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Research Interests:

- Environmental Sustainability (MDG 7)
- Climate Change and Human Adaptation
- Conflict and Environmental Degradation (Migration/IDP)
- Human Security (Global Vulnerabilities)
- Institutional and Legislative Framework Analysis
- Comparative Politics & State-Society Relations
- Development Policy
- Southwest Asia and Africa

Curriculum Vitae

Available Online with Relevant Links: <http://curriculumvitaespiess.ndrd.org/>

Personal Data

Date of Birth: 08/07/1966
Citizenship: German

University Education

1990 – 1993
Hamburg University for Economics and Political Science, Hamburg, Germany
Main course of study: Economics
Degree (in original language): Diplom-Volkswirt (equivalent to M.Sc. in Economics)
Title of thesis: *"Basic problems of rural economy and food self-sufficiency in Sub-Saharan Africa"*

Special Qualifications

1993 – 1995
Hamburg University for Economics and Political Science, Hamburg, Germany
Center for International Relations
Project in Social and Economic Research [Sozialökonomischer Studiengang]
"Agriculture, Environment and Development in the LDCs"
Degree (in original language): Diplom Sozial-Ökonom (Soz.-Ök.) (equivalent to M.Sc. Social Economics)
Title of thesis: *"Development, causes and implementations to reduce soil degradation – the regional case study of Nigeria"*

Postgraduate (Doctorate Degree - Dr. rer. pol.)

1996 – subm. November 2006
University of Hamburg; Department of Economics and Policy, Center for International Relations
Title of dissertation: (Original in German)
Desertifikation in der Sahelzone Nordnigerias - Eine Analyse der Entwicklung, Ursachen und Ansätze zur Verminderung der Desertifikation in den ariden Gebieten Nordnigerias unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der institutionellen und legislativen Rahmenbedingungen

*"Desertification in the Sahelian zone of Northern Nigeria -
An analysis of the development, causal drivers and mitigation of desertification in the arid regions of
Northern Nigeria in special consideration of the existing institutional and legislative framework"*

Significant Projects during the Course

"The development of the Nigerian land use systems and their implications on selected sectors of the rural economy", April 1994

"The development of the Nigerian livestock sector with special consideration of the political interventions and environmental implications", November 1994

Collaboration in Nigerian Projects

1997

"Qualitative Assessment of Adansonia digitata L. (Baobab) in Zamfara Reserve"

Supervisor: Dr. M. A. Shinkafi

Department of Forestry & Wildlife (Faculty of Agriculture), Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (Nigeria)

1998

"Small ruminants, grazing and stocking density among peasant farmers in arid areas of Borno and Yobe states: An environmentally sustainable approach"

Supervisor: Dr. H. D. Kwari

Department of Veterinary Anatomy (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine), University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri (Nigeria)

2002

"An Empirical Analysis of the Social Economy of the Kanuri Farming System"

Supervisor: Dr. Mohammad Abdullahi

Department of Geography, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri (Nigeria)

Professional Experience (Consultancy Activity)

2000 /2001 (November – March / 5 month)

"Hospitanz GTZ"

Projet Microréalisation (PMR) –

Appui à l'autopromotion des organisations paysannes du Mayo Kebbi/ Chad

Job Specification:

Introduction to methods and instruments in GTZ project management

(Participation, PCM, PFK, ZOPP, PPÜ, etc.) In addition to fieldwork participation, reviewing of project documents, especially those concerned with Participatory Impact Monitoring (PIM) and the participatory approach as an integral part of the company's Quality Management System. Final objective was the development and implementation of an integrated databank M&E system for the project.

2001 (April – May / 2 month)

GFA terra systems

Short-term mission - Projet Microréalisation (PMR), Chad

Job Specification:

Replenishment of the socio-economical database as well as the preparation of a final report showing possibilities and limitations in regards to the utilization of digital technology in this project environment.

2001/2002 (10 month)

Federal Government of Nigeria - ISP (Integrated Systems Project)
Ahmadu Bello University / Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, Zaria, Nigeria
Project Management (Phase 1)

Project Description:

The Integrated Systems Project (ISP) is an initiative of the Nigerian Federal Government to replace all obsolete administrative systems (financial, human resources/payroll, and student services) with a modern Program Resource Planning (PRP) software. The ultimate goal of this project, which is by way of trial implemented at the Ahmadu Bello University and Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic in Zaria is to provide more efficient operations, improved customer service and better ability to adapt to growth and changes in support of the three core missions of these institutions - instruction, research, and public service. The Integrated Systems Project (ISP) is estimated to last approximately three years and is divided into three phases.

Job Specification:

Planning, coordination and evaluation of all project activities, especially project management; administration and planning of financial issues; consultancy and negotiations with relevant partner organizations, outlining of technical content, supervision and implementation of workshops for project personnel and other relevant target groups; preparation of reports and technical manuals; programming of a website for the polytechnic.

November / December 2002

GTZ (German Technical Cooperation)
EoPSD (Employment-oriented Private Sector Development)
Abuja / Nigeria
Technical Expert

Program Description:

The main objective of the program is that SMME in chosen regions can take advantage of improved framework conditions and business environment to increase their development potential and income generating capacity.

Partner organizations are qualified to articulate more effectively the interests of SMME and to exert more influence on the framework conditions. Gender specific, demand driven and financially sustainable services for SMME are available in the chosen regions. Microfinance intermediaries and banks are in a position to offer appropriate financial services. The level of professional and economic competence has been raised through further training and education, particularly for women. The target group comprises of SMME and their staffs in the federal states Nasarawa, Niger, Lagos and possibly others yet to be chosen. In cooperation with all the relevant stakeholders within chosen federal states as well as with the various lobby and interest promotion institutions focus will be on the improvement of economic conditions to facilitate the development of SMME entrepreneurship in these regions. In addition it is intended to contribute to improvement in the framework conditions and the enabling environment by cooperating and interacting with institutions at the federal level.

Job Specification:

Realization of a feasibility study for a Management Information Systems (MIS) for the program, which among others must include the following elements: Conceptual design, integration with VAMPIRES (Virtual Applications for Managing Program Implementation Resources and Evaluation System), staffing and consulting work loads, budget items, target groups, achievement tracking, hardware and software requirements, reporting procedures, forms, etc.

Recommendation of procedures for improving the efficiency in the delivery of services by the program for its specific target groups.

Power Point presentation of the MIS concept at the Stakeholders Workshop in Eschborn, Germany.

Current Activities

Since 2005

Founder President and (Acting) General Secretary of the
Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Network for Drylands Studies and Development (NDRD)
www.ndrd.org

Program Description

This scientific association should serve as a new attempt to re-establish a dialogue between our different cultures and of course contribute to the advancement of drylands research and sustainable development for the benefit and wellbeing of humanity.

The concept is based on an interdisciplinary approach, since especially sustainable development of drylands is a political, ethical, social issue as much as it is a technical issue. A special emphasis needs to be put on the 'soft' sciences - concerning norms, cultural values, political processes, and 'institutions' in the wider sense of the word. Undertaking interdisciplinary research on drylands issues and development will therefore present the information and understanding needed to enhance development pathways that provide alternatives to economically costly and socially detrimental environmental degradation. The overall objective is to focus on human insecurity and follow an uncompromising humanitarian ideology.

Since June 2006

Organization and Chair of the
International Symposium on Drylands Ecology and Human Security (ISDEHS) www.isdehs.com

The first conference entitled "**Regional Perspectives, Policy Responses and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region - Challenges and Opportunities**" was held December, 4-7, 2006, in Dubai (UAE).

ISDEHS 2006 was the first of a series of symposia intended to create an ongoing dialogue between researchers and policy makers from the Arab world with the global scientific community as well as to reposition the ongoing desertification debate within the context of human security. Interdisciplinary environmental research in the field of drylands research is of utmost importance, since it will provide the information and understanding needed to enhance development pathways that provide alternatives to economically costly and socially detrimental environmental degradation. Finally in accordance with NDRD principle objectives this event will also focus on finding the interface between research and the reality of development practice. Therefore we acknowledge that research should be applicable in view of those social groups within whose domain the impacts of the implementation measures are intended to take place.

Other Publications

Spieß, A. / Mohammad, M.: *Sustainable Rural Development as a Function of Physical Environment in the Republic of Niger*, in: ECPER Journal for Political and Economic Studies, Vol. 3, No. 22., 1997, p.113 – 129.

Spieß, A.: *Agroforestry for Sustainable Agricultural Production and Environmental Enhancement - An Overview*, in: Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (Eds.): *Agroforestry for Sustainable Agricultural Production and Environmental Improvement*, March 1995, p. 228 - 244. [Proceedings of the Training Workshop on Agroforestry and Land Management, organized by Federal Agricultural Coordinating Unit (FACU) and in collaboration with Afforestation Programme Coordinating Unit (APCU), National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS), Kano, March 20-25, 1998]

Spieß, A.: *The Role of Environmental Degradation in Population Displacement and Conflict in the Drylands of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) with special Reference to Northern Nigeria*, in: Revista Sociedade & Natureza - Special Issue - "Caminhos de Geografia", May 2005.

Spieß, A. Al-Darwish, Fareed H.: *The Role of Overgrazing as an Anthropogenic Cause of Desertification in the GCC Countries: a Comparative Study of the Situation in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, 2005*
[Paper also presented at the International Conference on Human Impacts on Soil Quality Attributes In Arid and Semi – Arid Regions, Isfahan University of Technology, Sept. 12-16, 2005, Isfahan, Iran]

Spieß, A.: *Developing adaptive capacity for responding to environmental change in the Arab Gulf States: Uncertainties to linking ecosystem conservation, sustainable development and society in authoritarian rentier economies*, in: Global and Planetary Change 64 (2008) pp. 244–252.

Papers Presented at International Conferences

"Ecology, Culture, and Natures' Distressed Equilibrium - Desertification in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States of the Arabian Peninsula" presented at the 18th World Congress of Soil Science, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, July 9-15, 2006

"Civil Society and Democratic Values in the GCC: A Synthesis of Political Culture, Socioeconomic Development and International Policy with the Challenge of Promoting Democracy" presented at the NFU Conference 2006 on "Ethics, Human Rights and Development", Oslo, Norway, September 13-15, 2006

"Traditional Knowledge, Policy Implications and Global Modernity in Marginal Drylands - An Analysis of Pastoralist Systems in Chad and Ethiopia", presented at the "Tropentag 2006 - International Research on Food Security, Natural Resource Management and Rural Development: Prosperity and Poverty in a Globalized World – Challenges for Agricultural Research", in Bonn, Germany, October 11 - 13, 2006

"Water Policies in the Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): Perspectives on Effectiveness and Political Responses in Light of the Human Dimensions Discourse from Kuwait and Bahrain"; presented at Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change - Resource Policies: Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Equity", Berlin, Germany, November 17-18, 2006

"Climate Change and Human Security in the GCC: Implications for Vulnerability, Adaptation and Sustainable Development of the Affected Populace to Hydrological Changes in Saudi Arabia", presented at International Symposium on Drylands Ecology and Human Security (ISDEHS 2006) - "Regional Perspectives, Policy Responses and Sustainable Development in the Arab Region - Challenges and Opportunities", December, 4-7, 2006, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

"Ecosystem Management and the State of Biodiversity of the Arabian Peninsula - Synthesis and Constraints of Long-term Protection by Using an Integrated Model of Political and Ecological Processes in Yemen and Saudi Arabia", presented at the Third Saudi Science Conference: New Horizons in Science and their Applications, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March, 10-13, 2007

"Environmental Ethics, Development and Ecosystem Services Management in the GCC - Perspectives on Long-term Biodiversity Protection by Using an Integrated Approach of Political and Ecological Processes in Saudi Arabia and the UAE", presented at the International Conference on Desertification Control in the Arid Region, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), Kuwait, May 12-14, 2007

"Developing Adaptive Capacity for Responding to Desertification and Climate Change in the GCC: Uncertainties and Constraints to Linking Ecosystem Conservation, Sustainable Development and Society in Authoritarian Rentier Economies", presented at the "Climate Change and Desertification - Monitoring, Modeling and Forecasting - Wengen Workshop on Global Change Research - Edition 2007", Wengen, Switzerland, September 10-13, 2007

"The Responsibility to Protect – The Emerging Challenge of Iraq and Afghanistan", to be presented at the Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU) Annual Conference: Making Institutions Work for the Poor?, Bergen, Norway, November 5-7, 2007

"Future Implications of the Climate-Security Nexus: Declining Ecosystem Services as a Driver of Social Destabilization and Threat to Human Security in Selected Arab Gulf States" presented at the Ninth International Conference on Development of Drylands – Sustainable Development in Drylands: Meeting the Challenge of Global Climate Change, 7-10 November 2008, Alexandria, Egypt

"Rangeland Degradation in Saudi Arabia – Is there any successful approach towards solving this problem?", (co-authored by Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Barth, University of Heidelberg), presented at the 3rd International Conference on Water Resources and Arid Environments 2008 and the First Arab Water Forum, from 16 to 19 November 2008 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

"Developing Adaptive Capacity for Responding to Climate Change in Saudi Arabia: Uncertainties and Constraints to Linking Water Policies, Sustainable Development and Human Security " (co-authored by Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Barth, University of Heidelberg), presented at the 3rd International Conference on Water Resources and Arid Environments 2008 and the First Arab Water Forum, from 16 to 19 November 2008 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

"Objectives of NDRD and Possibilities of Research Collaboration in the Gulf (MENA) Region" (Original Title in German: "Zielstellungen des NDRD und Möglichkeiten für eine Kooperation in den Golf- und MENA-Staaten") presented at the Hydronet MV conference: Cross-border collaboration in the field of water technology between Germany and countries from the Middle East and North Africa, Stiftung Alfried Krupp Kolleg Greifswald, University of Greifswald, 12- 13 May 2009

"A Multi-disciplinary Approach to Vulnerability Assessment and Water Governance in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member States" will be presented at "New Thinking on Water Governance" Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, Singapore 1- 3 July, 2009

"Prioritizing Climate Change Adaptation Needs for Food Security: Constraints to New Initiatives for the Arabian Peninsula" to be presented at Tropentag 2009 (International Conference on Research for Development in Agriculture and Forestry, Food and Natural Resource Management) Biophysical and Socio-economic Frame Conditions for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, October 6–8, 2009, Hamburg, Germany

"Earth System Governance Challenges: Local Conceptualization of Water Governance and Realm of Possible Actions in Saudi Arabia" to be presented at 'Earth System Governance: People, Places, and the Planet' 2009 Amsterdam Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Amsterdam, 2-4 December 2009

Conferences without Presentations

DesertNet Scientific Conference and Plenary Meeting
Gustav-Stresemann-Institut, 2-4 December 2004, Bonn, Germany

Eschborn Dialogue 2006 [Eschborner Fachtage 2006]
Knowledge Powers Development Sharing experience, shaping the future
Workshops: "First-hand knowledge — mobilising local knowledge for global development" and "If we knew what we know — science, cooperation and knowledge networks for practice"
Eschborn, Germany

The Great Transformation - Climate Change as Cultural Change
8 - 10 June 2009, Essen, Germany
organized by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities in Essen (KWI), Stiftung Mercator in cooperation with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy

Government & Policy Advice

Recommendation and Action Plan on Desertification Control for the Government of Kuwait
Recommendation for the National Action Plan on Desertification for the Government of Nigeria
Recommendations on Biodiversity and Climate Change for the Government of Kuwait

Ongoing Research

"Scope and limitations of international military involvement in peace-keeping operations, conflict prevention and international crisis management in Sub Saharan Africa - The need for paradigm change in international policy"

"The Interplay between Local Socioeconomic and Biophysical Processes Affecting Desertification in Nigeria with Rent Dissipation as well as Irresponsible Foreign Aid Policy"

"Human Settlements and Drylands Ecology: Causes and Consequences of Rapid Urbanization in the GCC", submitted for publication to "Habitat International - A Journal for the Study of Human Settlements" (Elsevier)

*Dynamic Causal Patterns of Desertification in the GCC countries – Implications of cross-scalar dynamics and typical pathways of drylands ecosystem change in Saudi Arabia
Paper will be submitted to "Environmental Science & Policy" (Elsevier)*

*"Urban Vulnerability and Good Governance: The Challenge of Climate Change Mitigation through Urban Planning and Development in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia" [working title]
Paper will be submitted to "Environment and Urbanization" (October 2008 issue) with the theme "Building good governance in cities, including the role of civil society and social movements".*

"Water Security and Sustainable Development in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Member States"

Voluntary Academic Service

Board Member -
Commission on Land Degradation / International Union of Soil Sciences

Organization and Session Convenor of
"Islam, Democracy and Development: Challenges for the Arab World"
for the Norwegian Association for Development Research (NFU) Annual Conference on
"Ethics, Human Rights and Development", 13-15 September 2006 in Oslo, Norway

Editor of the **Global Change Research Blog** <http://wengenworkshop.wordpress.com>
(under development)

Co Chair of Session: Enhancing livelihood of desert communities, socioeconomic studies and cross-cutting issues at the Ninth International Conference on Development of Drylands – Sustainable Development in Drylands: Meeting the Challenge of Global Climate Change, 7-10 November 2008, Alexandria, Egypt

Rapporteur for the session on "Environment and Climate" at the 3rd International Conference on Water Resources and Arid Environments 2008 and the First Arab Water Forum, from 16 to 19 November 2008 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Article Referee: Tourism and Hospitality: Planning & Development Journal (Taylor & Francis Group)

Memberships / Professional Affiliations

- APSG – Arabian Plant Specialists Group
- ATSAF - Arbeitsgemeinschaft Tropische und Subtropische Agrarforschung
- COMLAND - Commission on Land Degradation & Desertification
- CRC - Desert Knowledge (Australia)
- DESERTNET – German Competence Network to Combat Desertification
- EADI –European Association of Development Research
- IDDC - International Dryland Development Commission
- ISSS - International Soil Science Society
- NES - Nigerian Environmental Society
- NFU - Norwegian Association for Development Research
- RS - Resilience Alliance (Stockholm Resilience Center)
- SID - Society for International Development
- WASWC - World Association of Soil and Water Conservation

Language Skills

- German / English: fluent
- Spanish: good
- French: basic knowledge
- Arabic: basic knowledge

Extracurricular Activities

Special Interests

IT (Hard- and Software) Database Development, Web Development, Scripting Languages, Design, Integrated System Solutions, Networks, etc.
Photography, Geography and Geology

Sports: Skiing (Approved Skiing Instructor from the ÖSV; Austria)
Mountaineering / Trekking
Diving / Running / Inline Skating

Volunteer Work

Mountain Rescue (Austria) / American Red Cross Lifeguard
YMCA (Nigeria)
Poverty Alleviation Scheme (Niger / Nigeria)
Teaching of Computer Skills (Chad / Niger / Nigeria)

References

Prof. Dr. jur. Norman Paech
Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Politik
Von-Melle-Park 9
D-21146 Hamburg

Prof. Dr. Mohan C. Saxena
Assistant Director General, ICARDA
Arid Land Research Center
Tottori University, Japan

Prof. Dr. rer. pol. Günter Elsholz
Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Politik
Von-Melle-Park 9
D-21146 Hamburg