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Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University Press Office
Stand No. 1901 Barrassie Rd,
Off Shamva Road
Box 350, Bindura, Zimbabwe
Telephone: ++263 8 677 006 136 | +263 779 279 912
E-mail: zegupress@admin.uz.ac.zw
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# About the Journal

## JOURNAL PURPOSE

The purpose of the *Ngenani - Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University Journal of Community Engagement and Societal Transformation Review and Advancement,* is to provide a forum for community engagement and outreach.

## CONTRIBUTION AND READERSHIP

Sociologists, demographers, psychologists, development experts, planners, social workers, social engineers and economists, among others whose focus is on community development.

## JOURNAL SPECIFICATIONS

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## SCOPE AND FOCUS

The journal is a forum for the discussion of ideas, scholarly opinions and case studies of community outreach and engagement. Communities are both defined in terms of people found in a given locale and defined cohorts, like the children, the youth, the elderly and those living with a disability. The strongest view is that getting to know each community or sub-community is a function of their deliberate participation in matters affecting them by the community itself. The journal is produced bi-annually.

# Guidelines for Scholars for the Journal

Articles must be original contributions, not previously published and should not be under consideration for publishing elsewhere.

**Manuscript Submission:** Articles submitted to the *Ngenani - Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University Journal of Community Engagement and Societal Transformation* are reviewed using the double-blind peer review system. The author's name(s) must not be included in the main text or running heads and footers.

**A total number of words:** 5000-7000 words and set in 12-point font size width with 1.5 line spacing.
**Language:** British/UK English
**Title:** must capture the gist and scope of the article
**Names of scholars**: beginning with the first name and ending with the surname
**Affiliation of scholars**: must be footnoted, showing the department and institution or organisation.
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Italicise *et al., ibid.,* words that are not English, not names of people or organisations, etc. When you use several scholars confirming the same point, state the point and bracket them in one bracket and ascending order of dates and alphabetically separated by semi-colon e.g. (Falkenmark, 1989, 1990; Reddy, 2002; Dagdeviren and Robertson, 2011; Jacobsen *et al.,* 2012).

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# LAND-USE PLANNING AND SOCIAL ECOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY

MOREBLESSING MSUNDIRE[1], HALLELUAH CHIRISA[2] AND ROSELIN NCUBE-KATSANDE[3]

## Abstract

***This article critically examines the intractable nexus between land use and social ecology in the 21st Century in a bid to strengthen sustainable development. This emanates from the view that human use of land has been changing Earth's ecology for ages. Although land use has always sustained human civilisations, its ecological penalties cause global climate change. Methods engaged in collecting data for this review include secondary data analysis of relevant literature that answered the research topic. Results highlight that by converting Earth's ecology, land use has factually paved the way for the Anthropocene. Now, a better future relies on land use approaches that can efficiently sustain people together with the rest of terrestrial environment on Earth's limited land. Review concludes that it is, therefore, clear that realising food security and refining the quality of life, while conserving the environment, will continue to pose challenges to scientists, decision-makers and technicians in the years to come. It is well agreed that the wise use of land resources will play a role of supreme importance in the provision of food for future generations. Recommendations are, sensible Land-use Planning is a central tool to find an equilibrium among these different demands and***

[1] Department of Development Programming and Management, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University, Bindura, Zimbabwe https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0052-4379, moreblessingmsundire@gmail.com

[2] Directorate of Research and Innovation, Zimbabwe Ezekiel Guti University, Bindura, Zimbabwe https://orcid.org/0009-0003-9388-9135, hchirisa@gmail.com

[3] Faculty of Social and Gender Transformation Sciences, Women's University of Africa, Harare, Zimbabwe., https://orcid.org/0009-0005-4726-8535, roselin.ncube@gmail.com

***guarantee agricultural production, while safeguarding the natural environs.***

**Keywords**: *environmental problems, greenhouse gases, spatial planning, governance, stakeholder**s**.*

## INTRODUCTION

It is projected that mankind footprint has disrupted 83% of the total terrestrial land surface and has degraded around 60% of the ecosystem services in the past 50 years. Land use and land cover (LUCC) change has been the most noticeable sign of mankind footprint and the most key driver of loss of biodiversity and other methods of land degradation. Contemporary developments on global demand for food and bioenergy modification that are narrowly connected to food and energy price spikes and instability, have raised anxieties on the effect of LUCC change on biodiversity and other environmental influences. Moreover, LUCC change could result in natural resource degradation that distress the poor the most as they greatly rely on natural resources WWF, 2020).

Political and social conflicts cause mass movements of people, destabilising operating structures of land access. This frequently leads to the formation of open access systems, land degradation and unrestrained natural resource use. Wildlife reserves, biodiversity conservation and national parks areas, formerly the pride of many African governments, are trespassed upon by refugees, with no land access somewhere else. Conflict resolution does not unexpectedly and instantly lead to the rejuvenation of these spaces. Unscrupulous capitalists take advantage of transitional phases of uncertainty to mine the last remaining natural resources within these areas. Being conscious of this volatile situation, state governments both from North and South and state and global institutions including the United Nations have for many ages fixated on encouraging a more sustainable

and unbiased land use. They have advised the creation of land and land use programmes targeted at both conserving land resources and improving their production in its largest setting (Stephens *et al*, 2019).

The present worldwide magnitude, intensity and effects of land use are all unmatched in Earth's history. Conditional on how this is evaluated, human use of land has directly altered ecosystems across 75% to 95% of Earth's ice-free land area. Land use is now the primary cause of biodiversity losses around the sphere. GHG emissions from land use continue to be a main cause of global climate change and were the leading root until surpassed by fossil fuels in the 1950s. Yet these are just two of the most noticeable global ecological penalties of Earth's alteration through land use, that comprises the change, disintegration and loss of natural territories, species introductions and attacks and the pollution of soil and water. Land use is at least as old as humans are. An increasing base of archaeological and paleo ecological sign confirms that human civilisations have occupied and formed ecosystems for ages across every continent except Antarctica by increasingly various and transformative range of land use practices alternating from hunting and landscape burning to cultivation and development that have left a lasting record across the earth (Elrich and Elrich, 2009).

There is increasing evidence that the land use practices of primitive, native and customary societies, that have frequently been disregarded in global environmental change evaluations, may have moulded and sustained ecosystems and biodiversity across the globe. As recognised in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030, poverty remains to be one of the most severe matters confronting humanity. One of the main root sources of poverty is poor Land-use Planning and unsustainable land use and managing. When lands are not managed sustainably, it can result in land degradation, loss of occupations and a reduction in the general resilience of the social-

ecological system. This leads to a persistent series of land degradation and poverty. Poverty causes people to engage in unsustainable land uses and land degradation further destroys natural resources and adds to poverty. This review deals with the land use and social ecology, the two fields often interconnect as land use decisions can have substantial effects on the environment and on human societies. Hence the article highlights how the intersection can be a drive to sustainable development in communities round the globe (Beckman, 2011).

**MILESTONES ON CONCEPTUAL THINKING**

The conceptual framework grounding this research is based on the concept of sustainable development that is used to guide the analysis of the research objective. The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, commonly known as the Stockholm Conference (1972) was one of the first creativities of the industrialized nations to speak worry about the fast-shrinking world's resource base, both qualitatively and quantitatively, either through pollution in the developed countries or population growth in the developing nations. The Stockholm Conference led to a robust environmental action-oriented method to sustainable development. The second milestone was the publication of the World Conservation Strategy (IUCN, 1980) at the initiative of IUCN, FAO, UNEP and UNESCO. It encouraged development goals through the sustainable use of species and ecosystems, while safeguarding essential ecological processes and life support systems, including the protection of genetic diversity. Its point of departure was that development must be well-suited with conservation. This approach provided recommendations for governments to use their natural resources for supporting human wellbeing while regarding the carrying capacity of ecosystems.

The third milestone refers to the work of the World Commission on Environment and Development, known as the Brundtland Commission. Its report Our Common Future (World Commission on

Environment and Development, 1987) stressed that it is the current generation's duty to defend future generation's options and opportunities for development by guarding the planet's environment and natural resources. It considers the lessening of poverty and deficiency in developing nations as an urgency to attain sustainability. Conservation and improvement of the resource base are conditions sine qua non for poverty alleviation. The idea of development needs to be expanded so that it does not only address economic growth but also social and cultural progress. The Earth Summit or United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992) constituted the fourth milestone. At this meeting the international community officially incorporated sustainable development as the standard for gauging development aims and performance in both North and South Agenda 21 resulting from the UNCED was the first international manuscript emphasizing the significance of Land-use Planning for sustainable development (UNCED, 1992).

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature review attains several purposes. It shares outcomes of other studies that are closely associated to the one being undertaken with the reader and builds on the existing canon of scholarship. It relates a study to the larger, existing discourse in the literature, filling in gaps and covering previous studies. This section of the article offers literature, sharing on the research that has been done in relation to the research aim, highlighting the gap in literature it will offer.

### SOCIAL ECOLOGY

Social Ecology is a composite of social and ecology. The term social denotes to human civilisation and the way it is systematized. It comprises the study of all the integral fundamentals of society of the economy, the politics, social arrangement and culture. The term 'ecology' refers to the study of connection between living organisms and their surroundings. Thus, social ecology is the study of relations

between people and the environment around them and how those relations have a mutual influence on the society and the environment. It is a multidisciplinary method to study, the interrelationship between human social organisations and ecological or environmental matters (John Clark, 1997). Theoretically, it is a dialectical method that studies the ecological scopes of all social occurrences holistically, to reach at useful knowledge to direct human society to face defies and opportunists in its historical progression. What plainly explains social ecology as social is its acknowledgement of the regularly ignored fact that almost all our current ecological complications arise from deep-rooted social problems. Contrariwise, current ecological problems cannot be plainly understood, much less determined, without purposefully dealing with difficulties within society. To make this opinion more solid: economic, racial, cultural and gender clashes, among many others, lie at the core of the most severe ecological disruptions we face today (Tao *et al.*, 2007).

The way humans deal with each other as social beings is critical to addressing the ecological emergency. Lest we openly recognise this, we will certainly fail to see that the classified approach and class relations that so thoroughly infiltrate society give rise to the very idea of controlling the natural world. Unless we understand that the contemporary market society, organised around the brutally economical domineering of grow or die, is a thoroughly objective, self-operating instrument, we will misleadingly tend to fault technology as such or population growth as such for environmental complications. We will overlook their root sources, such as trade for profit, industrial growth and the identification of development with commercial self-interest. In short, we will tend to centre on the indications of a grim social problem rather than on the problem itself and our efforts will be focused toward limited goals whose accomplishment is more superficial than beneficial (Haspeger, 2015).

**WHAT IS LAND-USE PLANNING?**

Integrated land-use planning is implemented out through divisions and governance structures and encompasses the distribution of land for different uses through a landscape in a way that balances economic, social and environmental standards at national or sub-national level. In a given setting, it should recognise the combination of land uses that is best able to meet the requirements of land users and other possible demands while protecting the resilience of land resources and terrestrial ecologies for the future. A main feature in land-use planning is the involvement and coordination of the numerous users in a certain landscape and their buy-in of the established decisions. Land-use planning is iterative; it should be able to acclimatize to the altering conditions and anticipated intentions of land owners and managers (FAO, 2017).

The relationship between Land-use Planning and modifications in the land system deals with land use change. The evaluation of the motivating forces behind land use and land use change is required when analysing and clarifying past patterns and when targeting to project future patterns. Urbanisation, land use specialization and agricultural intensification, are developments resulting from the interaction of motivating forces linked to geographical features, population dynamics, economic development, the political setting and strategies and polices at different stages. Land-use Planning effects the state of the environment, its application may have progressive and destructive effects on the environment. For example, Jia *et al*. (2003) claim that much of the environmental degradation happening in China is closely linked to the ways in that land is used.

Planning methods and the practice of zoning are both motivating forces of change and reactions to it. Such performs can encourage environmentally sound land use and management alternatives, resulting in several helpful consequences, such as: challenging land degradation, implementing ecosystem reintegration and/or

restoration, solving differing land use demands and maintaining territorial unity towards sustainability. Policy reactions connected to spatial planning, transport, integrated coastal zone management and joint water resource management directly disturb the use of land and land use change. Also, modifications in land use can be indirectly produced by policy implements, such as taxes and incentives, climate change adaptation and mitigation approaches, strategies for sustainable development and territorial programmes. Land use, land authority and land occupancy are co-dependent factors influencing Land-use Planning. Weak governance is a main limitation with regard to planning for sustainable development, it reinforces land degradation and can worsen conflicts over the use of land. Many examples exist of national customs that have failed to guard valued ecosystems from clearance, partially because they failed to support Land-use Planning and governance efforts (Mc Neill, 2014).

For instance, pastoral areas of Ethiopia are characterized by low, capricious and erratic rainfall, with rangelands made up of sporadically scattered resources of high and low production potential. The nonexistence of a spatial planning structure has led to chaotic and often conflicting, government-led pastoral Land-use Planning, resolutions made at different government levels often transpire without discussion across and between ranks and seldom include local land users. This has led to clashes in the use of the land, stress on local water resources and changes of land use that have extensive and lasting negative penalties. The formerly highly productive rangelands are being progressively disjointed. Livestock paths are likewise increasingly obstructed due to unplanned settlements, fenced enclosures and agricultural spaces beside rivers. Local land use ideas have not been incorporated within local government development policies. This has resulted in land degradation and prolonged land conflicts (Erb, 2014).

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

Land–use change is certainly the most universal socioeconomic force motivating alterations and dilapidation of ecosystems. Deforestation, urban expansion, agriculture and other anthropological activities have significantly transformed the Earth's landscape. Such disruption of the land affects important ecosystem procedures and services that can have wide–ranging and long–term costs. Countryside offers open space and valuable environment for many wildlife species. Nonetheless, exhaustive agriculture has actually severe ecosystem consequences. It has long been documented that agricultural land use and practices can cause water pollution and the result is influenced by government strategies. Runoff from agricultural lands is a primary cause of water pollution both in inland and sea waters. Transformations of wetlands to crop production and irrigation water distractions have brought many wildlife species to the brink of extermination (Young, 2016).

Forests deliver many ecosystem services. They maintain biodiversity, providing critical habitation for wildlife, eliminate carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, intercept rainfall, slow down surface runoff and decrease soil erosion and flooding. These important ecosystem services will be reduced or demolished when forests are changed to agriculture or urban expansion. For instance, deforestation, alongside urban sprawl, agriculture and other human activities, has significantly changed and disjointed the Earth's vegetative cover. Such disturbance can alter the universal atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, the main heat–trapping gas and disturb local, regional and global climate by altering the energy equilibrium on Earth's surface (Marland *et al*., 2003).

Urban expansion has been connected to many environmental problems, including air pollution, water pollution and loss of wildlife territory. Urban runoff usually encompasses nutrients, sediment and toxic contaminants and can cause not only water pollution but also

great variation in stream flow and temperatures. Habitation damage, disintegration and modification associated with urban growth have been recognised as the primary causes of biodiversity decline and species exterminations (Czech, Krausman and Devers, 2000). Urban development and intensive agriculture in coastal regions and further inland are a main hazard to the health, efficiency and biodiversity of the aquatic environment throughout the world.

**EXTINCTION**

Species can react very differently to land use changes, particularly when these changes are slower and less widespread, permitting some to change adaptations while others slowly decline to extinction, with only the weakest going extinct early on, such as large-bodied and range-limited types. These different and lagged reactions are considered as extinction debt when extinctions lag behind land use changes, such as when longstanding tree species lose their pollinators and as extinction sifting when the weakest species are lost early, leaving groups of species well adapted to dynamic cultural settings and hence less susceptible to future modifications (Young, 2015).

As a consequence of extinction debt and sifting, land use changes of the past and their evolutionary penalties, can play a critical part in influencing present and future degrees of extinction (Barlow, 2012)). Deforestation and reforestation can together increase and decrease stream flow. The evolutionary costs of early land use, including burning, habitat disintegration, population deteriorations in prey and other species and the adaptations of remaining species to cultural backgrounds, can produce legacy special effects that can lower future proportions of extinction through extinction sifting and extinction debt, correspondingly, while also influencing varied and resilient unique populations and ecosystems (Fisher, 2020). Given these multifaceted, different and often contrasting ecological significances, comprehensive reforms of long-term land use histories are vital to

better appreciate the legacies of past land use and to permit more effective environmental control in the future.

**BIODIVERSITY**

Human use of land has fashioned environments, ecosystems and evolutionary processes across approximately three quarters of the terrestrial environment for at least 12,000 years. In some cases, hunting, habitat alteration, loss and disintegration, species introductions and human commensals, like rats, cats and diseases, caused lasting population deteriorations that added to species extinctions (Ellis, 2015). In other areas, the low-intensity land use systems of hunter-gatherers, early farmers and pastoralists formed dynamic and fruitful varieties of intensively used patches scattered with habitats nourishing biodiverse unique communities in varying states of ecological progression in response to burning, ploughing, transplanting and other cultural performs. Areas now administered in related ways by Indigenous and traditional folks are some of the most biodiversity spaces lingering on the planet and landscapes under traditional low-intensity use are usually much more biodiverse than those governed by high-intensity agricultural and industrial land use systems (Young *et al*, 2016). Although some societies performing low-intensity land use added to exterminations in the past, including island endemics and megafauna, with surging ecological costs, land use can also yield continuous ecological profits through performs that enlarge habitations for other species, improve species diversity, increase hunting sustainability, scatter seeds and boost soil fertility. The present biodiversity emergency cannot be explained by the transformation of untouched wildlands. Undamaged wildlands were nearly as rare 12,000 years ago as they are today and wildland alterations remain as rare as they have always been. Instead, the most reasonable explanation for current losses of biodiversity is the replacement of native and customary low-intensity land use practices that sustained

biodiversity for eras with ecologically basic and similar large-scale industrial landscapes (Boiven *et al*, 2016).

**CLIMATE HYDROLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND BIOGEOCHEMISTRY**

Although the most powerful influences of land use tend to be experienced locally and regionally, the worldwide environmental penalties of deforestation, fire management, cultivation, fertilisers, the mining and transportation of materials, the spread of hydraulic and other erected infrastructure and other land use practices, are practically too plentiful to mention (Browman *et al.*, 2017). The topographic fingerprints of land use have reformed the physical surface of Earth's land including the biochemical and physical properties of soils and the surface hydrology and atmospheric interchange of water and energy. The overall cycles of nitrogen and phosphorus have been exhaustively converted by industrial agriculture, producing radiations of nitrous oxide, a powerful greenhouse gas, while polluting freshwater and coastal ecologies (Brown *et al.*, 2017).

Possibly no land use practice has changed global environments for as long as human control of fire, that first facilitated hunter-gatherer civilisations to shape vegetation across landscapes and remnants significant today, including through modern practices of fire suppression (Browman *et al.*, 2017). Use of fire to clear forests and soil cultivation, livestock herding and flood irrigation of paddy rice have all been associated in early releases of carbon dioxide and methane and modifications of surface heat balance that likely activated warming Earth's climate as long as 5,000 years ago. There is even proof for a global cooling following the Great Dying in the Americas induced by land desertion, vegetation restoration and carbon uptake. The leading role of land use in driving global changes in climate prior to 1950 only further stresses the degree to that land use has long combined changes

in human societies with changes in the Earth system, in both ways (Young *et al*., 2016).

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Socio-juridical research approach was used to explain the Land-use Planning and social ecology relationship, it is concerned with understanding the actual working of laws by analysing the functions and practical aspects of law in social set-up. This study is descriptive investigative in nature, it reveals detailed, organised, realistic and complete report of everything explored. Analytical means that this study sorts, narrates and deduces. As this study is descriptive, qualitative analysis is used in that all data are collected and categorised to be further analysed. The review is based on a combination of existing literature Land-use Planning and social ecology in the 21st century. The research methodology draws upon an academic and grey literature review conducted as a primary phase of research. While not targeted at providing a full systematic or complete review of existing literature on the subject, the method involved defining clear search terms and a series of search strategies, followed by a review of the most related literature. The bibliographic databases searched included Web of Science and Google Scholar from relevant peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, along with a variety of grey literature reports from related projects. Textual analysis was used to analyse the data from the transcriptions. A narrative analysis was used to represent the data collected. To ensure a consistent presentation, data were grouped under different themes, major topics or sub topics based on the objectives of the study.

## FINDINGS

Southern Africa is noticeable by landlessness and restricted access to land signifying social disparities grounded on the history of land scarcity during the colonial era and the uneven distribution of land that followed. Land is, thus, a fundamental source of political

mobilisation and tension. Land is subject to a multifaceted mix of authorities with customary structures of communal tenure and legislative forms of private ownership in most states of the region. This dualistic ownership system divides the agrarian sector in large freehold commercial farms under private proprietorship and traditional common property on communal lands used for customary agro-pastoralism, small scale and subsistence agriculture. The control and significance of traditional establishments and tribal leaders is important in the region and should be considered during land-related discussions in Southern Africa. Southern Africa is regarded as one of the regions with the utmost potential for agro-fuel production in the world. This invites foreign investors, who are trying to access large land properties that is creating conflicts mostly in communal areas. To evade mismanagement, Land-use Planning is essential to control agro-fuel and other large scale plant assembly.

Land degradation is a main worry in the region with communal lands as pressure points. Degradation is witnessed generally as overgrazing and deforestation, leading to soil erosion, desertification and bush encroachment. The decrease of protected areas in the region is dire, leading to habitat disintegration and biodiversity loss. Particularly the disintegration of habitats causes increasing human-wildlife encounters with roaming animals. Mining is another significant matter in Southern Africa that generates a necessity for Land-use Planning. The region has extensive mineral resources and a great part of the region's exports are in minerals. The economic position of mining makes it a primacy land use. Other land uses are secondary.

This results in land use clashes. Farmers have to be relocated; others find their lands polluted. In addition, mining involves huge infrastructure such as roads and harbours that regularly influence main rural areas. Land-use Planning could help to decrease land use conflicts through an increase in transparency on (future) mining areas

and polluted areas on the one hand and through the expression of local peoples' concerns on the other. Severe gaps in human and institutional abilities of the still young governments present a major challenge to land managing and Land-use Planning. The penalties are insufficient national land policies, slow or incomplete or failed land reform procedures, institutional overlapping, gaps and poor or absent Land-use Planning structures and policies (GIZ, 2019).

**LAND-USE PLANNING IN SOUTH EAST ASIA**

Over the past two decades, South East Asian countries have seen fast economic development. Nonetheless, the increased standard of living is partly surpassed by severe environmental degradation. Stress on land, particularly in the most valued rice producing flood plains, is increasing due to the extension of housing areas, low-density industrial parks, plantations or road construction. The requirement for a more efficient and institutionalized planning of land use at different levels of government is now widely recognised and institutional frameworks for administrative methods of regulatory Land-use Planning have been established in various nations. In the Mekong region early approaches to Land-use Planning had many resemblances among the riparian nations, but with time advances took different ways. In Cambodia and Laos, Land-use Planning has been formalised and has become an important part of the general planning system. In Thailand Land-use Planning began in the 1980s with an attention on watershed management and opium reduction. Since then it has been stretched to many mountainous areas, mainly in the North-West of the country, but has never become an institutionalised and governing process. Vietnam started elaboration and systematic updating of land use main plans for all districts and provinces as part of the national development planning tactic. Many local government administrations now have started to shape up their own institutional GIS and mapping components and either produce and sustain their own digital planning documents or use the services of GIS service firms. A major hindrance

for the use of digital Land-use Planning tools often is the absence of higher resolution digital base data (GIZ, 2019).

## LAND-USE PLANNING – A DISCURSIVE ANSWER TO CONTEMPORARY CONSTRAINTS

Attaining food security, mitigating and adapting to climate change, guarding biodiversity while at the same time commencing economic development, shielding societies from natural catastrophes, averting and resolving land conflicts or introducing change in a drugs setting are just a few of the numerous challenges rural areas in developing nations are presently facing. Land-use Planning is one of the apparatuses that can aid to meet them as it concentrates on negotiating future land and resource usages by all important stakeholders. All anthropological actions need a place to be recognised. While the demand for land intensifies, quantity is fixed. Land, hence, becomes increasingly limited. The result is an upsurge in the number of land conflicts and the level of viciousness of these battles. If at an early phase, an agreement on the land use can be discussed by all disagreeing parties and be sanctioned by the accountable official body making it lawfully binding, conflicts can be evaded.

Thus, there is a great plea for ideas and tools that help find an equilibrium among the interests of all participants. Land-use Planning has demonstrated to be such a method. The current worldwide advances, particularly the growing number of wars over land and the required adaptation of land use to climate change but also increasing wages and power cavities adjust the role of Land-use Planning and intensify its impact. It is no longer just an instrument of few village developers. Land-use Planning has become a fundamental requirement for any (spatial) advance that targets social, ecological and economic sustainability. Land-use Planning grants a development methodology that adds to the avoidance of land use conflicts, the

adaptation of land uses to physical and ecological settings, the long-term security of land as a natural resource, the long-lasting fruitful use of land and a stable use that satisfies all social, ecological and economic necessities.

## LAND-USE PLANNING – AN AID TO ATTAINING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS

International development goals defined within global developments offer a valuable structure for Land-use Planning. The most significant development goals for Land-use Planning today are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global conventions on climate change, biodiversity and fighting desertification and international treaties such as the Agenda 21 or the declaration on forests. Land-use Planning can contribute to the mitigation of climate change by classifying areas for forest safeguarding or afforestation and to adapt to climate change by detecting areas at threat or new appropriate zones for agricultural production. Land-use Planning can also add to the protection of biodiversity, through zoning of protected spaces.

## LAND-USE PLANNING -A KEY INSTRUMENT TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Land-use planning is gradually being acknowledged as a fundamental part of the construction and application of approaches to decrease deforestation and forest degradation, contributing to both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Differing interests and antagonism over land and resources have been main motivating forces of forest alteration, with growing pressure due to population growth, dilapidation of lands, economic interests and, not least, the effect of climate change. A combined and inclusive method to land-use planning can support identifying the most suitable land uses within a region, balancing food production and environmental, social and economic standards towards reduced emission and resilient growth.

In the perspective of climate change, land-use planning can be a useful tool to regulate where and how to apportion land uses to capitalize on the sustainability of obtainable resources for existing and future generations and to nurture interactions across divisions for win-win resolutions. Land-use planning can ascertain priority areas for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and implementation, where there is the utmost potential to moderate carbon emissions, while guaranteeing socio-economic and other environmental benefits. It can also assist as an apparatus to strategize for adaptation, contributing to the resilience of societies and ecosystems and to help recognise and resolve prevailing and possible land conflicts. When carried out efficiently, land-use planning increases confidence and lasting sustainable investments for stakeholders.

**LAND-USE PLANNING -A POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO GENDER INEQUALITIES**

Land governance is an intricate and multidimensional matter, often highly disputed and needs an all-inclusive attitude to examination. Land is more than a simple economic asset; it also has social and cultural significance and purposes. Different backgrounds have diverse arrangements of land use and land holding, that are swayed by the political system and physical, economic, social, cultural and historical dimensions. Discrimination on the basis of gender may be unmentionable in a national constitution, but maintained in civil codes, household law and customary law, all of that affect land rights. This means that examination of land authority should consider, amongst others, communal and customary ownership engagements, the relations between land ownership and the rules governing property rights within marriage and on legacy and the ladders of power that disrupt decision-making concerning land.

Amongst other concerns, the idea of local community that is essential to safeguarding ownership rights of rural women and men is

important for analysing gender and has effect on wider governance issues. Additionally, in many situations there is a substantial gap between land policies as expressed on paper and the real exercise of decisions about land use and land distribution in different areas. The most common way to accomplish equal access for women and men to land and control over it, are land use restructurings. The gender dimensions must be considered from the initial phases of such a transformation programme. This is an issue at both a political and a technical level. The latter would include guaranteeing that all land administration actions mainstream gender, including land surveys, titling and registering processes and tools, levies and charges, compensation instruments and Land-use Planning.

## LAND-USE PLANNING - A FUNDAMENTAL IMPLEMENT TO PRESERVATION OF CULTURE AND HERITAGE

A norm in Land-use Planning is to synchronise natural and artificial environs, incorporate natural and artificial resources, safeguard spatial functions and inhibit negative effects owing to land use. This code must be applied and appreciated in every procedure of land planning. Fast expansion in both urban and rural areas, in spite of giving a positive influence on the economic division, stimulates environmental complications. One of the divisions growing speedily is tourism, particularly in an area that is geographically strategic and has natural prospective and fascinating culture. This type of area will be advanced as considerably as possible because of its potential in earning local government profits. The government is assumed an authority to preserve cultural heritage that exists through Land-use planning of planned zones. This must be carried out appropriately because future generations need to enjoy the heritage, as well.

In summary Land-use Planning generates the prerequisites necessary to attain a type of land use that is environmentally sustainable, socially fair and necessary and economically sound. It thus stimulates social

practices of decision making and compromise building regarding the exploitation and protection of private, communal or public areas. At the centre of Land-use Planning is the combined balancing of competing land practices by all stakeholders and the shared identification of those uses for that the uppermost agreement can be attained, ideally for the purpose of sustainability. The use of suitable, locally improved information systems providing information on, for example, land availability, prevailing land rights and land uses can generate transparency at national and decentralised ranks. This clarity is an essential foundation for all additional planning and responsible policymaking on the use of land.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Today, the demand of construction land is growing unceasingly because of the fast urbanisation, conflicts among vast population and inadequate land resources become progressively prominent. Meanwhile, the land-use planning is no longer keeping eyes on aiding for social and economic expansion and guarding arable land. It must be transformed to support co-ordinately the advance of population, environment, resources and social economy. Land-use planning must carry the social responsibility of resolving the conflicts on the spatial plan between social development, resource exploitation and ecological security. Nonetheless, Land-use Planning that is operational, affordable and socially fair can have substantial positive influences on both people and the environment. Land-use Planning purposes can increase agricultural efficiency, food security and earnings of smallholder farmers. Through acquiring equal access to land for both men and women, Land-use Planning can contribute to gender impartiality worldwide. Land-use Planning efforts can safeguard critical ecosystem services, such as clean water and encourage mindfulness of sustainable development that equals the potential of the land. Moreover, Land-use Planning that equals suitable land-uses

with appropriate land can reinforce the resilience of societies and the environment to climate-related threats and add to a land-degradation neutral world. Finally, effective Land-use Planning can assist to stimulate wildlife and biodiversity protection by generating space on the land for people, plant life and wildlife. Now, the destiny of all life on this sphere, including ours, depends on whether human civilisations can profile these cultural settings to better sustain both humans and the rest of life on Earth. Increasingly comprehensive and precise reforms of land use history have much to offer in these efforts, by both progressing scientific understanding of the social and ecological past of Earth's inadequate land and emphasizing the need to more justly and effectively share, use, protect and re-establish the cultural landscapes that must now sustain both humans and terrestrial nature through sustainable land use performs.

Sustainable Land-use Planning is a practice that intentions to incorporate ecological with socio-economic and political with ethical values in the management of land, for industrious and other functions, to achieve intra and inter-generational justice. For this to take place, in the course of framing and implementing policies and approaches for Land-use Planning it is important to collect, process and distribute timely and dependable information and apply modern land assessment and evaluation technologies, to produce sound scientific knowledge for appropriate decision support. In addition, the formation of an effective networking structure can significantly develop, improve and speed up the procedure of collection, selection and exchange of data avoiding replication and overlap. Lastly, to attain a sustainable Land-use Planning development, aims and goals, policies and guidelines should be based on local realisms, traditions and natural resource management approaches. The environmental and socio-economic influences of such policies and systems should be evaluated before they are applied.

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