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Article 1

Editor's Note

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The African continent is one of the fastest-growing regions in the world with an average of more than 5% growth annually.¹ This growth is attributed to political stability, better fiscal policies, and diversification of national economies.² Despite these positive developments, African governments continue to face challenges especially with governance. To promote more economic growth, African governments have to promote increased transparency, build stronger institutions, and enforce human rights principles.

The mission of *Sustainable Development Law and Policy* is to provide a broad range of information in order to allow our readers to make an informed decision. In *Preventing A Renewable Resource Curse*, Scott Lyons explores the risks of the massive flow of investments in clean and renewable energy in Africa. Lyons argues that the increased investment in clean energy in the developing world, accompanied by lack of financial absorptive capacity, lack of transparency due to secrecy, and lack of strong institutions could result in a "Resource Curse" that is common with the discovery and reliance on oil and gas. *The Emergence of Right-based Approaches to Resource Governance in Africa* focuses on implementing a human rights-based approach to natural resource governance. Damilola Olawuyi calls for African governments to implement the African Commission on Human and People's Rights' Resolution on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Natural Resources Governance to reduce conflicts that arise between governments, international oil companies, stakeholders and local communities over resource development.

Additionally, the features articles discuss broad issues related to sustainable development in Africa. Marie Durane argues for adopting minimum wage laws in Ethiopia especially to protect garment workers. Taís Ludwig advocates for enforcement of environmental standards in Chinese-led development projects. Finally, Ryan Schmidt contends that the Nigerian government must promote gender equality and provide better access to education in northern Nigeria to curb Boko Haram's popularity.

Features:

11 | RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDED BY CHINESE BANKS

by Taís Ludwig

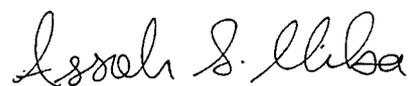
23 | THE ABSENCE OF NORTHERN NIGERIA'S SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE RISE OF BOKO HARAM

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24 | "MADE IN ETHIOPIA" – THE NEW NORM IN THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

by Marie Durane

On behalf of my staff, I would like to thank all the authors for sharing their articles and helping us engage in a thoughtful and informative discussion on sustainability issues in the African Continent. I would also like to thank my staff for their hard work and efforts that continue to make *Sustainable Development Law and Policy* a leading publication in addressing sustainable development issues.



Jacqueline Niba

¹ *The Twilight of the Resource Curse? Africa's Growth is being Powered by Things Other than Commodities*, THE ECONOMIST, Jan. 10, 2015, <http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21638141-africas-growth-being-powered-things-other-commodities-twilight>.

² *Id.*

ABOUT SDLP

Sustainable Development Law & Policy (ISSN 1552-3721) is a student-run initiative at American University Washington College of Law published three times each academic year, with occasional special editions and two annual foreign language translations. The journal publishes articles and essays that focus on reconciling the tensions between environmental sustainability, economic development, and human welfare. It embraces an interdisciplinary focus to provide a broad view of current legal, political, and social developments. Our mission is to serve as a valuable resource for practitioners, policy makers, and concerned citizens promoting sustainable development throughout the world.

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