would be able to support the meeting to be held in Africa, as it feels that it would be good as a research community if we could do that. However, looking at the various proposals the one from Colombia is, in my opinion, by far the strongest proposal we have, and I am happy to support this proposal without reservation. I have various doubts about the two African proposals, and I can foresee potential problems/risks with both. The proposals from France and Thailand I had different issues with, both excellent as potential venues but lacking in other aspects. So Colombia gets my vote. (26)

No further comments (27)

Thailand: Outcome of the ICTMM2020 meeting will provide a track record for the organizers to apply for a future meeting. Currently would seem that the ICTMM2020 meeting will stretch time and resources too thin. My impression is that a single integrated Hotel and Conference center is generally viewed as a negative for extended conferences like WL because individuals feel they are inside the entire time. France: Strong, major issue is that the last WL was held in Spain and, in general, the meeting has been hosted by several European countries already. Kenya: Good letters of support from relevant agencies. Not much information on the amount of experience the organizers have for a conference of this size. I am not familiar with the applicants so others will have to speak to that. Ethiopia: Would have been better if the organizers picked the best venue and focused on that. I would be surprised if there was only 1300 attendees as indicated in the application. Group is strong and reliable, has some gender representation, and has a long history in the field. Budget was lacking in detail. Columbia: Strong all around, good accessibility for Central and South Americans who tend to support WL. We have never had WL in Africa so I think that is a strong argument for considering those applications but on the whole the Colombian application was stronger. Europe has already been strongly represented as a venue and despite some advantages (good transportation, venue, hotels, organization experience) I think it is unfair to those in other parts of the world. (28)

Columbia most detailed and best prepared bid of all applicants (29)

No further comments (30)