

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I wish you the best in the New Year and hope that this year marks a more productive year in the search for better ways to sustain the global resources. The world's population continues to grow while our global resource base continues to shrink. Communities, regions, and countries of the world are fighting over resources and the world seems to be on the brink of a major global conflict. There are those who look at the conflict in the Middle East and predict dooms day and some conclude that the impending war against Iraq (by the rest of the world) is really about who controls the oil in the Middle East. Other areas of the world are also experiencing conflict. For example, Nigeria and Cameroon have a dispute over the Bakassi Islands. It is argued in many publications that the dispute is really over oil.

Managing resources in equitable ways, sharing resources and safe guarding the integrity of the natural systems have become even more pronounced in recent times. It is also paramount to resolve conflict and spread democracy around the world if we are to sustain our world.

The three articles in this issue bring us closer to understanding the complex nature of the sustainability issues in Africa. As always, please enjoy the articles and send your comments and reflections to us.

Happy New Year!

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