community activist. She works for the Fundación Aldea Infantil Pestallozzi (SKIP) implementing projects aimed at improving the lives of girls and women.

Gladis Lemus is a Salvadoran-born ecofeminist, interested in the intersections of women’s labour and appropriate technologies. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from the University of British Columbia and is currently an environmental advisor for the Government of Nunavut.

1For more detail see the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 21.

2For more information see Shiva. See also Mies and Shiva. SKIP conducted a comparison survey in 2002.

The harvesting of the mangrove area (referred to as curileada and punchada) takes place at low tide, and consists of the handpicking of molluscs (curis), and a variety of crab (puncha). In order to do this, women walk sometimes waist deep in the intertidal mud and search for their catch among the mangrove roots. One of the women, who reported having had three miscarriages, claimed they were a consequence of the falls and bruising she experienced while searching among the roots. She had been harvesting the mangrove since she was seven years old.

6The negation of paternity is a common phenomenon in El Salvador, and even though there are no hard data to back up this statement, these authors believe one of the reasons the men do this is to protect their personal income.

In El Espino, the SKIP Foundation and the Communal Association (ACAPA) have, however, implemented a program to educate the girls and boys who harvest the mangrove. There are a total of 18 girls and 21 boys (between the ages of 7 and 19) currently attending school.

These comments were taken from the survey conducted by SKIP when the Coop began its operations on February 1998.

This information was obtained from an external audit conducted by SKIP when the Coop began its operations on February 1998.

9See Vandana Shiva’s report on the detrimental effect of trawling by industrial fishing on shrimp stocks compared to the impact of artisanal fishing (39-42).

10This calculation is based on information provided by 13 active members of the Cooperative.

11See the concept of human development as defined in UNDP: "Sustainable development is that which meets all the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

References


KAREN SHENFELD

The Jade Sea

In a dream
we came through brush and acacia
to an infinite land-locked coast.
The sea was no mirror: resolute,
ignoring clear or clouded skies,
it shone, basked, in its
own mineralled light, was
like the carved figure of a vase.

Below: an airless garden
spined stars, the swell of fish.
I baptized myself in
the sea’s oriental green
swam open-eyed, was
smooth, perfect,
ilike the carved figure of a vase.

Karen Shenfeld is a poet, freelance writer and film researcher
living in Toronto. Her poetry collection, The Law of Return, was published by Guernica Editions in 1999 and
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