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Opportunity and Problem in Context (OPiC). A framework for environmental management in developing countries

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Citation

Tsetse, D. (2008, November 20). *Opportunity and Problem in Context (OPiC). A framework for environmental management in developing countries*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/13288>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

PROPOSITIONS

with the PhD thesis “*Opportunity and Problem in Context (OPiC)*,
a framework for environmental management in developing countries”

by David Tsetse

1.

At roots, development focuses on efficiency, and sustainability focuses on equity. All evaluation claiming to express sustainable development should therefore be structured as seeking the most efficient of equitable solutions, *i.e.* solutions that protect future generations, nature and the poor. *(This dissertation)*

2.

Opportunities are less analytically identifiable than problems. Creativity enhancing methods are therefore necessary for any environmental management that claims to be science-based. *(This dissertation)*

3.

Environmental problems can best be addressed by combining ‘causal chain’ approaches that interconnect the disciplines and ‘people-environment system’ approaches in which environmental science develops into a discipline of its own. *(This dissertation)*

4.

Decentralization of government is advocated for many good reasons. Centralization of government should be advocated for many good reasons, too. *(This dissertation)*

5.

Early stages of industrialization are harmful to the environment, but there is no shortcut to development. Relatively defensive methodologies such as OPiC are therefore just as needed as more advanced visions such as Cradle-to-Cradle.

6.

In developing countries, characterized as they are by lacking data, weak states and good participatory potential, small-scale problems offer good opportunities for locally based co-management. The solution of large-scale problems will often require external intervention, however.

7.

High aspirational environmental standards either motivate or discourage society. Leadership makes the difference.

8.

Degree of sophistication is not relevant for a successful transfer and application of technologies in developing countries.