

A New Name for Peace: International Environmentalism, Sustainable Development, and Democracy



International Journal of Development and Sustainability
ISSN: 2168-8662 – www.isdsnet.com/ijds
Volume 3 Number 1 (2014): Pages 162-176
ISDS Article ID: IJDS13112901



Achieving sustainable development in Africa: Progress, challenges and prospects

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Abstract

For the past three decades, the global community has recognized the need to shift the pursuit of development to sustainable development. This recognition was based on the fact that earlier approaches to development were deemed unsustainable. While African governments have implemented several policies towards Sustainable Development (SD), there appears to be deep skepticism about whether Africa can achieve SD. The study therefore assessed the achievement of SD in Africa using the qualitative paradigm. It employed the desk top instrument in data collection by critically reviewing literature pertaining to the progress, challenges and prospects of Sustainable Development in Africa. The study utilized only secondary data contained in relevant journal articles, books, reports and periodicals. The narrative analysis method was used for data analysis. The study reveals that the progress of SD in Africa is mixed across indicators. Whereas most African countries have significantly made progress, over the past decade, in building strong economies, strengthening democratic institutions, improving agriculture and reducing poverty, pressing challenges such as climate change, population growth, and inadequate employment opportunities continue to undermine efforts towards SD. The study recommends that African governments must deepen their commitment to designing and implementing innovative policies to create jobs, tackle climate change and improve agriculture in order to achieve SD.

Keywords: sustainable development; Africa; economy; poverty; environment; good governance

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Cite this article as: Ahenkan, A. and Osei-Kojo, A. (2014). "Achieving sustainable development in Africa: Progress, challenges and prospects". International Journal of Development and Sustainability, Vol. 3 No. 1, pp. 162-176.

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