



**Centre for Sustainable
International Development**



**UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN**

The role of Science in HIV prevention British Science Festival, Aberdeen

7th September 2012

www.abdn.ac.uk/sustainable-international-development

Overview

1. Contribution of science to HIV reduction
2. Skills researchers need to work in international development
3. What the University of Aberdeen is doing

Contribution of science to HIV reduction

- What has science contributed to HIV prevention?
- How has capacity been built?
- What has been the impact?

What has science contributed?

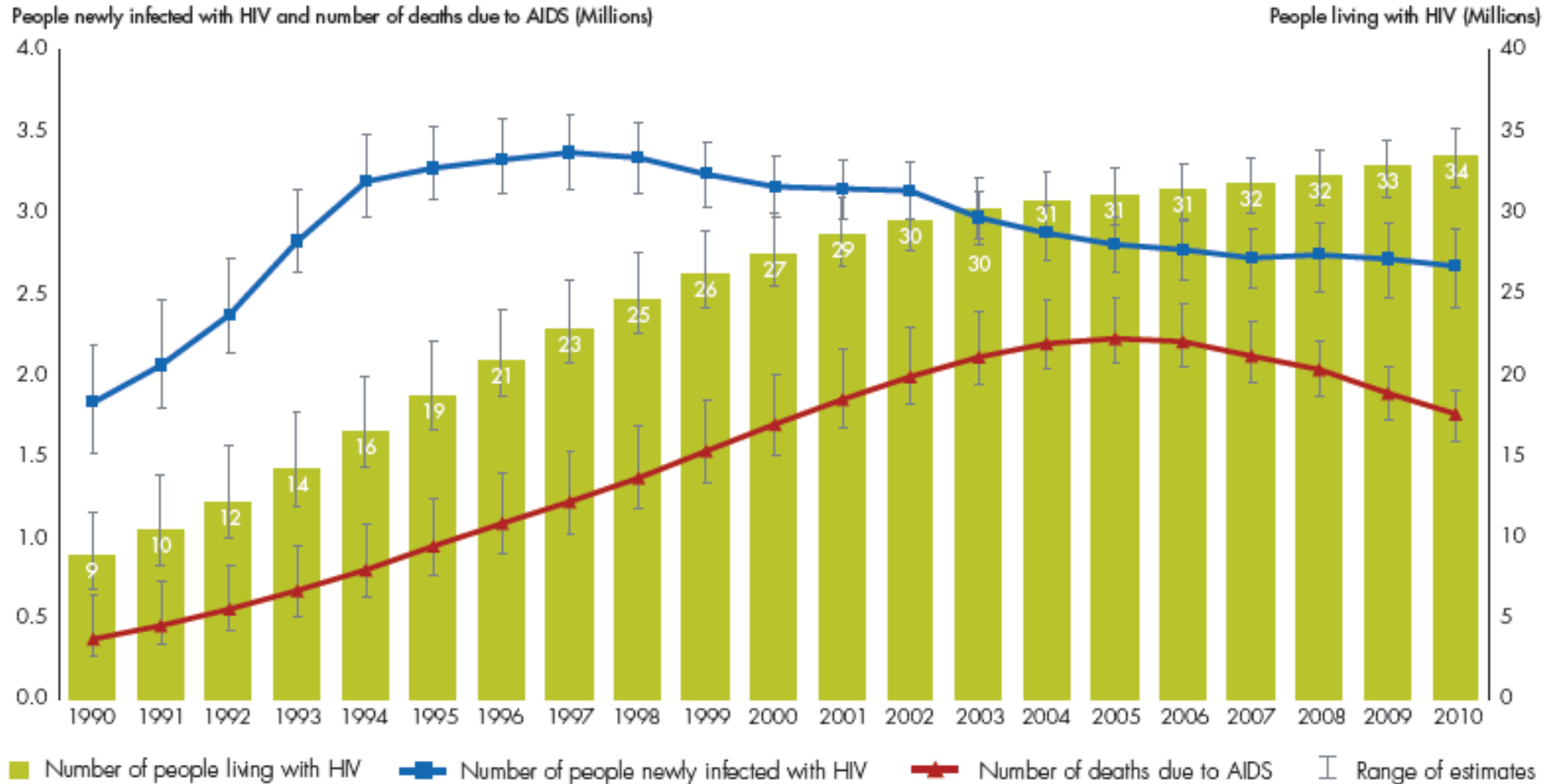
- Evidence base - epidemiology
- Behaviour change – social science
- Female condom
- Antiretroviral therapy
- Pre and post exposure prophylaxis
- Vaccine trials
- Microbicides

Capacity building

- Individual researchers from the South
- Alliances, Coalitions, networks
 - Global Coalition on Women & AIDS
 - International HIV/AIDS Alliance
 - Network of African People Living with HIV and AIDS (NAP+)
- Partnerships – public private, north-south
 - International Partnership against AIDS in Africa
 - African AIDS Vaccine Programme (AAVP)
 - African Broadcast Media Partnership Against HIV/AIDS (ABMP)

What has been the impact?

Number of people living with HIV, number of people newly infected with HIV and number of AIDS deaths in the world (Millions), 1990-2010





“Science can help stop the disease, but science alone cannot stop the disease.”

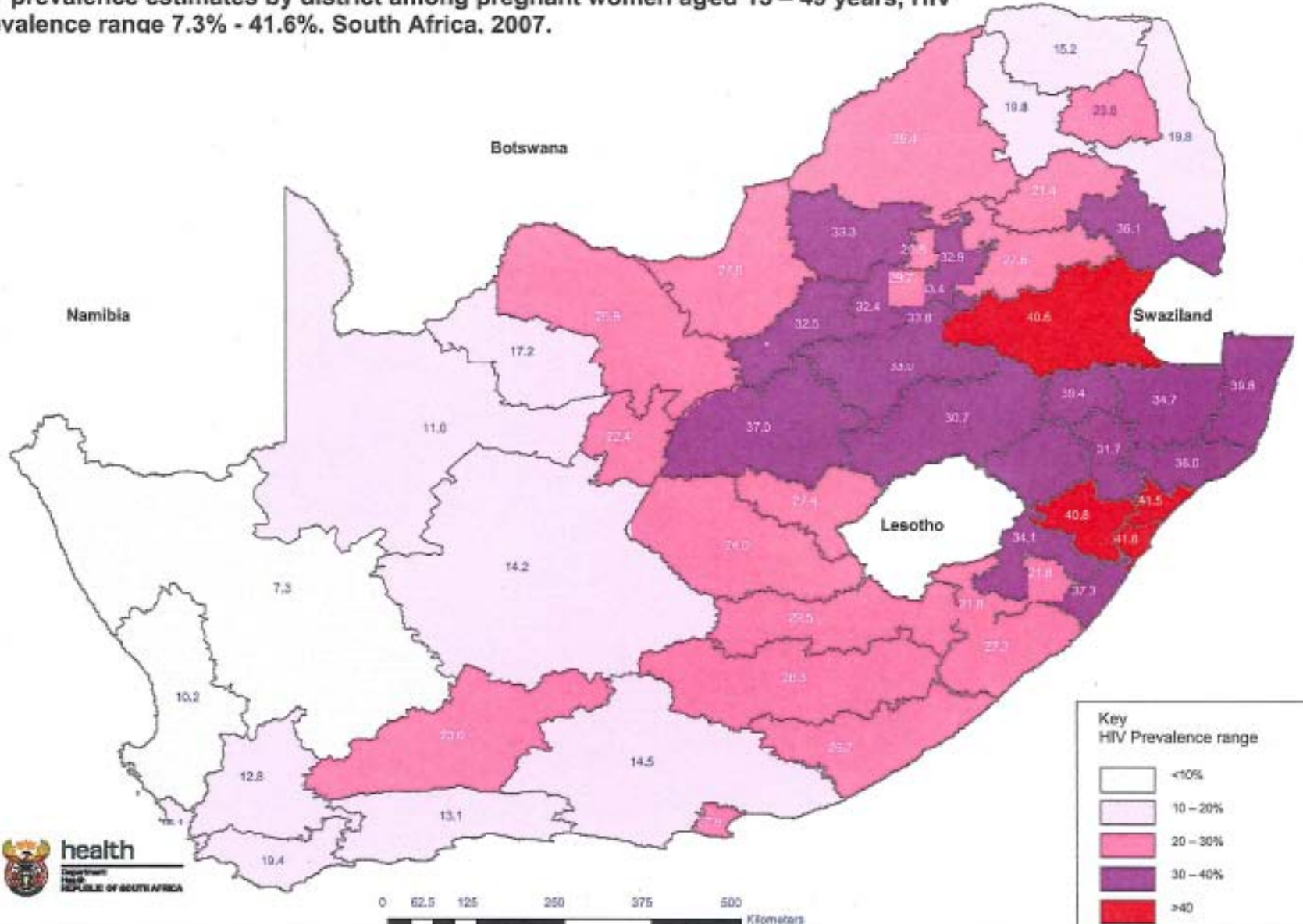
Elton John, World AIDS Conference,
Washington, 23 July 2012

Other factors

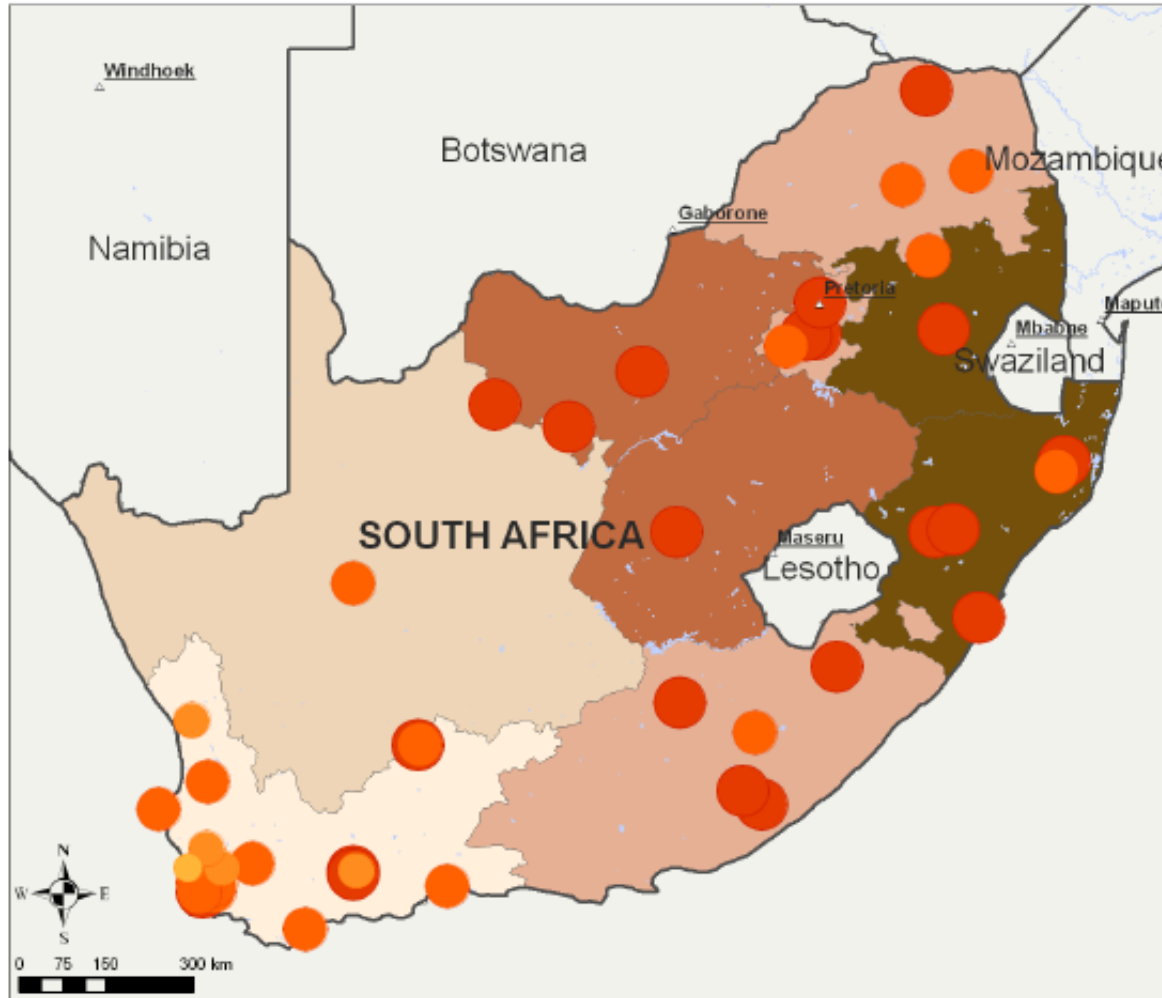
- Political commitment – Senegal, Uganda vs. South Africa
- Not only a disease – part of the development agenda
- Changes in policy – human rights approach
- Unequal access to the benefits of science
- Social exclusion, stigma & discrimination, gender inequalities remain critical
- Commitment & funds to reach hard to reach

Differences within country

HIV prevalence estimates by district among pregnant women aged 15 – 49 years, HIV prevalence range 7.3% - 41.6%. South Africa, 2007.



Differences within country



HIV sentinel surveillance in pregnant women, 2004–2008

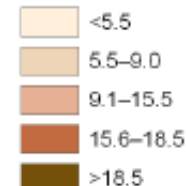
HIV prevalence (%)



△ Cities and towns

Sub-national HIV prevalence, 2008

Prevalence among 15–49 years old (%)

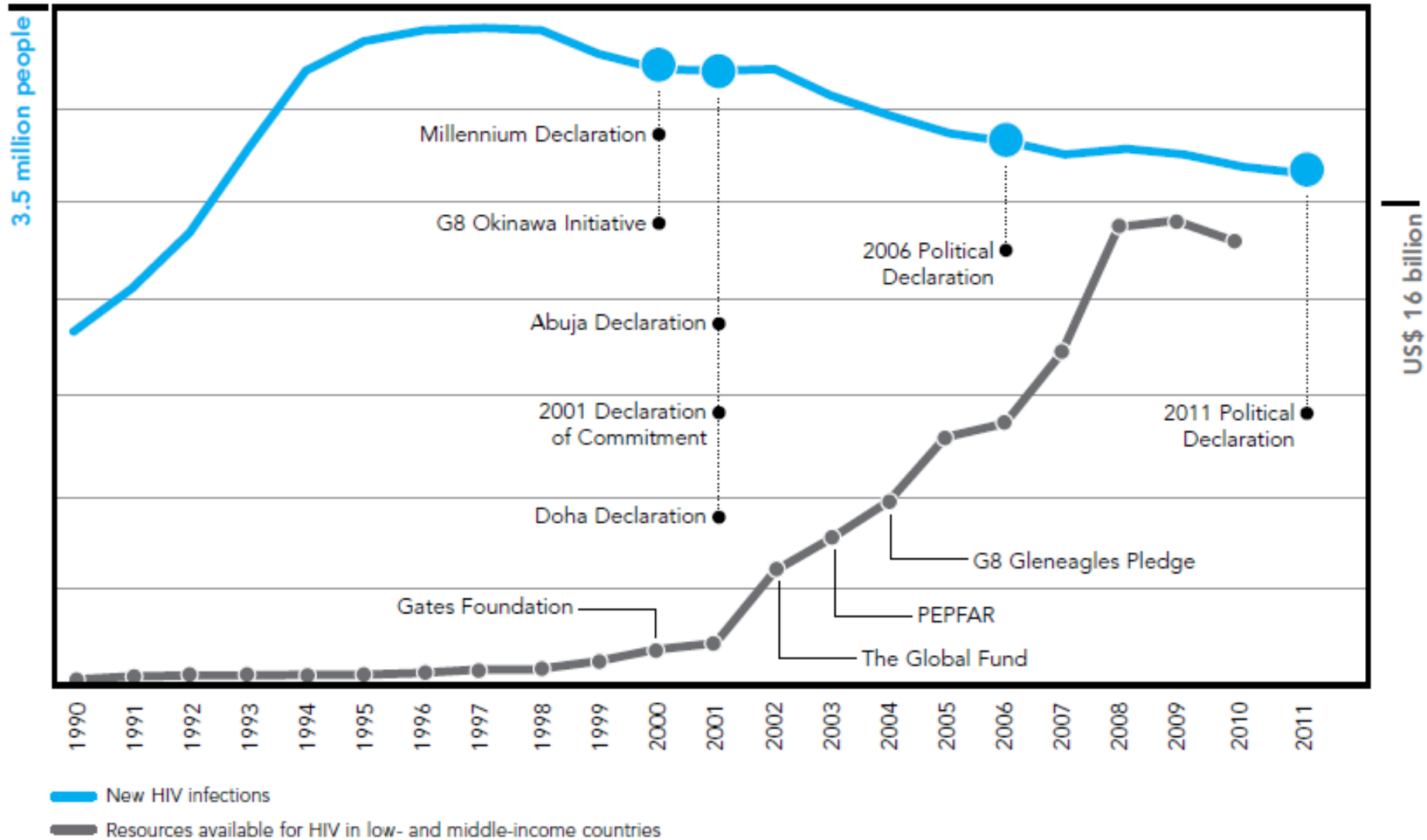


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Map production: Public Health Information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), WHO.

Data source: UNAIDS, WHO, CIESIN/FAO/CIAT, DCW, GeoNames, USCB, Shisana O, Rehle T, Simbayi LC, Zuma K, Jooste S, Pillay-van-Wyk V, Mbelle N, Van Zyl J, Parker W, Zungu NP, Pezi S & the SABSSM III Implementation Team (2009) South African national HIV prevalence, incidence, behaviour and communication survey 2008: A turning tide among teenagers? Cape Town: HSRC Press.

HIV and resources



Skills researchers need to work in international development

Research mindset

- Human beings do not behave in a vacuum
- Recognising complexity – wicked problems
- Single magic bullets do not work – interdisciplinary & integrated approach
- Thinking outside the box
- Team work in a transdisciplinary manner
- Commitment to:
 - sustainable development & achievement of MDGs
 - equity
 - empowerment of women & girls
 - needs of socially excluded populations

Focus on

- Politics
- Networking
- Context - Local solutions - listening
- Capacity building & sustainable development
- Partnerships with academia, government, private sector, civil society
- Advocacy & dissemination

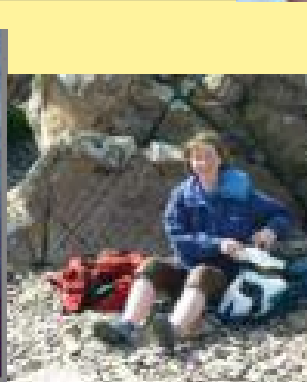
What the University of Aberdeen is doing

- Creation of Centre for Sustainable International Development
- The Centre's **vision** is to add value to existing work in international development through creating inter-disciplinary synergies between individual researchers and groups/Centres within the University and institutional partnerships in the UK and developing countries.

Interdisciplinary teaching & learning

- Cross College seminars in international development
- Undergraduate interdisciplinary course in Sustainable International Development focusing on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – creating “Global citizens”

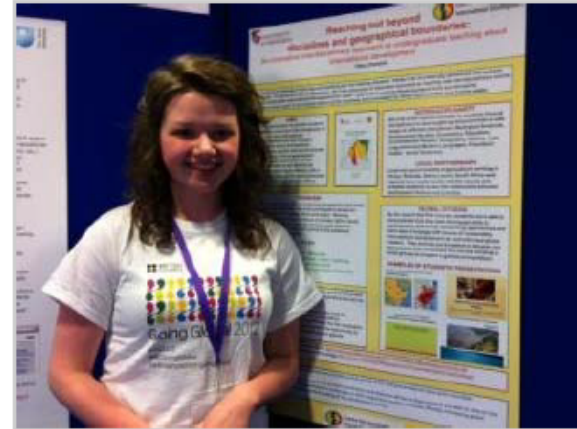
Staff teaching on course



Students' work showcased at global education conference in London

Students taking one of the new Sixth Century Courses as part of the University's curriculum reform presented their work last week to an international audience in London as part of the British Council's Going Global conference.

Three University of Aberdeen students: Claire Arnott (Education), Sharri Holroyd (Education and International Relations), and Valeria Pini (Politics and International Relations) took part in the London conference. Both Claire and Valeria are volunteers for the University of Aberdeen Centre for Sustainable International Development and Claire's group presentation was one of those being shown at the conference. Helping the students present their work was the Centre's Director, Dr Hilary Homans.



Last September over 100 students from across the University enrolled on the innovative twelve-week interdisciplinary course on *Sustainable International Development* run as part of curriculum reform at the University and coordinated by the Centre for Sustainable International Development.

The course aimed to provide students with an overview of the complexity of sustainable international development and the linkages between social development, economic growth and environmental protection. This was approached through an examination of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with a specific focus on the least developed countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The course was available to students from all disciplines and was taught by lecturers from a wide range of different disciplines (Biological Sciences, Development Studies, Economics, Education, Environmental Studies, Geography, History, Law, Linguistics and Modern Languages, Population Health, Social Sciences). As well as inputs from a range of disciplines, students also learned from films and novels from the region and from the experiences of Aberdeen-based non-governmental organisations working in Kenya, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uganda. Staff from these NGOs made inputs into the course and enabled students to see the relationship between development theory and practice.

By the end of the first course, students could show that they had developed skills in participatory and social networking approaches and were able to engage with issues of sustainable international development as well-informed global citizens. They actively participated in debates and discussions and completed the course working in small groups to prepare graded presentations.

Context matters



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African Film Series

Every Tuesday at 6 pm @ New King's 6

25 th September	Black Gold (Ethiopia, 2006)78min
2 nd October	Cry Freedom (South Africa, 1987)157 min
9 th October	Neria (Zimbabwe, 1993) 103 min
16 th October	Skin (South Africa,2008) 107 min
23 rd October	Moolaade (Senegal, 2004) 120 min
30 th October	Welcome to Lagos (Nigeria,2010) 60min
6 th November	Sometimes in April (Rwanda, 2005) 140 min
13 th November	Yesterday (South Africa,2004) 96 min
20 th November	Darwin's nightmare (Austria, 2004) 107 min
27 th November	Constant Gardener (Great Britain,2005) 129 min
4 th December	Sugata Mitra Children's self-organization of learning & Annie Lennox visit to Malawi

Capacity building

- Providing opportunities to learn skills:
 - whilst at University
 - Volunteers
 - Attendance at training events
 - Participation in conferences
 - with local NGOs working in developing countries
 - through Internships & volunteering overseas

Volunteers

- <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sustainable-international-development/people/volunteers-/>

Training in public speaking



Training in events management

- <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sustainable-international-development/news/641/>

“CSID volunteers attract 350 participants to International Development week (28th February to 4th March 2011).

Volunteers from the Centre for Sustainable International Development (Laura Alvarez Giles and Devon Harkins) worked closely with Student Union Associations to put on a programme of activities that attracted 350 participants”.

Training in logical frameworks



Attendance at NGO events




Attendance at conferences

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sustainable-international-development/news/899/>

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sustainable-international-development/news/1007/>

Three CSID representatives attend Scotland Malawi Partnership Event | Centre for Sustainable International Development | The University of Aberdeen


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 01 November 2011

Three CSID representatives attend Scotland Malawi Partnership Event

'Gender equality and female empowerment'
Edinburgh City Chambers

Members of CSID, Heather Morgan, Eze Nwosu and Susanna Kujanpaa, attended the 'Gender Equality and Female Empowerment' one-day conference, organised by the Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP) and held at the Edinburgh City Chambers, on Tuesday 1 November. The programme began with opening remarks by Susan Dalgety of SMP, while the guest speakers were introduced by Karen Gillon, also of SMP and a former MSP (Member of the Scottish Parliament).





Recognition for skills

- <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sustainable-international-development/news/808/>

Internships



Benin

➔ Brasilia, Brazil

Bulgaria



➔ Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Scottish Malawi Partnership,
Edinburgh



➔ Geneva, Switzerland

Cape Town, South Africa

Tawesa, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



**Thank you for your
attention**