

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	13
Chapter One. Scope of the Work	15
1. Brief Explanation of Terms	15
1.1. Culture	15
1.2. Ecology and Environment	18
1.3. What is this Crisis?	21
1.4. The Term Sustainable Development	22
2. The Study of Environment and Nature as a Field of Scientific Inquiry	25
3. The Statement of the Problem	27
4. Methodological Procedure	34
5. Structure of the Work	35
Part One (Seeing)	39
Chapter Two	41
Introduction	41
2. The Cultural Dimension of Humanity – Nature Relationship in an African Traditional Context	45
2.1. African Historical Realities: Past and Present	50
2.1.1. Geographical Background	50
2.1.2. Ethnological Background	53
2.2. Nature and Environmental Concepts in African Traditional Cultures	56
2.3. The Igbo of West Africa	57
2.4. The Massai of East Africa	59
2.5. The Egyptians of North Africa	62
2.6. The Pre-colonial Times – Myths and Science in African Thought ...	64
2.7. Indigenous Agricultural Practices	68
2.8. Pastoralism and Environmental Awareness	69
2.9. On traditional Settlement Practices in Traditional Communities	70

Chapter Three	71
3. The African Impasse – The Present Cultural and Ecological Crisis: Causes and Effects	71
3.1. The African Environmental Decline – the Situation in General	71
3.2. Environmental Awareness and Education in African Context	75
3.3. The Colonial Period	81
3.4. The Post – Colonial period	86
3.5. Contemporary African Attitude to the Issue at Stake	87
3.6. Technology Transfer, Green-house Gasses and Traditional African Cultural and Environmental Values.	90
3.7. Environmental Exploitation, Injustice, Oppressive Structures and Health Hazards in Africa	103
3.7.1. Nigerian – Ogoni Tragedy	105
3.8. Vital Indicators that Shape and Reshape the Environment and the Destiny of Africans	107
3.8.1. The Issue of Over-population – People as Pollution	108
3.8.2. Land use and deforestation	112
3.8.3. Poverty and Hunger	116
3.8.4. The debt Crisis, SAP and Environmental Degradation	117
3.8.5. Global Inequality and North-South Relations – a Global Challenge?	123
3.9. The Importance of Lasting Sustainable Development Culture in Africa	126
Part Two (Judge)	127
Chapter Four	129
4. The Foundations of Environmental Understanding (Judge)	129
4.1. Lynn White and his Historical Root of Eco-crisis	136
4.2. The Biblical Roots of Ecological Crisis Discussion	149
4.2.1. Old Testament Perspective – Theology of Nature	149
4.2.1.1. And God saw that it was very good – Gen. 1:25	154
4.2.1.2. Have Dominion and Subdue the Earth – Gen. 1: 28 .	165
4.2.1.3. Human Stewardship for the Planet-Earth	178
4.2.2. New Testament – Creation and Environment	187
4.2.2.1. The ecological Jesus – Ecology and Jesus Christ in the Gospels	194
4.2.2.2. The Suffering and Future Hope for Creation in the Epistles	197

4.2.2.3. The Future of Creation in Apocalyptic New Testament Literature	206
4.3. God, Humanity and Nature in African Beliefs vis-à-vis the Holy Scriptures	210
4.4. How Culpable is Judeo-Christian Tradition in Ecological Context ..	219
Chapter Five	225
5. World Religions and the Catholic Magisterium on Eco-Theology	225
5.1. Ecological Teaching of Five World Religions.	226
5.1.1. African Traditional Religious Perspective.....	230
5.1.2. Buddhist Perspective.	234
5.1.3. Islamic Perspective	237
5.1.4. Jewish Perspective	243
5.1.5. Christian Perspective	247
5.2. Hints of Ecological Discussions in Vatican II – the Conciliar and Post-Conciliar Documents	253
5.3. John Paul II on Ecological Matters-Peace with God and all Creation	256
5.4. National Bishops Conferences on Renewing the Face of the Earth ..	268
5.4.1. The German Bishops' Conference on the Care of Creation ...	271
5.4.2. The Bishops of United States of America	273
5.4.3. The teachings of the African Bishops Conferences Concerning the Issue of Environmental Degradation	275
5.5. The Greening of the African Church	281
5.6. The Catechism of Creation and Christian Witness	285
Part Three (Act)	291
Chapter Six	293
6. The Challenges and Strategies for a Sustainable Development (Action) ..	293
6.1. The Need for a Genuine Christian Witness for a Sustainable Development in Africa.	293
6.2. The Churches and Environmental Degradation in Africa	295
6.3. The Ecological Problem as a Moral Issue and an Ethical Challenge ..	302
6.4. Ecological Spirituality and the Spirit of the Environment for the African Context	309
6.5. The Task of the Churches in the Search for a Lasting Sustainable Development in Africa.	317
6.6. An African Theological Basis for the Conservation of the Environment.	325

Chapter Seven	333
7. Global Solidarity as the Means to Lasting Sustainable Development	333
7.1. The Universe as a Global Human Family: The North-South Relation for Global Support	335
7.2. Global Solidarity for Authentic Development in Africa	340
7.3. The Signs of our Time – Challenging the Modern World.	344
7.4. The Challenge of Achieving Lasting Sustainable Development in Africa.	347
7.5. From Stockholm to Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg World Summit ..	362
7.5.1. Rio in Retrospect	364
7.5.2. The Johannesburg World Summit	368
7.5.3. The Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development	375
7.6. Globalisation vis-à-vis Sustainability	379
Chapter Eight	385
8. Conclusion – The Path Forward – Is there any Hope?	385
8.1. Introduction	385
8.2. Just, Lasting, Participatory and Sustainable Development of Environmental Strategies in Africa.	388
8.3. Practical Responses to Ecological, Environmental, Economic Growth and Human Development in Africa	390
8.4. The Importance and Effect of Environmental Education and Public Awareness	393
8.5. The Drastic Effects of Over-Population and Poor Living Standards on the Environment	398
8.6. Future generations and emanating environmental and economic awareness – Children and environment.	400
8.7. The Gender Issue in African World-View – Women and Environment	406
8.8. Recommendations for a Lasting and Cultural and Environmentally Sustaining Future	411
8.8.1. The Task of the African Churches on Environmental Stewardship of God's Creation	412
8.8.2. On Diocesan Level	416
8.8.3. On Parish Level	416
8.8.4. On School Level	417
8.9. Conclusion	420
Bibliography	423