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Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Clarion, Pennsylvania

The global economic recession has certainly made it clear that the world community must realize that all countries are linked together economically, environmentally, politically, and socio-culturally. The global economic crisis has also provided opportunities for countries to begin to work together bilaterally and multi-laterally in order to build sustainable systems which can withstand economic, environmental, and socio-cultural stress due to human failures.

Some African countries have shown progress in the development of infrastructures which are sustainable and respect the integrity of the environment. Multinationals and African governments are being held accountable for the environmental devastation that their haphazard developments are causing. Environmental planning and assessment are beginning to take strong hold in many parts of Africa. Attention is being given to the economic, environmental, and socio-cultural impacts of land use activities such as agriculture, housing, transportation, and commercial development.

The articles in this issue of the *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa (JSDA)* call the readers' attention to a number of issues concerning human existence in a world that continues to disregard the boundaries established by natural systems that respond to natural processes. Although, in general, the articles cover a broad range of topics of natural and social sciences, there is no doubt that residential growth (population), industrial, agricultural and commercial activities are changing the ecological systems in Africa. The articles reflect a response by scholars and practitioners to the state of affairs in Africa.

We encourage your continued support and response to articles in this issue.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valentine U. James'.

Valentine U. James, Ph.D., CES
Editor-in-Chief