

ELRI newsletter

"...act now! Your support for the environment counts".

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Environmental Protection and Sustainable City Project: The Physical Planning Connection



A livable, decent and affordable housing for the vast majority of the citizens is one of the indices by which the quality and standard of living of any society is measured. However, the dream of providing livable and decent housing in a well-planned environment where lands are properly demarcated, scrapped and complemented with functional basic infrastructure such as good roads, potable water, electricity, communication and recreation facilities is only realisable where there is proper and efficient physical planning scheme in place. Surprisingly, apart from some government reservation areas (GRAs) and satellite towns in many of Nigerian cities, majority of the Nigerian people live in slums and unplanned environment where basic social amenities necessary for sustainable living are lacking. Even in some planned areas, the basic infrastructures have collapsed thanks to lack of maintenance culture, corruption and bureaucratic inefficiency. Nigerian cities could therefore be described as lacking definite character, consistency, beauty and uniformity that are seen in many developed countries.

The reason for the deplorable state of most of Nigerian cities is not far-fetched: the failure of our physical planning regime to address the past problems of physical planning indiscipline and lopsided city

development. Public regulation of land use and planning control that imposes development permit and regulatory zoning restrictions upon the general right of every land owner to use or develop his land the way he likes has failed to serve its purpose. Theoretically, public regulation of development through planning permits is to ensure that land is developed according to the preconceived socio-economic pattern of the State and public interest. It also involves a very complex management activity that requires the integration of the physical and biological resources in compatible use, and coordinating social, cultural, economic, legal and political demands and constraints. Most Nigerian cities are developed without master plans. Even where one exists, new housing estates are emerging within and outside the city areas without any integration with the master plan. The focus of this paper is to highlight the correlation between

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

The past few months have been quite remarkable for ELRI. We have been involved in several workshops, conferences, seminars, round-table discussions and legislative hearings. We have also had to submit bids and applications for research projects, impact assessments and law review, while a good number of people are increasingly seeking us out as a source of guidance and informed commentary.

This is hugely encouraging for us. On the one hand, it is a real measure of recognition of the work of ELRI and the trust that people are beginning to have in it. On the other hand, it is a confirmation of the growing appetite of members of the public for information and knowledge in the area of environmental laws and policies. I invite all members to share with me and the Secretariat a sense of pride in this achievement.

Funding is still a major challenge for us. Thus, as we

applaud corporate bodies for their efforts in promoting culture and other

pageants, we implore that you spare some thoughts for the environment. The continuity of ELRI News is dependent on your direct sponsorship and adverts. We are committed to this venture and will not fail you.

"Our Man of the Quarter" is Nobel Peace Laureate, Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement, a woman-driven grassroots reforestation and sustainable development movement that has planted more than 40 million trees. Wangari Maathai is Kenyan by birth and her nomination is for her passion and efforts at enhancing the role of women in the protection of the environment. Congratulations!



Dr. Olanrewaju Fagbohun



Wangari Maathai

ELRI Briefly

VISION

ELRI aspires to be recognized as a credible facilitator of superior scholarship and leadership in providing local and global information on environmental law, and the promotion of environmental rights in certain key areas for the benefit of individual citizens, indigenous communities and broader public policy.

MISSION & OBJECTIVES

ELRI's mission and objectives is to achieve the following among others:

- Advance environmental protection and governance in Nigeria by influencing actions and initiatives that can serve as catalyst for the enhancement of environmental law and policy;
- Provide objective, non partisan analysis of law and policies, and deliver educational programs for the improvement of environmental protection and governance;
- Provide information services, advices and publication on environmental practices and programs as it affects sub-Saharan Africa;
- Provide training tools and support to citizens, organizations, government agencies, businesses, environmental managers, communities, indigenous peoples and other relevant stakeholders;
- Engage in sponsored research and related project pertaining to harmonization of laws and issues such as environmental justice, risk assessment and risk communication.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The ELRI structure is made up of the Governing Board, an Executive Committee, a Secretariat and Specialized Committees as may be required for specific purposes.

GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board consists of a Chairman and other Principal Members, one of whom is the Executive Director of ELRI.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is responsible to the Governing Board to which it reports concerning all its activities. The Executive Committee meets as many times as necessary for the effective discharge of its activities. The Executive Committee is the implementing organ of the decisions of the Governing Board.

SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat operates under the supervision of the Executive Committee. The Secretariat carries out the day-to-day execution of activities of ELRI under the direction of the Executive Director. The Secretariat is made up of all staff of ELRI.

SPECIALIZED COMMITTEE

Specialized Committees may from time to time be set-up for the effective discharge of the activities of the Institute.

Environmental Protection and Sustainable City Project

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sustainable city and physical planning responsibilities and how government can integrate physical planning activities into modern sustainable development paradigm.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT: The Synergies

Physical planning plays a pivotal role in ensuring that a city is livable and sustainable. Although urban and regional planning activities are not necessarily coterminous with environmental protection, yet both are complementary. They both control land use to secure harmony and orderliness in the use and enjoyment of land; promote aesthetic value of land with the overall purpose of securing a decent environment for healthy living. The dissimilarities lie in the scope of control, different regulatory authorities and different enforcement mechanisms. The scope of physical planning, for example, is restricted to physical land use only, while the environmental regulation is concerned with control of the damaging effect on the environment through processes which cause pollution to land, water, air, wildlife and nature conservation. Yet, the two control regimes are overlapping. Explaining the relationship between planning and environment under the English Environmental Strategy, the British Government noted that,

Planning control is primarily concerned with the type and location of new development and changes of use. Once broad land uses have been sanctioned by the planning process, it is the job of the pollution control to limit the adverse effects the operation may have on the environment... In considering whether to grant planning permission for a particular development, a local authority must consider all the effects including potential pollution; permission should not be granted if that might expose people to danger.

Although environmental controls seek to protect health in the environment, planning controls are concerned with the impact of development on the use of land and the appropriate use of land. A decision as to the condition under which a development permit may be undertaken may have effect on the environment. Where the potential for harm to man and environment affects the use of land (for example, by precluding the use of neighbouring land for a particular purpose or by making use of that land inappropriate because of, for example, the risk to an underlying aquifer) then planning and pollution controls may overlap. Therefore, it is important to provide safeguards against loss of amenities which may be caused by pollution. The dividing line between planning and pollution control consideration in this respect is, therefore, not always clear-cut. In such cases, close consultation between planning and environmental control authorities will be important at all stages, in particular because it would not be sensible to grant planning permission for a development for which a necessary pollution control authorisation is unlikely to be forthcoming.

Planning as a tool of land management and sustainable development involves the adoption of measures and policies that will ensure

resources within the environment are conserved preserved and replenished (by nature). It determines the most efficient form for the use of all resources, having regard to climate, soil, natural resources, accessibility and markets. It also enables regulatory policies and guidelines to be put in place to ensure compliance with the planned pattern and maintenance of character of neighbourhood without deviation, which may cause overuse, abuse and eventual degradation of such resources. Finally, it provides the framework for directing, controlling and managing the present and future growth trend, patterns and directions of the physical environment in the overall interest of the society. Environmental consideration in planning activities is reflected in those mechanisms entrenched in the many provisions of the physical planning law. These are:

- (a) The system of development plans, which ensures that environmental protection, is considered at the level of policy making.
- (b) The development control process, which requires planning permission from the Control Department before any development could take place. The definition of "development" is broad enough to cover environmental effect on land.
- (c) The power to impose conditions relating to environmental protection on a grant of planning permissions.
- (d) The introduction of the compulsory environmental impact assessment in respect of certain categories of projects. Private-developer activity, which is likely to have significant environmental impact, is required to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment Statement (EIAS). The project is then considered through a series of environmental clearance procedures that will result in either non-approval, or conditional approval. The ability of the private developer to pursue a project without regard to environmental consequences has thus been sharply curtailed. The apparent purpose of the detailed statement is to aid the process of decision making by the planning authority and to advise the developer and public of the environmental consequences of the planned development activity. It will also ensure that planning decisions that are likely to have a significant environmental effect are taken by the Control Department only after a proper assessment of those effects has been examined.

Conclusion

It is against this background that the efforts of many State Governments particularly that of Lagos State under the leadership of Babatunde Raji Fashola to reengineer and remodel our cities towards the twin paths of sustainability and orderliness is appreciated and worthy of emulation. It should be emphasized that the goals of sustainability can be achieved if physical planning principles are integrated into the environmental policies of the state and the laws are stringently enforced against the violators.

By Oludayo Amokaye
Director, ELRI

"...act now! Your support for the environment counts".

Reducing The Effects of Global Warming On Children's Health

On the second of February 2007, the United Nations scientific panel on climate change declared that the evidence of a warming trend is unequivocal, and that human activity has very likely been the driving force behind climate change for over the last 50 years. This report also predicted that the global climate is likely to rise between 3.5 and 8 degrees Fahrenheit, that by 2100, sea levels are likely to rise between 7 to 23 inches, and that the changes already underway will continue for centuries to come. This statement has put to rest or at least attempted to resolve the debate on what caused global warming and has helped refocus the world on its effects and what can be done to reduce the attendant impacts.

It does not take a lot to see just what these impacts are, from the current heat wave in India, to the droughts in the horn of Africa and flooding in Brazil, life everywhere is being threatened by these rising temperatures. However, it seems that the urgency of the situation is yet to register in our collective consciousness particularly countries in developing world where business continues as usual. Unfortunately, poor regions particularly in Africa appear to be at greater risk from the effects of global warming, and the children continue to suffer disproportionately.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

As the temperatures of the world continue to rise, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the United States postulates that greenhouse gases "endanger public health and welfare". Also based on the rising evidence of the adverse effects that climate change has on the world's children, the American Academy of Pediatrics has called on all national Governments as well as those caring for children to find ways of developing strategies that protect children from potential harm and safeguard their health. However, there is more to global warming than an increase in heat-related conditions like heat stroke and dehydration; researchers say global warming exacerbates common childhood diseases such as asthma and allergies. Children



are at risk of losing a parent or caregiver due to extreme weather conditions.

These are some of the ways in which global warming can affect children's health

1. Effects of adverse weather:

The rise in temperatures, melting of the polar ice and rise in green house gases have all been responsible for the increasing incidences of extreme weather conditions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report predicts that many regions will experience decreased rainfall and an increased risk of drought, which in turn would cause forest fires to occur on larger scales, and more regularly, this is evident in the increased frequency of droughts in some parts of Africa and the fires in California. These extreme weathers affect children by

- Increasing their susceptibility to injury or death from extreme weather;
- Subjecting them to posttraumatic stress;
- Increased probability of loss of caregiver with its attendant consequences;
- Disrupted education;
- Displacement.

2. Spread of diseases: There is evidence to suggest that global warming could be responsible for increased perpetuation of vectors that convey infectious diseases such as dengue fever, West Nile Virus, and malaria. In poorer countries already overburdened by malaria and diarrhea diseases, this increase

could be catastrophic for the health of the children and subsequent economic well being of the country. The World Health Organization estimates 150,000 deaths annually "as a result of climate change". In April 2008, it reported that, as a result of increased temperatures, the number of malaria infections is expected to increase in the highland areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

3. Malnutrition: Increased drought, lowering of the water table and water scarcity leading to poor crop productivity are all consequences of global warming. These conditions could lead to more cases of malnutrition which already threatens 33 million sub-Saharan African children.

4. Increased waterborne and food-borne illnesses, including infectious diarrhea, from increased temperatures and disrupted food supplies.

5. Increased exposure and vulnerability to heat-related conditions such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

6. Increase in lung related illnesses as a result of increased pollution

WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT?

Climate scientists have agreed in principle that drastic steps have to be taken in order to reduce the effects of global warming on the population. These steps are to mitigate the causes and effects of global warming and to find ways to adapt to the changing global environment. The good news is that scientists have agreed that there is

still enough time to address the problem of global warming if we act now and without undermining national economies.

Mitigation

Mitigation is basically concerned with reducing and even preventing the emissions of greenhouse gases responsible for climate change, so that less change occurs. The best-known mitigation policy plan to date is the Kyoto Protocol, ratified by most countries in the world, though not the United States and Australia.

The consensus among climate scientists that global temperatures will continue to increase has led nations, states, corporations and individuals to implement actions to try to curtail global warming. Some of the strategies that have been proposed for mitigation of global warming include:

- development of new technologies;
- carbon offsets and carbon taxes;
- renewable energy such as biodiesel, wind power, solar power and nuclear power;
- electric or hybrid automobiles;
- energy conservation;
- improving natural carbon dioxide sinks;
- deliberate large-scale production of sulfate aerosols (which produce a cooling effect on the Earth);
- population control;
- nanotechnology.

Businesses can also play a key role in the mitigation of global warming through decisions to invest in researching and implementing new energy technologies and energy efficiency measures.

Individual actions

Individual action against global warming is the most encouraged concept in mitigating climate change. It is recognized that huge reduction in green house gases can occur if individuals make small changes in purchasing habits and daily living as well as life style changes. Raising awareness is also an important step.

The following steps are simple, practical and inexpensive and have been shown to have the greatest capacity to bring about change:

- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Turn off televisions, videos, stereos and computers when they are not in use - they can use between 10 and 60% of the power they use when on.

- **Use energy saving light bulbs** - they use a quarter of the electricity and last much longer. This simple act alone would prevent more than 1 trillion dollars of greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Use less energy** for your daily commute by switching to public transportation, carpooling, biking, or telecommuting.
- **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle:** recycle your newspapers, beverage containers, paper and other goods. Use products in containers that can be recycled and items that can be repaired or reused. In addition, support recycling markets by buying products made from recycled materials.
- **Do not let the water run** while shaving or brushing your teeth. Do not use your toilet as a waste basket for toiletry items - water is wasted with each flush.
- **Many factors affect the fuel economy of your car.** To improve fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, go easy on the brakes and gas pedal, avoid hard accelerations, reduce time spent idling and unload unnecessary items in your trunk to reduce weight.
- **Eating less meat is healthier to the body and friendlier on the environment:** According to The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FOA) November 2006 report, the livestock sector generates more greenhouse gas emissions as measured in CO₂ equivalent - 18 percent - than transport and is a major source of land and water degradation. The livestock business is among the most damaging sectors to the earth's increasingly scarce water resources, contributing among other things to water pollution, eutrophication and the degeneration of coral reefs. The major polluting agents are animal wastes, antibiotics and hormones, chemicals from tanneries, fertilizers and pesticides used to spray feed crops.

Adaptation

This strategy attempts to deal with the actual consequences of warming and other aspects of climate change which are already happening or are likely to occur in the future. Some amount of climate change has already occurred, and more change is inevitable based on

the greenhouse gases already emitted. This means that society will need to adopt adaptive measures for the mitigation of impacts. Adaptation is already happening on some fronts, some communities on small islands are already making plans to abandon their homes due to rising sea levels.

Conclusion

Global warming already disrupts millions of lives and it is universally agreed that what we are already experiencing in terms of extreme weather and rising sea levels are just the tip of the iceberg. Our children continue to suffer from its effect. It is time that we take action; starting from us as individuals all the way up to government so that the most vulnerable in our society do not continue to suffer from the effects of global warming amongst other socio-economic factors.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: The Importance of Local Language in Environmental Communication in Nigeria

"Said is not heard; Heard is not understood; Understood is not accepted; And accepted is not yet done".

Environmental communication is the roadmap to environmental sustainability. When you need to get a message across to the public, you need to keep it simple. However, the method of communicating environmental wreckage has been lukewarm, saddled with technical jargons that would not be easily demystified or comprehended by the common man on the street.

The environment welcomes us into this world and would receive us back into itself at the end of our life's journey. A clean, hygienic and safe environment is a major determinant of our number of years on this planet and we must strive very hard to give to our successors an equal if not better opportunity to spend more years as our forefathers had done for us. To achieve this, we need to change our mode of communication to a more passionate, emotional, cultural and value oriented language. This planet, earth, does not belong to us rather, we exist in it, so, all hands must be on deck to ensure its protection so that it remains a pure and safe haven for human, plant and animal habitation.

The earth is better understood from a detailed understanding of the environment through awareness and action. Environmental writing, aptly described as nature writing has its roots in the academic realm called human ecology, which is an academic discipline that deals with the relationship between humans and their natural, social and created environments. Human ecology investigates how humans and human societies interact with nature and with their environment.

Mark Meisner of the Environmental Communication

Network, defined environmental communication as 'all of the many forms of communication (interpersonal, group, public, organizational, mass, etc.) that are engaged with the social debate about environmental issues and problems.' Also within the scope of environmental communication are the genres of nature writing, science writing, environmental literature, environmental interpretation and environmental advocacy.

Nigeria is richly blessed with diverse cultures, tribes and tongues. Each community within its boundary has its own unique language that is understood by every member of the group. A language which originally manifest in several proverbs. For example, 'One who excretes on the road will find flies when he returns' is a proverb that warns us on the importance of protecting our environment. It is a Yoruba's depiction of eschew evil deeds that follow you when you defecate on the environment.

We must know and understand our past in order to move forward. A Professor of Urban Education at Georgia State University, Dr. Hilliard, states that ancient African socialization processes show us that communities can function and be productive when everyone, young and old, has a sense of purpose and value that contributes to the community's well being. Study is a requirement for our redemption. Yet, every discipline that we study must hinge itself firmly on the African tradition. This defines us as a people. While we must be aware of other traditions in order to appreciate the whole human

"We think that we can tackle a big problem called climate change by reducing poverty and by protecting the forests in Mexico. This solution could be part of the world solution in many of the continents, like Africa, Asia, Latin America. What we want to show is that everybody can work towards climate change, and we can work towards reducing poverty and we can also work towards saving the forests."

Extract from an interview with the Mexican Secretary of Environment & Natural Resources on the commemoration of the country's hosting of this year's World Environment Day tagged "Your planet needs you, Unite to Combat Climate Change"

story, we must be aware of how those traditions intersect with African traditions. It makes no sense for an African to begin an intellectual quest from someone else's standpoint. We must use a language that is peculiar to our own socio-cultural milieu in order to have an effective understanding of the information to be disseminated to a target audience. A writer postulates that "There is no *a priori* reason why proverbs, myths of gods and angels, social practices...could not be proper subjects for philosophical enquiry.... The African philosopher cannot deliberately ignore the study of the traditional belief system of his people. Philosophical problems arise out of real life situations."

Biodiversity will continue to be an issue of global importance which is very complex and difficult to explain. To overcome this challenge, the Yoruba as well as other cultures in Nigeria believes in the evil forest termed 'Igbo Oro', where ordinary mortals are not expected to tread, yet these forests houses an ecosystem, which is unconsciously being preserved from going into extinction. After all, it is better to live in an evil forest where your continued survival is assured, than a holy groove where you are a constant prey to human superior activities.

If the time is right, then the time is now! We must reproduce all that richness of culture and values and incorporate it into environmental protection's propaganda and campaign. Let the tool of environmental communication be the local language understood by every common man irrespective of his level of education, religion, and social status. Let us show pure, supernatural and compassionate love to this planet so that we can live in harmony with Mother Nature.

Mojisola Adebayo (Mrs.)
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NOISE POLLUTION IN LAGOS: Need For A Legal Framework

The Federal Republic of Nigeria official gazette (15th May, 2007) – Legal Notice on Publication of the Details of the Breakdown of the National and Provisional Total 2006 census indicates that Lagos is the most populous conurbation in Nigeria with over 7,392,932 inhabitants. Lagos is regarded as Nigeria's most prosperous city where much of the nation's wealth and economic activity are concentrated. Consequently, as a result of its very dense population, Lagos is an extremely noisy city. This paper, therefore, examines noise pollution in Lagos; general sources of noise pollution and the impact on the environment. It also examines the legal status of the problem and suggests ways of addressing the problem.

Noise pollution, also known as environmental noise, has been defined as displeasing human, animal or machinery-created sound that disrupts the activity or balance of human or animal life. Research has shown that noise has as one of its major sources, the transportation systems comprising motor vehicles, aircraft and rail. Other sources are; car alarms, office equipment, factory machinery, construction work, grounds keeping equipment, barking dogs, appliances, power tools lighting hum, audio entertainment systems, loudspeakers and noisy people. Poor urban planning whereby industrial and residential buildings are constructed side by side is also a source of noise pollution.

In Lagos, the principal source of noise pollution is designated as neighbourhood noise which is representatives of a thick cloud of noise coming from a variety of sources. These sources include loud noise emanating from loudspeakers used by record stores, generating plants, pumping machines, grinding machines, television sets, musical sets, intruder alarms, night parties, churches and mosques, motor parks and so on. However, the most notable and prominent sources of noise pollution are those emanating from generating sets as well as from religious worship centers.

Corroborating this fact, Stella Odueme, in an article titled, 'Nigeria: Dangers of Fumes, Noise Pollution in Lagos', a resident's comment on noise pollution; "it is a terrible experience. Both in the morning, afternoon and night the worship centres within our vicinity will always have one service or the other to carry out to disturb the neighbourhood. Even when you return in



Gov. Fashola

the night after work to sleep, the noise will not allow you to sleep. I think government has to step in to correct the situation. It is an anomaly and something urgent has to be done".

Writing on the effect of noise pollution, a World Health Organization report states that noise causes hearing impairment, disturbs sleep, reduces performance, interferes with communication, causes cardiovascular and psychological defects and provokes annoyance response and changes behaviour. It

can lead to high blood pressure, stress, strokes, heart attacks and even death.

As part of the efforts aimed at curbing the menace of noise especially from the churches and mosques, pollution officials of the Lagos State Environment Protection Agency held a meeting with religious leaders and spoke on the need to look at the ways of regulating noise making in the course of observance of religious services. A directive was subsequently issued in 2008 to all religious houses to confine their loudspeakers to the auditorium.

Presently in Lagos State, there is no specific legislation on noise pollution. For instance Ms Tejumade Olufemi, the Senior Public Relations Officer (SPRO) for the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency was reported in an article "Can We Have Some Quiet Please" by Ben Ezeamalu as saying that Lagos is yet to draft a law on the indiscriminate emission of noise in the environment. She was quoted as saying, "there is no regulation presently on noise pollution, the bill is still in the House of Assembly..." This contrasts with what obtains in the developed countries. For instance in the United States and United Kingdom there are national provincial or state laws that regulate noise.



Noise pollution in Lagos can best be tackled through appropriate legislation that not only defines noise pollution, but also makes it an offence against the State government with penalties prescribed for offenders and as deterrents to would-be offenders. This must be followed by public enlightenment on

the adverse effects of such social ills in neighbourhoods. These steps must be taken as a matter of urgency so as to enhance the transformation of Lagos into the desired mega city.

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BALANCING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) LAWS WITH DEVELOPMENT NEEDS:

The Poverty Alleviation Angle



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process by which the impact, potential and real, of development projects on the environment is understood or assessed by relevant stakeholders made up of government, local communities and persons likely to be affected by the projects. It is pertinent to appreciate how far the word 'environment' can be taken in order to understand who and where may be subject to the said impact. The environment must not be restricted to mean only the physical conditions in which we live; it must also be seen to include social and economic conditions relevant to the standard of living of the people. This liberal interpretation of the word 'environment' will assist us in appreciating the extent to which projects may affect the living conditions of the people for whom the projects were intended.

Just as the imperative of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of projects cannot be over emphasised, embarking on real impact development projects is a sine qua non for economic empowerment and growth, especially in developing countries. The ability to marry these two seemingly competing needs in optimal dimension goes a long way in instituting sustainable development in an economic context. However, the point has to be made that requirements for EIA ought not to work against the pursuit of poverty alleviation or reduction in developing nations. The question thus arises as to what happens

where an activity or project designed chiefly to provide economic succor to the poor receives a negative Environmental Statement (ES). Would alternative projects or mitigation measures suffice to achieve the same purpose for which the original projects were meant or as near to it as possible?

Within the above perspectives, it becomes realistic to ponder whether statutory enactments could be used as a bridge between EIA and development imperatives. Sustainable development includes poverty alleviation, short-term and long-term. As such, any EIA regime ought to reflect poverty alleviation and reduction to be regarded as workable and justifiable. The principle behind EIA ought to be based on how the project affects the people, beneficially or adversely. EIA ought to highlight poverty alleviation and reduction implications not just health and climatic implications.

A good balancing between EIA and poverty alleviation may be achieved by a combination of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS). SEA was defined by the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Impact Assessment (NCEIA) as 'a way to bring people together in planning processes, and structure and feed their debate on the environmental consequences of strategic choices'. Thus, SEA involves public participation in planning, structuring and implementing development projects vis a vis their impacts on the environment in its widest sense. Public participation

ensures that the projects fit in squarely into PRS. In Nigeria, this would translate into an assessment of the projects against the poverty alleviation programme of the government (NEEDS, SEEDS, and LEEDS).

Thankfully, Section 7 of the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ACT, CAP. E12 LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 appears to appreciate the need for SEA in providing as follows: 'Before the Agency (Federal Environment Protection Agency) gives a decision on an activity to which an environmental assessment has been produced, the Agency shall give opportunity to government agencies, members of the public, experts in any relevant discipline and interested groups to make comment on the environmental impact assessment of the activity'. It is suggested that the comment should not be restricted to the EIA document but should be given some form of flexibility by way of allowing input from outside of the EIA document. The EIA Act should also be amended to reflect the importance and desirability of PRS in EIA. This approach would ensure that SEA is made part of our laws.

SEA would enhance Social Impact Assessment (SIA), which in turn would provide an avenue to appreciate the impact development projects would have on people. People are the very reason for development projects. The basic objective of SEA is to contribute to sustainable development, poverty reduction and good governance. SEA would ensure that policies and projects have strong pro-poor and pro-environment potential.

It may further be suggested that adequate dispute resolution mechanisms that are easily accessible be made part of the EIA procedure. The courts may obviously be too busy for the dispatch required of EIA issues. To this end, specialised tribunals and/or arbitrators may be established to provide a platform for speedy and knowledgeable resolution of disputes arising from EIA. In Nigeria specifically, the principle of locus standi ought to be expunged from the procedures of these tribunals or arbitrators.

Ikechukwu Ikeji, Esq.
Legal Practitioner
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"...act now! Your support for the environment counts".

Caring for the Earth

Living sustainably depends on accepting a duty to seek harmony with other people and with nature. The guiding rules are that people must share with each other and care for the Earth. Humanity must take no more from nature than nature can replenish. This in turn means adopting life-styles and development paths that respect and work within nature's limit. Our founding principle provides the base for all the others. It is:

- respect and Care for the Community of Life. This principle reflects the duty of care for other people and other forms of life, now and in the future.
- that development should not be at the expense of other groups or later generations.
- that we should aim to share fairly the benefits and costs of resources use and environmental conservation among different communities and interest groups, among people who are poor and those who are affluent, and between our

generation and those who will come after us.

All life on earth is part of one great interdependent system, which influences and depends on the non-living components of the planet: rocks, soils, waters and air. Disturbing one part of this biosphere can affect the whole. Just as human societies are interdependent and future generations are affected by our present actions, so the world of nature is increasingly dominated by our behaviour. It is a matter of ethics as well as practicality to manage development so that it does not threaten the survival of other species or eliminate their habitats. While our survival depends on the use of other species, we need not, and should not, use them cruelly or wastefully.

The question is how we can change attitudes so that this principle is accepted at all levels of society, and is translated into personal, social and national policy.

Martin Holdgate, from Care to Action: Making a Sustainable World (1996)

God and Environmental Protection Agency(EPA)

In the beginning God created heaven and earth. He was then faced with a class action lawsuit for failing to file an environmental impact statement with HEPA (Heavenly Environment Protection Agency), an angelically staffed agency dedicated to keeping the Universe pollution free.

God was granted a temporary permit for the heavenly portion of the project, but was issued a cease and desist order on the earthly part, pending further investigation by HEPA.

Upon completion of his construction permit application and environmental impact statement, God appeared before the HEPA Council to answer questions.

When asked why he began these projects in the first place, he simply replied that he liked to be creative.

This was not considered adequate reasoning and he would be required to substantiate this further. HEPA was unable to see any practical use for earth since 'the earth was void and empty and darkness was upon the face of the deep'.

Then God said: 'Let there be light'.

He should never have brought up this point since one member of the Council was active in the Sierrangel Club and immediately protested, asking 'how was the light to be made? Would there be strip mining? What about thermal pollution? Air pollution? God explained the light would come from a huge ball of fire.

Nobody on the Council really understood this, but it was provisionally accepted assuming (1) there would be no smog or smoke resulting from the ball of fire, (2) a separate burning permit would be required, and (3) since continuous light would be a waste of energy it should be dark one-half of the time.

So God agreed to divide light and darkness and he would call the light Day and the darkness

Night. (The Council expressed no interest with in-house semantics.)

When asked how the earth would be covered, God said: 'Let there be firmament made amidst the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.'

One ecologically radical Council member accused him of double talk, but the Council tabled action since God would be required first to file for a permit from ABLM (Angelic Bureau of Land Management) and further would be required to obtain water permits from appropriate agencies involved.

The Council asked if there would be only water and firmament and God said 'Let the earth bring forth the green herb, and such as may seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after its kind, which may have seen itself upon the earth.'

The Council agreed, as long as native seed would be used.

About future development God also said: 'Let the waters bring forth the creeping creature having life, and the fowl that may fly over the earth.'

Here again, the Council took no formal action since this would require approval of the Game and Fish Commission coordinated with the Heavenly Wildlife Federation and Audobongelic Society.

It appeared everything was in order until God stated he wanted to complete the project in six days.

At this time he was advised by the Council that his timing was completely out of the question... HEPA would require a minimum of 180 days to review the application and environmental impact statement, then there would be public hearings. It would take 10 to 12 months before a permit could be granted.

God said: 'To Hell with it.'

Source: United States Congressional Record (1974).

Environmental Tit-Bits

The current interest in the environment is a good thing. The best way to make a contribution in fashion is to promote the idea that a fundamental interest in preserving the environment is itself fashionable.

Giorgio Armani

UNITED STATES:

Killing forests

It has been discovered that toilet paper made from virgin forests accounts for 98 percent of the U.S. domestic market, with tissue made from recycled paper, which doesn't 'fluff up' as easily, trailing behind.

A US daily, The Guardian, reports that the United States is the world's biggest consumer of paper, yet less than a third of all paper products used nationwide are recycled and the environmental costs of 'luxury' toilet paper may exceed that of driving an SUV or eating fast food.

In addition to constituting another source of deforestation, making toilet paper is water intensive and produces chemical pollution. According to a US scientist, 'People just don't understand that softness equals ecological destruction.'

Global Financial Crisis affects Waste Management

Also reports show that Global warming coupled, with funding shortages is hurting efforts to clean up the most dangerous waste sites in the United States. The impacts of global warming, coupled with the credit crunch is hurting the country's effort at cleaning up its toxic dump sites.

A study by the nonprofit Center for Health, Environment and Justice found that extreme weather conditions like hurricanes and tornadoes, which may be related to climate change, are causing more damage at toxic waste sites.

Environmental advocates say that if Congress does not renew 'polluter pay' fees, which ended in 1995, Superfund will remain short on cash, and the problem will only get worse.

In Colorado, The Monte Vista Journal reports that the Summitville Superfund site is under funded, and that polluted water leaking from a mining facility there affects a river used for agriculture, livestock and recreation.

-Ronnie Lovler/Newsdesk.org

MEXICO (SOUTH AMERICA)

Water shortage

According to reports from the country's daily, the Latin American Herald Tribune, incidents of drought and leaky pipes are causing unusual water shortages in Mexico City. The daily reports that lack of planning, and poorly maintained pipelines may be responsible for the loss of as much as 40 percent of the water. This has resulted in unprecedented lows in the city's reservoir system, causing millions of people to lose some or all of their water supplies over Easter.

Experts in the region say that if droughts persist as expected, and despite planned repairs on pipelines, water shortages will only increase.

EUROPE

SWITZERLAND

Global warming melts national borders

Reports say that impacts of global warming may result in border disputes between Italy and Switzerland due to the melting of parts of the Swiss Alps. As a result of global warming the glaciers that originally defined the international borders between the two countries is melting and erasing the border markers.

SWEDEN

Raises hope of freedom from fossil-fuel

Kalmar, a small town in Sweden may well be on its tracks to becoming free from fossil-fuel by the year 2030.

Reports say that the city's comprehensive program to reduce fossil fuels includes heat and electricity

Environmental Tit-Bits

generated by a local wood pulp plant, an entire fleet of biodiesel municipal trucks, strict energy efficient building codes and tax incentives.

According to this report, Kalmar's 60,000 residents save money by getting over 65 percent of their energy from renewable resources.

"We are not eco-freaks," one sustainability officer told the Tribune. "We're just making it easy to change, giving people the tools."

U.K.

Geo-Engineering to help counter impacts of Climate Change

According to a report in the Sunday Times, some British scientists say "geo-engineering" is needed to counter the effects of global warming and maintain world temperatures at acceptable levels.

One proposed measure to achieve this is a call for massive planting of fast-growing trees, such as willows, to absorb more carbon dioxide.

Another proposal would be to seed clouds with ocean water to form salt crystals, which would reflect more sunlight back toward the sun and away from the Earth.

ASIA

INDONESIA: Eruption of Mud Volcano

In Indonesia, a panel of international petroleum geologists have declared that exploratory drilling at a nearby gas well is responsible for triggering the eruption of a mud volcano.

According to the country's daily the Guardian, this position could provide major financial compensation to many of the almost 40,000 Indonesians displaced by the eruption.

The volcano, called Lusi, erupted nearly two years ago and has been spewing massive amounts of boiling mud ever since.

The cause of the eruption was debated at an international conference, attended by 74 distinguished petroleum scientists in Cape Town, South Africa where Geologists representing the oil and gas company, Lapindo Brantas, claimed an earthquake two days before the eruption is to blame, but only three of the petroleum scientists voted for this explanation.

However, numerous attempts to stop the flow of mud -- including a creative attempt to plug the volcano's mouth with concrete -- have failed.

LEBANON: Water Shortage

In Lebanon, it is believed that increased population growth in the country, outdated infrastructure and increasing temperatures are putting renewed pressures on the country's water springs, leading to increase in the residents' demand for water.

The implication of the scarce supply of water will be enormous for the region as it will increase demand for water for the next fifteen years and erode on the relative agricultural stability in the region where agriculture employs half the workforce.

JAPAN: Declining Fish Supply

Japan the world's foremost consumer of fish is experiencing a stock decline in its stocks of fish. The sudden decline in the country's fish supply has been linked to over fishing, pollution, habitat destruction and climate change.

AUSTRALIA: Green house gas burial sites discovered

In Australia, scientific advisers have identified ten (10) underground storage sites as being suitable for burying greenhouse gas emissions.

The region's Minister for Resources and Energy, Martin Ferguson, said green house emissions constituted a key component of the government's response to climate change.

The undergrounds are proposed to be situated at the coast of Victoria, South Australia, the nation's Northern Territory.

QUEENSLAND: One feared dead in floods

At least one person is feared dead in a flooding incident in South East Queensland. The flood caused by heavy rains and winds in the region has been

TIP FOR THE QUARTER

Our Tip For The Quarter Is On Water And How To Conserve It

Have you ever wondered how much water a family of four can use every day? Not 50 gallons, not 100 gallons, but 400 gallons! You could take up to 10 baths with that much water, but then you only need a bath a day, at most two baths a day so you don't need all that water however there are many things that can be done to conserve the way we use water. Did you know that less than 1% of all the water on Earth can be used by people? The rest is salt water (the kind you find in the ocean) or is permanently frozen and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

As our population grows, more and more people are using up this limited resource. Therefore, it is important that we use our water wisely and not waste it. There are many simple things we can do to save water. Such as

TURNING OFF THE TAP

Just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth in the morning and before bedtime, you can save up to 8 gallons of water! That adds up to more than 200 gallons a month, enough to fill a huge fish tank that holds 6 small sharks! The same is true when you wash dishes. Turn off the tap! Scrape your dirty dishes into the trash. Then put them in the dishwasher.

USING THE SHOWER

Taking a shower uses much less water than filling up a bathtub. A shower only uses 10 to 25 gallons, while a bath takes up to 70 gallons! If you do take a bath, be sure to plug the drain right away and adjust the temperature as you fill the

tub. To save even more water, keep your shower under five minutes long. Try timing yourself with a clock next time you hop in!

FIX ALL LEAKS

If your toilet has a leak, you could be wasting about 200 gallons of water every day. That would be like flushing your toilet more than 50 times for no reason! Try this experiment: ask your parents to help you test for leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak!

WATERING YOUR GARDEN OR LAWN

The best time to water your yard is in the early morning or late evening when it's cool outside. Watering when it's hot and sunny is wasteful because most of the water evaporates before the plants have time to drink it. Also, when you're helping your parents water the yard, make sure not to water the plants too much. Remember that a little sprinkle goes a long way!

WASHING CARS/STUFF

Washing your bike or car with a bucket and sponge instead of a hose saves a lot of water. A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running, but using a bucket and sponge only uses a few gallons! Also, some car washes recycle water instead of letting it run down the sewer drains. Ask your parents to check if a car wash near you recycles water.

Sayings on the Environment

He who knows what sweets and virtues are in the ground, the waters, the plants, the heavens, and how to come at these enchantments, is the rich and royal man."

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), Essays, Second Series, 1844

"It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist; the threat is rather to life itself." It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist; the threat is rather to life itself."

Rachel Carson, (1907-1964) The Sea Around Us, 1951

"For many of us, water simply flows from a faucet, and we think little about it beyond this point of contact. We have lost a sense of respect for the wild river, for the complex

workings of a wetland, for the intricate web of life that water supports."

Sandra Postel, Last Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity, 2003.

"The Truly Healthy environment is not merely safe but stimulating."

William H. Stewart, Environmental Science and Technology, February 1968.

"We owe our lives to the sun... How is it, then, that we feel no gratitude?"

Lewis Thomas, Earth Ethics, Summer 1990.

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

Gaylord Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin, founder of Earth Day

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed."

Mohandas K. Gandhi quoted in EF Schumacher, Small is Beautiful.

Culled from www.epa.org

"...act now! Your support for the environment counts".

EVENTS

HARROWDITCH Partners africapracticeR&B and Guinness Nigeria on Waste Management Trading Programme



Dr. Olanrewaju Fagbohun, Executive Director, ELRI

On July 23, 2009 Harrowditch Environmental and Management Services Limited together with africapracticeR&B and Guinness Nigeria Plc hosted a Waste Management Trading Scheme workshop at the Conference Room of Guinness Nigeria Plc Ogba Brewery.

The objective of the workshop was to bring together a range of stakeholders from the Industrial sector to appraise the possibility of designing a framework for a waste trading scheme. Using Lagos for the pilot project, the scheme will allow companies in Lagos and across the country to trade waste between themselves where synergies exist.

After the very comprehensive introduction of Peter Ameh, Environmental Manager of Guinness Nigeria Plc, Bisi Salau of Harrowditch and Tim Newbold of africapracticeR&B led the discussion on the background and objectives of the workshop, and how the success of the scheme will impact positively on waste management.

Professor Oladele Osibanjo of the Basel Coordination Centre, University of Ibadan appraised the discussion from the perspective of electronic waste while Kolawole Falase, Senior Special Assistant, Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency considered the salient issues from the viewpoint of a regulator.

Alhaji Ahmed Omah, Deputy Plant Manager SPN Packaging and Peter Ameh aided the discussion with practical examples of current practices relating to industrial symbiosis while Dr. Olanrewaju Fagbohun, Executive Director, ELRI analyzed the contribution of waste in the form of greenhouse gases to climate change, and the need to start looking at waste as part of a cycle of production, consumption and recovery.

All participants at the workshop supported the call for joint action in making a success of the scheme in Lagos (pilot project). It was agreed that there should be a follow-up meeting within the next two months.

Environmental Tit-Bits

described as the worst in more than 30 years; it has submerged several homes and damaged properties.

AFRICA

KENYA: Power in the Rift

Reports have it that the Rift Valley in Kenya may be a huge source of geothermal power that could transform the country's fortunes.

The East African country of about 2 million people has no access to electricity, but reports from SciDev.Net of London says that pilot drilling in the region showed geothermal energy, which is generated from steam from underground water heated by the Earth's interior could be a viable and economic source of power for the country and several other African countries.

NIGERIA:

Oil Firms asked to obey Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Rules

Reports show that oil companies and manufacturing industries in the country have been called upon to obey environmental health and safety rules and regulations or risk cancellation of their operational licenses. This warning was given by the Minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey.

Speaking in Abuja, Mr. Odey said, "If these companies continue to pollute our environment in the course of their operations in flagrant disregard of our environmental safety rules and regulations, government will have no option than to withdraw their licence". He maintained that, "A situation where oil companies and manufacturing industries flagrantly fail to comply with government's laid down environmental safety rules and regulations can no longer be tolerated". He decried the poor compliance of operating oil companies and manufacturing industries with the nation's environmental safety rules over the years stating that this had resulted in oil spillage, environmental degradation and general environmental hazards.

He revealed that Government has, therefore, strengthened the national environmental standards and regulations enforcement agency as part of the renewed commitment to creating a better, safer and cleaner environment.

Story from **Abdulfattah Olajide**

30 April 2009

Minister inaugurates Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Station

As part of the activities of the Ministry of Environment, the Minister, Mr. John Odey has inaugurated a Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Station (MAQMS) in Abuja.

The Minister said that the inauguration of the project represented the commitment of government to ensure a proper air quality that will safeguard the environment and the health of the citizens.

He stressed that air pollution was a major global concern caused by various human activities in their pursuit of economic activities. These human activities include "emission from industries, bush burning for farm clearing and game as well as fumes from generating sets and so on".

According to him, "some of the environmental challenges we are experiencing have been with us over the years, but we have not been able to put it in our development agenda".

Mr. Odey therefore urged the various institutions in the country to close ranks with the government in tackling the challenges to the environment.

ABUJA: Turning into City-Size Dust Bin

Still on Nigeria, Abuja, the nation's capital is gradually turning into a huge dumpsite. Walking through some streets in Abuja one does not have to be told that the waste and sanitation management of the city requires serious attention from relevant authorities in the FCT.

While some residents are of the opinion that the waste management authorities seem to have deserted the Federal Capital, most people, however, believe that the problem could be attributed to the nonchalant attitude of the residents.

Amina Alhassan

2 May 2009

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EVENTS

British Council Organises Round-Table Discussion on Climate Change and Sustainable Development



On 8 July, 2009, the British Council, Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development organized a round table discussion to discuss strategies for tackling issues related to climate change. The round table discussion which had as its theme,

"Climate Change and Sustainable Economic Development", was targeted towards decision makers and environmental managers in corporate organizations, industry leaders, policy makers and media houses. The compere, Debo Akande of British Council was at his best in introducing the

discussion and the discussants. The welcome address was given by Amir Ramzan, Deputy Director/Business Services, British Council. The opening presentation was by the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Sir Bob Dewar, and this was followed by a beautiful documentary packaged by award-winning filmmaker Tunde Aboderin.

The Hon. Commissioner for the Environment, Ministry of the Environment Lagos State, Dr. Muiz Banire was smooth and exhaustive in his discussion of what Lagos State has been doing towards meeting the challenges of Climate Change. Engineer Hussain Solomon, CEO Bio-Diesel Nigeria Limited reviewed strategies for mitigation and opportunities for sustainable economic development, while Dr. Olanrewaju Fagbohun, Executive Director ELRI reviewed strategies for adaptation and opportunities for sustainable economic development.

The consensus of the audience (which was quite enlightened) was that there is a need for more accountability in governance while business should show more interest in environmental issues.

The High Commissioner in his closing remarks assured of the UK's continued cooperation and support.

WORD SEARCH

There are about seventeen (17) words in the puzzle relating to the environment. Can you find them!

G	E	T	S	A	W	L	A	I	R	T	S	U	D	N	I
E	X	T	I	N	C	T	S	P	E	C	I	E	S	O	N
O	U	I	V	G	H	E	A	T	W	A	V	E	H	L	S
T	B	I	O	D	E	G	R	A	D	A	B	L	E	A	U
M	C	E	K	R	J	N	I	A	R	D	I	C	A	T	L
A	F	F	O	R	E	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	I	N	A
R	Z	I	X	R	A	D	I	A	T	I	O	N	S	E	T
I	I	P	T	T	O	X	I	C	F	U	M	E	S	V	I
R	C	O	A	S	T	A	L	W	A	T	E	R	S	L	O
N	Y	C	T	F	R	N	I	M	Y	D	V	P	F	O	N
E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	A	L	I	S	T
L	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	T
I	N	F	V	I	J	K	L	H	Y	G	O	L	O	C	E
F	U	R	B	A	N	I	S	A	T	I	O	N	X	Y	O
E	U	A	E	R	O	S	P	R	A	Y	I	D	E	W	N
E	C	O	S	Y	S	T	E	M	X	Y	Z	Q	R	S	T

Insulation

Heat Wave

Extinct Species

Ecology

Acid Rain

Afforestation

Aerosol Spray

Coastal Waters

Marine Life

Ecosystem

Radiation

Biodegradable

Urbanisation

Solvent,

Environmentalist

Toxic Fumes

Industrial Waste.

EVENTS

ELRI Visits Minister of Environment

Environmental Law Research Institute was on a courtesy visit to the Honourable Minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey on April 7th, 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS

Representatives of the Environmental Law Research Institute (ELRI) recently paid a courtesy visit to the Honourable Minister for Environment. The team led by the Executive Director of the Institute, Dr. Olanrewaju Fagbohun was received by the Honourable Minister and other Directors of the Ministry.

After plenary introduction, Dr. Fagbohun gave a brief on the objectives and activities of the Institute since its inception. He explained that the visit to the Minister was in recognition of the status of the ministry as the chief protection officer of the country's environment and expressed the desire to partner with the Ministry in the promotion of the protection of the environment in Nigeria.

This collaboration, in the Institute's opinion, would compliment the Ministry's efforts at ensuring protection of the environment and sustainable development. He stressed that the Institute seeks to achieve this by organizing in collaboration with the Ministry capacity building programs for the staff of the ministry to enhance their knowledge of environmental management and hone their skills in the task of implementing and enforcing regulations for the protection of the environment. He also emphasized the need to empower the youths through enlightenment programmes that would strengthen their capability to better appreciate issues relating to the environment. These youth focused programmes, Dr. Fagbohun stated, could take the form of debate and quiz competitions for students of secondary schools and Moot Court competitions and parliamentary debates for students of tertiary institutions. These programs he explained would assist in integrating environmental awareness in the youths and enhance their capacity as effective agents of change.

The Honorable Minister greatly commended the Institute for its well thought out visions concerning the protection of the environment particularly its incorporation of the participation of the youths who in his view were important participants in the national and global efforts to promote the protection of the environment and its sustainable development. He expressed his appreciation to the team for the visit and also indicated the Ministry's interest in partnering with ELRI.

The visit climaxed in a group photograph and the team's presentation of a plaque to the Honorable Minister.



ELRI Participates in One-Day House of Representatives' Interactive Session on the COPENHAGEN Processes

The House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change on July 21, 2009 organized a one-day interactive session on the COPENHAGEN processes that is expected to yield an agreement which will be signed during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) 15 meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark in December, 2009.

As noted in the briefing paper for the hearing, if a new treaty is agreed, it will replace the Kyoto Protocol which will expire in 2012. The negotiations centre on setting global emission cuts, firstly by 2020, and expected drastic reduction of emissions by 2050. How to deliver these targets, however, are far from being resolved. It remains complex and knotty, because, whereas the world agrees on the need to reduce the Greenhouse Gases (GHG) responsible for global warming, the more developed countries, responsible for the emissions are hedging on commitments to transfer resources for adaptation and mitigation of Climate Change in the developing Countries including Nigeria.

In the words of the Committee Chairman, Hon. Eziuche Ubani, the objectives of the hearing is to review: Nigeria's participation at

COP 14 in Poznan, Poland in 2008; the process of negotiations for a new treaty; preparation for the Copenhagen conference; and projections of outcome of the Conference. The projected outcomes of the hearing is to increase awareness of the process of the negotiations, have a clearer view of Nigeria's demands and expectations, better communicate Nigeria's efforts in the global drive to fight climate change, and increase consensus behind the negotiations.

The hearing was attended by the Right Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honourable Dimeji Bankole; the Chairman Senate Committee on Environment, Senator (Mrs.) Grace Bent; the Minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey with several Directors of the Ministry; Ministers from other relevant Ministries; members of the House of Representatives Committee on Climate change; the Group Managing Director of NNPC; Ambassador of Sweden and other representatives of the European Union; and various Civil Society organizations led by the Coalition for Climate Change.

The Executive Director of ELRI, Dr. Olanrewaju Fagbohun attended the meeting on behalf of ELRI.

Welcome on Board

ELRI is privileged to have the following people as part of its membership

❖ Barrister Mrs. ORIE, ERIMMA GLORIA

She holds a B.A (Hons.) Degree in Philosophy from the University of Calabar. She obtained her LLB degree from University of Lagos.

Erimma works with the Law Firm of U.U.U.CHE & ASSOCIATES.

Her interest in Environmental Issues is borne out of a love for nature and the need to protect and preserve the earth's irreplaceable resources.

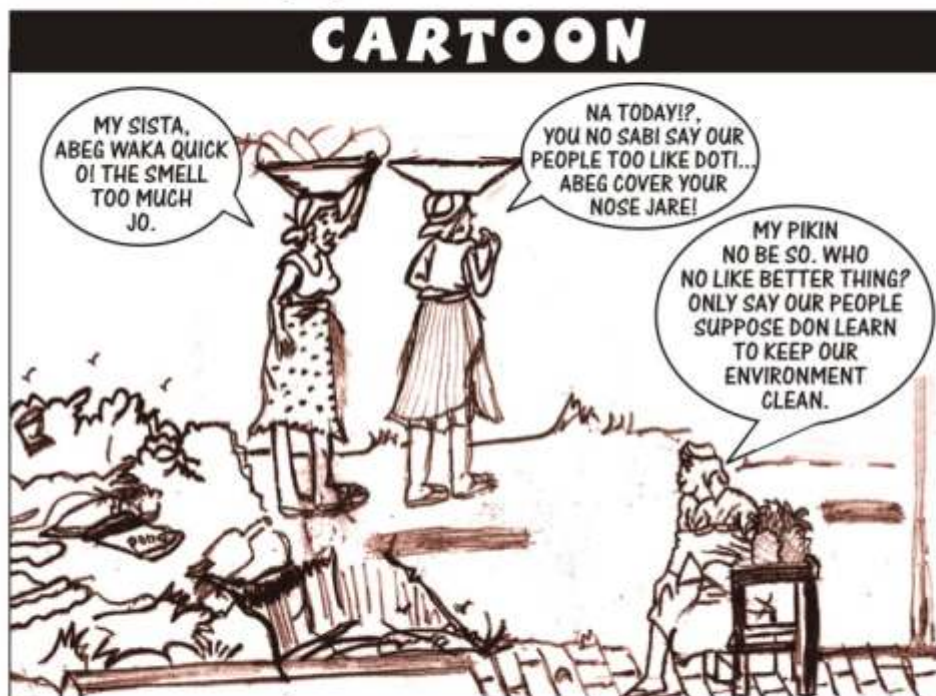
❖ Mrs Tolulope Ogboru

Mrs. Ogboru is a law lecturer at the University of Jos, Plateau State.

She holds an LLB and LLM degrees in Law and is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Jos.

Her interest in the environment stems from an innate desire to ensure that the environment is clean. It is this desire that has led to her PhD focus on Air Pollution

All comments relating to articles published in ELRI News are to be forwarded to editorelrinews@elri-ng.org



Contributions to ELRI News

ELRI welcomes articles on contemporary environmental issues from individuals and corporate organisations for publication in *ELRI News*. Contributions should not be more than 300 words, font type Arial, font size - 12 points; with full names and email addresses of author. Same should be sent as attachment to

info@elri-ng.org

elri2008@yahoo.com

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All donations / support materials will be formally acknowledged.

For further information, please contact us at:

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elri2008@yahoo.com

Please call us on: +234- 1-8990760.

ELRI's Membership

To become a member, visit our website - www.elri-ng.org and complete the membership form online or pick up a form at our corporate office. Your membership of the Institute entitles you to the following benefits:

- Allocated e-mail address based on domain name
- Access to diary of upcoming events
- Complimentary copy of newsletter
- 50% discount on publications of the Institute
- Access to articles on current legal issues
- Discount to attend all programmes of the Institute.

We wish to extend our appreciation to the following individuals who have contributed to ELRI's vision and objectives.

APPRECIATION

- Mr Enahoro Gregory, Esq.

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