

The environmental cost of poverty to a society: The Kenyan experience

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Introduction

- The paper has examined the causes and manifestation of poverty to a society
- Looked closely at the environmental injuries incurred due to poverty
- Discussed numerous ways through which sustainable development can be realized more friendly
- Emphasizes the need for society empowerment economically, socially, politically, technologically as well as environmentally for sustainability to be achieved.
- Although based on the Kenyan experience, most of the issues articulated are a representative of Africa as a continent.



Poverty Challenges in Africa

- Poverty in the African Continent is a reality even with the numerous resources endowed to it.
- The continent has numerous habitats that are homes to different species which if transformed into goods and services for monetary value could enhance sustainable growth.
- This however is not a reality on the ground because of constellation of factors tending to react against one another thus leaving the continent in total despair.

Resource Endowment

Nile River



Masai Mara river



Causes and Manifestations of poverty in Kenya

Studies undertaken have linked occurrence of poverty in Africa to:-

- Economic factors
 - the continent's inability to transform its resources into goods and services for monetary value
- Social factors
 - high levels of illiteracy, diseases, lack of access to basic social services and infrastructure, and little opportunity to participate in the processes that influence people's lives
- Technological
- Political (governance)
- Climatic changes (drought/floods)

Manifestation

- High levels of unemployment
- Poor housing facilities
- Increased squalor settlements
- Hunger and poor health conditions

Environmental implication

- Poor sanitary facilities
- Massive destruction of land cover -flora due to rudimentary technology in Kenya the Mau forest for settlement
- Pollution of the habitats providing shelter to both flora and fauna

Kenya's poverty reduction framework

The Country's policy framework as articulated in its vision 2030 is based on the UNDP strategies. Key areas that are being emphasized include provision of basic infrastructural amenities (water, roads that call for:-

- **Macroeconomic and structural policies** - formulating the overall policy framework for growth for poverty reduction ;
- **Employment for poverty reduction** – strategies for the employment-economic growth-poverty reduction nexus ;
- **Public resource management** – focusing on fiscal issues, in terms of policies and management, to make sure they complement poverty reduction initiatives
- **Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICTD)** (–making ICT work for poverty reduction through policy interventions
- **Civil society and MDGs** – developing strategies for partnering with civil society in overcoming poverty

Millenium Development Goals



The eight MDGs break down into **21 quantifiable targets** that are measured by **60 indicators**

Kenya's Vision 2030

- Is the country's new development blueprint covering 2008 to 2030
- It aims at transforming the country into a newly industrialising, middle income country providing a high quality life to all its citizens by the year 2030
- The vision is based on three pillars namely: the economic, social and the political.
- The economic pillar aims at improving the prosperity of all Kenyans through decentralized economic development
- Social pillar seeks to build a just and cohesive society with social equity in a clean and secure environment
- Political pillar aims at realizing a democratic political system founded on the rule of law.



Poverty/Environment : The way forward

- Empowering the people in socio economic activities tailored on a regions resource endowment
- Diversification away from primary production
- Introduction of rural eco tourism
- Provision of basic amenities
- Strengthening rural urban interlink
- Decentralization of production
- Creation of awareness and education on environmental issues
- Widening principles of democracy: governance
- Accountability/transparency



Conclusion

Inclusive sustainable Development initiatives are only achievable if they are people driven in all aspects.

Congestion in CBD







End

THANK YOU AND
WELCOME TO KENYA