

Wheels Within Wheels

A Film Project



Tangled up in development:
Dialectic of the European effort for development
cooperation in Africa

Synopsis

worked out by:

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Student of geography

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In October 2008 Andreas Drews and Martin Schumacher will start to a six-month bicycle trip to Africa to shoot a documentary about the self-conception of development cooperation. In this documentary the different ideas of development cooperation will be compared.

In the following we shortly describe our motivation, the content and a few aspects of the realization of our film project.

1. Motivation

The idea of exploring Africa by bike – the continent which the fewest Europeans travel to and which is opened for tourism only in few areas yet – has fascinated us as well as experiencing the changes of culture and landscape on a trip along the degrees of longitude.

The landscape there is so varied and wide that you have to take your time to explore it.

This thought has been refined by a couple of influences:

- During studies of geography the arid areas of the earth, especially Africa, have been subjects of courses as well as the topic aid to developing countries
- During studies of micro system engineering and while working for the “Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy” certain aspects of regenerative powers and possibilities of their application in areas with lower infrastructural development have been discussed
- Possibilities for engaging in aid to developing countries as a Geographer or Engineer have been repeatedly mentioned

These influences initiated the idea of developing an own project on the topic of aid to developing countries. In this context a documentary in which African inhabitants are given a voice seemed to be the best method for attaining an effect; more suitable than collaborating in some project for some weeks with the feeling of not being really needed or even just being European signboard.

2. Wheels Within Wheels – a Film Project

Europeans have been present in the history of Africa as travellers for a long period of time. Colonisation, the evoking commercial relations and the globalisation of today have connected especially the younger history of African countries with the history of our European society. Generally the opinion of a poor, warlike and underdeveloped continent dominates. But you are talking about countries that you mostly never will visit and which you are seldom really thinking about.

By deliberate renouncement of the usual comfort and expensive possibilities of traveling we hope to achieve a closer and more personal contact with the local inhabitants and a more intensive and open communication. We take our time of a couple of months now to get to know the landscapes and people of Eastern Africa and to observe how the involvement of smaller NGOs (Non Government Organizations) and other projects have an effect on today's Africa. We want to learn about the destinations of aid, the motives of the giving and the requirements and interests of the receiving and illuminate these aspects by the following questions:

- How and where is aid to developing countries suitable?
- What do donors of aid expect and what does that aid actually achieve in the country of destination
- Which expectations and requirements do the receivers have?
- Which models of aid are there and how do they develop?
- Where did aid succeed; where did it fail? How did this happen?

In Germany which is an exemplary donor country we will interview collaborators of NGOs and governmental institutions for aid; in Africa we will interview persons who directly benefit from aid or are involved in its organization or financial management. The NGO "Ingenieure ohne Grenzen" (engineers without borders) from Freiburg i.Br., Germany will be in the center of attention of the documentary since the members of this young organization founded in February 2008 are currently facing abovementioned questions. For successful aid to developing countries it is crucial to choose suitable means and ways of communication as well as to find a common level of communication to avoid misunderstandings and make the restricted means of aid as efficient as possible.

We don't pretend to be able to come up with fundamentally new discoveries, a general solution for problems of development aid or even a magic formula to understand the African mentality. Based on our special circumstances of traveling and our impartiality our aim is rather to develop a new and interesting view upon the topic of aid to development countries.

3. Aim of the project / The projects aim

The aims of the project are two different aspects:

Firstly we will make a documentary out of the existing film material after our return to Germany. This documentary will be shown to an audience that has no insider information about the problems of aid to developing countries but a certain interest in this topic.

The people receiving the aid shall be given a voice to encourage a conscious and purposeful approach to this topic.

Secondly the documentary will be a representation of the NGO "Ingenieure ohne Grenzen" (engineers without borders) to give an insight into this organization and their work to interested people. The documentary will be shown in smaller regional circles solely but also embedded in presentations and travelogues. If the documentary gains enough attention we want to make it accessible to a wider audience. We also take into consideration TV broadcast.

On the other hand the gathered information and experience by making the documentary will be at the NGO's disposal to make future projects more efficient in terms of planning and communication with responsible conductors in the developing areas etc.

As a result the gathered experience shall be a basis for eventually following projects and further cooperation with the NGO "engineers without borders".

4. The team

Our team consists of: Martin Schumacher, Andreas Drews, Vivian Schüler and Hannes Rackow. The preparation and post processing will be conducted conjointly. During the trip Vivian Schüler and Hannes Rackow will support the project from Germany.

Martin Schumacher:

Date of birth: 09.01.1984, Freiburg i.Br.
Residence: Dresden
Education: Student of Geography, diploma, semester 8
Former bicycle trips: 2003: North-, Middle- and Southern Europe
2006: The Balkans, Greece

Martin Schumacher is has been working as a bike messenger in Dresden since December 2008.

Andreas Drews:

Date of birth: 06.06.1984, Freiburg i.Br.
Residence: Friburg i.Br.
Education: Student of Micro System Technologies, diploma, semester 8
bicycle trips: North-, Middle- and Southern Europe in 2003
The Balkans and Greece in 2006

Andreas Drews has been collaborating in the NGO "Engineers without borders" in Freiburg since the beginning of 2008. This organization is specialised in working in the field of renewable energies.

Furthermore, Andreas is dealing with this field within his studies as well as in his part-time job (Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy since April 2005).

Vivian Schüler:

Date of birth: 24.07.1981, Friburg i.Br.
Residence: Berlin
Education: Graduate Geographer

In 2006 Vivian Schüler made a documentary about Ghanaian villagers, who are threatened by mining industries. Currently he is working on a documentary about the change of the use of land in Mozambique.

Hannes Rackow:

Date of birth: 15.06. 1983, Rostock
Residence: Dresden
Education: Graduate Audio Engineer SAE Leipzig

Hannes Rackow has been working in the field of audio and studio engineering since 2000.

5. Realization

5.1 Route with project places

The planned route leads via Italy, the Mediterranean Sea to Tunisia, then in eastern direction to Egypt and from there on southwards to Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. Our destination is an established relief project in South-Tanzania with which the "Engineers without borders" already are in contact. On the way there, we want to visit further projects. Contacts already exist and will develop during the trip.

- The infirmary and education project „Kiuma“, Tunduru District, Tanszania (IngoG)
- The cistern project "Water tanks for Tanzania", Kagera Tanzania (IngoG)
- Project "Small-scale Digester for Tanzania", Kagera Tanzania (IngoG)
- Cistern project "Cisterns for Laikipia", Laikipia Kenya (IngoG)
- Bridge building project "Bridges for and there for into the Third World" Highlands of Kenya (IngoG)
- A infirmary project in Jimma, Ethiopia

- Projects of the organisation „Solace Abessinia“ in Ethiopia
- Special projects of the Association for Technical Cooperation (GTZ)



Journey:

Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania

Way back:

The way back is held open deliberately in order to have more possibilities.

5.2 Film technology

The film equipment will be carried on our bikes during the whole trip. The energy supply will be ensured by a grid-independent solar system – with which we will be equipped by the company Phocos (for more information visit www.phocos.com).

The recorded footage will be sent back to Germany via secure routes. There Vivian Schüler will receive it and look through it.

5.3 Scheduling and wrap-up within the team

Both within the scheduling and the wrap-up, for example cutting the footage, Vivian Schüler and Hannes Rackow will bring in their experiences and their skills:

- access to professional audio and film studios,
- recording technology for interviews during preparation of the journey,
- handling with record technology,

- experience with cutting footage and audio material,
- experience with directing and producing documentaries

5.4 Bicycle technology

Concerning the bicycle technology we are supported by “Die Radgeber” from Freiburg. Especially the forwarding of spare parts will be organised by them – at that point we want to thank them for this service. Because of running an own bicycle garage at home, we have enough experience to repair technical problems on the bikes ourselves.

5.5 Financing and Sponsoring

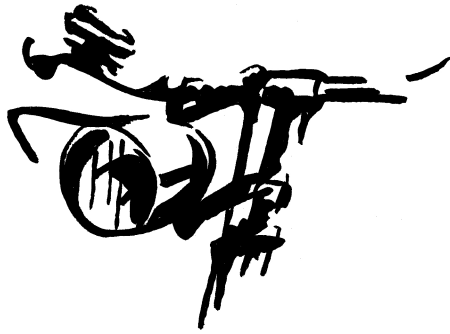
The financing of the journey and the equipment is almost safe - see the sponsors mentioned below, but concerning the financing of the film project, we are still dependent on supporters. In this regard we want to appeal to Rotary Clubs, interested private persons and companies practising fund-raising.



[Reise Know How Verlag](http://www.reise-know-how.de)
(www.reise-know-how.de)



Ortlieb (www.ortlieb.com)



Privatpersonen:

- Wolfgang Strobel - Würzburg

Die Radgeber (www.radgeber-freiburg.de)

Attachment

Self - Conception of the “Engineers without borders r.a.”

The non-profit aid organisation “engineers without borders r.a.” has got the goal to support development cooperation with technology and knowledge transfer. The association has already realized some projects in the fields of building bridges, water supply and small-scale digester. On the one hand there are engineers and students of engineering from different domains engaged, on the other hand so are supporters and sponsors from varied professional guilds. The “Engineers without borders” help by providing knowledge transfer to aid organizations and to people in need in the project countries concerning engineer specific questions, as well as by realizing projects in situ. In the middle of February 2008 the regional group INGOG Freiburg was founded. Its focus lies in the field of applying renewable energies, which means the supply with decentralized and sustainable energy. That ought to amend the various activities and ideas of other regional groups, which mainly are settled in fields of bridge building and water treatment to build up local infrastructure in developing countries. Within members of the group, there are experiences of working in southern Africa, Middle- and South-America. First project proposals in countries of Eastern Africa have already been discussed. For building up their competences and their network regional group INGOG Freiburg is looking for motivated collaborators with different kinds of acquirements. With the collaboration in the regional group, INGOG Freiburg offers engineers and other interested persons not only the possibility of playing part in existing projects constructively, but also to initiate own projects as well.

For more information visit us at wheelswithinwheels.de

Thank You.