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ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY



Role of “Women- in- Surveying” in Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development

By

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Presentation outline

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Challenges to sustainable development
- 3.0 Contributions of women towards sustainable development
- 4.0 Challenges of Women- in- Surveying in Nigeria towards sustainable development
- 5.0 Encouraging Women -in -Surveying in Achieving Set Goals on sustainable Development
- 6.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

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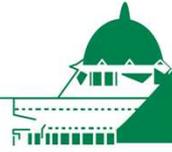


INTRODUCTION

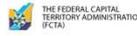
- **WHAT IS Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development?**

The World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) or the Brundtland commission named after its chairperson, Former Norwegian prime minister, Mrs. Gro Harlem.

Brundtland defined the concept of sustainable development more precisely in its report "Our Common Future" as development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs (WCED, 1987).



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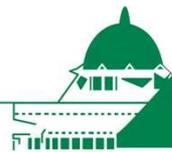
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INTRODUCTION contd.

- The publication paved way for the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and seconded by the Habitat Conference at Istanbul, 1996**, which also emphasized on the need for **sound environmental management**



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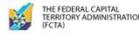
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CHALLENGES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT(GLOBAL)

- There is evidently no generalized consensus as to the exact order or contents of environmental problems affecting human beings. However, some of the identified global challenges include the following:
- The depletion of the **ozone layer** and **Global climate changes**.
- The accumulation of **toxic chemical or radioactive wastes**.
- The human **over-appropriation of biomass** .
- The **loss of biodiversity**.

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Challenges contd.

- **Other identified problems include:**
- Nuclear accidents and other specific forms of radioactive contamination,
- Acid rain, air and water pollution,
- Desertification and other forms of land degradation,
- Depletion of natural resources and menace of floods.

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This slide depicts clearly a degraded environment

Source: chigbu,2013.

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Consequence of a degraded environment



This slide highlights the exact consequence of a degraded environment

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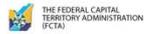




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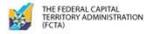


Consequence contd.



Hunger and famine paint the picture of a degraded environment

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consequences



Consider the impact of flooding as a result of wrong environmental practices

Source: chigbu,2013

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Consequences contd.



Agricultural production is also affected.

Source: chigbu,2013

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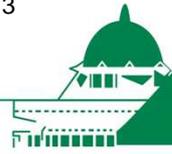


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Challenges contd.

- The new European development policy (INSPIRE), requires that environmental and sustainable development of natural resources be treated as a cross-cutting issue to be integrated into all development activities. It can also be included as a focus of action in a country and regional support strategies for
- management and protection of forests, water, marine resources and biodiversity
- access to sustainable energy
- sustainable management of chemicals and waste
- sustainable production and consumption.

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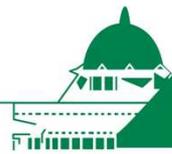




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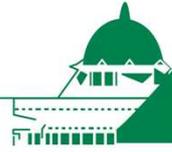
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Challenges contd.

- In January 2000, the leaders of 189 countries agreed on a new vision for the future – ---
one with less poverty,
hunger and disease,
greater survival and improved health for mothers and infants,
children with primary education,
equality for women, and a better environment.
 It is a vision of a world in which developed and developing countries work in partnership for global development.



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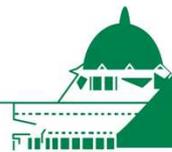
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Challenge cont.

- For this vision to be realistic, the resources have to be managed sustainably and fairly which is fundamental to achieving the UN's millennium development goals. The Millennium Development Goals provide a framework for this vision, with targets by which to measure progress.



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Challenge contd.

- The MDGs are:
- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health



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challenge contd.

- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development
- The overall objective of the MDGs is hinge on achieving and ensuring environmental sustainability.
- **This landmark goal cannot be realized without the integration of the female gender in the overall development process.**



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CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Three women took the first steps to bring the socio-sphere and eco-sphere together. They are:
- 1. Rachel Carson a biology and essayist from USA. In her publication “silent spring” (1962) she show in appealing prose how pesticides and other toxins endangered many non-target species, and finally humans themselves.
- 2 Barbara Ward an English political scientist and economist a decade later warned in the publication co authored with Dubois “Only One Earth; the care and maintenance of a small planet” (1972). Barbara said that there are two world men – the biosphere and techno-sphere are out of balance and in a deep conflict.

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- The same year a third woman, Donella meadows, was the principal author of the controversial publication The limits to Growth or the report to the club of Rome (Denis et, al. 1972).
- Other women and women group Include, Amrita- Sen from India, Wangari Maathai (Green Belt Movement Kenya), Women’s Action Agenda for healthy planet 21, Women and environment Network UK, Women in Europe for a common future etc.

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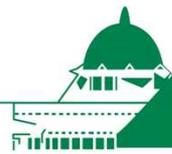




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CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN CONTD.

- There is growing evidence that women in several countries around the world are taking central roles in the grass-roots environmental movement.
- And there is increasing belief that developmental policies that do not involve women will not be successful in the long run.
- **The Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, identified the need to involve women more actively in environmental decision making at all levels as well as to incorporate the gender perspective in all strategies leading to sustainable development (Chelala, 2001).**

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- Since resource management is seen to be a critical element of sustainable development, it has been stated that women's full participation is essential for the attainment of sustainable development (World Resources Institute, UNEP, UNDP 1994; UNFPA 1992).
- **Three interrelated propositions have been made to show the link between women's empowerment and sustainability.**
 1. That women have a greater moral commitment to the environment than men.
 2. This greater commitment is reflected in the way women grassroots movements have undertaken positive actions to protect the environment (Jiggins,1994).
 3. **Given their moral commitment, the existence of women in the decision-making process at all levels would make a significant difference in actions that affect the environment(Zakharova,1996).**

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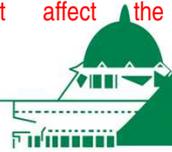




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THE ROLES OF WOMEN IN THE BUILT INDUSTRY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- (A) **Women in Quantity surveying and sustainable construction**
- The Quantity Surveyor is an integral part of the property life-cycle and can influence other sectors of the property industry. The women in property industry as a whole need to:
 - Increase awareness in social responsibility
 - Increase awareness in sustainable construction
 - Continue to develop technology that can make currently expensive sustainable methods more economically viable in the future
 - Aim at every development to be constructed using measured sustainable methods.

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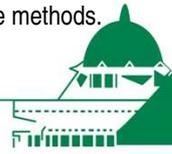


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WOMEN ENGINEERS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- The women engineers should be at the fore-front of Green Engineering campaign. Green building (also known as green construction or sustainable building) refers to a structure and using process that is environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle: from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and demolition.
- The women engineers should change the focus of training from being on controlling pollution and waste (remediating environmental damage) to reducing or eliminating pollution and wastes generation at the source.

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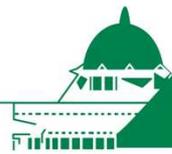




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WOMEN PLANNERS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- The role of female planners cannot be under estimated. Sustainable physical development and management of human settlement hinges greatly on the effectiveness of physical development plans.
- This involve the reconciliation of land uses, provision of the right site for the right use, control of development, provision of facilities, services and public goods, preservation, protection and conservation of resources, preservation of heritage among others (Oduwaye,2009).
- The women planners have to make sure that the plan, guidelines and report will be such that will lead to a sound and sustainable development.



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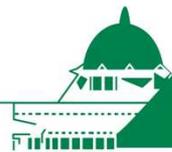
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FEMALE ESTATE VALUERS / SURVEYORS

- The Estate Valuer or Surveyor plays the following enviable roles in the environment:
- Provide advice on site selection
- Prepare feasibility and viability appraisals of housing development schemes
- Sourcing of funds on large housing schemes on behalf of clients
- Acts as project team leader
- At post construction stage they take charge of the management and maintenance to ensure the property continues to command the economic rent and prestige to the property owner .



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WOMEN- IN- SURVEYING IN NIGERIA (WIS)

- Women- in -surveying (WIS) is the women arm of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors. Women-in-Surveying in Nigeria as a professional body started about ten years ago under the leadership of Surv. F.K. Omatsola (fnis) and the membership of this Association currently is about two hundred and fifty .
- The essence of this female arm of Nigerian Institution of Surveyors borders on the pursuance and achieving the objectives of MGDs.



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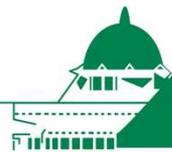
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THE ROLE OF WOMEN- IN -SURVEYING (NIGERIA)

- A Surveyor is a professional person with the academic qualification and technical expertise to practice the science of measurement; assemble and assess geographically related information; use that information for the purpose of planning and implementing efficient administration of the land, the sea and structures thereon; and instigate the advancement and development of such practices (Asoegwu, 1996, Kufonyi, 1997).
- Magel (2005) observed that Surveyors should play a visible role in the society and that they should also be actively involved in the provision of reliable data for planning, contributing meaningfully to urban and rural development, valuation and real estate management and environmental decision making.



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- Because Women Surveyors by their nature are “enablers for the local people and the less privileged”, mediators between citizens and authorities and Advisors to politicians and state institutions”, they are very compassionate in their professional practice.
- Women Surveyors have the track record of been amongst the industry’s best as they are not known in any way to compromise standards and best practices.
- Women in surveying like their male counterparts also have contributed in the production of large scale plans which are fundamental datasets for development and planning of educational facilities, health, recreational and security etc.



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- For a Nation to have sustainable roads, Surveyor needs to set out roads, provide their height and other necessary information that will enable the Highway Engineer to design and construct good roads. A good number of women Surveyors are actively involved in this sector.
- There is need to integrate the Women - in -Surveying in Nigeria into all facets of the programmes for the development of the spatial data infrastructure policy of the country for sustainable development.
- “Women –in- surveying” is an advocacy tool for promoting and encouraging more young women to choose scientific careers like surveying, etc., combating gender inequality and helping in the realization of the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGS) and sustainable national development.



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CHALLENGES FACING WOMEN- IN- SURVEYING IN NIGERIA

- Women face many obstacles in their efforts to contribute positively to environmentally sustainable development and management.
- One of the most devastating of these obstacles is the poverty that large numbers of women face daily.
- In addition, women face perils from indoor air pollution from cooking fires and the burning of bio-mass, the carrying of heavy loads, unsafe water supplies and inadequate sanitation, the use of household chemicals and other environmentally unsound practices.

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- Women are further hindered in their capacity to respond to environmental challenges by a lack of resources which may be financial , information, agricultural inputs and discrimination from men, cruel cultures and traditions, poor education and gender neglect and perceived inequality, etc.
- They frequently have no rights to land ownership even when they may be the principal farmers.
- Their education and training is often neglected.
- Most importantly, even though women are critical stakeholders in environmentally sustainable development, they are seldom included at the policy and decision-making level of different governments, professional bodies and NGOS.

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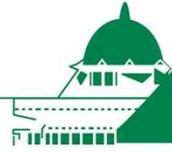
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ENCOURAGING WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT-THE GLOBAL AGENDA.

- Women have been largely excluded from formal and traditional policy and decision-making roles regarding the environment, nonetheless, they have contributed meaningfully to the solution of environmental problems.
- It is important to observe that granting women an equitable role in environmental decision-making and management would bring to bear their full knowledge, experience and commitment to the solution of environmental problems.
- Women must be seen as capable partners in sustainable development, and not simply as victims of environmental degradation or even solely as beneficiaries of development initiatives.



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- Investing in women is one of the most effective ways to advance sustainable development and fight global climate change, hence, the diverse roles and needs of women must be recognized and addressed in programs ranging from rural development to green job creation and urban revitalization/renewal.
- A fuller comprehension of women's role in the economic, social, cultural and political life of their communities, and their direct involvement in decision-making and planning in all sectors will help to ensure practical and sustainable solutions to environmental concerns that benefit the entire society



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CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- **Conclusion:** Government is called upon to offer modern geospatial techniques for the monitoring of erosion sites to develop the early warning system necessary to mitigate the loss of lives and property during disaster.
- Government is also called upon to involve the use of maps in planning industrial location in order to reduce environmental pollution on the citizenry.
- Poverty and nation-building are strange bedfellows, whether the poor are 20% or 85% of the population. A largely marginalized citizenry, increasingly crippled by poverty and the lack of basic needs, can hardly be expected to play its proper role in the development of the nation.



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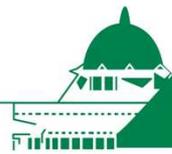
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- Nigeria needs a social contract with its citizens as basis for demanding their loyalty and support (Gambari, 2008 “The challenges of nations building” The case of Nigeria)
- The former President of Nigeria, Gen. O. Obasanjo recognized the importance of women education and he encouraged women to have interest in politics “Gone are the days” he once said “when the rightful place of the woman is in the kitchen. When one educates a woman he has actually educated a nation.



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RECOMMENDATION

- Having critically looked at the enviable roles women are to play in sustenance of development, the following suggestions are hereby proffered:
- There is need for Nigeria and all developing countries to re-orient our value system towards the female gender and her contributions to overall national development.
- There is also need to vigorously pursue the development (educationally and otherwise) of the female gender (capacity building) so that her contributions would be properly harnessed. When you train a woman, you have train a nation.
- Nigeria should as a matter of fact implement the MGDs policy thrust on eradication of all forms of gender discrimination in the appointment of women to enviable positions especially those ones that have a multiplier or ripple effects on the environment and sustenance of development.

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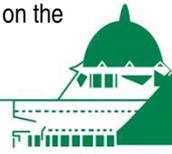


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- Health care system should not only be provided but in conformity with human right and fundamental freedom.
- Access to land and property, to adequate shelter and urban services for the poor should improved, esp. For female-Headed households
- Equitable right and access to credit to all, esp. to woman, should enable economic and social empowerment and enable women producers to become decision makers and owners in the sector, including the right to inherit land.
- Government, NGOS, Professional and regulatory bodies should encourage the formation of women professional groups that will foster sustainable development.
- Children everywhere, boy and girl alike should have equal access to education relevant to national development.

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- Women who have made meaningful contributions to humanity like their male counterparts should be celebrated and immortalized. This will elicit more meaningful and sustainable contributions from the female professionals.

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