



Growing Threats from the Disruption of the Natural Balance in Nature: Potential Catastrophes and Solutions

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GROWING THREATS FROM THE DISRUPTION OF THE NATURAL BALANCE IN NATURE: POTENTIAL CATASTROPHES AND SOLUTIONS

Presenter: Oduyeru Oluwasegun Joshua Aratimilehin

This lecture covers fifteen (15) slides with a core focus on glocalized issues resulting from anthropogenic disruptions in the natural balance of ecosystems maintained by crucial cycles which regulate life and environmental stability: such as the water, carbon, and nitrogen cycles. Here I shall argue that continued environmental degradation risks irreversible damage to ecosystems, making it imperative to address these disruptions. To this end, the increasing frequency of natural disasters, driven by ecological imbalance, calls for immediate global and local actions to mitigate future catastrophes.

The lecture will involve a discussion and the eliciting of feedback in the class interaction, whilst offering case examples of disruptions in these cycles due to human activities, such as deforestation, pollution, and climate change, which have led to devastating consequences, including climate changes, wildfires, floods, desertification, and biodiversity loss. These catastrophes have affected, and are affecting, ecosystems globally, damaging natural resources and jeopardizing human livelihoods. For example, droughts, flooding, and deforestation are increasingly prominent threats across different regions, while bizarre weather changes are indicating changes in climate conditions; with rains in deserts and savannah, wind changes with example case stories such as air pollution, agricultural decline, droughts, the degradation of biodiversity in national parks and the destruction of the Białowieża Forest (Poland).

The teaching methodology takes a participatory approach with each slide involving the theoretical explanation with a practical aspect to reinforce students' knowledge and understanding of the issues. Overall, it will entail introductory slides, the core concepts of natural balance, human disruptions, consequences on a global scale, wildfires, flooding, hurricanes & typhoons, agriculture & hydrological drain, and droughts while closing slides look at potential solutions, technology & innovation roles and implementation of the call to actions in programmes/mini-projects. Each core slide involves graphical evidence of the case disruption of a natural balance; or human-caused natural disasters and its resulting environmental, social, and economic impacts. Further, we explore theories such as ecological modernization and sustainability approaches that advocate for greener technologies and policies. Acknowledging the need for systemic change, as this lecture will show students worldwide are stepping up, from leading renewable energy initiatives to promoting reforestation and raising environmental awareness. As global eco-citizens, students can make significant impacts by adopting sustainable habits, advocating for policy changes, and driving innovation to restore the natural balance and avert future environmental crises.

ODUYERU OLUWASEGUN JOSHUA ARATIMILEHIN

Short biography: Having trained at Obafemi Awolowo University, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, my research and activism revolve around Social Change & Development with teaching/learning, research and development-centred projects focused on resilience-building, and capability-building in diverse institutional settings across community, city(urban), national to global levels. Also, I serve as a trainer, mentor and advisor in various academic and professional contexts. My work life is characterized by diverse experiences, covering administration, research, strategy formulation, qualitative data analysis, data business analytics, and project management starting from a privileged apprenticeship in the year 2007/2008. This unique work-life journey prompted the birthing of Axel Research & Innovations Labs and Capability, Research, Entrepreneurship & Sustainability Transition (CREST Hub), which focuses on helping students gain work skills, and capacity to create and manage the delivery of smart, sustainable and research project management solutions/products/services. My core projects focus on development transition processes such as school-to-work, socio-economic groups and communities in urban spaces, urban poverty, resilience, and prosperity, political institutions and systems, eco-citizenship, national conservation, ecovillages, healthcare system development, and agri-food systems. These initiatives focus on translating research projects into innovations and driving positive socio-economic impact for communities experiencing identified social and researchable problems. Membership in different professional bodies with membership of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) being the most central to this discourse.