

## **Tackling Environmental Degradation as a Global Challenge: An “Egbe Bere Ugo Bere” Philosophical Approach**

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Environmental degradation is one of the ten global challenges cautioned by the United Nations’ high-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. The degradation comes in various forms such as deterioration of environment through depletion of resources such as quality of water, air and soil; destruction of habitat; wildlife extinction; and pollution. These pose great dangers to human health, quality life, and posterity, hence the need for environmental conservation. This paper, therefore, uses Igbo maxim, “Egbe bere Ugo bere” (let the kite live and let the eagle live, literally meaning: live and let live) to call for co-operative living and symbiotic interaction between human and other elements of the environment. “Egbe bere ugo bere” is a maxim or proverb by the Igbo speaking people of Eastern Nigeria, which lays emphasis on communal and co-operative existence. The work is a qualitative research, employing the methods of critical and conceptual analysis, conversational thinking and deductive reasoning.

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