DDT, biotechnology and eco-imperialism
Sustainable Development

Meet needs of present generations – without:

- “compromising needs of future generations”
- depleting “finite resources”
- “poisoning the Earth” with fossil fuels, chemicals, biotechnology
Sustainable energy

Appropriate / sustainable:
- Solar panels on huts
- Wind turbines

Inappropriate / not sustainable:
- Hydroelectric
- Fossil fuel
- Nuclear

2 billion people still live without electricity on $500 / person / yr
Sustainable agriculture

Biotechnology benefits:
- Higher yields
- Greater nutrition
- Resists insects, disease
- Grow in poor soil
- Fewer pesticides

“There are 6 billion people on the planet today. With organic farming, we could only feed 4 billion of them. Which 2 billion would volunteer to die?” Dr. Norman Borlaug
UNICEF, USAID, WHO: Helping people “attain the highest possible level of health”

- Focus on First World concerns
- Ineffective response to Third World crises
- Politically correct health strategies
- Ignore policy failures
- First, do no harm?
Sustainable ideology vs. reality

- “Traditional” housing
- Contaminated water
- Open fires
- Disease-carrying insects
- Distant clinics
“Going native” – Hollywood style

Cameron Diaz and Drew Barrymore host Trippin’ – the MTV program that goes via limo, jet and helicopter to far-flung sites around the world, to promote “sustainable” lifestyles, by showing how “awesome” it is to live in poverty and use cow-dung to fuel cooking fires.
Sustaining lives

- Environmental justice
- Human rights
- Social responsibility

Sustain LIVES – not lethal ideologies, policies
Fiona “Fifi” Kobusingye, Uganda

“I’ve suffered high fevers for days, vomited until I thought I had no stomach left. It has left me dehydrated, thirsty and weak. And sometimes I couldn’t even tell day from night.”
“... Her eyes bulge out like a chameleon, and her stomach is all swollen because the parasites have taken over her liver. Her family doesn’t have the money to help her. All they can do is take care of her the best they can, and wait for her to die.”

Fifi Kobusingye
Malaria: A vicious serial killer

- 500,000,000 people a year infected
- 2,000,000 people a year killed
- Over 80% in sub-Saharan Africa
- 90% children and pregnant women
Comparable U.S. malaria rates

If the United States had malaria rates comparable to Africa’s:

- 100 million sick
- 250,000 dead children
Those malaria does not kill ...

... are left too weak to:
- Work
- Go to school
- Care for families
- Cultivate fields
- Survive other diseases

- Malaria depletes healthcare resources
- Malaria keeps Africa permanently impoverished
Malaria = Poverty

Central Africa:
- Worst malaria
- Worst poverty
Global health agency policies

- Bed nets
- Drug therapies
- “Integrated vector management”
- “Capacity building”
- Education

- But never pesticides – especially DDT
DDT: Killer or life saver?

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) banned DDT in 1972 – but did so in response to:

- Rachel Carson and *Silent Spring*
- Environmental Defense (Fund)
- Natural Resources Defense Council

... and *after* USA, Europe, Canada and Australia had used DDT to eradicate malaria and other diseases
They can afford to oppose DDT – Africans cannot.
Malaria: 50 million dead since 1972
DDT helps prevent malaria

DDT stops mosquitoes
- Repels
- Irritates / disorients
- Kills

Mosquitoes don’t bite – People don’t get malaria

DDT slashes malaria rates by as much as 80 percent
South Africa malaria history

Malaria Cases and Deaths, South Africa, 1971 - 2003
DDT: Safe and effective

- Not carcinogenic
- Safe for humans
- Safe for environment
- Mosquitoes less likely to build immunity
- Enables drugs, bed nets to work properly
- Saves people’s lives!
Eco-Imperialists vs. world’s most powerless and destitute people

- Oppose DDT, other pesticides
- Threaten malaria endemic countries with agricultural bans, aid cutoffs
- Uganda
  - Belize
  - Ethiopia
USAID’s malaria program, 2004

- $80 million budget
- 85% on consultants
- 10% on “capacity building”
- 5% to promote bed net use
- Not one dime to provide bed nets, drugs or pesticides
- Opposes pesticide use
WHO and USAID malpractice

- Promote bed nets that do little to prevent malaria – 20% reduction
- Provide drugs that fail 50-80% of the time
- Worry about theoretical risks of using pesticides
Greenpeace concerns

- "measurable quantities" in breast milk
- "think DDT could be inhibiting lactation"
**World Wildlife Fund concerns**

- "**might** cause cancer’
- "**related to** slow reflexes”
- “triple whammy”
- "**suggest** that DDT **can** weaken” immune systems


Environmental Defense concerns

- “associated with premature birth”
- “associated with decreased duration of milk supply”

Every single NGO claim is rank conjecture. Not one scientific study supports these assertions.
DDT protected them:

- Concentration camp survivors
- GIs in South Pacific
- American families
Children, birds and DDT

“I lost my son, two sisters and two nephews to malaria. Don’t talk to me about birds. “And don’t tell me a little DDT in our bodies is worse than the risk of losing more children to this disease.”

Fifi Kobusingye and Ugandan women making hand bags to raise money for bed nets and anti-malaria drugs
Balancing risks and benefits

- Anemia
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Infection risk
- Fertility problems
- Fetal defects
- Hair loss
Concerned Activists Stopping KEmo Therapy (CASKET)

Reasons for opposition:
- Adverse side effects
- Unethical

Alternatives to chemo:
- Tylenol
- Fruits and veggies
- hospice
Causes of anti-pesticide attitudes

- No risk of malaria
- Environment first
- Fear of chemicals
- Look only at risks
- Double standards
- Activist agendas rule

Glorify ultra-precaution over alleged risks from pesticides – at expense of millions of deaths from diseases that pesticides could prevent.
“Compassion” for Third World

“Developing countries would be better off if some people should be sick with malaria and spread the job opportunities around. In fact, people in the third world would be much better off dead than alive, and riotously reproducing.”

Malaria control and over-population

“People are the cause of all the problems. We have too many of them, and banning DDT is as good a way to get rid of some of them as any.”

Charles Wurster

“To stabilize world populations, we must eliminate 350,000 people a day.”

Jacques Cousteau
“The developed world has been unconscionably stingy in financing the fight against malaria or research into alternatives to DDT. Until one is found, wealthy nations should be helping poor countries with all available means – including DDT.”
“Children are dying, while Westerners worry about fictitious environmental effects. Aid agencies need to drop their opposition to the use of DDT in Africa and encourage the countries now considering using it, to do so.”
“Banning DDT is one of the most disgraceful episodes in the twentieth century history of America. We knew better, and we did it anyway, and we let people around the world die, and we didn’t give a damn.”
An overdue change in attitudes?

- “If alternatives to DDT aren’t working, you’ve got to use it.”
  – Richard Liroff, WWF
- “If there’s nothing else and it’s going to save lives, we’re all for it.”
  – Rick Hind, Greenpeace
There is no magic potion. We need every available weapon.

**Malaria:**
- Carried by many species of mosquitoes
- Different land, climate and other conditions
- Constantly mutating parasites and mosquitoes

**Weapons:**
- Bed nets (ITNs)
- Larvaecides
- Sanitation strategies
- Homes with screens
- Malaria vaccine (10 to 20 years in future)
- DDT, other pesticides
Who decides?

Anti-pesticide activists and bureaucrats in malaria-free nations?

Health ministers in countries where malaria is epidemic?
WE GREENS BELIEVE “BACK TO THE EARTH” IS THE BEST POLICY.

LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT YOUR WISH.

3rd WORLD DEAD FROM GREEN IDEOLOGY
Families in developing countries must be allowed, encouraged and helped “to take their rightful places among the Earth’s prosperous people.”

Rabbi Daniel Lapin, Toward Tradition

*Sustained development – not sustainable development*
Third World needs
Real environmental justice

“There is no more basic human right than to live....

“We all want to protect the environment. But we must stop trying to protect it from distant or imaginary threats.

“We must stop trying to protect it on the backs, and the graves, of the world’s most powerless and destitute people.”
Progress NOW – not in 50 years

DDT and other pesticides – along with other strategies – can save millions of lives

- Bed nets and drugs for 2 billion at-risk or 500 million malaria victims
- Vaccines are decades away
- Modern homes are decades away

2 million a year dead for another 20 years?
Reducing malaria – and saving lives – **NOW**

- 80% reduction with pesticides
- Right of poor countries to decide
- Human rights
- Science
- Medicine
- Humanitarian principles
- The same standards we would demand for ourselves
Dear President Bush ...

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