

## ABSTRACT

### Environmental Protection and Economic Development: Prospects for the Building of an International Environmental Legal Regime

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This thesis seeks to evaluate the quality of the partnership offered by developing countries to the developed world in the context of forging an international legal regime for the protection of the global environment. The facts of global interdependency and the transboundary nature of environmental problems make this imperative. Key to understanding the quality of this partnership offered by the developing world perhaps lies in their own approach to environmental protection. The argument could be made that these countries place low priority on their own environment, therefore, they cannot be expected to adopt a different approach to the global environment.

The recognition of the inextricable link between environmental protection and economic development is examined, particularly as regards the developing world, as well as the inherent difficulty in reconciling these two issues at both a domestic and an international level. Development in the developing world generally comes into conflict with the ideals of environmental protection, as advocated by the developed world, and affects attempts on the international level in the making of an effective international regime for the protection of the environment.

This thesis attempts a case study of Trinidad and Tobago as a developing country to prove that economic developmental aspirations generally leave much to be desired in the area of environmental protection. This is effected by studying and comparing international and domestic data, government policies and multilateral environmental agreements. The results will substantiate the assertion that environmental protection is afforded little priority for the sake of development.

**Keywords:** Natalie Renée Persadie; Environmental Protection; Economic Development; Developing Countries; International Environmental Regime.