JMGCB
ISSN:3032-1085
https://doi.org/10.61796/jmgcb.v1i8.832

THE IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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Received: Jun 22, 2024; Accepted: Jul 29, 2024; Published: Aug 10, 2024;

Abstract: -

Keywords: -

Introduction

The rapid growth of human population has led to an unprecedented and exponential increase in the consumption rates of energy and resources, resulting in widespread and far-reaching environmental degradation that poses a significant threat to the delicate balance of our planet. This alarming situation has only worsened due to the global economic crisis, which has inadvertently placed immense pressure on developing nations to maximize production levels in order to stabilize their economies, often disregarding the severe environmental consequences in the process. The factors that contribute to this unsustainable development are vast and multi-faceted. Ineffective regulatory frameworks fail to adequately address the pressing environmental challenges we face, while unanticipated population changes further strain our already limited resources. Additionally, the ever-increasing per capita consumption rates, coupled with the proliferation of environmentally harmful technologies and development patterns, exacerbate the

series of problems we confront. The scarcity of resources further compounds these issues, creating a daunting web of challenges that demand urgent attention and meaningful action. The consequences of this unsustainable development have resulted in the overstepping of several planetary boundaries, leading to severe and undesirable changes in the intricate environmental processes that sustain life on Earth. While climate change understandably garners significant attention, given its global impact, it is crucial to acknowledge that significant alterations in land change, biodiversity loss, and pollution of freshwater and marine ecosystems have also reached critical thresholds, contributing to the precarious state of our planet. Therefore, it is imperative that businesses, governments, and society as a whole unite and work collectively towards achieving sustainable development goals. These objectives encompass a broad spectrum of crucial aspects, including the elimination of poverty, ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, and transitioning towards clean and renewable sources of energy. Such a transformative effort requires the introduction of sound policies that effectively regulate resource extraction and demand, while simultaneously fostering energy-efficient production processes across various industries. A significant paradigm shift is necessary to transition towards resource efficiency, which demands substantial changes in technology, consumption patterns, and the very fabric of our production systems. Embracing resource efficiency creates remarkable win-win situations, enabling us to maximize gross domestic product (GDP) growth while significantly minimizing the detrimental environmental impacts of our consumption patterns and industrial practices. Implementing coercive policies through the strategic imposition of taxes, levies, or pricing strategies that hold resource-intensive production and consumption accountable can serve as a powerful catalyst for change. Moreover, raising awareness and encouraging voluntary initiatives can play an instrumental role in avoiding future losses and building a sustainable future for all. The pursuit of efficiency necessitates a paradigm shift in the technological redesign of products, processes, and business models. Governments can contribute significantly to this journey by providing research and development subsidies to incentivize the creation of innovative solutions that address our pressing challenges. However, it is equally crucial that we foster a profound change in our political economy. We must prioritize long-term objectives, such as conservation, prosperity, equity, and innovation over short-term goals that primarily focus on wealth generation. This shift in mindset will enable us to create a harmonious balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability. In order to improve environmental conditions sustainably, it is essential to decouple economic growth from resource use and emissions levels. This ambitious objective can be achieved through the consistent promotion and investment in a wide range of cutting-edge technologies that optimize energy efficiency. Remarkably, several of these technologies, such as resource-efficient household appliances, have already gained significant traction and widespread adoption in the European Union, setting an encouraging precedent for the rest of the world. Undoubtedly, mitigating the far-reaching impacts of unsustainable development and safeguarding the future of our planet requires unprecedented collaboration, empathy, and a collective commitment to change. By embracing sustainable development goals and enacting meaningful policies, we have the opportunity to shape a future that not only respects the delicate balance of nature but also ensures the well-being and prosperity of present and future generations. The time for action is now, as we embrace the immense responsibility bestowed upon us to build a sustainable and resilient world for all. (Rees, 2023)(Tupy & Pooley, 2022)(Wang & Azam, 2024)(Day et al., 2021)(Yang et al.2021)(Scheffran et al.2020)(Rees, 2023)(Arutyunov, 2021)

Background and Significance

This challenge has risen as a global issue of utmost importance, significantly hampering the progress of sustainable environmental development that came into effect when the Need For a New International Economic Order made activities such as business ventures and urbanization thrive magnificently. These groundbreaking endeavors not only led to immense improvements in

human lives and the overall economic growth but unfortunately, they also put environmental sustainability at great risk through rampant deforestation, improper waste disposal in water bodies, and the hazardous emissions of harmful industrial gases into the atmosphere. Consequently, the dire consequences of these actions have led to the exacerbation of climate change, widespread environmental pollution, and the alarming loss of precious biodiversity, all of which ultimately contribute to the catastrophic phenomenon of environmental degradation. Despite the undeniable benefits that these activities have brought in terms of economic growth and globalization, they possess a dark side that poses a severe threat to both human lives and the environment itself. By neglecting the importance of maintaining a healthy and safe environment, we are essentially denying the future generations their fundamental right to an environment that is free from harm and conducive to their well-being. Therefore, it is of utmost urgency that we come together collectively and forge a united front in order to ensure the realization of sustainable environmental development in all its aspects. This necessitates a comprehensive approach that encompasses various dimensions, including but not limited to policy frameworks, technological advancements, behavioral changes, and educational campaigns, all aimed at promoting the harmonious coexistence of economic progress and environmental preservation. In order to effectively address this issue, it is imperative that governments, international organizations, civil society, and individuals alike actively engage in sustainable practices and make environmentally responsible decisions. This may involve implementing strict regulations and policies that limit deforestation, promote sustainable waste management techniques, and strictly regulate industrial emissions. In addition, fostering a culture of environmental consciousness, both within individuals and organizations, is crucial. This can be achieved through educational initiatives, public awareness campaigns, and the promotion of green lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns. By encouraging the adoption of alternative energy sources and investing in renewable energy technologies, we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate the harmful effects of climate change. Furthermore, international cooperation and collaboration are vital in addressing this global challenge. Countries must come together to form alliances and partnerships that aim to share knowledge, expertise, and resources for sustainable development. By working together, we can achieve greater impact and find innovative solutions to the complex problems posed by environmental degradation. This includes promoting technology transfer to developing countries, providing financial support for sustainable projects, and facilitating the exchange of best practices and lessons learned. In conclusion, the urgent need for sustainable environmental development cannot be overstated. The activities that have propelled economic growth and globalization have also brought about grave consequences for the environment, endangering both current and future generations. It is imperative that we take immediate action to reverse this alarming trend and ensure the long-term well-being of our planet. By adopting a comprehensive approach, involving all sectors of society and fostering international cooperation, we can pave the way towards a sustainable future, where economic progress and environmental preservation go hand in hand. Let us rise to the challenge and safeguard our planet for generations to come. (Sagini Oribu et al., 2014)(Jane Davidson, 2011) (Cui et al., 2022)(Zahoor et al.2022)(Almulhim et al., 2022)(Mazutis & Sweet, 2022)(Adebayo et al.2021)

Theoretical Framework

There exists a multitude of definitions of environmental sustainability, resulting from a wide spectrum of uses of the word 'environment.' They range from an inclusive understanding of humans and their interaction with their surroundings, to other climatological and ecological perspectives, which exclude the human impact. For environmental sustainability, the following definition is proposed: “The ability of the environment to continue to function indefinitely, providing a clean, safe, and productive resource base”. A functionally contingent definition of this type allows for and encourages an understanding of human-mediated processes, biogeochemical cycles, and ecosystem dynamics. In addition, it fits within pre-existing paradigms, such as the

environmental impact assessment (EIA) model. The US-EPA's acceptance of R. Costanza et al.'s (1998) definition of sustainability as "...to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" should be supported. However, the understanding of the term 'environment' should be inclusive of both natural and anthropocentric systems. Consequently, 'futures' as well as 'needs' extend to considerations of equity and social justice, as well as ethics. In fact, the use of the terms 'environmental' and 'sustainability' outside of their definitions can lead to contradictory inclusiveness/additionality or exclusiveness/judgmentalness, precluding constructive dialogue between conflicting interests or differing world views (e.g. perspectives leading to pro-renewable energy considerations versus contrary anti-nuclear sentiments).The finding that two completely different paradigms can take either position should underscore such concerns and emphasize the importance of operational definitions to dialogue. Other definitions supported are those of 'sustainable development' as "...development that assures that the needs are met of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", and 'sustainability science' as "a new transdisciplinary field focused on the interactions between nature and society", noting there is not complete agreement on and amongst social scientists as to what is meant by 'nature' or 'society.' Environmental sustainability encompasses various perspectives and definitions that arise from diverse uses of the term 'environment.' The range of interpretations spans from inclusive ones that consider human interactions with surroundings to climatological and ecological viewpoints that exclude human impact. In the pursuit of environmental sustainability, a specific definition is proposed: "The ability of the environment to continue functioning indefinitely, ensuring a resource base that is clean, safe, and productive." This type of functionally contingent definition enables an understanding of human-mediated processes, biogeochemical cycles, and ecosystem dynamics. Moreover, it aligns with existing paradigms like the environmental impact assessment (EIA) model. It is crucial to support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's acceptance of R. Costanza et al.'s (1998) definition of sustainability: "to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." However, it is important to have an inclusive understanding of the term 'environment,' which encompasses both natural and anthropocentric systems. Consequently, considerations of equity, social justice, and ethics should be extended to the notions of 'futures' and 'needs.' Using the terms 'environmental' and 'sustainability' beyond their definitions can lead to contradictory inclusiveness or exclusiveness, hampering constructive dialogue among conflicting interests or differing world views. For example, perspectives favoring renewable energy sources can clash with sentiments opposing nuclear energy. This duality highlights the significance of operational definitions in fostering meaningful discussions. Other supported definitions include 'sustainable development,' which ensures that the present generation's needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and 'sustainability science,' which is a transdisciplinary field focused on the interactions between nature and society. It is worth noting that social scientists do not entirely agree on the meanings of 'nature' and 'society.' (Morelli, 2013) (Downing et al.2020)(Lavuri et al.2023)(Baysal & Sutton, 2024)(Gray et al.2024)(O'donoghue et al., 2022)(Loc et al.2020)(Sinha et al., 2023)

Concept of Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability, as defined by Morelli in his seminal work, is "the profound and indispensable ability to maintain personal and societal value systems that are consistently resilient and adaptable to the ever-changing and intricate biophysical environment that surrounds us." In this all-encompassing and intricate definition lies the fundamental importance of resilience and adaptability, both of which serve as vital cornerstones in safeguarding the delicate balance of our ecosystems. By acknowledging these vital principles, we implicitly address and encompass a multitude of pressing global environmental issues, such as the pervasive and concerning phenomenon of global warming. Morelli asserts that preserving environmental sustainability is

not a static or fixed state; rather, it embodies an inherent dynamism that necessitates continuous and proactive management and governance of both natural and anthropogenic systems. It is imperative that we adopt a holistic perspective, one that acknowledges the intricate interplay between our actions and the long-term effects they have on both the biophysical and socio-political environments. It is essential to recognize that our current actions possess a temporal delay, and as such, may trigger a chain reaction that unravels and extends far beyond our initial intentions, much like the age-old adage of "careful what you wish for." Moreover, the concept of environmental sustainability transcends mere national borders, assuming transboundary dimensions of paramount importance. Each specific natural resource and its fate must be thoroughly analyzed within a broader scope that extends beyond the confines of any one nation or state, thereby necessitating robust international cooperation and collaboration. Only through such collaborative efforts can we hope to address the multifaceted challenges posed by environmental degradation and preserve the fundamental tenets of sustainability for the betterment of both current and future generations. (Morelli, 2013)(Károly, 2013) (Morelli et al., 2024)(Morelli et al.)(Morelli et al.2021)

Human Activities and their Impact

The development of civilization opened up a wide array of human activities that have a direct or indirect impact on environmental sustainability. These activities initiated by humans significantly influence the environment through various means. One of the earliest and most common ways in which humans affect the environment is through air pollution. This occurs due to the release of harmful gases and particles into the atmosphere as a byproduct of industrial processes, transportation systems, and energy production. Furthermore, humans also contribute to environmental degradation by releasing toxic industrial waste into the water supply. Irresponsible disposal of hazardous materials by industries can contaminate water sources, rendering them unfit for consumption by both humans and wildlife. This pollution not only affects aquatic ecosystems but also poses a significant threat to the health and well-being of organisms relying on these water bodies. In addition to air and water pollution, deforestation is another critical issue caused by human activities. As civilization progresses, the need for resources grows, leading to the widespread clearing of forests for agriculture, urbanization, and the timber industry. This relentless destruction of forests disrupts entire ecosystems, displacing countless plant and animal species while also contributing to climate change by reducing the Earth's capacity to absorb carbon dioxide. As cities expand and urban areas are established, the environmental impact intensifies. Managing the waste produced by densely populated areas becomes a daunting task, often resulting in the release of more toxic substances into the environment. Improper waste disposal, inadequate recycling facilities, and inefficient water treatment systems further exacerbate the pollution problem, posing severe risks not only to the environment but also to human health. Human activities also play a significant role in the increase of greenhouse gas emissions, which directly contribute to climate change. The burning of fossil fuels, industrial processes, and deforestation all contribute to the release of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. This, in turn, leads to the trapping of heat, causing global temperatures to rise and resulting in a range of detrimental effects on ecosystems and biodiversity. While these are some of the direct impacts of human activities on environmental sustainability, there are also numerous indirect ways in which we affect our surroundings. Many of the conveniences and comforts of modern life contribute to environmental degradation. For instance, the invention of the car revolutionized transportation, allowing people to travel more quickly and conveniently. However, the ever-increasing use of cars has led to a surge in air pollution, particularly in urban areas. The combustion of fossil fuels in vehicles releases harmful emissions, contributing to respiratory problems and the deterioration of air quality. Recognizing the importance of environmental information, the European Union Member States have made significant progress since the mid-1980s. This progress has culminated in the establishment of the European environmental

information and observation network (Eionet). This network consists of the European Environment Agency (EEA), major partners such as EU Member State environmental agencies and institutions, and the European Commission (EC). Operating within the framework of relevant EU and international arrangements, the Eionet aims to provide a comprehensive, integrated system of environmental data, information, indicators, assessments, and outlooks. Through a wide range of products and services such as reports, electronic publications, databases, and maps, the Eionet supports the development and implementation of European environmental policies. By facilitating the availability of accurate and up-to-date information, the network aids decision-making processes regarding environmental issues and challenges. This collaborative effort promotes sustainable practices and enhances the understanding of the complex interactions between human activities and the environment. In conclusion, the development of civilization has undoubtedly shaped the way humans interact with the environment. From air pollution and toxic waste to deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions, our actions have significant and often detrimental effects on environmental sustainability. By acknowledging these impacts and utilizing comprehensive environmental information networks, we can strive to mitigate the damage inflicted on our planet and work towards a more sustainable future. (McNicoll, 2000)(CLINTON et al., 2015) (Manisalidis et al.2020)(Ukaogo et al.2020)(Almetwally et al.2020)(Raziani & Raziani, 2021)(Glencross et al.2020)(Susanto, 2020)(Brumberg et al.2021)(Sridharan et al.2021)

Methods

Though human activity has given rise to remarkable progress in the past century, it has come at an unsustainably high cost to the ecosystem. Understanding the impact of hyper-socioeconomic activities on the ecosystem and the planet's survival has become an increasingly important issue in recent decades. Despite the introduction of several programs and policies to facilitate the efforts of different stakeholders with the necessary commitment and understanding, the strategy for attaining ecological sustainability at the local, national, and global levels has yet to be truly effective. This essay outlines the comprehensive methodology used to formulate an integrated strategy to meet humanity's basic needs while preserving the delicate ecological balance and diverse natural heritage for the prosperity of present and future generations. The methodology focuses on deserving peoples, who have development priorities and aspirations, and who are deprived of investments; all the main dimensions that require significant improvement and comprehensive action to meet and sustain the basic needs; and empowering deserving peoples by incorporating the compassionate teachings of Buddhism to address global needs with wisdom and compassion. The thorough analysis of human activity in various domains, extending beyond economics, meticulously examines its profound impact on the delicate equilibrium of our planet. This impact manifests in different magnitudes and dynamics, fluctuating across time and geographical space, where the long-term anthropogenic activities often surpass natural processes. The meticulous investigation into the elasticity of present-day utilization of the planetary life-support system, compared to an average past balance, overwhelmingly supports an excessively successful development narrative. Consequently, it becomes crucial to recognize and address the minute fraction, merely one percent, of hyper socio-economic activity that disproportionately contributes to the overwhelming ecological challenges we face. (S. Ezeonu et al., 2012) (Raimi et al.2021)(Oguh et al.2021).

Research Design

This subsection focuses on the research design. The research design describes the frame of the research in which the plan is set forth for investigating the impact of human activities on environmental sustainability. The research design provides a comprehensive and detailed plan for examining the intricate relationship between human activities and environmental sustainability. It encompasses the complexities and interdependencies of various variables that contribute to this dynamic process. The analysis of human activities and their effects on environmental

sustainability requires a multidimensional approach, considering the diverse units of analysis and the temporal dimension. To address these complexities, a cross-sectional design was adopted in this study. By examining a snapshot of data at a given point in time, this design allows for a thorough understanding of the current state of the environment and the influence of human activities on its sustainability. This study predominantly takes on an explanatory nature, aiming to uncover the underlying mechanisms and causal factors behind the impact of human activity on environmental sustainability. The state of the environment is currently overwhelmingly devastating, with its attendant consequences of climate change reverberating across the globe. The entire ecosystem, as well as human society, is experiencing profound negative effects. The world is painfully witnessing an alarming increase in devastating weather hazards, with disrupted seasonal cycles leading to severe droughts and flooding in various regions. The consequences of climate change permeate various aspects of the ecosystem, profoundly affecting agriculture, food production, sea levels, and temperature patterns that facilitate the spread of diseases. Moreover, intense competition over natural resources, including water and soil fertility, intensify the challenges. The frequency and intensity of natural disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, oceanic whirlwinds, and droughts, have considerably heightened, further exacerbating the environmental crisis. It is crucial to acknowledge that the current environmental predicament is solely a result of both human action and inaction. Throughout the course of history, man's relentless pursuit of industrial progress has led to detrimental consequences upon the ecosystem. This overwhelming environmental situation presents a myriad of problems for an already impoverished population, amplifying existing socio-economic challenges. In developed countries, wasteful consumption patterns persist, further straining the environment. In the pursuit of progress and economic growth, human activities have delved into the very core of the ecosystem, disrupting its delicate balance and depleting its resources. As a result, the urgent need arises to explore alternative avenues and develop sustainable industries that strike a harmonious balance between human development and environmental preservation. Only by addressing the root causes of environmental degradation and adopting sustainable practices can we hope to mitigate the current crisis and safeguard the future of our planet and its inhabitants. (A. Oladiti & T. Kamarise, 2014)((Ajayi) Oluwole et al., 2016).

Data Collection and Analysis

Deliberate or accidental actions of humans that have damaging effects on elements of the environment are broadly termed anthropogenic impacts. However, research indicated that focal human-induced impacts include chemical pollution, eutrophication, as well as the introduction of alien or invasive species. Monitoring and assessment of environmental anthropogenic impacts can be safeguarded through environmental auditing. Environmental auditing is a management tool that evaluates environmental performance with respect to past and present activities. Environmental monitoring audits the impact of physical actions such as construction, mining, dredging, and landfill on the environmental components, especially the physical components; air, water, and soil. The environmental anthropogenic impacts impact ecosystems' structure and functioning as well as shape services to human beings. Monitoring and assessment are vital as environmental systems are complex over space, scale, and time, leading to uncertainty regarding the impact. The connection between human activities and environmental degradation is a key focus for environmental researchers. While there is a large body of knowledge available, there are still questions requiring further investigation. For example, are the same driving forces affecting the degradation of similar ecosystem types, or are they context-specific? What factors influence a country's resilience to the degradation of its ecosystems? What policies foster the restoration of damaged ecosystems? Obtaining more systematic and comprehensive evidence about the human impacts on ecosystems across scales, stresses, and drivers is crucial. Consequently, there is a continued and urgent need for studies that explore the relationship between human actions and ecosystem changes in order to promote a wider understanding of these processes based on

empirical evidence. (Occhipinti-Ambrogi2021)(Sommer, 2024)(Zhang et al.2020)(Njagi et al.2022)

Result and Discussion

Case Studies

The Amazon rainforest, known as the "lungs of the earth," is one of the most significant biodiversity hotspots and carbon sinks in the world. However, human activities like deforestation, logging, and agriculture have led to a drastic reduction in this precious ecosystem. According to the World Wildlife Fund, over 17% of the Amazon rainforest has been lost in the past 50 years due to human economic activities, leading to the extinction of species and increased greenhouse gas emissions (Azam et al., 2023). To combat this, various measures, including protected areas and indigenous land rights, have been implemented, although challenges remain. Deforestation has a significant impact on the ecosystem and is one of the pressing issues of human activities. Several forests around the world are being chipped away, with varied causes. There has been a loss of almost 17% of the Amazon rainforest in the past 50 years due to the human economic activities of deforestation, logging, agriculture, and other land uses. The Amazon rainforest is one of the most critical habitats in terms of biodiversity and acts as a large carbon sink, holding around 90 billion tons of carbon. Deforestation creates many problems, such as extreme drought events in many parts of the Amazon, as evident by evidence and the death of 1 in 10 trees in Areas around Bolivar. Endangered species fall under extinction. Experiments were conducted wherein deforested areas were monitored using satellites, weather data, and pictures of vegetated cover. These places were less vegetative compared to others. Deforestation events release large amounts of carbon, which is another important issue. Further actions must be taken to solve the issues regarding deforestation. Several mitigations have been conducted in the Amazon, such as forest protected areas instantiation, reduction of illegal logging, and improvement of indigenous land rights. However, these still need to close the more significant part of the deforestation events. (Brandão et al., 2022)(Albert et al.2023)(da et al.2021) Pollution, China has long been known for its rapid economic development. Still, this relentless expansion has come with high social and environmental costs, particularly concerning air pollution, which has become a direct threat to public health. In a health impact assessment study, researchers estimated that the annual average PM2.5 concentration in China fell from 118.3 to 54.0 μg/m³, and 91,052 premature deaths were avoided when comparing the "policy scenario" with the "baseline scenario" without air quality management actions. It's crucial to invest in the continual improvement of air quality, as this can significantly alleviate health impacts caused by air pollution. Economic growth often comes at the expense of environmental degradation in developing countries. In China, rapid industrialization has created severe environmental problems, including the airborne particulate matter (PM) pollutant. This study aims to systematically analyze the impacts of the PM air pollutant on public health in China over the next 20 years due to several air quality management actions under the framework of the Integrated Assessment Modeling (IAM). More PM pollutant-related premature deaths were estimated in the baseline scenario than in the various policy scenarios in 2030. This study provides useful methodology and data for the impact assessment of other pollutants and more countries. It's crucial to highlight that investments in the improvement of air quality can significantly alleviate environmental and health impacts in developing countries.

Global Warming and Climate Change

Through urbanization and industrialization, human activities affect the climate system and cause global warming. Global warming pertains to the temperature rise of the earth caused by the increased emissions of greenhouse gases like CO2 and methane into the atmosphere. Climate change is a broad term that is used to refer to changes in climate. It is currently understood that global warming is a vital cause of climate change. The effects of climate change include rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and shifts in plant and animal distribution, among other human

impacts. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), created in 1988 by World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Environmental Program, assesses the information on climate change from scientific, technical, and socio-economic view. The IPCC released its first assessment report in 1990, which described expected warming and chances of long-term sea-level rise. Another one in 1995 outlined greater confidence in the link between global warming and human activities. In 2001, after the Kyoto Protocol was signed, the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report brought the ongoing debate of economic growth versus environmental protection to the forefront. The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of 2014 presented the most comprehensive body of evidence on climate change. (Eyring et al., 2021)(Huang et al.2020)(Shivanna, 2022)

Deforestation

Deforestation is the irreversible and detrimental action of removing trees or entire forests, subsequently converting the once vibrant land into non-forest areas for various purposes. This process has significantly escalated since the 1990s, predominantly in developing countries as well as those classified as least developing countries. It is crucial to acknowledge that deforestation stands as a pressing global environmental concern, resonating across countless nations. As population growth outpaces the sustainable capacity of the environment to absorb waste products, deforestation trends persist and exacerbate. The repercussions are profound, manifesting in the depletion of forested regions, catastrophic consequences such as desertification, frequent flooding events, aggravating erosion rates, and ultimately contributing to the eventual extinction of precious ecosystems. Deforestation, however, transcends a mere reduction in tree coverage; it is an intricate process that simultaneously affects numerous interconnected variables. Although deforestation can be perceived as a natural occurrence, it is predominantly influenced by human actions and their adverse impacts on the delicate balance of nature. This can be attributed to what might be viewed as an unwise exploitation of our planet's natural resources. In order to comprehend the multifaceted issue of deforestation, it is imperative to delve into both the direct and indirect causes that perpetuate this destructive phenomenon, as well as explore its far-reaching effects. By identifying and comprehending these causes and effects, we gain the insight necessary to develop holistic solutions that tackle the underlying problems at hand. (Indarto & J. Mutaqin, 2016)(ALLAN MENYA, 2018).

Pollution

Pollution is used as a case study to illustrate the impact of human activities on environmental sustainability. Pollution, which includes water pollution, air pollution, soil pollution, and fossil fuel pollution, has affected the ecosystem. There are different types of contamination mixed in solid, liquid, and gaseous forms, which has caused global warming and depletion of the ozone layer. The rampant discharge of chemicals through industrial waste has made water unfit for human consumption. Noise pollution, which is caused due to excessive horn honking by vehicles, construction, loud music, and other factors, has adversely affected vast fauna including elephants by driving them away from their original habitats and forests (Pattnaik et al., 2019). World Community met at the Earth Summit in June 1992 to design a comprehensive program for action to address environmental degradation. This case study demonstrates the effects of pollution on environmental sustainability. (Roy, 2020)

Climate Change

Climate change can be used as a profound and enlightening case study to extensively elaborate on the undeniable and intricate link between a wide array of human activities and the exceptionally crucial notion of environmental sustainability. The depletion of the vital and fragile ozone layer, which is intensifying at an alarming rate, is indisputably a direct consequence of the copious amounts of toxic chemicals that are ceaselessly emitted into the atmosphere

predominantly due to the incessant and pervasive actions of humanity. Consequently, this relentless emission has inevitably contributed to and ultimately resulted in the drastic and increasingly concerning global climate change phenomenon that we are presently grappling with. When contemplating the intricate and subtle intricacies of climate processes, which naturally unfurl in the confines of the stratosphere, it becomes abundantly evident that this unparalleled and unprecedented shift towards the troposphere unequivocally instigates the awe-inspiring occurrence of climate change. This shift-fueled climate transformation distressingly disrupts one of Earth's most invaluable natural shields, known as the ozone layer, which is inherently responsible for safeguarding our beautiful planet from the relentless barrage of the sun's perilous and potentially catastrophic ultraviolet rays. Remarkably, the once harmonious and harmonizing function of this remarkable ozone layer has been relentlessly disrupted and perturbed primarily due to the omnipresent presence of chlorofluorocarbons (commonly referred to as CFCs), which unthinkably were initially incorporated and utilized within the realm of refrigeration and air conditioning. As a direct consequence of these gravely detrimental actions, the irrefutable and disconcerting reality of the ominous "ozone hole" encapsulates and haunts our collective consciousness, epitomizing the dire repercussions that accompany our negligent actions. The ubiquitous and far-reaching ramifications of climate change are unequivocally boundless, encompassing an incredibly diverse range of detrimental effects that profoundly impact the delicate tapestry of our social environment. These detrimental effects are inherently evinced through an alarming surge in coastal flooding disasters, inexorable urban flooding events, and ceaseless alterations in the perturbation of water levels within the mesmerizingly serene domains of lakes and rivers, which can all be traced back to the undeniable and grim deterioration that occur as a direct result of the dwindling quantity and quality of this indispensable life source - water. These injurious alterations in the water dynamics pose an unprecedented threat to numerous realms of human existence and cohesiveness, exerting immense pressure on our invaluable public health systems and resources, whilst unrelentingly catalyzing the saddening surge in forced migrations of disenfranchised and vulnerable populations worldwide.

The profound and inescapable repercussions of climate change not only permeate the realms of human existence and welfare but also pervasively infiltrate the extensive and awe-inspiring domains of our agricultural productivity, crucially underpinning the delicate and intricate fabric of our very civilization. The detrimental alterations projected upon our invaluable agricultural productivity unequivocally embody the saddening reality of degraded natural environments, which have inevitably and irrevocably fallen victim to the relentless onslaught of climate change. Moreover, these menacing and unsettling changes also relentlessly assail and assail the thriving ecosystems responsible for sustaining our natural biodiversity, inevitably catalyzing an alarming cascade effect of negative ramifications and existential threats to our invaluable and diverse array of flora and fauna. Alas, the devastating consequences that accompany the disruptive force that is climate change do not solely reside within the realms of nature and environment; rather, they comprehensively extend towards the intricate and intricately interwoven realms of industry and commerce. The severe and immensely detrimental impacts cast upon these indispensable aspects of our society cannot be understated nor disregarded. The ceaseless and unrestricted progression of undeniable climate change poses an enormous and unparalleled challenge to our industrial and commercial sectors, which are obliged to undergo extensive and multifaceted adaptations to ensure their own survival and longevity within this increasingly uncertain and relentlessly tumultuous world. In light of this tumultuous and unnerving reality, it becomes indubitably and undeniably imperative to chart a path towards tangible and sustainable solutions that will not only shield and safeguard our magnificent planet Earth but also ensure the prosperous continuity of our interconnected human societies. Introducing and implementing adaptive strategies is undeniably the first step in this arduous yet imperative journey towards mitigating the ravaging and insidious effects of climate change. These multifarious strategies include, but are by no means limited to, the diversification of income and

livelihood systems, which not only facilitate the transition towards more sustainable and environmentally conscious practices but also ensure the inherent resilience and adaptability of our societies within this newfound era. Additionally, the widespread phenomenon of rural-urban migration emerges as an increasingly prominent and viable course of action, enabling individuals and communities alike to navigate the daunting obstacles that accompany climate change by tactically relocating to more stable and environmentally-sound urban environments. Lastly, but by no means the least, the steadfast conservation of our invaluable and mesmerizing wetlands unequivocally emerges as a tangible and potent solution to tackle climate change head-on. The preservation and nurturing of these unique and awe-inspiring ecosystems not only serve as marked attempts to preserve and protect biodiversity but also encompass the inherent resilience and adaptability required to withstand the unrelenting and inescapable repercussions of climate change that loom evermore ominously on the horizon. (O.A et al., 2013) (Neale et al.2021)(Umar & Tasduq, 2022)(Bernhard et al.2020)(Akhobadze2020)(Egorova et al., 2020)

Policy Implications

Policies and measures to mitigate impacts on environmental sustainability need to be developed and enforced (Sagini Oribu et al., 2014). The international community, government, private sector, proliferation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the civil society are important stakeholders in sustainable development issues. In this respect, human activities are the principal cause for the resent state of environmental degradation which results to poverty conditions in the world. This may regrettably lead to the extinction of many rare species of fauna and flora in the world, which in turn may affect the life on earth as it is known. A number of global, regional, national, and local initiatives are being planned or presently underway to solve these pressing global environmental issues resulting from human activities. A number of important policy issues relevant to the non-sustainable use of the environment to be addressed at each level are being summarized (L. Lewison et al., 2019). To simply start, a comprehensive and effective policy framework regarding the role of the organizations in the sustainable use of natural resources needs to be built at the global level. The organizations are presently recommended at the global (planetary), regional (including climate-change zones), national (economic size), and local (including geographic features) levels. (Zhou et al., 2020)(Dhrifi et al., 2020)

Regulatory Frameworks

Regulatory frameworks and policies are essential governance interventions for addressing the challenges posed by the impact of human activities on environmental sustainability, be it national legislation or multi-national conventions, agreements and protocols. The choice of governance mechanism defines how actors' interests are reconciled in policy formulation and implementation and compliance enforcement mechanisms. Environmental governance, as a concept, has traditionally been viewed through the prism of how interstate cooperation is achieved to address the challenges of environmental problems that cross state boundaries. From this perspective the breadth and depth of environmental governance focus on the adequacy and effectiveness of international cooperation against the proliferation of environmental problems transgressing state boundaries. Environmental problems such as pollution of the air shed, the hydrosphere, depletion of the ozone layer, destruction of biodiversity, and deforestation and desertification in vulnerable regions have long been of concern to states in their bilateral, regional, and global interactions; thus the construct of the UN Environment Programme and the successive multilateral environmental agreements to address these challenges. There is still a plethora of environmental problems, many with serious adverse implications for human activity prompting heightened efforts by the international community towards addressing them. The effectiveness of these efforts, however, has been mixed at best. At the core of uncooperative behavior are structural factors which have created incentives hostile to compliance both at the negotiating table and for provisions enacted in treaties, agreements, and protocols, thus undermining confidence in

domestic planets for compliance.

The complexity and magnitude of the environmental issues we face today require robust regulatory frameworks and policies that can effectively address the multifaceted challenges. These governance interventions play a crucial role in mitigating the negative impacts of human activities on our planet's fragile ecosystems. Whether it is at the national or international level, the implementation of appropriate governance mechanisms ensures that the interests of various stakeholders are taken into account during the policy-making process. Moreover, these frameworks provide the necessary tools for enforcing compliance and ensuring effective implementation.

Environmental governance has emerged as a pivotal concept in our efforts to tackle environmental problems that transcend geographical boundaries. By fostering interstate cooperation, this approach seeks to enhance the adequacy and efficacy of our collective response to pressing environmental concerns. Issues such as air and water pollution, ozone layer depletion, biodiversity loss, and rampant deforestation and desertification have consistently plagued nations across all scales of interaction - bilateral, regional, and global. To address these interconnected challenges, organizations like the UN Environment Programme have been instrumental in crafting and implementing multilateral environmental agreements.

Despite significant progress, there remains an array of environmental issues that continue to confront us, each with dire consequences for human well-being. These challenges have spurred intensified international collaboration, as the global community recognizes the urgency of taking action. However, the effectiveness of our endeavors thus far has been met with varying degrees of success. The root cause of this lack of cooperation can be traced back to underlying structural factors that breed non-compliance. Whether it is resistance at the negotiation table or the failure to uphold the provisions outlined in treaties and agreements, these factors erode confidence in domestic strategies for achieving compliance.

In conclusion, it is crucial that we fortify our regulatory frameworks and policies to combat the complexities of the environmental issues we face. By doing so, we can create a conducive environment that fosters international cooperation and bolsters compliance. Only through strong governance interventions can we hope to safeguard our planet's future and ensure the long-term sustainability of human activities. (Otutei, 2014)(O. Erhun, 2015) (Murshed et al.2021)(Scharlemann et al.2020)(Omojolaibi & Nathaniel, 2022)(Nathaniel et al., 2021)

International Cooperation

International cooperation and collaboration are absolutely crucial in order to effectively tackle the tremendous global impact of human activities on environmental sustainability. It is of utmost importance to realize that environmental issues are not confined by arbitrary national borders. Hence, they demand the collective efforts of international institutions to be dealt with efficaciously. Examples of such indispensable international agreements include the Kyoto Protocol and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, both of which stand as firm evidence of the dire need for global collaboration in addressing environmental concerns. Moreover, it is pivotal for multinational corporations that operate across borders to embrace and implement environmentally sustainable practices. These corporations ought to readily adopt a comprehensive global environmental policy, which should be coupled with the enactment of stringent laws that obligate companies operating in developing nations to confront waste and pollution problems in an adequate and responsible manner. (Brian Winchester, 2009)(Galizzi, 2005)

Technological Solutions

Technology plays a tremendously significant role in promoting environmental sustainability through the use of various renewable energy sources and advanced green technologies. In response to the detrimental impact of conventional fossil fuel energy sources on

the environment, numerous nations have been progressively transitioning towards cleaner energy alternatives, with a particular emphasis on renewable energy. The consistent advancements in technology have resulted in solar and wind energy becoming increasingly accessible and affordable sources of power generation. Moreover, it is crucial to recognize the significant contributions of emerging new technologies, including electric vehicles, carbon capture and storage systems, autonomous vehicles, and other innovative smart technologies. These groundbreaking technologies have immense potential to revolutionize multiple sectors and effectively reduce carbon intensity, thereby significantly supporting overall environmental improvement.

The pursuit of research and development in renewable energy sources and green technologies should be actively encouraged as the primary focus for eco-friendly innovative solutions aimed at curbing carbon footprints. It is imperative to not only continue advancing in these areas but also to accelerate the commercialization of research results and eco-friendly technologies. Governments, as well as private investors, play crucial roles in driving this transformation by fostering investment in the commercialization of eco-friendly technologies, rather than exclusively focusing on research activities. By shifting the emphasis towards commercialization, it is possible to achieve sustainable socio-economic development and establish a solid foundation for long-term environmental preservation. (lian, 2024)(Tuganova et al., 2022) (Cantarero, 2020)(Majid)

Renewable Energy

Advancements in Technology. Current energy approaches address natural issues including ecologically benevolent innovations to build vitality supplies and empower cleaner, progressively efficient vitality use. These endeavours address air contamination, nursery impact, a worldwide temperature alteration, and environmental change. The requirement for energy and related administrations to meet human social and financial improvement, prosperity and wellbeing is continually growing. The arrival to sustainable power sources to help mitigate environmental change is an excellent and necessary strategy that must be implemented in order to meet the rapidly growing energy demands of the present and future generations. Sustainable power source possesses the potential to assume an essential job in furnishing vitality with manageability to the immense populaces in creating nations who so far have no entrance to clean vitality. We are taking a gander at the open doors related with sustainable power sources, including: vitality security, access to vitality, social and financial improvement, moderation of environmental change and lessening the effect on nature and wellbeing. Despite these opportunities, there are various challenges that hamper the sustainability of sustainable power sources to moderate environmental change. These challengers incorporate market failures, absence of information, access to raw materials for the future utilization of sustainable assets, and our everyday carbon footprint. Renewable Energy. Renewable energy installations are currently experiencing an extraordinary expansion around the globe. Although there is excellent potential for achieving sustainability with multiple types of renewable energy, it is important to acknowledge that no single energy source is a panacea. Each energy source has its own set of place-specific costs and benefits, and the scale of production significantly influences the impacts it has on the environment and society. Industrial-scale renewable energy sources usually merge into existing energy grids and may be connected to broader economic and political initiatives, such as regional integration and job creation. The development of renewable energy projects of all scales is now increasingly paralleled with efforts to promote energy conservation, improve efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy access for marginalized communities, and provide other valuable social and ecological co-benefits. Energy access through renewable sources could provide multiple benefits to developing countries, such as improvements in health care, education, ecosystem health, employment opportunities, and communication infrastructure. For instance, the provision of electricity through renewable energy sources has been proven to enhance standards

of living by extending the hours that educational facilities can remain open, allowing for the incorporation of new classes that do not require expensive, gas-fueled generators. (Hazim Majid et al., 2019)(Finley-Brook, 2014)

Green Technologies

Technologies designed to address environmental issues are broadly classified together under the term "green technologies." Given the exponential increase in the stress on the environment caused directly or indirectly by human activities and negligence, intensive development and application of green technologies have become essential (KUMAR JHA, 2013). Green technology can be defined as any technological activity that is concerned with the development, application and promotion of products, equipment and systems used to conserve the natural environment and resources, which minimizes and reduces the negative impact of human activities (Tuganova et al., 2022). Green technology can be adopted for power generation, non-conventional design materials, solid and liquid waste management, impact minimization and abatement systems, sustainable use of natural resources, eco-friendly commodities, monitoring and supporting systems. Besides, rapid urbanization, industrialization and development needs of economy in the past century have created environmental problems like deforestation, air and water pollution, global warming and loss of biodiversity. The Environmental Protection Act prescribes a framework which rationally controls, under strict monitoring, the industrial and developmental activities that may be ecologically hazardous, while ensuring uninterrupted growth of industries and urbanization. There is a scope for development of several technologies in compliance with the provisions of the Acts and Protection Policy of India in harmony with its five year plans. (Ikram et al., 2021)

Community Engagement

Greater participation in environment and sustainability has been a consistent focus for local government authorities in planning for local areas in the UK. In Scotland, the Environment Act 1999 introduced a duty on local authorities to promote environmental sustainability. In order to rise to this challenge, a common need to promote active community engagement appears to be developing. However, this need is linked to significant shifts in conceptual thinking about communities within the local governance and sustainability debate (Taylor Aiken, 2018).

Further questions emerge from this dilemma, most fundamentally whether sustainability is a legitimate objective of local community planning and decision-making processes. This question is compounded by the need to reconcile sustainable development as 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' with numerous significant contemporary sustainability issues with intergenerational justice implications. (Lennan, 2021)

Community engagement is critical for addressing environmental concerns and achieving sustainable development. Given the community's role in meeting economic, social, and environmental needs, there is a need to enhance and enable the effective channeling of community input into decision-making processes. A specific mechanism to facilitate stakeholder input and involvement in the coastal zone planning and management processes is required (Dyer et al., 2014). Since some environmental issues cannot be solved solely through the action of government institutions or the private sector, the countries involved have made a commitment to greater community involvement in planning and resource management. Fostering community engagement will empower stakeholders to play a positive and informed role in the management of the coastal zone. The proposed initiative will therefore focus on enhancing and facilitating informed community input into local decision-making processes that address environmental and related concerns. Central to this will be community education and awareness programs to introduce environmental issues, the planning process, and the proposed approach to be adopted by the communities. (Anthony Jr, 2024)(Moallemi et al.2020)

Education and Awareness Programs

Education and awareness programs have proven to be incredibly effective and efficient methods for sparking positive change in attitudes and behaviors towards environmental sustainability. These programs encompass a wide range of initiatives aimed at reducing littering, promoting recycling, advocating for water conservation, encouraging energy conservation, and fostering a sense of environmental stewardship. Additionally, it is vital to emphasize that awareness itself is an absolutely indispensable precondition for instigating any meaningful alterations in behavior when it comes to environmental protection.

By focusing on education and disseminating information, campaigns that revolve around environmental awareness become powerful agents of change because they directly target the knowledge, perceptions, beliefs, and behaviors of the intended audience. To ensure the utmost effectiveness, it is imperative to develop well-defined and sound strategies for carrying out these awareness campaigns.

To start, it is crucial to clearly establish and articulate the intended objectives of the campaign. The targets for these campaigns can vary greatly, encompassing the general public as a whole or specific target groups within society. Furthermore, campaigns can be tailored to address specific topics, such as littering or pollution, depending on what is deemed most relevant and pressing.

Another important consideration is the timeline of the campaign, as it can be designed to be either short-term or long-term in nature. Additionally, the scope of the campaign is another critical aspect to determine, whether it be local, national, international, or regional. Each of these factors should be carefully analyzed and weighed, ensuring that the campaign remains focused and impactful.

While it is crucial to cover a broad range of objectives within an awareness campaign, it is equally important to strike a balance and not overwhelm the audience with excessive information. If the campaign becomes overburdened with too many objectives, it risks causing a phenomenon known as "information overload," where the intended message becomes diluted and its impact diminished. Therefore, it is vital to convey clear, direct, and concise messages in order to maintain the effectiveness of the campaign. Ensuring that these messages are straightforward, precise, and focused will undoubtedly contribute to the success of the overall objectives. (E.J. Wals & Benavot, 2017) (Sarid & Goldman, 2021)(Wamsler2020)

In order to ensure a greater chance of success in local participation and facility use, the challenge is how to connect new facilities with already existing responses. A sound knowledge of client behavior, using techniques, such as phone interviews and focus groups, may provide valuable insights that need to be taken into account in the design and implementation of new educational programs. For a successful broad penetration and long-term effect of educational campaigns, it is vital to involve teachers and the community by using already-established frameworks, such as the scout movement or nature experience programs. It can be questioned how much effect local awareness campaigns, with limited resources of knowledge and funding, can deliver based on existing studies concerning the effectiveness of environmental education (Rhodes, 2013)..

Conclusion

Increasing human populations place elevated pressures on the environment and exacerbates both climate change and biodiversity loss. This highlights the importance of sustainable development, which recognizes the limits of the planet and prioritizes the well-being of current and future generations. Here are steps that can be taken to promote sustainability: improving environmental education, conservation, systems thinking, and sustainable consumption practices. Environmental education plays a crucial role in raising awareness and garnering support for biodiversity preservation and the protection of ecosystem services. It empowers individuals to make informed choices and act as responsible stewards of the environment. Conservation efforts

are paramount in effectively mitigating the deleterious impacts of human activities on the climate and ecosystems. By implementing strategies such as protected areas, habitat restoration, and sustainable use of natural resources, we can safeguard our planet's delicate ecological balance. In addition to education and conservation, incorporating systems thinking into sustainable development practices is vital. Systems thinking emphasizes understanding complex interactions and interdependencies among various components of the environment, society, and the economy. This holistic approach helps identify and address the root causes of unsustainable behaviors and promotes effective long-term solutions. Furthermore, sustainable consumption practices play a significant role in reducing the ecological footprint. By opting for eco-friendly products, minimizing waste, and making informed consumption choices, individuals can contribute to the preservation of the environment and the well-being of present and future generations. Ultimately, these steps must be adopted through a concerted effort to improve the integrity and efficacy of sustainability policy and accounting systems. Collaboration between governments, businesses, communities, and individuals is crucial for implementing and monitoring sustainable practices on a global scale. Together, we can create a sustainable future marked by harmony between human development and ecological preservation. (Jane Davidson, 2011).

Summary of Findings

All examination protocols were confirmed by the College of Ibn Sina University of Medical and Pharmaceuticals Sciences. All screening was achieved following the confirmed guidelines.

Financial support and sponsorship (Funding)

This paper critically examines the profound and far-reaching impact of human activities on environmental sustainability, highlighting the significant limitations in addressing these pressing concerns. Throughout history, the Earth has been a witness to the ebb and flow of various meteorological and geological phenomena, each of which has left an indelible mark on our environmental quality and productivity. However, amongst the countless challenges that have plagued our planet, none have been as perilous and troublesome as the relentless and detrimental impact of human activities on the delicate ecological serenity, biodiversity, and the looming specter of climate change.

The incessant and uncontrolled consumption of valuable resources without the incorporation of effective recycling mechanisms has not only resulted in the rapid depletion of precious non-renewable resources but has also pushed life on Earth perilously closer to the precipice of irreparable damage. This paper endeavors to paint a comprehensive picture of the narrowing policy outlooks and the inherently limited aspects of environmental sustainability, which inevitably contribute to the growing concerns permeating economic, social, and political agendas worldwide. Furthermore, it aims to shed light on the inherent weaknesses and shortcomings of technologies and environmental standards, whether devised by conservation organizations or established by industrial associations, in combatting the alarming levels of environmental degradation and curbing unsustainable consumption patterns.

To effect transformative change and accelerate the pace of structural adjustments within Member States, there exists an undeniable need to magnify and amplify the accumulated environmental sustainability problem beyond the confines of mere top-down compliance mechanisms. Thus, objectivity is recommended as the preferred approach in delineating and explaining the intricate web of sequential misalignments and mismatches that have, over time, eroded the very foundations of international environmental governance. By recognizing these events as interconnected and mutually reinforcing, we can pave the way towards holistic solutions that address the root causes of environmental degradation and foster the construction of robust, adaptable, and resilient international environmental governance frameworks.

In conclusion, this illuminating paper underscores the paramount importance of addressing the barriers that impede a more comprehensive evaluation of non-material well-being and environmental sustainability. Only by dismantling and overcoming these barriers can we foster hope for the future of international environmental governance frameworks, empowering them to better understand the multifaceted challenges we face and adequately safeguard against their pernicious and far-reaching impacts. (Amadi et al., 2014)(Sagini Oribu et al., 2014).

Recommendations for Future Research

This section outlines recommendations for future research endeavors aimed at deepening the understanding of the impact of human activities on environmental sustainability. In light of the findings of the present project, it is recommended that research efforts continue along a similar vein and explore possible pathways for reducing negative impacts on the environment. Some areas for further exploration and study include: Surveys, educational and cultural outreach programs, alternatives to industrial practices, exploring incentives and regulations, and studies of employee attitudes.

Dismantling attitudes towards the environment using qualitative and quantitative instruments can provide insights into how practices perceived to be reasonable can still lead to ecological degradation. Many industries perceive conflict as an unavoidable situation that cannot be avoided, and companies often seek ways to adapt to or otherwise fight back against good intentions for change. Viewing employees' perspectives on these issues as an integral part of environmental studies may ameliorate these defensive belief systems and provide a more constructive path for change. Studies employing participatory methodologies in developing countries reveal that attitudes towards resource use differ between ethnic groups or genders (Sagini Oribu et al., 2014). More broadly including social characteristics of the industry in question could provide good insight into the current mining situation in the Arctic. Such research offers the possibility to acknowledge nuances that survey research can miss.

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