

AFRICA'S 1,340 MILLION PEOPLE

Africa's population is growing. Africa's population is growing fast. More and more people are being born, and more are surviving to grow up into adults. In twenty years, there may be twice as many people in Africa as there are today. In many ways, more people are a cause for celebration. Each human is unique; a person, a personality, and many believe a soul. The problem is that for each new person, the world's natural resources, the riches on offer from trees, the soil, water, are more divided. Nature's bounty is very wide, but it is not inexhaustible. As this book has shown, many of the world's environmental systems can become worn out. We need to ensure that each child has a good life. This may mean each person having fewer children, which means we are able to nurture each child better. One important way to reduce birth rates (number of children born per woman) is education, for women and especially, for men.

Traditionally, Africa's people are gentle on the natural environment, hunting and farming in sustainable ways. But as populations increase, sustainability is more challenging. Most people want the many positive things that industrialisation brings, including all manner of gadgets and equipment such as cell phones, TVs computers, air conditioners, refrigerators to keep food fresh, cookers to turn on with a switch. We want to enjoy the advantages of modern transport, access to modern medical care, help with childbirth, internet, fertilisers, processed food, and food in durable attractive packages. Yet as development comes, in each of our lives, our communities and our nation's culture, traditions, natural healing and an understanding of humanity are often damaged.

We all have a responsibility to make wise choices so that progress comes without harming the things that are good - like clean water, indigenous knowledge and wild places. We must face the future with a mind to the natural environment and the wealth of plants and wildlife we share it with.

IN 1950,
OUR URBAN POPULATION
WAS 33 MILLION...

The principles of sustainability: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



...IN 2050, IT WILL BE
1,489 MILLION.