

Exploring New Ways for Protection of Environment for Health

S. Kumaran

(Department of Community and Family Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna)

According to World Health Organization, more than 13 million annual deaths can be prevented by protecting the environment from pollution. In Sri Lanka, increase incidences of chronic obstructive lung diseases and chronic kidney diseases are clear evidence for environmental pollution. Human health is a balance of clean environment and the socio economic indicators. The clean environment not only prevents the individuals from disease but also treat it. The clean environment is only possible by maintaining the ecosystem, environmental diversity and get rid of pollution. There should be a proper mechanism to maintain the environment clean. The mechanism includes the modern method of environmental protection, team work, evaluation process, action plan, and research. The research is important to find out the new ways to environmental protection and establishing the local standards and indicators. Any team work will be success, if behavioural changing strategy

and conflict management are incorporated effectively. Any environmental protecting methods should be cost effective, and culturally acceptable.

Strong suspicion is enough to take action against environmental pollution rather waiting for clear evidence. In Sri Lanka, the Environmental Protection License (EPL) is a regulatory/legal tool under the provisions of the National Environmental Act No: 47 of 1980 amended by Acts No 56 of 1988 and No 53 of 2000, regulating all the environmental related issues.

New ways for protection of environment for health are a dynamic process. It should run under the principles of 'world is for everyone not for human only'. The programme start from individual level include achieving optimum level of environment and the socio-economic related indicators without disturbing the balance of ecosystem.

References

- Anderson, J and Slunge, D. (2005). Tanzania – Environmental policy brief [Online]. Tanzania: Development Partners Group. [Retrieved 10 July 2012].
- Blackman, A. (2008). Can voluntary environmental regulation work in Developing countries? Lessons from case studies. *Policy Studies Journal*, 36(1): 119-141.
- Earth Trends (2003). Biodiversity and protected areas-Tanzania. *Earth Trends Country Profiles* [Online]. Brussel: Vrije Universiteit. [Retrieved 10 July 2012].
- Goldstein, G. (2005). Legal system and wildlife conservation: history and the law's effect on indigenous people and community conservation in Tanzania. *The Georgetown International Environmental Law Review*.
- Harding, R. (2006). Ecologically sustainable development: origins, implementation and challenges. *Desalination*, 187(1-3): 229-239.
- <http://www.cea.lk/index.php/en>
- <http://www.epa.ie/irelandsenvironment/environment-&-health/furtherinformation/>
- <http://www.ilo.org/oshenc/part-vii/environmental-pollution-control/item/506-environmental-pollution-control-and-prevention>
- <http://www.whaleorgone.com/category/protecting-the-environment>
- <http://www.wma.net/en/20activities/30publichealth/30healthenvironment/>
- <http://www.ypte.org.uk/environmental/environment-how-can-you-help-protect-it-/81>

- **Jonathan, V. (1993).** *Environmental law* [Online]. Available at: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**<http://arno.uvt.nl>. [Retrieved 10 July 2012].
- **Karamanos, P. (2001).** Voluntary environmental agreements: evolution and definition of a new environmental policy approach. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, **44**(1): 67-84.
- **Mitchell, RB. (2003).** International environmental agreements: a survey of their features, formation, and effects. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, **28**(1543-5938): 429-461.
- **Pallangyo, DM. (2007).** Environmental law in Tanzania: how far have we gone? *Law, Environment & Development Journal*, **3**(1).
- **Solomon, U. (2010).** A detailed look at the three disciplines, environmental ethics, law and education to determine which plays the most critical role in environmental enhancement and protection. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, **12**(6): 1069-1080.
- **Tanzania Government.** Environment Tanzania [Online]. [Retrieved 20 September 2011].
- **The California Institute of Public Affairs (CIPA). (2001).** An ecosystem approach to natural resource conservation in California [Online]. Inter Environment Institute. (*CIPA Publication No.106*). [Retrieved 10 July 2012].