

# *Meandering on the Margins*

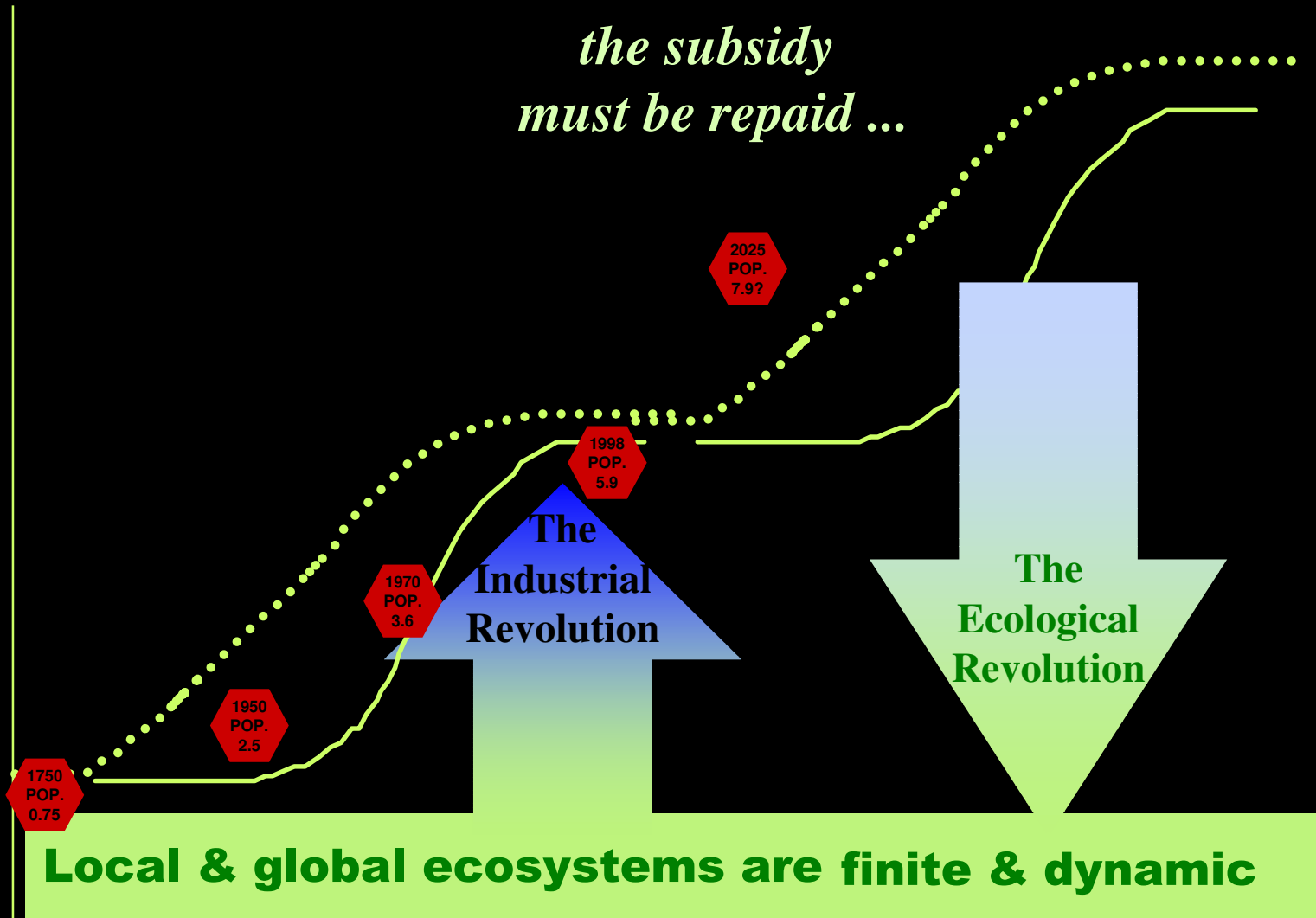
**GBN Presents  
Emeryville, California  
January 2005**



*Presentation by:*  
**Barbara Heinzen**

# Need for systemic invention

*the subsidy  
must be repaid ...*



 *global population, in billions*

# Three drivers of invention in **E**ngland

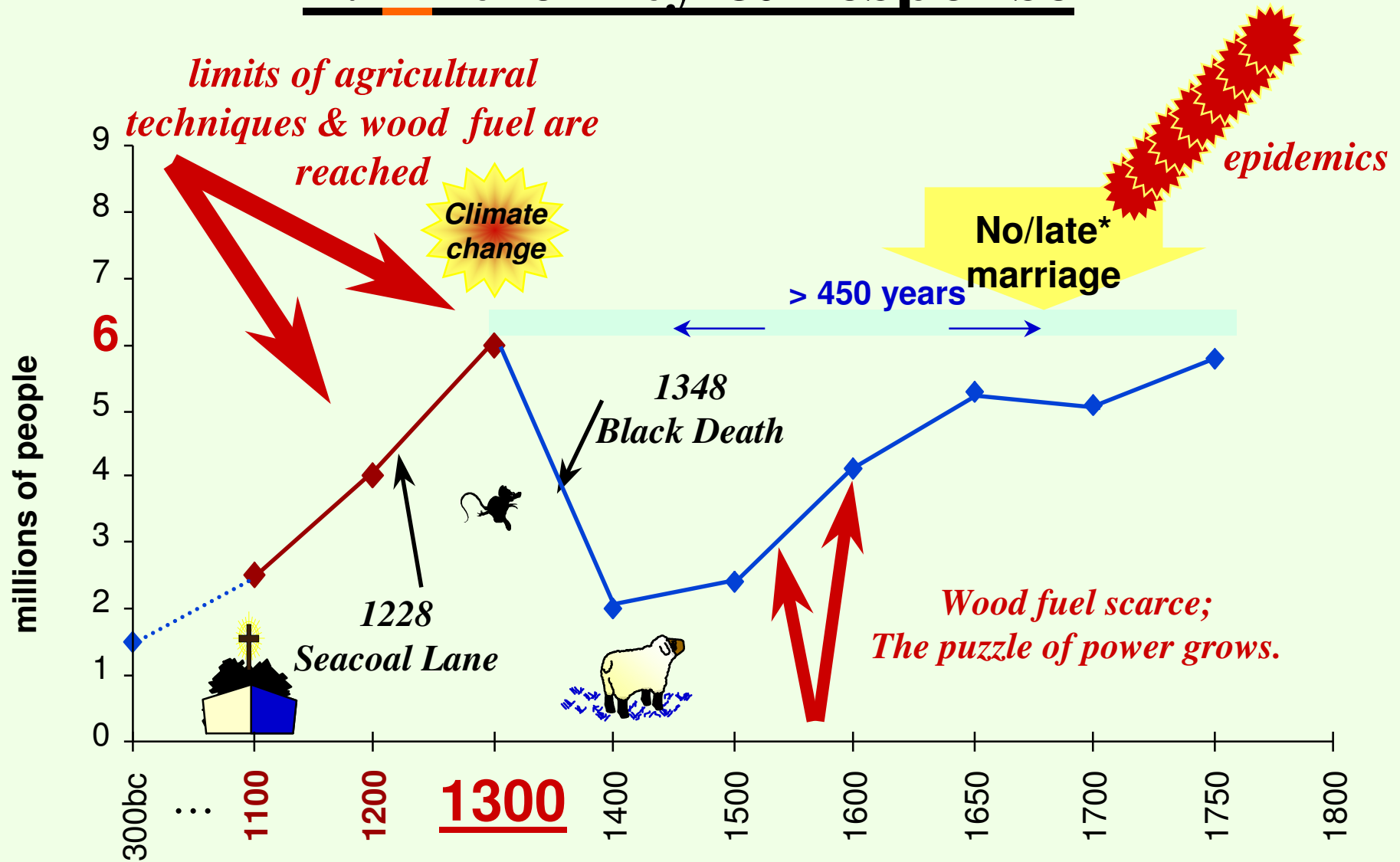
**E**

**E**xtremity

**E**xperiment

**E**ngagement

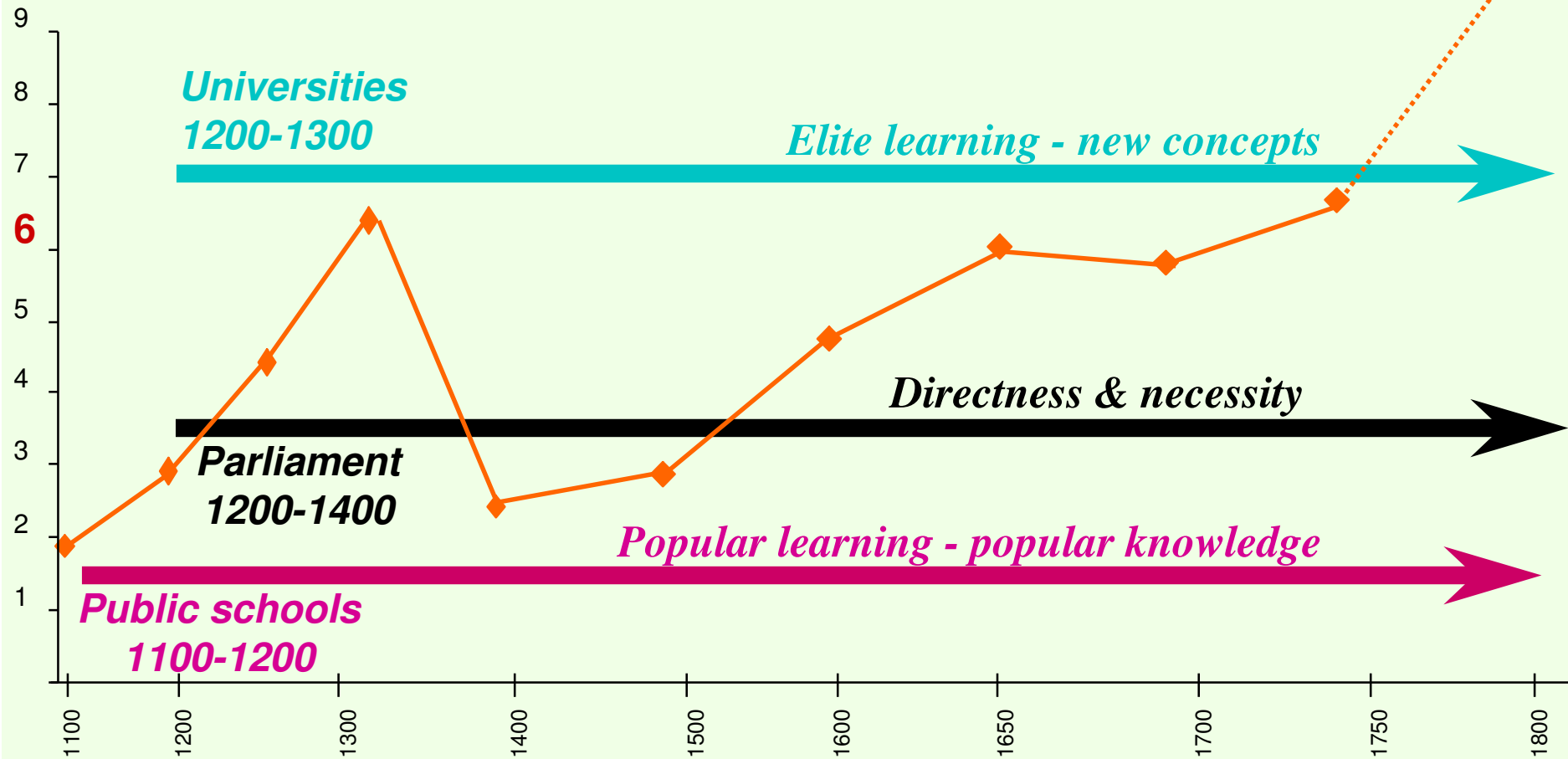
# 1: Extremity & response



\* Lawrence Stone, *The Family, Sex and Marriage in England 1500-1800*, Harper Torchbooks, 1979, chap. 2, *passim*. 1625-1825: 15-25% of peers' daughters never married; 15-20% of peers's sons never married. 1695 Lichfield, 9% of women > age 30 unmarried.

## 2: Continuity of critical Experiments

### *Early revolutionary institutions*



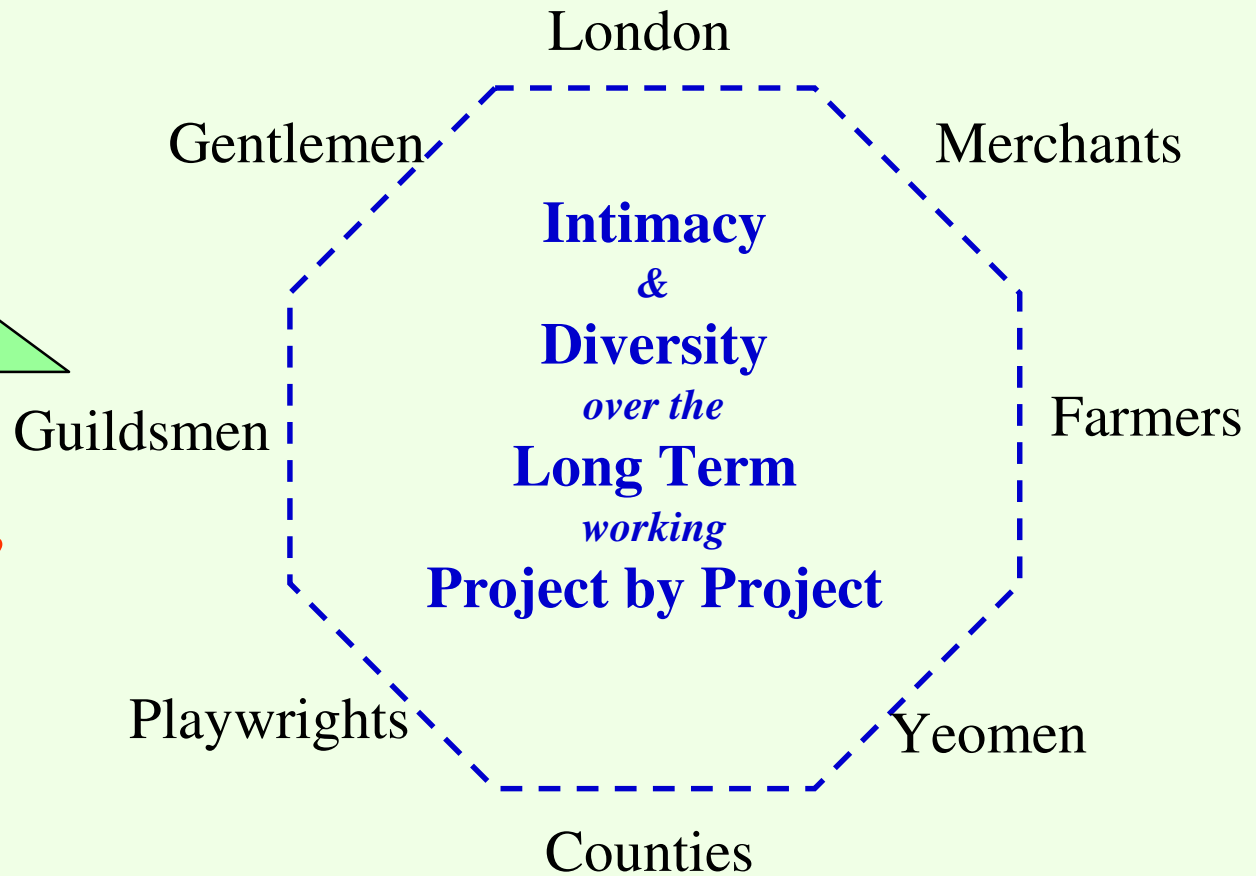
Sources: Schools: Nicholas Orme, 1976; Parliament: Ronald Butt, 1989; Universities: Jacques Verger, 1999

# 3: Engagement = creative local societies

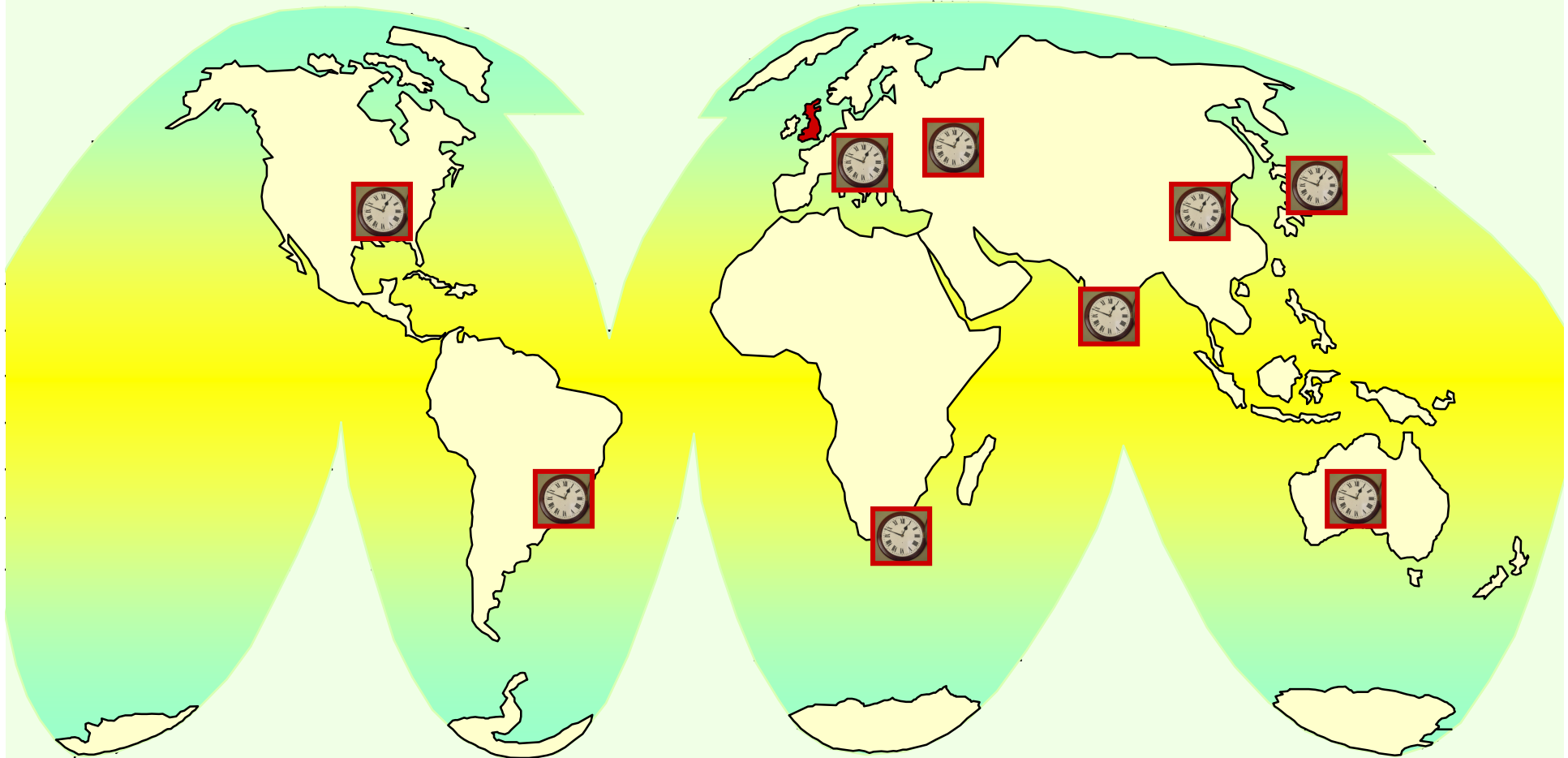
*descended from conquest & survival*



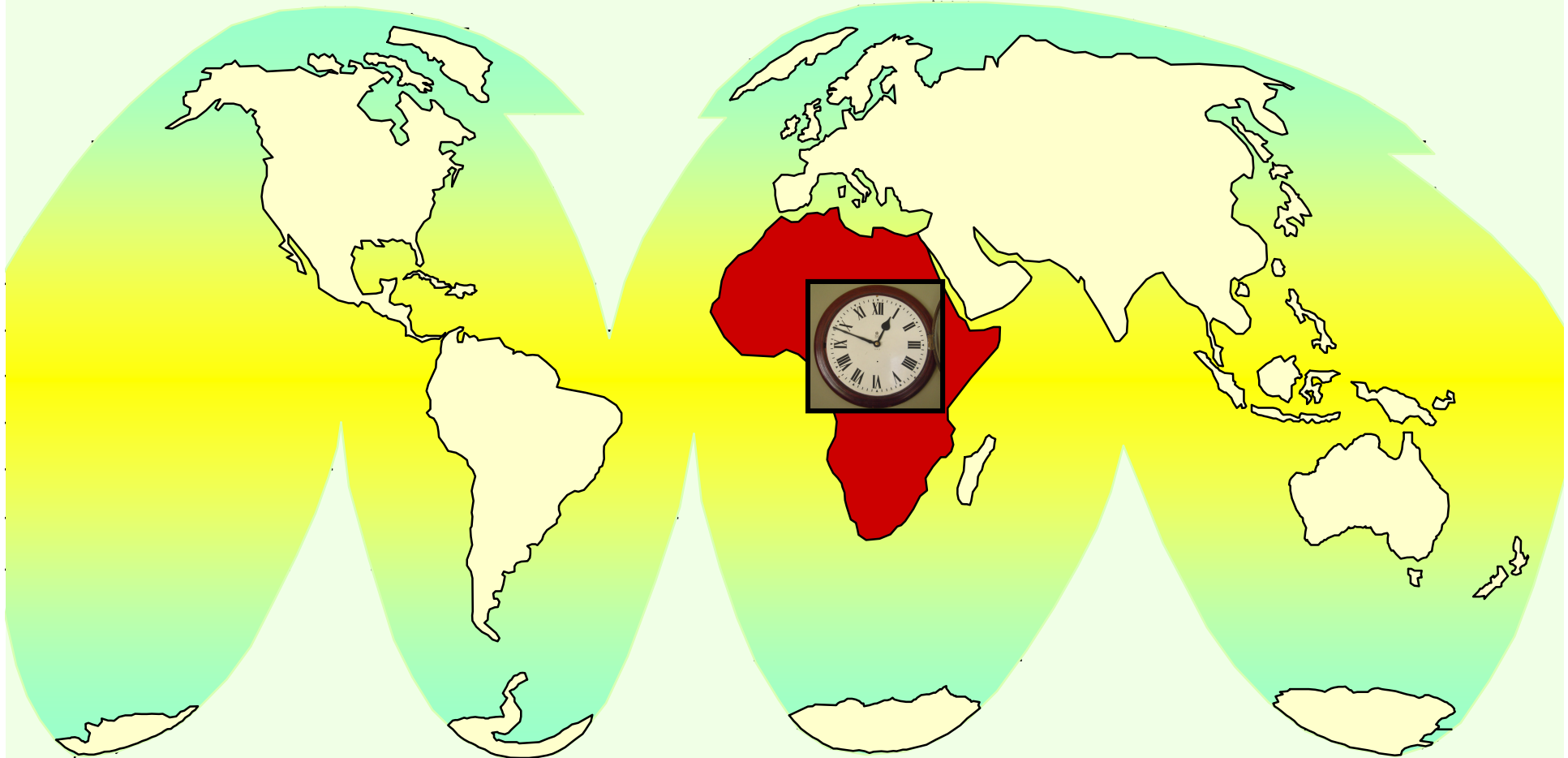
*“Neighbourliness”*



# An English accident that became a global ambition



*Africans today: also descendants of conquest & survival*



*(but what has survived?)*



**What lessons might be learned in Africa?**



**‘Neighbourliness?’**



**‘Artefacts?’**



**‘Dead things?’**



**‘Commerce?’**

*They say  
that you  
don't  
choose  
the  
spirits ...*



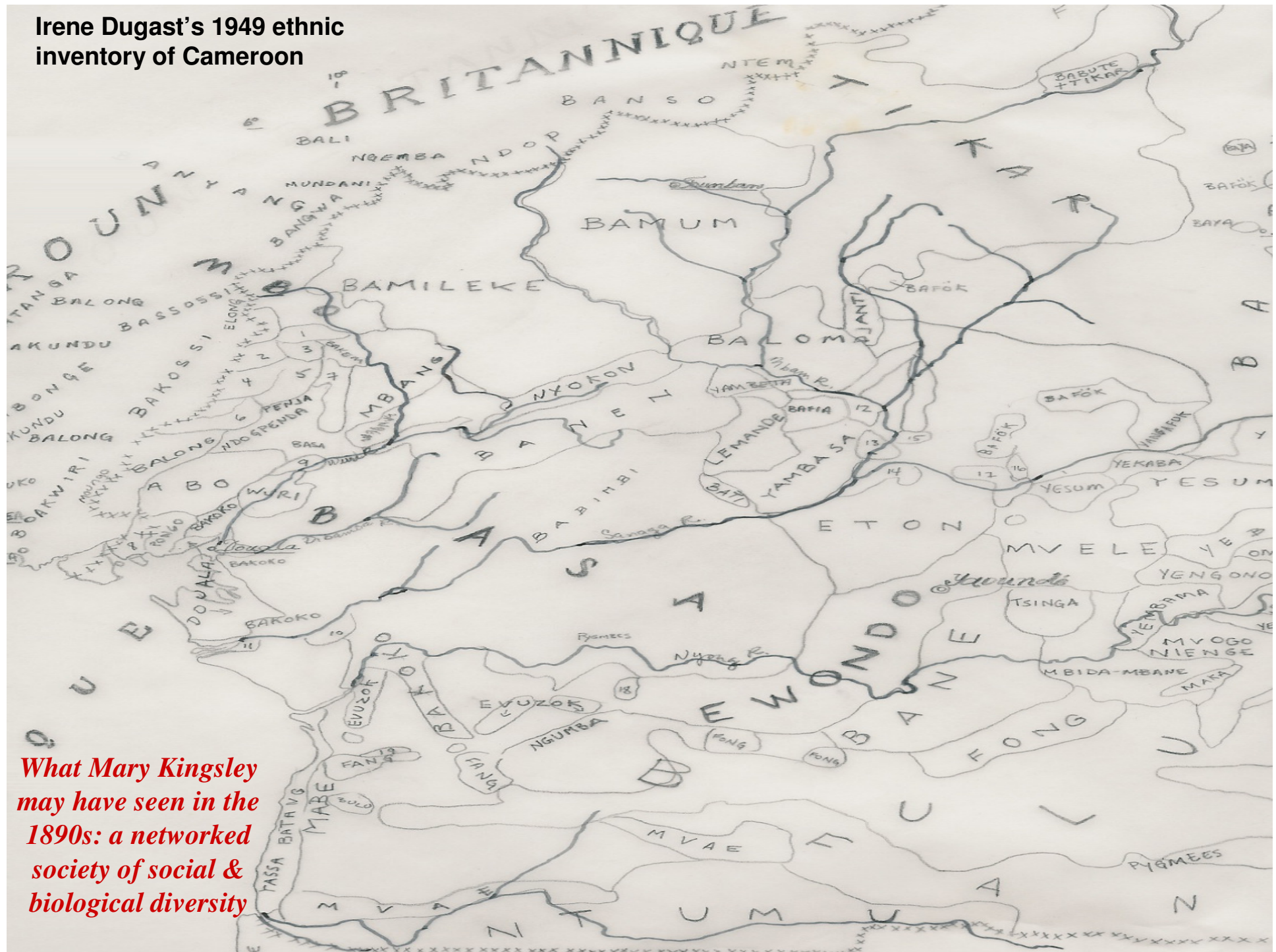
*the  
spirits  
choose  
you ...*



1982 – Buea  
The Cameroon Mountain Race

*(What was being defended?)*

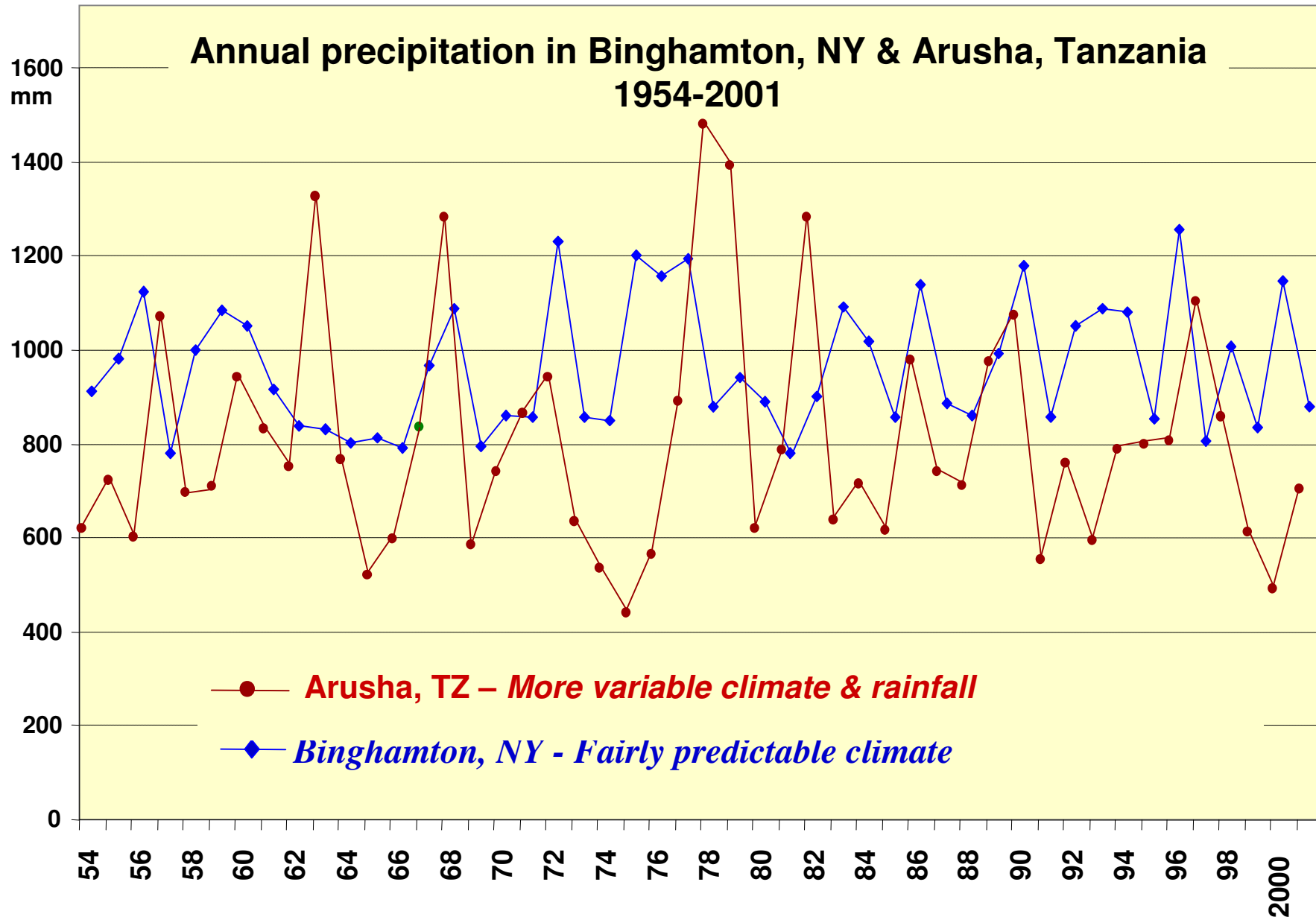
# Irene Dugast's 1949 ethnic inventory of Cameroon



*What Mary Kingsley may have seen in the 1890s: a networked society of social & biological diversity*



# Different climates → different risks



Sources: Manyara Estates, Arusha, Tanzania & <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/cli/bgmcli.html>

# Different assumptions re crises & change

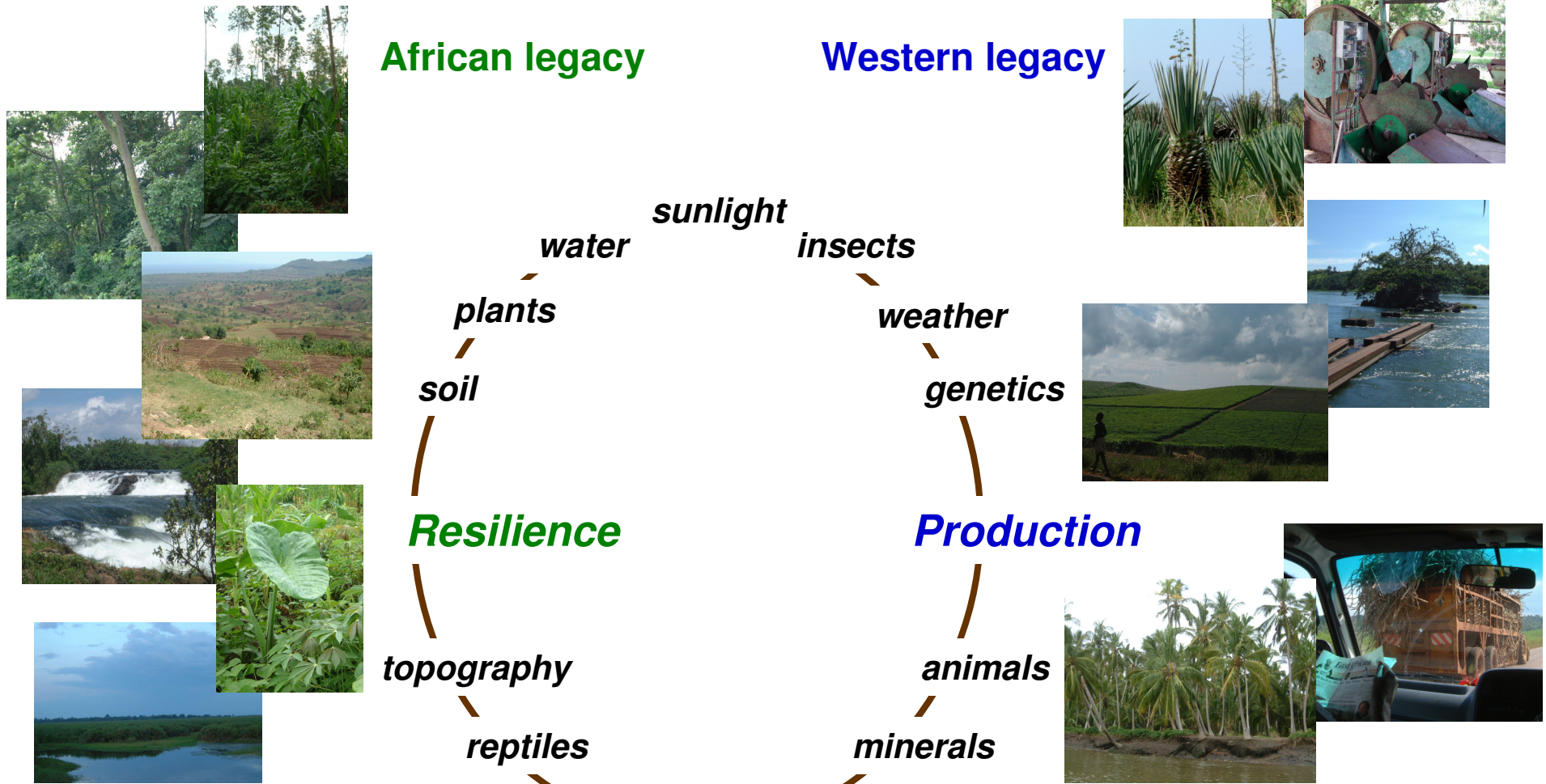


- Extreme events are normal & frequent in tropical Africa.
- The world is changeable; flexibility & adaptation are key.



- Extreme events are abnormal & infrequent.
- ‘Normality’ can be maintained with good manag’t & technology.

# Different assumptions → different goals



**Resilience** increased via small scale diversity & genetic reserves

**Production** increased via large scale homogeneity & industrial machines

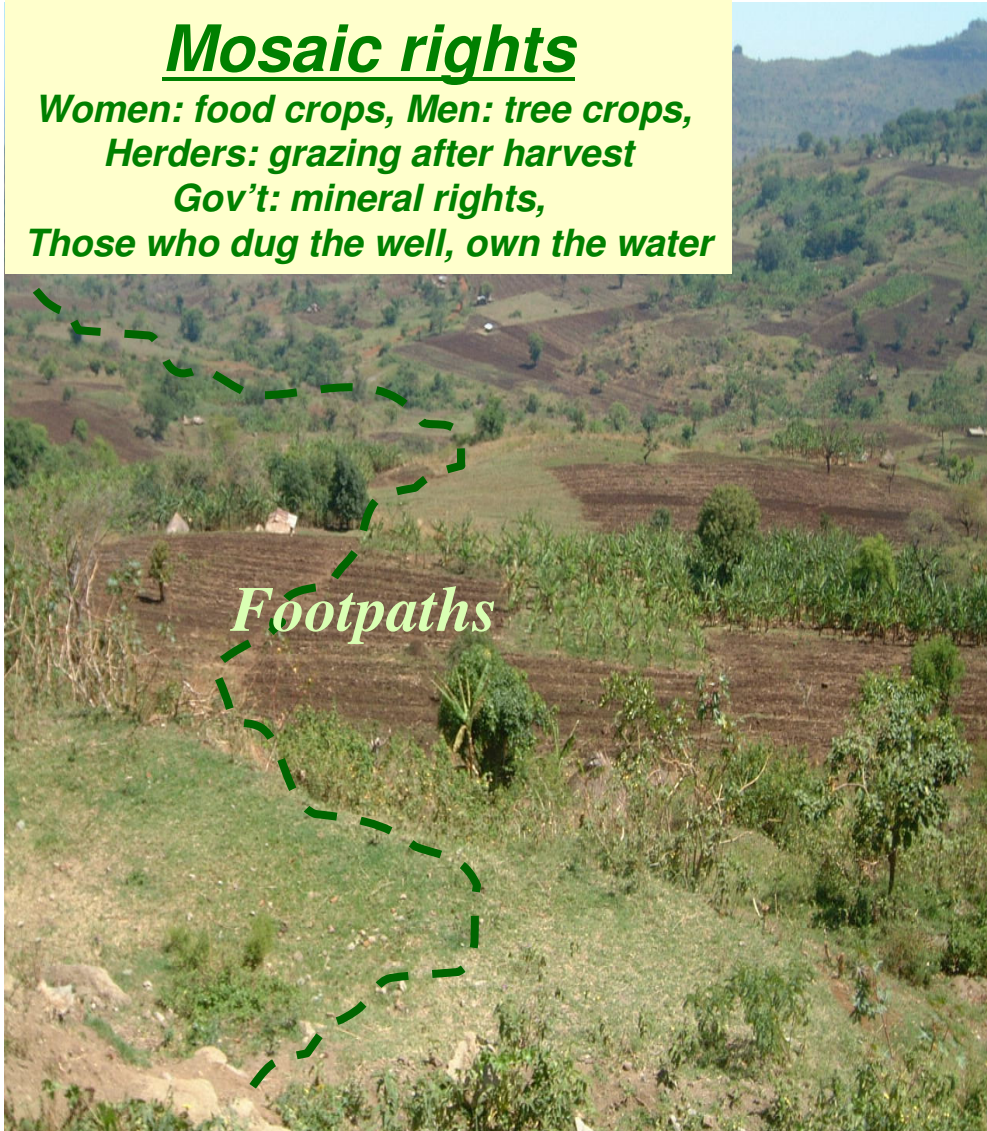
**exchange & redistribution**

**accumulation & transformation**

# Different goals → diff't rights → diff't boundaries

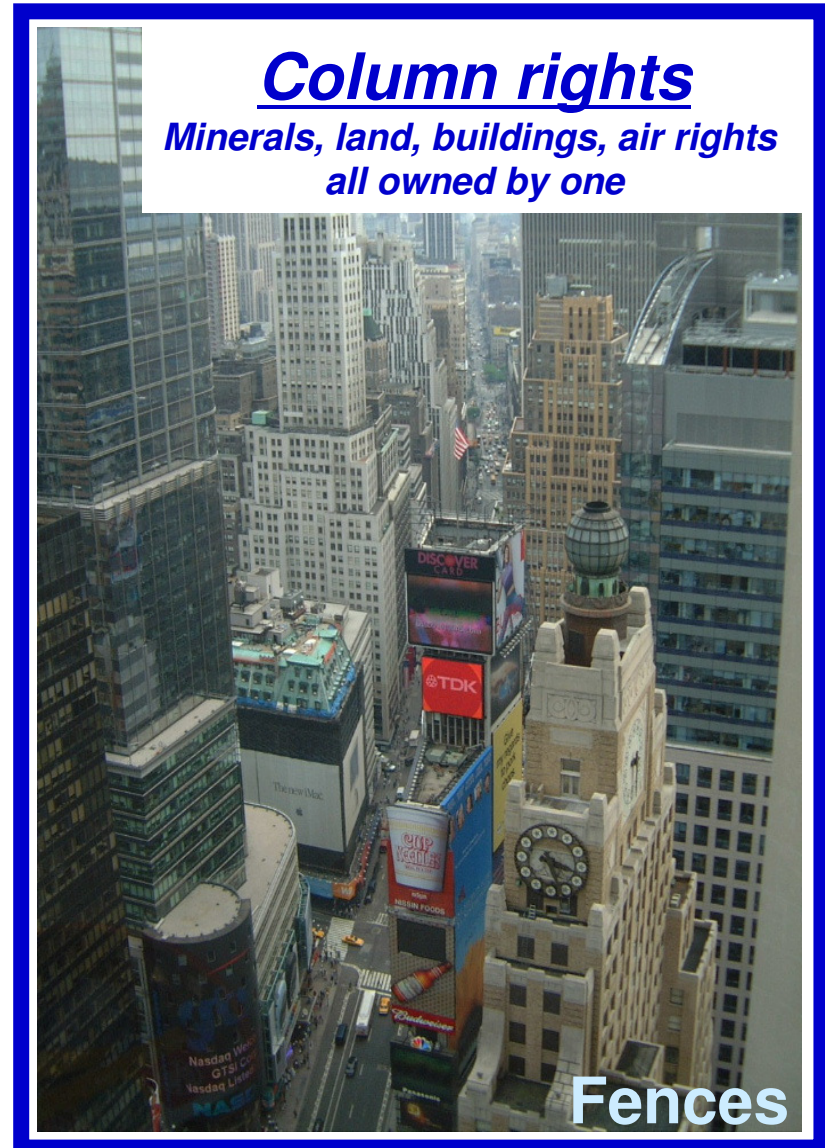
## Mosaic rights

*Women: food crops, Men: tree crops,  
Herders: grazing after harvest  
Gov't: mineral rights,  
Those who dug the well, own the water*



## Column rights

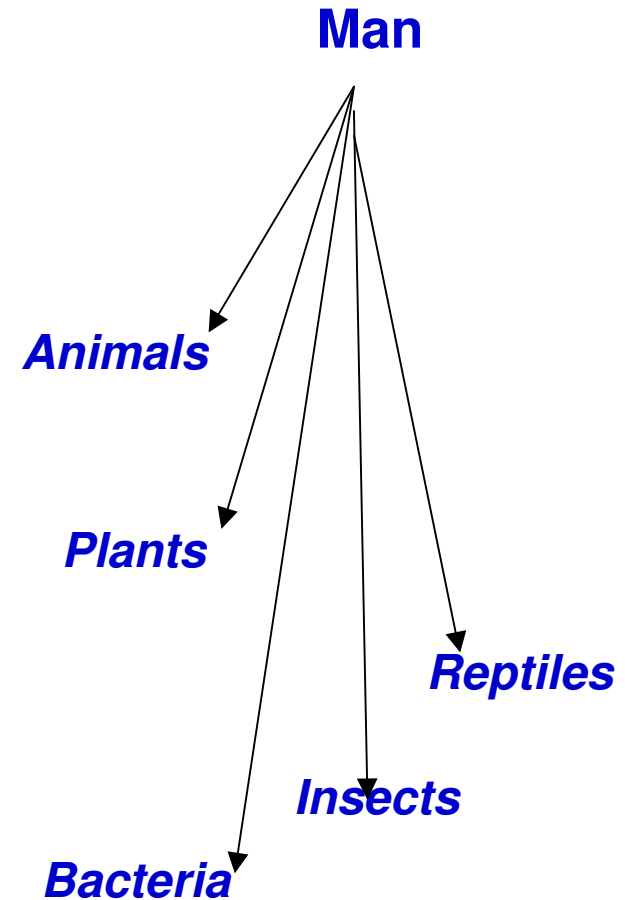
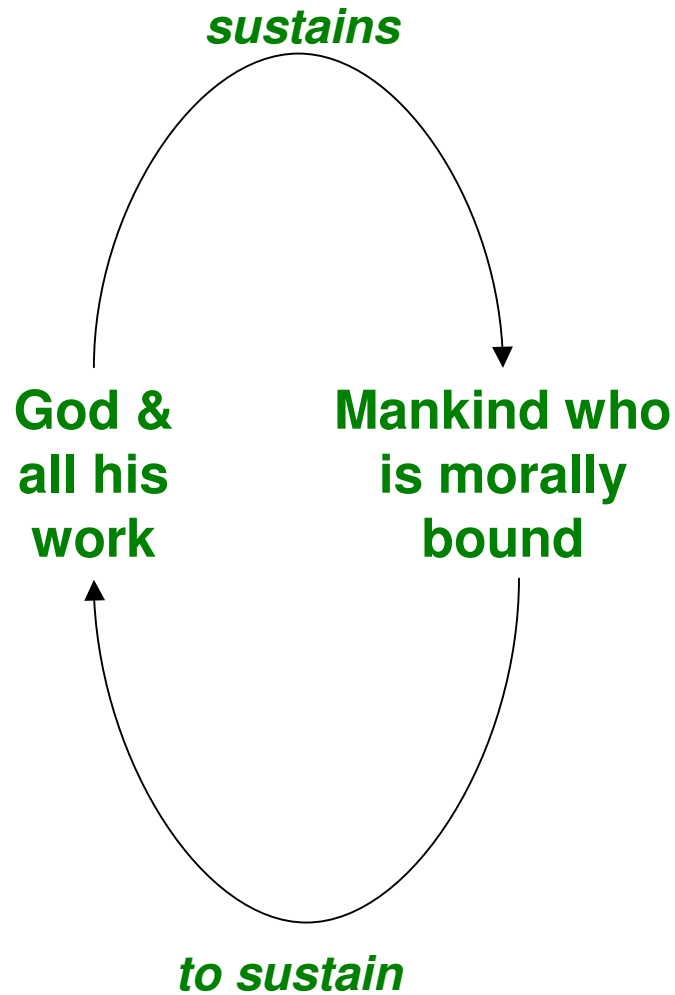
*Minerals, land, buildings, air rights  
all owned by one*



# Property rights define our relationships



# Different cosmologies



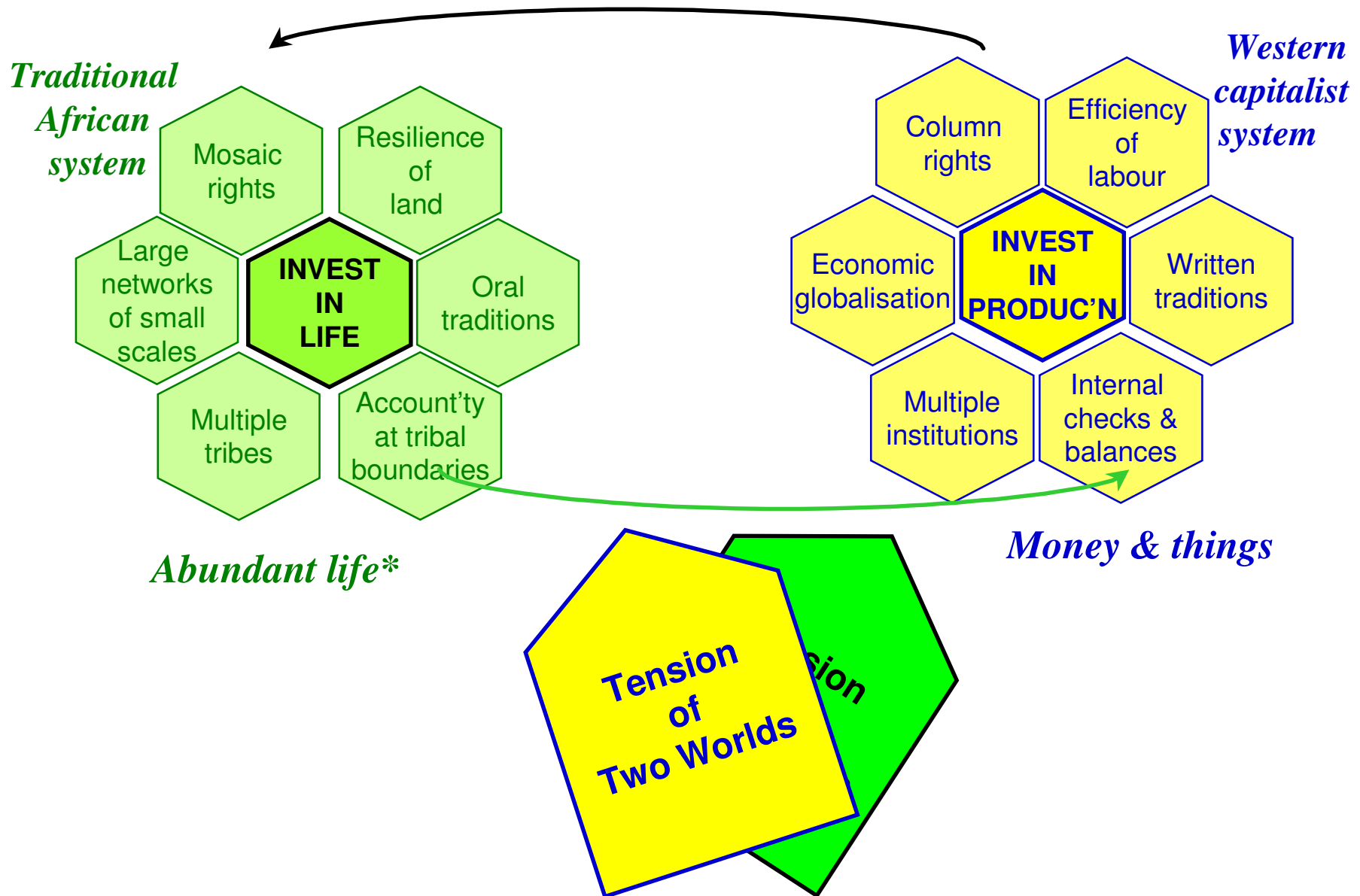
*you don't  
choose  
the  
spirits ...*



*the  
spirits  
choose  
you ...*

*Spirits =  
knowledge  
discipline  
nature's voice  
political power  
connections*

# Two legacies, two kinds of goals



\*Laurenti Magesa, *African Religion: The Moral Traditions of Abundant Life*, 1998, p. 53



Extremity

aEsthetics

Engagement

Experiment

E

# Seduction of modernity



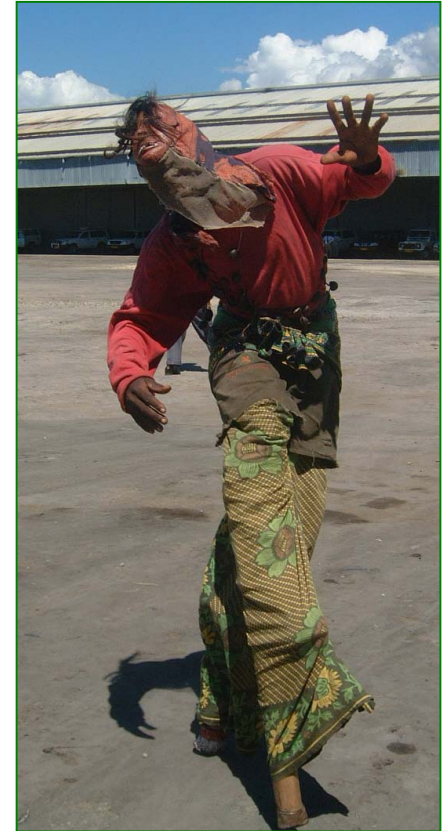
Long Island shopping



## East African industrial investments



# Longevity of tradition



*NB: landscapes from Uganda – Jinja & Mbale; people from Mtwara*

**E**xtremity

# Extremity & climate change - Lake Baringo, Kenya

Extremity



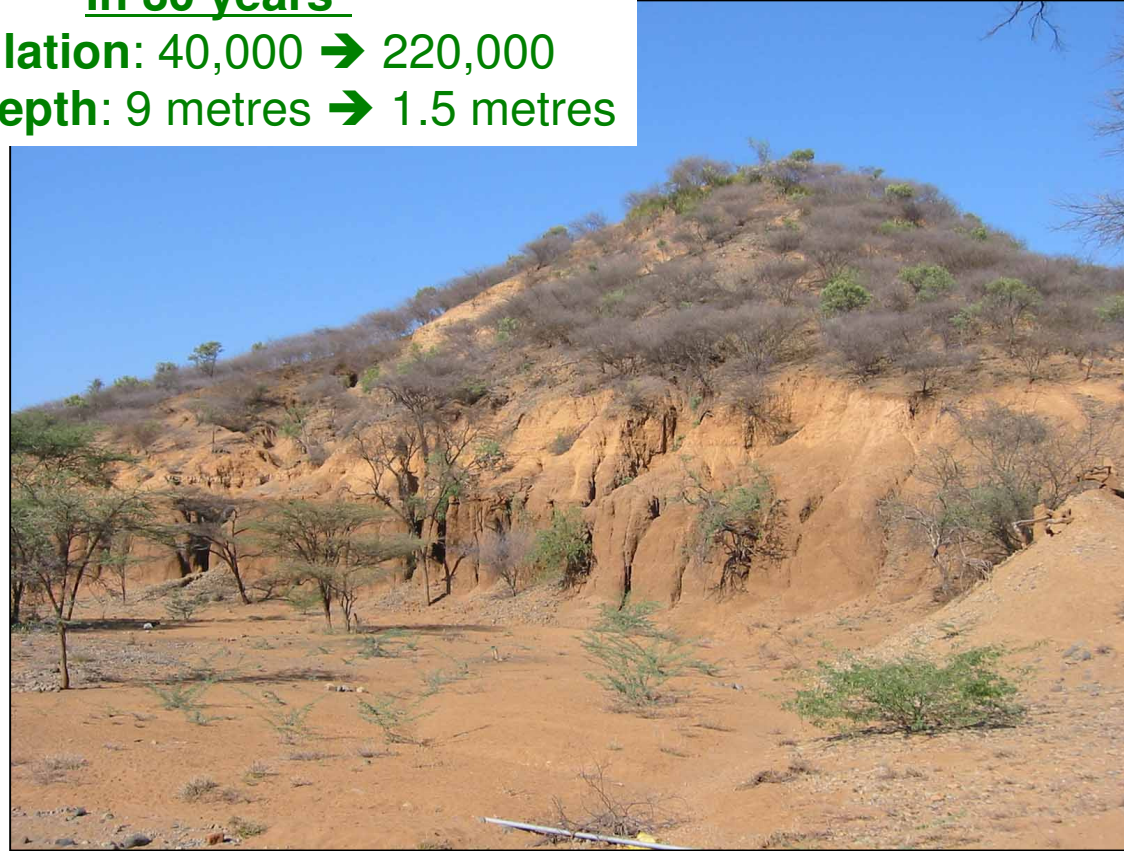
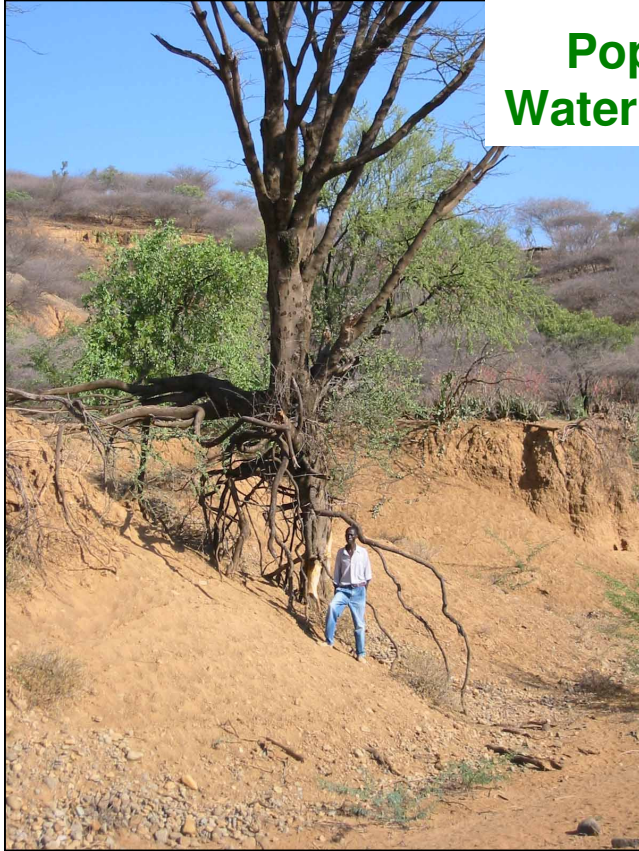
**In 2003, exceptional floods increased gullying and erosion.**

\*Source: Daily Nation, Nairobi, June 20, 2002; photograph courtesy of RAE, Baringo

# Population pressure & erosion – Lake Baringo

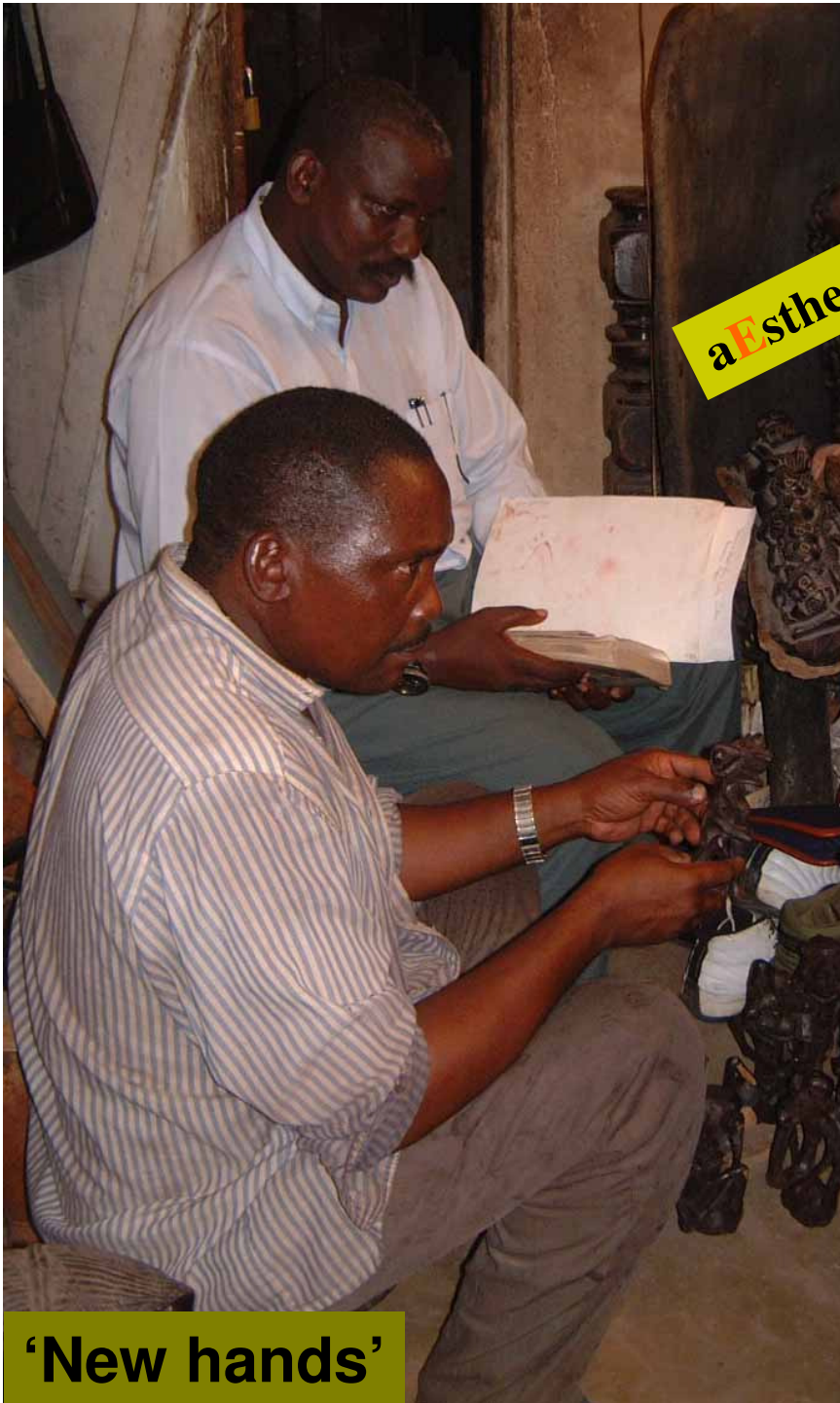
In 30 years\*

**Population: 40,000 → 220,000**  
**Water depth: 9 metres → 1.5 metres**



**Two rainy seasons a year, but large variations  
in rainfall from one year to another.**

aESthetics



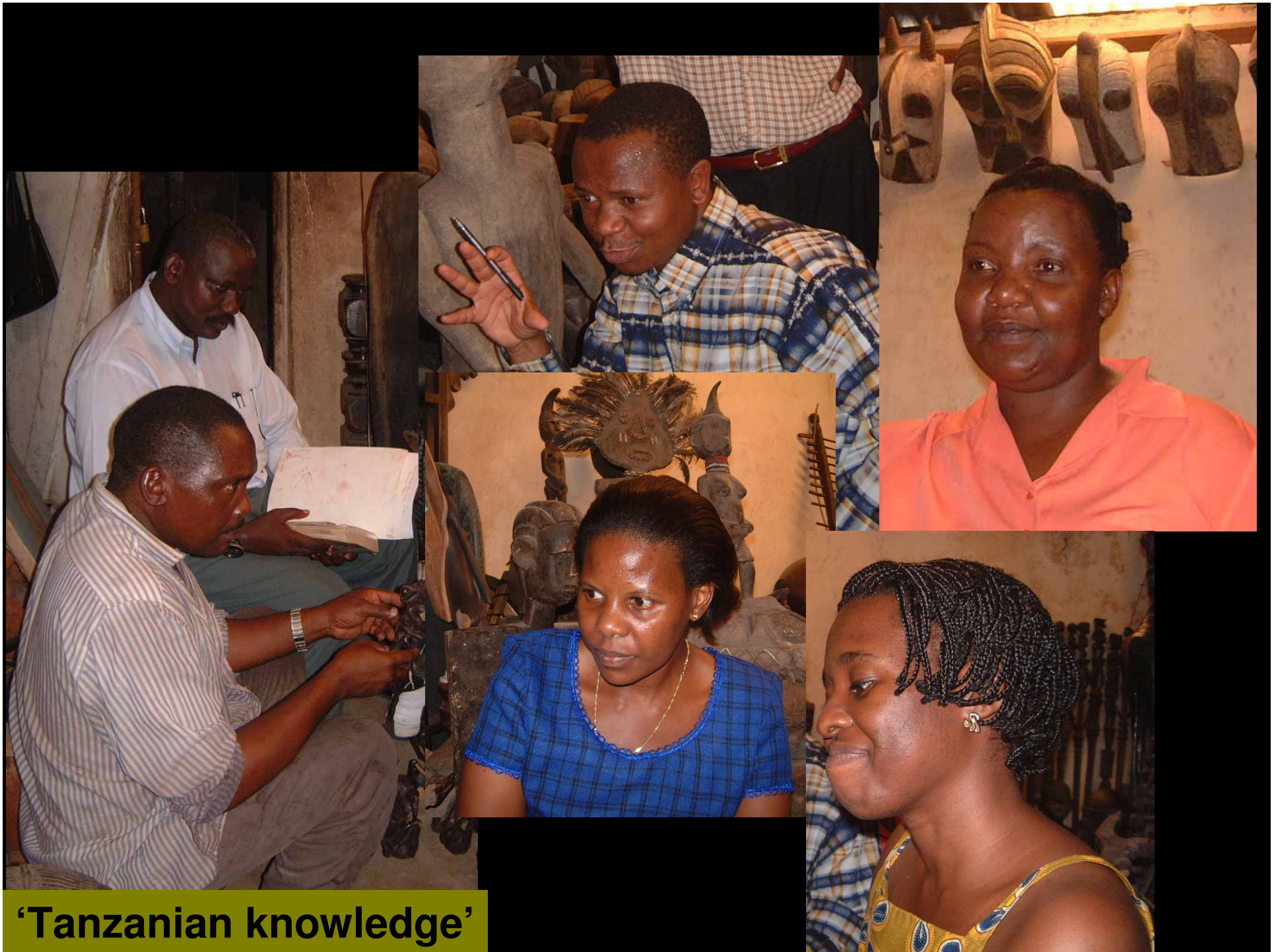
aEsthetics

‘New hands’



*Kimbunga*  
by Joseph Nyunga, 2001





**‘Tanzanian knowledge’**



***LIFE***

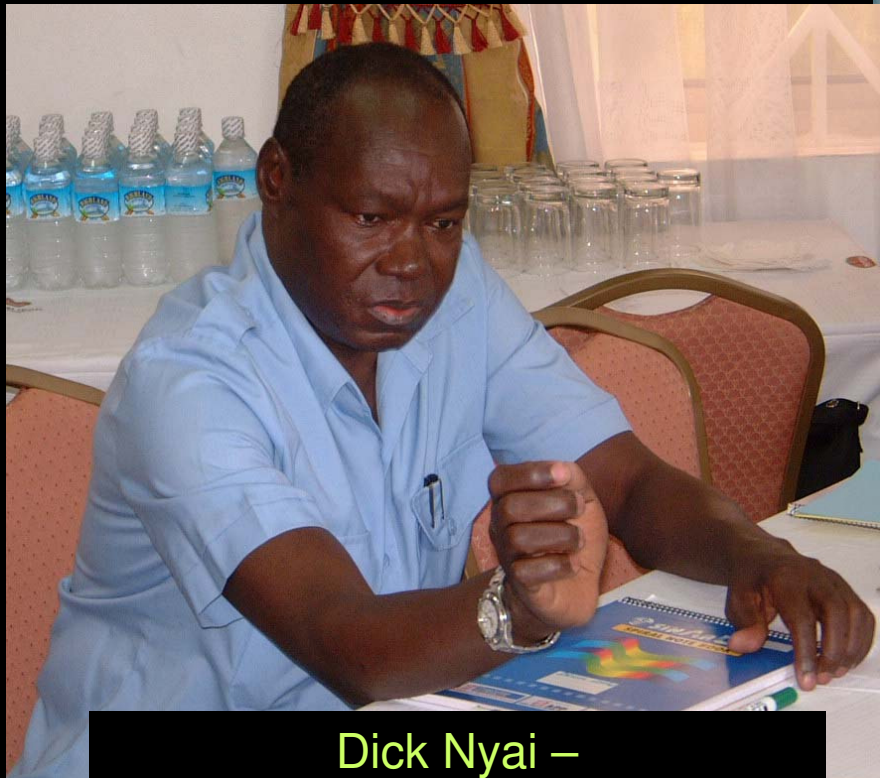
by Joseph Nyunga, 2001

*“Because life is dangerous ...”*

**Engagement**

# The political opponents – older generation

**Engagement**



Dick Nyai –  
former opposition MP



James Magode - ruling party  
Movement secretariat

**Memory, example, idealism.  
Personal courage, survival –  
& the art of story telling.**

# The professionals – middle generation

**Hydrologist**



**Ecologist**



**former MP**



**Economist**

**Competence,  
endurance,  
caution & new  
possibilities**



**Statistician**

# Young hopefuls – youngest generation



Jacinta Miracle  
Wants to be an engineer



Kenneth  
Wants to be an architect



Joel  
Wants to be a journalist

**Simplicity  
Optimism  
Skills**

*a different dynamic, a new dialogue*

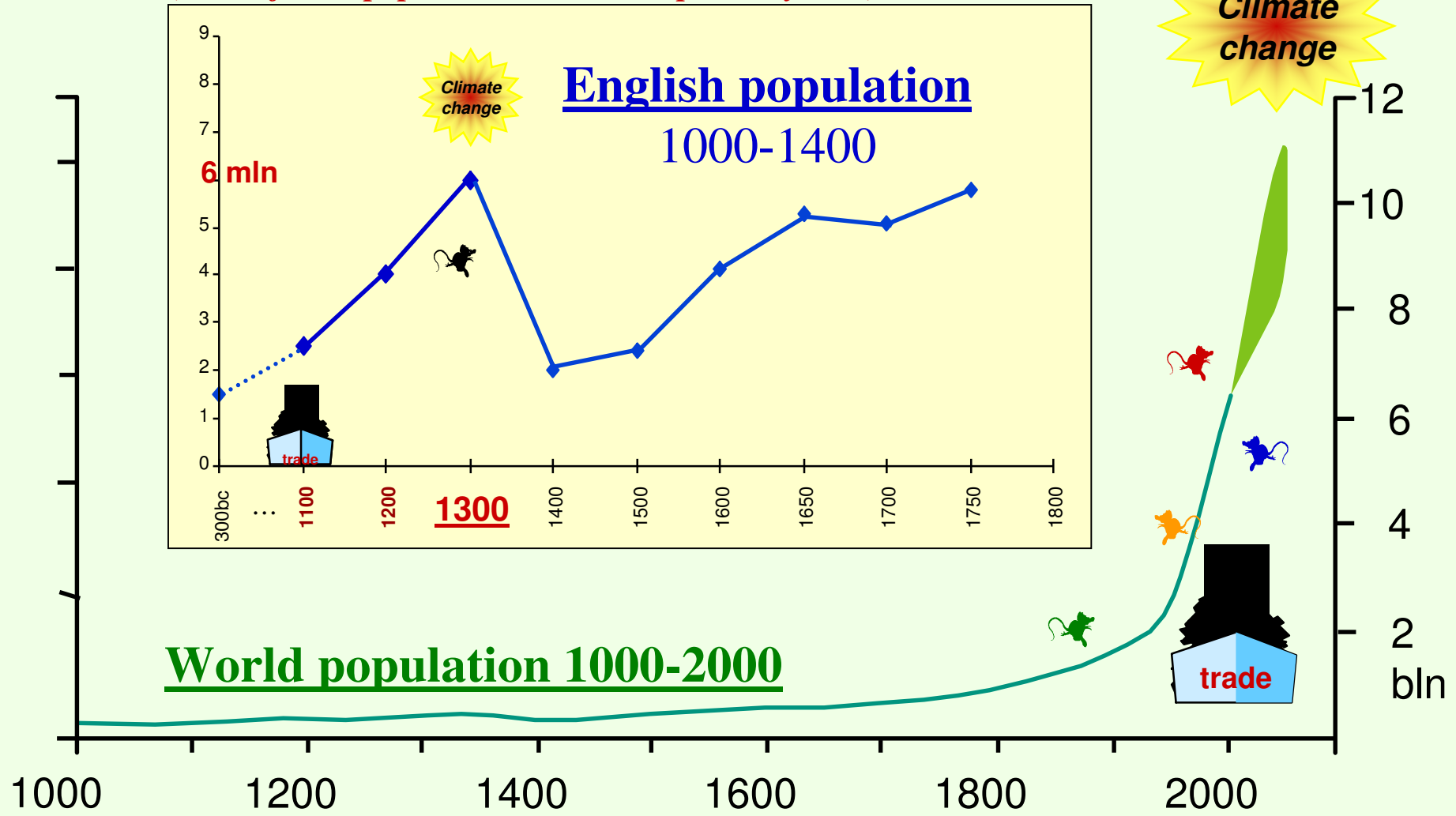


**Experiment**



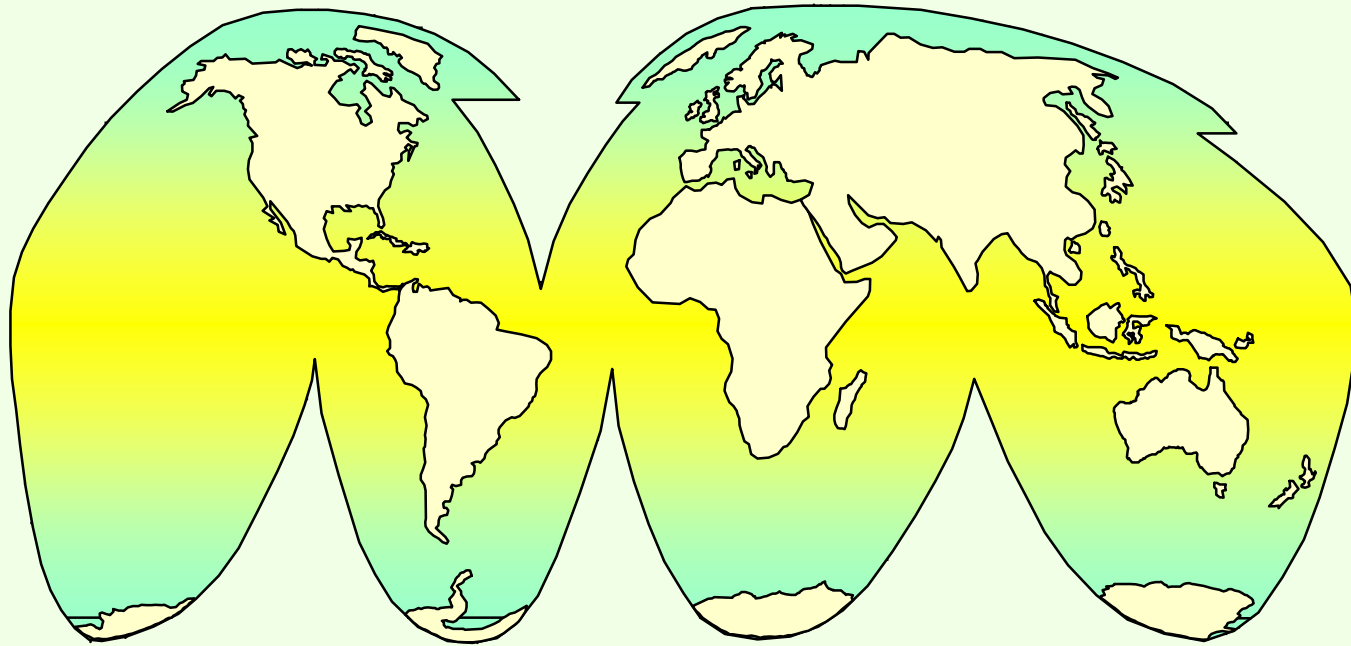
# Parallels to medieval times

*(East African populations trebled in past 40 years.)*



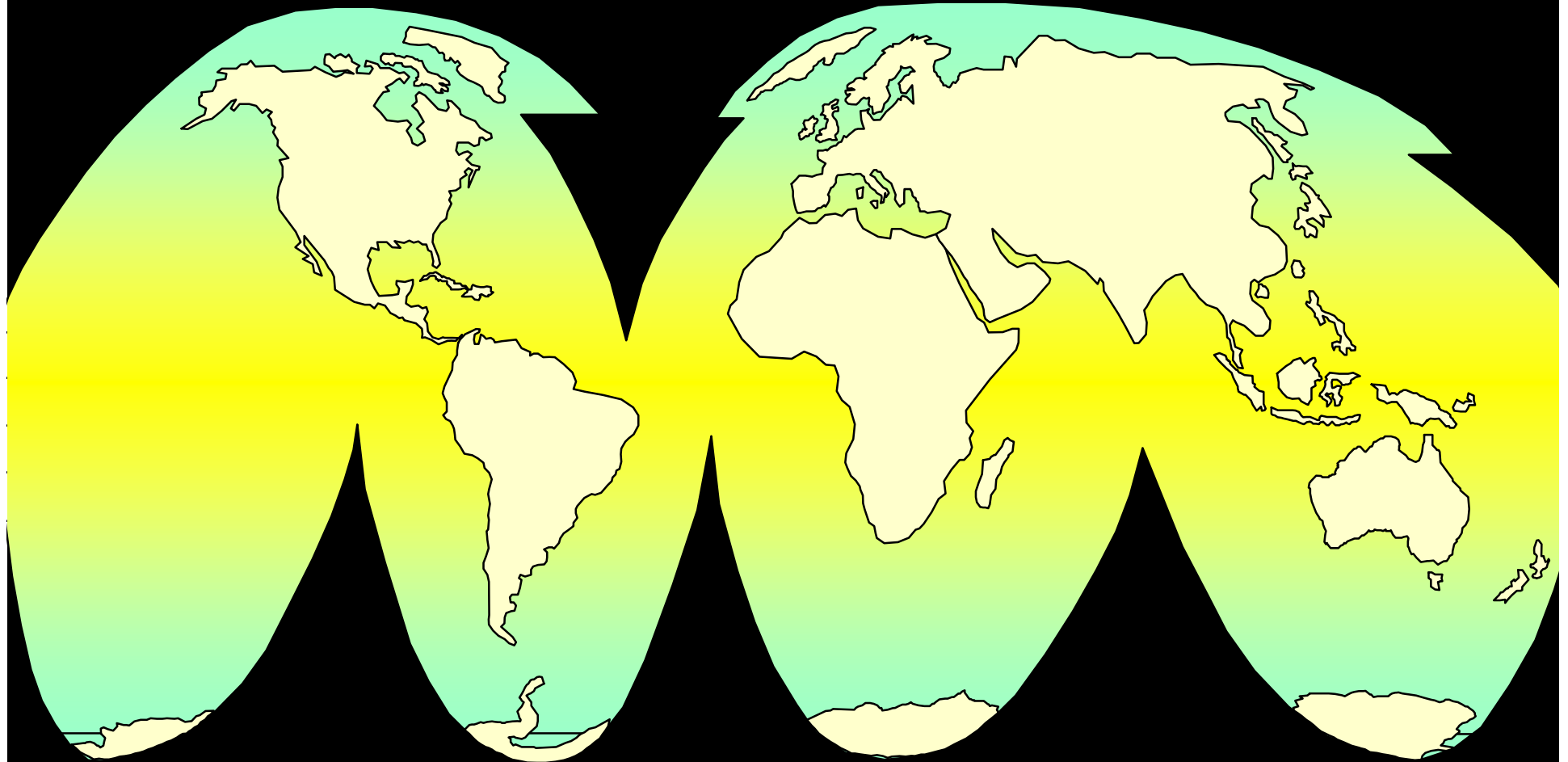
# Rising populations, rising greenhouse gases

**Most carbon emissions are in the OECD North.**



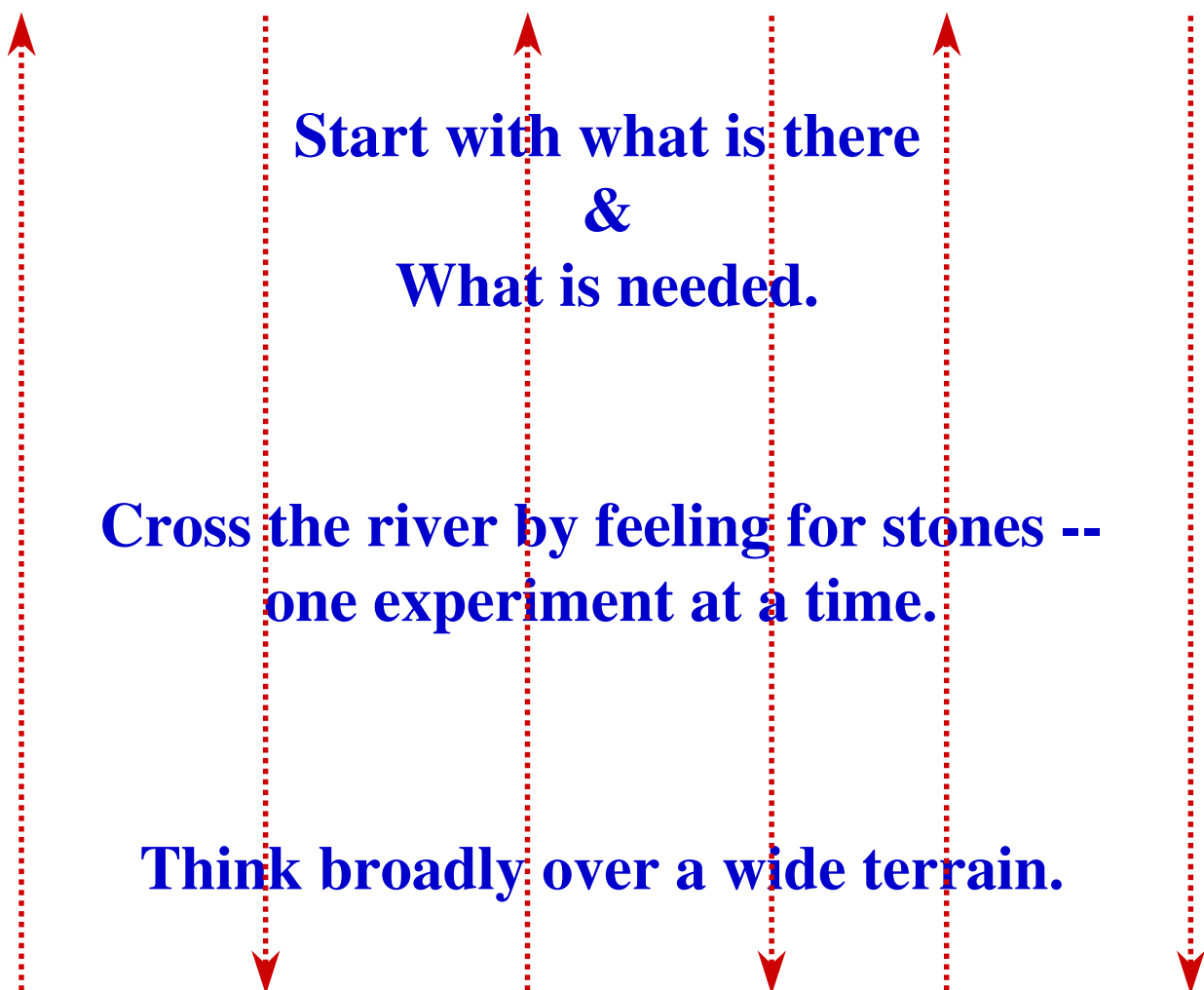
**The greatest biodiversity is in the tropics of the South.**

# What experimental institutions can we create now?



Can we learn to trade Northern carbon for Southern biodiversity?

# Changing a Complex Human System



**Start with what is there  
&  
What is needed.**

**Cross the river by feeling for stones --  
one experiment at a time.**

**Think broadly over a wide terrain.**

