Shifting sands

Welcome to the Gambia 'the smiling coast'
"Kololi used to be a thriving fishing village. When fishers had a catch, the whole village would pick up the fish - nobody would pay for it. Women grew vegetables in the women's garden. Tourism displaced these local rural industries, with the promise of development for all [eg energy and water for hotels would also benefit local communities]. In The Gambia today, 90% of the development budget is in the form of loans from outside of the country. People's taxes go to pay off these loans. Two thirds of the GDP is going on loans. Instead of development, tourism has created poverty."

Adama Bah, ASSET [See www.asset-gambia.com]

Sukuta Lower Basic School is a school which prioritises the empowerment of pupils to live sustainably.

"Our children are happy because they are doing something about their future and have a global view."

George Trawally, Sukuta LB School

Tanje museum aims to put "all of the Gambia in one place: its culture and history, its biodiversity. It is a repository for the country's heritage which people can draw on in learning about the country and thinking about its future."

"A people without symbols is like a bird with no eyes"

Weaver at Tanje

[See www.tanje.dds.nl]
Banjul is the country’s capital, founded on an island by British colonialists so that their horses would not suffer from tsetse fly. Millions of dollars have recently been spent on replacing its beaches and protecting its coastline, as it is extremely vulnerable to sea level rise. Most of the city’s Muslim cemetery has already been washed into the sea.

The country takes its name from the River Gambia, an important resource for water and biodiversity [including the country’s spectacular birdlife]. Its mangroves are breeding grounds for fish, and protect nearby areas from salt water intrusion. Facilities like Lamin Lodge are popular with tourists making boat trips on the river.

Bakoteh Waste Site is where the urban area’s waste goes to landfill. New sites are being sought, as increasing numbers of people are living nearby. Gambians reuse and recycle more than people in the UK, but even so the air and water pollution from the site are a major hazard. We need to think about waste management: are we wasting our future? what will the future be like? why so much waste?

Yundum Airport is linked to the urban and tourist areas by a network of new roads, financed by foreign loans. It brings tourists to the country, but air transport is also contributing to climate change impacts which are damaging the nation’s beaches, agriculture, fisheries and wildlife.

The country takes its name from the River Gambia, an important resource for water and biodiversity [including the country’s spectacular birdlife]. Its mangroves are breeding grounds for fish, and protect nearby areas from salt water intrusion. Facilities like Lamin Lodge are popular with tourists making boat trips on the river.