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The Role of the African Diaspora in African Nature Conservation

part of
The Golden Jubilee Celebration of African Unity



Tuesday May 21, 2013

Hosted by [The Embassy of the Republic of Congo](#)
Organized by the [Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group](#) and
the Africa Union Mission in Washington, DC



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The African Diaspora in the context of global development actions

Tuesday May 21, 2013

Tim Resch

Environmental Advisor for the USAID Bureau for Africa

Manager of the
Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) Program

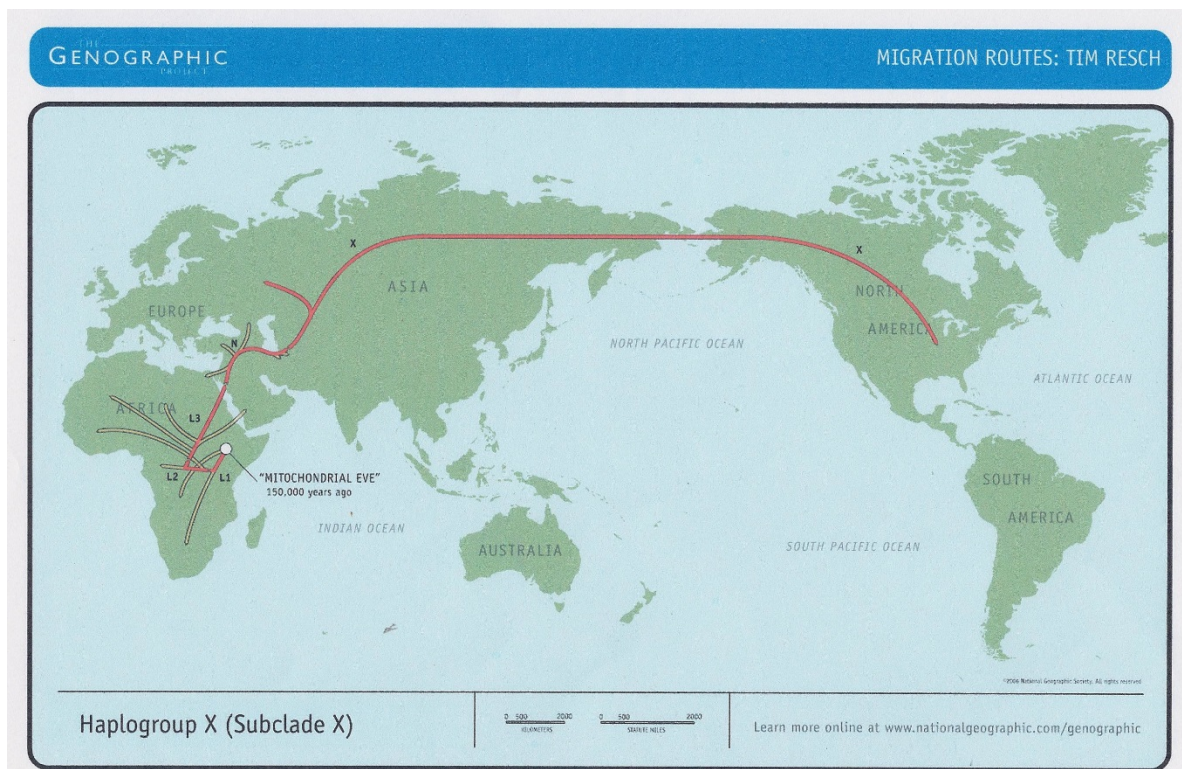
The views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the U.S. Government



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My Migration Story

- Only panelist born in the US but
- hyphenate German-Swedish-Ojibwe.
- Was Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco and now President of Friends of Morocco





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Friends of Morocco



اصدقاء المغرب
Friends of Morocco

Friends of Morocco (FOM), active since 1988, is an organization of Americans, mostly returned Peace Corps volunteers (RPCVs), who have worked, lived, worked and traveled in Morocco, Moroccan-Americans and Moroccans in America united with an interest in promoting educational, cultural, charitable, social, literary and scientific exchange between Morocco and the United States of America.





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Friends of Morocco seeks to:

- reunite Americans with Morocco experience and Moroccans in America;
- improve the awareness of Americans regarding the culture, needs and achievements of Moroccan peoples;
- keep members and others current on events in Morocco;
- support projects of the U.S. Peace Corps and private charitable organizations in Morocco;
- organize and implement development education and outreach activities;
- fund and support charitable projects and scholarship on Morocco and Moroccans.





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Why is diaspora important to USAID and development in Africa?

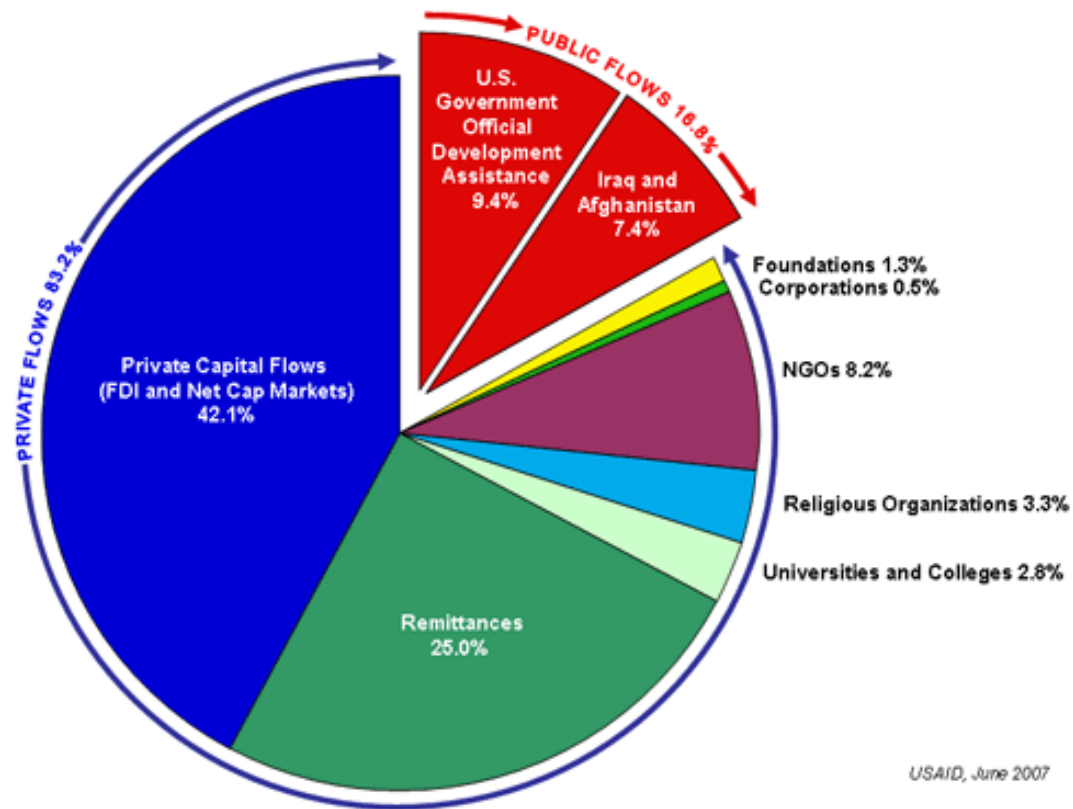
- First and foremost, they are
 - US residents
 - US citizens
- They are also
 - Stakeholders with their own interests and agendas
 - Potential assets and partners for USG work
- They are also
 - Substantial contributors in their own right
 - Hybrids with influences from both cultures





The relationship between official development assistance (ODA) and private flows to the developing world has reversed over the last thirty years.

In 1969, 70 percent of resource flows from the US to developing countries came from ODA and 30 percent came from private sources. As 2005 data show, private capital now accounts for over 80 percent of flows.^[1]



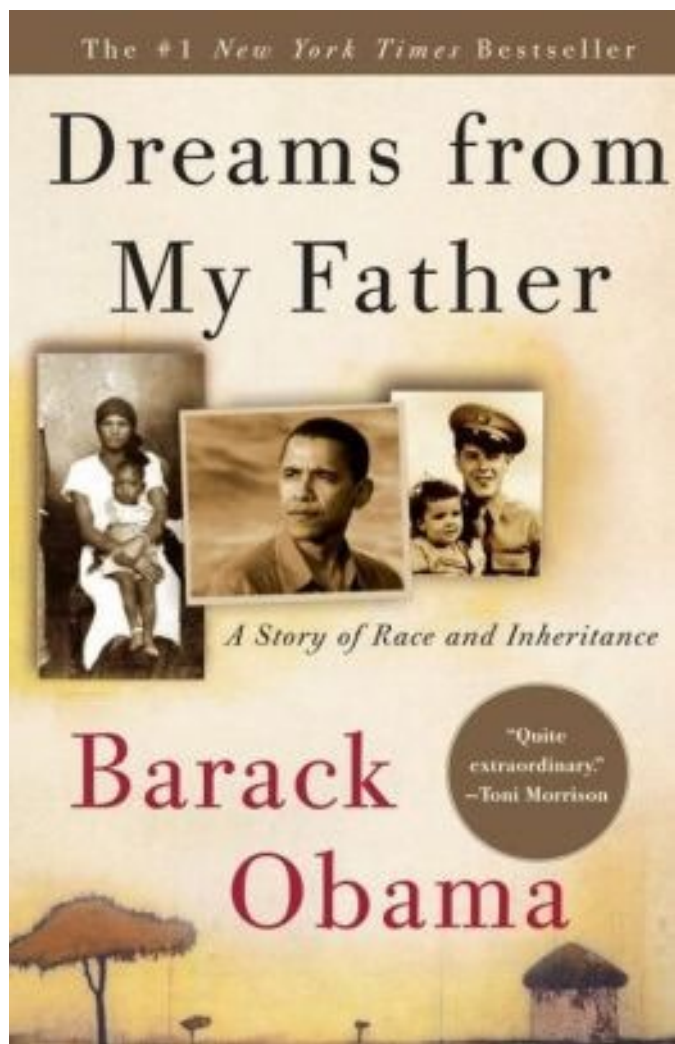
Diaspora disaster and development response in Haiti

Bill Clinton, the U.N. special envoy to Haiti
Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State
Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator





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Barack Obama

Ireland/England
Kenya
Indonesia
Hawaii
Chicago
Washington, DC





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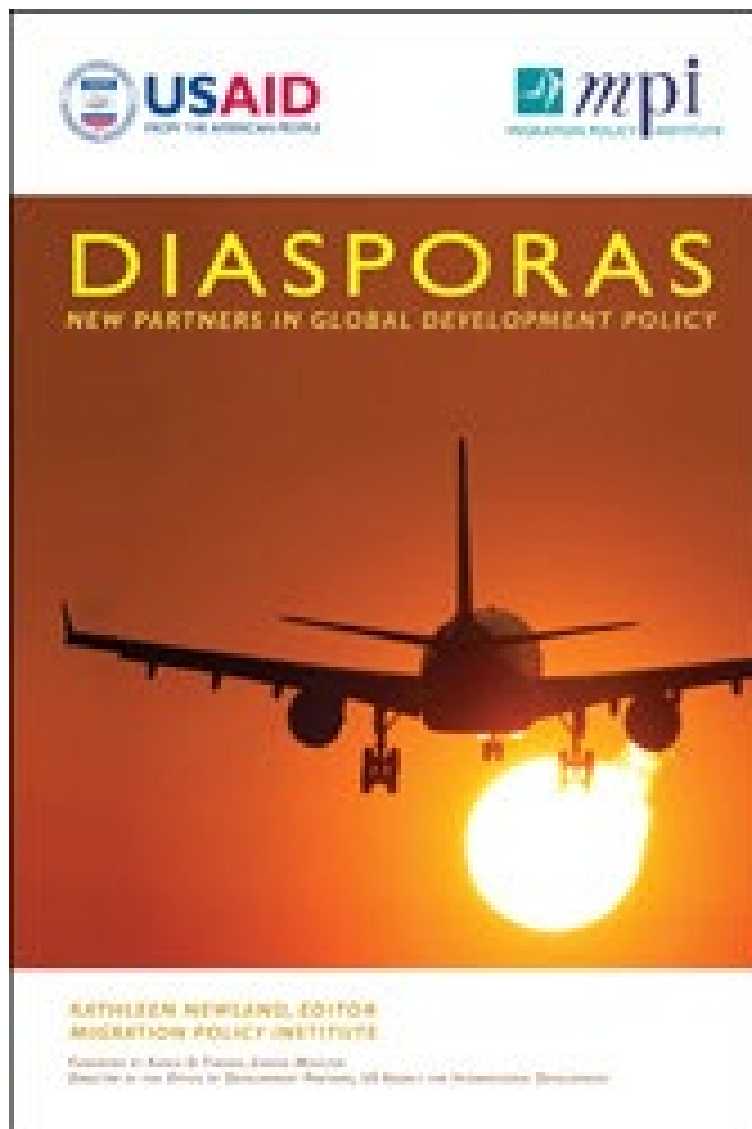
The US Government Diaspora Engagement

- [Global Diaspora Forum 2013](#) [2012](#) [2011](#)
- [The International diaspora Engagement Alliance \(IdEA\)](#)
- [Africa Diaspora Marketplace](#)
- [MicroLinks Diaspora Engagement](#)





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Diaspora: New partners in Global Development Policy

- Entrepreneurship
- Investment
- Tourism
- Philanthropy
- Service
- Advocacy



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Mobilizing Diaspora Entrepreneurship for Development

- Access to capital
- Educational and vocational training
- Lower tariffs on imported raw material and equipment
- Consultations with diaspora professionals
- Good doing business index
- Travel facilitation (multiple-entry and LT visas)



TANGER
free zone

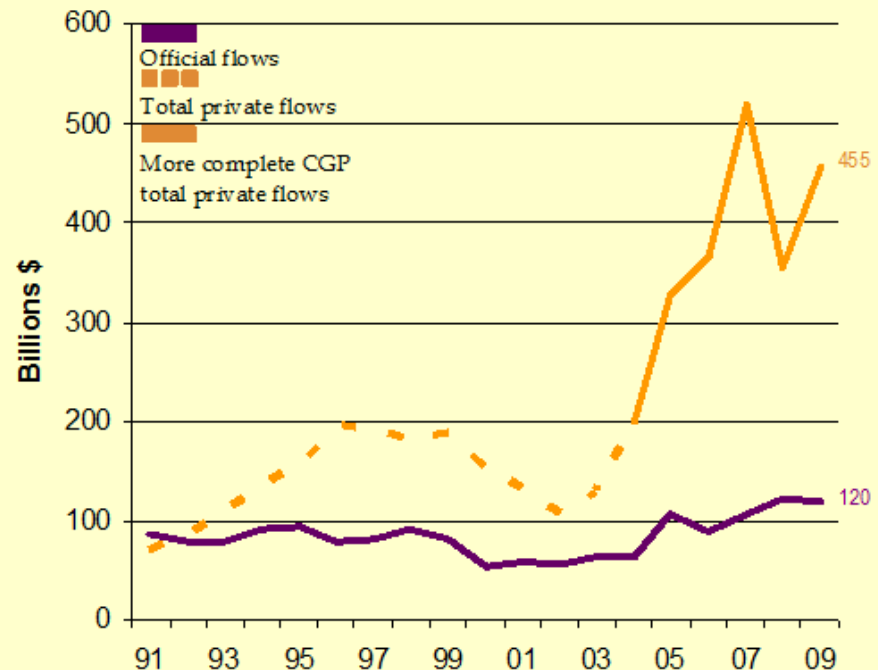


Diaspora Investment in Developing and Emerging Country Capital Markets: Patterns and Prospects

- Deposit accounts
- Transnational loans
- Diaspora bonds
- Mutual Funds
- Risk Guarantees

- DCA
- OPIC
- VEGA

Total Official and Total Private Flows —
Philanthropy, Remittances, Investment— from OECD
Donor Countries to Developing Countries,
1991-2009 (Billions of \$)





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Heritage Tourism and Nostalgia Trade: A Diaspora Niche in the Development Landscape

Developing countries receive over 300 million tourist visits a year. Diaspora makes up a large part of this group.

- Maintain connections
- Connect locally
- Heritage/roots tourism



Migrants in the U.S. are consuming home country goods; this amounts to trade in the billions of dollars but not captured in statistics

- Artisanal products
- Foodstuffs
- Music and movies



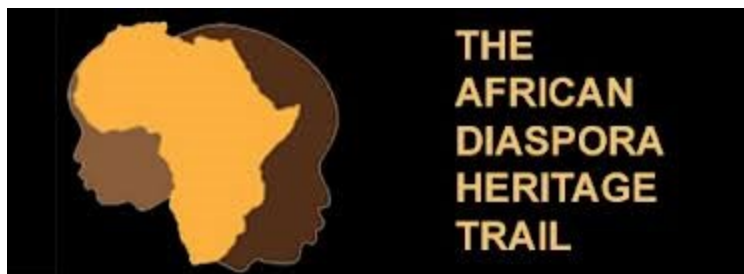


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Issues & Challenges

- Heritage Tourism

- Poor infrastructure
- National Branding
- Respect for visiting diasporas



- Nostalgia Trade

- Beyond Diaspora Niche Market
- Protecting quality and uniqueness



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Time: 11:30am till Midnite
Where: Troxy Arena
490 Commercial Road

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African Diaspora Tourism is important because it:

- Provides inspiring educational experiences
- Produces quality cultural products that expose visitors to authentic African Diaspora history and culture
- Fosters sustainable economic development
- Motivates local people to become active participants in the preservations and dissemination of their history and culture
- Serves as an impetus for ongoing research and for identifying, developing and showcasing significant heritage sites
- Provides a marketing tool to reach targeted markets and general markets interested in and attracted by historical and cultural educational options
- Raises the awareness of the local community of their rich cultural heritage



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Diaspora Philanthropy: Private Giving and Public Policy

- Private resources donated out of an altruistic motive to advance human welfare
- Contributed by individuals or communities of migrant origin that remain engaged with their country of origin or ancestry even while absent from it

NOT

- Directed exclusively to the donor's own family or friends
- Intended to generate direct commercial gain for the donor(s)
- Given for the primary purpose of achieving political power





Philanthropic intermediaries in the diaspora

- **Hometown Associations:** Mexico, El Salvador, Mali, Philippines
- **Internet-based giving platforms:** Kiva, Global Giving, Conexión Colombia
- **Faith-based groups:** Seventh Day Adventist congregations, Fund for Armenian Relief, Catholic Relief Services
- **Professional associations;** American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin in the United States, Association of Thai Nurses
- **Alumni associations:** College of West Africa Alumni Association, Rhodes University Trust USA
- **Diaspora foundations:** US-Mexico Foundation, PhilDev, Rafik Hariri Foundation



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Connected through Service: Diaspora Volunteers and Global Development

Five clusters of diaspora programs

- High-skilled expatriates
- Diaspora youth for service projects
- Multi-purpose diaspora volunteer programs
- “De facto” Volunteer Programs
- E-Volunteering models

- Join other volunteer groups
 - Farmer to farmer
 - Church groups





What are the pros for using Diaspora volunteers?

- Country knowledge
- Cultural and linguistic familiarity
- Willingness to donate and/or invest in country of origin more than non-Diaspora volunteers
- Continuity and sustainability of assistance (“Adopt a company” model)
- Provide a sense of personal satisfaction, fulfillment, well-being, and belonging to persons who volunteer
- Emigrated experts will have accumulated knowledge, education and skills that they did not have previously
- Diaspora volunteers not only impart this expertise to their communities of origin, they also tend to bring direct investments in a much higher rate than regular investors.



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Voice after Exit: Diaspora Advocacy

Who is the “target” of advocacy?

- “Outward” advocacy: authorities in countries of origin or ancestry
- “Inward” advocacy: actors in country of settlement
- International advocacy: United Nations and other multilateral institutions, regional institutions, international media, criminal courts, international public opinion





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Goals and Issues

- Status: overseas voting rights and dual nationality
- Caste, ethnic and religious rights
- Development funding and disaster relief
- Commerce, free trade
- Foreign policy support in country of origin
- Democratization





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Means of advocacy

- Lobbying
- Electoral politics in country of settlement
- Electoral politics in country of origin
- Lawsuits
- Fundraising
- Alliance-building
- Mobilization through social media
- Image-making: media, arts and culture
- Demonstrations
- Support for armed revolt





Diaspora Descriptors: Diversity

- Disinterested
- Disgusted
- Disgruntled
- Disappointed
- Distrustful
- Dispersed
- Disparate
- Disorganized
- Distracted
- Dedicated
- Determined
- Devoted



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Resources

- [Panafricanism and African Renaissance - 21st African Union Summit](#)
- [Developing a Road Map for Engaging Diasporas in Development: A Handbook for Policymakers and Practitioners in Home and Host Countries](#)
- [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#)
- [Migration Policy Institute \(MPI\)](#)
- [World Bank African Diaspora Program](#)
- [World Bank Blog](#) – Posts about migration, remittances and development
- [Diaspora Development Nexus: The Role of ICT](#) 2008
- [Migration Information Source](#) provides authoritative data from numerous global organizations and governments, and global analysis of international migration and refugee trends.
- [Migration for Development Community of Practice](#) – UN-EU backed forum for people to meet others working in Migration and Development, exchange ideas and form partnerships
- [Integration: Building Inclusive Societies](#) – Online community on Migration and Integration jointly built by UN Alliance of Civilizations and the International Organization for Migration
- [FRAMEgram on conservation engagement with the African Diaspora](#)



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Contact information

Tim Resch, Bureau Environmental Advisor
USAID Bureau for Africa, Office of Sustainable Development/EGEA
1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20523-4600

O 202 712 4453 F 202 216 3373 C 703 470 3166

tresch@usaid.gov or timresch@gmail.com

Skype: tim_resch

Twitter: @timresch

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) <http://www.abcg.org>

Global Environmental Management Support (GEMS) <http://www.usaidgems.org>

FRAME <http://www.frameweb.org>

Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) <http://carpe.umd.edu>

Resource Management Portal (RM_Portal) <http://rmportal.net>

USAID/AFR http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa

Tim Resch, President Friends of Morocco

<http://friendsofmorocco.org>