



Make Our Environment Sustainable in North East India

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Abstract: *The study focuses on the environment, and sustainability refers to the conservation of resources to ensure environmental quality that needs to be protected and maintained for future generations. This paper attempts to study the principles and practises for preserving the natural environment and its sustainability. The paper attempts to focus on the hill areas of the North East as well as Assam and those inhabitant there who are associated with the natural environment in terms of livelihoods, occupations, and environmental preservation through religious practises on the one side and following environmental laws, principles, and the application of modern concepts on the other to sustain the eco-sensitive region. Sustainability is the main motive for the life and balance of the earth. Balancing with nature is equivalent to the way we maintain our health. The health of humans and the earth is a prominent topic on which people must think and act globally. Making the environment green is the main reason for the paper.*

Key Words: *new vision, sustainable environment, principle, local knowledge, greening the earth.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

Following the lines said by Franklin D. Roosevelt, “a nation that destroys its soils destroys itself; forests are the lungs of our lands, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.” Due to human activity, the natural environment will deplete. Without careful planning and the improper use of environmental sustainability methods, difficulties will appear in the near future (Dr. R. Gillaspay). In Mary Stevens’ article, ‘What is Environmental Sustainability?’, the term “sustainable development” was first used in the World Commission on Environment and Development’s 1987 report, ‘Our Common Future,’ which acknowledged the connections between inequality, poverty, and environmental degradation and sought a fairer and less harmful environment support committee. Accordingly, sustainable development is defined as “development that satisfies present needs without jeopardising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs.” In practise, environmental sustainability helps meet the demands of the present population for the benefit of future generations and entertainment without harming the environment or using up resources. Special attention should be given to the betterment of our environment and making it sustainable in the northeast region. It involves academics, governments, non-governmental organisations, researchers, and various institutions, along with people, communities, nations, continents, and the entire world. Additionally, to acknowledge that the natural resources are not only being overused but, by scientific means, if not the northeastern local communities, engage forest resources for livelihoods that deplete the forest environment on the one hand, then it is better to go for sustaining the environment on the other. This paper has a wide scope for studying a sustainable Earth. In this application of strategy, principles, and related others, we also use them to sustain our north-east Indian environment better, which will be discussed in detail below.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Sharpley, R. (2009) urges that the relationship between tourism and the environment is such that tourism in desirable physical and socio-cultural contexts, often referred to as bio-cultural life, and its development will come at major social, economic, and environmental costs to destinations. It urges that the promotion of sustainable development be made possible by tourists’ growing environmental consciousness and their demand for ethical vacations. The result of tourism and the environment is dependency growth.

The Planning Commission, GOI (2006), discussed rebranding the Ministry of NER as the Ministry for Mountain Development to create the long-overdue Mountain Development Policy. It recommends that the proposed Ministry of



Mountain Development's primary duties include raising awareness of the Mountain Agenda, enhancing coordination efforts between different Ministries, international funding agencies, public-private partnerships, and networking on an international scale in order to safeguard vulnerable mountain ecosystems and foster sustainable mountain development. Budgetary allocations along with the NER Ministry include: (i) the Hill Area Development Programme and Border Development Area Programme (or Border Road Organisation) in the NER; (ii) the North Eastern Council; (iii) Central Government road construction projects in the NER, road planning, and inland waterways transportation in the NER; and (iv) issues pertaining to the development of power, irrigation, roads, and communication in the NER. It stipulates that Special Category States (SCS) with (a) insufficient infrastructure, (b) forest-dominated regions, (c) environmentally fragile areas, (d) a weak economic foundation, and (e) borders with other countries also be included in the north-east mountain region. It calls for this development plan to benefit the area's growth and produce a sustainable environment in the mountain states.

Prof. I.V. and N. Dragulanescu (2013) promote the neoclassical theory of sustainable growth, which views the reduction of poverty through increased production and disposable income at higher levels of consumption. This helps ensure that resources are used sustainably. It recommends that true ecology be viewed as an open, circular subsystem supported by its ecological foundation in a relationship of interdependence between economics and the environment. According to neo-Malthusian theory, economic growth is the only attribute of sustainable development. It asserts that "development without growth" may be a viable option that considers the bio-physical constraints placed on human activity by nature as a sign of growth, not development.

Rachel and C. Isabel (2009) urge that natural resources are under new pressure due to human activity and climate change. Over time, the environment progressively changes. It maintains that human activity negatively affects the environment and alters it quickly. It claims that the overuse of natural resources by previous and current generations relative to those who replaced them is the cause of environmental degradation. Lack of access to safe water exacerbates environmental issues in the area. It can replenish, unaffected by human activity, and not exhaust natural resources that are either renewable or living, such as soil and water. It attempts to manage resources sustainably and frequently grows into customs that are a part of daily life in communities.

In this study, there is no other literature available related to this study area of the northeast India for the protection of the environment through sustainable making nature for life. Yet the literature is has a gap, and I desire to study it as an area of research and for further.

3. MATERIALS:

Objectives of the Study

Following are the aims of the present study:

- To study the strategy for making the environment sustainable in northeast India.
- To analyse how people can engage with the environment sustainably through community participation, supporting our environment.
- To study the methods to protect our environment by way of tourism, bio-culture, and environmental principles to limit its unlimited use.

Research Questions

Following are the questionnaires for the present research study area:

- What are the strategies that can make the environment sustainable for northeast India?
- How can people engage in environmental sustainability through community participation to support our environment better?
- What methods can we use to protect our environment and keep it from degrading?

4. METHOD:

Data collection for the present study is based on secondary sources. Secondary sources include unpublished data, journals, and articles; various related views are focused in the study area. In this study, descriptive research is considered for data interpretation and analysis. There is comparison of local knowledge and modern concepts for natural sustainability in the eco-sensitive region. The protection of the environment by the principle of sustaining it in north-east India is one of the assumptions of the present study.



5. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS:

The following subheading points are considered for making our environment sustainable and can go for better protection in this study area.

Environment and Sustainability Principle

According to William C. Sullivan, article “*What are the Principles of Environmental Sustainability*”? He aptly states that a sustainable environment is governed by five principles:

- *Limits*: As human societies and activities grow, environmental planning and decision-making should continue to prioritise the need for biophysical limits, which are imposed by nature’s carrying capacity.
- *Interdependencies across time and space*: the phrase “global village” refers to how the globe is interconnected and dependent on one another since the usage of resources affects distant locations, which in turn affect us. More ‘greening the earth’ is needed globally in order to establish a sustainable environment.
- *Triple-bottom line*: to make and create a sustainable earth and natural environment, economic, social and environmental priorities must be balanced to fulfil human’s wants, enhance environmental quality, and create a secure and engaged social triple bottom line, rather than merely the financial bottom line.
- *Equity*: To maintain a sustainable ecosystem, it is necessary to distribute opportunity, wealth, and quality of life fairly across all communities worldwide. Resources are our prescriptive standards because we have a duty to safeguard them; thus, we should work to raise the environmental quality for the sake of future generations.
- *Caution*: People are mostly ignorant of how nature functions, how dependent we are on it, and the economics of conservation. Delays in implementation may be costly to society, the environment, and future generations in the modern day with the advancement of scientific knowledge.

Strategy for a Sustainable Environment for the Future Vision

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Professor Leszek Borysiewicz, draughts a report titled “*Environmental Sustainability Vision, Policy, and Strategy*,” which includes the following strategies for the years 2015 to 2020:

- *Energy and carbon management* have a long-term goal of becoming carbon neutral from energy usage by 2050 and immediate aims of reducing carbon emissions from energy consumption by 34 percent by 2020 compared to a baseline year of 2005.
- *Water management* entails conserving water through effective usage and management while reducing water consumption by 20% by 2020 compared to a baseline year of 2005.
- *Biodiversity and ecosystems*, which aligns with its goals of being a global leader in conservation and food security research and aims to limit negative and have beneficial direct and indirect impacts on biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Through elimination, reduction, reuse, and recycling, waste management seeks to minimise it and actively manage it.
- *University procurement frameworks* that are the focus of sustainable procurement are quicker, more financially advantageous, and ecologically friendly. As a result, more institutions adopt them and take these criteria into account when making purchases.
- *Sustainable construction and renovation* aim to lessen the negative effects of our buildings and remodelling on the environment.
- *Environmental sustainability in teaching and research* entails conducting ground-breaking research connected to the environment and making sure that, whenever possible, our operations are guided by this research.

Tourism as a Strategy for a Sustainable Environment

According to Richard Sharpley (2009 et al.), tourism promotes a sustainable environment for development based on two concepts: “*Tourism Development and the Environment: Beyond Sustainability?*” Academic research on sustainable tourism development tenet stands for sustainable business and development principles for the nation, and it is a micro-to-macro-problem solution to gain an understanding of why “eco-tourism” is crucial for a sustainable



environment. It is proof that the idea of sustainable development actually makes sense in terms of the growth of sustainable tourism. It illustrates how the growth of ecotourism in a cultural and religious sense might limit such suggestions for concepts and locals. Such locations and sites with socio-cultural restrictions require understanding by policymakers.

6. ANALYSIS:

Table 1: Difference between tourism and sacred zone preservation for a sustainable environment in the north east

Development of Tourism			Regional Growth (holy Zone Areas)
Social	Economic	Environment	
Public resources	Employment	Transportation	Policies and Initiatives
Local customs	Income and tax	Traffic	Conserving Nature
Infrastructure	Social Services	Keep Green Spaces	Innovation and Knowledge
People's behaviour	Equitableness	Biological Variety	Public-private collaboration
a way of life	income		organisation with a local focus enhance life style a fair development

Source: Kiper, T. (2012), Role of Ecotourism in Sustainable Development. Retrieved from www.intechopen.com

The above table shows that tourism development gives scope for social, economic, and environmental sustainability in northeast India. It is described as pillars of sustainable development, making the environment green. While regional development differs from the former because there is a need for community involvement, which can conserve the forest or environment in a sustainable manner, both sides should exchange their ideas and views for the development of the region in a sustainable environment.

7. RESULT:

In this study, it can be assumed that sustaining a new vision for the environment is the result of this. This result is that the research paper has a vision that focuses on making our environment green, and such visions should enable environmental sustainability and balancing. This follows:

- *Stop unlawful deforestation*; clearing rainforest begins with illicit deforestation. One of the key causes of climate change in this. To conserve the trees, we need to first eliminate unlawful logging. The key to protecting our planet is saving the rainforest. Global carbon emissions, which have caused species extinctions since the time of the dinosaurs, are caused by deforestation. For instance, illegal loggers and poachers are increasingly targeting indigenous reserves in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest, and such examples of rainforest degradation are linked to financial losses.
- Through the “LiFE Global Call for Ideas and Papers,” PM Narendra Modi launched the **LiFE** as Lifestyle for the Environment campaign, which asked people, institutions (colleges and universities), think-tanks, non-profit organisations, and others from around the world to adopt solution-driven, climate-friendly habits. He emphasised the importance of employing human-centric group efforts and forceful action that result in sustainable development to address the issues facing our world. A lifestyle called “Pro-Planet People,” responsible for reducing, reusing, and recycling, is intertwined into our lives.
- **EAST as FEAST**: the **EAST** framework is employed. The letter “**E**” stands for ‘easy and basic concepts result in the intention of assisting people, households, or businesses in adopting an environmentally preferred strategy. ‘**A**’ stands for “attractive,” which refers to vibrant colours and outgoing appearances for people who are likely to experience a change in behaviour. This is a signal to promote ecologically friendly decisions. “**S**” stands for social. It creates a self-fulfilling dream that comes true. The last letter, ‘**T**, stands for ‘timely,’ which denotes that the information provided indicates that the appropriate time to make a decision is now. In this sense, adding the letter **F** to the framework – a new acronym for **FEAST**, where F stands for ‘fun’ can help promote ecologically friendly conduct. In summary, if the aforementioned visions are implemented, the triple planetary crisis—climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and waste—must be resolved in order to address the pressing issue of this generation (PIB Delhi, 2022).



- 'Save the Rainforest' should incorporate the environmental quality of the global village, as W.M. Adams (1990) addresses eloquently. The rainforest and the global conservation strategy that resulted in sustainable development in a healthy environment can be reconciled through this. Political factors are another reason for resource stress in environmental development. Another obstacle to preserving the rainforest region is the government's right to clear-cut woods for development projects (1990, p. 5–15).

8. RECOMMENDATIONS:

In this study, the paper will make some notable points to understand the development of a nation or state by means of sustainable goals. Some recommendations are

- It is recommended that to lessen global warming, there is need for cooperation to develop alternate uses of energy like solar and wind, which can sustain our environment without harming the earth.
- Cooperation and understanding the system of sustainable use are the sole of knowledge that will lead to sustainable nation's future.
- It suggests that the north-east region may consider itself an energy hub or power house, while in other parts of the country, wind energy is suitable because of the limitations of natural resources and give us a sustainable way to live through mechanistic means.
- Though the Act east policy, the north-east India region will happen like a naked forest due to huge number of construction projects across the rivers, like dams, bridges, expansion of roads from 2 or 4 to 6 lanes, flyovers on national park areas, cutting of mountains (like tunnels, roads), etc., These are the biggest negatives that our environment cannot improve for sustainable development. This resulted from the government's interest in narrowing the protected forest areas as well.
- It also recommends that for the sake of national development, the rainforest region is narrowing, leaving the forest naked and rising up to the sea floor as a result of widespread forest destruction. Construction should be done in a mechanistic and scientific manner. Researchers understand that tribal communities in India gave the guidelines that policymakers should remember for the following reasons: religious traditions include temple forests, monastery forests, and sanctified and deified trees; traditional traditions include sacred forests, sacred groves, and sacred trees; royal traditions include royal hunting preserves, elephants, royal gardens, etc.; livelihood traditions include forests and groves serving as cultural and social space.

9. CONCLUSION :

To conclude and summarise, that decision, which contributes to improvements in environmental sustainability in the north-east region, should start at the local level. It is also emphasised that, to improve and make our environmental sustainability performance better, our commitment is to minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and increase the use of renewable resources. In contemporary days, in the northeast region, the application of modern technology, urbanization, and industrialization will affect and degrade the core biodiversity areas, eco-sensitive areas, and animal corridors. In this connection, mechanisms and strategies should be adopted to tackle issues that should not harm wildlife in the future. With such areas of ecological destruction, if not restricting the living species, flora and fauna will be lost. In this context, policymakers and the government should try to understand why there is unnatural death, loss, or even hidden truth or unseen power at such sacred sites and places. This reason should make it clear that sacred sites and places are themselves a secret zone that has been defined and narrated by our forefathers and tells us the truth generation by generation. Such cases and occurrences cannot be denied or avoided because of the visitors' negative feelings. In this region, there is strict traditional knowledge, and the events that the local people experience are based on and analysed here in this paper.

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