

Africa after the Africa Commission:

What priorities for
the German G8?

**Climate change and Africa,
an NGO perspective.**

John Magrath, Oxfam GB.

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Climate change and Africa

- Climate change double vision, both correct:
- **1. “It’s *not* about climate change....”**
- People experience it as:
 - Increasing (existing) variability;
 - Changes in (changing) local environments.
- **2. “It *is* about climate change....”**
- Serious changes, crossing thresholds, feedbacks.



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Climate change and Africa

- **What farmers see:**
- Greater extremes.
- Changing (shorter growing) seasons.
- Unpredictability – less smoothing.

- Tied in with decline in wood & water.

- *Ultimately, it's all about water.*



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Climate change and Africa

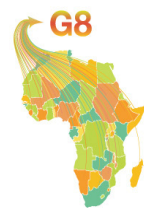
- **People are “adapting”**
- Better off better than “the poor” (“poverty” is multi-dimensional)
- Not just by farming....
- Diversity = resilience.

- There is much we don’t know so.....maximise flexibility.
- Climate change is not an excuse not to tackle poverty – the reverse.



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Climate change and Africa

- **Key areas** of importance & opportunity:
- 1. Agriculture.
- 2. Water – storage, irrigation, urban.
- 3. Food storage.
- 4. Weather forecasts - & communication.
- 5. Energy (n.b. it's the after-sales service).
- 6. The pastoralist economy.
- 7. Drought/disaster planning & relief.



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Climate change and Africa

- **Some (overlapping) constraints:**
 - Poverty
 - Priorities (& who decides?)
 - Capacity
 - Co-operation
-
- What about urban Africa?
 - From aid to justice; what would “polluters pay” mean?



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