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A Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) proposed for the post-2015 MDGs

Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI) Director Sabina Alkire and Research Associate Andy Sumner have written a brief proposing the consideration of a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2.0 for the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals.

The brief suggests that a headline MPI could provide an eye-catching and intuitive overview measure, with easily understood and consistent details on its component indicators. An MPI 2.0 could be formed from a ‘voices of the poor’ type participatory exercise, and would complement a $1.25/day measure by showing how people are poor (what disadvantages they experience); in which regions or ethnic groups they are poor; and the inequalities between those living in poverty. It would also add value for policymakers, providing political incentives to reduce poverty by reflecting changes swiftly. Highlights from the brief, which can be downloaded from here http://www.ophi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/MPI-post-2015-MDGs-FINAL.pdf?

- A global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2.0 could be used as a headline indicator for the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals, providing an intuitive overview of multidimensional poverty to complement a $1.25/day measure.
- The MPI reported in UNDP’s Human Development Report is based on ten indicators of health, education and living standards, and shows both the incidence and intensity of poverty. It measures deprivations directly, and shows where and how poverty is being reduced.
- Data shows that people who are multidimensionally poor are not necessarily income poor, and vice versa; this means that by focusing on the $1.25/day poor we may fail to reduce or eradicate acute multidimensional poverty.
- For the post-2015 context, an ‘MPI 2.0’ could be created whose dimensions, indicators and cut-offs reflect participatory discussions as well as expert views. It need not entail a long survey. Alongside a comparable MPI 2.0, national MPIs could easily be developed.
- The MPI 2.0 would complement a $1.25/day measure by showing how people are poor (what disadvantages they experience); in which regions or ethnic groups they are poor; and the inequalities between those living in poverty.
- The MPI 2.0 would add value for policymakers, providing political incentives to reduce poverty by reflecting changes swiftly; it could also be used to monitor inclusive growth, and to show the nexus between challenges of poverty and sustainability.

The above proposition is surely one that should be taken seriously and/or advocated for. If only for one of the reasons mentioned above; that people who are multidimensionally poor are not necessarily income poor, and vice versa. As for another dimension on the topic of poverty targeting; see here http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2013/02/04-world-bank-poverty-africa-chandy which is about Brookings experts presenting new poverty targeting indexes using geo-coded aid data.

What do 6,000 people on the receiving end of aid think of the system?

Below are brief extracts of Duncan Green’s blog post dealing a new book by Mary B. Anderson, Dayna Brown and Isabella Jean titled; Time to Listen: Hearing People on the Receiving End of International Aid (published in pdf). It is published by CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, a non-profit based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The book reminds me of the World Bank’s great Voices of the Poor study, only this time it’s ‘Voices of the aided’, a distillation of 6000 interviews carried out from 2005-9 with people who have received or been involved in aid – individuals, local NGOs, international NGOs, bilateral aid agencies etc.

And it’s an uncomfortable read: it had me squirming on multiple levels, because of its highly convincing criticisms of the aid business, the crassness of its generalizations, and its tendency to suggest what we already know to be true (and are trying to put into practice), not to mention wondering whether my negative reactions were just defensiveness. But the book’s origins – giving a voice to those on the receiving end of aid – means it is particularly worth reading, and some of it is unexpected and (I think) new. So what does it say?

First, people are not anti-aid (sorry, aid slammers). ‘Universally, when asked to comment on their assessment of international assistance and its cumulative effects on their societies, people respond...
with, "International aid is a good thing, and we are grateful for it... but...."

But there is always a but, and these are remarkably consistent between countries. ‘The story is often cheerful in the short term, but.... as people analyse the longer term and society-wide effects of international assistance, the negative impacts seem to outweigh the positive ones.’

This focus on the cumulative impact of aid on poor people is really valuable, because it contrasts with most aid evaluations, which focus on individual projects or programmes.

‘When asked to step back from particulars and to comment on how aid efforts add up over time, the judgments change in two important ways. First, assessments go from mixed to primarily negative. Second, they go from specific and tangible to broad and intangible.’

Examples of those ‘intangible’ negatives? People hate the sense of dependence, and feel it can undermine their own sense of agency and potential. Aid workers are always in a hurry, without the time to talk, listen or really understand the local context. There is often confusion and/or resentment that some groups (refugees, ethnic minorities) are targeted over others, building tensions between the aided and the unaided. As one villager in Cambodia told the researchers: “I feel jealous. I don’t know why NGOs help [the refugee village] and not our village. The refugee village has electricity; the road is better there, and here it is muddy. It makes me feel they are better than us.”

Perhaps the most striking (and cheering) finding of the book is that gender-related aid is a massive exception:

Final thoughts? The prose is admirably clear and jargon free, but a bit repetitive: a good editor could have cut the book’s 150 pages in half. I would have liked to see a lot more differentiation (in addition to the discussion on gender) – rather than just ‘aid’, did the interviews reveal differences between project aid and direct budget support to governments? Between humanitarian, long term development and advocacy? Between INGOs and official donors?

But perhaps the most disturbing point is that I cannot think of a previous exercise like this – recording the views of aid recipients on this scale. I really hope I’ve missed something (please send links). If you want a challenging, thoughtful, uncomfortable, bottom up (and free to download) critique of aid, ‘Time to Listen’ is the place to start.

Source: http://www.oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/?p=13492

Aid 2.0 and the new geography of global poverty


Sumner and Mallett propose that the new geography of global poverty signals the end of aid for most countries, and requires a new kind of international co-operation. They argue a significant shift in the aid system is required. Put crudely, this shift would be from "Aid 1.0" (meaning aid defined largely as a resource transfer) to something different, perhaps an "Aid 2.0". This in turn suggests new principles and the need to genuinely reframe "aid" as "global development co-operation".

Aid 1.0 has tended to be defined as follows: the "problem" is poor people living in poor countries and the “answer” is official development assistance resource transfers. In contrast, Aid 2.0 might be framed as follows: the "problem" is that poverty is a “global bad” and the “answer” is that collective global action is needed. Further, the role of “aid” in development would shift from being an external driver – filling gaps in a predictable and linear fashion – to support inclusive policy processes, co-financed global public goods, knowledge sharing/transfer and development policy coherence.

Following from this logic would be four principles for global development co-operation (GDC). First, that it be catalytic. This might mean a greater focus on opening up political/economic/media spaces and recognising that change is ultimately an internally driven process that aid can play some limited role within. This would also point to “aid to end aid” and the importance of domestic taxation systems.

Second, that GDC be based on a greater focus on risks/shocks/stressors and the use of global public goods to better deal with risk – indeed, if many countries no longer need or want official development assistance (ODA) then that money could be reallocated to global public goods. It is worth noting that even if “traditional aid” (meaning grants) is no longer in demand, concessional loans will still be useful even if grants are less appropriate given expanding resources.
Third, that GDC be based on research and knowledge transfer. This would not be a one-way transfer, but instead would be multiple in nature, with information flowing from middle-income countries (MICs) to low-income countries (LICs), from south to south, from south to north, and so forth. Part of this principle requires noting that aid can help provide positive feedback loops via transparency and systems learning.

Fourth, that GDC be based on policy coherence across all policies related to global development, such as trade, migration and other key policy areas.

The changing distribution of global poverty away from the poorest countries to MICs suggests that a new approach is required. MICs will need and want "traditional" aid less and less as domestic resources expand. However, concessional loans will still be useful even if grants are less appropriate given expanding resources.

In the foreseeable future there may be as few as 20 remaining LICs – most of which will be classified as fragile or conflict-affected, and found in sub-Saharan Africa – and many MICs will no longer require ODA resource transfers. Indeed, many may be "new" donors themselves (some already are). This changing dynamic necessitates a rethink of aid and a redesign of the aid system, and we have accordingly suggested a broad-based shift from resource transfers to global development co-operation.

Aid 2.0 might provide us with a way of adapting to the new geography of global poverty.


**ECONOMIC ISSUES**

**South Africa’s large food retailers exploring ways of reducing food waste**

South Africa produces an estimated 9.04-million tons of food waste a year, creating food insecurity, greenhouse gas emission and waste disposal problems, senior Council for Scientific and Industrial Research scientist Suzan Oelofse says.

Researchers worldwide — along with some of South Africa’s large food retailers — are exploring ways of reducing food waste amid estimates that between a third and a half of all food produced for human consumption is wasted.

Reducing waste is imperative in South Africa as millions of people exist on one meal a day or less, yet the constitution promises the right to "sufficient food and water". Dr Oelofse says in South Africa most food loss happens before the food gets to consumers — 27% is lost at the processing and packaging stage, 26% during agricultural production, 17% during distribution and 4% after produce had been bought by consumers.

While waste is a problem — albeit to a lesser extent across the rest of the continent — it is an even larger one in the developed world. The FAO said while in the developed world food waste was attributable to quality standards that overemphasised appearance, confusion over date labels, and consumers being quick to throw away edible food, in the developing world “roughly 95%” of food waste came at the early stages of the food supply chain. This was due to limitations in harvesting techniques; storage and cooling facilities; infrastructure and "packaging and marketing systems".

Agricultural Business Chamber CEO John Purchase said: "Nobody wants to waste food. Food production uses resources — water, land, fertilisers ... food waste is a waste of resources when resources are more and more limited and expensive. "The more we can contain food waste the more we can keep food prices down."

FoodBank SA (covered in the October 2011 edition of the Scan newsletter) distributes food to needy South Africans, delivering between 12-million and 15-million meals a year to between 300,000 and 400,000 people. Its rural food banking and government relations executive, Patrick Andries, says one of its largest challenges was moving into rural areas so that it can reach the 11-million to 12-million South Africans who are “food insecure”, defined by the World Health Organisation as not having "sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life".

FoodBank SA’s depots are all in urban centres, where most food is manufactured and most food waste generated, Mr Andries says. Getting food to rural areas is expensive.

While Woolworths and Pick n Pay donate produce that has passed its sell-by date to food banks, Shoprite Holdings CEO Whitney Basson says Shoprite (which has a third of South Africa’s food retail market share and is the largest South African produce retailer in Africa) “does not believe in best-before dates” and does not donate food in Africa.

This is because it has no real control on what happens to the food post-donation and because “in (the rest of) Africa they often sit on it for three to five weeks ... We have been summoned on that,” he said.

Mr Andries says food safety restrictions make producers and retailers...
“nervous to donate” and South Africa should consider legislation that reduces liability. Without it food such as meat, milk and baby food is often sent to landfills, where it rots, releasing the greenhouse gas methane.

Mr Andries says that South Africa should explore “Good Samaritan” laws that exempt food donors from liability if food is donated within certain parameters and in good faith.


Some sort of initiative, perhaps looking at how donated food can reach rural areas, combined with the mentioned “Good Samaritan” laws, could make a significant impact on the South African food wastage scene.

South Africa has a semi-industrialised food system, whilst not as wasteful as those found in the developed world, has considerably less wastage in the early stages of the supply chain compared to most sub-Saharan African economies. The point that was made in the January 2013 edition of the Scan newsletter is reiterated: Other sub-Saharan African economies that have not reached the SA level of development and diversification yet - - especially given the rapid spread and growth of supermarkets, together with the increased flow of agricultural investment, both public and private MUST learn from the South African experience. Proactive food and agriculture policy interventions could potentially make a significant difference and prevent a repetition of some of South Africa’s ‘mistakes’. See here http://www.howwemadeitinfrica.com/south-african-food-companies-continue-expansion-into-rest-of-continent/24110/ for a brief overview article about South African food companies’ expansion into the rest of the continent.

Getting mining and oil contracts into the light, online

In the global effort to follow mining and oil money more closely, the payments from companies to governments and the spending by those resource-rich governments usually draw the greatest scrutiny. But before a dollar changes hands, the rules of the game often get set in contracts that citizens (and sometimes even their elected representatives) rarely see.

In February at World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C., Revenue Watch and the World Bank Institute announced a new tool in the push to make contracts easier to find, and a little easier to understand. Working with Columbia University, NGO colleagues and technology leaders, a web database of mining and oil contracts has been launched, beginning with about 100 documents from the African mining and oil sectors.

Using this new site, viewers can filter contracts by country and natural resource, and read summaries of dozens of key provisions in each contract. Perhaps most significantly, readers can review each document, page by page, even if they are not able to view or download PDF files. In many countries and regions, slow Internet speeds make the download of PDFs impossible, or prohibitively slow.

Advocates and officials from all sectors are paying increasing attention to the transparency of mining and oil contracts, and the monitoring that can turn better rules into better behaviour. “If contracts remain opaque,” says the international Publish What You Pay coalition, “citizens have no way of knowing whether they are getting a fair deal for their resources and no means of finding out where the money goes.”

The new system is now live online and can be viewed at www.resourcecontracts.org

Source: http://goxi.org/profiles/blogs/getting-mining-and-oil-contracts-into-the-light-online

A nice follow-up to the ‘book sprint’ initiative of OpenOil that was covered in the September 2012 edition of the Southern Africa Scan newsletter (A book sprint brings together a group of experts to produce a book in 3-5 days. There is no pre-production and the group is guided by a facilitator from zero to published book. The books produced are high quality content and are made available immediately at the end of the sprint via print-on-demand services and e-book formats. OpenOil produced ‘Oil Contracts – How to Read and Understand them’, released under the Creative Commons license and thus free for all to download. This issue seems to be gaining traction and in recognition of this, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is also now considering adding contract transparency as a standard for EITI compliance.

POLITICAL ISSUES

The road-safety cost curve approach

The chance of dying in a traffic crash is almost ten times higher in South Africa than it is in the United Kingdom. Each year, traffic crashes kill almost 1.3 million people and injure an additional 50 million; they are the
second leading cause of death among children and cost the global economy around $518 billion.

And the problem is expected to get worse. Total annual fatalities from crashes are expected to approach 2 million by 2020. To try to reverse this trend, the United Nations—working with the World Health Organization and the World Bank—has called for a "Decade of Action for Road Safety," aiming to halve the number of deaths from their current levels by 2020. If this goal is achieved, about 5 million lives will be saved and 50 million injuries will be prevented over the course of the decade.

[McKinsey&Co] have developed a novel, end-to-end approach to help national and municipal governments and policy makers (such as transportation ministers and mayors) identify the solutions that will save the most lives in the most cost-effective manner. The heart of the approach is a "road-safety cost curve" that makes it possible to compare different countermeasures by their anticipated impact and costs. [They] have also catalogued more than 200 road-safety countermeasures based on our research of academic and corporate literature. This methodology is similar to the approach successfully used to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, address global and national water scarcity, incorporate adaptation measures into economic-development strategies, and deal with obesity and smoking reduction in public-health policy. By using a consistent methodology to evaluate all possible countermeasures, policy makers have a much clearer basis for budget-allocation decisions.


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**SOCIAL ISSUES**

**How social networks have facilitated entrepreneurial Somali spaza trade**

Rory Liedeman is in the final stages of submitting his Masters in Political Studies at the University of the Western Cape and has conducted an in-depth investigation of South African and Somali owned Spaza shops (informal retail outlets located in informal areas) in Delft South, Cape Town. Presented below is a summary of his research.

[The] work on spaza shops, and the informal economy within which it exists, builds upon baseline research already conducted by the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation in its FIME project that first commenced in Delft South and Eindhoven during December 2010. The study focused on an in-depth investigation into how spaza shop businesses operated in the Delft South township.

The major goal was to establish whether the advent of foreign run spaza businesses was due to a particular 'entrepreneurial' business model underwritten by relatively strong social networks.

The study focused primarily on South African and Somali owned spaza shops, as previous research indicates that these are the two major groups of spaza operators in the area, and aimed to investigate three key research questions:

1) Is there a shift in spaza ownership from South African to Somali shopkeepers in Delft South?
2) What are the different spaza business models in operation?
3) What is the significance of social networks or relationships to the success of these business models?

The core findings confirmed that a major shift has occurred in market share between South African and foreign owned spazas in Delft South, with ownership now favouring Somali businessmen, even within the last year. The research shows that change in ownership was a direct result of the emergence and use of a new, and more sophisticated, 'entrepreneurial' business model employed by foreign spaza operators, compared to the more 'survivalist' model used by South Africans. This business model was primarily based upon being price competitive and was made possible through collective procurement and distribution. However, an important factor in their success lies in the differential social networks that South African and Somali spaza owners were able to access in support of their business practices in Delft South.

Using an anthropologically influenced in-depth ethnographic case study approach, the research operationalizes the concept of 'business models' by exploring the establishment process, capital investment, stock procurement, business operation and mobile distribution to spaza shops. The study demonstrates how the socially richer and clan-based social networks of Somali shopkeepers enable a more entrepreneurial business model, whereas South Africans rely on a network limited to the immediate family and approach the spaza business as a supplementary livelihoods strategy.

In addition to deepening our understanding of competing business models and the social networks that underwrite...
them, this research also provides new insights into the instrumental use of both formality and informality by foreign business people; the significance of spatiality to the spaza economy through the concepts of ‘strongholds’ and ‘neighbourhood economies’; and previously unseen forms of spaza related business, principally around the mobile distribution of spaza stock to retailers in Delft South and surrounding areas. A full electronic version of the thesis will be available on the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation website by the end of March this year.


### Unemployed youth conduct door-to-door HIV/AIDS awareness

According to the South African Cities Network, thousands of lives will continue to be touched by the City of Johannesburg’s ‘IJozi lhlomile’ door-to-door HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, which was created in 2005 and currently operates in at least 26 townships. The program is run by ‘out-of-school’ youths who have been trained to go from door to door educating people about sexually transmitted diseases, how to prevent mother-to-child transmission and the importance of practicing safe sex. A grant to the amount of R5.59m (US $620 000) from the Provincial Department of Health will be allocated to the IJozi lhlomile campaign, which has already touched the lives of more than 2.4m people (including 10 000 AIDS orphans) in Johannesburg. See [here](http://www.joburg.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=649&Itemid=9) for background about this initiative.

### New academy ‘must set benchmark for healthcare management in SA’


Hospitals in South Africa face severe challenges such as staff constraints and fraud. The Eastern Cape health department lost R1.4bn (US $150 million) to fraud over the past three years, according to an audit report on the province’s hospitals, which was released at the [beginning of February](http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/health/2013/02/04/new-academy-must-set-benchmark-for-healthcare-management-in-sa).

Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi said at the launch of the academy that hospital CEOs were key to addressing these problems and that he expected that no person would become a hospital CEO or manager without first having attended the academy. The academy, which was announced in November, aims to equip hospital CEOs with the necessary expertise to run these institutions efficiently. A total of 102 CEOs were invited to take part in the orientation week.

Dr Motsoaledi said the academy was launched in response to a human resources report on health strategy, which proposed an institute for the leadership and management of South African hospitals. He said the Department of Health had to find strategic solutions to backlogs in the sector before pouring in financial resources.

“He would ordinarily ask for an increase to the health budget, but this does not always work. Even our 10-point plan (for the improvement of the health sector between 2010 and next year) starts with leadership, not with money,” Dr Motsoaledi said.

The academy — to be chaired by [Prof Marian Jacobs](http://www.bdlive.co.za/national/health/2013/02/04/new-academy-must-set-benchmark-for-healthcare-management-in-sa) of the University of Cape Town — will eventually set norms and standards in healthcare management and accredit courses, the minister said.

“The academy will be a virtual structure that will set standards and accredit programmes,” Prof Jacobs said. “It is important to note that we are not looking for CEOs to be empty vessels. This won’t be a sitting down and imparting of skills. These leaders have vast experience. We will combine their experience to have an exchange of ideas.”

She said the academy would play an important role in improving healthcare in South Africa. “In a week we hope to sit with the CEOs and find out what they want to get, as their needs will vary. Some may need to learn more about financing and other could utilise the networking opportunity this brings,” Prof Jacobs said.

Dr Motsoaledi said problems in South African hospitals often related to leadership and management, rather than staffing. “If your community complains that the quality of service and attitude to patients at your hospital is rotten, I take it as a reflection on the CEO and not the workers,” he said. “As the CEO you are the leader and should do something.”


A solid example of home-grown institutional strengthening and capacity building involving local resources. South Africa has realised that good leadership and management at institutions is a key component of a strong
The smoke from burning garbage is dense over Hulene. It is almost 40°C, and pearls of sweat are dripping from my forehead. A group of informal workers, four men and one woman, are staring at me as I approach.

Hulene is Maputo’s only landfill. About 800 tonnes of garbage is dumped here daily, overflowing the walls of the dump and spreading into the surrounding residential area. Informal garbage collectors, nearly 300 in total, are scavenging around broken glass, toxic flames and empty drinks cans. “We are here because we are poor”, says Augusto Enoque, one of the informal collectors.

Hulene is the result of decades of uncontrolled urbanisation. The protracted, 15-year civil war left the country’s infrastructure in ruins, and by the time of the Rome Peace Accords in 1992, Mozambique was one of the world’s poorest countries. Marco Correia, who has conducted research with regard to waste management in Hulene, explains that Maputo served as a safe-zone during the civil war.

“Of course, everyone wanted to be in the safe-zone”, [he relates] “People began to settle in the outskirts of the city, which resulted in a semi-urban zone around Maputo. There were no roads, no structures, no laws – just dirt, dirt and more dirt. It was an irregular urbanisation –and the government had no time to do anything about it.”

According to UNICEF, between 1970 and 1990 Mozambique’s annual urbanisation rate was 8.3%. This rate dropped to 5.7% between 1990 and 2010, and is projected to decrease to 3.8% over the next 20 years. By 2010, 38% of the population lived in urban areas, adding to an already congested urban waste management system.

Today, Hulene extends over an area of 17 hectares. According to Hafido Abacassamo, former director of waste management at the municipality, Hulene is the only solution at the moment.

“The landfill is causing major problems for the environment, such as toxic methane gas releases, fires, disease and security”, he says. “But it is a problem that the city needs. Without a place where you can dump the waste, the municipality cannot guarantee any waste collection at all!”

The dump lacks the resources needed for effective and sustainable waste management. Bulldozers even out the waste, and organic rubbish rots, while everything else grows into huge piles. This follows a continent-wide trend – a 2009 report (opens in pdf) by the Economic Commission for Africa notes that “poor waste management practices…aggravates the problems of generally low sanitation levels across the African continent”.

“It hurts to see”, Correia says. “The environmental degradation that is going on there is shocking. I am sure that the drainage system is very polluted, but no-one wanted to provide me with data.”

For the informal garbage collectors Augusto Enoque, Paulino Angelo, Augusto Fernando, Joaquim Alberto and Milegrosa Inacio, Hulene is the only source of income they know. All were born and raised in Hulene. “We used to come here and play when we were children. Now, we are looking for plastics, metals and glass, which can bring in some money.”

For 1kg they can get .03 MZN (about $0.10) and during a working day they can collect about 10kg. Work is not organised and cooperation is rare. “This is individual work”, says Inacio. “It is only about friendship, there is no team.”

So far, everyone still feels healthy, but the dump is a dangerous place. Violence is common, as are fires, and the heavily polluted air will eventually affect their health. And because of the work they do, many people discriminate against them. “They see you as a member of an inferior race”, says Alberto.

Solutions have been presented, both short- and long-term. But so far, state resources, know-how and willingness to invest in sustainable waste management have been lacking. And given that there are only six garbage trucks in Maputo, the solution must come from either the private sector or from the donor community. Marco refers to some small social entrepreneurs who did successfully engage in garbage collection. But in order to succeed in the long-term, it must be conducted on a larger scale and in a more formalised manner.

For private investors, Hulene is still not interesting. Correia describes the conundrum: “On the one hand, we produce more waste than we can handle. On the other hand, it is not enough to generate any kind of profit.”

The aim is to close Hulene in 2014 and open a new, more high-tech landfill in...
Matola. But few believe that the timetable will hold – there are simply not enough resources. Almost half the national budget comes from foreign aid, and education, healthcare and poverty reduction are the top priorities.

“No city in Mozambique can afford to fully finance waste management”, says Abacassamo. “The cost of a landfill is enormous, not to mention the investment that needs to be done in the process of garbage collection, handling and recycling.”

Closing the landfill would also have negative consequences for the more than 300 informal garbage collectors who earn their living there. Enoque and his friends are aware of the risk. “If it happens, we will find the new location and continue to work there to survive. Just like now”, he says.

The table shows how Hulene is more than an environmental problem. As in many other developing countries, factors like poverty, a lack of resources and know-how interact. “It is a social problem, a health problem, an urban management problem and a government problem”, says Correia. “Maputo recently celebrated 125 years as a city. That is 125 years of garbage.”

Source: http://thinkafricapress.com/mozambique/doing-down-dumps-maputo-mighty-municipal-landfill

**Will Mozambique’s coastal riches pay?**

Comprising over ten thousand square kilometres of ocean, the Primeiras and Segundas marine reserve became Africa’s largest coastal marine protection zone earlier this month. The waters around these two archipelagos join the modest yet ever expanding list of protected areas established off Mozambique’s coast since 2000.

Mozambique’s 2,500 km of coastline certainly has a fine array of natural wonders worth preserving for future generations. The Primeiras and Segundas themselves boast marine turtles, beautiful coral reefs unaffected by bleaching, and vast sea-grass beds essential to the livelihoods of wildlife and local communities. Elsewhere along the coast, sites have become world-renowned for large whale shark and manta ray populations as well as migratory routes for humpback whales. To cap it all off, the protected Bazaruto Archipelago hosts one of the last sustainable populations of dugongs (an ocean-going relative of the manatee) anywhere in the world.

However, arguably the most promising element of moves to protect its natural wonders is that over the last 12 years, Mozambican leaders have increasingly appreciated the connection between protecting its oceans and the economic viability of communities along the coastline and the country as a whole. Although environmental campaigners have not always trusted in the government’s commitment to environmental protection, the positive consequences of this growing perspective for ordinary Mozambicans could prove significant. Indeed, the Country Director for WWF-Mozambique, Florêncio Marerau, stressed that the decision to establish the marine reserve was “a great response to the appeal by local communities to help them protect their resources.”

One of the most conspicuous ways in which local communities have benefitted from marine conservation is through the ecotourism industry. Some have even proposed that the annihilation of Mozambique’s tourism during the civil war years has left the country with a uniquely clean slate from which to perfectly tailor their industry towards this voguish and distinctly global brand of tourism. With tourism revenues at $231 million in 2011 (an increase of 17.1% from 2010), it is an industry the government are understandably keen to foster.

But ecotourism is not the only way ordinary Mozambicans benefit from government-decreed marine reserves. With the chronic overexploitation of fishing stocks already a major problem, the reserves form part of the solution safeguarding vital local food supplies. Industrial-scale fishing by colossal Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Taiwanese trawlers has driven many local fishermen ever further from prime fish stocks.

“Protecting the rich natural resources of this magnificent area will make a major contribution to the long-term food security and livelihoods of the people of the region”, explained the WWF’s Global Marine Programme Director John Tanzer, in reference to the Primeiras and Segundas.

The shark-finning trade conducted off Mozambique’s shores is another corrosive practice that conservations wish to eradicate. All in all, the products of a whale shark carcasses resold in China can be worth up to $250,000 – the greatest prize being the huge dorsal fin. Despite only receiving a miniscule fraction of this cost, for Mozambican fishermen this seems an obvious way to make a living. Yet a WWF report has estimated that the value in tourist dollars of a live whale shark across its entire lifespan...
could be as high as $2 million. And of course that whale shark will produce offspring for the future. Naturally, it is hoped that governmental protection of these creatures and their habitat will help inform the population about the economic benefits they can bring.

But tourism holds the potential to be as destructive as it is beneficial. Simon Pierce, marine biologist and founding member of the Marine Megafauna Foundation, has voiced concerns about Tofo’s expansion. Although whale shark tourism can be extremely lucrative, he dreads a similar situation to resorts like Holbox Island in Mexico, where over 250 licensed whale shark tour operators clumsily vie for tourists’ attention.

Source: http://thinkafricapress.com mozambique/mozambique-coastal-riches

Clearly a situation that holds much potential for marine resources as well as the local population -- as long as it is well-managed -- once more highlighting the importance of (inclusive) institutional capacity and functioning regulatory regime. See here for more background on this particular case:
http://www.mynatour.org/destination/ecotourism-mozambique

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See here http://pecs.sv.internetborder.se/research/projects/sapecs.4.5a50a14e13b8170388122.html for details about the Southern African Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (SAPECS) which is being developed as a trans-disciplinary regional research program that aims to advance stewardship of social-ecological systems and ecosystem services in southern Africa. Its main goal is to produce a body of empirical evidence and develop innovative, practical theory and tools to improve understanding of social-ecological systems and ecosystem services in the region and developing country contexts. In order to have a tangible effect change in the governance and management of social-ecological systems in the region SAPECS will actively work to mainstream knowledge into policy and practice, and incorporate experiences from policy and practice into the programs scientific understanding. A long-term goal is to facilitate the growth of a the community of practice, including researchers, students and practitioners engaged in research and management of social-ecological systems and ecosystem services in the southern African region.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

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*A blog post by Danny Sriskandarajah*

What do you get when you put a veteran of the anti-Apartheid struggle in a room with some young digital activists? A creative tension that will have profound implications for the future of civil society.

This week I went to a workshop in central Johannesburg hosted by Jay Naidoo, the former South African trade unionist and minister. Jay had brought together a bunch of web developers and self-proclaimed ‘geeks’, who were using new technologies to open up government and empower citizens, with folks from organisations such as Section 27 and Equal Education, NGOs that have a solid history of campaigning on social justice.

The encounter reminded me of the possibilities that new media opens up for civil society, but also the potential pitfalls of relationships between two different communities.

The promise is clear. Initiatives like Africa Open Data and Mojo are creating new resources for opening up official institutions and giving citizens the information they need to hold governments to account. New technologies are lowering barriers to entry for social activism (these days, a mobile is all you need to mobilise), allowing NGOs to scale up their activities and putting power back into the hands of people.

But the tensions are also clear. Many digital natives find the institutionalised nature of much of civil society anachronistic, and the idea of committing almost religiously to one cause sits uneasily with the contemporary desire and ability to pick and choose campaigns. Old social movements sought to unite communities of interest; contemporary activists rely on hyper-personalisation. Many of us used to see the world through a Marxist or feminist lens; the geeks will be using Google Glass.

On the flip side, there are worries of shallow ‘clicktivism’, of being supply- and elite-driven, of being slaves to the tool, of failing to tackle structural injustice, and so on. The worry is that online activity needs to be supported by offline action to empower communities, and this in turn requires old-school organising and at least some institutionalised structures.
How we resolve these tensions will shape what citizen action and civil society will look like in coming years. The ‘handshake’ between traditional and new forms of social activism is crucial. How well will established NGOs and social movements learn to harness cutting-edge technologies? How well will the new generation of social activists learn the lessons of past struggles and ensure that the changes they want in the world are seen through and result in genuine political empowerment?

I left the workshop thinking that South Africa, with its old generation of lefty liberationists and a new generation of clever coders, with lots of new tech but with plenty of entrenched socio-economic problems, is the perfect crucible for old struggles melding with new media. Watch this space.

Source: [http://blogs.civicus.org/civicus/2013/02/15/click-here-for-socialjustice/#more-1469](http://blogs.civicus.org/civicus/2013/02/15/click-here-for-socialjustice/#more-1469)

**Injection-free vaccination**

In a news post published [on 5 February] King’s College London announced that their scientists have successfully "demonstrated the ability to deliver a dried live vaccine to the skin without a traditional needle". This research, and an injection-free vaccination, could be instrumental in the development of vaccines for HIV, malaria and tuberculosis.

The tiny disc, shown above, has several sugar micro-needles that dissolve when pressed into the skin. Compared to a traditional hypodermic needle, this method is a potentially painless alternative.

The main buzz about this discovery and the injection-free vaccination is that it may open up these live vaccines to the entire world. Furthermore, there is no need for refrigeration and the potential to reduce the cost of manufacturing and transportation is huge. This method also avoids the risk of transmitting blood-borne disease from contaminated needles and syringes. Overall, this method signifies a huge advance in delivering vaccines for HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis.