

Gender, environment and sustainable development

Lecture for Kansas City Summer School June 2008

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Sustainable human development is development that doesn't merely generate growth, but distributes its benefits equitably; it regenerates the environment rather than destroying it; it empowers people rather than marginalizing them; it enlarges their choices and opportunities and provides for peoples' participation in decisions affecting their lives. Sustainable human development is development that is pro-poor, pro-nature, and pro-women. It stresses growth but growth with employment, growth with environment; growth with empowerment, growth with equity.

UNDP Administrator Gus Speth in February 1994

Aim of the lecture

Provide students with some insights into what gender and environment means for this (yet to be attended) picture of sustainable development

The lecture will introduce students to the importance of considering environment and gender when thinking about sustainable development. The message will be that the gender-environment-development lens does not mean just recognising the difference between men and women's role in natural resource management and development nor in adding gender into the sustainable development equation. Nor is it enough for us to apply a new methodology or look for different objects of research adding statistics and empirical data of women and the environment alongside the current body of knowledge about men and the environment. A gender approach is a transversal process which reaches out and changes all areas of environment and development. It demands an openly political approach to research: reshaping research questions and scientific methods through a holistic approach; reaching out for partnerships with those with whom we are learning about their environment and culture; and changing the way in which development is understood and pursued.

Reading see The Development Collections on Environment

[http://www.palgrave-](http://www.palgrave-journals.com/development/archive/selected_papers.html)

[journals.com/development/archive/selected_papers.html](http://www.palgrave-journals.com/development/archive/selected_papers.html) journal issue Water for People

(note these papers are free to download)

Editorial: Conflict, Ecological Justice and Rights

Volume 49 Number 3: Conflicts over Natural Resources (2006)

Wendy Harcourt, Editor of *Development*, outlines alternative views to the dominant approach to natural resource conflict.

Environment and Human Rights

Volume 47 Number 1: The Violence of Development (2004)

Wolfgang Sachs leader in European ecology movements argues for environmental human rights as a fundamental prerequisite to end the violence of development.

Technologies of Existence: The indigenous environmental justice movement

Volume 49 Number 3: Conflicts over Natural Resources (2006)

Dana E. Powell, indigenous rights activist from the USA, proposes an alternative approach to development for healthy economies, ecologies and culture.

Monocultures, Monopolies, Myths and the Masculinization of Agriculture

Volume 42 Number 2: Environmental Politics (1999)

Vandana Shiva renown writer and scientist argues that women must resist the attempt by the biotechnology industry, agribusiness as well as governments to co-opt them.

Women, Land Rights and the Environment: The Kenyan Experience

Volume 49 Number 3: Conflicts over Natural Resources (2006)

Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Professor at the International Environmental Law Research Centre in Nairobi, calls for women to have legal rights to land in order to ensure good stewardship and sustained community livelihoods.

See also:

Development Volume 51 no1 *Water for People*

http://www.palgrave-journals.com/development/archive/2008_issues.html