

Northern Marianas College

Department of Public Lands

08 November 2021

**"WHAT CAN THE CNMI DO TO STRIKE A SUSTAINABLE BALANCE BETWEEN
LAND PRESERVATION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT?"**

As time passes things continue to evolve such as our lands. Everyday things are changing all around the world which ends up affecting our ecosystem, and it is sometimes difficult to balance conservation and development adequately. Development is one of the factors that has led to pollution since we have had many advancements. Sustainable development looks to generate a balance between the economic, environmental and social needs. In order for the CNMI to sustain and balance the preservation of our lands while also developing it by using more natural and sustainable energy resources rather than using non-renewable energy resources.

Therefore, we should conserve energy by choosing more energy efficient appliances and being more selective with automobiles. If everybody uses less energy, pollution decreases and less coal gets used to power the nation and the world. By doing this we will save money and improve efficiency. For example the use of solar energy and wind energy. A wonderful advantage of solar energy is that it is completely free and is available in limitless supply. Wind energy on the other hand is a similar available energy source. Economic policies such as rationalization of price subsidies, the clarification of intensive agriculture, overfishing, energy production and the extraction of raw materials have "significantly altered" Earth's land.

We should start off with better agricultural practices like using safe and natural pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers. If we continue to improve our agricultural practices like using safe and natural resources this will drastically improve the preservation of our lands. Shifting how and where food and energy are produced can help us meet global growth projections while achieving national habitat protection commitments, ending overfishing, reducing water stress and dramatically improving air quality. We can do more to preserve the environment by implementing a reduce, reuse and recycle method as well as turning off unnecessary lights and appliances, saving and using less water, decreasing consumption of meats, reducing our use of plastic bags, having rooftop gardens, growing herbs and vegetables and conserving rainwater. Securing key habitats to preserve the biodiversity of our native plants and animals, and keeping our waters clean should be top priority.

Moreover, community involvement in beach clean-ups, planting trees, and most importantly educating the youth should happen more often. This will give them the opportunity to live in an environment that is healthy and well-developed when they grow older. We can also protect the environment with successful development through the use of technology. Technology can help us build and manage many things. Technology helps us create systems and programs that can help with the balance and sustainability of the environment. For example it will improve livelihoods, achieve food security and protect ecosystems while ensuring that land, as an important resource, is also sustained for the benefit of future generations. Technology will continue to advance as the years go by but we have limited resources on the Island which can make things a little more difficult.

Furthermore, technological innovations that will help with sustainability could be the use of public electric transport, electric trucks, LED light efficiency, and solar power. Technology can create a shift from non-biodegradable to biodegradable materials while replacing non-renewable with renewable resources. When it comes to the use of technology for agricultural purposes, advances in machinery have expanded the scale, speed, and productivity of farm equipment, leading to more efficient cultivation of more land which has made a drastic impact especially for farmers. Technology can be used to conserve and protect resources by collecting data on wildlife while using social media for bringing awareness. The use of high-performance computing has lowered the percentage of greenhouse gases, cleaned up our oceans, and generated cheaper, cleaner energy.

In conclusion, one key requirement for achieving all of this is to have the cooperation from people. Making the necessary changes will require breaking out of our habits of conservation, health, development, economics and all the other sectors where we have become accustomed to. If we don't try to make a change now, and we do what we usually do, we'll see accelerated climate change, loss of habitats and biodiversity, greater water insecurity and dangerous levels of air pollution. It is important to take action quickly, so we can start seeing changes because time may seem limitless, but we will eventually face the harsh reality if we don't find a balance. It can be hard to find a balance between land preservation and land development. It takes a lot of thinking and strategies to create a plan that will be successful but without the community's effort it is almost impossible to make that change.