

# LandMarks of Environment & Development

*Memoirs from Stockholm (1972) to Rio+20 (2012)*



*Compilation of historic decisions shaping our actions towards environment & sustainable development for today and the future*

Foreword by

**Dr. B.SOWBHAGYA LAKSHMI**

PhD (Envi. Mangt), M.Sc (Envi.Sc),  
M.Sc (Bio-Infor), PGDCA, MIET,  
IAENG

Edited by

**Patricks-E, Chinemerem** M.Phil, MNMGS, MITD, EnvDipNEBOSH

*On the road map the journey began at a point into the future*

# LandMarks of Environment & Development

*Memoirs from Stockholm (1972) to Rio+20 (2012)*

**By**

*Chinemerem Patricks*

Journeying to the  
"The future that we  
want"

**First Edition**

**First Published in Nigeria in 2014**

**Publisher: Environment & Millennium Targets LTD (EMT-CREED)**

*Centre for Research, Environment Education & Development*



**Copyright: (Patricks – Ekedede, Chinemerem - 2014)**

Reproduction in whole or part for the purpose of academic research, training and education is allowed without given the authorization and written permission from the author provided reference and acknowledgement is duly made to this book as a source.

Printed in Nigeria

**ISBN: 154-566-298-3**

---

## **Dedication**

*To the United Nations system (especially UNEP) and to all heads of government and world leaders who have made positive decisions for environmental sustainability*

# Contents

Dedication

Contents

Acknowledgement

Foreward

Preface

Chapter One: Introduction

Chapter Two: The Stockholm Conference on Human Environment (1972)

Chapter Three: The Brundtland Commission Report- “Our Common Future” (1987)

Chapter Four: The Rio Conference on Environment & Development (1992)

Chapter Five: United Nations Millennium Declaration – Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) (2000)

Chapter Six: Agenda 21

Chapter Seven: The UNFCCC & Kyoto Protocol

Chapter Eight: Rio + 20 Conference, 2012

References

List of Abbreviations

Selected Terms & Definitions

Appendix

About the Author

## **Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge the hand of God the father almighty in everything I have done and most especially for his divine provisions to me during the process to realize this publication.

Further appreciation and thanks will go to Dr. B.Sowbhagya Lakshmi who took time out from her very busy schedules to write the foreword to this book.

I also acknowledge the special supports and encouragements I received from my family especially my wife (Catherine Chinwe) and my son (Nikechukwu) and daughters (Kemakolam and Kosi).

Finally, I remain grateful to all my teachers, friends and colleagues for the various help they have provided and the different roles they have played to enable me fulfill the publication of this book.

To all and for all, I remain grateful.



## FOREWORD

Fourty years have passed since the first UN conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm 1972 and the world has changed dramatically. In many ways, it has changed for the better. We enjoy and benefit from technological innovations that were almost unimaginable just a couple of decades ago. Many of us are wealthier and healthier than ever before. Yet enormous challenges remain. The depletion of natural resources continues and in large parts of the world, people live in poverty. We are still not on the right track towards sustainable development. The good news is that the ideas and tools to change course are to a great extent available. At the Stockholm+40 Conference they were demonstrated in an inspiring and promising way. Participating stakeholders representing youth, civil society organizations, policy makers, business and financial sector, science and others signaled that there is a strong will to work together and to move ahead. Sustainable development can only become a reality if all actors work towards the same goal, and take on their fair share of responsibility to promote sustainability. Partnerships between different stakeholders are critical to strengthening efforts and leveraging results. A sincere request was sent to governments to implement decisions already agreed upon and to take the necessary steps that will make the world a better place for all. The toolbox is open, now is the time to make change. We were especially happy to see so many young people, from so many different countries, at Stockholm+40. In ten or twenty years, they will be decision-makers and world leaders. We hope they will look back and say that Stockholm+40 and Rio+20 were two very important steps towards a sustainable and equitable future. What we need in Rio is global policy coherence for sustainable development and a call for action. We are convinced that in order to reach a sustainable future, ministers for finance, development and environment need to work together – across their respective policy areas. By 2050 we should all be living in a world where sustainable development has become a reality and where everyone can live a free and decent life, supported by a democratic society where human rights are respected and protected. Where our consumption and production patterns have become sustainable, and include socially and environmentally correct pricing of social and environmental values. A world where basic necessities, such as access to water, sanitation and energy, are not just a dream. We are looking forward to a strong commitment to this vision in Rio and beyond.

*B.S. Lakshmi*

Dr. B SOWBHAGYA LAKSHMI Doctorate (ISBM), M.Sc (Envi.Scs), M.Sc (Bio-Infor), MIET, IAEN

## **PREFACE**



There is no doubt that today many organizations, groups, societies and individuals are advocating, campaigning and doing a lot of work and activity bothering on environmental sustainability and sustainable development in general. Many professionals, non-governmental organizations and consulting firms are actively engaged in several environmental management and sustainability programmes and projects. However, there exists some missing gap. This gap is as a result of a lack in sound understanding and knowledge of fundamental foundation facts about land mark and historical evolution of facts, decisions and events that have brought us to where we are today in this very important mission and journey to achieve environmental sustainability and overall sustainable development for all systems, economies, peoples and cultures including the future.

If we must successfully carry on with this important mission to achieve environmental sustainability, prevent pollution, curb climate change, and eradicate poverty, we need to understand the historical evolution of land mark environmental decisions, we need to know where we have been in the past, we need to know where we are heading to for the future and why we are heading to this particular direction from where we are now.

This book, "Landmarks of Environment & Development"- *Memoirs from Stockholm (1972) to Rio+20 (2012)* is written with the singular intention to put together in a single volume a collation of these monumental and land mark historical decisions and events that have evolved and shaped and will continue to shape our actions for today and for tomorrow in the area of global environmental actions, policies, programmes and decisions towards sustainable development. This book is written in furtherance to the fact that: "Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable—to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Which is sustainable development in the words of Brundtland Commission report – "Our common future (1987).

The views and facts presented are not wholly mine but a collation from different authors and in appendix are documented reference of the full texts of these important global environmental decisions that were reached at different times through international negotiations and multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEA's).

**Patrick-E, Chinemerem** M.Phil, MITD, MNMGS, EnvDipNEBOSH, cert-IEL-UNITAR, OSHAcademy trainer

Research, Training & Development Consultant in Environment, Climate Change & Sustainable Development,  
Member Developing Countries Committee of IFTDO

## Chapter Nine

### Conclusion

In the journey to achieve the future that we want, several historic, landmark and important key milestone decisions have been made and taken at different times, moments and places by the United Nations, world leaders and heads of governments.

What is therefore important is the need for today's generation to respect, recognize, reference, commit and ensure appropriate application and implementation of these decisions in all areas and aspects where they shall be relevant.

We need to treasure these decisions and ensure they are transferred to the next and future generation with same passion that will drive them to continue in the same mission towards environmental sustainability.

All world leaders, country governments and the United Nations systems have a responsibility to show commitment and sincerely support the various environment and sustainable development programmes, conference texts, declarations or treaty accords entered or signed to with the rest of the world.

We need to draw a line between politics and business as usual in order to attend to current realities effectively and efficiently. We are all involved and we must solve the problems together. Let us recall that every year; millions of US dollars, UK pounds and Euros are spent to organize world conferences on environment, sustainable development and conferences of parties to the Kyoto protocol (UNFCCC). These huge resources, expenses and budget should begin to yield positive results and we need to begin to quantify or measure its effectiveness in terms of tangible visible changes that can be seen especially in the area of achieving the Millennium Development goals (MDG's), curbing the menace of climate change by reducing carbon emission and improving peoples overall well being through poverty reduction and provision of access to primary health care and clean water.

## References

**Bonnie Ayodele (2010)**. "Silence on climate change and the natural resources conflict in Nigeria"-The Niger Delta region experience published in Donald Anthony Mwiturubani and Jo-Ansie van Wyk (2010).Climate Change and Natural Resources Conflicts in Africa, ISS- Institute for Security Studies Monograph, 170

**Donald Anthony Mwiturubani and Jo-Ansie van Wyk (2010)**.Climate Change and Natural Resources Conflicts in Africa, ISS- Institute for Security Studies Monograph, 170.

**Kiss, A., D. Shelton (2010**, 3rd Revised Edition), Introduction to International Environmental Law, UNITAR, Geneva, Switzerland,

Robert W. Kates, Thomas M. Parris, and Anthony A. Leiserowitz, (2005). Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development, Volume 47, Number 3, pages 8–21.

**UNITAR (2010)** Lecture Molule-1 Introductions to International Environmental Law (2010)

**UNEP (2006)**. "Environmental Reporting for African Journalists" *A Handbook of Key Environmental Issues & Concept*, UNON Printshop, UNEP, Nairobi.

[www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21)

## The Author



Born a Nigerian, **Chinemerem Patricks** is a research, training and development Consultant. He is an accredited Viral Change Practitioner from Dr. Leandro Herrero of Viral Change Global LLP, London, UK. He earned the prestigious United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) certificate in International Environmental Law (IEL) in 2010 following his successful completion of the course. He is an international research, training and development consultant in Safety, Environment, Sustainable Development, climate change and a consultant groundwater management geologist.

He holds a B.Sc (Hons) degree in Geology from the Department of Geology, University of Calabar, Nigeria, as well as an M.Phil degree in Environmental Management. The author has extensive international exposure and experiences in Europe and America. He had his early education from the International School of Havana, (formerly called Foreign Students School, Miramar, Havana) in Havana - Cuba. He is a member of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS) and the Nigerian Institute of Training & Development (NITAD). He is the author of the following books: "The Solid Mineral Resources of Kogi State for the Small Scale Operator" published in 1999. "That Question" published in 1997. "Scientific Expert Witnessing in Environmental Litigation" (Published in 2010) and Building a Career in Environmental Journalism (2012).

Patricks Chinemerem holds a NEBOSH Diploma in environmental management, an OSHAcademy HSE Trainer certification and an IRCA ISO 14001 Lead Auditor certification. He has been involved in training, research and development for several reputable organizations and multinationals since the year 2001. He has travelled widely across the world and is presently a member of the developing countries committee of the International Federation of Training and Development Organizations (IFTDO). He is also the principal consultant of EMT's Centre for Research, Environment Education and Development- EMT-CREED. He is a vibrant conference speaker, a renowned trainer in Environment, safety, sustainability and climate change and an emerging corporate environmental litigation support service advisor.

