

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE - FORGIVENESS”**

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Evaluating strategies for sustainable development and climate change mitigation: Green/Greed line, Fuzzy logic reasoning and sensitivity analysis*

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Abstract

Climate change mitigation and sustainable decision-making involve political decisions at the local, regional, or national levels, which aim at a balanced development of socio-environmental systems. A fundamental question in sustainable decision-making is that of defining and measuring sustainable development. Many methods have been proposed to assess sustainability. Recently, we developed a method called Sustainability Assessment by Fuzzy Evaluation (SAFE), which uses fuzzy logic reasoning and basic sustainability, and derives measures of human, ecological, and overall sustainability. In this paper, we perform sensitivity analysis of the SAFE model to identify the most important factors contributing to sustainable development and climate change. About eighty different indicators are tested to a number of selected economies and classified as promoting, impeding, or having no effect on the progress toward sustainable development. The conclusion is that there is no unique sustainable path and, accordingly, policy makers should choose different criteria and strategies to make efficient sustainable decisions for each country.

Keywords: Sustainable development; Climate change, Decision-making; Indicators of sustainability; Fuzzy logic.

* Research supported in part by a State Foundation Scholarship (I.K.Y.) of Greece and the Technical University of Crete, Greece.

¹ Corresponding author and founder of the SAFE methodology.

Abstract for
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Submitted by: Lesya Sabada

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The Palm Oil Paradox: The Effects of Habitat Destruction in Borneo

The United Nations Environmental Programme states that palm oil plantations are the leading causes of rainforest destruction on the island of Borneo. The burning of forests to clear land for palm oil plantations is a major cause of air pollution in Southeast Asia. Research shows that 20% of all global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels come from rainforest destruction. This region accounts for much of the global production of palm oil, yet the deforestation for the establishment of palm oil plantations is responsible for the devastating impact on indigenous communities, tropical forests, plants, and animals.

This presentation will particularly focus on the impact palm oil plantations have on the Bornean orangutan and the work of Birute Galdikas, a well-known Canadian woman in the field of primatology, and the leading world authority on orangutans. Galdikas is a world class conservationist, yet her work extends beyond advocacy. Today her work largely focuses on the rehabilitation of the orphaned orangutan in Tanjung Puting National Reserve.

The Woman with the Alabaster Jar: The Forgiven Sinner

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I lift up the Woman with the Alabaster Jar of Luke's Gospel chapter 7. The Pharisee saw her as a sinner because according to Pharisaic Laws she was. Jesus, the Honoured Teacher at the Pharisee's house agrees. He says the Woman has sinned much and is forgiven much. I explore the importance of forgiveness and the importance of opposing laws that prevent people from showing hospitality, love, and justice to their neighbour. Roman Catholic tradition used to be conflate this Woman with Mary Magdalene claiming that Mary Magdalene was the Sinner forgiven for her great love for the Teacher. In recent years, many people have opposed Roman Catholic tradition because too many Christians were exploiting the image of Mary Magdalene in a negative way to gain power over women and people of other races and faiths. I oppose both the modern and the old exploited views (Vogt Turner 2011).² I maintain that this Woman is the bitterly treated Woman of the Gospel who overcame and rose with the Honoured Teacher as the Christ. She earned the title "Mary" because of the way people bitterly treated her for "breaking" God's ancient Patriarchal laws that scholars and priests were using to chastise and exclude women and their Gentile and Samaritan neighbours from the Great Banquet of Life ...where God's Love and Eco-Justice is for all. She earned the title the "Magdalene" because she is a tower of strength and a Great Light, a Torch that the Teacher elevates and their beloveds cherish.

Keywords: Patriarchal Laws, Forgiveness, God's Love, Eco-Justice

² Vogt Turner, L. (2011). *Mary Magdalene: Her image and relationship to Jesus* (Master's project, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada). Retrieved from http://summit.sfu.ca/system/files/iritems1/12048/etd6959_LVogtTurner.pdf

An Impact Evaluation of Cereal Banking as a Rainfall and Price Variability Risk Management Strategy against Food Insecurity in The Gambia.

There is an increasing body of knowledge that suggest that climate change and climate variability will have negative impacts on food production and food price uncertainty. As a result, the argument for and the practice of keeping food reserves has re-emerged on the global agenda. Cereal banking is a risk management strategy that have been employed to generate local level savings with the purpose of smoothing consumption, especially during lean periods, providing a buffer when disaster strike and a guard against food price fluctuations. It is a widely practiced community based risk management strategy in arid and semiarid regions of the world.

Using propensity score matching and econometric regression (OLS) from 134 villages, 604 households and 980 children, we compare a set of Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) outcomes and drivers between treated and control villages, households and children.

Our results show that villages that are poorer, affected by higher price and rainfall risks and less integrated in markets are more likely to choose cereal banking schemes. Our analysis show that communities that operate functional cereal banking scheme have better FNS and livelihood outcomes and are more resilient to shocks than those without cereal banking. Significant impacts were noted in the enhancement to food availability drivers such as yields, farming implements ownership and fertilizer applied. The level of malnutrition was also significantly better for children below five in treated than control villages. The severity and frequency of using coping strategies used was also more adverse in control villages.

Raymond Jatta: Key works, Cereal Banking

The Pacific Solution – A Catastrophe for the Pacific!????

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Since the notion of climate change and sea-level rise is being discussed amongst scientists and policy makers the fear that many people in the Pacific Islands might become homeless as a result of climate change has entered academic and policy debates. It is difficult to say who is more afraid: politicians of countries that are potential destinations of environmental refugees or the affected people, who realize that it is not at all a pleasure to become a refugee.

Recent events around asylum seekers wanting to come to Australia and ended in an Australian immigration detention centre on Manus Island of Papua New Guinea shows that fears to become who are not welcome in their new homes are not unjustified. Conflicting reports are that either refugee had tried to escape from the detention center or that PNG police and locals entered the compounds with weapons and attacked detainees (The Guardian, Feb. 19 2014).

An interesting twist of this episode of Australian immigration policy and Australia's *Pacific Solution* to unwanted irregular immigrants is that there are plans to settle the refugees in Papua New Guinea for good. Australian Immigration Minister said "detainees 'became agitated and commenced chanting' after they were informed they would be resettled in PNG and 'a third country option will not be offered'" (Agence France, Feb. 17, 2014).

In 2001 the Australian Government started its *Pacific Solution*, a policy that should prevent refugees arriving on boat in Australia to seek (and achieve) the status of refugees. Three major elements have been implemented: 1) thousands of islands have been excluded from Australian territory, 2) the Australian navy strictly controls the maritime borders of the country and intercepts boats carrying refugees, and 3) the Australian Government established detention centers on Manus Island (PNG) and Nauru providing security and other support to these centers and increasing aid to the respective countries

Titre : Analyse du processus visant à l'amélioration de l'échelle d'assainissement à Madagascar : cas du Programme FAA mené par l'association AINGA MADAGASCAR

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Résumé :

Madagascar a un taux de desserte en assainissement parmi le plus faible dans le monde avec seulement 15% de la population ayant accès à la latrine améliorée. Les conséquences socioéconomiques sont désastreuses aussi bien pour les ménages que pour le pays. Le but de notre recherche était d'identifier les facteurs déterminant de l'adoption des comportements favorables à l'assainissement.

La recherche évaluative du programme FAA mis en oeuvre par AINGA MADAGASCAR dans la Région de Vatovavy Fitovinany permet de dire que le changement de comportements favorables à l'assainissement dépend surtout des zones et des acteurs. Le taux de mortalité infantile causée par les maladies diarrhéiques est en corrélation négative avec le nombre de latrines mises en place dans les zones d'intervention.

Les résultats de la présente recherche permettraient à apporter une amélioration aux programmes d'assainissement.

Mots clés : assainissement, défécation à l'air libre, latrines, processus

Titre : Renforcement de la résilience des communautés vulnérables par la mise en place des infrastructures adaptées

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Résumé :

La plupart des régions de Madagascar sont exposées à des diverses catastrophes naturelles tels que le cyclone, l'inondation, sécheresse,... Les populations sont pauvres et vivent dans des conditions socio-économiques inférieures au seuil de la pauvreté. Ces communautés vulnérables sont souvent forcées de subsister jour après jour et n'ont pas le temps pour maintenir ou reconstruire les infrastructures existantes. Sans aucune aide externe, le gouvernement malgache n'arrive pas à satisfaire les besoins relatifs aux infrastructures essentielles du peuple. Parfois, les infrastructures ne répondent pas aux besoins de la communauté. Les interventions ne considèrent pas nécessairement la vulnérabilité de la population. La présente recherche vise à contribuer à l'amélioration des conditions de vie pour rendre résilientes les communautés vulnérables en installant les infrastructures essentielles adaptées à leur situation de vulnérabilité.

Mots clés : infrastructure essentielle, les communautés vulnérables, résilience, catastrophes naturelles

Title: Religious values, conservation, and ecotourism: Lessons in sustainable development from Asia, implications for Africa.

Daniel M. Cartledge, Ph.D.

What role can religious-based values play in community development efforts that are focused on helping the most poor and on decreasing inequality in rural communities in projects that also have an important focus on conservation and environmental protection? This paper/presentation will compare and contrast examples of conservation and ecotourism-based development initiatives that have had some measure of success in East, Central, and South Asia and consider the implications of developing similar projects in Eastern Africa. These case study comparisons are based on this researcher's first-hand experience in both Africa and Asia. Included in the paper/presentation will be cases from Nepal, Southwest China, Kyrgyzstan, and Southern Ethiopia. The relative conservation impact of such projects, the role of religious (and other community) leaders, the measurable improvement in alleviating poverty, and the relative replicability of these projects in new locations and differing communities will be considered in the larger context of sustainable alternatives for poverty reduction and eco-justice.

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RÉSUMÉ

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Titre : « Changement climatique et capacité des forêts à fournir les produits forestiers alimentaires : la population locale s'adapte aux impacts sur leur sécurité alimentaire. Cas du Menabe central Madagascar »

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Des visions plus élargies considérant les utilisations des ressources naturelles par les populations riveraines qui en dépendent sont adoptées actuellement par les diverses politiques internationales pour une meilleure gestion de la biodiversité. Dans le Menabe central, outre les bois, les terrains agricoles et les divers services environnementaux, les forêts sont utilisées comme sources de produits forestiers non ligneux (plantes médicinales, tubercules, miel, gibiers,...) contribuant à la sécurité alimentaire. Toutefois, situé sur la côte sud-ouest de Madagascar, le Menabe figure parmi les zones les plus affectées par le changement climatique qui est déjà palpable à travers la violence des cyclones, le retard ou l'insuffisance des pluies ainsi que la sécheresse accentuée augmentant la vulnérabilité des forêts aux feux. Ces variations climatiques ont des répercussions sur la productivité forestière et présentent des impacts sur la sécurité alimentaire dans la zone, notamment dans le monde rural qui dépend largement des ressources naturelles. Face à cette situation, les villageois adaptent leurs stratégies de prélèvements des produits forestiers pour assurer aussi durablement que possible leur sécurité alimentaire.

Mots clés : population riveraine – produits forestiers alimentaires – sécurité alimentaire – productivité – stratégies – Menabe central - Madagascar

**Toward Sustainable Communities:
The Role of Sustainable Development in Improving Social Life
(Case Study: Fishermen Village in Al Max, Alexandria)**

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Abstract

The environment has a major impact on people's life such as the quality of the air and water that people consume, the availability and quality of the food, the level of hazard or risk, physical safety, and access to as well as control over resources.

The focus of this paper is on the built environment as an important part of creating socially sustainable communities while environmental problems (Industry, air pollution, water pollution, Global Warming can causes a major social and economic problems such as poverty, unemployment, crime...etc. Firstly, the research is focusing on the Social problems caused by environmental degradation in unplanned areas and how can these problems be solved through sustainable design. Secondly, it examines this issue through tackling some examples such as *Al Darab Al Ahmar* in Cairo, Egypt followed by analyze the social problems in *Fishermen Village in Al Max*, Alexandria, Egypt as a case study using the Natural Step (TNS) sustainability framework.

Keywords: the Natural Step (TNS) framework, Ecological design impact , sustainable communities

Poverty Reduction Through Promoting Local Resources in Kalikot, Nepal

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Background

The presentation aims to highlight the importance of ‘Poverty Reduction through Promoting Local Resources in Kalikot, Nepal in remote hilly district of Karnali Zone Nepal and the ways to make it vibrant. Himalayan Community Resource Development Centre (HCRDC) has been campaigning for generation of local natural/human/commercial resources and their protection, promotion, conservation to promote natural beauty, ecological/ecosystem balance and to promote the livelihood of the marginalized communities through income generation schemes. We are encouraging to produce high value add product (HVAP) in the district. Coordinating with other local CSOs (Civil Society Organizations), governmental local bodies and line agencies; we are promoting biodiversity and adopting local initiatives to resist the climate change. We have focused on women empowerment through inclusion, mainstreaming, participation and capacity development. Government of Nepal has developed policies and strategies for the meaningful participation of women in governance and development initiatives. We are working in local communities since 2004 following the think globally and act locally with full of volunteerism and social development spirit on sustainable development. We are advocating its benefit through different campaigns including mobilizing media, political parties, local clubs focusing greater involvement of male and youth.

HCRDC is one of the pioneers on poverty reduction, local resource mobilization, sustainable development. Thus, the initiatives of remote local area have become significantly visible in addressing and advocating poverty issues as per the present day mandate.

Objectives

Main objective of the presentation is to emphasize the importance of functional local level initiatives in making poverty reduction issues visible and to disseminate its learning among interested and similar goal oriented stakeholders.

Methods/strategies

Focus Group Discussion, Interactive interview, document/report review, progress report of different projects and DDC (District Development Committee) reports’ and other stakeholders have been consulted, studied and analyzed. HCRDC regularly participates DDC planning, monitoring and evaluation activities, and also invites stakeholders for the same. We have successfully implemented many projects viz: Rural Community Infrastructures Work (RCIW);

Support the Distribution of Agriculture Inputs and Training Activities; Renewal Energy Development Program (REDP); Tree Plantation and Environment Development Project; Poverty Alleviation Through Integrated Development (PAID); Sustainable Soil Management Program (SSMP); Social Mobilization/ Local governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP); Piloting Public Financial Management tools in Kalikot District; Tourism Promotion through Local Culture Development; Disaster Risk Reduction Program coordinating with different donors, external development partners and stakeholders.

Results

Livelihood related activities are very supportive to reduce poverty and to enhance socio-development activities. School enrollment of children, school retention rate have been increased, the migration, landslide/fire events have been decreased. Local value added products have been common in local and neighborhood markets. We capacitated women and made their involvement meaningful in any forum. Formations of Women's Groups, Women's Cooperatives, and Women's Caucus have been rapidly growing up. Women's empowerments have reduced male's hegemony in home and communities and supported to reduce poverty for sustainable development.

Additionally, government of Nepal seems keen in addressing and advocating poverty related issues. It is the priority one development agenda of the country. This has been reflected in governments' planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. However, the implementation of its obligation by the government is to be further enhanced. Thus, HCRDC role will be crucial in joining hands with local governance agencies on sustainable development and mainstreaming poor in development initiatives and sharing its fruits with them. Furthermore, as the gap between have and have not has been felt by wider members of the society and to break the vicious consequence of poverty in orthodox societies. We are united to create viable situation in reducing poverty and strengthening biodiversity through local resource management, good governance, while realizing the urgent need to develop framework for post MDG era in the developing countries like Nepal.

Future directions

Proper utilization of natural resources, coordinated and collaborative efforts of development partners and CSOs, good governance and mainstreaming poverty reduction targeted to marginalized communities support to have effective results. The empowered women and the population group play crucial role to enjoy public services and benefits and create the healthy home and environment. Mutual respect, participation, value adding initiatives are the catalyzing agents for rapid and balance growth of the societies and to reduce poverty in sustainable manner. Media, formal and informal education, income generation schemes and exposure visit and interactions which are very effective tools and techniques of advocacy need to be continued.

Title: “Wind Energy as an Alternative to Hell-hole and Embracing Wild Animal Life”

Prof.Tushar Kanti Saha

National University of Lesotho

An Abstract

Wind energy has been in use for more than 2000 years. In finding solutions to fossil fuel dependency and clean sources of energy, wind is emerging as a clear answer and popularly regarded as a sustainable option. The twin tower of strength in wind energy is that it does not use any fuel and it does not emit any climate warming gases. The most efficient wind farms can generate electricity at about 3 cents per kilowatt per hour, comparable to coal —the cheapest energy source available. Wind is a much more sustainable and clean compared to polluting coal plants.

Wind and solar power as non-conventional cost-effective renewable sources of eco-friendly energy are making rounds as ground-breaking news. While wind energy has become a growing source of energy, many detractors argue that wind turbines are dangerous for local avian life and that wind turbines are a form of “visual pollution”. The death of avian life is perhaps one of the most common arguments against wind farms. New technology has created wind turbines that use larger blades and move at much slower speeds, which allows birds to avoid the blades altogether. And of course, the location of the turbines is also important. With the help of ornithologists, companies building wind turbines can make sure to avoid migratory routes or nesting areas. An estimated 57 million birds are killed each year by cars, wind turbines are far less dangerous than automobiles for the bird population. In fact, there are more bird deaths caused by birds flying into windows than killed by wind turbines these days (about 98 million annually)³. However, the negative effects of offshore wind turbines’ vibrations on animals using sonar is another concern posited by environmentalists and animal welfare groups. The American-based *Acoustic Ecology Institute* found wind farms add 80-110dB (re 1uPa) to the existing low-frequency ambient noise (under 400Hz); this could adversely affect baleen whale communication and add to their stress levels. Marine conservancy groups continue to investigate the consequences of offshore wind turbines on marine animals and birds.

The Paper proposes to examine the legal and policy implications based on scientific evidence to show side effects of wind energy tapping and its comparative advantage as an alternative source of energy considering the fact that culprit fossil fuels must exit in favour of more eco-friendly technology both in mitigation, compensation and management in the era of climate change affecting the web of life on this planet.

³ Source: Green Energy Ohio

Titre : Analyse systémique des facteurs influençant le développement rural : cas des projets communautaires menés par L'ASSOCIATION AINGA MADAGASCAR

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Résumé :

Madagascar a adopté le concept du développement durable pour atteindre les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement. Comme, il est formé essentiellement par des communautés rurales, ces dernières devraient donc à cet effet, respecter un équilibre entre la croissance économique, l'égalité sociale, le respect de l'environnement et la participation citoyenne.

Est-ce que ces communautés partagent le même avis que leurs dirigeants dans ce sens ? Pourquoi y a-t-il de changement ? Quels sont les facteurs de changement ?

En supposant que la communauté rurale est un système, on vise à mettre en exergue les facteurs qui peuvent conduire au changement pour que les communautés soient des acteurs dans leur processus de développement durable en prenant le cas des projets communautaires menés par l'Association AINGA MADAGASCAR.

Mots clés : développement, changement, communautés rurales, système

Amélioration de la qualité chimique des sols de tanety mis en culture par apport des matières organiques exogènes.

Marie Virginie Falinirina⁽¹⁾, Lilia Rabeharisoa⁽²⁾, Harilala Andriamaniraka⁽³⁾, Diamondra RAZAIVAOVOLOLONIAINA⁽⁴⁾, Voahiraniaina RAZAFINTSALAMA⁽⁴⁾, Nicolas RANDRIAMANDRATONIRINA⁽⁴⁾, Dominique Masse⁽⁵⁾

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RESUME

Gérer les ressources naturelles de manière rationnelle pour assurer une production durable, tel est le défi des producteurs dans les pays en voie de développement. Assurer une sécurité alimentaire durable et accroître la production agricole furent des nouvelles perspectives dans un objectif de lutte contre la pauvreté. Augmenter la production alimentaire durable exigera une prévention de la dégradation des sols et restauration des sols dégradés. A Madagascar, les pertes en matière organique des sols, suite à une mauvaise gestion des résidus de récoltes et aux faibles restitutions de résidus de récolte généralement brûlés ou exportés des parcelles pour l'alimentation du bétail en période de sécheresse induit une détérioration de la fertilité chimique des sols et de leur stabilité structurale. Cette étude a pour objectif d'étudier l'effet des apports organiques associés ou non à des apports d'engrais minéraux sur l'évolution des propriétés chimiques des sols. Avec la culture de maïs, une expérimentation aux champs a été menée à Lazaina. Deux facteurs ont été testés, un facteur apport de matière organique et un facteur apport d'engrais chimique NPK avec ou sans apport organique. Les matières organiques testées sont le fumier; le terreau d'Andralanitra, produit issu d'un criblage de déchets urbains; et le compost de déchets d'abattoir, de sciure de bois et de déchets verts. Les doses d'apport organiques ont été testées. Ces doses ont été définies pour obtenir des quantités d'éléments majeurs C, N, P apportés équivalentes à celles apportées par la dose de fumier de référence 7,5 t.ha⁻¹. L'apport organique et minéral n'a pas d'effet sur le maintien de statut organique des sols qui serait légèrement modifié par l'action de mise en culture avec l'enfouissement du « *bozaka* ». L'apport de phosphore sous forme inorganique a augmenté le phosphore Olsen des sols, tandis que le phosphore sous forme organique a un effet sur la teneur en phosphore Olsen des sols dans le cas de fortes quantités d'apport organique.

Mots clés : Production durable, apport organique, apport minéral, fertilité chimique

Islamic modes of finance and its impact on reducing poverty in the Islamic world: Malaysian experience model

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Abstract :

The Islamic finance and economy is one of the most important themes that began to impose its presence on both academic and professional domains, researchers and specialists in economic and financial fields indicated, in particular, after the economic and financial repeated crises at the beginning of the 21st century. The emergence of Islamic solution as an alternative model in which to override the current economic crises and to avoid future crises on the financial and economic levels, especially with the success achieved by the experiences of some Islamic States as the Malaysian experience, and some Western countries like the experience of Islamic banking in England.

On the other hand, poverty is one of the most important and the most serious problems facing the economic world, which this last, is the strategically objective for many economic programs development of the ruler by international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The eradication and exclusion of poverty is on the top of the list of Millennium objectives development. Moreover, many of policies and strategies were set to combat this phenomenon to reduce the number of poor people in the world to the half by the year 2015/

Starting from the idea that Islamic Economics is considered as a solution and an alternative model for economic crises and problems. We decided, in our research, to focus on the impacts and the benefits that can accrue to the poor classes in Islamic countries by applying varieties of Islamic finance modes as speculative, farmer, musaqatEtc. the problem of the study as follows:

How can various of Islamic finance modes contribute to poverty alleviation in Islamic countries?

Through this study, the theoretical side was tackled as a first step. In this part, we dealt with the main theories that explained the phenomenon of poverty as well as the international and local policies and strategies in Islamic countries that used to combat and minimize it. We then talk about Islamic finance especially Islamic finance modes including old widespread versions in the books of Fiqh and Hadith as well as the new one that has been issuing fatwas on their availability by Fiqh Councils and Centers for Research in Islamic Economics as an Islamic Fiqh. In addition, we tried to link the application of Islamic finance modes within the framework of Islamic finance and combat poverty in Islamic countries by demonstrating the scientific and

practical efficiency of Islamic finance to reducing poverty rates in the Islamic world. To offer in the last the major Malaysian experience.

Keywords: poverty, Islamic finance, Islamic financing

Title: The Role of the Global Network of Religions for Children in Fighting Poverty Among Children.

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Proposal Abstract

The Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) is the only global network of NGO's and CSO's that mobilises faith-based resources and institutions to exclusively address the plight of children worldwide. Under the aegis of Arigatou International (Japan), the GNRC has been implementing child welfare programs for the past twelve years, across four continents, where child poverty has been a priority focus.

This paper aims at highlighting the role of the GNRC in its endeavour to develop creative alternatives to combat child poverty. More precisely, it briefly attempts to address five key questions as follows: (a) why policymakers should make child poverty a priority? (b) Why partnering with religions is necessary to achieve social justice? (c) What are the long term impact of child poverty on the economy and society at large? (d) What role the GNRC played in fighting child poverty? (e) Why the GNRC is a privileged partner for organisations willing to combat poverty or promote children's welfare at large.

To achieve the above aims, the paper adduces concrete examples of GNRC engagement on the field in the domain of poverty reduction among children. An introductory presentation of the Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (IIECP) is made followed by two case studies, namely: (i) the India Poverty Solution 2013, which aims to stand up with one million children across seventeen Indian States and (ii) the IIECP engagement with the poor children of Kibera, which is the largest slum of the eastern and southern Africa. The paper ends with a discussion of the major challenges involved in working with different religious communities across the faiths spectrum and the specific challenges of working with poor children and policy recommendations.

PAPER TITLE: GLOBAL CRISIS, ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: COMPLEXITIES, CHALLENGES, AND OPTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Poverty Reduction is the leading development agenda item of most developing countries evidenced by increasing awareness of cross cutting issues of gender, environment and governance. Currently the world is experiencing an economic recession due to neo liberalism magnified by policy failure and lax regulations in ADCs, slowed growth in emerging markets, and, energy and food crises in LDCs leading to unsustainable development patterns.

Sustainability is attainable if a poverty reduction approach involving multiple stakeholders is initiated. Alternative approaches focusing on socio-economic and ecological justice provides moral guidance for resource targeting. The entry point for the church in the fight against poverty was the current global crisis that gives more power and voice to the rich and powerful within and between nations.

Therefore, a just system facilitates clarity of vision, collective decision making and joint promotion of the interests of individuals and society thereby promoting equality and broad based/pro poor growth. A just approach prevents poor people from being exploited and offers an alternative developmental path premised on cooperation, equality and fairness. Poor people contribute heavily towards environmental degradation and uplifting their socio economic status facilitates environmental sustainability, preserves ecological balance and promotes Christian values of liberty and healing.

Finally the paper contends that the approach offers a viable alternative by promoting social responsibility, human rights and freedoms. It draws practical examples from the church specifically, the Catholic Commission for Justice, Development and Peace in Zambia in spearheading the poverty fight and recommends the need to reform the global system.

M.K. Gandhi and the social and ecological crisis

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The earth has enough resources for our need, but not for our greed.

Social and environmental conditions are deteriorating in many parts of the developing world. What we call development often leads to environmental degradation and economic exploitation. It is doubtful, if sustainable development can be achieved without fundamentally changing the ethical dimension economies of based upon.

M.K. Gandhi contributed much to an ethics that put social and ecological considerations in the centre of economic purpose. M.K. Gandhi fundamentally opposed the *laissez-faire* capitalism of the late 19th century. In *Hind Swaraj* M.K. Gandhi provides a fundamental critique of western civilization, where the economy has lost its ethical foundation, where development is understood as unhindered growth which on one side leads to increasing standards of living for some, but at the same time to poverty and environmental destruction.

Gandhi's economic ideas greatly influenced the Sarvodaya – Movement in Sri Lanka and the Ujamaa Movement in Tanzania. In India itself Gandhian thoughts first influenced the Bhoodan/Gramdan Movements in the 1950s and the Indian opposition movement against the rule of Indira Gandhi under JP Narayan in the 1970s.

Globally Gandhi's economic thoughts influenced many including Johan Galtung E. F. Schumacher, and Arne Naess. The latter one developed his approach of 'Deep Ecology' being very close to Gandhi's ideas of *Swaraj* (self-rule) as the only way to *Ramraj* (the rule of god). Like Gandhi deep ecologists have an intrinsic, fundamental objection to industrialism, and not only to its excesses like shallow ecologists.

Title of Presentation/Poetry Reading --

Qatar's Quranic Botanic Garden and Desert

Ecology: Poems from the Heart of the Arabian Desert

Diana Woodcock

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Qatar's biosphere, like that of many other countries today, is in crisis due to the country's radical economic expansion as it supplies oil and gas to the world and prepares to host the 2020 World Cup. Because of this, and in anticipation of the opening of Qatar's UNESCO-sponsored Quranic Botanic Garden (the purpose of which is to maintain for scientific and educational purposes a living collection of Qatar's 270-plus indigenous plants and to showcase the 52 mentioned more than once in the Quran), I have been preparing a poetry manuscript that features the ecology and flora of this tiny country jutting out into the Arabian Gulf. Having lived for ten years now in this oil-rich land at the edge of the Arabian Desert, I have become increasingly interested in local and global conservation issues, and in how these issues impact the most impoverished members of society. The Arabic concept of *hema*, loosely translated as the nomadic sense of respect and protection of the environment, is neglected as the country is being overdeveloped. Qatar has gone from being one of the poorest countries to being one of the richest in the world due to the discovery of oil. Previously, it was dominated by nomadic and semi-nomadic people dependent on fishing, pearling, camel breeding and dhow construction. Now numbered among the world's wealthiest, the Qatari people rely on an expatriate workforce made up of the poorest members of India, Pakistan, the Philippines and other impoverished nations to toil in inhospitable conditions to build their roads, hotels, houses, etc.

For ten years, I have been going out into Qatar's desert on a regular basis to observe and record Qatar's flora. Currently a PhD candidate (Creative Writing) at Lancaster University, I have chosen two major questions to drive my research: Why have such devout Muslims strayed so far from the environmental ethic of the Quran? And what can poetry and botanical gardens accomplish that a scientific treatise or textbook cannot? The interdisciplinary aspects of my research include botany, cultural studies, and Islamic studies. These, coupled with field visits, observation, and interviews with the nine Qatar Foundation and UNESCO employees assigned to the Quranic Botanic Garden and members of the multidisciplinary scientific team developing and implementing the plans for the garden—specialists in Islam, Islamic art, botany, and the environment—inform the poems for this proposed reading.

The poetry reading I propose will feature some of the poems from my work-in-progress, *Desert Ecology: Poems from the Heart of the Arabian Desert*, a collection of poetry promoting a greater appreciation of and commitment to protecting not only the unique environment of the Arabian Peninsula, but other equally endangered ecosystems around the world. My goal is to

emphasize that when we abuse the land, we contribute to an increase in poverty and a deterioration of health of our fellow human beings.

AFRICA AS A CONTINENT OF DISASTERS AND CRISES: AN ANALYSIS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

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Abstract

Africa is neither poor nor developing, it is impoverished. Africa has a lot of material and human resources but for centuries, it has been forced to provide resources to the so-called “developed” world. This researched paper attempts to unravel the underlying factors for the perpetual disasters and crises in such a rich continent. The paper reveals that they are not a natural phenomenon, but social, economic and political constructs rooted in the erosion, denial and in some cases suppression of African cultures, resources and humanity. They are largely external but internally African’s are not blameless. The paper concludes that Africa has enough resources to deal with her challenges provided the historical distortions that have caused disasters and crises in Africa are dealt with legally and ethically. And also recommends deconstructions of these social, economic and political constructs taking high regard of appropriate solutions from Africans because there can be no meaningful development outside one’s culture.

Keywords: Africa, Disasters, Development, Challenges, Opportunities.

Designing an Efficient Decentralized Water Treatment System to Treat Municipal Supply Water

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Abstract

The water sanitation crisis is the greatest public health problem that the world is facing at this point of time. The Dublin Conference stated that “it is vital to first recognize the basic right of all human beings to have access to clean water and sanitation at an affordable price”(ICWE, 1992). Problems with drinking water in developing and transition countries concern microbial pollutants, along with organic and inorganic chemical pollutants (Ashbolt, 2004). Household piped water supplies are generally untreated, are not treated properly or become re-contaminated during distribution and storage (UNICEF & WHO, 2009). Decentralized drinking water systems are an important element in the process of reaching the Millennium Development Goals (UN, 2006). Point of use drinking water treatment involves two steps: water purification and water disinfection. The goal is to develop a Decentralized Household Water Treatment and Storage System (HWTS) that provides purer, safer, accessible and affordable drinking water without removing essential and healthy minerals to household, along with awareness of sanitation and hygiene without disrupting the lifestyle of the communities being helped. Survey and sampling of supply water was conducted to know consumers preferences and expectations in household water treatment and storage systems for drinking water and to be familiar with the community tap water quality. A novel renewable organic adsorbent from agricultural wastes (Rice husk Ash) was used for mitigation of inorganic metallic toxicants and the biocidal effect of metallic copper was investigated for effective eradication of microorganisms from municipal supply water. The Rice Husk Ash adsorbent was prepared and characterized with surface modification by hydrochloric acid and calcinations for selective metal ion adsorption. The real time disinfection application of metallic copper on *E.coli* and *Salmonella* microbiologically-contaminated water was examined within 2hrs time. This was achieved with low costs, ease of use, sustainability, low maintenance, and independence of services (energy sources) or dependent on renewable sources – Solar energy as boundary conditions. The household treatment unit is designed with such an approach that can provide safe drinking water to small and mid-size communities like urban slums, offices, schools, apartment complexes etc. The positives and negatives of each existing HWTS device have been kept in mind before putting together the concept.

Keywords: Drinking water, Household Water Treatment, Adsorption, Disinfection, Rice husk ash, Copper

Thème : Augmentation de revenu des paysans de la Région d'Amoron'i Mania par amélioration de système de production de lapin

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Madagascar est un des pays en voie de développement à vocation agricole, avec une croissance démographique importante. Cet accroissement démographique entraîne des problèmes de pauvreté qui est due à la maîtrise inadéquate des techniques de production. Face à la recrudescence des vols de bœufs, la population malgache a adopté d'autres solutions d'élevage à cycle court. L'élevage de lapin est une source de revenu sérieuse et pourra récompenser l'insuffisance de protéine animale dans l'alimentation quotidienne. Grâce à sa prolificité élevée et son cycle de production très court, les lapines ont des potentiels de production intéressants. L'investissement nécessaire pour ce type d'élevage n'est pas élevé. Cette étude a pour objectif d'évaluer le système de production de lapin dans la Région d'Amoron'i Mania. L'approche méthodologique adoptée était des enquêtes et observations sur terrain auprès de 100 paysans dans cette Région. Les données socio-économiques et les techniques d'élevage de lapin sont collectées auprès des éleveurs. Le niveau d'étude très bas des éleveurs influence la mauvaise maîtrise de la technique de cuniculture. La majorité des éleveurs ne possède pas de clapier mais la maison d'élevage est combinée avec l'habitation humaine. Les lapins cohabitent entre eux sans distinction par statut. Seulement les feuilles vertes sont les aliments distribués sans considération du besoin des animaux par statut. Les éleveurs ne font pas de traitement en cas de maladie. Malgré la pratique encore traditionnelle et système de production familiale, cette activité est rentable pour la population d'Amoron'i Mania, mais à faible source de revenu. L'encadrement et la formation des éleveurs sur la technique de cuniculture sont primordiales et nécessaires.

Mot clés : cuniculture, prolificité, système de production, habitation, alimentation, Amoron'i Mania

Nature Gift-Cactus Pear; All weather Plant: In Environment Protection & Human welfare

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Cactus bears colorful flowers and fruits yet because of its thorny nature it was always looked with suspension and gifted with a label “Handle with care”. This fear psychology has hampered to exploit cactus potential for a long. But today we have data of its chemical constituents; phenol, flavonoids, sugar and minerals present in juice, pulp, leafy pad. It is interesting to note that a number of amino acid like taurine is present in it. In recent time an increased interest in its antioxidant activity and health improving capacity has been registered. To name few it exhibits neuroprotective actions against the oxidative injuries, it decreases platelet activity their by providing beneficial actions on cardiovascular system. Its protective spectrum include; anticancer, antiviral, anti-inflammatory and anti-diabetic. Cactus has been also used to treat; ulcers, allergies, fatigue, rheumatism and diuretic.

On the functional food & nutraceutical front, it is good source of fiber, juice is rich in minerals and pulp is now part of specialize ice cream, jelly, candy and many. To look in to its art of “inside” actions, it is interesting to re-observe its chemical profile with presence of sulfur amino acid; taurine in significantly high concentration (572.1mg/L of pulp). Taurine; 2- amino ethane sulfonic acid; has role in protective effect of organs dysfunctions. It is involve in “host defense” and also refer as nutraceutical. It is perhaps logical to conclude that taurine is the major contributor to its antioxidant and other beneficial properties. This plant is also loved by live stock and it is rich source of water for animals under dry conditions. In coming decades this plant can be analogies to the multiple uses of Aloe or even more.

Islamic modes of finance and its impact on reducing poverty in the Islamic world: Malaysian experience model

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Abstract :

The Islamic finance and economy is one of the most important themes that began to impose its presence on both academic and professional domains, researchers and specialists in economic and financial fields indicated, in particular, after the economic and financial repeated crises at the beginning of the 21st century. The emergence of Islamic solution as an alternative model in which to override the current economic crises and to avoid future crises on the financial and economic levels, especially with the success achieved by the experiences of some Islamic States as the Malaysian experience, and some Western countries like the experience of Islamic banking in England.

On the other hand, poverty is one of the most important and the most serious problems facing the economic world, which this last, is the strategically objective for many economic programs development of the ruler by international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The eradication and exclusion of poverty is on the top of the list of Millennium objectives development. Moreover, many of policies and strategies were set to combat this phenomenon to reduce the number of poor people in the world to the half by the year 2015.

Starting from the idea that Islamic Economics is considered as a solution and an alternative model for economic crises and problems. We decided, in our research, to focus on the impacts and the benefits that can accrue to the poor classes in Islamic countries by applying varieties of Islamic finance modes as speculative, farmer, musaqat Etc. the problem of the study as follows:

How can several of Islamic finance modes contribute to poverty alleviation in Islamic countries?

Through this study, the theoretical side was tackled as a first step. In this part, we dealt with the main theories that explained the phenomenon of poverty as well as the international and local policies and strategies in Islamic countries that used to combat and minimize it. We then talk about Islamic finance especially Islamic finance modes including old widespread version in the books of Fiqh and Hadith as well as the new one that has been issuing fatwas on their availability by Fiqh Councils and Centers for Research in Islamic Economics as an Islamic Fiqh. In addition, we tried to link the application of Islamic finance modes within the framework of Islamic finance and combat poverty in Islamic countries by demonstrating the scientific and

practical efficiency of Islamic finance to reducing poverty rates in the Islamic world. To offer in the last the major Malaysian experience.

Keywords: poverty, Islamic finance, Islamic financing

A SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO POVERTY REDUCTION IN NIGERIA

BY

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the problems associated with poverty reduction efforts in Nigeria. The paper aims at suggesting a sustainable strategy to poverty reduction in Nigeria. This is mainly due to the fact that, since Nigerian independence in 1960 to date, poverty reduction programmes have often failed. The paper reveals that corruption, politicization, lack of political will, non-continuity of programmes, global economic shocks and the dependence nature of the state are all responsible. The paper clearly states that, the Nigerian state and the dominant class lack the ability to transform the society for the actualization of the citizenry. It is imperative that, the nature of the state and the dominant class be checked and repositioned toward serving the people. The paper therefore, suggests that poverty reduction could only be attained through a proper democratization of the polity and economy, re-orienting the dominant class to understand politics both as a game and service to the people. They should also see development and poverty reduction as a collective process for all. That way, Nigeria may reposition itself toward poverty *reduction*.

Key Words: poverty, Nigeria.

SYSTEMIC APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POPULATION LIVING ALONG THE FOREST CORRIDOR OF MADAGASCAR: FANDRIANA – VONDROZO’S CASE

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ABSTRACT:

Madagascar is characterized by its rich biodiversity and endemism. However, these natural resources are highly threatened particularly by human pressures. The natural rainforests persist only in a stripe alongside the East slope of Madagascar where there are always conflicts of interest between on the one hand communities who derive their need while destroying the forest, and on the other hand the conservatives of this corridor, intending to develop sustainable development. It is therefore necessary to conciliate these inclinations for shared positive result.

This research is a case study which proposes a model of approach to enhance these natural resources in a sustainable manner, considering the case of the community living around the forest corridor of Fandriana -Vondrozo in Madagascar.

KEY WORDS:

Sustainable development, population, forest corridor, Madagascar

Title: Toward women's exclusion in jirga shura

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Abstract. This paper is based on a survey of 1,050 male and female respondents selected through a 'purposive quota' sampling strategy, and 14 'focused group discussions' - in Afghanistan's northern Province of Kunduz. The analysis of these data reveals that women are largely excluded from the processes of traditional dispute resolution (*Jirga* and *Shura*) in the province. However, the same data are indicative of opportunities for women's involvement in *Jirga* and *Shura* processes. This paper examines the extent of respondents' support to the idea of women's involvement in *Jirga/Shura* process; it also examines respondents' opposition to this idea, and the reasons for their absence in *Jirga* and *Shura*. It is argued, in the paper, that it is a complex interplay between custom, religion, and important socio-demographic factors that mainly explain women's exclusion from these traditional bodies. At the same time, analysis of the field data also indicate that people in Kunduz have generally open attitudes - though cautions and complex - towards women's involvement in *Jirga/Shura*; and so are their solutions to the problem of women's exclusion from these traditional institutions of dispute resolution.

Introducing Sustainocracy, the new democracy and a transformative economic reality

by: JeanPaul Close, founding father of Sustainocracy

Abstract

The article describes the tension between the system's reality of current unsustainable democracies and the human being within the context of a universal natural reality.

The higher up in "the system" the further away we move from our nature

Humankind has become aware of this tension but needs a transformative key to unblock deeply engrained old system dependencies and dominance, that produce negative tension (causing enormous global issues in the field of climate, environmental, societal and economic crises).

Sustainocracy is such transformative key. It is based on a newly defined democratic complexity to which the players of the old dominant structures are invited. Precedents are being achieved in Eindhoven (The Netherlands) with the "healthy city" project called AiREAS, a multidisciplinary, purpose driven venture involving local government, science & education, business enterprises and local citizens. It produces a positive tension for sustainable progress and measures its progression through local air quality improvement and human health.

The dominant fragmented authorities are regionally invited to cocreate a new sustainable reality

together, producing local solutions based on global issues.

The local solutions may inspire the world again through global application. Local Sustainocratic ventures can be created anywhere in the world relating to a newly arising Transformation economy.

The good example can occur anywhere and spreads where the conditions are right.

Paper proposal: JeanPaul

Close, founding father of Sustainocracy.

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