

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF TRADE IN AFRICA

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Composition of Africa's Export

- Agricultural Products (Tree Crops, eg. Cocoa, coffee, tea, cotton, Annual crops, eg. Food crops)
- Timber
- Minerals
- Oil
- Very limited manufactures
- Ms. of hazardous and second hand items

Agricultural Production techniques

- Very little nutrient application
- Extensive cultivation, waste of land
- Low agricultural productivity
- Degradation of land, desertification

Timber Exploitation

- Overlogging
- Policy failures in ensuring re-planting
- No re-planting of forests by loggers
- Lack of enforcement of rules
- Tropical forests could disappear by 2050 at current rate of deforestation
- In 1957, 8m. Ha. Forests, now 2m. Ha. left

Timber Contd.

- Shortage of timber products for domestic use and high price
- Very little price advantage since export of low value added – lumber, no knocked down furniture
- Land Degradation esp. deforestation and desertification

Minerals and Oil

- Air, water and land pollution with health effects
- Agricultural production negatively affected
- Very little local employment due to K-intensity
- Very little social benefit to communities
- Conflicts and loss of life
- Ms. of hazardous and second hand goods have negative health and env. impacts

Inter-generational Inequity

- Insufficient resources generated from exploitation of non-renewal resources because of very little value added
- Very little or no resources saved/invested for future generation

Any Solutions?

- Policy coherence
- Undertake major afforestation program
- Optimal policy is to ensure sustainable development
- Ensuring social equity, economic, and environmental sustainability
- Calculating the true cost natural resource exploitation – Natural resource accounts

THANK YOU