

Ubuntu is Not Only about the Human! An Analysis of the Role of African Philosophy and Ethics in Environment Management

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ABSTRACT A Marxist discourse on metabolic rift is used to examine the alienation of Africans from their environment and religious connections by capitalism and urbanisation. The paper emphasises the understanding of *Ubuntu* as an intimate relationship between humans and the natural environment. Indeed, the epitomisation of *Ubuntu* centres on the consolidation of the human, natural and spiritual tripartite. The paper shows that such a tripartite relationship allows Africans to transpose their *Ubuntuness* (humanness) and moral obligations not only to their fellow human beings, but also to the surrounding natural environment, including wildlife. Despite the usefulness of *Ubuntu* in the conservation of natural environments, the paper questions its effectiveness particularly in a capitalist and urbanised society where Africans are continually alienated from the natural environment.