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SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT IN AFRICA: A PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Both the environment and the possibility of a better living are benefited by sustainable development. However, if it is used improperly, it may harm people, the environment, and sustainable development. This is seen in how the earth has degraded as a result of poor management. Due to soil erosion, deforestation, and climate change that are being caused in the name of sustainable development, the ecosystem is being drained. This outcome is linked to the explorers' self-centeredness, which was motivated by their interests and wealth. Many mining dumps that have not been sealed after being inspected for diamonds, gold, and other minerals and natural resources like rice, potatoes, corn, and so forth are examples of this, and they are used to over-plough the land in the name of sustainability development and living the earth barren.

The illegal miners who are aggravating environmental harm and accelerating earth deterioration for future generations are using the mining dumps further in the name of sustainable development by reducing poverty and unemployment in South Africa. The environment will deteriorate and become uninhabitable if this is not monitored. Using the search engines like Desktop, articles and proceedings, the paper will begin by highlighting sustainability development and its admirable goals of bringing about a better quality of life for the populace. However, this did not last for very long because diligent explorers invaded the planet, harming the ecosystem. The paper will then focus on the effects of environmental degradation after effects on sustainable development. The study will attempt to establish how an African environmental stewardship philosophy might help with the preservation of the ecosystem as it closes.

Keywords: sustainability development, environment, Mother Earth, African philosophy.

1. INTRODUCTION

According to Market Business News¹, sustainability development is a process that enables emerging economies to compete in the global sustainability environment. This indicates that it is a development that is in step with the upgrading of low-living nations to high-living ones. Furthermore, a shift in the sustainability paradigm is necessary because sustainable development focuses on enhancing the general public's health, well-being, and academic level.

Earlier, Feldman et al.,² defined sustainability development as the result of long-term investments in the generation of new ideas, knowledge transfer, and infrastructure. It depends on operating social and sustainability institutions and on collaboration between the public sector and private enterprise, which is achievable through collective action and large-scale, long-horizon investment, and it addresses the obstacles through the Government law which is used by sustainability development to carry out its policies and achieve its goals. This is done to better the lives of the people and make the nation sustainable, as the government considers both structural and human capital development.

Sherene³ came after the previous author and argues that because individuals can obtain necessities for a livelihood, sustainable development raises the standard of living and lowers poverty. Demand increases lead to more production, which boosts employment. The government will spend less money on providing welfare to unemployed people if the employment rate increases. The government will then be in a position to improve public

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¹ Businessnews market. What is sustainability development? Definition and examples (Market Business News, 2019) <<https://marketbusinessnews.com/financial-glossary/sustainability-development/>>

² Feldman M, Hadjimichael T, Kemeny T and Lanahan L, 'The logic of sustainability development: a definition and model for investment, Environment and Planning' (2016)³⁴ Government and Policy 5,21

³ Sherene, 'Causes, Advantages and Disadvantages of Sustainability Growth' (UK Essays, 2017) <<https://www.ukessays.com/.../sustainability/causes-advantages-disadvantages-sustainability-8>>

services like education, health care, water, and sanitation which makes lives easier and sustainable for the people. The manufacturers will then produce more, and tax levels will also be affected.

2. IMPLICATIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY GROWTH

2.1 Mineral Resources in sustainability development

Drawing on the aforementioned definitions, the paper considers that sustainability development finds growth in areas with natural and mineral resources, meaning that for it to meet the markets, there must be a source that will make natural resources like rice, potato, sugar, corn, etc., and mineral resources like diamond, gold, copper, platinum, etc. available. For nations and communities that have bilateral agreements on sustainability, the role of natural and mineral resources is crucial to the continuation of sustainable development. The other parties profit even when there is no bilateral smuggling. Similar to a country's forest, its precious treasure is its mineral resources, which are taken from the soil.

Additionally, demand and supply which is part of sustainability development lead to globalisation. Globalisation serves as an interaction and sharing of sustainability development with other countries. This sharing addresses the demand and supply wherein the supply in another country can be satisfied by the demand in other countries which uses it to improve the sustainability lives of its inhabitants. When sustainability development is in place there is a competitive edge in the markets where the undeveloped countries can participate.

According to Hamid⁴, globalisation is becoming a bigger factor in developing nations. Globalisation has some benefits, including advancements in technology, political influence, health care systems, and social and environmental factors. It offers numerous advantages in day-to-day living. New opportunities have been made available to developing nations through globalisation. The

⁴ Hamid M, *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* (Penguin Books India Pvt Ltd, 2013)

potential benefits of technology transfer include increased access to industrialised countries' markets, growth, and higher living standards and productivity.

Globalisation, according to Marumo⁵, was intended to generate wealth in a way that integrates inequality and poverty, but it has imposed itself as a neo-liberal sustainability that has not helped to reduce inequality and poverty, has caused environmental destruction, and has widened the gap between the rich and the poor, weakening societies. The most vulnerable impacted groups—women, young people, indigenous peoples, people with impairments, and the poor—have been marginalised. The aforementioned illustrates how accumulating wealth has harmed the environment and disadvantaged people. The environment has been contaminated by humanity's exploitative practices, including its materialistic avarice, callous attitude, and consumerism. Soil erosion and deforestation to make room for companies have become common practices today in the name of globalisation and progress, and as a result, the world is rapidly becoming a desert. These actions significantly aided in the demise of the planet.

2.2 Mining

The ecology in South Africa has suffered as a result of recent industrialization and urbanisation. The majority of these environmental problems are caused by the mining industry, which is a significant portion of the nation's economy. Overgrazing, heavy pesticide use, and soil erosion are further elements that contribute to the ecosystem's demise in South Africa. The nation has also struggled with issues related to air and water pollution. The main environmental issues that South Africa is now dealing with are highlighted in the list below (Hilson and Murck)⁶. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is significantly influenced by the mining industry. However, its role in causing environmental harm is also clearly seen. In addition to using a lot of electricity, which puts pressure on the grid to generate a lot of megawatts. Not only does it require a tremendous amount of electricity putting

⁵ Marumo P O, 'Christian and African traditional religion in dialogue; An Ecological future for Africa' (PhD thesis, Faculty of Human Sciences, University of the Northwest, South Africa, 2016)

⁶ Hilson G, and Murck B, 'Sustainable development in the mining industry: clarifying the corporate perspective' (2000)26 Resources policy 227,238

pressure on the grid to produce a lot of megawatts which causes huge disturbance in air pollution that contributes to unforeseen climate change and ozone depletion.

In addition, it disturbs the soil since it is relocated from its original location where it was placed to accommodate the search for mineral resources, and when mining companies close these mines, they leave a significant amount of underground soil on the surface, which may contaminate water streams. Due to these or other mining practices, regions like Gauteng today have less arable land, and the climate is unpredictable because the seasons no longer follow a regular pattern as a result of the disturbed atmosphere.

The reality is that the shift in the soil and the surrounding biosphere eliminates the residents of that particular biosphere, leading to a change in the ecosystem, despite efforts by other mining corporations to try and restore the prior biosphere or ecosystem. According to Limpitlaw et al.,⁷ the government has also taken steps to ensure environmental protection and reduce environmental change. These steps are intended to encourage mining corporations to exercise prudence in their operations. Given that it takes years for soil to develop into arable land, this land rehabilitation does not ensure the formation of the previous soil and biosphere, but what is also more crucial and should be emphasised is that mining is good for sustainability growth but detrimental for environmental protection so it promotes environmental degradation.

2.3 Inflation

The inflation impact is one of the primary drawbacks of sustainable growth. Aggregate demand will rise as long as growth is sustainable. There will be an excess of demand but a lack of supply in the economy if overall demand rises more quickly than overall supply does. Inflation is the result of producers' natural tendency to raise prices (Beardshaw, 1998)⁸. Overheating will happen when total demand keeps rising while the economy has

⁷ Limpitlaw D, Aken M, Lodewijks H, and Viljoen J, Post-mining rehabilitation, land use and pollution at collieries in South Africa (Colloquium: Sustainable Development in the Life of Coal Mining, South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, Boksburg Vol. 13, 2005)

⁸ Beardshaw J, Sustainability: a student's guide. (4th eds. New York: Addison Wesley Longman, 1998)

already reached its maximum level of productivity (Anderton)⁹. As a result, there will be significant inflation and little to no rise in output. Due to the high sustained growth in the 1980s, inflation in the UK rose by 10% (UK Recession)¹⁰. High inflation will lower people's purchasing power and this will decrease the number of local and foreign investments. So, a country like Africa needs to have equilibrium in the aggregate demand and aggregate supply to prevent inflation.

However, the World Bank claims that the combined consequences of the Ukraine war, soaring inflation, enormous debts, and climate change have severely hampered Africa's economic progress. According to the research released in October 2022, this will have long-lasting effects and may even undo decades of progress in the fight against poverty. Food insecurity is getting worse due to rising food and fuel prices, especially for the most disadvantaged people on the continent. The World Bank noted in its most recent biannual research Africa's Pulse that this may have caused the already rising headline inflation in Sub-Saharan Africa to increase. A gauge of an economy's overall inflation is headline inflation. It accounts for the fluctuating costs of commodities like food and fuel (Pandey, 2022)¹¹.

African Economic Outlook (2023)¹² Report announces the crucial role played by Africa's enormous natural resources, which were valued at \$6.2 trillion in 2018 and have a significant role in closing the current climate finance gap and fostering green growth transitions. Africa's enormous natural resources may be managed sustainably to create financial assets that can be used to fund investments in green economic transitions as well as financing for climate adaptation and mitigation. To improve local content and

⁹ Anderton C, 'Commercializing the Carnavalesque: The V Festival and Image/Risk Management' ((2008)12 *Event Management* 39,51

¹⁰ UK Recession. UK great recession' almost over, says thinktank (The Guardian 09 May 2014) <<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/may/09/uk-great-recession-almost-over-niesr-economy>> accessed 26 February 2020

¹¹ Pandey K, 'Inflation can kill Africa's human development, World Bank warns Most poverty-struck rural households in Africa spend between 57 and 59 per cent of their income on food' (Down to Earth, 2022). < <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/africa/inflation-can-kill-africa-human-development-world-bank-warns-85309>>

¹² African Economic Outlook, Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth in Africa (African Development Bank, 2023) < <https://www.afdb.org/>>

value addition and to better grasp the true value of Africa's natural capital, it will be necessary to implement the relevant policies and tools, including fiscal ones. Additionally, it will strengthen the institutional ability to solve governance flaws that have stopped the continent from fully using its natural resources, as well as develop regional value chains and marketplaces that will be profitable.

The aforementioned shows that inflation is crucial to sustainable development and that it has had a particularly negative impact on Africa. Due to the fall of the mining industry and additional reasons like globalisation, Africa is unable to compete effectively with the Western world. In addition, Africa's poor infrastructure played a role in the collapse of various African economies, which is why the reliant policy was implemented.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSE

3.1 Climate change

Sustainability development on a local, regional, and global scale has had an impact on the climate as well. Gibbs (2012)¹³, referenced by Rogerson (2016)¹⁴, has so remarked that this development at several societal levels—local, regional, and international—has prompted a discussion on climate change and sustainable development. South Africa is one of the top developing nations in Africa, which contributes to its hegemonic status in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The debate over sustainable development and environmental degradation has also not lagged. The country's aggressive steps to create electricity, mine, and use other resources to expand its economy have proved harmful to the environment's future.

Environmental issues are exacerbated by sustainability growth in addition to environmental changes. To enhance production output during sustainable growth, factories will run longer, which will

¹³ Gibbs D, 'The challenge of climate change for local and regional development strategies' (2012)288 *Regions* 25, 26

¹⁴ Rogerson C.M, 'Climate change, tourism and local sustainability development in South Africa', (2016)31 *Local Economy* 322, 331

raise carbon emissions, which in turn generate air pollution. In addition, generating too much quantity—which is superfluous yet necessary for the rise in wealth—leads to an increase in environmental damage. More resources are consequently concentrated on such practices that will result in an attack against the environment, according to Rogerson (2016) who continues by stating that many African nations remain vulnerable to pollution and climate change as growing nations in terms of industrialization and sustainable growth. Even though numerous African nations are responsible for this environmental calamity there is a need for sustainable growth as poverty is also a reality in countries like South Africa. As such there is a necessity for more industrial development, but is it going to be at the cost of environmental health?

That is why, sustainability expansion can hasten the depletion of non-renewable resources since more goods and services must be produced using a greater volume of raw materials (Sloman, 2001)¹⁵. A country with sustainable growth would produce a lot of garbage due to high consumption, and many forests will be felled to make way for enterprises to enhance output. This destroyed plant and animal habitats and contributed to climate change. The rate of sustainable growth will therefore decline as a result of sustainable growth that harms the environment (Beardshaw, 1998)¹⁶.

3.1 Poor land use

In South Africa, overgrazing is a persistent issue that first emerged during the apartheid era. Black farmers were not given access to most government benefits during this time, including fertilisers. The degradation of the land has also been substantially impacted by settlement patterns, particularly in densely populated black neighbourhoods. The number of individuals clamouring for land has typically increased due to increasing urbanisation, but the need to manage such locations gave rise to what is now known as squatter camps, townships, and informal settlements. The government had to demolish fertile land to make room for black

¹⁵ Sloman J, *Essentials of Sustainability*, (2nd Ed., Financial Times/ Prentice Hall (1710), 2001)

¹⁶ Beardshaw J, *Sustainability: a student's guide*. (4th eds. New York: Addison Wesley Longman, 1998)

people who were being expelled from "private" properties that were owned by the minority because of the overcrowding, which made it impossible to plant. This did not contribute to the sustainability of the soil, as Laker (2004)¹⁷ has explained that the objective to keep or prevent soil erosion is to have vegetation cover on the ground so providing people with land made the land to be exposed and valuable to soil erosion.

Furthermore, land use hasn't changed much as a result of badly managed budgets. In South Africa, the allocation of land has only benefited the central regions at the expense of the outlying areas. Even while the government has offered some subsidies, many states cannot afford to provide them to everyone, and in some cases, the recipients of these subsidies have not benefited from them (Zevenbergen, 2012)¹⁸. In essence, there is no effective way for the government to find those who can influence how land is used so that the majority benefits. Therefore, not only has the use of this land not produced favourable results, but neither has the distribution of the land.

The inability of many farmers to conduct appropriate farming is a significant aspect that is sometimes overlooked in the inadequate management and usage of the land. Additionally, this may accelerate soil erosion over time and alter the ecosystem of that particular piece of land. To safeguard soil conservation and soil sustainability and to prevent overgrazing that could eventually turn the land barren, the government must control how the land is distributed. Therefore, even if sustainable development is unavoidable, the area must have trees to safeguard the soil and environment and keep them intact.

¹⁷ Laker M.C, 'Advances in soil erosion, soil conservation, land suitability evaluation, and land use planning research in South Africa,1978–2003' (2004)21 South African Journal of Plant and Soil 345,368

¹⁸ Zevenbergen J, Augustinus C, Antonio D, and Bennett R, 'Pro-poor land administration: Principles for recording the land rights of the underrepresented' (2013)31 Land use policy 595-604.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION VS SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT

In many postcolonial African republics, sustainable emancipation has always been the main goal of state formation. For instance, the South African landscape saw the creation of policies like the Reconstruction and Development Policy and the Black Sustainability Empowerment Policy, among others, which have served as the catalysts for sustainable development and sustainability emancipation, particularly for black people who were alienated by the apartheid system. The government's efforts have been crucial and significant up to this point, and as a result, it will pave the way for common black communities and individuals to gain non-executive membership in cooperative operations within the borders of South Africa, particularly in the mining industry (Sanchez, 2015)¹⁹.

Given the importance of the mining industry to South Africa's GDP, it is crucial to emphasise the role that mines play in sustainable growth while simultaneously acknowledging the effects that these changes have had on the environment. According to Stilwel et al. (2000)²⁰, one of the major contributors to global resource production is South Africa's mining industry. In addition, Stilwel et al. (2000)²¹ said that the nation possesses sizable quantities of phosphates, antimony, coal, and nickel in addition to the greatest reserves of gold, platinum, titanium, chromium, manganese, and vanadium. This shows not only how much this industry contributes to the nation's GDP (Gross Domestic Product), of the country but also it makes a further significant contribution to the world at large in terms of sustainability growth. Be that like it that the sustainability world recognizes the contributions made by the mining sector in the global sector but then again environmental factors that accompany this impact are also significant.

¹⁹ Sanchez D, 'The sustainability empowerment of African descendants: lessons from South Africa's black sustainability empowerment strategy' [2015]

²⁰ Stilwell L.C, Minnitt R.C.A, Monson T.D, and Kuhn G, 'An input-output analysis of the impact of mining on the South African economy' (2000)26 Resources Policy 17, 30

²¹ Ibid

Givens and Jorgenson (2011)²² pointed out that the environmental damage caused by the aforementioned practices is not limited to national boundaries, but also contributes to air and water pollution, which is made by this significant sustainability contributor. Sustainability emancipation and development have long been urgent concerns for South Africa, but in the modern era of seeking to move towards sustainable development and also acknowledging the realities of what this development has contributed to the environmental damage, South Africa may need to find new ways to expand its economy and make positive contributions to both the environment and the economy.

Without a doubt, South Africa's efforts to expand its economy largely alienated the environment and disregarded and in doing the sustainability growth of the state has only brought with it a major environmental degradation. Even within the countries' scarce resources such as water and land, the role of mining amongst other industries has reached contamination stages as such created earth degradation due to hazardous areas or resources.

5. AFRICAN WORLDVIEW/PHILOSOPHY

According to an African worldview, the ground is the source of all life and should always be respected. Because of this, the majority of the time, Africans view the earth as the Mother, therefore the term Mother Earth. There has long been African content in the storyline associated with the phrase. According to interpretations of biblical stories, God created the earth and was wise enough to make it his home and a place for his feet. The stories explain that God loved to eat from the stool at his feet and that he wanted someone to take care of his priceless possessions. And in that way, humanity was designated as the planet's caretaker rather than the owner of the earth. What is interesting about this action is that

²² Givens J.E, and Jorgenson A.K, 'The effects of affluence, sustainability development, and environmental degradation on environmental concern: A multilevel analysis' (2011)²⁴ Organization & Environment 74, 91

humanity was prepared from clay which is part of the earth or the main component of the earth because without clay the earth's formation will not be what it is now.

Mother Earth is not a tool for industrialist sustainability forces to manipulate, according to an African school of thought. This idea empowers Africans to take charge of their fate and create decent societies. The community concept is fundamental, and it is this concept that grants the concept of ecology its unique privileges. A human being is valued in an African society, and their life is equally and unwaveringly protected. The same level of protection, preservation, and care should be given to the life of animals, plants, mountains, and seas. Unjust practices include the unrestrained exploitation of life's natural resources, the callous devastation of the biosphere, and the pollution of the cosmos. Therefore, it is up to us as humans to protect Mother Earth. Exploitation and greed are not acceptable for the sake of individual interests.

Mother Earth had various names, according to Boateng (1998:42)²³, and these names provided Africans with knowledge and significance. Africans view the ground (Asase) as "mother" (Asase Yaa/E/ua), the giver and sustainer of life, and respond positively to the laws of nature. As a result, the man prayed before planting and observed "harvest festivals" like Homom (Ga). Ohum (Abuakwa) and Odwira (Akuapem) to honour Mother Earth's kindness. Africans created a set of taboos, or rules, to govern their interaction with Mother Earth to maintain the earth's capacity as a mothership and to increase biodiversity. The protection of the environment was emphasised by these rules.

The aforementioned is connected to the information Taringa (2006:211)²⁴ cited while studying the Shona people. According to Taringa, the Shona tribe has a different understanding of nature's holiness because not all animals and plants are valued equally by the tribe. Due to the overlap between ecological responsibility and

²³ Boateng B.B, 'Traditional conservation practices; Ghana example' (1998)14 Research review 42, 51

²⁴ Taringa N, 'Environmental is an African traditional religion' (2006)32 Exchange 191, 214

negative sentiments, this may allude to totemic creatures and flora. Accordingly, less revered species are more vulnerable to extinction from an environmental standpoint than those that the Shona consider to be endowed with souls. This indirectly contributes to the issue of overuse and underuse of natural resources. To understand the significance mentioned by the Shonas, an investigation must be done. Maybe Shonas' priorities aren't the same as yours and vice versa. So in understanding the African philosophy on environmental sustainability, both must meet as advisers to each other especially recognizing each other contributions to the environment.

African philosophy, often known as the principle of ubuntu or botho in Sesotho, is the foundation of the African worldview. LekaBula (2008:386)²⁵ asserts that botho is ingrained in the universe and the Supreme Being and that many Africans' religious rituals serve to confirm their kinship with the planet, other people, the Supreme Being, and their ancestors. These rituals provide a visual representation of how many cultures view their relationships with plants, animals, and other living things as part of their ontology. Examples of this include the clans of the Batswana and Basotho peoples, who frequently equate themselves with animals like lions, crocodiles, buffaloes, and elephants. They narrate and chant totems, describing their connectedness to that creation. Being in a relationship, through this connectedness with the earth, implies caring is paramount from an African worldview.

LenkaBula (2008)²⁶ expands on her definition of botho by stating that taking care of the planet is a fundamental African way of life and that it takes the form of compassion in daily interactions as well as justice, wisdom, intergenerational concern, and devotion. Therefore, botho reject human actions that cause ecological deterioration. If we are the earth or creation, then its destruction is also our demise. In other words, if we obliterate or ruin the natural world due to a booming economy and our avarice, we shall also perish. This suggests that botho must develop into a consciousness that motivates and inspires individuals to care for

²⁵ LekaBula P 'Beyond Anthropocentricity- Botho/Ubuntu and the quest for sustainability and ecological justice in Africa'. (2008)15 Religion and Theology 375,394

²⁶ Ibid

themselves, one another, and the environment as well as to be obedient to God, the Creator, and themselves.

Clay was used in the development of humanity, enforcing the earth as its embodiment. This marked the start of humanity's long-term relationship with the Earth. Since the relationship had existed before humanity was placed in the Garden of Eden, God's decision to do so was proper. Humanity was driven out of the Garden as a result of what happened there. Others claim that there was never a Garden and that humans have been in charge of the earth since time immemorial, whereas Christians refer to that as the origin of sin. Humanity must establish rules on how to rule and care for the earth because it is their home. The concept of rule allowed humanity the freedom to do anything he wanted with Earth, without interference from anyone. The events that followed were fatal for the future of humanity. Consequently, humans began to have a different perspective on the earth.

In light of this, Marumo (2016, 85)²⁷ explains that industrial sustainability forces can no longer take advantage of the environment and exploit its resources, but rather the worldview gives the power to take charge of their destiny and create humane societies. In addition, humans must protect the environment and maintain good relations with all of its inhabitants to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Therefore, it is important to keep in mind that there will always need to be a component of responsibility, nurturing, and growing the environment by the people who live there.

The earth is suffering from an avalanche of exploitation brought on by consumerism, the exploitation of the earth for sustainable purposes, and hunger for money. The earth never had a chance to recover from this assault, which has been a concern. According to an African worldview, the earth needs to rest to reciprocate, be able to produce more and be able to support itself. The Akan tribe typically uses environmental preservation as an illustration of resting the land. The Akan tribe, according to Awuah-Nyameke

²⁷ Marumo P.O, 'Christian and African traditional religion in dialogue; An Ecological future for Africa' (PhD thesis, Faculty of Human Sciences, University of the Northwest, South Africa, 2016)

(2012:86–87)²⁸, considered it impure to urinate or crop close to rivers because they believed that doing so exposed the water to the sun's direct rays, which could cause it to evaporate. To curb evaporation of water and the river running dry some deeds are prohibited near the river. Thus, the perennial flow of the water in the river is ensured. These measures seemed to have contributed positively towards earth preservation in the Akan tribe. Due to their fishing expertise and fishing as a means of survival in the Akan tribe, they found a way of preserving that legacy. The Akan tribe chose Tuesday as the day of non-fishing and fishing on Tuesday was seen as a taboo. In this way, the sea was rested and in this manner, the earth was preserved.

It should be noted that African philosophy is not flawless in its practices of protecting the environment. Their deeds are carried out in the old African religion, which involves drowning lambs and other animals as sacrifices. These actions have an impact on the ecosystem by poisoning the water. It makes it more difficult to maintain development because the debris needs to be removed to clean up the river. Restoration projects receive significant funding, which harms communities and the environment.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The article acknowledges the need for the economy to expand to get rid of threats to people's safety, such as unemployment and poverty. In addition, the country's land issue is one of those that is a burning one, and as such, it is advised that for the economy to develop, South Africans must fully participate in it and contribute decisively and accurately. This cannot be done without properly managing the land issue, and it is also necessary to have a substitute measure that can be used to help the economy grow that is sustainable and friendly to the environment such as redistribution of land to get more people in the agricultural sector instead of having everyone ambitions being in the cooperate world. And lastly, currently, the cornerstone of the state's

²⁸ Awuah-Nyameke S, 'Religion and development; African traditional religion perspective' (2012)31 *Journals religious studies and Theology* 75,90

economy is resting upon the mining sector as such the government has focused most of its resources on this sector, therefore, a shift of focus is also essential from the retrospect of mining to the contemporary methods of employing technology as a footstool of job creation.

The importance of the earth's survival and the consequences of its extinction should be considered by economists and developers. The obvious practice at the moment is to treat the ground badly and as a source of money, which is why it should not be disturbed. It is important to remember that protecting the world is nothing new. The modern worldview should look to African philosophy for the answer to how the earth might be used for development and protected for usage in the future. They must also consider cooperating with other African thinkers and identifying a shared path that will help ensure the survival of the planet. Humanity will perish if the earth declines and even the big companies that make money out of the earth's resources won't be there to enjoy the luxury of wealth they derived from the earth's proceeds.

7. CONCLUSION

In general, sustainable growth can be advantageous because it lowers poverty and results in a low unemployment rate. The national income will rise as a nation experiences sustainable growth, and this will raise investments in technologies that can address environmental issues and create substitute materials to take the place of those non-renewable resources. But since South Africa's economy is in trouble, achieving such goals is and will always be challenging; as a result, the nation continues to endure environmental deterioration and a shortage of other resources. Therefore, the country will continue to experience these issues without alternative sustainable measures being implemented to promote sustainability growth and development, which are not a long-term fix for the sustainability growth and emancipation of the society.

In conclusion, human actions towards the environment have caused irreparable harm to the earth. If this conduct is not controlled, the earth will continue to be destroyed until it is

destroyed. We must begin conserving the world now and look for ways to make it a reality if we want it to remain habitable. Instead, in preparation for the Creator's return and the subsequent renewal of all things, humanity should make contributions to the renewal of the earth.