

## A REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION IN NIGERIA

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Nowadays many countries are facing the problem of unsustainable consumption which recently has pose danger to the environment.

Sustainable consumption is the use of services and related products which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.

The great challenge faced by economies today is to integrate environmental sustainability with economic growth and welfare by decoupling environmental degradation from economic growth and doing more with less. This is one of the key objectives of the Nigeria Government, but the consequences of climate change and the growing demand for energy and resources are challenging this objective. It is now time to move towards an energy and resource efficient economy.

Sustainable consumption and production maximize business potential to transform environmental challenges into economic opportunities and provide a better deal for consumers. The challenge is to improve the overall environmental performance of products throughout their life-cycle, to boost the demand for better products and production technologies and to help consumers in making informed choices.

Human demands on world resources have doubled over the last 40 years. Like most developed countries, the UK uses more than its fair share of natural resources like fuel, raw materials and water. The things people buy in the UK are often made elsewhere, so British lifestyles can damage the environment in other parts of the world. Increasing amounts of fossil fuels are burned to produce electricity and for transport – this produces carbon dioxide, which causes climate change. Food and other products put huge demands on water supplies at home and abroad. Wood can be a great renewable resource, but the world's ancient forests are shrinking because of the way people currently use it. The spread of urban development, illegal logging, agriculture and industry are causing trees to be lost. The size and rate of tree loss is about 36 football fields a minute. Over-fishing is a threat to ocean-life and to the food and livelihoods of over a billion people. As many as 90 per cent of all the oceans' large fish have been fished out. Responsible fisheries management is needed to help protect marine life and conserve habitats for future generations.

### *Impact of oil Industry on the Environment*

The Niger Delta is one of the 10 most important wetland and coastal marine ecosystems in the world and is home to some 31 million people. The Niger Delta is also the location of massive oil deposits, which have been extracted for decades by the government of Nigeria and by multinational oil companies. The majority of the people of the Niger Delta do not have adequate access to clean water or health-care. Their poverty, in contrast with the wealth generated by oil, has become one of the world's starkest and most disturbing examples of the "resource curse".

For the people of the Niger Delta, environmental quality and sustainability are fundamental to their overall wellbeing and development. According to UNDP, more than 60 per cent of the people in the region depend on the natural environment for their livelihood. For many, the environmental resource base, which they use for agriculture, fishing and the collection of forest products, is their principal or sole source of food. Pollution and environmental damage, therefore, pose significant risks to human rights.

Oil spills, waste dumping and gas flaring are endemic in the Niger Delta. This pollution, which has affected the area for decades, has damaged the soil, water and air quality. Hundreds of thousands of people are affected, particularly the poorest and those who rely on traditional livelihoods such as fishing and agriculture.

According to a study carried, the damage from oil operations is chronic and cumulative, and has acted synergistically with other sources of environmental stress to result in a severely impaired coastal ecosystem and compromised the livelihoods and health of the region's impoverished residents. The Niger Delta has suffered for decades from oil spills, which occur both on land and offshore. Oil spills on land destroy crops and damage the quality and productivity of soil that communities use for farming. Oil in water damages fisheries and contaminates water that people use for drinking and other domestic purposes.

There are a number of reasons why oil spills happen so frequently in the Niger Delta. Spills result from corrosion of oil pipes, poor maintenance of infrastructure, spills or leaks during processing at refineries, human error and as a consequence of deliberate vandalism or theft of oil.

### *Ways to tackle these problems:*

- Organize a public education campaign designed to increase awareness of the environmental impacts of our consumption practices.
- Facilitate networks of sustainability practitioners to speed up learning and enhance collaboration.
- Oversee specific campaigns to encourage environmentally friendly consumption in specifically targeted areas: energy and transportation, food, and forest products.
- supporting the competitiveness of eco-industries.
- Most government policies in this area focusing on the environmental.

Impacts of unsustainable industrial production practices, primarily through regulations and taxes.

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