

Rapa Nui and Ta' Cenc

Mario Borg, Kercem.



A jewel of an island. A vast supply of their only natural resource, palm trees, at their disposal. Technological advances, population growth, prosperity. Then, the complete depletion of that resource, social collapse, war, famine. They could see the effect of their actions. They hoped that the gods would help them, and yet the trees continued to fall. The last tree was taken down for the benefit of an individual without thinking of the collective good and the future. Nothing remained, except relics of the once prosperous past. Greed and their inability to realise the effects of their actions condemn them. This is the story of Rapa Nui, better known as Easter Islands.

The similarities to our own islands are clear. We have a very scarce resource, which is contributing immensely, directly or indirectly, to our standard of living. And yet we still go on building concrete structures, calling it development. What's in a name after all? We still persist in destroying the last few remaining natural areas. The last site earmarked for "development" is Ta' Cenc. One of the last trees is about to be taken down.

At least we are still in time to stop all this. Are we willing to do that?

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