

# The changing landscape of international development in Aotearoa / New Zealand

Andrew McGregor, John Overton, Ed Challies  
School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington

# power in the north

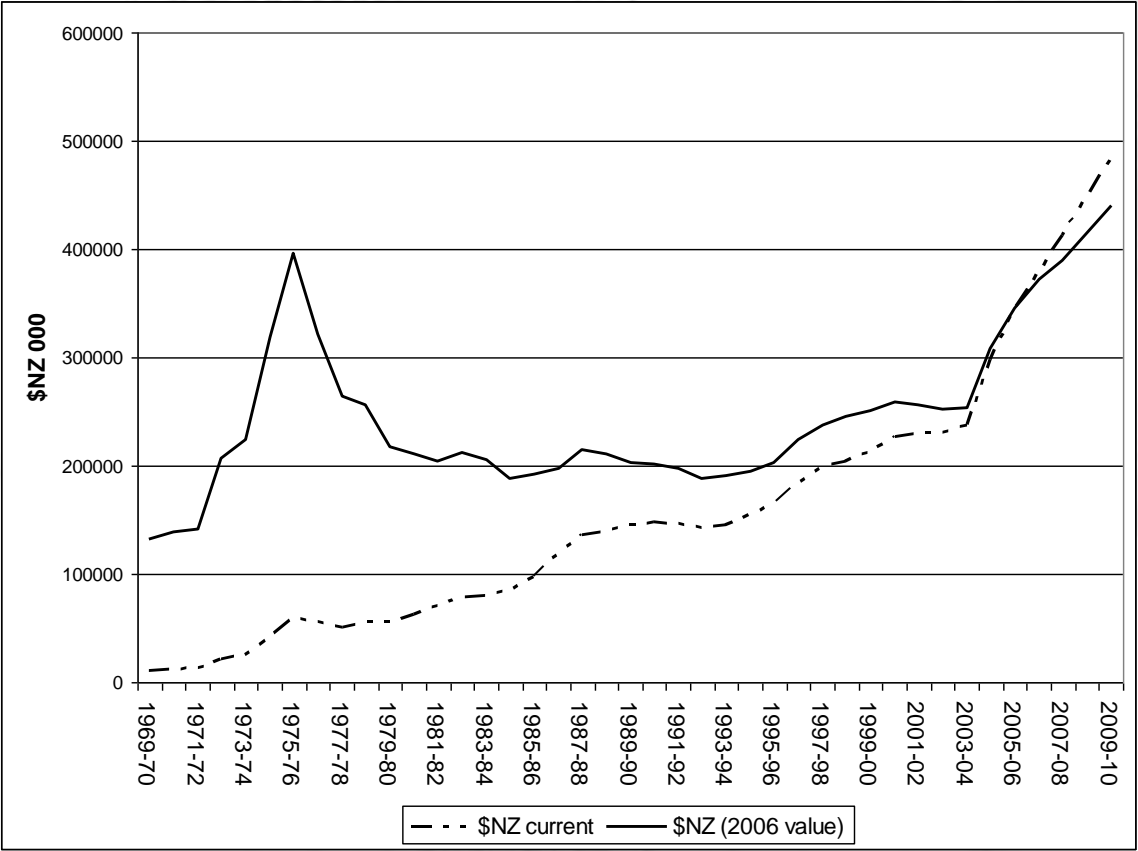
- What does the recent restructuring of NZ ODA reveal about power and resistance in northern development communities?
- Forms of power
  - Instrumental
  - Discursive
  - Networked



**instrumental power**



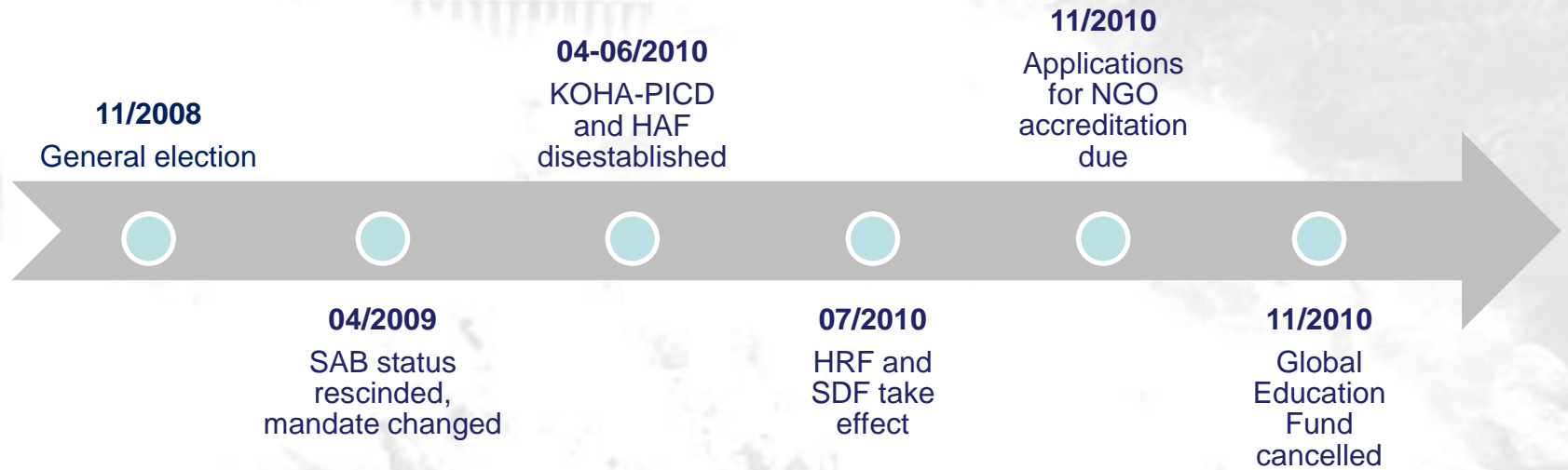
# NZ aid through time



Source: Banks, G; W E Murray; J Overton and R Scheyvens. (Forthcoming)

# Restructuring NZ aid, 2008-2010

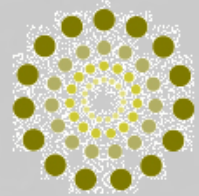
key decisions, announcements and changes



CiD



global focus  
AOTEAROA



DEVELOPMENT  
NETWORK





**discursive power**



# Public arenas

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## poverty alleviation / NZAID

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“nebulous” / “lofty rhetoric” [MDGs] / “mantra” / “too lazy and incoherent a guide”

“so-called development experts”  
“faceless, unelected, unaccountable, aid bureaucrats”

“unacceptable level of ticket-clipping” / “siphoned off”

“mistaking activity for achievement”

“done little to build sustainable economies providing employment prospects and the promise of a brighter future”

“throwing money at regional NGO bureaucracies for little apparent reward... is frankly absurd”

“You could ride around in a helicopter pushing hundred-dollar notes out the door and call that poverty elimination”

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## sustainable economic development / MFAT

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“a logical, sensible framework” / “absolutely clear” / “more detailed mandate” / “clear focus”

“elected office-holders... held to account at the ballot box”

“taxpayers are entitled to hold someone to account”

“proper accountability mechanisms”

“being truly effective within our own Pacific region” / “objective measures like trade and tourism statistics as the indicators of success or failure over time”

“[investment] in long-term economic sustainability”  
“a step change in our level of engagement”

“prioritise the services that are the building blocks for sustainable economic growth” [airlines, shipping, tourism]

“a hand up, not a hand out” / “efficient, effective expenditure” / “must demonstrate value for money”

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Clearly, the New Zealand Aid Programme is not primarily responsible for these outcomes or for progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (see opposite). However, the data forms a starting point for a high-level consideration of progress being made towards the development outcomes New Zealand (and partner governments, other donors and partners) is pursuing.

PROGRAMME	FORECAST GROWTH RATE OF GDP 2010	CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE 2009 (% OF GDP)	EASE OF DOING BUSINESS RANKING 2010 (LOW NUMBERS BETTER)
Cook Islands	1.0	4.7	n.a.
Samoa	0.5	-14.4	57
Tonga	0.4	-12.9	52
Tuvalu	1.6	n.a.	n.a.
Papua New Guinea	5.5	-5.1	102
Solomon Islands	2.0	-20.0	104
Vanuatu	4.6	-3.7	59
Kiribati	0.8	-43.6	79
Fiji	-0.5	-8.7	54
Indonesia	5.5	2.0	122
Viet Nam	6.5	-7.4	93
Timor Leste	7.0	297.0	164
Cambodia	4.5	-10.7	145
Philippines	3.8	5.3	144
Laos	7.0	-11.8	167

n.a. = data not available

<sup>2</sup> The Statement of Intent 2009-12 identified both "high-level" and "intermediate-level" economic indicators to report on. In the 2010 budget process, as part of ongoing improvement of the performance framework for the New Zealand Aid Programme, it was decided to focus on a smaller number of indicators.

# New guidelines and criteria

Sustainable economic development recognises that reducing poverty is critical for full economic growth and trade, and vice versa.

## Eligible Activities

In order to be considered for funding through the SDF, activities must:

- Be consistent with the New Zealand Government's aid policy and priorities
- Be results focussed

### Focus areas

The overall purpose of the SDF is to fund sustainable development activities with a focus on creating and contributing to sustainable economic development, particularly sustainable economic growth.

## ANNEX 2: SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed under the following headings:

### Relevance

Relevance is the extent to which the objectives of a development intervention are consistent with beneficiaries' requirements, country needs, global priorities and partners' and donors' policies.

# New guidelines and criteria

## New Zealand Organisation Identity and Structure (C – Form 1A)

	Criterion	Examples of Indicators
C1	<p>The organisation has Charities Commission registration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration number and listing on the Charities Commission web site</li> </ul>
D3	<p>NZ organisation has a demonstrated record of undertaking aid Activities consistent with the approaches of the New Zealand government's overseas aid programme.</p> <p>This criterion seeks to establish that the NZ organisation has implemented activities over at least the last two years which have achieved demonstrable international development outcomes.</p> <p>The NZ organisation must demonstrate that it understands the purpose of the New Zealand government's aid program, in particular poverty reduction and sustainable development, and can demonstrate similar objectives in their Activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrated track record over at least two years of successfully managing activities which have achieved demonstrable international development outcomes. This may include experience in managing own funding or New Zealand government funds.</li> <li>• Evidence that implementing partners are able to deliver effective international development outcomes.</li> <li>• Evidence of support for Activities in geographic areas and sectors consistent with focus of the New Zealand government's aid programme.</li> </ul>



**responses**



# Resistance

## - Discursive resistance - media releases / submissions

“Best practice development does not have an exclusive economic driver as do the new [HRF and SDF] schemes...” (03/09/2010).

“[New Zealand must support work] to eradicate poverty, strengthen global relationships at a remove from political fads and favourites” (03/09/2010).

“Diplomats and Foreign Affairs staff will not have the capacity and the skills to drive aid in the most effective way” (16/03/2009).

“We will seek to adapt to whatever new government arrangements are announced, provided it doesn't compromise the integrity and true value of our and our partners' work...” (28/05/2010)

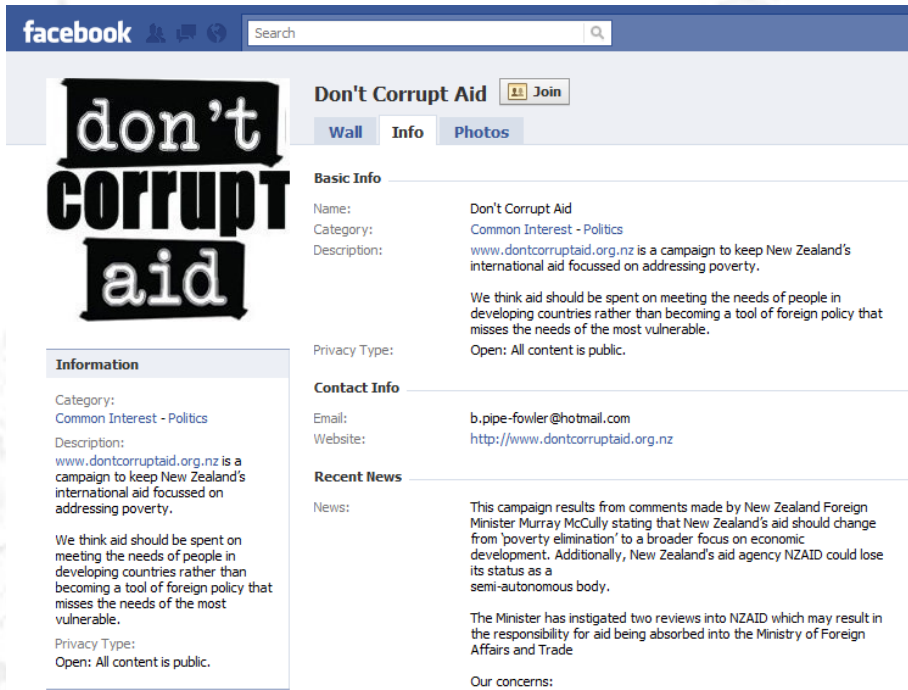
“[ODA] will be cut back or restructured to only those programs that have a visible economic kickback for New Zealand” (n.d.)

“This is not the time to make aid a political tool or to abandon the aim of poverty reduction. Aid should be for the benefit of the poor” (13/03/2009).

“We are concerned that changes over time will allow the Minister and MFAT staff to use aid funds for New Zealand's self-interest rather than the interests of those who need our assistance” (01/05/2009).

# Resistance

- Networked resistance – ‘Don’t Corrupt Aid’ campaign / internet / protests / multi-party summit & communiqué



The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook page for 'Don't Corrupt Aid'. The page header includes the Facebook logo, a search bar, and the page name 'Don't Corrupt Aid' with a 'Join' button. Below the header are tabs for 'Wall', 'Info', and 'Photos'. The 'Info' tab is selected, showing the following details:

- Basic Info**
  - Name: Don't Corrupt Aid
  - Category: Common Interest - Politics
  - Description: www.dontcorruptaid.org.nz is a campaign to keep New Zealand's international aid focussed on addressing poverty.
  - Privacy Type: Open: All content is public.
- Contact Info**
  - Email: b.pipe-fowler@hotmail.com
  - Website: http://www.dontcorruptaid.org.nz
- Recent News**
  - News: This campaign results from comments made by New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully stating that New Zealand's aid should change from 'poverty elimination' to a broader focus on economic development. Additionally, New Zealand's aid agency NZAID could lose its status as a semi-autonomous body.
  - The Minister has instigated two reviews into NZAID which may result in the responsibility for aid being absorbed into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
  - Our concerns:

On the left side of the page, there is a large graphic with the text 'don't corrupt aid' in a stylized font. Below this graphic is an 'Information' section with the following text:

Category: Common Interest - Politics  
Description: www.dontcorruptaid.org.nz is a campaign to keep New Zealand's international aid focussed on addressing poverty.  
We think aid should be spent on meeting the needs of people in developing countries rather than becoming a tool of foreign policy that misses the needs of the most vulnerable.  
Privacy Type: Open: All content is public.



## **Incorporation**

- Internal - policies, staffing, accreditation
- Institutional - contractor roles
- Partnerships - new geographic focus?

**Silence...**





# why not a stronger response?

Barriers:

<b>Instrumental</b>	<b>Discursive</b>	<b>Networked</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Risk to funding</li><li>- Risk to charitable status</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Access to media</li><li>-PR capacity</li><li>-Self-silencing</li><li>-Debate pre-framed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Lack of experience</li><li>- Competition v collaboration</li><li>- Governance structures</li><li>- Culture of NZ / Western publics</li></ul>

# brave new worlds?

## New opportunities and possibilities?

### -Instrumental opportunities

- Non-government funding

### -Discursive power

- NGO / academic reputations
- **Non**-governmental organisations

### -Networked power

- Overcoming coordination gaps?
- Collective voices
- Waking the “Sleeping Giant” (Wood 2010)