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## CURRICULUM VITAE

**NAME** Alex Duncan

**NATIONALITY** British and South African

**LANGUAGES** English – fluent  
French - basic

**COUNTRY EXPERIENCE** Experience in some 30 – 35 countries; in the most recent years working visits have included Rwanda, Bangladesh, India, Yemen, Somaliland, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa.

### EXPERTISE

Alex Duncan has worked as a development practitioner, researcher, manager, and consultant economist in many parts of Africa, Asia and Europe, and at strategic level for several development agencies. Most of his current work is on the political economy of development and he has had a particular long-term interest in eastern and southern Africa.

His work, which has been funded directly by governments, the main international development agencies, and the private sector, has included:

- strategy development, policy studies and evaluations for governments and international agencies (including the UK government's DFID, other European governments, the World Bank, the European Commission and UN agencies);
- policy and institutional analyses of subjects including the political economy of development, governance, public expenditure management, strengthening the private sector and markets, agriculture, rural development, land reform and food security. Inter alia, he has been closely involved with initial thinking on the 'Drivers of change' and 'Making markets work for poor people' approaches to development;
- designing and delivering, some 30 times, a three-day course 'Political Economy in Action', for ten of the major multilateral and bilateral development agencies, in twelve countries;
- long-term support for development agencies, ministries and planning units;
- organisational reviews, evaluations and assessments of development effectiveness;
- financial assessments of organisations and of Trust Funds;
- communication at senior levels, public presentations, staff training and report-writing; and
- experience in some 30 – 35 countries, including Rwanda, Bangladesh, India, Yemen, Somaliland, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa.

### QUALIFICATIONS

1971 MA in Politics, Philosophy, Economics (subjects taken: Politics and Philosophy),  
University of Oxford

1974 MSc in Agricultural Economics, University of Reading

## EMPLOYMENT

2019 to present Principal, the Policy Practice

2004 - 2019 Director, the Policy Practice

Team leader on all of a series of assignments in the Horn of Africa between 2016 and 2022, including:

- 'Analysis and Programme Design: Inclusive Governance and Core State Functions in Somaliland'. Outputs were three sequential reports: Analysis Report; Theory of change; Options paper for programme design. 2022.
- 'Ethiopia and Somaliland: The political economy of Berbera port and corridor: continuities and volatility.' 2021
- Quality Assurance Lead, FCDO Horn Research Facility, Ethiopia. 2021 to 2022
- 'Ethiopia and Somaliland: political economy dimensions of how cross-border trade can contribute to inclusive growth and stability: an update.' April 2019
- Symposium on trends and events in the Horn: implications for regional economic integration and development. Organiser and Chair. Nairobi June 2019
- Prepared a Business Case 'Unlocking Prosperity in the Horn of Africa,' for the UK's DFID. 2018.
- 'Somaliland Development Fund: joint review. Report to the Joint Steering Committee'. 2018
- 'Berbera port and corridor: political economy dimensions of cross-border trade between Somaliland and Ethiopia' 2017
- 'Berbera port and corridor in context: political economy factors influencing the prospects for the proposed development'. 2016

Lead trainer on some 40 'Political economy in action' training courses, online and face-to-face. 2008 to 2023.

Joint author (with William Kingsmill) 'Business Environment Global Programme. Political Economy Analysis of Focal States: Emerging Themes and Issues'. A study of eleven middle-income countries. UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. 2018.

Approximately ten assignments in Nigeria for the UK's DFID, 1993 to 2015, covering programme design, political economy analyses, support to policy and institutional reforms, and ex post evaluations.

1996 - 2003 Oxford Policy Management Ltd - (Senior Programme Manager (1996-97); Senior Economist (1997-2003); and Principal Economist (from 2003)

1989 - 1996 Programme Director, Food Studies Group, Oxford

1980-1989 Independent consultant and (from 1984) Research Associate, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford

1976-1980 Employed by the World Bank, seconded to the government of Southern Sudan, initially as Livestock Economist, later as head of Project Formulation Unit, Regional Ministry of Agriculture

1976 Thaba Bosiu Agricultural Project, Lesotho

1975-1976 FAO Farm Management and Production Economist, Lesotho, responsible for managing a project-planning unit.

## SELECTED REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

'Analysis and Programme Design: Inclusive Governance and Core State Functions in Somaliland': Analysis Report; Theory of change; Options paper for programme design. 2022. Not for public release.

'Political economy analysis of the business environment in eleven middle-income countries: emerging themes and issues,' (with William Kingsmill). For the UK Prosperity Fund, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. See Policy Practice Brief No.12, 2018.

Political economy studies in the Horn of Africa, various, 2016 to 2019. Not for public release.

A Business Case for a public sector accountability and governance Programme, DFID. Nigeria 2015.

"Fifteen years of UK partnership with Nigeria on debt management: lessons for DFID's wider approach to building capability". With Dora Akunyili and Menachem Katz. July 2013

"Nigeria: Policy Development Facility: Annual Review, 2012." Alex Duncan and Hakeem Baba-Ahmed. The Policy Practice. July 2012. Also, in 2014, Annual Review with material for the Project Completion Review.

"Assessing the Political Economy of Low Cost Private Primary Education in Lagos", William Kingsmill, Victor Adetula and Alex Duncan. The Policy Practice, February 2012

"Bangladesh: Multi-donor Country Governance Analysis". Team leader and principal author. The Policy Practice and BRAC Development Institute, Dhaka. November 2010.

"Making development assistance more effective by using political economy analysis: what has been done and what have we learned?" *A presentation to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace / USAID / DAI workshop on "Advancing Integration of the Political and the Economic in Development Assistance: Sharing UK and US Experiences"*. Alex Duncan and Gareth Williams. June 2010. <http://www.thepolicypractice.com/papersdetails.asp?code=16>

"DFID governance portfolio review: Country report on Nigeria." Alex Duncan. April 2010.

"Fragile States Principles Monitoring Survey: Global Report," Alex Duncan, Gareth Williams and Juana Decatheu, OECD 2010. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/18/16/44651689.pdf>

"Politics and growth," Gareth Williams, Alex Duncan, Pierre Landell-Mills and Sue Unsworth. *Development Policy Review* 27:1, pp 5-31, January 2009. See also The Policy Practice, September 2007: <http://www.thepolicypractice.com/papersdetails.asp?code=14>.

"Aid for better health - what are we learning about what works and what we still have to do?" An interim report from the task team on health as a tracer sector. Alex Duncan and Cecilie Wathne. OECD Development Assistance Committee Working Party on Aid Effectiveness. DCD/DAC/EFF(2009)14. 2009. <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/47/61/44152093.pdf>

"Good election, bad politics: a case study of elections and the role of the international community in Bangladesh," Alex Duncan, Susan Loughhead and Jeremy Eckstein, May 2009.

"Rwanda: Joint Governance Assessment," report prepared for the Government of Rwanda and its development partners, July 2008 (with G.Williams, T.Sheehy, P.Landell-Mills et al.) <http://www.thepolicypractice.com/projectdetails.asp?code=35>

"A progress report on implementing the Paris Declaration," prepared for the Accra High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, 2008 (principal author, with Cecilie Wathne). <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/59/11/41202580.pdf>. Also, with Andrew Barnett, prepared the Chairman's report on the Accra High-Level Forum, September 2008.

"Nigeria: the political economy of reform --- strengthening incentives for economic growth", Pat Utomi, Alex Duncan and Gareth Williams. The Policy Practice, September 2007 (updated from July 2006).

"Tackling the Political Barriers to Development: The New Political Economy Perspective" and "Making the New Political Economy Perspective more operationally relevant for development agencies" by Pierre Landell-Mills, Gareth Williams and Alex Duncan. Briefing Papers 1 and 2, the Policy Practice, January 2007.

"Improving the performance of the Board: case study of Save the Children UK," Alex Duncan, Trustee, Save the Children UK, October 2006

"Vietnam: Making Markets Work Better for the Poor, Phase II, 2007-2011", Programme Document, June 2006

"External Review of the Southern African Counter-Trafficking Assistance Programme," by Alex Duncan, Tove Skarstein and Denise du Toit. Report on human trafficking, for the Royal Norwegian Embassy, Pretoria. The Policy Practice, February 2006.

"Uneven growth within low-income countries: does it matter, and can governments do anything effective?" A framework paper, prepared by Gareth Williams, Pierre Landell-Mills and Alex Duncan. The Policy Practice, October 2005.

"How can research-based development interventions be more effective at influencing policy and practice?" Alex Duncan and Andrew Barnett. Paper prepared for a workshop on Making Markets Work for the Poor, Asian Development Bank, Hanoi. The Policy Practice, November 2005.

Paper on the political economy of development and conflict in a middle-eastern country, DFID and Government of the Netherlands. The Policy Practice, 2004.

"Changes in the regional and international roles of large middle-income countries," Tim Ruffer and Alex Duncan, Oxford Policy Management, report prepared for DFID, December 2003

"Drivers of Change: reflections on experience to date: Discussion Note." Prepared by Alex Duncan, with contributions from Stephen Jones, Evelyn Dietsche, and participants at a workshop held in Oxford on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003, Oxford Policy Management

"Research for Poverty Reduction: DFID Research Policy Paper," by Martin Surr, Andrew Barnett, Alex Duncan and Melanie Speight, DFID London, November 2002

"Bangladesh: Supporting the Drivers of Pro-Poor Change," by Alex Duncan, Iffath Sharif, Pierre Landell-Mills, and Jayanta Roy, DFID Dhaka, June 2002. Also (in 2003 and 2004), parallel studies in Zambia, India and Yemen.

"Making Markets Work for the Poor," Private Sector Policy Department, DFID, London, November 2001 (principal author)

"Sector Approaches, Sustainable Livelihoods and Rural Poverty Reduction," by Jim Gilling, Stephen Jones and Alex Duncan, Development Policy Review 19:3, September 2001, pp. 303-319

"Paying for Agricultural Research and Extension", by S. Akroyd and A.Duncan, chapter in "Renewing Development in sub-Saharan Africa: Performance, Policies and Prospects", D. Belshaw and I. Livingstone (eds), Routledge 2001

"Throwing Light on Cats in the Dark: Agricultural Economists and the Policy Agenda in South Africa," Simon Brand Memorial Address to the Agricultural Economics Association of South Africa, September 1999. Agrekon 38:4, December 1999, pp.437-476

“Strengthening Financial Markets for the Poor,” Book Review Article, Development Policy Review, Overseas Development Institute, 17:2, June 1999, pp. 215-220

“The World Bank as a Project Lender: Experience from Eastern Africa”, in “The World Bank: Its First Half-Century,” edited by Devesh Kapur, John Lewis and Richard Webb, The Brookings Institution, Washington DC, 1997. Volume II, pp.385-434

‘Does Aid Work?’, Robert Cassen and Associates, OUP, 1986.

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

- Senior Research Associate, African Studies Centre, Oxford University (2007 to present)
- Senior Associate Member, St. Antony’s College, Oxford (2002 to 2011); Member of Senior Common room, 2013 to 2018
- Trustee, Women for Women International UK (2015 to present); Co-Chair 2021-23. Chair of Finance and Audit Committee 2015-22
- Trustee, Beit Trust (2011 to present). Chair of Finance Committee.
- Trustee, Save the Children UK (2005 to 2013)
- Visiting Professor, Faculty of Life Sciences, Imperial College, London (2001-2006)
- Trustee, Mediae Trust (1996 to 2008)
- Member, Review Panel, Rothamsted International African Fellows Programme (2004 to 2008)
- External Examiner, MSc programmes on Applied Development Studies and on Development Finance, University of Reading (2001/2 to 2004/5)
- Member, Comité Scientifique, Sciences Humaines et Sociales, Cirad, France (2002 to 2004)
- Research Associate, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford (1996-2000)
- Visiting Professor in Agricultural Development, Wye College, University of London (1996 to 2000)
- Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute, London (1988/89)
- Member of the Senior Common Room, Lincoln College, Oxford (1980-1990)