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## Call for Papers Sustainable Development in Africa through Management Theory and Research

**Deadline for Submissions: December 1, 2014**

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The *Canadian Journal of Administrative Sciences* welcomes submissions to a special issue on “Sustainable Development in Africa through Management Theory and Research.” The guest editors of this special issue have also co-organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> biannual Africa Academy of Management Conference in Botswana, Africa, held Jan 7-11, 2014. Authors considering submission to this special issue are encouraged to re-submit their conference papers. We also welcome new submissions on this topic.

### About the topic:

The importance of the application of management research to sustainable development has moved from the margins to the mainstream and has gained recognition and impetus over the past two decades. Sustainability issues in management gained momentum with the publication of seminal articles in the *Academy of Management Review*, Volume 20, Number 4, 1995, focusing on the role of management in enhancing ecological sustainability (e.g., Gladwin, Kennelly, and Krause, 1995; Shrivastava, 1995; Jennings and Zandbergen, 1995); and the Special issue of the *Academy of Management Journal*, Volume 43, Number 4, 2000 with an emphasis on the management of organizations in the natural environment. Sustainability issues in management are now widely accepted and several fields in management and organizations encourage research topics that link their fields to sustainability. The concept of sustainable development is inextricably linked with sustainability in its broadest sense. Sustainability is a complex concept which is generally agreed to encompass the balancing of the three broad dimensions of economic, social and ecological (or environmental) impacts of organizations (Stead and Stead, 2004). According to The World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission Report), sustainable development is “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (1987, p. 8). However, Gladwin et al. (1995) argue that sustainable development is the “process of achieving *human development* in an *inclusive, connected, equitable, prudent, and secure manner*” (p. 878, Italics in original). This special issue focuses on the management of

sustainable development in Africa. By the management of sustainable development, we mean the application of management and organizational theories and practices by organizations that take into consideration their economic, social and environmental (ecological) impact on development.

### **Motivation:**

Africa is a continent endowed with abundant natural resources that is also experiencing huge social and economic development issues. Moreover, the continent faces a diversity of environment issues such as desertification, deforestation, and soil erosion or degradation (Nyang'oro, 2007). Other environmental problems confronting Africa are water pollution and depletion, and the inability to conserve wildlife. Despite the increase in the application of management theories to sustainability and sustainable development in the global economy, very little research has been conducted in the African environment (Zoogah, 2013). This special issue seeks to encourage the development and/or application of management theories and methodologies to encourage sustainable development practices by organizations that could be used to address the social, economic, and environmental problems confronting the African continent.

The purpose of this special issue is two-fold: First, the special issue seeks to examine how some of the fundamental issues surrounding sustainable development address sustainability-related research in its broadest sense, which has been neglected in current management research in Africa. Second, the special issue seeks to encourage the adoption and development of theories, methodologies, and perspectives that investigate the role of management and organizational studies in sustainable development in Africa.

We will particularly encourage submissions (theoretical, empirical) that focus on the responses of organizations to the management of sustainable development in the African environment. The topics will include but are not limited to research attempting to address the following questions:

- What constitutes the management of sustainable development in the African context?
- Since sustainable development adopts a long-term view and stresses intergenerational equity in resource usage and allocation, how would existing theories (e.g., resource-based view of the firm (RBV), institutional theory, corporate social responsibility, etc.) define the key features of the management of sustainable development?
- How and where have existing theories that have been applied to the management of sustainable development been successful or failed to accurately capture its applicability in the African environment?
- What types of corporate sustainability strategies are relevant to the African environment?
- How can the theoretical and conceptual developments in various disciplinary areas in management and organizations (e.g., entrepreneurship, human resources management, international management, organizational behavior, strategic management, etc.) be leveraged for sustainable development in Africa?

### **Journal Submission guidelines:**

Consideration will be given to theoretical and empirical papers for this special issue. The format of papers should not exceed 40 pages including references, tables, and figures. All papers should conform to American Psychological Association (APA format) guidelines.

Please submit your manuscripts through the Manuscript Central online system <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cjas1> and specify that your submission is for the special issue in Sustainable Development in Africa through Management Theory and Research.

All submitted papers to CJAS will undergo a "double-blind" peer review. If a topic of an article does not fit with the special issue, the author(s) will be contacted to determine if the paper should be forwarded to the review process for a regular CJAS issue. Both French and English papers will be accepted for review.

## References

- Gladwin, T. N., Kennelly, J. T., & Krause, T-S. (1995). Shifting paradigms for sustainable development: Implications for Management theory and research. *Academy of Management Review*, 20(4): 874-907.
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