

The  
Management  
University  
of Africa



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**UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

**DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**BDS 308: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE: 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

**DURATION: 2 HOURS**

**MAXIMUM MARKS: 70**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

## QUESTION ONE

**Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

### **The Amazon Rainforest: Emergent Sustainable Development Challenges.**

Globally, the Amazon rainforest has emerged as a very vital landscape and ecosystem. Given its valuable contribution to human and entire ecological landscapes, this rainforest also goes by the name, “the lungs of the Earth.” This critically huge rainforest benefits the global ecosystem through its role of regulating global climate, contributing to huge carbon sinks, and supporting millions of both flora and fauna species.

Notwithstanding these benefits, the Amazon is confronted with heightened threats of industrial demands of its products, leading to uncontrolled deforestation, uneven expansion of agricultural lands and practices, unrestrained mining of assorted products and services, overlogging using diverse machinery—some of which are unfriendly to the environment, and disjointed infrastructure development both within and outside the forest. While some of these practices and activities support and contribute to economic growth in adjacent countries (Brazil, Peru, and Colombia), a lot of biodiversity loss, huge soil degradation, and unsustainable disruption of provision of ecosystem services have been experienced.

Based on the foregoing, one of the most critical complexities faced in striving for sustainable management of this rainforest is how to balance the deforestation-agriculture nexus without compromising their individual benefits. Huge hectares of this rainforest have been cleared to create space for private cattle ranchers as well as soybean farming that currently receive significant demand by global food supply chains. Beneficial as they are, including creation of employment, generation of foreign exchange, and provision of tax revenues to these adjoining countries, these practices undermine sustainable local livelihoods.

The destruction of indigenous landscapes, reduction of ecosystem resilience, and enhancement of climate change impacts have resulted in reduction of local livelihood and generation of ecosystem services. These negative effects of poor land use practices in this rainforest have further been exacerbated by weak implementation and enforcement of environmental regulations, safeguards, and

laws, as well as spontaneous land tenure conflicts, generally triggered off by influence of multinational and state agencies and corporations.

Following these challenges and the need to have practical solutions, national and international societies and groups (e.g. United Nations, conservation-focused NGOs, government agencies & parastatals, and global consumers) have opposed through demonstrations and other forms of petitions the ongoing environmental impacts arising from exploitation of Amazon. These agencies have commonly emphasized the benefits and contributions of the forests through balancing national and global economic development with sustainable ecological integrity.

Approved sustainable development practices and strategies like eco-tourism, payment for ecosystem services, renewable energy investments, and forest certification schemes have evidently shown the real benefits of having Amazon intact noting, that this could also be achieved through adoption of adoptable alternatives. Unfortunately, limited financing, unbalanced governance, and varied local community ownership and acceptance have emerged as common challenges to the sustained efforts of maintaining this rainforest.

**Required:**

Based on the above Case Study,

- a) Identify and explain three major linkages between environment and economy evident in this case study. **(9 Marks)**
- b) Discuss how the concept of “source” and “sink” functions of the environment applies to the Amazon scenario. **(6 Marks)**
- c) In seeking to enhance sustainable development in the Amazon rainforest, critically analyze the role of governance and international society and cooperation. **(6 Marks)**
- d) Recommend **two** viable strategies to balance economic growth with ecological sustainability in the Amazon Justifying your choice. **(4 Marks)**

**QUESTION TWO**

- a) Deliberations on guaranteeing sustainable management of natural assets have been ongoing for several decades and at all levels of governance. Citing relevant cases, discuss how historical evolution has occurred. **(7 Marks)**
- b) Critically present how the relationship between the environment and economic development has changed since 1970s until now. **(8 Marks)**

**QUESTION THREE**

- a) In your opinion, and based on what you learned from this lesson, explain why renewable and non-renewable resources are significant in driving Kenya's sustainable development. With examples from any County, indicate how these resources have contributed to economic development, social livelihood, and environmental sustainability. **(7 Marks)**
- b) Evaluate how mismanagement of natural capital or assets can lead to environmental degradation and economic breakdown. **(8 Marks)**

**QUESTION FOUR**

It is generally observed that "*Economic growth is constrained by ecological limits.*"

- a) Critically explain the following concepts:
- (i) Carrying Capacity **(3 Marks)**
  - (ii) Ecological Footprint **(3 Marks)**
  - (iii) Material Throughput in Economies. **(3 Marks)**
- b) The above three concepts challenge the traditional pursuit of unlimited economic growth. Critically explain. **(6 Marks)**

**QUESTION FIVE**

- a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and trade activities produce two opposing effects on sustainability because they both promote and hinder environmental and social sustainability targets.
- (i) Examine FDI and trade through an evaluation of environmental impacts which globalization produces **(3.5 Marks)**
  - (ii) Explain both the positive and negative environmental outcomes that arise from increased trade flows and FDI. **(3.5 Marks)**
- b) The evaluation of globalization-driven trade and investment effects on natural resource use, industrialization patterns and environmental regulation in developing countries requires actual examples from these nations. Explain how sustainable trade policies and responsible investment strategies balance economic growth with environmental protection. **(8 Marks)**

#### QUESTION SIX

- a) Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) is very important in assessing the effectiveness of sustainable development. Describe GPI in detail how it differs from the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in measuring sustainability. **(7 Marks)**
- b) Evaluate the usefulness of GPI (or any one alternative measure such as Genuine Savings -GS or Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare -ISEW) in assessing the progress of a developing economy towards sustainable development. **(8 Marks)**