

Mining Projects, Land Grabbing, Mass Tourism, Dams **Raja NUMARY(Pakistan)**

Mining Projects

Problems:

Mining leads to the destruction of forests and wetlands. The area that is to be mined needs to be cleared on the surface, affecting the forests adversely and leading to large scale deforestation. Not only the area that's going to be mined but also the route to it is cleared off any forests. These routes need to be developed as a road for easy accessibility. This means you also have to cut down a lot of trees just to get to the area being mined.

Forests are a significant habitat where a rich biodiversity survives. Losses of forests because of mining projects affect the habitat and hence affect the biodiversity of that particular area.

Solution:

These are just few of the effects that mining has on environment. It is one of the biggest drawback and obstacle to a sustainable development, a process that we must follow to tackle and prevent the effects of global warming.

There should be an alternative resource so that mining is curbed. Whatever is needed should be allowed only on barren lands. Projects, before being licensed by the governments, especially that of the developing world, should be checked and analyzed thoroughly and be given permission to be operational only after getting all the environmental clearances and approval by the local community as well.

Land Grabbing

Problems:

Over the past years vast tracks of agricultural lands have been taken over by foreign firms in underdeveloped and developing countries. Much of this land is located in Asian and African countries with fast increasing populations suffering hunger and under-nourishment.

Recent years have witnessed an unprecedented upsurge in foreign investment in agriculture either through purchase or leasing of large areas of land in developing countries, especially in some of the poorest countries in Southern Africa. Some of the most publicized investment deals had as principal motives the security of food or energy supplies to the rich countries of investors, in competition with the food security needs of the host countries which continued to receive food aid from multilateral and bilateral donors.

The recent foreign rush on land in developing countries can have profound impacts on the economies of the host countries. Against uncertain benefits derived from such foreign investments, there are serious negative impacts, in terms of threat to national food security, eviction of local population from the land they have traditional access to, and erosion of water and other natural resources. It falls on the responsibility of national governments to protect the right to food of national population and to provide food security to the whole nation, and most particularly the most vulnerable groups of people"

Solution:

Any decision to allow foreign investment in land should be based on this broad-based development strategy, and the contribution of foreign investment to national food security should be demonstrated. The government should undertake studies to assess the impacts of foreign investment on the economic, social and environmental conditions, as well as the right to food of the poor and vulnerable people. Particular attention should also be given to the sustainability of water resources. External actors could assist in the preparation of these studies. Relevant stakeholders should largely be consulted.

The second policy aspect is the negotiation of performance requirements and other favorable conditions in investment contracts, in order to share the benefits of investment. These requirements and conditions should be carefully defined and negotiated, within the policy space allowed by commitments associated with international trade and investment agreements.

Mass Tourism

Problems:

Decreased access to natural resources for the local communities and environmental degradation

Increasing cultural erosion and disrespect for human rights

International tourism acts as a catalyst for the transition from traditional ways of life to so-called modern.

Tourism has become associated with violation of human rights. Many destination countries have experienced an increase in criminality, prostitution, alcohol and drug abuse as a consequence of tourism.

Solutions:

In general, the tourism industry should engage in promoting sustainability as a hallmark for investors.

Pollution of ground and coastal waters must be prevented, and recommendations must be made (Perhaps even legislation) for tourism investors to invest in proper sewage treatment facilities.

To avoid degradation of the natural environment, tourism projects can help finance protected areas and safeguard ecologically sensitive regions against further environmental deterioration.

Dams

Problems:

Nearly half of the world's rivers have been fragmented and transformed by at least one of the 49,000 existing large dams. These dams alter rivers' flows, which leads to the disturbance of fish and other aquatic organisms, alteration of riverine habitat and landscapes, displacement of entire communities, and forced changes in livelihood activities.

Solution:

Re-optimizing the major irrigation, power and flood management systems in order to restore a substantial measure of the formerly productive floodplains, wetlands, deltas and estuaries located downstream in ways that do not significantly reduce – and can sometimes even enhance – the irrigation, power generation, and flood control benefits for which the dams were constructed.