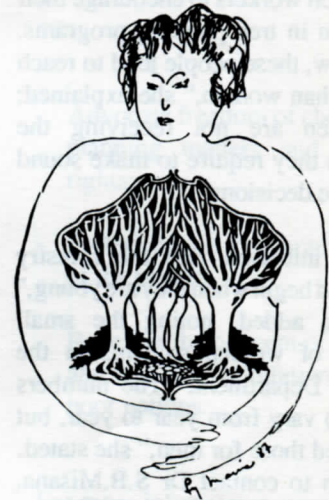


Reforestation in Tanzania

Andrea Neighbors, former editor of WorldWIDE News, returned recently from Africa and wrote this article on the issue of reforestation in Tanzania. Andrea interviewed Dr S.B.Misana who is Senior Lecturer and Geography Department Head at the University of Dar-es-Salaam, and has a doctorate in Biogeography from the University of Colorado, U.S.A. She is a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars on environment and conservation, and she believes that if women were involved in forestry programs they would make these programs a success.



Andrea began her interview by asking what is stopping the rural Tanzanian women from replenishing the country's depleted forests.

Dr. Misana spelled out the Catch 22: if rural Tanzanian women do not plant trees, they will feel the pinch when sorely needed forest resources grow scarce. Yet if they do devote time and energy to tree planting, often the resources are no more accessible than before.

In her report "Participation of Rural Poor and Women in Forestry Development", Dr. Misana explained that in many areas of Tanzania such as Sukumland, if women plant trees, it is normally the men who decide their uses, and quite often these trees are used for poles rather than firewood. Thus women provide labour but benefit very little from it.

Cultural factors discourage women's participation in decision-making. Forestry

programs are directed towards men's demands for timber, building, poles, charcoal and industrial fuelwood rather than women's fuelwood, fodder and food requirements, according to the report.

"Involvement of women in forestry programs would make these programs a success," Dr. Misana insisted in a recent interview. "It is the women who must walk twelve kilometers three times a week to collect fuelwood in the Dodoma region...it is the women who are responsible for providing for the families. Thus it is the women who will have a strong commitment in those projects which benefit them directly," she argued. But if it is not one catch, it is another. Cultural constraints aside, "women simply do not have the time to engage in tree planting programs" Dr. Misana lamented. "Perhaps if women's workloads could be reduced to some extent, this would enable them to participate fully," she suggested. "And women would be more than willing



to participate." In the Shinyaga region the situation has become "so serious that women are burning cow dung and crop residue in place of fuelwood," she said. Dr. Misana emphasized the value of training women as professional foresters and extension workers to encourage their participation in tree planting programs. "As it is now, these people tend to reach men more than women," she explained; "and women are not receiving the information they require to make sound resource-use decisions."

"Women's initiation into the forestry sector should begin when they are young," Dr. Misana added, noting the small percentage of women students in the Geography Department. "The numbers (of women) vary from year to year, but never exceed those for men," she stated. If you wish to contact Dr S.B.Misana, write to:

Head, Dept. of Geography, University of Dar-es-Salaam, P.O. Box 35091, Tanzania.

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Future Events

Women and Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean

March 19-22, 1991
Quito, Ecuador

Organized by **Fundacion Natura** and **CEPLAES** (Ecuadorian Center for Planning and Social Studies) and sponsored by the **United Nations Environment Program**, this meeting will examine the participation of Latin American and Caribbean women in the following areas:

- Current population policies in the region and their relation to women and the environment;
- The role of women in natural resource management (water, firewood, food, soils);
- Sanitation systems and waste disposal and their relation to the quality of life for women in rural sectors and poor urban areas;
- Appropriate technologies and their impact on women's lives (energy production, agricultural production, sanitation systems and recycling);
- Organizations and other social movements to develop and strengthen the links between women and the environment.

The first regional conference of its kind, this meeting aims to develop proposals

and strategies from women in Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the **United Nations Conference on Environment and Development** in Brazil, 1992.

For more information, contact CEPLAES, Casilla 6127, CCI, Quito, Ecuador. Fax: 434-449

Thirteenth IOCU World Congress

July 8-12, 1991
Hong Kong

Consumers around the world are starting to look at their buying habits as part of overall lifestyle changes which are necessary for sustainable development. Green consumerism, or consumption with an environmental conscience, has come of age and is now a global concern and area of action for citizens groups.

"The Age of the Green Consumer" is one of three major themes to be discussed at the 13th **International Organization of Consumer Unions (IOCU) World Congress**, scheduled for July, 1991 in Hong Kong.

Consumer groups are invited to help organizers identify activities, speakers and publications that deal specifically with this topic.

For more information, contact: **IOCU-ROAP**, P.O. Box 1045, 10830 Penang, Malaysia.