



**Uncovering 'GreenWash'
Challenging our Governments into Action**

Alternative civil society reports on sustainable development from around the world: From Rio to Johannesburg

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Forward

The World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) was meant to review progress made since the first Earth Summit in Rio and move forward with a plan of action on environment and development issues. To this end, each country was required by the United Nations to produce a national assessment of its implementation of Agenda 21 over the last ten years. The result was in many cases a slow rate of return of numerous 'greenwash' reports. Many of the government reports focused on self-congratulation, cynically trying to use the Johannesburg Summit as a public relations event rather than a time for introspection. Other government reports were rather self-critical but were unwilling to detail a national plan of action for real change. Other countries have yet to even submit their reports, reflecting the minimum priority placed on environment and development issues.

Overall government reports revealed a lack of political will required to implement sustainable development. While all nations score differently in levels of implementation and sustainable development successes, the general conclusion is that inaction more than action has characterized the last decade. As we approach the tenth anniversary of Rio, we are a long way from our optimistic aspirations of environmental sustainability and a world free of poverty.

While the international forum is imperative to achieving sustainable development, it is the culminating effort of nation states that will change the state of the world. In order to produce honest assessments and critiques of their countries, many non-governmental organizations formed networks to develop their own national reports. On many occasions the existence of a government report provided the precise opportunity for civil society NGOs to present alternative assessments or 'shadow reports' of what has occurred at the national level. Though in each country civil society groups have organized themselves differently and the reports follow different formats, the common theme of this publication is an independent perspective on what has happened over the last decade and what needs to be urgently done to place our countries on track with sustainable development.

At the Johannesburg Summit there is a striking lack of political commitment to sustainable development appearing in the text of the draft plan of implementation. It is clear to civil society groups that if governments were forced into public debate over their lack of performance in advancing Agenda 21 they might be pressured to take greater strides in implementing their environmental commitments at both the national and global level. Unfortunately the governments and the WSSD process did not embrace critical review of past performance, and wanted only to look to the future without learning from the immediate past.

As sustainable development often requires changing the status quo, implementing it requires leadership and political will. Unfortunately few governments have been willing to take the steps needed to move towards a more equitable world. Many of the challenges outlined in the reports are not new and what they make clear is that if the next ten years are going to move beyond the last, we will need clear targets, timelines, means of implementation and monitoring. The WSSD is a key point in history to generate renewed commitments and political will to move towards more sustainable societies.

This document brings civil society representatives from twenty-two countries from different continents around the globe who challenge governments in their efforts to date in implementing Agenda 21 and promoting sustainable develop-

ment. This report is a compilation of summaries of much larger reports that the different national groups prepared. Each chapter of the report starts with an overview of the country, the process used to write the report, and the key findings and demands of civil society from their government.

Our objectives in compiling these reports and presenting them at the Johannesburg Summit are to:

- Challenge governments to evaluate their performance over the last decade in advancing sustainable development.
- Promote targets and timelines to implement sustainable development.
- Attract the world's media attention to cover the environmental issues at the national level.
- Exchange information amongst civil society groups on local experiences of sustainable development.
- Provide a platform for national civil society issues to be debated and discussed.

Many foundations and organizations supported the writing at the national level of the alternative reports – they are too numerous to mention. We are grateful though to them all. Two organizations however stand out in their assistance in making this publication possible and its presentation at the Johannesburg Summit. They are the Danish 92 Group and the Heinrich Boll Foundation. We are grateful for their support and in particular to Marc Berthold, Stefan Cramer, Sidse Veje and David Kaggwa.

Other groups that we would like to thank are the staff of Friends of the Earth Middle East and One Sky – The Canadian Institute of Sustainable Living who allowed the editors to disappear from their many other commitments for the time required to produce this report.

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Amazon Basin

Introduction

COICA, is an international organisation of the indigenous people belonging to the Amazonian Basin. It was created in the first. Assembly of the organisation held in Lima, Peru, in March 1984.

The Amazonian basin's geographical area is estimated to be around 6,400,000² km, but the total of declared areas by each country makes the basin larger. It is as follows in sq.km: Bolivia 824,000, Brazil 4,982,000, Colombia 406,000, Ecuador 123,000, Guyana 5,780, Peru 956,751 and Venezuela 53,000. The Amazon has the biggest tropical forest in the world. Its flora and fauna constitutes more than half of the world's ecosystem. Its water represents 15 to 20% of the entire freshwater on earth. And the Amazon river pours 15.5% non salty waters into the oceans.

Indigenous peoples are estimated to be a million and a half inhabitants in the basin. There are about 400 diverse communities in history, languages, culture, territory, organisational forms and world vision. COICA gathers Amazonian indigenous national organisations of 9 Amazonian countries. It is the loudest voice of the indigenous peoples in the Amazonian region.

The following are the member organisations of COICA:

1. Indigenous Nationalities Confederation of the Ecuadorian Amazon□a, CONFENIAE.
2. Development Inter ethnic Association of the Peruvian Jungle, AIDSESEP.
3. Indigenous Peoples' Confederation of Bolivia, CIDOB.
4. Indigenous Organizations of Brazilian Amazon□a Coordinator, COIAB.
5. Indigenous Organization in Surinam, HEARD.
6. Amerindian People Association of Guyana, APA.
7. Indian National Council of Venezuela, CONIVE.
8. Indigenous People Organization of the Colombian Amazon□a, OPIAC and,
9. Amerindian Organizations Federation of French Guayana, FOAG.

Process

The indigenous peoples made their report through these phases:

Inception Phase

We, the indigenous communities of the Amazonian Basin have through our own national, regional and international processes made a set of initiatives and capacities to develop political and legislative policies that recognise indigenous people' rights in their States and societies.

The indigenous communities residing in the Amazonian Basin are represented by an organisation called COICA. Through this organisation, they are participating in a project called "Danish Support to increase the participation of NGOs in the South: Africa, Asia and Latin America in the World Summit of Sustainable Development "

In this phase a project was formulated for COICA participation in the Danish project.

Implementation Phase

The implementation phase started in February of 2002 with the agreement's endorsement between COICA and FEU. At the beginning of March 2002, COICA assigned a new Rio+10 Co-ordinator to co-ordinate all the organisations under COICA.

The COICA General Co-ordinator participated and discussed Rio+10 issues in the CONFENIAE Assembly held in the Ecuadorian Amazon at the end of February 2002.

It is necessary to remark that the COICA General Co-ordinator participated actively in the development of PrepCom III on Sustainable Development held in New York 2002.

The COICA, participated in a Socialisation Workshop of Rio+10 Project in La Paz, Bolivia. This was attended by Hans Peter from the International Office of Denmark, the Latin America Regional Co-ordinator, FEU and the Central American sub-region CICAFOC.

COICA through its new Rio+10 Project Co-ordinator participated in Prepcom IV, which took place in Bali (Indonesia) from May 26 to June 7 of 2002.

COICA is organising its active participation with its co-ordinator and an indigenous delegate per organisation - country member, in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002.

Highlights

COICA is aware that the Agreements and Resolutions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development accomplished in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) 1992 have not been fulfilled by the different National States, the United Nations Organisation and the multilateral organisations.

The indigenous peoples are worried of liberalisation and globalisation that are dominating the world scene. They have written their proposal called: "Indigenous People and Sustainable Development", a Possible Future?

This proposal will help them protect their collective rights and develop on their own pace..

This document will be analysed, reformed and approved by the Executive Council and COICA Co-ordination on July 30 and 31 and August 1st and 2nd of 2002 in Quito. It will be presented in Johannesburg 2002.

The mentioned draft document contains:

- The precedents and principal agreements in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) 1992.
- The assessments of Rio de Janeiro 1992 agreements related to the Amazonian indigenous communities as the ratification of different international agreements, among them the ILO 169 Agreement.
- The development of a vision that the indigenous communities have and seek, which differs from the western one included in so the called "sustainable development plan." Countries that advocate for sustainable development do not implement it
- Exists a series of recommendations for action from the indigenous communities related to various issues, including Environmental, Training and technology, Financial Organisations, Social Control, Territories, Non renewable Resources, Agreements and international legal instruments, Ancient Knowledge, Climatic Change, Water and, Health.

Findings

We can synthesise the principal conclusions in:

- United Nations has weakened as organisation that conducts dialogue and reconciliation between National States, national and international private companies and civil society representatives.
- The globalisation of a market economy leads to the exploitation of renewable and non renewable resources to the advantage of private interests
- The civil society representatives in the international region make positive proposals in international forums and oppose globalisation through massive demonstrations.
- The indigenous communities of different regions of the world and, in particular, the Amazonian communities have decided to determine their destiny.
- For the present and future of the humanity no State, powerful groups in different fields, no matter how strong they might be, will always need the co-operation of others in a real interdependence.

Principal demands of the indigenous communities are:

- International and national legal recognition of different people.
- Recognition, respect and access to lands and territories.
- Recognise the right to ancient knowledge as their forms of production and social organisation.
- Consultation and participation in all plans, programs and development projects in indigenous peoples' territories.
- Full participation in national and international forums.
- Accomplish alliances with people, organisations, States, and national and international organisations to defend human life and other living beings.

by Ampam Karakras, Indigenous Organizations Coordinator - COICA.

COICA is the Coordination of Indigenous Organisations of the Amazon Basin with 9 national organisations in 9 countries: Peru, Guyana, Bolivia, Ecuador, Brazil, Venezuela, French Guyana, Surinam, and Colombia. info@coica.org

Argentina

Introduction

The most important issue for civil society organisations is the limited participation of formal activities. The activities referred to are: development oriented, equity, struggle against poverty and social, economic, cultural and even ethnic aspects of the different components of the global environmental change and its components.

Although NGOs are informed environmental issues and they are sometimes requested to give opinions about the regional and international aspects of such issues, their role is always limited. The use of NGOs' capacities to execute within environmental and development projects, programs and goals on a national, regional and global scale is not a priority for the government. Generally, the importance of NGOs in the achievement of sustainable development is not taken seriously by the government. This is in direct opposition to the Conventions of the United Nations, International and Regional Agreements.

The lack of institutional arrangements that formalise the responsibility of NGOs leads to environmental and development policies which would lead to sustainable development. Advances in science, technology and world governance in a globalised world would contribute to a better environment.

(*) Meetings of the called Enlarged Work Group of Environmental Problems (GTACA), of Foreign Affairs Ministry try to address environment issues.

Current Situation

In Argentina several official and private organisations, committed to environmental issues, operate and address these issues. However, in the list of organisations, which participated in the National Report compiling for the Rio+10 Summit, only 27 of the related official organisations and private organisations participated.

This is important to note we had to consult institutions, universities and relevant national and international services closely involved in one or more environmental issues. This was meant to show a broad consensus of the Argentinean society.

This shows the weakness of the document made without co-ordination or even conformity between chapters, at least those related to Atmospheric Ozone, Climatic Change, Biodiversity Loss, Water Issues, Desertification, and local pollution, etc. This shows that there is a need for integrated studies on environmental problems.

The current environmental situation in Argentina is contaminated by the lack of effective interdisciplinary integrated approaches. This situation becomes more critical because the National Report does not mention any of the private activities in the pursuit of national environmental issues. It is as if every action taken to achieve sustainability could be fulfilled through an official action. It's obvious that the Nation is responsible for regulations in the environment area. However, the government is expected to consult the private sector and civil society when it is making environment laws and policies.

Process

In order to write this report, FEU organised a Workshop that was held on April, 29 of 2002. This was done in collaboration with the Environmental Studies Committee of Argentina Council for International Relations (CARI). Different representatives of NGOs, Sustainable Development Secretariat and Environmental Policy attended this event.

The objectives of the Workshop were: to present and analyse the format of the report, agree on topics to cover, analyse the national context related to sustainable development and elaborate civil society recommendations to Johannesburg 2002 and sustainable development.

It was decided to use format that appears in the Argentina National Report for WSSD. Also, those issues discussed in the Chairman's Document and considered appropriate, were included.

These sections were agreed on Action Recommendations in working groups. Specifically, the four principal areas were: (a) Social and Economic Dimensions, b) Development Resources Conservation and Management, c) Strengthening of Major Groups and d) Means of Execution. The following concepts were discussed: poverty, consumption, globalisation, strengthening of major groups and their relationship with sustainable development, free access to sound technologies, international approval models for local development etc.

The discussion looked at strengthening the civil society of Argentina at Johannesburg Summit. This offered the possibility of deliberating the roles they should fulfil towards sustainable development.

This exchange session resulted into the first NGOs Rio+10 National Report Draft. It was distributed to the national network of about 600 organisations, to give them the possibility to make contributions and comments to the document.

Highlights

1. Social and Economic Dimensions

The struggle poverty and Human Health Protection must be promoted in Argentina. The current social situation is extremely serious. The high poverty rates, unemployment reaching shocking records, liberal economic policies and adjustment plans implemented in the country are obstacles to sustainable development and poverty eradication.

It turns out to be extremely important to keep moving towards integration through governmental and nongovernmental actors dialogue (domestic as well as local level), thus, a better co-ordination will lead to new alternatives and concrete results.

Recommendations were outlined in relation to the promotion of alternative production methods. The importance of community participation, strengthening of local and base organisations was emphasised.

It is important to focus on the solutions to environmental and social problems. The eradication of poverty, building and consolidating an equitable society, promoting new productive and development models are issues to be addressed by society.

2. Development Resources Conservation and Management

Regarding natural resource management, it was suggested that policies and actions that guarantee a rational and sustainable utilisation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources should be made.

State policies and entrepreneurial decision making processes should have balanced criteria between the three components of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Checks and balances must be made by the government so as to monitor public and private companies that do not adhere to environmental regulations.

It was agreed that studies should be made in areas affected by population and other environmental disasters. These should be done by the civil society before private business makes its own reports.

A National Development Plan should be made. It should have policies that link territorial order with sustainable development. It should stimulate sound and efficient production processes related to resource utilisation in an environmentally friendly way

The following were also focussed on: Forest Resources, Fauna and Wild Flora, Fish Resources, Soils, Protected Areas, Water Resources, Biodiversity, Biosecurity, Substances and Toxic Chemical Products, Dangerous Waste, Urban Solid Waste, Atmosphere Protection, Atmospheric Pollution, Ozone Layer and Climatic Change.

3. Strengthening of Major Groups

The strengthening of Major Groups can be done through a strong legal and administrative system, the participation of civil society in formulation of public policies, management control (at domestic, provincial and local levels) and a variety of modalities (public hearings, popular conferences, dialogue tables, etc.).

It is necessary to institutionalise participation, recognise and support networks and NGOs and major groups forums to generate discussion areas, cooperation and conciliation between government and civil society. It is also necessary to assure financial, human and technical resources that are crucial for the effective implementation of public participation for sustainable development.

Regarding **Sustainable Development National Council** (CONADESU), it was emphasised that it should be an institution for public, private sectors and other civil society major groups to discuss their strategies and policies.

Regarding the **Indigenous Groups**, it is recommended that indigenous people rights be recognised by ILO 169 Agreement (ratified by Law 24.071). The use and management of existing natural resources in the territories inhabited by indigenous groups has to be accepted. They should be involved in decision-making processes regarding issues that affect their lives. There is a need to promote campaigns about rights and obligations considered by ILO 169 Agreement.

Regarding the **Local Authorities Initiatives**, their autonomy must be respected. They should be supported in strengthening their institutions. The local level is a fundamental stage in the participation processes that will lead to a sustainable development framework.

4. Means of Execution

Within this section, the proposed measures are highlighted:

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To improve the connection mechanisms between the State and NGOs, including financial support mechanisms. The State should define an internalisation policy of environmental costs.

The importance of the State's role as a provider of infrastructure, education, legislation and justice is recognised. These promote industry development, trade and services in an environmentally responsible way. The state should advocate for a change of consumption patterns to those that are sustainable in the long run.

It is proposed that a National Environmental Fund be created. This will centralise different financing methods and distributes funds to different civil society organisations according to a national strategy for sustainable development

Related to **International Legal Conventions** ratified by the Argentine State, it is recommended that the civil society be involved in the making of National Reports.

Formal and informal **education** and the public participation are crucial elements in the promotion of sustainable development. In the long run, they create the capacity to deal with social, economic and environmental problems.

Access to information is a right of every body. Information systems within organisations must distribute this information to civil society. This will enable the civil society to play its role in sustainable development.

Contact: FEU (Fundacion Ecologica Universal) www.feu999.org

Bangladesh

Introduction

Bangladesh is a unitary and sovereign republic known as the People's Republic of Bangladesh. It emerged as an independent nation on 26 March 1971.

Bangladesh has a land area of about 147,570² km. Its alluvial plains provide her with agricultural lands. The landmass is deltaic comprising mainly of three mighty rivers - the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, and the Meghna and criss-crossed by numerous rivers and canals.

Bangladesh have a tropical monsoon climate. This climate has made the land luxuriant in vegetation. The villages are usually buried in groves while the hilly regions are covered with forests. The largest forest is The Sunderbans, which stretch along the south-western seaboard. The forest supports a diversified flora and fauna. The nation provides shelter to over 525 species of birds, 200 species of animals and over 200 species of fresh water fish.

The population stands at around 126 million. About 80% of them live in the rural areas while the remaining 20% constitute the urban population. Agriculture is the main occupation and 60% of the population are dependent on it. The majority of the population is Muslims (88%). They are followed by the Hindus (about 10%). The rest are Buddhists, Christians and followers of other religions.

Process

With support from the Danish 92 Group, the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) initiated a series of nation-wide people's consultation workshops - a process to prepare a country report on the state of Sustainable Development in the country. The Ministry of Environment and Forest, local administration and civil society bodies also joined the program.

The process entailed a series of workshops designed to elicit public opinion at the grassroots, focusing on-the-spot local environmental and development problems, for adopting a national strategy for achieving a sustainable future for the country after assessing programs undertaken in last ten years.

A total number of 635 people representing different communities, political parties, officials, professionals, women and ethnic minority groups, academics and students joined the workshop and the follow-up national consultation meeting before Prep Com IV in Bali, Indonesia. Through active participation, these participants framed their opinions on various socio-economic issues, natural resource conservation and management.

A bottom-up approach of participatory policy planning was used to ensure that the views of indigenous people are taken into cognisance while drafting the country paper for global action on environment and development issues.

Highlights

Pollution:

Black soot from brick kilns, growing industrial pollution from unplanned industrialisation, massive use of fertilisers and pesticides, traffic congestion, improper waste management etc., leaves the nation's health at stake.

Biological Diversity, Eco-system and Global Warming:

Mono-culture plantations along with shrinkage of natural forests due to development interventions, extinction of fish species and crop varieties, death of rivers and canals, water logging, deforestation, affected the traditional bio-diversity and ecology of the country.

The Sundarbans:

The world's largest mangrove forest now stands at stake. With the increased salinity caused by saline water from the sea for want of flow from upstream region had made the *Sundari* trees suffer from the top-dying disease. The Sundarbans would act as a barrier towards natural calamities like tornadoes and cyclones for disaster prone Bangladesh.

Arsenic Menace:

Over the past several decades the rural people of Bangladesh has developed the habit of using underground water for drinking purposes and became dependent on the tube-wells and water pumps. Now, with the detection of this toxic element in groundwater they are asked to discard the tube-wells when the other sources of water like ponds and dug wells had been on the verge of virtual extinction.

Combating Poverty:

Poverty, environment and development interventions were concluded to be closely linked. Environmental degradation and unplanned development interventions in the past seemed to have intensified poverty. While the Agenda 21 asked governments to develop strategies to enable all people to achieve sustainable development, poverty was identified both as the cause and result of unsustainable activities.

Trans-boundary Water Resource sharing issues:

The inter-state sharing of water of the common rivers is an acute ecological and socio-economic problem, which stemmed to a great extent from external factors, require immediate inter-state co-operation and interventions for their solutions.

Flood in Bangladesh:

A decline in the flow of the rivers from the upstream regions beyond Bangladesh's borders heightens the riverbeds reducing their carrying capacity and causing frequent floods or regular floods during the monsoon.

River Erosion:

Bangladesh is criss-crossed by more than 250 rivers mostly originating beyond Bangladesh's borders. Thousands of people are rendered paupers after losing their homes and belongings every year due to this disastrous natural phenomenon called river erosion.

Minorities in Bangladesh:

There is little importance and emphasis attached to minority communities in Bangladesh. Like the rest of the people, the tribal people's opinion is not usually taken into consideration in the formulation of national policies.

Education for a Sustainable Development:

Curbing commercialisation of education and promotion of technological education particularly the IT sector is necessary to cope with increased competi-

tiveness against the backdrop of globalisation as well as overall national development.

Public Participation in the Formulation of Policy and Decision-Making:

In the past ten years, public participation in decision-making in Bangladesh has been limited to being objectors rather than stakeholders despite the emergence of a strong civil society in the country. Of course, participants praised the formulation of National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP) in 1995 after vigorous public consultation of four years from 1992-1995 across the country. But other policies and action plans were not followed that globally acclaimed NEMAP model.

Management of Land Resources:

Against the backdrop of increased population, landlessness is increasing and no effective measures are being taken to ensure optimum land use or proper distribution of government-owned land (khas land) among the rural poor in the absence of a modern land policy.

Findings

Despite its very low per capita income, Bangladesh virtually leads the entire developing world in terms of income generated per square kilometre of land area. Already a high density of economic activities has taken place despite the low level of technology, projecting the potentials of the people of this resource-strapped South Asian country. However, in many cases, unplanned projects had been carried out without properly assessing the impacts and even the necessities causing a negative impact on the economy, livelihood and nature of the country.

Some redeeming features of Bangladesh's development efforts over the past decade citing examples of successes in education, food production, EPI, safe water supply and above all poverty alleviation to some extent with increased role of different government bodies, NGOs and the private enterprises. But some of those successes, like in respect of water supply, were often marred or offset by unforeseen hindrances like arsenic contamination in ground water.

Although the area of the Sundarbans still remains the same, nothing had been done to improve its management to protect its rich bio-diversity. The participants noted that some local ecological problems like water salinity stemmed to a great extent from external factors like the Farakka Barrage built by India across the border.

Encroachment of rivers and waterbodies, open spaces, parks and forests was the major concern of the people, which requires immediate solution to help achieve sustainable development.

Mismanagement in the distribution of 'Khas' or Government-owned land requires drawing up of guideline on land management. Land use planning is to be done by taking the characteristics of the land and water into consideration. Extensive survey is also necessary before such guidelines and plans are formulated. Awareness in developing planning infrastructure should be increased.

Self sufficiency in food in national life proved to be counter-productive as self-sufficiency was achieved but at the cost of fertility of soil due to overuse of fertilisers and pesticides or urbanised localities causing asthma to the children.

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The other common problems identified included fall in the quality of education, constraints of technical education facilities, accommodation problems and unplanned land use pattern.

On environmental issues, the growing industrial pollution, deforestation, reduction of natural forestry, massive use of pesticides, introduction of high breed varieties, extinction of local fish species and crop varieties and introduction of alien ones, water logging, death of rivers and canals and other waterbodies, air pollution, depletion of ground water, etc were identified.

Bangladesh signed or ratified almost all the international conventions and protocols since 1992 Earth Summit. But translation of these conventions and protocols at the national level implementation is yet to be taken care of in that seriousness.

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Bolivia

Introduction

The achievements of Bolivia in fulfilling Agenda 21 have usually been affected by setbacks in political priorities. In the discussions on sustainable development, however, it can be considered that the issue will hardly disappear from the political agenda in future. This will continue despite the alterations and contrasting interpretations of the concept by state entities. This may be the greater achievement in this area. Changes that occurred in the last decade on environmental policies and sustainable development management have been meaningful, especially those related to the elaboration of a normative and institutional framework in the country. Nowadays, at least, it's reckoned with a mechanisms and instruments base to carry out an integral environmental management, which is conducted towards sustainable development. It is also concerted to economic, social and cultural processes of the country. In addition to the reforms specifically related to environmental management, structural reorganisations of the Bolivian State during the last 10 years, have had an influence, not always positive, but it determines the objective conditions of the sustainable development of the country.

However, until today, the instruments to apply effectively in planning public investments are missing. Nevertheless, the issues of sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21 are not yet a top priority for the government.

Process

The consultations started with a Publication Workshop of the process between the social organisations' network, where a Technical Work Group was set up to work out the necessary action plan for the preparation of the report. The Report was prepared with inputs obtained from organisations and social institutions, especially those that formed the Technical Work Group (LIDEMA, CONAMAQ, FOBOMADE, the Sol□n Foundation, the Earth Foundation and the Woman's Coordinator).

Highlights

1. Political-Institutional Area

Within the concept of Agenda 21, the fundamental issue in the analysis of advances in institutions (governance) is the public participation in national decision making processes. The serious political crisis that is affecting the country has weakened political institutions. This gives the government the legitimacy to represent all sections of society. Furthermore, the following specific problems are discussed in the analysis:

- Land use and access issues, closely bound to cultural and socio-historical connections of the involved actors;
- Coca issue, due to the lack of productive alternatives for social actors. This establishes a link with economic issues;
- Degree of social representation by political parties and, in a related way, to the absence of construction proposals for a national consensus on political issues.

2. Economic Area

The economic policy and the economic development policies advocated for accumulation in the most intense sectors of capital. This is a typical growth model applied in developing countries. The macroeconomic policy in Bolivia was guided to maintain price stability and interest rates. But it did not activate added demand or diversify its export products.

This economic policy that led to unsustainable development was characterised by i) An average economic growth below population growth rate; ii) national policies conditionings due to indebtedness and commercial treaties; iii) unrestricted commercial opening and increase of external dependency; iv) a privatisation process that led to monopolies and poor monitoring mechanisms; v) relative and absolute decrease of incomes of 80% of the most disadvantaged; vi) growth of unemployment; vii) agricultural production crisis aggravated by trade liberalisation and smuggling.

3. Social Area

In 1992, according to the Unsatisfied Basic Needs methodology (NBI), 70% of the population was in a poverty situation, and 37% was in extreme poverty. The figures for 2001 report show that 59% of the people are poor and 24% are in extreme poverty. This represents an 11% cutback of poor people in a ten-year period. However, people with Satisfied Basic Needs increased only by a 0.9%, while people in the middle section of poverty increased from 13.4% to 24.8 %. Poverty statistics of the Bolivian Government can be easily underestimated.

In the indigenous area, these communities have been neglected in terms of education and justice. This has affected their production capacities.

4. Environmental Area

The principal causes of environmental problems in Bolivia are a result of the economic growth model followed by the country. Its consequences are: a) the overexploitation of non renewable natural resources, without a long term strategy that permits restoration of these reserves or to replace their stocks with other renewable resources; b) poor management of environmental impacts coming from "strategic" economic activities that have absolute priority, e.g. gas, mining, roads construction; c) natural resources depredation by survival needs, such as illegal hunting or felling of trees; d) absence of environmental impacts mitigation systems in productive activities, in their different scales; and) accelerated migration toward zones that apparently offer better employment and survival opportunities.

5. Land and Territory

The new national legal framework has not counted on a coherent farmer-indigenous policy that guides laws in only one direction. Even though the successive promulgated procedures have provided substantial aspects that determine a new rights framework for indigenous and originating communities. The State vision related to indigenous people and original communities' treatment is contradictory. This is particularly so in territorial jurisdiction identification, administrative territorial jurisdiction and land property jurisdiction stages. From the view of indigenous people and original communities, there are confusions regarding the richness and importance of territory.

Findings

A. Political-institutional Area

There is no doubt that in the political area, the fundamental sustainable development principle is to assure the citizens that government policy will be

implemented. The State must give priority to public conferences and Constitutional reforms. The public feels isolated from what the politicians are doing. The public must be involved in the decisions taken by local government.

Additionally, a solid institutional base for sustainable development requires the not only public but also bureaucratic participation. It is necessary to reorganise MDSP in its original functions and its decision making capacities regarding environmental issues.

B. Economic Area

There is a need to utilise the national productive resources, incorporate all sections of the population in economic policies. This should take into account socio-cultural features of the national communities.

Within the sustainable development framework, it is necessary for the State to pay attention to its income policy through:

- (i) a progressive policy increase of minimum wages and transfers regulation of earnings in productivity to wages;
- (ii) Promotion of association and free workers unions to defend themselves for their income levels and occupational recoveries. These policies should be a complement to the economic development policies that generate greater incomes for direct producers.

C. Social Area

The poverty eradication strategy must pay attention to the structural factors that cause poverty. These are access to resources and the means of production. In this regard, it was proposed that:

- (i) to make A Poverty Reduction Strategy that collaborates a National Development Strategy;
- (ii) to articulate actions and programs defined for short term poverty alleviation, with a development vision in the medium and long term;
- (iii) to articulate and harmonise policies at domestic, regional and local levels;
- (iv) to focus investment in the poorest municipalities of the country; and
- (v) to recognise that poverty is also a social, economic and political agent;
- (vi) to recognise the importance of developing the human resources that are linked to the productive processes;
- (vii) to follow complementarity's criteria in investment and resource assignment;
- (viii) to orientate the strengthening of the productive sector.

D. Environmental Area

The following points have remained, as pending tasks of environmental management:

- Promulgation of an agreed and participative Law of Biodiversity Conservation.
- Promulgation of Law of Sustainable Regulation and Utilisation of Water Resources.
- Promulgation of Law of Territorial Order.
- Reconcile environmental procedures with the sectorial ones.
- Complete the making of environmental procedures.
- Regulation of an effective social control for the environmental procedures application and fulfilment.
- Management of the building of capacities at different levels of public environmental management.
- Focus on environmental management investment.
- Integration with the rural and productive development strategies.
- Development of the environmental policies conciliation mechanisms.
- Increase of co-ordination, inter-institutional and inter-sector action for environmental management.

E. Land and Territory

Ajustar los límites municipales en unidades socioculturales homogéneas, y apoyar la conformación de Distritos Municipales Indígenas desconcentrados y descentralizados.

The suggested tasks are:

- i) Focus on land reparations, as well as the strengthening of the Limits Unit, to assure the suitability process of the socio-cultural frontiers to the municipal regime;
- ii) Attributions Review of the National Agrarian Commission and the Departmental Agrarian Commissions.
- iii) Regarding protected areas' management, the development programs of local communities should prioritise these. The socio-economic function will have to be increased to the definition of social, economic and environmental functions concept;
- iv) The latifundium must be defined by a specific law; and it is necessary to regulate actions of small farmers;
- v) To balance the farmer- indigenous communities rights to the indigenous populations;
- vi) To support solution alternatives for the excessively fractional areas and landless farmers;
- vii) To adjust municipal limits in homogeneous socio-cultural units, and to support the use of decentralised Indigenous Municipal Districts.

Brazil

Introduction

The Brazilian Government created in 2001 an Inter-ministerial Commission for Rio+10. This commission has as objective elaborate Brazil positions in the Rio+10 multilateral process. It has social representatives of diverse segments and organizations as FBOMS (Brazilian NGOs and Social Movements Forum) and CUT (Workers Central Union). The PrepCom official delegations, with different representatives of civil society organizations have presented topics, demands and outlooks in the international negotiations. In PrepCom 4 (Bali), for instance, the government finished incorporating CUT and FBOMS proposals.

During the project period supported by FEU/IBIS (second phase) until PrepCom 4, the Brazilian Government carried out three meetings of the Rio+10 Inter-ministerial Commission in Brasilia. On March 13, in the Palace of Plateaus, National Presidency headquarters, the Representatives House President's gave a message to the National Congress requesting the Kyoto Protocol ratification. On May 14, the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Federal Senate held a public audience on the ratification of this protocol, by request of Senator Marina Silva and during May 16 and 17, it took place the Seventh Inter-sessional Meeting of the Latin America and Caribbean Environmental Committee Ministers in Sao Paulo. The main objective was the final negotiation of a Rio+10 Latin American and Caribbean Initiative (ILAC). In the event, the ILAC document was agreed with only a quantified goal, a 5% tax increase on the renewable energy sources use until 2010 of the 10% indicated the PrepCom Chairman's Document of. Brazil was assigned to present a document in the fourth PrepCom.

Climate

Brazil has already prepared, as foreseen, its domestic emissions inventory, however still it did not present the National Report to the Convention Secretariat. It is necessary to make all commitments public and a national policy's definition and implementation on climate.

With the FBMC foundation (Brazilian Climate Change Forum), in the second semester of 2000, which makes possible the different actors participation, there was a formal institutional advance, but the qualified and informed social discussion still very selected, due to the issue's difficulty, as much in scientific and economic aspects as political ones. It enrolls the creation of Climate Change Inter-ministerial Commission; preparatory meetings for international negotiations, repared by the Foreign Affairs Ministry, where diverse segments of the Brazilian society are invited to participate, beyond activities of MCT (Science and Technology Ministry).

Brazilian Agenda 21

The Brazilian Agenda 21 process was lately deflagrated, only five years after Rio92. Since the beginning it had the FBOMS enrollment, who acted in the CPDS formation (Sustainable Development and Agenda 21 Policies Commission), and it has participated through representatives.

Unfortunately, CPDS was not involved in more central and higher levels of the government, as FBOMS desired. At being chaired by the Environment Ministry, CPDS and the same Agenda 21 were relegated by the federal government, to an inferior stage in the sustainable development public policies elaboration. Until

that moment CPDS had the task to coordinate a national Agenda 21 elaboration. Five stages had featured its elaboration:

- i) **1997 and 1998:** definition of initial methodology (issues) and consultants contract.
- ii) **From 1998 to April of 1999:** thematic subsidies accomplishment, through especially contracted consultants consortium, in order to carry out seminars with specialists and interested public. The topics were: sustainable management of natural resources, cities, sustainable agriculture, infrastructure and regional integration, social inequalities reduction, science and technology for sustainability.
- iii) **From April of 1999 to June of 2000:** subsidies systematization and Brazilian Agenda 21 Document elaboration: discussion basis, having the CPDS the task to solve basic questions of reference (such as sustainable development concept, following methodology stage, etc.)
- iv) **From July of 2000 to October of 2001:** 26 state debates and 5 regional meeting were held, where almost 6000 amendments to the original document were presented. These proposals were analyzed by nearly 4.000 participants, from the 40.000 ones who have received and read such document.
- v) **From November of 2001 to June of 2002:** the systematization and conclusion of Brazilian Agenda 21, including sectorial consultations with different segments of the Brazilian society.

Process

Recommendations and positions described in this document come from FBOMS debates and meetings. It's important to remark that positions and proposals anticipated and answered here by Vitae Civilis are still in discussion, at the time the FBOMS platform is being constructed since October of 2001 and will be presented in the FBOMS XVI Meeting, to be held in July of 2002. Proposals below have been elaborated in the FBOMS XV Meeting and in the Climate and Agenda 21 Working Groups Meeting in Brasilia. Proposals can be based on the following items:

- I. Progress in the Rio92 agreements and subsequent UN conferences implementation.
- II. Critical Issues and/or priorities
- III. Relevant Practices and learnt lessons in the sustainability implementation.
- IV. Sustainability values and principles beneath relevant presented practices.
- V. Policies gaps or sustainability implementation restrictions.
- VI. Recommendations to local/national governance.
- VII. Recommendations to global governance.
- VIII. Description of used process for the national consultation (optional reply).

For the proposals elaboration, Climate Working Group highlighted the national and international scopes, while Agenda 21 and Water Working Groups emphasized the national scope due to Brazilian Agenda 21 is in its approval ending phase for its implementation. To organize the meetings, there was a big correlation between FBOMS leaderships, resulting that other Working Groups of this Forum also mobilized and gathered at the same time and place.

Documents generated in the Climate and Agenda 21 Working Groups meetings are being merged with the others FBOMS GT documents (which cover the energy, water, forests, socio-biodiversity, commerce and environment issues). Moreover, the Urban Improvement Networks, Consumer Defense Entities Network, Brazil NGOs on Multilateral Financial Institutions Network are also generating contributions for a comprehensive document to be published by FBOMS. This document, that will be finished by the end of July of 2002, will be used as a Rio+10 platform and to influence the national process in the general elections in October.

Highlights

There are discussions within the Brazilian government on the following issues: reaffirmation that Agenda 21 remains valid and constitutes the Sustainable Development Action Program; recognize that, despite of important advances, a lot remains to be done for the achievement of agreed actions in 1992 and for the goals implementation of the international community conferences during the last decade and in the Millennium Declaration; the need to intensify the international cooperation and the availability of implementation ways; and the Governments decisions to undertake further efforts, based on the common responsibilities principle.

Climate

It's demonstrated that crucial topics as the forests inclusion and the need of deforestation control are not included in a mechanism of sound development ways which could consider the different Brazilian social actors outlooks. It's very obvious the lack of a national policy on climate and climatic changes, and on the respective relations regarding changes on consumption and production patterns and the energy matrix.

The development and strengthening of the civil society network also represent an advance in the social awareness' process of the problem. The existent Global Heating effects are already perceived by society and its acknowledge level of the problem is already wide, as well as the available methods and technologies for the Global Heating impacts' mitigation.

Agenda 21

The Brazilian Agenda 21 process, despite its different mistakes and deficiencies, has been sufficiently singular and important. In the last years, there wasn't another national development public policies process who has been object of participation opportunities and cooperative construction with discussion at state level and amendments presentation. However, at being coordinated by MMA, it was usually restricted to the Environmental National System, without getting more involvement of the important society segments, like companies, unions, and even local governments and NGOs. Despite FBOMS efforts, it was generally agreed that the process was far away from an integrated participation, being restricted to the government and the more structuralized and informed entities. For some people, even inside of this selected context, the resulting document was prepared in a short period of time for the proposals development and without the proper reflection of the general society.

In 1998, still in the beginning of the Agenda 21 process, it seeks to create opportunities for potential contributions to the Brazilian Agenda 21 and the national Pluri-annual Plan elaboration (PPA), but because of stage periods conciliation problems, both processes couldn't be accomplished. The local Agenda 21 became an instrument of nearly 100 municipalities.

Findings

Recommendations for National / Local Governance:

- To use the current energy crisis status and the water privatization discussion for the awareness of how finite nature resources are and the need of adopting alternative production and consumption patterns.
- To support the strengthening of the Brazilian Forum on Climate Change.
- To focus on energy's renewable and decentralized sources.
- To promote and to support civil society organizations building for a better control of Greenhouse Effect Gases generating activities.
- To publish the National Communication and the related emissions inventory.

- To elaborate state and municipal inventories as a plan instrument.
- To introduce, in the environmental regulation process, data request of Greenhouse Effect Gases emissions, becoming an obligatory notification.
- To conciliate sectorial public policies formulation (energy, transport, land use and forests and health) focusing on the Climate Convention internalization in all levels.
- To include the forests issue in the international negotiation plan of Brazilian delegation, being deforestation the national main emission.
- To differentiate the carbon humidors concepts and forests.
- To restrain reforestations approval of MDL projects that seek the native ecosystem recovery with its environmental functions and species. These projects must be only allowed in the areas deforested up to 1990, in order to prevent adverse effects like deforestation for a MDL latter resources attainment.
- MDL Monoculture plantations projects should not be as MDL projects. They should not be included under the clean development mechanism, except under certain circumstances where they are used to replace consumption of fossil fuels.
- A national policy will have to deal with Climate Change issues, even in those that are not regulated by the Climate Convention or Kyoto Protocol.
- To monitor the forest regulations fulfillment at national level, especially those areas to be conserved through satellite images.
- To incorporate the climate issue in the discussion of forest code's modification.
- To establish advantages parameters of the environmental licensing in GHG generating activities (ex. thermoelectric projects).
- To improve the environmental plan, licensing and management instruments in order to incorporate an enterprise-integrated approach and, a strategic and long-term vision within the climatic sustainability area.
- To eliminate subsidies and incentives to fossil fuels.
- Due to the imminent national fiscal reform, efforts must be concentrated in the inclusion of environmental components in the new fiscal regime, that has as its objective the means of transport systems improvement.

Recommendations for Global Governance:

- Inside the Climate Change regime, to include transactions percentages of "Joint Execution / Joint Implementation" and "Emissions Reduction Commerce Certificates" to adjustments fund, keeping its original and fair objective of protecting the island countries.
- A strong instrument for the forest protection must be created within this convention and other international mechanisms.
- To implement the same transparency, communication and "accountability" criteria for the Joint Implementation and MDL projects.
- To continue promoting the Tobin tax establishment and international taxes on fossil fuels, with recommendation to foment the sustainable development.
- To pressure national governments to ratify the Kyoto Protocol until Rio+10, focusing on in key-countries like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan and Russia, and the reintegration, if possible, of United States in the negotiations table.
- To avoid the GHG highly emitting activities transfers from developed countries to developing countries, with a responsibility mechanism of multinationals and an international system of social and environmental patterns that bar the obsolete and carbon-intensive technologies exportation.
- To accomplish effective activities against unilateral actions of countries that can be weakening or boycotting the advance of climate change regime.
- Try to create synergy with the other international environmental regimes, as Desertification, Forests, Biological Diversity, Water Resources, Ozone Layer and the Sea Law.

Agenda 21

Recommendations for local/ national governance (primary actions to be carried out until 2012, that must be included in the Priorities Agenda of Brazilian Agenda 21):

1. To establish an Elaboration and Implementation National Program of Agenda 21 with 90% covering of the national cities goal.
2. Massive outreach and accessible popular understanding of Brazilian Agenda 21.
3. To increase cities participation in the national tax formulation, raising from 16% to 30 %.
4. Adoption of a sustainable development annual index for Brazil, regions and cities.
5. To create a national educational program for sustainability.
6. Regarding national biomass, to study and evaluate the transformation possibilities of the primary areas for protection in conservation units.
7. To promote measures that increase public understanding in sustainable development issues, especially tax and budgetary issues.
8. To set resources based on a Brazilian GNP percentage to implement actions of Agenda 21.
9. To create financial advantages mechanisms to finance population directly involved with the environmental patrimony of relevant areas of the Brazilian socio-cultural-environmental-ecological diversity (CSA - Advantages for Environmental Services, protector-receiver, user-payer).
10. To promote and encourage ways of organized social control in public policies, internal and external debts, taxes delivery and distribution.
11. To promote and encourage ways of organized social control in companies performance who provide public services.
12. To guarantee the access to water and sanitation as life fundamental needs, with the goal to reach 100% of the cities until 2012.

Recommendations for Global Governance

1. That GEF finances Local Agenda building processes as an implementation mechanism of the Global Agenda 21;
2. That social movements together with environmental entities promote larger insertion of the local agendas in their scopes;
3. That Brazilian government makes possible a wider participation process in the evaluation of international regimes that sponsor the Brazilian delegation participation in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.
4. Other issues are being considered by other NGOs and will be included in FBOMS platform.

Canada

Introduction

Located in North America, Canada's multicultural population of over 30 million people occupy a land area second only to that of the Russian Federation. It extends from east to west across six time zones and from north to south across 40 degrees of latitude. Canada has the longest coastline in the world, facing three oceans, and the second largest continental shelf. There are two million lakes and 100,000 glaciers in Canada. Vast stretches of land are occupied by the Arctic barrens, great plains, forests and the western mountains. With 20 major ecosystems (15 terrestrial and 5 marine), Canada is home to almost one fifth of the world's wilderness, has one quarter of all the world's wetlands, one fifth of its fresh water and one tenth of all its forests. With a largely resource-based economy, these globally significant treasures continue to be threatened as logging, oil and gas, coal mining, fishing and other interests are exploited unsustainably and habitat is destroyed.

Process

As mandated by the United Nations, Canada set out to produce a National Report assessing progress in implementing Agenda 21 since the 1992 Rio conference. In 2001 the Canadian government established a process that was meant to deliver a more honest and transparent assessment written by consultants and reviewed by a reference group from the nine major groups. The initial draft was released briefly for comments and was seen as a weak analysis of Canada's policies and lack of progress. After months of the government promising its release, the draft has gone "missing" and the reference group has decided to withdraw any support and mention of involvement in the process.

In response to the weaknesses and frustrations with the official reporting process the Canadian Environmental Network created a Forum on the WSSD in December 2001. The Forum consists of a 5 member Steering Committee of ENGOs and a Coordinator, and is part of a larger coalition of NGOs and other interested groups from across Canada. The Committee first met in New York at Prep Com II (January 30th - February 3rd) to develop a detailed plan for writing the ENGO report now called *Summit or Plummet?*

A comprehensive list of sustainable development indicator subjects was compiled based on Agenda 21, as well as the natural structures and taxonomy of environment and development work in Canada. Civil society experts were chosen to write brief assessments of Canada's trends over time. The 39 contributors were asked to pick an indicator, illustrate where we were in 1992 and today, make recommendations for targets and strategies for 2012, and illustrate where Canada sits in the global context.

The report has created greater awareness around Canada about the WSSD. Firstly, the authors were asked to have their contribution peer reviewed by three others which greatly expanded the number of people participating in the project. The report has also been presented at three national conferences where it has generated dozens of endorsements. In addition, the report was presented at Prep Com IV in Bali along with 8 other countries who have written similar assessments.

Highlights & Findings

As we approach the tenth anniversary of Rio, we are a long way from our optimistic aspirations of environmental sustainability and a world free of poverty. Trends toward increasing pressure on our planet's resources and ever widening gaps between rich and poor have not been turned around. When nations meet again in Johannesburg in August 2002, it is an opportunity to address the failures of the last ten years and move towards ecological integrity and social equity. In essence, it is a chance to either "summit" or "plummet."

Canada, rated at the top of the UN quality of life index for most of the last decade, was in an excellent position to move forward on a sustainable path. The Canadian Environmental Network's report assesses Canada's progress and failures since the Earth Summit in 1992. The report is about scoring ourselves and making concrete recommendations for action. The common theme is that we have not done enough in the last ten years.

1. Social Dimensions

We need to understand both the impacts humans have on the environment and how the earth affects humans. Increasing populations do not necessarily cause environmental degradation, however the latter can affect the health of populations. As Canadians we need to decrease our ecological footprint and, on an international level, help meet the basic needs of individuals and advance gender equality to achieve sustainable development. Equity, education, access to health care and a clean environment not only help stabilize population growth but also improve human security. Canada not only needs to promote healthier living, but address key environmental health issues such as polluted air and water.

2. Conservation and Management of Resources

With Canada still predominantly a resource-based economy, we are largely failing to conserve and manage our resources so as not to "compromise the needs of future generations". Forestry practices are unsustainable, greenhouse gases are 15% above 1990 levels, poor air quality is an increasing health and environmental problem, species are becoming extinct, the health of fresh water ecosystems is declining, and high-paced industrial development in marine waters threatens both ecosystem and human livelihoods. Organic agriculture accounts for less than 2% of Canadian farms and we continue to release and commercialize genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Despite agreeing to a 50% reduction in hazardous wastes, Canada has made substantial increases. Canada is also the largest exporter of uranium and Saskatchewan the single-biggest contributor to alpha-emitting radioactive wastes globally.

Over and over again the contributors to this section call on Canada to ratify and implement the Kyoto Protocol, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and uphold its Rio commitment to the precautionary approach. In addition to international agreements, Canada must harmonize federal and provincial legislation and standards. Finally, in order to monitor and make informed decisions we also need a renewed commitment to environmental reporting and the establishment of national inventories.

3. Strengthening of Major Groups

Agenda 21 identified nine major groups as essential participants in achieving sustainability. Canada has varying records in engaging the various groups in policy making and implementation, and in developing mechanisms and distributing resources for groups to help implement Agenda 21. For example, a few communities have successfully adopted the Agenda 21 framework, yet Canada still lags far behind internationally. In the mid-1990s, cut-backs wiped out

federal support to community sustainability initiatives and federal involvement with municipalities. Non- governmental organizations are increasingly being recognized for their role in promoting sustainable development. Canada has been a promoter of youth inclusion in policy and decision-making and promotes gender equity, however it is a long way from settling treaties and land-use management plans with aboriginal peoples, and does little to support small farmers. Some companies have taken initiatives around corporate social responsibility, but numbers will remain few until Canada develops a standardized set of indicators that can be tracked, monitored and reported on in a systematic and reliable way. Legislation around pollution prevention in workplaces is also needed to protect workers and the environment.

4. Means of Implementation

Part of why Canada has not developed sustainably is that it has not adequately planned or used the tools necessary to implement Agenda 21 and the multilateral environmental agreements to which it is a party. Although it committed to do so, Canada has yet to develop a national sustainable development plan with clear objectives, goals and means to measure progress. Unlike many European countries, Canada has few examples of ecological fiscal reform or redesigning taxation and expenditure programs to create incentives and support in the shift to sustainable development. To improve our record we must also harmonize legislation upwards to the highest standard. For the private sector, Canadians want enforceable legislation to ensure environmental compliance and social responsibility, not voluntary measures. We need improvements on environmental assessment requirements. On the international level, Canada has failed to reach the target of 0.7% of GNP for overseas development assistance. As one of the world's largest consumers, we have a responsibility to provide resources towards environmental sustainability and the elimination of poverty. In order to affect change at all levels, education regarding environment and sustainability needs to be implemented.

Conclusion

Several contributors recognized our high standard of living as impetus to take a leadership position toward change and environmental and social accountability. The demands are clear: what we need is leadership at the highest levels and the political will to change Canada's course toward a more sustainable future.

Costa Rica

Introduction

The institutional transformations suffered by the society of Costa Rica in the last decade have adversely affected sustainability in development. The Costa Rican Government has since 1992 been affected by structural problems in its search of an institutional solution that permits getting connected to the path of Sustainable Development.

The last decade has led to the organisation of the civil society into a pressure group that fights for sustainable development according to the principles of the 1992 Earth Summit. The eighty-one entities of Local Government arrange competitions that have relevance for Sustainable Development. This has been done especially after the enactment of the New Municipal's Codex promulgation in 1998.

Generally, the environmental law gives the municipals the duty of protecting the environment. Numerous laws grant municipals powers on issues related to sustainable development. The ruling entity of the local development council must co-ordinate municipalities with different institutions and ministries to watch over the sustainability of the environment.

Process

The government of Costa Rica has signed the following international agreements and conventions:

- Convención relativa a los Humedales de Importancia Internacional Especialmente como Hábitat de Aves Acuáticas (Ratificada por Ley No. 7224 de 2 de Abril de 1991).
- Convención sobre Diversidad Biológica (Ratificada por Ley, el 30 de Junio de 1994).
- Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático (Ratificado por Ley No. 7414 de 4 de Julio de 1994), y
- Convención de las Naciones Unidas de Lucha contra la Desertificación en los Países Afectados por Sequía Grave o Desertificación en particular en África (Aprobado por Ley No. 7699 de 3 de octubre de 1997 y Ratificada por Decreto Ejecutivo No. 26594-RE de 2 de diciembre de 1997). Carta de la Tierra y Programa Agenda 21 , Río de Janeiro, Junio 1992

Important national commitments in these international obligations have been fulfilled. However, there are still some commitments that are pending. There is a need to establish coordination mechanisms that co-ordinate national institutions responsible for implementing the international agreements and conventions.

Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES) is a regional institution responsible for co-ordinating sustainable development in Central America. It was established in August 1994 by Costa Rica's Declaration. A Summit of Central American Presidents issued this. In October of the same year, The Central American Ecological Summit in Managua ratified the ALIDES, which focuses on four themes: Democracy, Social Development, Economic Sustainable Development and Natural resources sustainable management, and the improvement of the environmental quality.

In addition, it is important to emphasise other agreements and regional treaties:

- APROBACIÓN DEL CONVENIO REGIONAL SOBRE CAMBIOS CLIMÁTICOS, Ley Nro. 7513, 09/jun/1995
- APROBACIÓN DEL ACUERDO REGIONAL SOBRE MOVIMIENTO TRANSFRONTERIZO DE DESECHOS PELIGROSOS, Ley Nro 7520, 06/jul/1995
- APROBACIÓN DEL CONVENIO REGIONAL PARA EL MANEJO Y CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS ECOSISTEMAS NATURALES FORESTALES Y EL DESARROLLO DE PLANTACIONES FORESTALES, Ley 7572, 01/feb/1996

Program based strategies for development have been made by the country and they are linked to the fight against poverty. Like wise, the government has supported many environmental and economical programs.

Agreement on Sustainable Development between the Netherlands and Costa Rica

The Agreement on Sustainable Development between Costa Rica and the Netherlands was signed in Noordwijk, The Netherlands. This is an innovative model of international cooperation that stimulates a new North-South cooperation model. It focuses on the following areas: Active and effective participation, non-discrimination of the various actors in the development of both societies, reciprocity in the actions and defined commitments that are jointly agreed on by both sides, based on the recognition of the realities of every country, in the mutual respect and in the critical, permanent and constructive evaluation; More fair and equitable relations, among different segments of both societies, procuring a united and simultaneous work in the same areas; Gradually, they should follow a path that leads to attaining sustainable development in both societies; and long term cooperation to ensure achievement of the agreed goals.

Payment of Environmental Services

Established through the Forest Law, the System of Environmental Services consists of a tool that makes it possible for the forest sector to be developed in a sustainable way.

The Financial Forest Fund (FONAFIFO) is an institution that enables The Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) and National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), to establish priority zones and monitor the utilisation of these resources by the respective parties.

The consumption tax that is levied on fuels and other hydrocarbons totals to a yearly average of \$4 million. This money is used by the Treasury Department to pay for environmental services and forest incentives.

Highlights

Water Management

There is a concern about the contamination of water in the whole country. This may lead to a crisis because there is a reduction of safe and clean water. The demand for drinking water is growing and lacks of water and poor management of water resources negatively affects sanitation. The enormous hydro electricity potential is not well utilised for development purposes. The electricity companies do not meet the demand for energy because the whole energy sector is characterised by weak and inefficient administration.

The solution that is proposed by the government is to liberalise the energy sector. Civil society believes that deregulation will lead to higher contamination levels of water and the private firms will not take care of the environment. The vision of the water administration is to provide water for irrigation, drinking, energy, etc. They are not interested in an integral management of water re-

sources. The hydro-Electro sector is not interested in exploiting this resource in a way that considers national and regional development goals.

The integrated water management should have a policy, legislation and capable- administrative instruments, which ensure that individuals, communities, the nation and the whole region have a balanced consumption of water resources. Municipalities, institutions, and the civil society are searching for a solution to the problem of water management.

The government claims to have a policy towards Hydro-Electro development that is not only in the interest of the country but also the whole world. However, this is disputed by civil society.

Habitat's deterioration and biological diversity

The government made a legislation that called for the establishment of the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC). This is done by MINAE that has preserved an entity of about 26,4% to natural resource preservation. The protection of the habitat and biological diversity is further enhanced by the establishment of the Environmental Services Payment System, the strengthening of the participation of local communities, sector organisations and non-governmental organisations. All these parties play a part in environmental management and the protection of bio-diversity in Costa Rica.

Vulnerability: facing natural disasters

The government is dealing with environmental issues without any proper ground rules or a clear plan of action. Currently, all social actors implement environmentally related policies without proper co-ordination. This does not lead to sustainable management of the environment.

Mismanagement and negligence has cost the Costa Ricans a lot of money. The country has a bad debt in billions of dollars. A lot of government revenue is used on debt servicing instead of disaster preparedness.

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Denmark

Introduction

Denmark is situated in the northern part of Europe and is one of the Nordic countries. Denmark is a small country with a population of 5.3 million inhabitants of which 1.2 millions live in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. The service industry accounts for approximately 70 % of GNP and GNP per capita is approximately \$35,000. Denmark is a flat country with rich agricultural land situated in a temperate climate zone surrounded by coastal areas. Denmark is working actively in international forums, and is a member of the EU, the UN, and the WTO. Furthermore Denmark has the EU presidency during the World Summit.

Denmark has a multiparty system and in the 1990's Danish policy on environment as well as development assistance have benefited from being based on broad political agreements, which is crucial in creating an environmental sustainable policy that is durable in the long run. However, the new liberal-conservative government broke this tradition with the passing of the national budget for 2002. The budget included a number of measures that compromise Denmark's otherwise good efforts for sustainable development and this have created an uncertainty about Denmark's future commitment towards sustainable development.

Process

Part of the Danish 92 Group's preparation for the World Summit in Johannesburg has been to take stock of the Danish endeavour to promote sustainable development by evaluating the extent to which Denmark has lived up to selected international agreements. This work has led to the publication of *Denmark on Track? An Evaluation of Denmark's Compliance with International Agreements on Sustainable Development*. The present paper presents some of the main conclusions of this publication.

The Danish 92 Group is a network of 20 Danish environment and development organisations. *Denmark on Track?* was prepared by member organisations of the Danish 92 Group in co-operation with the Danish 92 Group Secretariat. 4 groups of organisations prepared the different parts of the evaluation report, and a draft version of the report was discussed among all the organisations. Politicians and government officials also had a chance to comment on the draft version at a conference held by the Danish 92 Group in Folke-tinget (the Danish Parliament). After this period of hearing, a final version was elaborated and the recommendations in this version were subsequently approved by all the organisations in the Danish 92 Group.

Highlights

Denmark has been known as a country not just willing to talk about sustainable development, but also willing to act and pay. This standing is built partly on the progress made nationally and locally in Denmark and partly on Denmark's international engagement and bilateral co-operation with developing countries.

Nevertheless, *Denmark on track?* reaches the conclusion that Denmark, despite its good reputation, is not consistently complying with its international commitments. Below, the Danish 92 Group has assessed the effort in selected areas on a scale from 0 -10:

Environmental aid - 8
Climate and energy - 8
Production and consumption - 6
Sustainable food production - 5
Biodiversity - 3

Findings

1. Environmental Aid to Developing Countries

As one of the first rich countries, Denmark made a concrete decision in 1992 to introduce a special budget for environmental aid supplementary to the 1 percent of GNP allocated previously to poverty reduction by means of regular development aid. After some years, environmental aid to developing countries was to make up 0.125% of GNP, and an equivalent sum was to be spent on environmental aid to Eastern Europe. This goal is not yet quite achieved.

Although the Danish environmental aid to developing countries has been high in quantity, the quality can be improved. There is still a need for elaborating methods to ensure that the aid is conducive to sustainable development. The Danish environmental aid to developing countries is spent particularly on building and improving the professional and technical capabilities of recipient countries' government administrations. This is responding to a vast need. However, if this assistance is to make a lasting impact, the Danish 92 Group recommends involving the civil society much more than it is today. It is crucial to insure a high priority to environmental questions in recipient countries and to give the communities a feeling of ownership towards the projects. By signing the conventions on climate change and biodiversity, Denmark has promised to help developing countries fulfil these international agreements too. The Danish 92 Group, therefore, recommends that biodiversity and sustainable energy is given high priority in Danish environmental aid.

With the new liberal-conservative government, it is questionable whether Denmark is currently keeping its promise of additional resources to fight environmental problems in poor countries. As 1% of GNP has been spent on regular development aid since 1992, it is uncertain if Denmark can still be said to spend additional resources on environmental aid, since it is doubtful if the total amount of aid in 2002 will make up 1% of GNP.

2. The Danish Climate Policy

Denmark has undoubtedly taken on a pioneering international role in the area of climate change by being one of the countries undertaking the largest per-capita reduction targets, and by playing a significant part in the climate negotiations and the Kyoto process. Denmark has committed itself to reducing the emission of greenhouse gases by an average of 21% over the period 2008-12 as measured against the level in 1990. Through the conversion to cleaner forms of energy as well as the introductions of quotas for the electricity industry's CO₂ emissions, Denmark has come close to be on track to comply with its Kyoto commitment.

Denmark has worked particularly hard to reduce CO₂ emissions, for instance through a large-scale conversion to natural gas and by putting a ceiling on the power plants' CO₂ emissions. In addition, Denmark has strengthened the development and use of renewable energy sources, especially wind power.

However, there has been a shift in the climate policy in 2002, since the liberal-conservative government has taken office. The government has carried out vast cutbacks in the subsidies to the development of renewable energy, which will make it significantly harder for Denmark and the Danes to comply with the reduction targets laid out in the Kyoto Protocol. The development of and conversion to cleaner forms of energy systems has slipped down the list of priori-

ties. For example, there has been a slow down in the enlargement of wind power plants at sea. Furthermore, the liberal-conservative government is keen on carrying out part of the Danish reduction commitments according to the Kyoto-protocol outside the country's borders (via flexible mechanisms). However, the Danish '92 Group recommends that the use of this option is limited, because it may make it difficult for Denmark to meet its long-term reduction needs.

The lion's share of Denmark's energy use is still based on fossil fuels. If the emission of greenhouse gasses is to be sharply reduced in the long run, it is necessary both to convert production to clean energy forms and to develop the appropriate technologies. In the coming years, this will require far-reaching changes in Danish energy consumption and energy systems. This change is technically possible, and Denmark should see it as its mission to show the rest of the world that it is possible to establish a well-run society using cleaner forms of energy.

3. Sustainable Patterns of Production and Consumption

The Danish work to achieve cleaner production has brought about: environmental and resource optimisation of energy production; greater environmental management of companies; the spread of cleaner technology; and more focus on developing environmentally-friendly products. All in all, this has moved industrial production a step towards relative decoupling of the relation between, on the one hand, economic growth and, on the other, resource consumption and environmental burden. However, the work is characterised by being too dispersed. There is a lack of clear objectives and plans for how to carry out production and consumption in a sustainable manner.

Denmark has acknowledged the state's role in pioneering the conversion to sustainable patterns of consumption. The public sector is thus obliged to take environmental concerns into account in its procurements. However, so far, the state's green purchasing policy has not gone far beyond declarations of intent. The Danish '92 Group recommends that the state's green policy is implemented in action. Furthermore, not enough has been done to limit, in particular, public and household resource consumption. As far as some resources are concerned, the increase in per-capita consumption exceeds the amount of resources saved through greater resource efficiency and the like.

Still, if decoupling is to underpin the strategy for sustainable patterns of production and consumption, it must, in practice, lead to a level of consumption that does not, in the long run, breach the limits of nature's carrying capacity, while also allowing for greater resource consumption in today's poor countries. Denmark is far from attaining such a sustainable stage. Thus, Denmark's finest role should be to show that social welfare is possible without ruining the environment of future generations.

4. Food Policy

A series of initiatives have been launched aimed at reconverting to organic farming, imposing higher environmental standards on conventional farming, action plans for cleaner water, reduction in the use of pesticides, etc. However, Denmark has failed to carry out a wide-ranging agricultural policy capable of meeting the overall objective of achieving sustainable food production. Excess nitrogen from fertilisers, discharge with pesticide, and so forth still exceed the carrying capacity of Denmark's countryside. These lead to continued degradation of biodiversity on arable land, pollution of ground water and streams, etc.

Moreover, the EU's agricultural policy is far from living up to the aims of fostering sustainable European agriculture and securing food security in the third world. Danish agricultural policy is closely related to that of the EU. Arguably, Denmark's chances of fostering sustainable agriculture are thus constrained by the EU's common agricultural policy (CAP). This policy is currently

helping to preserve intensive production, and provide incentives off incorporating marginal land into agriculture. Denmark supports extensive reforms of the CAP, and the Danish '92 Group recommends that Denmark takes more advantage of the opportunities, which after all exist within the EU's agricultural support schemes, for environmentally-conditioned support and environmentally-friendly agricultural measures.

The EU's common agricultural policy, including domestic and export subsidies and more direct trade barriers, is also obstructing the market access of developing countries. Meanwhile, world-market prices are pushed to the bottom to the detriment of small-scale farmers in poor countries. Denmark's policy so far has been to promote liberalisation of the food trade by removing trade barriers and subsidies that distort competition, so far only with limited success. In this regard, it is important to stress that better market access is not automatically benefiting the poorest countries and farmers. Consequently, this measure must be supplemented by more support for agricultural development in developing countries.

5. Biodiversity Policy

Ten years after the Rio conference, Denmark is still without a policy able to live up to the Biodiversity Convention. In several areas, Denmark has yet to begin to comply with the aims of this convention:

Firstly, Denmark has not rehabilitated enough destroyed natural habitat. In 1999, Denmark had only re-established natural ecosystems on 0.2-0.3 percent of the country's land surface. Furthermore, the remaining areas of wild nature are generally too small, too scattered and of a too low-quality to ensure the processes characteristic of a diverse, healthy ecosystem.

Secondly, Denmark is not integrating biodiversity concerns sufficiently into other sectors, particularly farming and fishing. Although agriculture has, as a whole, diminished the discharge of nutrients, the level remains significantly above nature's carrying capacity. Overfishing has meant that biologically-safe boundaries have been broken in the case of several important commercial fish species.

Thirdly, the Danish trade in tropical timber (and, incidentally, also in timber from Eastern Europe) is problematic. Throughout the 1990s, virtually nothing has been done officially to follow up on the nationally adopted objective that all tropical timber imported after 2000 should be sustainably produced. Not until 2001 did the Folketing (Danish parliament) decide to change the public purchasing policy to ensure that public and semi-public institutions will henceforth only buy legal and sustainably-produced tropical timber.

Despite this, the Danish progress, measured against the standards of other EU-countries, is, in fact, relatively good.

Perspectives on Denmark's Efforts

The conversion to sustainable development is one of mankind's major challenges in the coming decades. As one of the world's richest and most highly educated countries, Denmark ought to take advantage of its opportunities to contribute as much as possible to this endeavour. The liberal-conservative government has drawn up a national strategy for sustainable development containing a number of good intentions, but far too few concrete means and ends. NGO's call for ambitious targets in the short as well as in the long term, if the ongoing trends are to be steered in direction of sustainability. Denmark should demonstrate that it is feasible to organise everyday life, production and consumption in an environmentally-friendly manner and in accordance with the principles of globally-sustainable development.

Uncovering 'GreenWash'

Thus far, Denmark has made a difference internationally, and this ought to continue. In some areas, Denmark's work in favour of the environment - e.g. regarding aid and energy - has been of first class compared to what has been possible to agree upon internationally. Lately, the Danish and South African efforts to strike a "Global Deal" on the occasion of the World Summit in Johannesburg has been one of the more positive contributions to the process. This is precisely why it is important that Denmark's efforts in other areas, such as biodiversity, patterns of production and consumption and agricultural policy, comply with international agreements.

"Denmark on track?" was published in May 2002, and can be read in its full length (in Danish) on www.92grp.dk.

The Danish 92 Group is a network of 20 Danish environmental and development organisations:

BirdLife Denmark, CARE Denmark, DanChurchAid, Danish Association for International Co-operation, Danish Hunter's Association, Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy, Danish United Nations Association, Greenpeace Denmark, Ibis, KULU - Women and Development, Nature and Youth, Nepenthes, Network for Ecological Education and Practice/Econet, The Danish Outdoor Council, The Danish Society for the Conservation of Nature, The Danish Youth Council, The Ecological Council, The Labour Movement's International Forum, The Swallows in Denmark, Association for International Social Development, WWF Denmark.

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Indonesia

Introduction

Indonesia is the largest archipelagic country located in Southeast Asia with more than 17,000 islands spread between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Indonesia has a population of more than 220 million who live in 6,000 islands. Indonesia has a total area of 1,919,440² km, with more than 1.8 million² km of land and 93,000² km of water.

Located in a tropical region, Indonesia is rich with biodiversity, yet started to deteriorate and vanish. Indonesian people consist of more than 300 ethnic groups, such as Javanese, Bataknese, Dayak, Madurese, Bugis, Papuan, etc. Muslim constitutes 88% of the population, followed by Protestant (5%), Roman Catholic (3%), Hindu (2%), Buddhist (1%), and other (1%)[1998].

Indonesia claimed its independence from Dutch in 1945. Ever since, the 17th of August is commemorated as the Independence Day of Indonesia.

Process

In July 2001, a coalition of 40 civil society organisation was established to facilitate the process of reviewing the sustainable development process in Indonesia ten years after it was constituted in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The coalition is called the Indonesian People Forum (IPF). IPF held series of consultation meetings and public discussions involving more than 500 people from nine major groups, which are children, youth, women, labours, urban poor, farmers, fishers, indigenous people, and non-government organisations, some of them as clustered in Agenda 21. A national preliminary meeting was held in Jakarta, 24-25 September 2001 to get an overview of the general situation of the sustainable development.

This was followed by 4 regional meetings held in 4 regions: (1) Regional consultations meeting for Sulawesi, Maluku, Papua and Nusa Tenggara Timur, held in Makassar, 4-6 December 2001; (2) For Java, Bali, and Nusa Tenggara Barat, was held in Yogyakarta, 6-8 January 2002; (3) For Kalimantan, in Banjarmasin, 14-16 January, 2002; and (4) for Sumatra, was held in Medan, 16-18 January 2002. Attended the meetings are representatives of women, youth, children, indigenous peoples, farmers, fisher folks, labourers, urban poor and non-government groups, hence the report was formed as a review of sustainable development in Indonesia from the eyes of major groups.

Highlights

Major groups describe the implementation of sustainable development during the last ten years in the following accounts:

1. Children

Children's nutrition is worsening. In 1998, children under five year suffering from protein deficiency reached 33.4 %. This meant that 8 million children faced growth and development problems. In 1999, the ratio of infants born weighing less than 2 kilograms constituted 30% of total births. The main cause was malnourished mothers during pregnancy. In 2000, the number of children aged 7 to 12 years out of school constituted 6 % from 47.5 million children in Indonesia; 9 % of 13-15 year olds and 40% of 16-18 year olds were also out of

school. This shows that the nine-year-compulsory-education program has not met the objectives. The cause of this failure is poverty, resulting in a lack of funds for parents to send their children to school, and the need for children to help their parents earn a meager living. In turn, the high number of school dropouts increased the number of street children, creating further social problems. Educational services face the problems of poor infrastructure, crowded classes, lack of teachers, and outdated curriculum. Overall, the national education system is poor. Parents lack perspective on good education for children.

2. Youth

Thirty per cent of Indonesian citizens are young people. Regardless, youth do not have space to be involved in the development process. Representatives of this major group expressed that this failure was the result of depoliticising youth organizations, including students, which took place during the Soeharto era. The State policy on education measures development only from economic and industrial growth. Schools were treated as factory of workers to spin the wheel of industrial development. Graduated without skills, the poor education system has marginalized youth from well-paid jobs. Market liberalization will only pitch the youth to join long jobless line. Youth issues came to centre stage as resources of mass mobilization to serve political ends, but they have never been invited to give input into the development process.

3. Women

Exploitative natural resource extraction to feed economic and export growth has brought negative impacts to women. Many rural women have lost access to sources of medicinal plants, food, fibre, fuel, clean water, causing their traditional knowledge and wisdom to loss relevance. Most importantly, many women have lost control over food security at the household level. The state has encouraged farmers to plant cash crops and extensive monocultures, which require intensive use of poisons and chemicals. Women are the primary victims of exposure to dangerous chemicals in agriculture

Many forms of domestic violence against women have soared during the economic crisis, with barely any support or protection of victims provided by the government. Access to education for women is limited to those who can afford it. Women are not well represented at the political level. Affirmative action has been debated with no significant result to lift women's rights in political life. Less than one per cent of parliament members are women at the local, provincial and national level.

4. Labourers

Labourers' welfare has hardly improved during the last ten years. The minimum wage requirement still does not cover minimum daily needs for a family. Most labourers live without occupational health protection. Women labors are paid even less than the pittance men receive. As a result, labourers cannot afford decent education for their children, clothing, settlement, or nutrition as stipulated in ILO Convention 100 and 111 regarding Discrimination.

The economic and social rights of labourers, especially their rights to association, find restriction, and consequently their bargaining position remains weak. The manipulation and repression of labour unions continues with support from the military. State violence against labourers still happens with the use of a repressive approach in settling labors problems, including the use of police, military and civil militia.

5. Urban Poor

The urban poor are not recognized as major group in Agenda 21. They face growing urban and environmental problems over the last ten years. Urban poor

who work in the informal sector have proved resilient in coping with the economic crisis and environmental problems. Through their experiences, it is clear that the informal sector has been a buffer to survive from famine. Instead of recognizing the rights and needs of urban poor, state violence against them continues. Urban poor encounter repression when exercising their basic rights. Infrastructure and social welfare rarely reach them. They are forcibly removed to areas remote from city planning and government services, and are not included in any decision-making processes in city development. Recent euphoria about decentralization has further disadvantaged the urban poor.

6. Fishers

As an archipelagic state, Indonesia has about 17,500 islands surrounded by 5.8 million² km of seas, estuaries, reefs and oceans. The combined coastline of all islands is 81,000 km. Fishers constitute a large population but are missed in development priorities. For decades, Indonesia applied a continental approach in coastal and marine resources management. Marginalized in the issue of sustainable development, fishers were left behind without sufficient infrastructure support. Technology to support their activities is not well developed with limited access to credit.

Fishers identified strategic issues that need serious handling in coastal and marine resources issue as follows: state domination in controlling the management of coastal and marine resources, state capitalistic approach, and a low quality of human resources with few chances to improve skills or technology. Protection of fishers' rights to their traditional fishing domain is lacking. Fishers are pitched against commercial and government interests with low bargaining power.

7. Farmers

Since the time of the New Order regime that adopted a developmentalist approach to governance, and up until today, farmers position in development has been peripheral at all levels. Farmers are marginalized economically, politically, and culturally. Farmers' suffering has increased with the enactment of international trade agreements through the World Trade Organization (WTO). WTO mechanisms such as TRIPs (Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights), cause farmers to lose freedom to plant their crops. They will have to pay for seeds patented by multinational companies that have stolen traditional farmers intellectual property and biodiversity resources. Bio-piracy involving research institutions and the state apparatus in Indonesia has escalated and it is almost impossible to control it. Other WTO mechanisms such as AOA (Agreements on Agriculture) and TRIMs (Trade Related Investment Measures) are anticipated to disadvantage farmers. The Structural Adjustment Programs designed and implemented by IMF, World Bank, and Asian Development Bank have also added pressures on farmers. These kinds of programs have created systematic dependency to debt.

Both women and men farmers encounter injustice, impoverishment, and violence. Land appropriation, denial of access to water and other natural resources have changed traditional agriculture patterns. Coercing farmers to plant transgenic, hybrid and patented seeds followed by application of chemical fertilizers, herbicide and pesticide is part of the violation of the principle of prior and informed consent. Fields owned by farmers keep decreasing to as small as 0.25 ha. Every year the number of landless farmers increases.

8. Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples residing within Indonesia's jurisdiction have never received recognition from the government, especially during the New Order regime. The issuance of Law No. 5 in 1979 regarding Village Governance negated the right of self determination among indigenous peoples. This law destroyed

the original structure of indigenous people's governance of life resources and customary laws. The removal of indigenous peoples' autonomy has contributed to social and ecological destruction. Local governments have made them an object of exploitation to generate revenues for local government budgets. One of the crucial issues expressed by this major group is the failure of the government to ratify and implement ILO Convention 169 regarding indigenous nations and indigenous peoples in sovereign countries. It is time for government to recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

9. Non-Governmental Organizations

During the last decade, non-government organizations have failed to fulfill their task to monitor the implementation of Agenda 21. NGOs are constrained with the lack of enabling conditions to carry on this task. In general NGOs are not involved in government decision-making processes. Until today in Indonesia, NGOs are subjected to repression and other forms of violence that hinder them to exercise freedom of expression. When needed, however, NGOs are used by governments and industry to legitimate development activities. The recent issuance of the Law on Organization and Foundations have further retarded the movement of civil society associations.

Major groups' assessment show that achievements of the various commitments in Agenda 21, particularly the national ones, are far from satisfying the expectations of major groups. The obstacles and challenges come from external and internal factors. Internally, the implementation of Agenda 21 National has not provided sufficient support for the transition to sustainable development. The national development agenda has not been nested in and nurtured by democratic governance, which requires checks and balances in the governance system, freedom of expression, and freedom of association. There should be guarantees for citizens when exercising civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Civil laws should be enacted supreme to military laws.

Structural adjustment programs required by the International Monetary Fund and other international financing institutions implemented in Indonesia after 1997 have limited the opportunities to establish democracy after the fall of the authoritarian government. Including in these neo-liberal restructuring packages has been the abolition of state subsidies to pave the way for privatisation of State's assets. This big shift away from subsidies for the poor has hurt the people who were already suffering.

Findings

1. Political Reform

Convening major groups urge the government to reform governance systems toward democratic standards, in accordance with norms and traditions of various community groups in Indonesia. The structure of government should be build upon a new social contract defined in a new constitution developed by an independent commission. The new governance system should ensure a mechanism of checks and balances in civil law that fulfil the principles of transparency, accountability and public participation. The government needs to develop a new law to implement a direct election system to elect the President, members of parliament, as well as Governor and Mayors.

The Indonesian Government should recognize the original autonomy of communities as mandated by the Constitution. The discourse of regional autonomy should focus on resolving tensions between Central and Local Governments, and tensions between the State and Peoples and communities in general in transparent and peaceful way.

2. Economic Reform

A national commitment to ensure equity and justice is essential to implement sustainable development. Therefore, the first step that needs to be taken is to alleviate poverty through strategies that aim to resolve structural poverty problems. This means that the government policy should recognize and support access to natural resources management among marginalized communities and indigenous peoples. Major groups urge the government to enforce regulations and legal instruments in support of TAP MPR RI No: IX/MPR/2001 regarding Agrarian Reform and Natural Resources Management. Regulations that override and conflict with this Parliament Decree should be revised or revoked.

Economic crisis that impede sustainable development needs to be resolved with comprehensive measure without sacrificing public interests such as conversion of private debt into public debt, privatization and abolition of subsidies on basic needs. The government needs to raise alternative sources of financing for development by generating domestic revenue. New foreign debts must be refused. Major groups suggest to the government to negotiate for debt cancellation and haircut. If necessary, the government should declare payment default. It is suggested that the government and international financial institutions should arbitrate debt for developing and poor countries. The Government of Indonesia needs to review commitments of debt servicing with IMF, including establishing independent evaluation.

The WTO New Round has to be turned around. The government should protect people's economy and small industry in resolving threats from multinational companies. People should be empowered to deal with disadvantages of globalization and trade liberalization.

It is crucial that the Government, People's Representative and law enforcement institutions work together to combat corruption, collusion and nepotism through systematic actions. There should be evaluation on funding scheme for sustainable development derived from foreign debt. Donor countries should be consistent with their commitments to provide funding for sustainable development at least 0.7% from GDP.

3. Reinforcing Commitments Toward Sustainable Development

It is recommended that the government should:

- Revise Agenda 21 National and Sectoral in participatory manner taking into account the interests of major groups;
- Provide budget in the national budget proportionally, including designated budget to fund efforts in social and ecological recovery;
- Form National Board for Sustainable Development through an inclusive and participative process.

4. Ratification and Implementation of International Conventions

Convening major groups also recommend the government to ratify international conventions prerequisite to Sustainable Development such as ILO 100, 101 and 169; Covenant on Civil and Political, Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. The ratification should be implemented nationally and locally in order to create enabling conditions for sustainable development. It is also suggested that international communities embark into cooperation to empower major groups.

Israel

Introduction

Israel is a relatively small country of 20,330² kilometers and a population of 6.3 million people. It is part of the Asian continent, bordered by the Mediterranean to the west, the West Bank / Palestinian Territories and Rift Valley / Jordan to the east, Lebanon and Syria and higher mountain ranges are to the north and the desert of the Negev, the Gaza Strip and the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula are to the south. The Mediterranean coastal plain, the central hills and the Rift Valley dominate the landscape. From sea level at the Mediterranean, the hinterland climbs quickly to 1,000 meters and then dramatically drops to the lowest point on earth at the Dead Sea at minus 417 meters below sea level.

Israel is located at a biogeographical crossroads, a meeting point for fauna and flora that originate from three different continents: Europe, Asia and Africa. The north of Israel can receive 1,000 mm of precipitation annually while the south dominated by the Negev desert and constituting 60% of the land mass can receive as little as 100 mm rainfall annually. Due to the Rift Valley, Israel is situated in the most important bird migration route in the eastern hemisphere, which increases the country's biodiversity even more.

Israel's people are diverse: some 80% are of Jewish descent and some 20% are Arab -Moslems, Christians and Druze. Israel has the highest percentage of its population of any country in the world born elsewhere, mostly Jewish immigrants arriving from all continents on the globe. Israel was created by a controversial 1947 United Nations resolution that decided to divide Mandatory Palestine into two states. This was followed by wars and conflict in the region that have tragically continued to this day at great loss of life to Israel and her neighbors.

Process

At a meeting of Life and Environment, the umbrella organization of most Israeli environmental organizations in early 2001, the suggestion was first raised that it could be effective to pressure the Israeli government to advance environmental issues in Israel by producing a Shadow Report to that prepared by the government and to be presented at the Johannesburg Summit.

These first and subsequent meetings were attended by some 20 different Israeli environmental and social NGOs who decided that different NGOs would prepare a critique of the Government Report according to the different Agenda 21 issues and the field of their expertise. An NGO steering committee and working groups were created.

The objectives sought to advance by producing the Shadow Report include:

- Gaining international attention from the Johannesburg Summit to pressure the government of Israel to commit for change.
- The existence of two reports would catalyze dialogue between stakeholders: NGOs, government, private sector and academia.

The Israeli NGO Shadow Report is pluralistic, representing different approaches, different methodologies, with no attempt to reach consensus. However, there was a decision that the chapters would focus on issues of environmental justice and sustainability.

The report is divided into three sections. An introduction produced in three languages (Hebrew, Arabic and English), seven chapters dealing with the social and economic dimensions of Agenda 21 and eight chapters dealing with natural resource issues.

Highlights

Education for a Sustainable Society in Israel:

Concludes that sustainability is an unfamiliar concept in Israeli educational circles. The values embraced by sustainability - democracy, equity and citizenship are scarcely represented in curricula, rather environment education is framed as science based.

Public Participation in the Formulation of Policy and Decision-Making:

Despite the emergence of a strong civil society in Israel in the past ten years, public participation in decision-making is limited to being "objectors" rather than stakeholders.

Minorities in Israel:

There is an absence of discussion in the government report towards the Arab minority in Israel, indifferent to their problems concerning lack of infrastructure (sewage and roads), land, educational budgets and the very existence of "unrecognized" villages.

Combating Poverty:

Israel's adoption of the neo-liberal agenda has increased income polarization, resulting in higher unemployment, higher for Arab communities and eroded the safety net, which threatens to increase poverty even further.

Transport:

While Israel has set measures to deal with road congestion and to prioritize public transport financial, institutional, political and other problems prevent their full implementation.

Protecting and Promoting Public Health:

Though Israel has a high quality health system, research in environmental health issues is still under-developed and requires policy targets and resources. Regulations for mandatory environmental and health impact assessments are called for.

Cultivating Environmental Awareness Through Art:

Non-textual language has the power to transform the way individuals think about the environment. This chapter responds to the government chapters on education and awareness raising and calls for a clear role for art and artists in this process.

Air Pollution, Global Warming & Ozone Depletion:

To protect public health and curb greenhouse gas emissions this chapter calls for the introduction of low sulfur diesel fuel, complete phase-out of leaded petrol, a high profile energy conservation campaign and investment in renewable energy technology. Israel is called upon to comply with the 1997 Amendment to the Montreal Protocol to accelerate the phase-out of ozone-depleting methyl bromide.

Conservation of Biological Diversity:

In order to preserve its biodiversity, Israel must develop the institutions for recording and monitoring biodiversity, invest in educating the public about biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, allocate clean freshwater for its aquatic fauna, invest in conservation enforcement and place a higher priority on declaring nature reserves and national parks.

Regional and International Cooperation:

Too often environmental issues and in particular pollution prevention have been held hostage to advances in the peace process. The cost of this failure to cooperate on regional environmental issues has directly contributed to the dramatic degradation of key natural ecosystems (Aquifers, Dead Sea and River Jordan). At the international level ratification of the amendment to the Barcelona Convention and its protocols is called upon prior to the Johannesburg Summit.

Water in Israel in Light of Agenda 21:

The damage to the country's three main reservoirs, as a result of excess pumping, salination and contamination has not been adequately addressed at the systemic level, and no master plan exists to guide the activities carried out by the many bodies entrusted with authority for water management in Israel. A review of present policies and subsequent reform are urgently needed.

Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development of Land Resources:

Despite the importance attached to planning in Israel, it often remains "on paper" while in practice an anti-environmental reality is forming, contrary to intelligent land use principles. Not only is Israel's planning system not striding towards democratic and sustainable planning, but it is regressing and becoming more centralized, operating as an arm of the body which is at the same time entrepreneur, planner and the point of approval-the government.

The Mediterranean Coast:

The past decade has seen an unprecedented surge in development along Israel's coast. NGO's have led a far reaching public and legal campaign that has seen declarative progress of turn around but still lacks the legally binding instruments to correct the situation.

Environmentally Sound Management of Solid Waste:

Each year solid waste generation in Israel continues to grow by 5 percent, more than double population growth. Only 14 percent of waste is recycled, with the vast majority going to landfills, a third of which are unlined dumps, threatening ground water. Hazardous waste issues require major reforms, as does construction waste where 50 percent of which is illegally dumped in open spaces including over the Green Line.

Population and Consumption:

Demographic issues in Israel must consider both the consumption and population elements of environmental impacts. Current planning treats Israel's exceptionally high population growth rates in support of its Jewish population as predictable but not to be downwardly altered and this is despite evidence that the country is not managing the impacts of current populations.

Findings

At different levels all chapters of the Shadow Report ask if Israeli society is on the road to sustainability? A comparison between Agenda 21, the Government Report, and the NGO Shadow Report concludes that Israel is not. Though a great deal of knowledge and expertise exists, this has yet to be translated in Israel into environmental awareness. Though there exists a sense of what needs to be done and how to go about doing it, there are institutional impediments often due to a lack of political will to implement change.

The lack of political will prevents the adoption of a comprehensive vision of a sustainable society and guiding policies advocating for sustainability. Development is overwhelmingly the predominant ethos in Israel, with environmental and social aspects of development little taken into consideration. In Israel, in general, the environment is noticed only when it presents problems and hazards and then responsible agencies engage in 'stomping out fires'. Ultimately the environment and its advocates are turned into impediments of development with the consequences that; the status of environmental professionals is weakened; the demise of planning institutions occurs; the erosion of capacities and enthusiasm takes place; the public is discouraged from participation; enforcement is lax, even when progressive legislation exists and there is a fragmentation of environmental efforts and mechanisms.

The Government Report in fact identifies many of these failings and to its credit it is very self-critical. But the Government Report, prepared by the Ministry of the Environment, reflects the deep lack of political will in Israel for sustainability, as the Report itself is unable to even recommend an agenda for change to place Israel on track.

The challenge before all those advocating for sustainability in Israel is to help create the necessary political will that would advance adoption of a comprehensive sustainability agenda in Israel. The contribution of the NGO Shadow Report to this process is to identify the issue of environmental justice in Israel as a catalyst for political awakening and coalition building in favor of sustainability.

The Israeli NGO Coalition to Johannesburg is made up of: The Adva Center, Alrazi Association for Environmental Education in Tira, Association for Landscape and Nature Conservation in Modi'in, Friends of the Earth - Middle East (FoEME) - Tel-Aviv Office, The Green Network, The Healthy Cities Network, The Heschel Center for Environmental Learning and Leadership, Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI), The Israeli Forum for Ecological Art, The Israel Union for Environmental Defense (Adam Teva v'Din), Life and Environment - Israel Union of Environmental NGOs, LINK to the Environment, The National Coalition for Public Participation in the Planning Process, SHATIL, the New Israel Fund's Empowerment and Training Center, The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI), Sustainable Jerusalem, Transport Today and Tomorrow (TTT). Written by Gidon Bromberg, Friends of the Earth Middle East, www.foeme.org, info@foeme.org

Jordan

Introduction

Jordan occupies a strategic location in the Middle East. It is located to the east of the West Bank and Israel. From the North, it borders Syria and from the east, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Jordan has a small window to the Red Sea in the Gulf of Aqaba. Jordan plays an important role in connecting Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and Asia.

Jordan is considered as a country in a transitional zone with four biological areas that include the Mediterranean zone, Irano- Turanian zone, Sudanian zone and desert habitat. In addition, Jordan has a unique geology and topography. It has the lowest point on earth at the Dead Sea, -417 meter below sea level.

Jordan's population is increasing at a high rate. The current population is around 5.2 million people with two million people living in Amman, the capital, and a growth rate of 3.4%. Moreover, Jordan received numerous fluxes of people as a result of the Middle East crises especially those related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the second Gulf War.

Water is a scarce resource in Jordan. Jordan is considered to be arid and a semiarid country. Water resources do not meet existing demands. Most of Jordan's groundwater aquifers are being utilized beyond their safe yields.

Jordan faces huge challenges to build its economy. After several years of slow growth, Jordan's economy is beginning to stage a recovery. Growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) in 2001 was 4.2%, up from only 1.6% in 1999. While Jordan had hoped for a surge in growth as a result of its peace treaty with Israel in 1994, the recent collapse of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in late 2000 has dampened hopes for regional economic cooperation in the near future.

Jordan was admitted to membership in the World Trade Organization in April 2000, after agreeing to a package of trade and investment liberalization measures. The United States and Jordan concluded a bilateral free trade treaty signed in December 2001. Moreover, Jordan is engaging in the Greater Arab Free Trade Zone and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. A privatization program has been undertaken to reduce the Jordanian government's stake in sectors of the economy previously dominated by state-controlled firms. This was a prerequisite for restructuring Jordan's debt to the IMF and the World Bank.

Jordan declared itself committed to achieving sustainable development. Besides signing the 1992 Rio Declaration, Jordan signed and ratified several conventions to protect the environment. Jordan National Agenda 21 was produced late 2001, as was the biodiversity strategy and action plan. However, the sustainability process is thought by many NGOs to be very sluggish. Jordan has to overcome considerable financial, institutional, political, environmental and social challenges that are currently impediments to sustainable development.

The governmental report

The General Corporation for Environmental Protection¹ (GCEP - the governmental authority responsible for environmental protection) through a financial grant from UNDP, produced "*Jordan's Report about Sustainable Development to Johannesburg Summit 2002.*" GCEP invited private sector representatives, non governmental environmental organizations, women associations, media and

youth to attend seven separate workshops to receive their feedback on the sustainable development process in Jordan. Most of the NGOs, especially the environmental NGOs expressed their dissatisfaction on the way the feedback was gathered. Moreover, some NGOs expressed concern that the produced report did not include all of the NGO concerns and points raised during the workshops.

Major constraints identified by NGOs that impede sustainable development in Jordan include:

- High political instability in the region that has created an unfavorable development environment, especially the Second Gulf War and the ongoing conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis.
- Limited natural, financial and human resources available.
- Poor bureaucratic and institutional performance by those responsible to promote sustainable development.
- Lack of political will by decision makers to implement sustainable development policies.

Process

NGOs in Jordan believe that sustainable development is the only way for real development. The environmental NGOs who participated in the Governmental workshop on the WSSD report expressed their will to produce an independent report to clarify their understanding of sustainable development, especially since the Governmental report did not reflect a full picture on sustainability. Therefore the environmental NGOs decided and committed themselves to effectively participate at the Preparation Conferences (Prepcoms) and the coming Earth Summit in Johannesburg.

All environmental NGOs were invited to participate in two workshops in April 2002 conducted in Amman - Jordan to examine the factors that should be included in the Shadow Report (SR), where NGO representatives agreed to share the responsibilities on the report. Participants at earlier Prepcoms made a presentation of the previous Prepcoms that took place in New York. They presented the future effective participation options in the Prepcom IV (Bali- Indonesia) and the Earth Summit in Johannesburg and means to disseminate and share information with all other NGOs.

Environmental NGOs in Jordan showed high interest and support to the Shadow Report, but most of them were not able to continue actively in this process due to technical, time constraints and other different reasons. However, they still wanted to be updated on all developments. Therefore, this Shadow Report includes all NGO points of views collected during the workshops. Friends of the Earth Middle East was the major contributor to the production of this report.

The workshops included seven organizations; Friends of Environment, Jordan Environment Society, New Jordan Center, Jordan Society for Combating Desertification, Jordan Royal Ecological Diving Society and Friends of the Earth Middle East.

The objectives of the shadow report

The objectives of the shadow report are to:

- Highlight and provide a constructive critique regarding the sustainable development process and achievements of different sectors since Rio 1992.
- Recommend changes to policies, programs and action to fulfill the Jordanian process towards sustainable development.
- Propose targets and timetables needed to achieve sustainable development objectives.

All Shadow Report chapters include a critique of the government report. All comments were edited to be in one format. The critique follows the governmental report's order of issues. Each chapter is divided in two subsections. In the first subsection problems and critiques are addressed, and in the other subsection recommendations are proposed. The shadow report does not address all issues concerning Jordan's Government Report due to limits in resources and time constraints. It only focuses on issues of key importance, which are not sufficiently covered and where NGO experience is available.

Highlights

The areas of concern were divided into three main sections: **Social Aspects** including poverty, population growth, health, housing, land use, economy, trade and transportation.

Natural Resources including agriculture, energy, water resources and coastal zones -Red Sea and the Dead Sea.

Institutional Aspects

The following are the main issues of importance:

- In Jordan a **Ministry of the Environment** must urgently be established. It must be an independent Ministry. Such a Ministry will require adequate financial, technical, legal and human resources. It should be equipped with a strong legal mandate and a comprehensive set of environmental laws and regulations. Current GCEP staff would require further capacity building to produce these laws and regulations therefore regional and international co-operation is needed.
- **Regional Cooperation** should be strengthened and extended to cover environmental issues. Cooperation should ensure reduction of transboundary pollution sources, protection of shared ecosystems and management of shared natural resources. The Jordan Valley should in this regard get the maximum attention since most of the water resources are shared with Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Israel.
- The government should encourage an increase in the level of **transparency and environmental awareness** of its employees concerning environmental policies, projects and programs. Environmental Impact Assessments should become mandatory and implemented in a dynamic process that includes active participation of all stakeholders.
- The government is requested to introduce legislation that would allow **active participation of civil society** during policy-making, project design, etc. The public should be encouraged to express its views concerning all sustainable development activities including privatisation, structural reform, trade agreements, etc.
- **Environmental Land Use Code (LUC)** should be adopted in all development areas such as the Dead Sea, Aqaba Special Economic Zone, QIZs, Amman greater development area, etc. This would assist to promote sustainable and environmentally friendly development.
- **Effective use of nature resources must be ensured.** Current use of natural resources should be reassessed and evaluated and unsustainable practices should be eliminated. A special emphasis should be given to water resources, where all new projects should under go an EIA on water use feasibility. Correction of the current unsustainable water situation such as high unaccounted for water (loss and theft), inefficient agriculture, unmonitored private artesian wells, etc. should be done prior to development of new water projects.

Findings

The Shadow Report concludes that the sustainable development process in Jordan requires stronger political commitment. The Governmental Report and

the National Agenda 21 reports are correctly self-critical and recognize that there are many gaps. All reports show that the process could be much more effective if financial resources were allocated, a strong environmental body - Ministry of the Environment were created, and a comprehensive legal framework established.

The Shadow Report concludes that the Government of Jordan must take further immediate actions to overcome its development challenges. The government is called upon to launch a sustainability strategy to advance the principles of sustainable development.

The strategy should define targets and place strict deadlines to achieve them. Action plans should be developed and the whole process of putting strategies and projects should be dynamic and flexible in order to overcome technical and financial challenges.

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Kenya

Introduction

Kenya is a multiparty democratic state located in East Africa. Nairobi is its capital city. Kenya attained its independence from British rule in 1963. It has a population of 30 million people comprising over 40 tribes. The population is unevenly distributed throughout the country, given that the northern and north-eastern regions, which account for 75% of the total land area, are mostly arid. Almost 80% of the population inhabit the highlands. Only 25% of the total population is found in urban centres, while the rest is living in rural areas, where the predominant way of life is mixed subsistence farming.

Process

In early 2001, more than 50 NGOs and community-based organisations reached a consensus to carry out a civil society review of the status of Agenda 21 in Kenya in preparation for the WSSD. This resulted in the formation of the **Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum**. This is a neutral platform to define the activities and strategies for conducting a review of Agenda 21. The purpose of the review was to come up with a civil-society position on the status of Agenda 21 in Kenya that can form the basis for lobbying the government, the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) and other relevant bodies at the regional and global level.

A National Steering Committee (NSC) was constituted and granted the mandate to coordinate both the political as well as programmatic aspects of the national WSSD process. The National Steering Committee has thus been mandated by a broad spectrum of NGOs and CBOs across the country, to spearhead the WSSD process. Apart from formulating policies for the process and ensuring that the objectives of the Forum are translated into action effectively, the National Steering Committee liaises with the government, the media, the private sector, the WSSD Secretariat in South Africa, the United Nations agencies and similar processes in other regions of the world. The Forum's secretariat is located at EcoNews Africa.

Goal

To develop a strong, credible and effective civil-society movement in Kenya.

Specific Objectives

- To develop a common Kenya NGO/civil-society strategy for participation in the WSSD conference and beyond.
- To create awareness regarding Agenda 21 and the WSSD process in order to inform and stimulate public debate regarding the present development process and how it impacts on people's lives.
- To strengthen the capacity of NGOs/CBOs to lobby on top-priority development issues more effectively at sub-national, national, sub-regional and global levels.
- To conduct an NGO/CBO assessment of the status of Agenda 21 in Kenya based on top-priority themes and issues.
- To lobby for incorporation of the NGO/CBO findings in the national report that will be presented at the Earth Summit 2002 conference in Johannesburg.
- To facilitate the participation of Kenyan NGO/CBO representatives in the preparatory conferences (PrepComs) and the Earth Summit conference itself.

- To use the WSSD process to develop a strong Kenya Civil Society Advocacy Movement.

The Secretariat organised two major workshops, at which the process of developing the country report was defined. Participants were drawn from all agro-ecological regions of the country. This was essential given that the country comprises diverse agro-ecological zones stretching from the coastal zone bordering the Indian Ocean, to the Lake Victoria basin in the west, and the arid/semi-arid zone in the east and north of the country. Each agro-ecological zone has unique economic, social as well as environmental features that had to be taken into account when developing a strategy for the country report. Additionally, the Forum needed to identify organisations in each region that could become Sub-National Focal Points for the purpose of facilitating vertical as well as horizontal exchange of information on the WSSD process. The Sub-National Focal Points also sought to mobilise communities to participate in the various WSSD activities.

The initial step taken by the Forum towards drawing up the country report was to give priority to issues perceived as crucial to the whole concept of sustainable development in Kenya. In doing so, the Forum made reference to the Agenda 21 report and the United Nations' categorisation of the issues. It was also noted that Agenda 21 needed to be demystified. A total of 8 issues were identified:

1. Agriculture, Land and Desertification (food security, tenure, use)
2. Natural Resources (water and minerals)
3. Biodiversity (forests, indigenous knowledge)
4. Financing for Development (trade, health, technology transfers)
5. Education for Sustainability (information and decision making)
6. Major Groups (women, youth/children, indigenous peoples)
7. Sustainable Tourism (wildlife conservation, eco-tourism)
8. Sustainable Human Settlement (solid waste management, housing, energy, transport)
9. Demystification of Agenda 21 (environmental agreements signed/ratified by Kenya)
10. Poverty was defined as a cross-cutting issue.

The Kenya NGO Earth Summit 2002 Forum adopted a two-pronged approach for carrying out the review of Agenda 21 in Kenya.

First, the Forum sought to conduct a "citizens'" or "people's" assessment of Agenda 21. This was carried out by organising two major workshops in September and November 2001 in Naivasha town, located 120 kilometres west of Nairobi city in the Rift Valley province. A total of 125 NGO/CBO representatives drawn from all regions of the country attended the two workshops. In each case, participants were divided into groups according to their regions and given a set of generic guidelines that were intended to help them evaluate the status of each of the eight issues in their respective regions since 1992 to date. Each workshop emphasised getting participants to share their individual as well as collective experiences regarding the type of changes observed within each of the issues over the past ten years.

Highlights and Findings

1. Agriculture, Land and Desertification

a) Key Finding

Agriculture is the backbone of Kenya's economy. The assessment revealed a downward trend in the overall performance of this sector. This was attributed to a number of factors such as poor land policies formulated during the colonial era, poor infrastructure, poor terms of trade at the global level among others.

b) Key Demands

- Improve the infrastructure in prime agricultural areas.
- Revise existing land policy to accommodate pastoralism.
- Improve the market infrastructure.
- Push for “level playing field” in the global market.

2. Biodiversity

a) Key Finding

Kenya has signed and ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) making it a bona-fide member of the Conference of the Parties (COP). A comprehensive National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) outlining a strategy for sustainable use of biological resources was developed in 1994. Effort has been made by the government, NGOs, grassroots communities and to a lesser extent the private sector to implement Agenda 21's commitments.

b) Key Demands

- Integrate Indigenous Knowledge in biodiversity conservation strategies.
- Establish Biodiversity Information Centres in every district around the country.
- Stop deforestation.
- All illegally deforested areas must be reforested.

3. Natural Resources

a) Key Finding

About 75% and 50% of the urban and rural population respectively have access to safe drinking water. Degradation of water catchment areas such as forests and wetlands as well as decreasing levels of investment are some of the key impediments to effective management of the water sector. Civil-society organisations are spearheading the process of carrying out campaigns against mining and quarrying activities that impact negatively on the environment. On the whole, there is a general lack of political will and commitment in implementing existing policies.

b) Key Demands

- All watershed areas must be identified and conserved appropriately.
- Exploitation of natural resources must not be licensed unless a comprehensive environmental impact assessment is conducted by a credible organisation or individuals.

4. Financing for Development

a) Key Finding

The economy has performed dismally throughout the past decade. Unemployment is high, businesses are closing down or being placed under receivership, and more than 50% of the total population live below the poverty line. Bad governance at local as well as global level is the main cause of Kenya's economic hardships.

b) Key Demands

- The “playing field” of global markets must be levelled.
- All the past and present culprits for economic crimes must be brought to book now!
- Break dependence on foreign aid, mobilise local resources for sustainable development.

5. Education for Sustainability

a) Key Finding

The education system has emphasised the passing of exams rather than the shaping of values, attitudes, skills and knowledge consistent with national development aspirations. Some cultural values deny educational opportunities for the girl-child.

b) Key Demands

- Develop an educational curriculum consistent with national development goals.
- Education must be enshrined in the constitution as a basic human right.

6. Major Groups (Youth)

a) Key Finding

62% of the population consists of young people. There is no policy for involving the youth in decision-making process. The youth continue to experience serious problems of unemployment, disease (HIV/AIDS), human rights abuses and generally low standards of living.

b) Key Demands

- A national Youth Policy must be developed now.
- Develop information centres targeting the Youth around the country.
- Make retrogressive and repugnant cultural practices that undermine the rights of the young unconstitutional.
- Make ICTs an integral part of the education curriculum.

7. Sustainable Tourism

a) Key Finding

Tourism is the second foreign exchange earner after agriculture. The country has identified ecotourism to ensure environmental and socio-cultural integrity as well as economic equity.

b) Key Demands

- Build the capacity of local communities to invest in tourism by providing training and credit;
- Promote joint ventures between foreign investors and local partners.

8. Sustainable Human Settlements

a) Key Finding

The urban population grew from 3.8 million in 1989 to 9.9 million in 1999, constituting 34% of the total population. The urban population is projected to grow to 16 million by 2005. Proliferation of informal settlements, insecurity, environmental degradation and deteriorating public health standards are major challenges faced by the country. Development of shelters and human settlements has received the least attention.

b) Key Demands

- The government must allocate more resources to develop shelters and human settlements.
- The country needs stronger political commitment and transparency in order to encourage private investment.

Malaysia

Introduction

Malaysia, covering an area of about 330,242 km² is situated in South East Asia and is made up of Peninsular Malaysia, and Sabah and Sarawak on Borneo Island. Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia are neighbors to Malaysia.

The country's multi ethnic population is 23.2 million people, consisting of the Malays, Chinese, Indians and indigenous people. The Malays are the biggest ethnic group of 12.3 million people, followed by the Chinese with 5.7 million, the indigenous people with 2.3 million and the Indians with 1.6 million.

When Malaysia received its independence in 1957 from Great Britain, it chose to establish a government based on the concept of parliamentary constitutional monarchy with a federal government structure, which is based on the British Westminster model. The Barisan Nasional (National Front) has ruled the country since independence and has easily retained its majority votes in parliament throughout the nine elections after 1957.

Malaysia is one of the 12 countries in the world identified as a 'megadiversity' region. Its forest is home to about 14, 500 species of flowering plants and trees, 600 species of birds, 210 species of mammals and unaccounted species numbers of insects and other life forms. The critically endangered Sumatran rhinoceros with a population of below 300 left in the world also resides in the dense forest of the country.

Process

The Malaysian NGO Forum for Rio+10 was established in preparation and participation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg September 2002. The secretariat for the Forum is WWF Malaysia.

Among the key goals of the Rio +10 Forum include:

1. To obtain a broader perspective of the issues among the NGO community focused on the environment, sustainable agriculture, food security, social welfare, poverty alleviation and gender.
2. To gather knowledge of the scope of work and policy initiatives of Malaysian NGOs to better coordinate action and funding for specific programmes.
3. To provide an opportunity to exercise opinions, assist in prioritizing the issues, create better awareness, identify and support programmes and engage in building a national NGO consensus for policy direction.

One of the major outputs planned for the Forum is to report on the review and analysis of Malaysia's progress on implementing Agenda 21. The purpose of the report is to highlight the inadequacies and improper action in regard to the government's approach on Agenda 21 implementations. The Forum intends to offer alternatives and recommendations to the government from an NGO perspective. This analysis will be forwarded to national agencies and used to advocate our positions in national meetings dealing with sustainable development issues.

Efforts to review Malaysia's progress on implementing Agenda 21 started in February 2002. A Term of Reference was prepared by the Secretariat to clarify the details needed in the review. The objectives stated in the TOR for each chapter were to:

- Review the goal statements of the Programme Areas in Agenda 21 and compare the progress of their implementation in Malaysia.
- Assess the overall objectives of the Programme Areas and analyse the extent to which Malaysia has sufficiently satisfied them; if not, then identify the gaps and obstacles for implementation.
- Based on the first two objectives, make recommendations for the improvement of the implementation of Agenda 21 in Malaysia.

From the reviews above, the Forum would then produce three documents:

- Compilation of all reviewed A21 chapters, presented in a conference proceeding style (for in-house use)
- Summary of gaps and recommendations
- Summary for policy-makers

Highlights

The major points discussed according to the chapters are:

Chapter 3 - Combating Poverty

There is persistent poverty among the indigenous people of Malaysia. The Government should:

- i) Revive the indigenous people's interests in their own traditions.
- ii) Involve the indigenous people in various projects that result in a process of technology transfer through their involvement in the project

Chapter 4 - Changing Consumption Patterns

The issue of Sustainable Transport versus sustainable national car industry:

Land transportation is being implemented to support the national car industry. Lack of focus on alternative transportation and integration of transportation system. The Government should:

- i) Move people, not cars. Planners need to give more emphasis on limiting car entry, car pooling, improving fuel quality and teleworking.

There is also lack of awareness on waste management problem as the increasing volume of garbage generated shows the lack of awareness among consumers and producers. The Government should:

- ii) Encourage the public to reuse household items and to reduce, compost and recycle waste.

Chapter 5 - Demographic dynamics and sustainability

There is a lack of research on linkage between demographic dynamics and sustainable development. The Government should:

- i) Give a high priority to social research agendas on the population-sustainable development linkage under the Intensification of Research on Priority Areas (IRPA) of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, and to take stock of IRPA-funded research on this and related topics.

Chapter 8 - Integrating Environment and Development in Decision-Making

The environmental perspectives are not fully integrated into the implementation of the mainstream development objectives of the Malaysian Plans. In addition, there is a lack of mechanisms for public participation in development projects. The Government should:

Integrate environment and development at the policy, planning and management levels by:

- i) Enhancing mechanisms for cooperation between Government agencies and NGOs for effective collaboration in enhancing environment and development integration.
- ii) Develop programmes and research to increase the awareness and capacity on linkages between the environment and development.
Use economic instrument and other incentives by:
- iii) Incorporating environment costs and benefit values within project assessment and at the planning stages.

Chapter 9: Protection of the Atmosphere

There is no Department of Atmospheric Protection. The issue simply does not carry high enough priority. Other than the National Climate Committee, there is no central coordinating body that can tackle all atmospheric issues. The Government should:

- i) Create a high level coordinating committee on atmospheric protection under the direction or mandate of the Economic Planning Unit.

Chapter 11: Combating deforestation

The Government's emphasis on forest is on the economics of extraction:

In the past, the forestry discipline values forests only for its timber, ignoring the intangible values of water supply, carbon sequestration, biodiversity, home and source of sustainable income to indigenous natives, and potential sources of drugs and chemicals. Such mindset still persists and it is difficult to change this mindset. The Government should:

- i) Further implement the Forestry Department's current emphasis on Non-Timber-Products (NTP).

In addition, conservation is not a priority at the state level government:

At state level, the pressures for development and providing a reasonable quality of life for the citizens are important. States also lack expertise in conservation, and may need expert input on these matters.

- ii) There is a need for the relevant ministry at Federal level to provide the impetus and push for conservation by providing the relevant information, perhaps by road-shows or dialogues with the senior state officials, while the NGOs strategize at the grassroots and active collaborations with state departments.

Chapter 14: Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development

There is no official definition of sustainable agriculture in Malaysia. Relatively little has been done to encourage the rapid development of the agricultural and food sectors. It was cheaper to import most food items than to produce them locally, but the current economic crisis has posed the challenge for Malaysia to be self-sufficient in food production. The Government should:

- i) Define sustainable agriculture officially and legally. Adopt the definition and implementation in the national policy.
- ii) Policy makers have to foster greater participation by farmers. The direct input of all partners at the national level is the vital starting point for the sustainability of agriculture and land.

Chapter 15: Conservation of Biological Diversity

There is a lack of a comprehensive law for biological resources in Malaysia:

Biodiversity conservation is carried out under sector-based legislation. This sector-based legislative framework is inadequate in protecting ecosystems as a whole. Revenue generating activities have priority over conservation, even if they are non-sustainable activities. The Government should:

- i) Develop a comprehensive national biological diversity legislation. Its scope should go beyond access and benefit issues, but to include a comprehensive guideline in ensuring the protection of ecosystem and species conservation.

Chapter 18: Protection of the Quality and Supply of Freshwater Resources

There is an absence of a clear-cut National Water Resources Policy (NWRP). The Government should:

- i) Pass the legislation on the National Water Resources Policy and to make it a law.
- ii) State Governments should follow by passing state legislations to complement and facilitate implementation of the NWRP.
- iii) Current laws and regulations need to be re-examined and re-adjusted to the NWRP so that they are complementary rather than overlapping or contradictory to the NWRP.

In addition, the rivers in Malaysia are treated as open sewers. Actions that should be taken by the Government are:

- iv) Expedite the release of funds allocated for restoration.
- v) River restoration should not be based on the structural approach alone but equal amount of spending should be allocated to public awareness and education, river beautification, establishment of river parks and recreation facilities, rehabilitation of wildlife and flora, relocation of squatters, etc.
- vi) Relocation of polluting industries along river banks.

Chapter 21: Environmentally Sound Management of Solid Wastes & Sewage-Related Issues

There is inadequate planning and management in solid waste management:

Local authorities do not have adequate personnel (experts) to run and manage solid waste management activities. Inadequate collection coverage as only 60-90% of the served areas is covered daily. Problems include the whole range in the waste management process including storage, collection and final disposal. The Government has also failed in educating and creating awareness among the public in waste reduction programmes especially in unnecessary packing and plastic usage, which increases the volume for collection and disposal. Actions that should be taken by the Government are:

- i) Setting clear objectives for the entire nation featuring uniformity, cost-effectiveness, environmental soundness and social acceptance, with a special focus on reduction of waste and increase in reuse, recycling, recovery and residue management.
- ii) Ensure effective privatization to upgrade solid waste management services and facilities.

Findings

Malaysia's policies in the social economic dimension generally supports the objectives of Agenda 21 on poverty, demography, health and human habitat. However, substantial challenges arises in the Chapters Four (consumption) and Eight (integrating of environment and development). The country's current development path is towards sustained growth, which requires more consumption at a faster rate so that the GDP can record higher growth. Therefore, the Forum recommends that the Government should mainstream sustainable development into the country's policies and decision-makings.

Malaysia has many legislations, policies, strategies, and agencies to conserve and manage her development resources. However, there is a trend of deteriorating environment natural resources. The pursuit of sustained growth sees the resources as mere inputs to the economic machinery. The forum recommends:

1. Improvement on governance for sustainable development

Good governance means a governing process that is participatory, transparent and accountable. The government has to create a conducive political and legal environment that allows the civil society to play their role effectively.

2. Development of integrated, multi-sectoral committees

The challenge is to build effective and integrated committees to better manage resources. Sectoral interests and jealousy usually bog down such rainbow coalitions. But build them we must for resources cut across sectors and have no respect for man-made borders.

The role of major groups in sustainable development indicates a mixed result with persistent problems especially for indigenous people and farmers. The government's relationship with civil society is improving with more avenues to express their views. However, there is an absence of systematic strengthening of civil society to take on their role as partners in development. The Forum calls for effective partnership with the Malaysian major groups as the government by itself cannot do all the conserving and managing; it needs partners in the Malaysian society. The civil society must be empowered to enhance its traditional role as a watchdog and at the same time to provide innovative solutions. The government must accept that the independent nature of the NGOs is the source of their strength.

In conclusion, the Government of Malaysia should endorse sustainable development as the main development theme. The nature of sustainability issues is integrative. There may be efforts to acquire means for sustainable development implementation, but they are sporadic and disjointed without a strong sustainability theme. A top-level endorsement of sustainable development is needed, and this has to be translated into a new high-level institution or adapting an existing one to coordinate Malaysia's sustainable development.

Mozambique

Introduction

Mozambique is located in the Southern sub-region of Africa, placed on the south-eastern shore of the Indian Ocean. The country has a distinctive cascade layout with landscape ranging from a predominantly mountainous hinterland, passing through plateaus and ending with flatlands on the seacoast. This makes the country vulnerable to natural disasters. The convergence of unique landscape and ocean masses have created a niche for different and endemic biological species both of plants and animals, including unique birds, sea animals and forest fauna and flora. Therefore, Mozambique is often referred to as the pearl of the Indian Ocean.

The country borders with the Indian Ocean to the East, with a length of around 2500 km, hosting several Islands and archipelagos; Tanzania to the North, through Ruvuma River; Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe to the West and finally South Africa and Swaziland to the South. It covers a total area of 799.380² km, divided administratively into 10 provinces and 128 districts. In addition, 33 municipalities were introduced by the implementation of the decentralisation process started in 1998. The Capital of the country is Maputo City.

In terms of climate, Mozambique has tropical and sub-tropical climates with influence from the sea masses. The hottest month is February with average temperatures ranging from 22 to 31 °C. The coldest month is July with temperatures ranging from 13 to 24°C. Rain fall in Mozambique is very variable; the southern provinces are dry with annual rains at around 400 mm while in the North the rains reach 2500 mm per annum.

In terms of population, this large country is inhabited by 17 million people, 80% of them depending directly on agricultural production. Coincidentally, 80% of the population is illiterate and 75% live below the line of absolute poverty. The official language of Mozambique is Portuguese; however, the country hosts more than 18 tribes, grouped under three main African languages groups; Makua-Lomwe, Tsonga and Sena-Nyanja.

The currency in Mozambique is the metical (MZM), currently with an average exchange rate of 23.000,00 Mt for 1 USD. Mozambique is two hours ahead of the GMT and uses the metric system for measurement.

Mozambique is a young democracy, as per the new constitution adopted in 1990, which separates the functions of executive, legislature and justice. The last election was held in 1999.

Process

Early in 2001, the civil society organisations started discussions regarding the assessment of the implementation of agenda 21 in preparations for WSSD. In March 2001, the process took off, by creation of a group of civil society organisations that agreed on principles and plans for the process. From March to November 2001, the group invested efforts trying to extend the process to as many organisations as possible from all kinds of backgrounds, including NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, professional associations, labour and trade unions, youth, women, informal self help and communal organisations. In addition, to extending the process to different social groups, another important effort was made extending the process to all the provinces and districts of the country. Finally, the process has also paid attention to sub-regional, regional and global alliances for effect-

ing co-ordinated and successful information collection and dissemination. As a result, in September 2001, the Mozambique process was elected to be part of the regional core group for Southern Africa, in addition to being elected alternate representative of Southern Africa in the African Steering Committee.

At this stage, a co-ordination group was formed for piloting the process at the central level. This group is facilitated by ABIODES, a local NGO working for sustainable development advocacy. Other members are: UNAC, the National Farmers Union, the Mozambican office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), LINK-NGO Forum, an umbrella organisation for civil society organisations in Mozambique and the Installing Committee for a Forum of Environmental Organisations (CIFOA). In addition, each province has identified a focal point organisation, thus forming a nation-wide network of organisations interested in WSSD. All the focal points had the primary responsibility of widening the participation of all interested organisations in a participatory and democratic manner.

In December 2001 a national Civil Society Seminar was organised. Representatives attended it from all the 10 provinces of the country and many specific groups such as children, women, labour, youth, peasants and etc. The aim of the seminar was to agree on principles and plan of action in a wider assembly. As the main outputs of the seminar, the civil society has approved a Maputo Declaration that identifies 10 areas of high interest to the civil society in the promotion of sustainable development. The same declaration approves the commitment of the civil society towards the preparation of the WSSD and it lists a few demands from the Government. Furthermore, the seminar legitimated the co-ordination group and the focal points for carrying on the preparation work as well as approving the plan of action, timing and methodology for data collection for assessment of the implementation of agenda 21, local agenda and related conventions in Mozambique. In addition, the seminar has approved the lobbying and advocacy plans for the dissemination of information on Sustainable Development and the WSSD. More over, the seminar assigned the co-ordination group the task of working with the public and private sector, in international lobbying and partnership development as well as being primarily responsible for fundraising. The seminar also put the responsibility of data collection on the provincial networks and the involved civil society organisations.

As a result, in early May 2002, an independent consultant released the first draft of the national report, which evolved into the second draft after a review. The second draft was exposed to wider discussions in the 3 regional seminars (South, Centre and North) where more than 150 participants representing all the 10 provinces discussed and contributed to the report. This took place late May beginning June. After the incorporation of the regional seminars comments a third draft was released and exposed to a national seminar, which took place 27-28 June 2002 in Maputo, where more than 80 delegates from all over the country had an opportunity to discuss and improve the document. This evolved into the fifth and final version of the national report.

One very important remark for the process was the implementation of nationwide lobbying and advocacy program for the WSSD preparation. This included talks, lectures, tree planting for re-forestation of the eroded land, children's contests of posters about sustainable development and texts by teens about sustainable development were made. Furthermore, different runs and concerts were organised by the civil society around the country.

Highlights

During the seminar, 10 priority issues were identified and it was agreed that those will be the concentration areas of the preparation process. These are:

1. Local Economic Development

It was recognised that the glorious economic growth reported to be 2 “digits” is far from alleviating the poverty of 75% the population. Negligence on policy making, strategies and intervention formulation and implementation on local economic development have caused the appalling situation. The civil society demands for a nation-wide debate on local economic development enabling a boost on that sphere.

2. Education

80% of the Mozambican population remains illiterate, and the remaining 20% is predominantly very low educated. Civil society regrets that 26 years after independence, the situation remains so bad. It identifies education as fundamental for sustainable development of the country and demands for free education of the poor in the rural areas.

3. Health (with attention to HIV/AIDS)

There is no doubt that today’s most deadly diseases in Mozambique remain Malaria and Tuberculosis. Aids is also attacking the most productive age group of the country thus hindering and undermining long-term development. The civil society recalls that health is wealth and demands for rapid changes in the health sector, tackling first of all malaria, TB, endemic diseases such as cholera, leprosy and etc. It is also requested that HIV/AIDS be tackled with adequate political will and actions. Health assistance in the poor rural areas should be free.

4. Agriculture and Access to Market

It is demanded that the government in Mozambique deal with the improvement of the agricultural production immediately. It should assist with incentives and programs for the 80% of the country’s population employed in this sector. At the international level, the subsidies to the production and export of the agricultural commodities should be halted with immediate effects, enabling Mozambique’s production to compete on fair basis.

5. External Debt

The debt and its servicing continue to be an unfair way of exporting capital from developing countries to the rich countries. This perpetuates poverty and deviates resources that could be used in development and social programs. It is demanded that external debt is cancelled with no condition and with immediate effect. At the national level, there is a demand for a more transparent management of public funds, especially those resulting from debt cancellation so that the simple people may feel the effect of debt cancellation.

6. Infrastructure Development

Poor infrastructure remains a big obstacle to development in Mozambique. The exploitation of resources such as timber, cotton, copper and many others can not be done at competitive rates due to operations costs involved resulting from poor infrastructures. It is demanded that the communication, transport, electricity, water and sanitation infrastructures be prioritised in development programs. The international partners are requested to assist the country in the development of such programs.

7. Natural Disasters Management

The civil society recognises that Mozambique is vulnerable to natural disasters and the cyclic floods, cyclones and droughts illustrate this. The government is demanded to address this aspects with clear policies and strategies that should be implemented at very decentralised manner and well dissemi-

nated amongst people. The donors are request to assist the country with adequate experiences, skills and resources enabling both the government and the civil society to be disaster prepared.

8. Environment Management

It is recognised that the legal framework for adequate environmental management has to be well established. Particular attention must be paid to the establishment of the Sustainable Development Councils (CONDES). However, much still needs to be done towards adequate environmental management. The poor enforcement of the approved laws is a cause of concern. Lack of environmental police, courts and skills for environmental are a constraint to law enforcement in the field of environment. Changes are also requested for valuing and adding value based on the environment. The cleaner the environment that the country has, the more marketing potential of its commodities it should enjoy.

9. Good Governance

Good governance remains a great obstacle for sustainable development in LDC's including Mozambique. Therefore, the government is demanded to continue the public sector reform recently launched. It also is requested to pay attention to corruption in the private sector, which has resulted into frequent bankruptcies of companies. The traditional consequences of this are unemployment.

10. Access to Information

Due to its poor communication infrastructures, few people access to adequate information. This affects competition negatively. It is demanded that the Government and its partners devote adequate attention to information access and dissemination tools. Being a country with predominantly illiterate people, attention should be devoted to Radio and TV broadcasting, including programs in local languages. On the other hand, information and communication technology should be addressed with appropriate resources and political will.

Findings

Although Mozambique started developing a range of policies and laws addressing environmental sustainability, much still needs to be done in order to say that Mozambique is on the right track to sustainable development. Poverty that threatens around 90% of Mozambique's population undermines the possibility of sustainable development. Therefore, it is demanded that attention is devoted to local economic development as a tool for combating poverty and halting the socio-economic exclusion.

Mozambique remains a relatively well conserved environment and this is a potential for wealth and a marketing advantage for commodities and services. It is demanded that policies and strategies do address the maximisation of the environmental advantages for wealth creation. In addition, the long and fragmented list of environmental relevant laws requires harmonisation.

The civil society calls for a world-wide march against price distortion in the world market caused by subsidies. This is a perpetuation of poverty and should be noted as the primary condition for the relationship between North and South. The active sectors of the world are called to action for halting the subsidies.

We note that NEPAD is being assumed as the solution to Africa's poverty and development challenges. We feel that the African civil society, including that of Mozambique, has not been consulted during the formulation of NEPAD. For instance, we feel that NEPAD is a continuation of the traditional neo-liberal policies that have brought poverty to many people in Africa. African Governments, including that of Mozambique, as well as international partners are

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demanding to devote equal resources for development of internally led economies, enabling economic empowerment of local people and communities.

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Namibia

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Brazil in 1992 (also known as the Rio Earth Summit), marked the beginning of a new era in human history - one that heralded important shifts in thought and action regarding environmental issues. At UNCED governments formally adopted the concept of sustainable development, which is most often described as *“development that meets the needs of the present without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”*.

The World Summit on Sustainable Development and This Report

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002 will mark the tenth anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit. This provides an ideal opportunity for countries to review their progress in implementing sustainable development options. This document provides an assessment of Namibia's progress since UNCED.

Public participation was called upon to help formulate and review this National Assessment. Four consultative workshops were held which brought together government, non-government, private sector, technical experts and interested parties. These workshops followed on from a year of intensive consultation for the development of Namibia's second 5-year National Development Plan (for the period 2001 - 2006), Namibia's Vision for the year 2030, a large number of field-based initiatives in all regions within Namibia supporting local empowerment, improved natural resource management and rural development. The UNDP, in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), organised National Preparatory Workshop for Rio+10 held in June 2001. As a result, this assessment report presents the consolidated views of a broad cross-section of Namibian society, including government (at national, regional and local levels) and civil society (urban and rural communities, non-governmental organisations, academic and training institutions and the private sector). Not all of it necessarily reflects the views of everyone, but in the interests of democracy, and in recognition of the fact that sustainable development is best pursued in an environment of open discussion and debate, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has decided that the report should fairly reflect both the achievements and the challenges - and achievements there have been, more so in the past 10 years than in the previous century of Namibia's history.

The past 10-year review period since UNCED closely corresponds with the period of Namibia's independence. Namibia faced a particularly huge challenge - not only to shift to a new paradigm of sustainable development, but also to overcome a 100-year history of colonialism and apartheid. It is often not fully appreciated just how vast a social debt Namibia inherited as a result of the skewed development objectives of the past. This debt is evidenced by rural and urban poverty, huge disparities in income distribution, unequal access to land and natural resources, poor education, health and housing, and many other more subtle issues.

Even less well known is the vast environmental debt that Namibia inherited. The fishing sector had partly collapsed in the 1970s through over-fishing, the productivity of the agricultural rangeland had shown a steady decline, as had biological diversity in large areas of the country. Deforestation, overgrazing, soil

erosion and declining water and wetland quality had become major issues of concern. These issues, in today's value, were costing Namibia well over N\$300 million per year in lost productivity.

It is not surprising that improving human health, education, living conditions, livelihoods and equity have been top policy priorities since Independence in 1990. These improvements are essential for ensuring national stability. Concurrently, a portfolio of environmental policies and programmes has been systematically introduced. These have all been prompted by a desire to pursue long-term social, ecological and economic national objectives rather than to fulfil the ideals of UNCED *per se*.

NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

After independence in 1990, Namibia became one of the first countries worldwide to incorporate an environmental and sustainable development clause within its National Constitution (Articles 95(l)). It complemented this clause by enabling its citizens to raise issues of environmental concern via the Office of the Ombudsman (Article 91 (c)). In 1992, through Namibia's Green Plan, the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) created a national common vision for sustainable development. President Sam Nujoma formally tabled this document at UNCED, on behalf of the Republic of Namibia. The Green Plan led, in turn, to Namibia's 12 Point Plan for Integrated and Sustainable Environmental Management, a short strategic implementation document, which was tabled and adopted by Parliament in 1993. Namibia's portfolio of environmental programmes and projects arose from this process, and were designed as a complementary and synergistic set of activities to address the country's environmental challenges and opportunities.

Based on the foundation laid by Namibia's Green Plan and the experience gained through implementing the suite of environmental and sustainable development projects and programmes, a focussed intervention was planned by the National Planning Commission in the Office of the President, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and other stakeholders, to fully incorporate environmental and sustainable development issues and options into the country's National Development Plan (NDP II - for the years 2001 to 2006). Sustainable development philosophy and approaches have thus been mainstreamed at the heart of national development. In addition, Namibia's 'Vision for 2030' which fully embraces the idea of sustainable development aims to help guide the country's five-year development plans from NDP III through to NDP VII and, at the same time, provide direction to government ministries, the private sector, NGOs and local authorities.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED SINCE INDEPENDENCE AND UNCED

In reviewing Namibia's progress since UNCED it must be noted that:

- Namibia has embarked on an approach to implementing sustainable development that is a little different to many other countries, partly because of the history of emerging from colonial rule at the same time as the UNCED process was being initiated, and partly because of a conviction that national and local approaches and solutions should be found to implement national and local developments. Namibia does not have a traditional national strategy for sustainable development (NSSD) in the sense that many other countries do. Rather, Namibia has built sustainable development clauses into its national constitution, developed a Green Plan (presented at UNCED), operationalised this in *Namibia's 12-point plan for integrated and sustainable environmental management*, implemented the plan through a portfolio of national programme

and has built sustainable development into the heart of its national development processes.

- Most of the positive changes that have occurred over the past decade were prompted by a desire to pursue long-term national objectives aimed at redressing the social and ecological debts incurred during the colonial era. The resultant improvements in human health, education, living conditions and equity are essential for ensuring the social sustainability and political stability required before Namibia can move towards improved economic and environmental sustainability. The Sustainable Development objectives and philosophy have been mainstreamed within the NDP2 process and document, which placed sustainable development at the heart of national development. This is considered to be the most effective approach and perhaps a model for others.
- Many of the environmental initiatives undertaken since UNCED can be attributed to the vision and leadership of a relatively small number of politicians, officials, supportive NGOs and individuals. Namibia has yet to achieve a critical mass of people from all sectors of society who share and pursue a common vision towards sustainable development. However, considerable work is ongoing, both through GRN and the NGO community, to help democratise the environmental sector, at all levels of society.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING PLANNING PROCESSES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- The recent initiative of formulating a Vision for the year 2030 for Namibia provides a good framework for sustainable development planning, since it creates a long-term perspective within which the 5-year NDPs can be designed (Figure 1). This model will enable Namibia to plan more systematically and to better evaluate its progress towards a future goal.
- The next major challenge is to incorporate integrated long-term planning at the sectoral level. Another challenge is to synergistically link programmes with national processes so that, for example, mid-term reviews of the NDPs link with annual State of Environment Reports and allow for dynamic and responsive adaptive management of development planning and implementation.
- Now that the organisation established to help promote sustainable development and integrated environmental management has been in existence for almost 10 years, it is appropriate to take stock and review its institutional setting in terms of its effectiveness in delivering services and promoting collaboration. A number of options have been proposed, ranging from the status quo, where the Directorate of Environmental Affairs remains within the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the establishment of a separate Environmental Agency outside of government. Ideally, the organisation should have a flexible management regime that allows it to forge strategic partnerships with line ministries, support organisations, the private sector, etc., within the country, the region and internationally, and that provides the institution with the authority to facilitate integrated holistic approaches in support of sustainable development. These (and other) options could be evaluated against a set of criteria related to efficiency and cost-effectiveness in achieving the mission and objectives of the organisation.
- At the sectoral level, various laws (currently under development) need to be enacted and implemented. These include the Environmental Management Bill, the Pollution and Waste Management Bill, and new legislation relating to water, energy inland fisheries and agriculture

NAMIBIA'S NATIONAL CRITICAL ISSUES

The key threats to sustainable development in Namibia, as identified during the consultative process for the preparation of this report, of NDP II and Vision 2030 (Krugmann 2000, Tarr 2000a and NPC 2001b) can be summarised as follows:

- Namibia's high dependence on natural resources
- The loss of biodiversity
- Population growth and settlement patterns
- Governance issues
- Human health and the HIV/AIDS epidemic
- Global atmospheric change
- Poverty and inequality
- Threats to human resources
- Land issues, particularly equitable access to land and natural resources, but including desertification
- Increasing water stress
- The challenge of ensuring that development and industrialisation are sustainable
- Improving access to existing knowledge and Filling knowledge gaps
- Increasing competition with neighbouring countries for shared natural resources
- The need for a stable macroeconomic environment and stimulating private entrepreneurship

Although mentioned separately most of these issues are interlinked - reflecting the complex and integrated nature of Namibia's sustainable development challenge. *Choosing Namibia's land issues (including desertification)* for further discussion helps to highlight this point. This particular challenge needs to be addressed as quickly as possible, as it encompasses pressing social and environmental challenges that are central to rural development, improving peoples' livelihoods and to the well-being and future of all Namibians.

INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION

The multi-sectoral nature of Namibia's sustainable development challenges demands the co-operation of many government agencies and all components of society. Some of the national issues which specifically require harmonisation of objectives and policies and close coordination of actions include:

- Natural resource management and land-use, which falls under the auspices of four different ministries (MLRR, MRLGH, MAWRD and MET).
- Pollution control, which falls under the jurisdiction of the six different ministries (MAWRD, MHSS, MET, MME, MRLGH and MWTC).
- Rural development and poverty alleviation, which fall under numerous agencies but for which there is no single proactive coordinating agency.

Progress regarding integrated planning and multistakeholder participation is summarised as follows:

Admirable efforts have been made to integrate environmental issues into national planning, and to involve public participation at this level of decision making (for example, during preparations for NDP II and V2030). Since UNCED, sustainable development objectives have been integrated into many new policies, most of which involved broad public participation in their formulation. These include:

- **The Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) Policy**, which aims to: *promote wise and sustainable use of natural resources: to devolve rights over and responsibilities for wildlife and tourism to rural communities - creating enterprise and income-generating opportunities; and to encourage and assist communities to acquire skills to manage their areas and actively pilot their own future.* Through the national CBNRM programme rural communities have been given an opportunity to benefit from the CBNRM policy by forming conservancies and developing high-earning, low-impact wildlife and tourism enterprises on their land.
- **Namibia's Environmental Management Bill and Pollution Control and Waste Management Bill** (both still to be passed by parliament) require the consideration of environmental issues in the development of all future poli-

cies, plans, programs, projects and new legislation. This offers opportunities for preventative management and will help to minimise future damage to human health, ecosystems and Namibia's natural capital - without limiting the realisation of viable development opportunities.

- **Integrated Water Resource Management and Water Demand Management Policies** that are helping Namibia reach its national goals of social well-being, economic development and environmental health. These include innovative water re-use and reclamation efforts, the development of alternative water sources and the adoption of a stricter economic approach to water pricing.
- **Namibia's marine fisheries management policies** that have been commended internationally for their effectiveness and efficiency. The establishment of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ - prohibiting fishing by foreign trawlers in Namibian waters except under licence) and the implementation of scientifically established fishing quotas have helped to promote the integrity of marine resources and enhance the recovery of certain fish stocks after decades of overexploitation.
- **The National Drought Policy and Strategy**, which aims to ensure that long-term sustainable drought mitigation, replaces the short-term, inefficient drought relief efforts of the past. In addition this policy aims to give more responsibility for drought management to the farmers themselves. If successfully implemented it will help to slow down the rate of land degradation in Namibia, reduce poverty and improve rural livelihoods and food security.

• **Namibia's Energy Policy White Paper**, which promotes sustainability through: the assessment of woodland depletion and renewable energy projects; the development of sites for the safe disposal on land of oil-based waste generated during petroleum exploration and production; and the establishment of a Used Oil Task Force which is seeking an acceptable solution for the disposal/re-use of used mineral oils. This policy also pledges commitment to, *inter alia*, ensuring effective governance, social improvements, investment and economic growth.

Not all policies translate into institutional co-operation and coherency at the operational levels. In particular, clarity still needs to be sought regarding the accountabilities and responsibilities of various agencies responsible for land-use planning.

There is a growing appreciation of the need for integrated, intersectoral planning at the management level within the GRN. Some of the cooperative management initiatives that have emerged, enabling different organisations and stakeholders to join forces for a common good, include:

- The CBNRM programme which has led to local natural resource management initiatives representing successful partnerships between government, NGOs and communities. In addition, good co-operation is emerging between private sector tourism enterprises and conservancies, and the formation of the Namibian Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO - which has helped to improve coherence within the CBNRM programme, through the development of a framework for integrated needs-based support to communities that have formed conservancies), is a positive development.
- The development of several trans-frontier conservation and management initiatives. Success has been varied - depending largely on the political will as well as the technical and managerial capacity in the countries involved.
- Strong collaboration between the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, social services, the media and NGOs in addressing certain social issues, for example, improving awareness of HIV/AIDS, violence against women and children and upholding women's rights.
- Initiatives such as the Forum for Integrated Resource Management (FIRM - a collaboration of three different national programmes, five NGOs and four different government extension service providers) which have attempted to

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create a national vision for systematic, integrated and needs-based support services to local land and natural resource managers.

Namibia is in a fortunate position that there are no policy or legislative barriers that prevent integration or that restrict the potential for local authorities to initiate and implement Local Agenda 21 projects and activities. The main limitations are human capacity, shadow sectoralism from the past, no lead agency with the necessary mandate and authority, and limited financial resources.

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Nepal

Introduction

Nepal is a relatively small, landlocked country of 147,181² km and a population is 23.1 million people. It is found in the South Asian continent. It is bordered in the south by the plain of Terai, in the east by India's Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states, in the west by Indian mountains and in north by the Tibetan Plateau of China. The plain area of Terai is a few meters above sea level and it encompasses the fertile land of Nepal. Hills and mountains cover 68 percent of the land area. This high ground is covered by forests. Himalayas, which is highest range of the world (Mt. Everest 8850 M.) and is always covered by snow, is also found in Nepal .

Nepal has outstanding assemblages of plants, animals and ecosystems. Because of its location, it displays high biological diversity. The Himalayas rises almost abruptly above the plains from about 100 m to 8850m above sea level. This makes Nepal a mixing place of species originating in both regions. A study identified 118 plant ecosystems in Nepal .The country has less than one percent of the earth's terrestrial land but it harbours larger proportions of species . Some examples are: 844 species of birds (9.3 % of world), 853 species of bryophytes (5.1% of world), 181 mammal species (4.5 % of world) etc. But Nepal covers only 0.03 percent of the world area.

Nepal's people are diverse: most of population are Hindu and Buddhist but there is also a minority of Muslims and Christians. There are more than 90 different languages and 65 different caste systems, which is another example of Nepal's diversity. 38 percent of the population still live below the poverty level especially in rural areas. 75 percent of the population earn their living from agriculture. Income Per capita is estimated at 236 US Dollars per annum. Unemployment is very high.

Process

In early 2002, a meeting was held for Nepal Network for Sustainable Development / Nepal forum of Environmental Journalists, an Umbrella organisation of most Nepali environmental and development organisations. At that meeting it was proposed that NGOs make an assessment of the government's implementation of Agenda and present it at the Johannesburg Summit.

70 different Nepali environmental and social NGOs, experts and journalists attended these meetings. It was decided that different NGOs would prepare a critique of the Government's implementation of Agenda 21 issues. An NGO steering committee was created to co-ordinate the networks from central, eastern and western parts of Nepal. NGOs in developing countries like Nepal have similar arguments regarding development issues but it is the implementation of their programs that differs from country to country.

Network members are still trying through advocacy and lobbying to influence government policies towards Agenda 21. The objectives of different voices are:

- Gaining international attention at the Johannesburg Summit to pressure the government of Nepal to commit itself to change and implement SD in her programs and projects.
- The existence of two reports would catalyse a dialogue between stakeholders: NGOs, government, private sector, academics and journalists.

The Nepali NGOs' voice is pluralistic representing different approaches, different methodologies, with no attempt to reach consensus. However, there was a decision that the chapters would focus on issues of environmental justice, development and sustainability, decentralisation, implementation and environmental governance. The report was prepared in both Nepali and English language.

Highlights

Sustainable Human Settlement in Nepal:

- Nepal does not have a plan for managing land. Without any plan and guideline, urbanisation process is growing rapidly and in an unsustainable way. Rural settlement is growing rapidly but the infrastructure is not being developed. This has led to an increasing dependency on Natural resources. The NGOs' voice is that the government should formulate and implement a land use management policy.

Poverty and Sustainability:

- Since 1957's first five years plan of poverty alleviation, the situation is worsening in Nepal. 42% of the people are living under the poverty line and natural resource dependency has increased in rural areas. This is the major cause of deforestation and soil erosion. NGOs' argument is that the entire development programme should be focused on poverty reduction.

Decentralisation and Public Participation:

- Despite the emergence of a strong civil society in Nepal in the past ten years, public participation in decision-making has not increased. The masses are limited to being "observers" rather than stakeholders except in community forestry management in the hilly areas. It seems that Decentralisation means the right to increase development but not participation in decision making.

Minorities and Rural People in Nepal:

- The government report does not address the issues of the minorities in Nepal. It is indifferent to their problems of infrastructure (sewage and roads), land, educational budgets and the very existence of "unrecognised" villages.

Agriculture and Rural Development:

- 75% of Nepal's population depends on the agricultural sector. However, the role of agriculture in the economy is a failure. The investments in agriculture are unproductive. Nepal was exporting food grains to India until the late 1980s. Now, it is importing food from abroad. Nepal should promote traditional knowledge, organic agriculture and marketing of its products.

Protecting and Promoting Public Health:

- Though Nepal has a high quality health system, research in environmental health issues is still under-developed and requires policy targets and resources. The civil society calls for regulations for mandatory environmental and health impact assessments. These are very important for large sections of the population especially in village areas where there is limited access to basic health services. Nepal must invest massively in the public health sector.

Cultivating Environmental Awareness media

- Media is the best solution to the creation of awareness and improvement of the quality of the environmental. Lack of information dissemination and basic knowledge are the major causes of problems. The government policy should facilitate and encourage awareness programs in each and every part of the country.

Air Pollution, Global Warming & Ozone Depletion:

- To protect public health and curb greenhouse gas emissions, this chapter calls for the introduction of low sulphur diesel fuel, complete phase-out of leaded petrol, a high profile energy conservation campaign and investment in renewable energy technology. Nepal has a potential capacity for water energy and solar energy. However, it spends one third of its revenue on buying fossil fuels. Nepal must develop the green energy sector.

Conservation of Biological Diversity:

- In order to preserve its biodiversity, Nepal must develop institutions that can register and monitor biodiversity. It must invest in educating the public about biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The government must allocate clean freshwater for its aquatic fauna, invest in conservation enforcement processes and prioritise nature reserves and national parks.

Environmental Compensation:

- Nepal saves the atmosphere from global warming by conserving its forests. Nepali NGOs argue that the government should add its voice to that of other developing countries that ask for compensation for reducing green house emissions.

Mountain Development:

- Nepal is known as a mountainous country where mountains cover more than 80 percent of the land area. Mountains are the challenge and opportunities for development. They are valuable areas for bio diversity and fresh water source. NGOs argue that the government should be sensitive to these issues and put in efforts to conserve the fragile mountain. Nepal's development means mountainous development.

Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development of Land Resources:

- Despite the importance attached to planning in Nepal, there is no government policy paper on sustainable land use management programmes in agriculture, forestry, human settlement etc. Government should develop land use guidelines as soon as possible.

Information and Communication Technology for Development:

- Information and communication is the newly growing industry in Nepal. To create opportunities, reduce the gap between the haves and have nots, ICT may be the best tool for development and sustainability. It is also useful in the sectors of education, health and tourism.

Water and Energy:

- Nepal is a rich country in water resources, which flow from the Himalayan ranges. This mountain provides a permanent and sufficient source of fresh water. However, more than 60 percent of Nepali have no access to drinking water and 85 percent of the population do not have access to electricity. Hydropower may be a reliable source of electricity, which also helps to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels and the rate of deforestation. NGOs encourage the government of Nepal to use hydro electricity as much as possible.

Population and Consumption:

- Demographic issues in Nepal must consider both the consumption and population elements of environmental impacts. Population growth rate is 2.3 percent annually and dependency on natural resources has also increased, which is the major cause of deforestation.

Findings

Now, Nepal is under the state of emergency and a huge development budget has been diverted to peacekeeping activities. Peace is the basic condition for sustainable development in the short and long-term. How will Agenda 21 be implemented if there is no peace in Nepal?

In all the chapters of the shadow Report, we have asked ourselves whether the Nepali society is on the road to sustainability. A comparison between Agenda 21, the Government Report, and the NGO Shadow Report concludes that Nepal is not. The lack of political will prevents the adoption of a comprehensive vision of a sustainable society and guiding policies advocating for sustainability. Development is overwhelmingly the predominant ethos in Nepal, but environmental and social aspects are not prioritised.

The Government Report in fact identifies many of these failings and it is self critical. But the Government Report, prepared by the Ministry of Environment and population (MOPE) and National Planning Commission (NPC), reflects the deep lack of political will in Nepal for sustainability. The Report itself is unable to even recommend an agenda for change in order to put Nepal on track. Because the MOPE in Nepal is so powerless and is under funded, it can't even suggest changes to correct the situation.

The challenge before all those advocating for sustainability in Nepal is to help create the necessary political will that would advance an adoption of a comprehensive sustainability agenda in Nepal. The contribution of the NGO Shadow Report to this process is to identify the issue of environmental justice in Nepal as a catalyst for political awakening and coalition building in favour of sustainability.

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Nicaragua

Introduction

The process developed in Nicaragua toward the World Summit on Sustainable Development to come true in Sudáfrica at the end of August, 2002, has been characterized by the low interest shown for many that are linked to the sector's Sustainable development, principally those that act in the agricultural sector, in spite of having been called to participate in the Nacional Report elaboration. It can be affirm that there has been quality participation but did not grasp a massive participation. Distinct union's representatives have made a contribution to the National Report based on their experience but scepticism is perceived in relation to the possibility of concrete actions to be implemented starting from advance's revision and successful backward movements reached in the sustainability agenda.

On the side of Government has canalized the discussion toward Johannesburgo through the National Council on Sustainable Development (CONADES) mixed arrangement instance among government and civil society, that has had the official responsibility to convoke to the sectors to participate actively in the country evaluation. In Agenda's frame 21, the CONADES convoked to the represented organizations in said council, related with sustentainability Agenda, to conform what the process knows like NATIONAL NETWORK to the summit.

Is important to mention that in the event of Nicaragua an ample inaugural level has had official to the distinct sectors participation, existing a very receptive environment on the side of governing authorities, arriving even to incorporate NGO's members in the official delegations referred to the summit, meeting regional in El Salvador (July 2001) and Regional PrepCom of Rio de Janeiro (Octubre2001).

In Nicaragua the project's implementation has been guided particularly to the massive promotion of the Agenda's 21 commitments and promoting the mobilization of the social sectors to generate a commitment of different participants of the national life with the sustainability agenda.

Process

This process inside the National Network has been developed in three big moments. In the first moment three workshops were done in town of Managua covering territories and previously mentioned sectors where the 69- organizations participation was had. Also 8 interviews came true to officials and actors the different sectors keys:

Environmental sector

Productive sector

Civil Society's Regional Associations

Government (Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, MARENA)

Communal movement

Universities

Local Authorities

This process originated a first draft document with proposals to be incorporated to the country document.

The second moment is when the document was shown in the CONADES and was approved, originating the second draft. The third and last moment is an open process to discussion on the document with a realized workshop in town of Estelí to insert new contributions.

The deadline for the contribution delivery to the National Report document finalizes in June 30 for what we find at the last minute of proposal compilation.

It is important to remark that once the National Report will be done with the civil society's contributions, the National Network has considered important to present it to the CONPES (National Council of Social and Economic Planning) in order that it can be adopted for this institution and take force in front of National Government.

Highlights

In Nicaragua, like conditionally of the multilateral and for our condition of poor and highly indebted country the formulation and execution of the Strategy of Growing reinforced of Economic Growth (ERCERP for its initial letters) has been imposed as the action frame that government, multilateral and international cooperation must follow, turning the National Report into the inevitable reference to the development actions that will be executed in the country to middling time-limit. Therefore this strategy should agree with commitments of Rio's Agreements and besides with a political national new process of a lot of acceptance in all of the national life sectors to build the Country's Agenda.

Therefore the evaluation process of the ten years after Rio and the definition of a country position and the commitments toward the future with sustainability should have owed from being guaranteed for the political bigger- representatives instances in the country where the civil society participated organizedly, in our case through the CONPES and CONADES.

The design and elaboration of the Strategy of Growing reinforced of Economic Growth (ERCERP) meant an identification exercise of the principal domestic problems and goals were defined for its analysis and solution. This strategy was developed inside the frame of local consultation stressing some key elements such as the conviction that the strategy implementation phase must incorporate regional characteristics. The process also revealed the existence of high levels of social conscience and the enthusiastic participation in many initiatives focus on development.

The four fundamental bases of this strategy:

- Economic growth with ample range.
- Bigger and better investment in the human capacity building
- Better protection to the vulnerable groups.
- Governance and Institutional Development.

The ERCERP is based in four principles

- The continue State modernization in order to increase the social expense's impact.
- A bigger equity's promotion, increasing the poor's access to the growth's gainings.

Uncovering 'GreenWash'

- More transparency through a public administration, laws and procedures improved system and beading rendition.
- A more ample participation of all of the members of the society in the definition, implementation and supervision of the ERCERP.

Poverty axes of the Strategy of Growing reinforced of Economic Growth (ERCERP)

Environmental vulnerability.

This proposal presents that the natural phenomena recurrence and the natural resource's inadequate management has increased the ecological- risk factors and they have worked out in a bigger environmental deterioration and vulnerability

Social equity

Some points of the specific social- equity strategies are:

- Making a revision of legislation such as: Laws that affect indigenous, children, youth, etc.
- Elaboration of action plans due to the complexity and the interconnection among programs to mitigate poverty
- Strength of institutions that support woman and centers for teens in risk.

Decentralization

It is recognized in a clear manner that decentralization is an integral part of the modernization process and Nicaragua's reforms. It is believed for local Governments to play a role active to the opening space in the local level for the participation and the inclusion.

Also it is presented like fundamental central point the decentralization in the health, education, transportation itself.

On this proposal expressed in the Strategy the acquired commitments toward the analyzed domestic sustainability and its viability was appraised out of courtesy on the basis of what previously remembered like commitment of status and as a result of this process he turned out well:

Findings

Absence of a Development Strategy.

Weakness in the decentralization process

The Law Frame application is not enough of an effective

Sickly Coherence among the laws

The corruption perception limits the advances deepening.

Requests

- Elaboration of a National Development Strategy.
- Relation among Central Government and NGO's is weak.
- New and additional financial resources are called for stop: Strengthening and guaranteeing institutional functioning, strengthening the dialogue and so-

Challenging Our Governments into Action

cial- arrangement spaces, Guaranteeing application and the law's fulfillment, developing nonstop sensitization campaigns of the citizenship, promoting new educational projects.

- Upgrading participation through consultations.
- Fomentation to the civic participation
- Improving the mechanisms for the institutional interaction
- Need to make easy access to the information.
- To prioritize resources educationally and Communication.
- Promoting productive pilots friendly with the environment
- Diffusing and using better the Juridical frame

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Thailand

The Thai Working Group on The People's Agenda for Sustainable Development is coordinated and facilitated by the Thai NGO Coordinating Committee on Development (NGO-COD), a grouping of approximately 300 NGOs across Thailand that are primarily engaged in supporting the campaigns and struggles of the marginalized sector in Thai society to protect their basic rights, democratize the development process and advocate sustainable development. All of the NGO-COD's members and its allied networks are participating in the People's Agenda process which emerged in 2000 to analyze the globalization of the neo-liberal economic agenda which has, since the Asian crisis in 1997, influenced Thailand's effort towards economic recovery.

The People and the Thai Government: Obligations under Agenda 21

Although various agreements were adopted in the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, Agenda 21 is not a legally binding agreement, but Thailand should take these agreements as its ethical obligations. However, Thailand might be in the same situation as several other countries with no progress in translating Agenda 21 into reality. The major factor could be that Agenda 21 did not have any influence on the revision of national development directions. In addition, Thai society is not aware of the existence and significance of various agreements adopted in 1992.

However, this does not mean that Thailand has been a total failure. We can see a process of legal and policy modifications, such as the promulgation of the new Constitution of B.E. 2540, including an attempt to improve policies on economic and social development. For example, the formulation of the Eighth National Economic and Social Development Plan accepted the idea to take "human being as the center of development" and "sustainability of the environment". These changes might be an incident of coincidence with many essential elements in Agenda 21, especially support for greater role of local communities in economic and social development.

It is well accepted by all parties that the present Constitution, which recognizes several basic rights of the people, is the fruit of ongoing action and demands of popular sector since the political events and protests for democracy in May 1992. Though there have been major attempts of adjustment in the direction of national development policies as indicated in the Eighth Plan initiated by the National Economic and Social Development Board, one can also point to the action, demands and criticisms of civil society regarding the failure of past development as having played a significant role in pushing for such adjustment.

All parties admitted that since the Seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan (1991-1996), social conflicts in the use of resources and protests against various development projects have spread throughout the country. The people have demanded the government to recognize the rights of local people to control and manage resources and have the right to make decision to choose economic development direction that is appropriate to their localities, including the right to public information. These demands were proposed to the government to readjust its policies and laws to decentralize the decision-making power for development and management of natural resources. These demands are not utopian, but have developed from experience and knowledge of the adverse effects of various development projects on destruction of resources, the nature, security in occupational foundation, way of life and cultures. For

example, northeastern communities are affected by fast growing tree plantations and small fishing communities had to struggle against influential people who want to destroy mangrove forests. Ultimately, these communities have organized to demand their rights to management of their community forests.

These communities have never heard the existence of Agenda 21, as well as ethical obligations adopted by the Thai government. But their struggle to conserve their resources corresponds to the direction of genuine sustainable development. These communities have not received any serious support from the state. On the contrary, the Thai state has adopted policies to prevent local participation. A clear example is that management of conserved forests by the government still implements the measure of forcing local communities to move out of these forests, though it is well known that the way of life of these communities are in harmony with nature.

The operation of the state that can be taken as progressive is an improvement of mechanism and legal procedures to avoid damage to the environment created by economic development activities, especially the Promotion and Maintenance of Environmental Quality Act 1992. It requires organizations or agencies that initiate development projects to conduct environmental impact assessment prior to project approval. However, communities affected by projects and non-government organizations are of an opinion that such mechanism and procedures have many defects. For example, business consultants tend to respond to the need of project holders. There is also political influence to push for the project construction. Environmental impacts assessment is seen as a mechanism to legitimize implementation of various projects rather than an instrument of check and balance to create transparency in project decision-making. Furthermore, several environmental impact assessments are proved to contain false information in favour of projects, such as the case of two coal fired power plants in Prachuab Khiri Khan province in southern Thailand.

The People's Agenda for Sustainable Development

From the perspective of people facing the problems created by past development, and of non-governmental organizations with long years of experience at the grassroots level, to promote sustainability the overall economic development direction as well as political structure needs to be essentially revised and reformed. Such a revision and reform should not be done only at national level, but also at international level. Though Thai civil society look at Agenda 21 as containing several progressive elements, it noted that Agenda 21 still continues to maintain the direction and philosophy of industrial and commercial oriented development, while such a philosophy is opposing the belief of local people on sustainable development to a great extent.

The local people and non-government organizations have agreed upon these resolutions because they believe that Thailand must give low priority to development aiming at creating and maintaining high rates of economic growth will lead to a cycle of economic crises, destruction of natural resources, and social conflicts as well as destruction of the way of life and local cultures that favour sustainable development. The acceleration to push Thailand into the world economic system in the age of globalization, which is the development direction of the current government, will worsen the situation of Thailand.

All through the year 2000, civil society comprising people's organizations, community leaders, non-government organizations and independent thinkers have organized to draw experience and knowledge as a foundation to formulate recommendations for Thai society on "People's Agenda for Independence (From Globalization)". All participants place the ultimate significance on human beings, justice and sustainability of human society at present and in the future as the ultimate goal of development. This people's agenda recommends change of structure in eight areas as follows:

- i. Democratic Political Structure with Good Governance: Political decisions must be made for the benefit of the majority and promote justice to all parties, especially the less-fortunate, and be in accord with humanitarian principles and human dignity.
- ii. Participatory Management of Structure: The institution of community organization is the main party in making decision, planning and implementation for sustainable development at the foundation of society and the institution of community organization must take into consideration problems, needs and participation of people of all social groups, especially children, youth, women and other less-fortunate.
- iii. Structure of Natural Resources Belong to Community and Society: Natural resources belong to society and local communities are authorised to manage them and they will directly benefit from the use of natural resources (under the principle of sustainable management of ecosystems).
- iv. Subsistence Economic Structure: For agricultural communities, this means economic structure that provides food security and other basic necessities for a living. As a whole, it means an economic system of the country that is based on diverse local economic systems and factors, such as capacity of local communities in production, indigenous wisdom and ecological conditions. These diverse economic systems can be reciprocal and lead to strengthening of economic system of the country as a whole.
- v. Structure of Social Capital Belongs to Local Communities: Resources with economic potential, capital for life (biodiversity and sustainability of ecosystem) as well as cultural capital must be used as capital for sustainable subsistence development of local communities and society as a whole.
- vi. Structure of Cultures and Law of Community Constitution: These are the customs, traditions, practical principles of common way of living, ownership and allocation or maintenance and renewal of natural resources. It is necessary to have a constitution of local community, by local community and for local community to recognize roles and functions and power to prevent the state or outsiders to intervene, use and destroy sustainable development.
- vii. Structure of Security System as a Public Welfare: Public welfare system is the fruit of readjustment of the six structures mentioned above, for people to have food security, access to economic and social capital, ownership of natural resources and good environment, which will then lead to the reduction of the roles of welfare state by the state. However, during this transition period, a state welfare is still necessary and it must be improved so that the welfare state will benefit more to the less-fortunate sectors of the population than at present.
- viii. Structure of International Economy: "The Principle of Free Trade" might still be appropriate, if foreign trade is based on justice for both trading partners and among social groups in each country. In addition, international economic activities must be controlled by limitations of ecology. International economic policies and relationships must aim at strengthening the capacity of all developing countries in readjusting their development directions towards sustainability. The major limitation that the developing countries are facing is debt burden of the country that forces these countries to stick to conventional economic development direction. Therefore, restructuring of debts or debt cancellations for these countries are a necessary measure.

Togo

Introduction

Togo, a small country of 56,600 sq. km, is situated in West Africa with Burkina Faso to the North, Benin to the East, Ghana to the West, and the Atlantic Ocean to the South. The official language is French, and the currency is the franc CFA. In 2000, the population was estimated at 4,629,000, increasing 2.4 percent in 1998. The population is basically young. Youth under 15 years represent 50% of all people in Togo.

The major indicators of human development are as follows:

- In the Index of Human Development, Togo ranks 143 among 174 countries.
- The life expectancy is 49 years.
- The overall rate of literacy is 53%.
- The rate of literate women is 39%.
- The rate of literate men is 70%.
- The rate of access to medical services is 61%.
- The rate of access to drinkable water is 63%.
- The rate of schooling is 77%.
- Youth and infant mortality is 14.4%.

In 1994 a base-line study on poverty was made in Togo. Two income thresholds were used to define poverty:

- Below 70.000 FCFA per year per person is extreme poverty.
- Below 90.000 FCFA per year per person is poverty.

By this definition, about 72.6% of the population are poor and 57.4% are extremely poor.

Administratively, Togo is divided into 5 regions.

As for the economy, Togo belongs to the less developed countries, and its GDP is estimated at 255.7 billion francs in 2002. It is essentially based on agriculture, and suffered a negative GDP growth of about 0.5% in the year 2000.

Given the suspension of international support since the end of 1992, and the absence of programmes with the Bretton Woods institutions, the economy of Togo is characterised by an important public debt, declining public and private investment, and deteriorating social services.

The major environmental problems are as follows:

- deforestation,
- soil degradation,
- degradation of protected areas and wildlife,
- silting up of rivers,
- deteriorating freshwater quality,
- deteriorating coastal resources and habitats.

Process

A government-appointed national ad hoc committee on sustainable development conducted the assessment of Agenda 21 in Togo. This committee consolidated its position by law no. 03/MERF of 24 January 2001. It is placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The committee's task was to coordinate the various activities to assess the progress on implementing Agenda 21, with the effective participation of all stake-

holders, notably the grassroots, the local communities, NGOs, ministries, and all public and private partners.

In the running of the process, discussions were arranged with various categories of stakeholders (local groups, private sector, trade unions, NGOs, scientists, youth and women's associations, village communities).

Workshops were organised to validate the national report in the five administrative regions of the country. A national validation workshop is scheduled before the end of July 2002, after which the report will be published. COMET, a consortium of NGOs and associations working to protect the environment in Togo are planning a workshop in order to critically examine the report, as soon as it is published.

Friends of the Earth-Togo, in preparation of the COMET Workshop, made the following propositions.

Highlights

All stakeholders are involved, at different levels, in the implementation of Agenda 21 in Togo. However, we have to underline that ministers and NGOs are more active than other stakeholders.

The various activities are, among others:

- raising public awareness,
- conducting specific research,
- preparing administrative studies,
- assessing and following up programmes,
- drawing up and implementing development policies, strategies, programmes and projects.

Efforts have been made, and favourable results achieved. Nevertheless, stakeholders have much work ahead in order to comply with the Rio objectives.

Below are some of the aspects to take into consideration.

Elaboration of National Agenda 21 and Set-Up of the National Committee on Sustainable Development

To appreciate the implementation of Agenda 21 in Togo, the necessary reference is the National Agenda 21, made in the spirit of the UNCED. Furthermore, the national ad hoc Committee on Sustainable Development must become a permanent national committee with the resources required to assess and follow up the implementation of the National Agenda 21. This committee will only be credible, if ministries, NGOs, academics, the private sector, trade unions, faith-based organisations, youth and women's organisations and other popular civil-society organisations are represented, and if it is self-governed.

Economic Aspects

Since the structural adjustment plan of 1980, the government of Togo's official objective is to develop the private sector through the privatisation of public enterprises, to foster private investment, and to ease pressure on the government's budget. In practice, this has been a policy of dismembering the productive sector affecting some of the poorest regions. The macroeconomic policy needs to be revised to create access to financial resources for small and medium-sized firms and industries.

Poverty Reduction

There are many programmes and projects to combat poverty sponsored by the World Bank, the EU, the French aid agency and the UN. Despite this, the number of poor people continue to rise. To be more effective, these programmes

and projects must take greater account of the population's space and way of life, reconsidering the allocation of funds within these projects. For this purpose, the civil-society organisations and the most vulnerable population must join forces in the elaboration, implementation, follow-up and the assessment of these programmes and projects.

Education

It is necessary to change the teaching methods and make education more vocational. In order to increase the number of educated young girls, the government must look for means of making education free, at least the elementary school.

Health

In Togo, it is urgent to obtain more financial resources to fight diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria. In this case, the government must change its health policies and strategies. All initiatives must take account of public awareness and sanitary infrastructure.

Democracy and Good Governance

As far as democracy and good governance is concerned, Togo has a lot to learn from other countries. Without a good and responsible management of the country's resources and the effective participation of the population, sustainable development will remain a vain illusion.

Human Rights and Self-Expression

To ensure popular participation in sustainable development, the government must consider public opinions in this field.

Deterioration of Freshwater Resources

The government must give the population the resources necessary to conserve freshwater reserves and to look for new sources, in order to provide affordable freshwater to both rural and urban people.

Deterioration of Arable Land

Because of its geography and cultural practices, agricultural areas in Togo degrade very quickly. It is necessary, in collaboration with farmers, to look for soil-preserving production methods.

Conservation of Forests

Most primary-sector activities, which employ more than 50% of the active population, cause the destruction of natural forests. To assure the survival of the forests, stakeholders must join forces in favour of preservation, restoration and rational use of forests.

Restoration and Protection of the Lagoon of Lomé

To restore and protect the Lagoon of Lomé, the government must look into the impact caused by the lifestyle of the populations living in the lagoon area. Public awareness is important, as some attitudes are incompatible with the restoration and protection of the lagoon.

Waste Management

The management of waste is a major problem in most Togolese towns. This cannot be resolved without programmes taking into account the population's production methods and consumption patterns, as well as looking into possible places of waste disposal and treatment.

Energy

The strategy to satisfy the energy needs of the population without affecting the environment must be to promote renewable energies and to raise awareness of energy economy.

Convention to Combat Desertification

In the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification, Togo set up a national action programme. Government and all the partners involved in sustainable development, both at national and international levels must hasten to mobilise the necessary resources for its implementation in line with sustainable development.

Convention on Biological Diversity

Because of its geography, Togo offers a great variety of ecological conditions and hence biological diversity. The government and others involved in sustainable development must mobilise resources for the elaboration and implementation of a strategy to protect and ensure sustainable use of the biological diversity, take into account the Convention on Biological Diversity and the needs of the population.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

With regards to the UN Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change, Togo formulated and adopted a report about its first National Communication in August 2000. The government and its partners must raise awareness in the population in order to influence behaviour in favour of the said convention's objective.

Findings

Like other countries, Togo adheres to the principles of sustainable development, making efforts to implement Agenda 21 and all the UNCED agreements.

Nevertheless, the economic, social, political, cultural and ecological crises unfortunately continue to call into question the various development policies. A scientific assessment of the different development policies, programmes, plans and projects must be done. However, the government's draft report on the implementation of Agenda 21 confines itself to listing these development policies, programmes, plans and projects without mentioning if they have been beneficial to the populations concerned.

For a long time in Togo, development issues have been addressed in discourse rather than in reality. Development programmes are mostly top-down programmes driven by Togolese elites and drawn up with corporate forces, rather than being based on people's experiences, knowledge and demands. A legitimate Togolese programme for sustainable development has to start from the people and be owned by the people.

Actually, efforts have been made in Togo to gather all stakeholders in the development process. These stakeholders can play the role assigned to them only if they are informed and trained with regard to sustainable development issues.

Moreover, Togo's development must be based on national resources. In this light, it is necessary to find the best strategies to mobilise them and put them at the disposal of all the stakeholders, who should integrate their approaches into the work of the National Committee of Sustainable Development.

Uganda

Introduction

Uganda is a land locked country, lying astride the Equator. About 1.3% of the total land area lies above 2,000 meters, while 9.3% below 900 meters. The population of Uganda is estimated at 22 million and increasing at a rate of 2.7% per year. Given that the amount of land available for growing food and other crops is fixed, there is therefore, the need to use the land rationally through improved cropping and land management systems for sustained productivity.

Of the total geographical area, 75% is arable land. The remaining 25% constitute lakes, swamps and forest zones. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has estimated that in 1890 forests and woodlands covered approximately 45% of Uganda. This estate has now declined to only 20% of the total land area. FAO further estimates that Uganda is losing about 50,000 ha (0.8%) of its forestlands each year through deforestation most of which occurs in woodlands outside protected areas (private land holdings).

Soil fertility and land management have been neglected to the detriment of agriculture which accounts for 43% of the Gross Domestic Product, 85% of export earnings, 80% of employment and provides most of the raw materials for the agro-based industrial sector. The sector comprises of coffee hulling, cotton ginning, tea processing, sugar and meat production, edible oil industries, grain milling, cigarette, dairy and leather products manufacturing.

Despite highly acclaimed growth that Uganda is known to have experienced since early 1990s, the social indicators are still some of the lowest in Sub-Saharan Africa. Social expenditures remain low, per capita income is equally low while the taxation base though broadened, remains limited as tax revenue still accounts for only 11% of the GDP.

Process

The Uganda NGO Rio + 10 Coalition, made up of 50 participating NGOs has as its backbone, the NGO focus groups and is working towards and beyond the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Formed in January 2001, the Coalition has since October 2001 been carrying out an assessment of Uganda's progress in implementing Agenda 21 and other commitments that came out of the Earth Summit (1992) in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

The Coalition has also worked closely with the National Preparatory Committee (NPC) for the WSSD co-ordinated by the Ministry of Water, Lands and the Environment and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the official process that also has come out with a report on Uganda's achievement in implementing Agenda 21. JEEP, the National Focal point for Coalition together with other NGOs has also been active in the NPC process.

Highlights

Working under five thematic areas* that were agreed upon in the initial meeting held in January 2001, the Coalition has made use of the varied NGO expertise and geographical locations of work as an opportunity to gather field experiences and case studies to strengthen the assessment work. The assessment work together with training activities, networking and public awareness has

principally come from the Danish 92 group, and the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kampala.

Biodiversity

Uganda is a country with stunning beauty and great diversity of important and complex ecosystems and species. A number of charismatic species like the mountain Gorilla have drawn the world's attention while the diversity of birds is one of the greatest on earth. The volcanoes, forests, lakes and rivers; savannahs and wetlands are among the most unique and diverse habitats on earth.

Poverty is the root cause of biodiversity loss in Uganda. However, there are inherent difficulties in reconciling poverty alleviation the driving theme of government programs with biodiversity conservation. It is difficult to find a valid niche for strong biodiversity conservation work that clearly meets this goal in the short term. In the longer term however, if poverty alleviation schemes continue to focus on immediate short term solutions, the poverty situation may only be worsened by continued depletion of natural resources and of the safety buffer that a good diversity of wild species and habitats provide.

Climate and energy

Energy is a key component for rural development. Fuel wood is highly utilised in households and small-scale industries (for example brick and agro processing industries). Overall, in order to increase access by Ugandans to various energy sources, efforts have to be made to invest in the energy sector with greater emphasis on sustainable supply and efficient utilisation of the energy resources. Currently, there is a considerable bias towards the electricity sub sector.

As the new and renewable energy sources (wind, solar, biogas etc) provide clean energy, preserve the environment and are locally available, their development and utilisation would change the status of the rural areas of Uganda and improve the quality of life. This will also ensure Uganda's respect to its international obligations for instance on Climate change.

Climate change could pose an environmental threat of an unknown magnitude. The majority of the World's population lack sufficient material assets, social nets, and robust institutional arrangements to cope up with the impacts of climate change. There is also a lack of focus on adaptation (ability of natural and social systems to prevent, adapt and repair their integrity after climate change events). Natural disasters like droughts, landslides and floods reduce the fiscal basis of countries like Uganda, redirect public expenditure away from social and environmental investments, worsen wealth and income distributions, increase extreme poverty levels and unemployment and in general further reduce the quality of life of the affected poor people.

Integrated freshwater management

Water is becoming one of the most critical natural resource issues. Uganda is considered to be well endowed with freshwater resources including lakes, rivers, wetlands and streams. Despite this potential, there are disparities in availability and use within the country because the water resources are so unevenly distributed.

Rising demand for increasingly scarce water resources is leading to growing concerns about future access to water, particularly where two or more countries share water resources for example the Nile River and Lake Victoria.

The environmental problems for freshwater in Uganda are related to the issues of access and quality. There is uneven access to freshwater resources in the country, while the main threats to quality of Uganda's freshwater resources

include eutrophication, urban - industrial - agricultural pollution and proliferation of invasive aquatic weeds.

Sustainable agriculture

Sustainable agriculture is a method of farming based on human needs for food, income, shelter, fuel wood and so on; and on understanding of the long-term impact of our activities on the environment. It entails the integration of plant and animal production practices, the use of local resources and the protection of the environment. The three pillars of sustainable agriculture are ecological sustainability, economic viability, social equity and cultural compatibility.

The industrial mode of agriculture, supported by unchecked trade liberalisation, backed up by hiding the true human and environmental costs of chemical dependency, and controlled by increasingly concentrated transnational corporations, are among the root causes of hunger, food security decline and the loss of smallholder agriculture globally.

Sustainable economic and social development

Poverty eradication is the formulated policy of the UN system (including the World Bank) and most national Overseas Development Assistance plans. In 1999, The IMF and The World Bank proposed an enhanced framework for poverty reduction through Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers. But the concept of development and its objectives need to be challenged, discussed and reshaped. There is a need to clarify where and by whom the agenda is set and ensure transparency and allocate responsibilities accordingly. Pro poor policies are by and large not technical but political issues. We need to address the underlying structural issues such as terms of trade.

Findings

The Coalition has noted within the context of the assessment work, that Uganda has to an extent translated the Rio outcomes into national policies and plans. This is evidenced in the new institutions, legislation and action plans that have been put in place since 1992.

From the assessment, the following four critical issues have been identified. The coalition strongly recommends to our Government and sincerely appeals to the minds, hearts and conscience of all civil society organisations, private sector, Trans National Corporations, International agencies and development partners, that action is needed on:

1. Good Governance and Participation for Sustainable Development in Uganda

- A number of comprehensive laws and regulations have been developed to take care of our natural resources but enforcement is still too weak. We call for the immediate implementation and enforcement of these regulations notably Polluter tax, environment Impact Assessments (EIA), Compliance with the national and international rules and regulations governing research and trade (such as medicinal plants, wildlife resources, etc).

- Government of Uganda must harmonize existing environmental policies and streamline the various institutions in environmental management, to avoid institutional rivalry.
- Government should stem the trend of political interference in natural resources management especially forests, water, wetlands and other issues concerning sustainable development at national, district and lower levels.
- In order to balance environment and development priorities, we call upon the Government of Uganda to start the process of developing National Strategies

for Sustainable Development (NSSD) which was a commitment in Agenda 21 and as stated in the UN Millennium goals (by 2005). These strategies ought to be integrated into the current Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP).

- The only way to achieve sustainable development is by including the public in planning and decision-making domain at all levels (Chapter 27 of Agenda 21). This has only been achieved to a certain extent in Uganda. We recommend that:
 - a. Government must involve public and civil society in decision-making that affects resources, which are central to their livelihoods.
 - b. The Government of Uganda should enact laws, regulations and policy frameworks that promote coexistence with civil society organisations to enhance sustainable development. The impending NGO bill should be finalised in line with the above.

2. Food Security and Market Access

We call for:

- A comprehensive food and nutrition policy agreed upon by all stakeholders. Women focused packages for example agriculture technologies, crop selection, extension messages created and delivered; research priorities should be an integral part. This should ensure food sovereignty
- A Centralised arrangement among farmer groups, Government and NGOs which is essential for effective joint market accessibility
- Access and prioritising energy and labour saving technology to sustain the natural resource base and to reduce the time burden of domestic work, which can in turn be used for other productive purposes for example, women move an average loading of 26 metric ton for a kilometre per year (especially water and fuel wood), compared to less than 7 metric ton for a kilometre for men).
- Establishment and support for farm stores for agricultural inputs and produce, transport means and networks, agricultural processing units, especially in the vicinity of isolated rural communities.
- Peaceful resolution of conflicts in the various affected parts of Uganda and her neighbours so that we settle down for development activities and reduce the number of Internally Displaced Persons and refugees.
- Access to cheap and affordable medication for the increasing number of persons living with HIV / AIDS in order to prolong their lives for a continued labour force that contributes towards national food security
- Equitable access and control of land by major groups should be considered in the land policy.
- Support domestic agricultural development for small farmers to ensure food security.
- More capacity building for the farmers in appropriate and environmentally friendly farming practices, including dissemination of the available relevant information.

At the International level, we call for:

- Measures to enable the public to participate with informed minds of the pros and cons in decision making about genetically engineered foods and agro-inputs.
- Strict requirements of mandatory labelling of genetically modified products for purposes of traceability calls for well enforced safety and regulations on genetically modified foods, at the national and International level.
- Conditions attached to IMF - World Bank programmes that force poor countries to open their markets regardless of the impact on the poor people should be stopped.
- Food dumping in developing countries should be stopped.

3. Energy for Development

- Need to give priority to energy services as a basic human need and support for development of localised energy solutions based on renewable energy sources.

Challenging Our Governments into Action

- Environmentally and socially responsible Private sector investments that emphasise transparent procedures in projects' design to ensure equitable distribution of benefits.
- The Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) should explicitly integrate quantifiable and tangible environment improving actions such as promotion of low cost energy-efficient technologies.

4. Access to Information Legislation for Uganda in Relation to the WSSD

- We call on Government to speed up the passing of the law on access to information and operationalise it as this is important for purposes of enhancing accountability and transparency in making decisions that impact on the environment, and those relating to the appropriation, management and utilisation of natural resources.

* The five are: Integrated freshwater management (*National Association of Professional Environmentalists*); Sustainable Agriculture (*Food Rights Alliance / Action Aid Uganda*); Climate and Energy (*Climate and Development Initiatives*); Biodiversity (*Uganda Biodiversity Network*); Sustainable economic and social development (*Albertine Rift Conservation Society*). This is in addition to the cross cutting themes of development and poverty reduction with a gender perspective; institutional reforms, good governance and civil society preparation. The National Focal point is Joint Energy and Environmental Projects (JEEP).

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United States

The following is an excerpt from the synthesis to *Stumbling Toward Sustainability* (John C. Dernbach, ed., Environmental Law Institute 2002), a 32-chapter book on U.S. efforts on sustainable development for the ten-years following the Earth Summit. (c) Environmental Law Institute 2002. All rights reserved.

In June 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, or Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro, the nations of the world agreed to implement an ambitious plan for sustainable development. The United States was one of those countries. Has the United States moved toward or away from sustainable development in the ten-year period since Rio? What should the country do next? The book has sought to answer both questions.

The U.S. has, unquestionably, begun to take some steps toward sustainable development. In fact, those who see in sustainable development a continuation of prior and ongoing efforts, including conservation and pollution control, could rightly say that the 1990s saw a continuation of activities that began before the Earth Summit. Yet, on balance, the United States is now far from being a sustainable society, and in many respects is farther away than it was in 1992.

While there is "good news" and "bad news" to report, the bad news is told in general trends, broad studies, and for entire economic sectors or program areas. All too frequently, the good news is limited to specific examples and particular programs. The U.S. has not responded in a way that corresponds to the seriousness of the problems we face or to the opportunities provided by sustainable development. Nevertheless, legal and policy tools are available to put the U.S. on a direct path to sustainability, to our great advantage and without major dislocations-if we can muster the will and the vision to use them.

A Little Good News

In virtually every area of American life, a few people and organizations are exercising leadership for sustainability. A small number of federal agencies, state governments, local governments, corporations, universities, and others have taken a leadership role in moving toward sustainable development over the past decade. Nearly all of these efforts contain room for improvement. Still, they demonstrate that it is both possible and desirable to reconcile environmental, social, and economic goals. For instance:

The federal government greatly expanded its use of habitat conservation plans in the past decade to reconcile conflicts between economic development and endangered species protection.

- A few states have begun to implement strategies for sustainable development and use indicators for sustainability.
- At the community level, some sustainability initiatives have been undertaken, and are yielding some positive results.
- A handful of major corporations are seriously embracing the "triple bottom line" of environment, economy, and society or equity as a way of setting and achieving goals.
- A small minority of primary schools, high schools, and higher education institutions are teaching students to perform the kind of integrated and interdisciplinary analysis needed to make decisions that simultaneously further social, economic, and environmental goals.

In a few areas, the U.S. has played a significant and constructive international leadership role. These include the protection of high seas fisheries, the prevention of lead poisoning, integration of environmental considerations into trade agreements, and incorporation of environmental impact reviews and public participation in World Bank projects.

The President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD), an advisory council that existed between 1993 and 1999, developed hundreds of recommendations that would foster national security, economic development, job creation, and environmental protection at the same time. The PCSD and others outlined a policy framework showing that the U.S. actually could make significant progress toward sustainable development.

There is much better information about many environmental problems now than there was ten years ago, and generally greater access to it. We also have a much better idea of the steps needed to achieve sustainable development, and have made significant progress in creating the policy and legal tools necessary to do so.

A Lot of Bad News

Energy and materials consumption grew substantially in the past decade, and reduced or outweighed many specific environmental achievements. With 5% of the world's population, the United States was at the time of the Earth Summit responsible for about 24% of the world's energy consumption and almost 30% of the world's raw materials consumption. Since the Earth Summit, materials use has increased 10%, primary energy consumption has increased 21%, and energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions have increased by 13%. Over and over, increases in materials and energy efficiency, and in the effectiveness of pollution controls for individual sources, are outweighed by increases in consumption. Despite a significant increase in municipal waste recycling in the past decade, for example, the U.S. generation and disposal of municipal solid waste per capita have been growing since 1996.

U.S. population—the number of people consuming resources and energy—grew by 32.7 million, or 13.2%, from 1990 to 2000, the largest single decade of growth in the nation's history. Moreover, the U.S. has not exercised the kind of international leadership necessary to encourage or support sustainable development around the world. The U.S. is not a party to many treaties and international agreements that are intended to foster sustainable development in specific contexts, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kyoto Protocol. Current patterns of international trade cause environmental harm and impair sustainable development in part because U.S. trade policy tends to put short-term domestic economic goals ahead sustainable development. U.S. official development assistance has declined since Rio. Although, in 2000, the U.S. was the second largest provider of official development assistance, its contribution was the lowest of all industrialized countries, measured as a percentage of gross domestic income.

U.S. law and policy continues to encourage unsustainable development in a variety of ways. These include subsidies, "grandfather" provisions for existing and more polluting facilities and activities in pollution control laws, and fragmented local decisionmaking that encourages sprawl. Such laws and policies mean that individuals and corporations have fewer choices, and less sustainable choices, than they would otherwise.

The United States has no national strategy for achieving sustainable development, and no generally accepted indicators to mark progress along the way. Nor does the U.S. have a meaningful or effective strategy to address climate change, biodiversity, and many other issues. Neither the executive branch nor Congress systematically analyze proposed activities to find ways to make significant progress on economic, environmental, social, and security goals at the same time.

As a whole, the condition of America's natural resources and ecosystems has not improved, and appears to have deteriorated slightly, over the past decade. There was no discernible improvement in our rivers, streams, and lakes, and the quality of our ocean coastal waters appears to have deteriorated. Green-

house gas (GHG) emissions increased, and a large number of plant and animal species continue to be at risk of extinction. U.S. agriculture is less sustainable, and urban sprawl continues relatively unabated. Air quality improved slightly, but not enough to fully protect human health.

The social and institutional infrastructure and supports needed for sustainable development continue to cause environmental degradation and underserve the poor. The environmental impacts of transportation increased during the past decade, despite significant legislative changes. The U.S. sanitation system remains vulnerable to breakdowns, the level of communicable diseases is high when compared to other developed countries, and there has been no discernable progress in improving access to medical care.

Recommendations for the Next Decade

The path to sustainability is not an easy one, but it is marked by basic American values. These include freedom, opportunity, and quality of life; a desire to make a better world for those who follow us; greater efficiency; a willingness to find and exploit opportunities; a demand for more effective and responsive governance; a quest for a safer world; and a sense of calling to play a constructive role in international affairs. All of these are underscored by our ethical and even religious obligations toward each other and the environment.

The United States would take a large and decisive step toward sustainability if individuals, businesses, educational institutions, local and state governments, federal agencies and others would simply adopt and build on the leading sustainability practices of their counterparts in other nations, particularly those in the European Union (EU).

A national strategy for sustainable development, with specified goals and priorities, would harness all sectors of society to achieve our economic, social, environmental, and security goals. The strategy could be modeled on that of the EU and states such as New Jersey, and specifically address climate change, biodiversity, and other major issues. An executive-level entity would be needed to coordinate and assist in the implementation of the strategy. A counterpart entity in Congress would also be helpful. The strategy would more likely be effective if there was a set of indicators to measure progress in achieving its goals. Comparable state strategies and indicators are also needed.

The U.S. needs to recognize that its substantial consumption levels, coupled with domestic population growth, have serious environmental, social, and economic impacts. Americans also need to understand that human well-being can be decoupled from high consumption of materials and energy. A shift in taxes from labor and income, on one hand, to materials and energy consumption, on the other, would encourage both greater efficiency and reduced environmental impacts.

Congress should repeal or modify laws and policies that encourage unsustainable development. The elimination of subsidies would also have positive budgetary impacts. The repeal or modification of such laws would provide more and better opportunities for individuals and corporations to act in a more sustainable manner, and would remove an important set of barriers to sustainability.

Protection of natural resources and the environment must focus more holistically on the resources to be protected, and on understanding those resources. Congress and the states need to assure that these resources are protected from all significant threats, and are protected from those threats to the same degree. In addition, the type of substantive goals that exist in the air and water pollution control programs, as well as supportive implementing mechanisms, should be applied to biodiversity, climate change, oceans under U.S. jurisdiction, forests, and other natural resources. The U.S. also needs to fund or support the development of more complete and reliable information about ecosystems as

well as about the connections between its economic, environmental, social, and security goals.

Social infrastructure, institutions, and laws should be designed and operated to further economic, environmental, and social goals at the same time. Public health services and, at a minimum, basic medical services should be available to all. Transportation infrastructure should be more efficient and diverse, and provide people with more choices.

The U.S. needs to take a stronger and more constructive leadership role internationally, not only on terrorism but on the broad range of issues related to sustainable development. The U.S. should further increase its official development assistance, while taking measures to ensure that the money is spent effectively and for sustainable development. More broadly, U.S. foreign policy, including trade policy, needs to be more supportive of the development aspect of sustainable development. The U.S. should also become a party to many of the international treaties that would foster sustainable development, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Kyoto Protocol, the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes.

Some longer term changes are also needed if the U.S. is to achieve sustainable development. They include the evolution of judicial understanding of property to update expectations about the productive value of ecosystems and the establishment of more inviting avenues for public participation in and challenge to decisions affecting sustainability.

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Vietnam

Introduction

Vietnam is located in the Southeast Asian region, sharing borders with China, Laos, and Cambodia, and stretching along 3,260 kilometers section of the South China Sea. The country territory covers an area of 332,000 square km, consisting of diversified landscapes ranging from forested mountainous, hilly land, flat delta to wetland and coastal landscapes.

The country's population, estimated at 78.7 million, is growing at an average annual rate of 1.37 percent. King is the dominant ethnic Vietnamese, accounting for about 87 percent of the total population, compared with 53 other ethnic minority groups making up the remainder of the population.

Vietnam is endorsed with diversified national resources including minerals, forest and marine that provides primary supports for the economic development. The national economy is in transition from a centrally planned to market oriented form. This process dated back from mid 1980s has produced great achievement in economic growth and structural improvement in political and social aspects.

Process

The process for writing the report mainly took place in 2002 although the preparation for the project has started since later 2001. A loose NGO network of 18 national NGOs is established under the Rio10 Project. The NGO members are in various forms ranging from mass organisations and professional associations to non-profit research based organisations. The network is coordinated by the project steering committee, acting as secretariat of the network. The committee consists of representatives from three national NGOs and WWF Indochina.

The consultation process for writing the report involved about 40 organisations including NGOs, major groups international NGOs in three consultation workshops. The project steering committee appoints an expert panel to draft the report based on themes identified by the NGOs through the consultation workshops.

The consultation process for drafting the report aims to reach the following goals:

- Raise awareness of NGOs about the WSSD and the preparation process.
- Identify the issues of concern and build consensus among the involved NGOs on the themes of the report.
- Elaborate the themes into a draft of reports based on written reports and thematic papers received from NGO network members, and the available information.
- Draft the report that highlights the key issues of sustainable development in Vietnam and make recommendations from NGO perspective.

The consultation process starts with a review of the progress in implementing Agenda 21 in Vietnam to identify key changes in the country's economic, social and environmental aspects during the last decade, with and emphasis on the formulation and implementation of the macro policies and their impacts on the economy and environmental quality.

Highlights

The review process shows some notable areas that reflect the integration of the spirit of Agenda 21 into the social and economic development in Vietnam as follows.

Changes in legislation, policy and institutional framework

The Rio Earth Summit in 1992 has influenced the vision of the accountable Vietnam government on the development process. The need for protecting the environment has been largely recognized by decision makers. That led to changes in the country's macro policy development process, and subsequently the legal and institutional framework for economic development and environmental protection.

In 1991, the government introduced the 1991 - 2000 National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development. This document provided a very first framework for actions on sustainable development. Subsequently, the national environmental protection strategy was developed to guide activities for protecting the environment.

Changes in legislation were also made to provide the legal basis for safeguarding the environment. Before Rio, the legal and institutional framework for environmental protection was rather fragmented with no specific law on protecting the living environment. Also, none of the governmental agencies had overall responsibility for dealing with environment issues. Following the above policy framework, the Law on Environmental Protection was promulgated in 1994 to lay the legal foundation for the establishment of the nation-wide environmental management system at central and local levels and legalize the responsibilities for protecting the environment. The legislation on the environment has been regularly built up by adding new laws, regulations, and standards during the last 10 years.

In term of socio-economic development, the National strategy for socio-economic development 1991-2000 has prioritized the need for stabilizing the economic with the prime focus on poverty reduction, economic decentralization, economic efficiency and continuation of public sector reform. This focus continues to be reflected in the new ten year strategy from 2001-2010 aimed at "rapid, efficient, and sustainable economic growth together with societal advancement, social justice, and environmental protection

Taking further step toward full integration of three pillars of sustainable development, the government embarked on formulation of the national Agenda 21 in mid-2000. Vietnam Agenda 21 is expected to provide new inspiration for sustainable development in Vietnam.

In general, the national strategies have made impacts on the various aspects of society. The need of incorporating three aspects of economic, social, and environment was introduced and reflected to strategies and plans of different sectors and provinces. During the past ten years, a number of national target programmes have been implemented to further achieve the goals set by the government, including programmes on hunger eradication and poverty alleviation, employment, population and family planning, supports for ethnic minority groups and remote areas, clean water and sanitation for rural areas, anti-illiteracy and universalisation of primary schooling reduction, and five million hectares reforestation.

Achievement in sustainable development

Despite various challenges and obstacles, the renovation process in Vietnam continued to progress with the implementation of the country's social and environmental strategies. In term of social and economic aspects, a more efficient

economy with a healthy growth rate has been maintained. GDP per capita has doubled during 1991 - 2000 period. Economic achievement helped to reduce the poverty rate from 58 percent to 37 percent. Population growth rate was reduced from 2.3 to 1.4 percent. The national target programmes have contributed significantly to the improvement of living conditions. The Human Development Index of Vietnam has moved up to 111 in the ranking order.

Regarding the environment, the institutional framework for environmental protection began to have influences on the economic decision-making process. Environmental assessment was institutionalized in the development process. In terms of natural resources conservation, reforestation effort resulted in an increase in the forest cover from 27 percent to 33 percent of the land areas during the past ten years. A protected area system also grew from one to two million hectares between 1995 - 2001.

Vietnam also actively joins several multilateral environmental agreements and localise its international commitments into the national development process.

Challenges and obstacles to sustainable development.

Beside the outstanding achievements in economic development, some problems remain as challenges for the country to stabilize its economy and safeguard the environment. The major challenges are:

Poverty and employment: Poverty rate is still very high at 37 percent overall and is particularly acute in the rural and mountainous areas and among ethnic minority groups. The gap between rich and poor has also expanded. The under-employment rate remains very high at 60 percent of the labour force.

Environmental degradation: There has been a continuing degradation in the quality of environmental resources such as air, water, land and marine that are caused by unsustainable production and exploitation of these resources. Air and surface water pollution in some industrial areas and urban centres are ranked from moderate to serious among the ASEAN countries.

Forest conservation: Although the forest cover is reported to increase, there is likely downturn in forest quality, particularly the loss of native forest and biodiversity.

Fierce competition in the international market and the globalisation process may also impose threats on the stability of the national economy, which still relies heavily on natural resources.

Other issues such as rapid urbanisation, high population growth rate, natural disasters, and fluctuation of the market are also putting pressure on the economy and the environment.

Constraints for implementing sustainable development emerged from the implementation of the current policy framework. First of all, the current policy framework for sustainable development lacks specific and transparent mechanisms for a meaningful integration of the environment into the economic development process. This is reflected to the facts that:

There are two national strategies dealing with socio-economic and environmental matters separately. The first national environmental strategy has not been officially approved.

There are no specific guidelines or mechanism for coordination of sustainable development as a whole. Environmental protection is often seen as a separate object in the decision-making process at sectoral and local levels. The overall leadership and responsibility for coordinating sustainable development in practice is still ambiguous among the line ministries.

Lack of mechanism and resources for monitoring and evaluation of progress.

Lack of capacity of environmental authorities at all levels results in little impacts of these authorities on the development process. It is unclear that the institutionalized Environmental Impact Assessment process provides assistance for the decision-making as, sometimes, the assessment is only undertaken after a decision is made.

Poor enforcement of the environmental regulation is another consequence of the low capability of the environmental authorities.

Limited participation of the major groups and NGOs in the process of formulating and implementing national policy and strategy.

Information and communication for public participation in sustainable development has not been paid adequate attention.

Findings

In conclusion, the previous section shows that the theme of sustainable development has become a focus of Vietnam's policies and strategies for economic, social, and environment development. However, an integrated approach that address economic, social and environmental issues as a whole is still missing during the implementation of those policies and strategies.

The rapid economic growth is still coupled with the accelerating degradation of environmental quality and natural resources bases for supporting economic and social development.

The Key Demands Are:

To make sustainable development become the future of Vietnam, NGOs involved in this project propose some concrete actions to enhance the sustainable development process in Vietnam.

Strengthen the policy framework for sustainable development. The government should formulate the Vietnam Agenda 21 that provide a guiding framework for carrying out national strategies for social-economic development and environmental protection, based on the principles of sustainability.

Institutional arrangement for sustainable development.

To coordinate the implementation of sustainable development, the government should establish the National Council on Sustainable Development to coordinate the implementation of Agenda 21 among governmental agencies, line ministries, and other sectors. The council itself should establish a scientific consultation board which carry out functions of monitoring the implementation, identifying issues of concern, and providing recommendations for resolving contradiction between economic and environmental benefits and other issues emerging during the implementation of the national Agenda 21.

Furthermore, the government should promulgate the inter-ministerial decrees or circulars that provide mechanisms for linking the socio-economic development and environmental protection strategies and plans at the national, sectoral and local levels. Those linkages must be exercised before the 10th Party Congress and included in the five-year planning circle for 2005-2010.

The government should adopt the National Environmental Protection Strategy, 2001-2010, and the National Plan of Action on Environmental Protection, 2001-2005, which have been delayed for two years. If the entire content of those documents are not ready for the government approval, the government should approve the documents separately by section and delegate the Ministry of Science Technology and Environment to promulgate the approved sections.

Mobilize the full participation of national NGOs.

The government should:

Provide adequate and transparent legal provisions for the NGO activities. If issues have not been resolved at once, provisional regulations are needed.

Uncovering 'GreenWash'

Encourage government agencies to cooperate with NGOs on issues of sustainable development.

Encourage international government or non-governmental organizations to cooperate and assist Vietnamese NGOs in improving their capacity and operational efficiency.

Communication to the public on sustainable development. NGOs commits to cooperating with the government to enhance the communication on sustainable development and environmental protection via media campaigns and public education.

Enhance the relationship between NGOs and the community. NGOs commit to improve the public understanding of the roles of NGOs in building equal, democratic, civilized society, and enhance linkages between the community and NGOs.

Enhance the partnership with other major groups. NGOs commit to formulating and enhancing partnership within the NGO community and with other major groups in the areas of communication, education and training, scientific and technological research and development, policy development and planning for socio-economic development, and protection and sustainable use of environmental resources.

International cooperation on capacity building for Vietnamese NGO sustainable development. To enable Vietnamese NGOs to have capacity to fully and effectively participate in the sustainable development process, NGOs commit to cooperating with international agencies and NGOs in areas that help to build capacity for national NGO and benefit sustainable development such as communication, scientific researches, provisions of resources and funding for development projects conducted by NGOs, and development of capacity building projects.

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