

# **Achieving Sustainability for a Green Tomorrow**

---

**Kariuki Muigua**

**Table of Contents**

Abstract..... 3

1.0 Introduction ..... 3

2.0 Defining Sustainability ..... 4

3.0 Achieving Sustainability: Opportunities and Challenges..... 7

4.0 Towards Sustainability..... 10

5.0 Conclusion ..... 14

References ..... 16

## Achieving Sustainability for a Green Tomorrow

Kariuki Muigua\*

### Abstract

*In light of mounting global environmental, economic, and social problems facing the planet including the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, it has become imperative to forge a new relationship between humanity and nature. Achieving sustainability is an ideal towards establishing harmony between humanity and nature and tackling environmental, social, and economic problems facing the world. This paper critically examines the progress made towards achieving sustainability. The paper posits that achieving sustainability is a key priority for the well-being of both humanity and nature. The paper defines sustainability and highlights its key elements. It also discusses the progress made towards achieving this ideal and examines challenges hindering the attainment of sustainability. The paper offers proposals towards achieving sustainability for a green tomorrow.*

### 1.0 Introduction

The global community is currently facing numerous environmental, economic, and social challenges. Such problems include poverty, rising inequalities within and among nations, gender inequalities, unemployment, global health threats, conflicts, and more frequent and intense natural disasters<sup>1</sup>. These challenges are worsened by environmental threats including depletion of natural resources, environmental degradation, desertification, drought, freshwater scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and climate change<sup>2</sup>. Addressing these

---

\* PhD in Law (Nrb), FCI Arb (Chartered Arbitrator), OGW, LL. B (Hons) Nrb, LL.M (Environmental Law) Nrb; Dip. In Law (KSL); FCPS (K); Dip. in Arbitration (UK); MKIM; Mediator; Consultant: Lead expert EIA/EA NEMA; BSI ISO/IEC 27001:2005 ISMS Lead Auditor/ Implementer; ESG Consultant; Advocate of the High Court of Kenya; Professor of Environmental Law and Conflict Management at the University of Nairobi, Faculty of Law; Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) [August, 2024].

<sup>1</sup> United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1., Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf> (Accessed on 07/08/2024)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

challenges has therefore become an urgent priority for the prosperity of both humanity and nature.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) notes that it has become imperative to forge a new relationship between people and the planet in light of mounting environmental, social, and economic challenges that are prevalent throughout the world<sup>3</sup>. This urgency is heightened by the growing triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution<sup>4</sup>. Sustainability has become a clarion call towards establishing harmony between humanity and nature and tackling environmental, social, and economic problems facing the world<sup>5</sup>.

This paper critically examines the progress made towards achieving sustainability. The paper posits that achieving sustainability is a key priority for the well-being of both humanity and nature. The paper defines sustainability and highlights its key elements. It also discusses the progress made towards achieving this ideal and examines challenges hindering the attainment of sustainability. The paper offers proposals towards achieving sustainability for a green tomorrow.

## 2.0 Defining Sustainability

Achieving sustainability entails creating and maintaining the conditions under which humanity and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations<sup>6</sup>. Sustainability involves finding a balance between economic, social, and environmental factors to ensure that resources are used in a way that is not only

---

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Environment Programme., 'The Triple Planetary Crisis: Forging a New Relationship Between People and the Earth' Available at [https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/speech/triple-planetary-crisis-forging-new-relationship-between-people-and-earth?gad\\_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI5Jf4zJXihwMVr6KDBx2jcx22EAAYASAAEgIqsfD\\_BwE](https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/speech/triple-planetary-crisis-forging-new-relationship-between-people-and-earth?gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMI5Jf4zJXihwMVr6KDBx2jcx22EAAYASAAEgIqsfD_BwE) (Accessed on 07/08/2024)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency., 'What is Sustainability.' Available at <https://www.epa.gov/sustainability/learn-about-sustainability> (Accessed on 07/08/2024)

environmentally sustainable but also socially equitable and economically viable in the long term<sup>7</sup>. The ideal of sustainability therefore has environmental, social, and economic facets.

In the environmental context, sustainability entails conserving the environment and natural resources and protecting global ecosystems to support health and wellbeing, now and in the future<sup>8</sup>. Environmental sustainability envisages the condition of resilience, balance, and connection to allow humanity to meet its requirements without surpassing the capacity of its supporting ecosystems and without harming biological diversity<sup>9</sup>. It focuses on issues such as reducing carbon emissions, promoting renewable energy, promoting effective waste management, curbing pollution, and ensuring equitable access and use of natural resources<sup>10</sup>. In the social context, sustainability is the ability of a society to uphold universal human rights and meet the basic needs of every person such as food, water, healthcare, and education<sup>11</sup>. It has been noted that healthy and sustainable communities ensure personal, labour, and cultural rights are respected and all people are protected from discrimination<sup>12</sup>. Economic sustainability on the other hand envisages fostering long term economic without damaging or depleting the environment and natural resources<sup>13</sup>. It entails a broad set of principles and practices aimed at achieving economic growth without engaging in the harmful environmental trade-offs that historically accompany economic growth<sup>14</sup>.

---

<sup>7</sup> Sustainability: A Better Tomorrow, But How?., Available at <https://www.green.earth/sustainability> (Accessed on 07/08/2024)

<sup>8</sup> What Is Environmental Sustainability?., Available at <https://sphera.com/resources/glossary/what-is-environmental-sustainability/> (Accessed on 07/08/2024)

<sup>9</sup> Khan. N. H., 'Ecodesigning for Ecological Sustainability' *Frontiers in Plant-Soil Interaction.*, 2021. Pp 589-616

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> What is Sustainability?., Available at <https://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/files/sustainability/what-is-sustainability.pdf> (Accessed on 07/08/2024)

<sup>12</sup> Ibid

<sup>13</sup> Rowse. B., 'Economic Sustainability: Definition, Importance, and Examples' Available at <https://sustainabilityeducationacademy.com/economic-sustainability-defined/> (Accessed on 07/08/2024)

<sup>14</sup> Economic Sustainability: Definition, Importance, and Examples., Available at <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/economic-sustainability> (Accessed on 07/08/2024)

The term sustainability has often been used interchangeably with Sustainable Development. However, it has been argued that there is a slight difference between the two expressions, in which sustainability refers to a state or ideal, while Sustainable Development refers to the process for achieving this state or ideal<sup>15</sup>. Sustainable Development can therefore be understood as a means of achieving the ideal of sustainability. Sustainable Development refers to development that meets the needs of the present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs<sup>16</sup>. Sustainable Development aims to improve the quality of life in a comprehensive manner, including economic prosperity, social equity and environmental protection<sup>17</sup>. According to the United Nations, Sustainable Development requires an integrated approach that takes into consideration environmental concerns along with economic and social development<sup>18</sup>. Sustainable Development therefore aims to achieve the ideal of sustainability by promoting environmental protection and conservation, economic development and social progress<sup>19</sup>.

Achieving sustainability is key for both humanity and nature. This ideal is vital in creating and maintaining conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the environmental, social, economic and other requirements of both present and future generations<sup>20</sup>. Sustainability improves the quality of our lives, protects our environment and its ecosystems and also preserves

---

<sup>15</sup> Giovannoni. E., & Fabietti. G., 'What Is Sustainability? A Review of the Concept and Its Applications.' In: Busco, C., Frigo, M., Riccaboni, A., Quattrone, P. (eds) *Integrated Reporting*. Springer, Cham. Available at [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-02168-3\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-02168-3_2) (Accessed on 07/08/2024)

<sup>16</sup> World Commission on Environment and Development., 'Our Common Future.' Oxford, (Oxford University Press, 1987)

<sup>17</sup> Muigua. K., 'Nurturing Our Environment for Sustainable Development' Glenwood Publishers Limited, 2016

<sup>18</sup> United Nations., 'Sustainability' Available at <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/sustainability> (Accessed on 07/08/2024)

<sup>19</sup> Fitzmaurice. M., 'The Principle of Sustainable Development in International Development Law.' *International Sustainable Development Law.*, Vol 1

<sup>20</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency., 'What is Sustainability.' Op Cit

natural resources for future generations<sup>21</sup>. It is therefore imperative to achieve sustainability for a green tomorrow.

### **3.0 Achieving Sustainability: Opportunities and Challenges**

The need to achieve sustainability was given global prominence during the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm Sweden in 1972. The Conference led to the adoption of the *Stockholm Declaration*<sup>22</sup> which was the first global instrument recognizing the urgent need to achieve sustainability. The Stockholm Declaration recognizes that the protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue which affects the well-being of all people and economic development throughout the world<sup>23</sup>. It calls upon Governments and every person to exert common efforts for the preservation and improvement of the human environment, for the benefit of all the people and for their posterity<sup>24</sup>. In addition, the Declaration recognizes that every person has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being, and that humanity bears a solemn responsibility to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations<sup>25</sup>. In order to achieve environmental sustainability, the Stockholm Declaration acknowledges that natural resources of the earth, including the air, water, land, flora and fauna and especially representative samples of natural ecosystems, must be safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations through careful planning or management, as appropriate<sup>26</sup>. The Stockholm Declaration also embraces economic and social facets of sustainability. It acknowledges that economic and social development is essential for ensuring a favorable living and working

---

<sup>21</sup> Ibid

<sup>22</sup> United Nations, Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment., Stockholm, 5-16 June, 1972, A/CONF. 48/14/Rev. 1

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, Preamble

<sup>24</sup> Ibid

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, Principle 1

<sup>26</sup> Ibid, Principle 2

environment for humanity and for creating conditions on earth that are necessary for the improvement of the quality of life<sup>27</sup>.

The Stockholm Declaration therefore represents a key milestone in the global agenda towards sustainability. It ushered in a new era of global cooperation to search for solutions to reconcile economic development and environmental management and paved the way for the concept of Sustainable Development<sup>28</sup>. Since then, the ideal of sustainability has received widespread attention<sup>29</sup>.

The *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development* ('*Earth Summit*')<sup>30</sup> held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3-14 June 1992 led to the adoption of the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*<sup>31</sup> which is another major instrument guiding the global agenda on sustainability. The Rio Declaration seeks to balance the interests of states in exploiting their natural resources for development and environmental conservation with the aim of achieving Sustainable Development<sup>32</sup>. The Declaration notes that human beings are at the centre of concerns for Sustainable Development and are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature<sup>33</sup>. In order to achieve Sustainable Development, the Rio Declaration acknowledges that environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it<sup>34</sup>. In addition, the Rio Declaration affirms that the right to development

---

<sup>27</sup> Ibid, Principle 8

<sup>28</sup> International Institute for Sustainable Development., 'Stockholm and the Birth of Environmental Diplomacy' Available at [https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2020-09/still-one-earth-stockholm-diplomacy\\_0.pdf](https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2020-09/still-one-earth-stockholm-diplomacy_0.pdf) (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>29</sup> Ibid

<sup>30</sup> United Nations., 'United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 June 1992.' Available at <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/rio1992> (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>31</sup> United Nations General Assembly., 'Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.' A/CONF. 151/26 (Vol.1)

<sup>32</sup> Ibid, Principle 2

<sup>33</sup> Ibid, Principle 1

<sup>34</sup> Ibid, Principle 4



must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations in order to achieve sustainability<sup>35</sup>.

The United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* sets out the global vision for sustainability<sup>36</sup>. The Agenda envisions attainment of the environmental, economic, and social facets of sustainability through 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>37</sup>. The SDGs recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and conserving natural resources including land, oceans and forests<sup>38</sup>. The 17 SDGs are integrated since they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability<sup>39</sup>. Realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs is therefore crucial in achieving sustainability.

Achieving sustainability is also a key priority for Africa. *Agenda 2063*<sup>40</sup> sets out a strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable Development in Africa. It seeks to foster a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and Sustainable Development<sup>41</sup>. Agenda 2063 identifies several aspirations, goals, and priority areas towards achieving sustainability in Africa<sup>42</sup>. It has been pointed out that actualizing the aspirations, goals, and targets of the Agenda 2063 can accelerate the Sustainable Development agenda in

---

<sup>35</sup> Ibid, Principle 3

<sup>36</sup> United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1., Op Cit

<sup>37</sup> Ibid

<sup>38</sup> Ibid

<sup>39</sup> Ibid

<sup>40</sup> Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want' Available at [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-framework\\_document\\_book.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-framework_document_book.pdf) (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>41</sup> Ibid

<sup>42</sup> Ibid

Africa<sup>43</sup>. It is therefore necessary to implement Agenda 2063 in order to achieve the ideal of sustainability in Africa.

Despite the adoption of key instruments setting out the need for sustainability, achieving this ideal continues to be a major challenge both globally and in Africa. Environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, and loss of biodiversity together with issues of poverty, increasing disparity between nations and the tensions brought by social inequalities continue to hinder the quest towards sustainability<sup>44</sup>. In addition, it has been noted that Africa continues to face numerous challenges such as poverty, hunger, food insecurity, conflicts, drought, water scarcity, climate change, unemployment and inequalities which are a threat to the Sustainable Development agenda<sup>45</sup>. Tackling these challenges is vital in achieving sustainability for a green tomorrow.

#### **4.0 Towards Sustainability**

It is imperative to achieve sustainability at the global, regional, and national levels. Achieving sustainability is key for both present and future generations. Sustainability improves the quality of our lives, protects our environment and its ecosystems and also preserves natural resources for future generations<sup>46</sup>. There are numerous opportunities and interventions available in unlocking the environmental, economic, and social facets of sustainability.

---

<sup>43</sup> United Nations Development Programme., '2023 Africa Sustainable Development Report.' Available at <https://www.undp.org/africa/publications/2023-africa-sustainable-development-report> (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>44</sup> Giovannoni. E., & Fabietti. G., 'What Is Sustainability? A Review of the Concept and Its Applications.' Op Cit

<sup>45</sup> African Development Bank., 'The way Forward to Achieving Sustainable Development in Africa.' Available at [https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/ADR15\\_chapter\\_8.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/ADR15_chapter_8.pdf) (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>46</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency., 'What is Sustainability.' Op Cit

Environmental sustainability can be achieved through efficient conservation of the environment and natural resources, reducing pollution and waste, embracing renewable sources of energy, and encouraging global and local responsibility in environmental conservation<sup>47</sup>. Tackling climate change is a key priority towards environmental sustainability<sup>48</sup>. Climate change impacts the availability of basic necessities like freshwater, food, and energy<sup>49</sup>. Further, it has been noted that poor and developing countries, particularly least developed countries are the most adversely affected and least able to cope with climate shocks to their social, economic and natural systems<sup>50</sup>. The impacts of climate change including intense droughts, water scarcity, severe fires, rising sea levels, flooding, melting polar ice, catastrophic storms and declining biodiversity represents a key threat to achieving sustainability<sup>51</sup>. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identifies climate change as one of the greatest challenges of our time whose adverse impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve Sustainable Development<sup>52</sup>. SDG 13 urges all countries to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts<sup>53</sup>. It is therefore necessary for all countries to strengthen their response to climate change in order to achieve environmental sustainability.

Renewable sources of energy provide an excellent opportunity for the world to achieve environmental sustainability<sup>54</sup>. Generating renewable energy creates far lower emissions

---

<sup>47</sup> Strategies for Promoting Environmental Sustainability in Communities., Available at <https://aithor.com/essay-examples/strategies-for-promoting-environmental-sustainability-in-communities> (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>48</sup> United Nations., 'Climate Change' Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/climatechange> (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>49</sup> Ibid

<sup>50</sup> Ibid

<sup>51</sup> United Nations., 'What is Climate Change?' Available at <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change#:~:text=The%20consequences%20of%20climate%20change,catastrophic%20storms%20and%20declining%20biodiversity.> (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>52</sup> United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1., Op Cit

<sup>53</sup> Ibid

<sup>54</sup> United Nations., 'What is Renewable Energy?' Available at <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-renewable->

than burning fossil fuels and therefore offers numerous advantages to both the environment and humanity<sup>55</sup>. It has been noted that transitioning from fossil fuels, which currently account for the lion's share of global greenhouse gas emissions, to renewable energy is key to addressing the climate crisis and achieving environmental sustainability<sup>56</sup>. By shifting towards renewable sources of energy, the world can reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, enhance energy security, strengthen environmental sustainability, and stimulate economic growth in certain sectors<sup>57</sup>. It has been noted that Africa has immense potential for renewable energy including wind, solar, hydro, bioenergy, ocean tidal waves, geothermal among other renewables which are abundant throughout the continent<sup>58</sup>. There is an urgent need to harness renewable energy in Africa and all over the world in order to achieve environmental sustainability.

For countries to achieve economic sustainability, it is imperative to foster socially responsible investing through approaches such as integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors in economic and corporate decision making<sup>59</sup>. It has been pointed out that ESG has a positive impact on economic growth<sup>60</sup>. ESG fosters economic sustainability by encouraging responsible business practices and creating economic opportunities that benefit both people and the planet<sup>61</sup>.

Achieving economic sustainability also requires countries to enhance employment opportunities and decent work for all<sup>62</sup>. SDG urges all countries to promote sustained,

---

[energy#:~:text=Renewable%20energy%20is%20energy%20derived,plentiful%20and%20all%20around%20us.](#) (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>55</sup> Ibid

<sup>56</sup> Ibid

<sup>57</sup> Sustainability: A Better Tomorrow, But How?., Op Cit

<sup>58</sup> Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want.' Op Cit

<sup>59</sup> Sustainability: A Better Tomorrow, But How?., Op Cit

<sup>60</sup> Ibid

<sup>61</sup> Ibid

<sup>62</sup> Muigua. K., 'Promoting Sustained Economic Growth and Decent Work for All' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Promoting-Sustained-Economic-Growth-and-Decent-Work-for-All-x.pdf> (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all<sup>63</sup>. It is therefore necessary for all countries to promote sustained economic growth and decent work for all in order to achieve economic sustainability.

In addition, it is imperative for all countries to embrace the idea of green growth in order to achieve economic sustainability. Green growth involves fostering economic growth and development, while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies<sup>64</sup>. Green growth ensures that economic development can go hand in-hand with environmental sustainability<sup>65</sup>. Achieving green growth for economic sustainability requires all countries to green key sectors of the economic through approaches such as embracing low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure, promoting green industrialization, implementing circular economy, promoting blue economy (sustainable use of marine resources), embracing climate-smart agriculture, fostering sustainable forestry, enhancing sustainable water management, and promoting sustainable tourism through ecotourism, among other initiatives<sup>66</sup>.

Finally, in order to achieve social sustainability, there is need to enhance social cohesion which is a shared purpose, trust, and willingness to cooperate within and across

---

<sup>63</sup> United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1., Op Cit

<sup>64</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development., 'What is Green Growth and How Can it Help Deliver Sustainable Development?' Available at <https://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/whatisgreengrowthandhowcanithelpdeliversustainabledevelopment.htm> (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>65</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific., 'Green Growth Uptake in Asia-Pacific Region.' Available at [https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP20/ppp/Item10\\_b\\_ESCAP\\_GreenGrowthUptake\\_esm.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP20/ppp/Item10_b_ESCAP_GreenGrowthUptake_esm.pdf) (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>66</sup> African Development Bank Group., 'Climate and Green Growth Strategic Framework: Projecting Africa's Voice' Available at [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/african\\_development\\_bank\\_-\\_climate\\_change\\_and\\_green\\_growth\\_policy.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/african_development_bank_-_climate_change_and_green_growth_policy.pdf) (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

communities, and between communities and the state;<sup>67</sup> social inclusion through access for all to services, markets, and the opportunity to participate in society and live with dignity<sup>68</sup>; and resilience by ensuring that everyone, including poor and marginalized groups, are safe and can withstand shocks and protect their cultural integrity<sup>69</sup>. It has been noted that social sustainability has intrinsic values grounded in human rights and aligned with the SDGs<sup>70</sup>. Therefore, social sustainability requires all countries to promote human rights, combat poverty, embrace diversity and inclusion and enhance access to basic services including food, healthcare, water, and education<sup>71</sup>.

## 5.0 Conclusion

The ideal of sustainability entails creating and maintaining the conditions under which humanity and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations<sup>72</sup>. The concept of Sustainable Development offers a pathway towards sustainability by promoting environmental protection and conservation, economic development and social progress<sup>73</sup>. Achieving sustainability is key in enhancing the quality of our lives, protecting our environment and its ecosystems and also preserving natural resources for future generations<sup>74</sup>. Realizing sustainability remains an elusive agenda for the world in light of environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution, and loss of biodiversity together with issues of poverty, increasing disparity between nations and the tensions brought by social inequalities continue to hinder the quest towards sustainability<sup>75</sup>. It is imperative to address these challenges in order to

---

<sup>67</sup> World Bank., 'Social Sustainability: A Critical Gap in the Global Development Agenda' Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/developmenttalk/social-sustainability-critical-gap-global-development-agenda> (Accessed on 08/08/2024)

<sup>68</sup> Ibid

<sup>69</sup> Ibid

<sup>70</sup> Ibid

<sup>71</sup> Ibid

<sup>72</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency., 'What is Sustainability.' Op Cit

<sup>73</sup> Fitzmaurice. M., 'The Principle of Sustainable Development in International Development Law.' Op Cit

<sup>74</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency., 'What is Sustainability.' Op Cit

<sup>75</sup> Giovannoni. E., & Fabietti. G., 'What Is Sustainability? A Review of the Concept and Its Applications.' Op Cit

achieve sustainability. In order to achieve environmental sustainability, it is vital to strengthen environmental governance, combat climate change, reduce pollution and waste, embrace renewable sources of energy, and encourage global and local responsibility in environmental conservation<sup>76</sup>. Unlocking economic sustainability requires all countries to embrace ESG, enhance employment opportunities and decent work for all, and promote green growth<sup>77</sup>. Social sustainability can be realized through enhancing social cohesion, social inclusion, resilience, respect for human rights, and access to basic needs such as food, healthcare, water, and education<sup>78</sup>. It is imperative to realize the ideal of sustainability in order to foster harmony between humanity and nature for the benefit of present and future generations. Achieving Sustainability for a Green tomorrow is not only necessary, but it is also possible.

---

<sup>76</sup> Strategies for Promoting Environmental Sustainability in Communities., Op Cit

<sup>77</sup> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development., 'What is Green Growth and How Can it Help Deliver Sustainable Development?' Op Cit

<sup>78</sup> World Bank., 'Social Sustainability: A Critical Gap in the Global Development Agenda'

## References

Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want' Available at [https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-framework\\_document\\_book.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-framework_document_book.pdf)

African Development Bank Group., 'Climate and Green Growth Strategic Framework: Projecting Africa's Voice' Available at [https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/african\\_development\\_bank\\_-\\_climate\\_change\\_and\\_green\\_growth\\_policy.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/african_development_bank_-_climate_change_and_green_growth_policy.pdf)

African Development Bank., 'The way Forward to Achieving Sustainable Development in Africa.' Available at [https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/ADR15\\_chapter\\_8.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/ADR15_chapter_8.pdf)

Economic Sustainability: Definition, Importance, and Examples., Available at <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/economic-sustainability>

Fitzmaurice. M., 'The Principle of Sustainable Development in International Development Law.' *International Sustainable Development Law.*, Vol 1

Giovannoni. E., & Fabietti. G., 'What Is Sustainability? A Review of the Concept and Its Applications.' In: Busco, C., Frigo, M., Riccaboni, A., Quattrone, P. (eds) Integrated Reporting. Springer, Cham. Available at [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-02168-3\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-02168-3_2)

International Institute for Sustainable Development., 'Stockholm and the Birth of Environmental Diplomacy' Available at [https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2020-09/still-one-earth-stockholm-diplomacy\\_0.pdf](https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2020-09/still-one-earth-stockholm-diplomacy_0.pdf)

Khan. N. H., 'Ecodesigning for Ecological Sustainability' *Frontiers in Plant-Soil Interaction.*, 2021. Pp 589-616

Muigua. K., 'Nurturing Our Environment for Sustainable Development' Glenwood Publishers Limited, 2016

Muigua. K., 'Promoting Sustained Economic Growth and Decent Work for All' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Promoting-Sustained-Economic-Growth-and-Decent-Work-for-All-x.pdf>

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development., 'What is Green Growth and How Can it Help Deliver Sustainable Development?' Available at <https://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/whatisgreengrowthandhowcanithelpdeliversustainabledevelopment.htm>



Rowse. B., 'Economic Sustainability: Definition, Importance, and Examples' Available at <https://sustainabilityeducationacademy.com/economic-sustainability-defined/>

Strategies for Promoting Environmental Sustainability in Communities., Available at <https://aithor.com/essay-examples/strategies-for-promoting-environmental-sustainability-in-communities>

Sustainability: A Better Tomorrow, But How?., Available at <https://www.green.earth/sustainability>

United Nations Development Programme., '2023 Africa Sustainable Development Report.' Available at <https://www.undp.org/africa/publications/2023-africa-sustainable-development-report>

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific., 'Green Growth Uptake in Asia-Pacific Region.' Available at [https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP20/ppp/Item10\\_b\\_ESCAP\\_Green\\_GrowthUptake\\_e\\_sm.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP20/ppp/Item10_b_ESCAP_Green_GrowthUptake_e_sm.pdf)

United Nations Environment Programme., 'The Triple Planetary Crisis: Forging a New Relationship Between People and the Earth' Available at [https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/speech/triple-planetary-crisis-forging-new-relationship-between-people-and-earth?gad\\_source=1&gclid=EA1aIQobChMI5Jf4zJXihwMVr6KDBx2jcx22EAAYASAAEgIqsfD\\_BwE](https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/speech/triple-planetary-crisis-forging-new-relationship-between-people-and-earth?gad_source=1&gclid=EA1aIQobChMI5Jf4zJXihwMVr6KDBx2jcx22EAAYASAAEgIqsfD_BwE)

United Nations General Assembly., 'Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.' A/CONF. 151/26 (Vol.1)

United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1., Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf>

United Nations, Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment., Stockholm, 5-16 June, 1972, A/CONF. 48/14/Rev. 1

United Nations., 'Climate Change' Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/climatechange>

United Nations., 'Sustainability' Available at <https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/sustainability>

United Nations., 'United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3-14 June 1992.' Available at <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/rio1992>

United Nations., 'What is Climate Change?' Available at <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change#:~:text=The%20consequences%20of%20climate%20change,catastrophic%20storms%20and%20declining%20biodiversity>

United Nations., 'What is Renewable Energy?' Available at <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-renewable-energy#:~:text=Renewable%20energy%20is%20energy%20derived,plentiful%20and%20all%20around%20us.>

United States Environmental Protection Agency., 'What is Sustainability.' Available at <https://www.epa.gov/sustainability/learn-about-sustainability>

What Is Environmental Sustainability?., Available at <https://sphera.com/resources/glossary/what-is-environmental-sustainability/>

What is Sustainability?., Available at <https://www.mcgill.ca/sustainability/files/sustainability/what-is-sustainability.pdf>

World Bank., 'Social Sustainability: A Critical Gap in the Global Development Agenda' Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/developmenttalk/social-sustainability-critical-gap-global-development-agenda>

World Commission on Environment and Development., 'Our Common Future.' Oxford, (Oxford University Press, 1987)