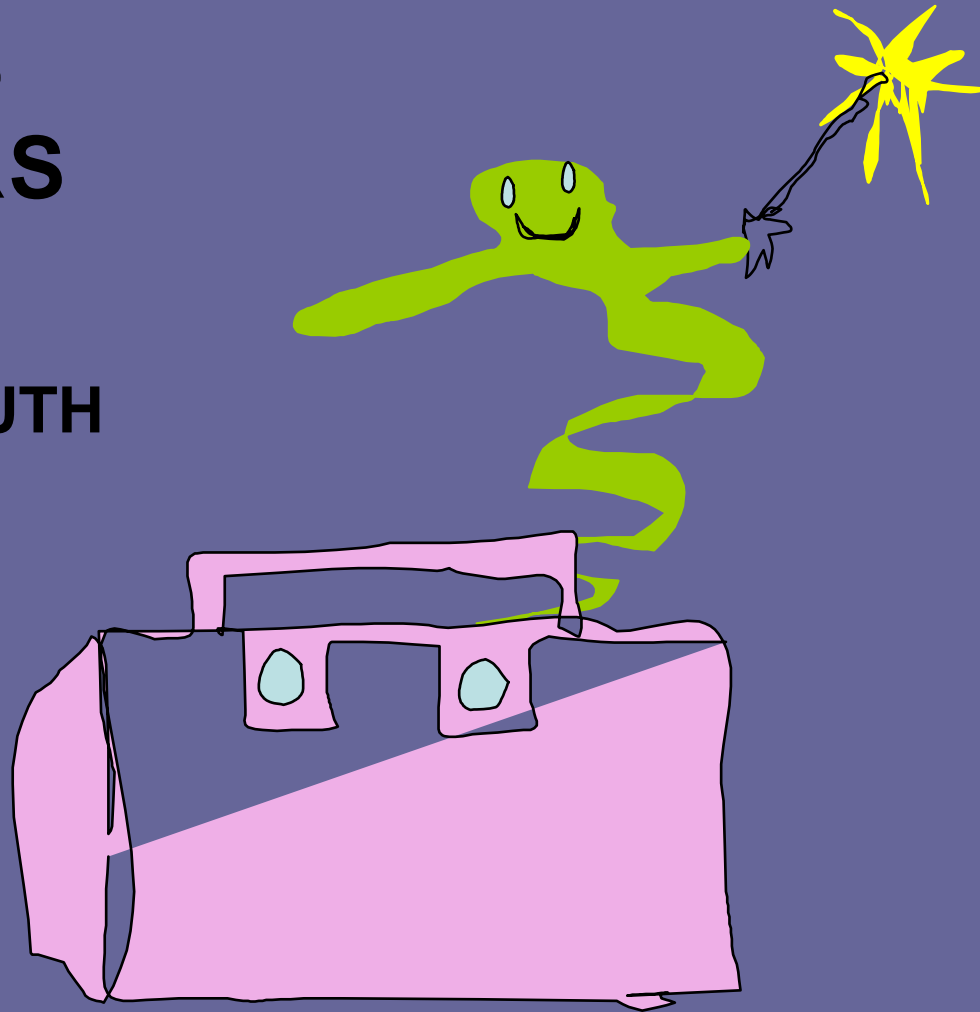


USER GUIDE BY USERS FOR USERS

100 PLUS SOUTH
AFRICANS



The environment is our only real home, yet those who lead in decision-making see it as a resource to be plundered

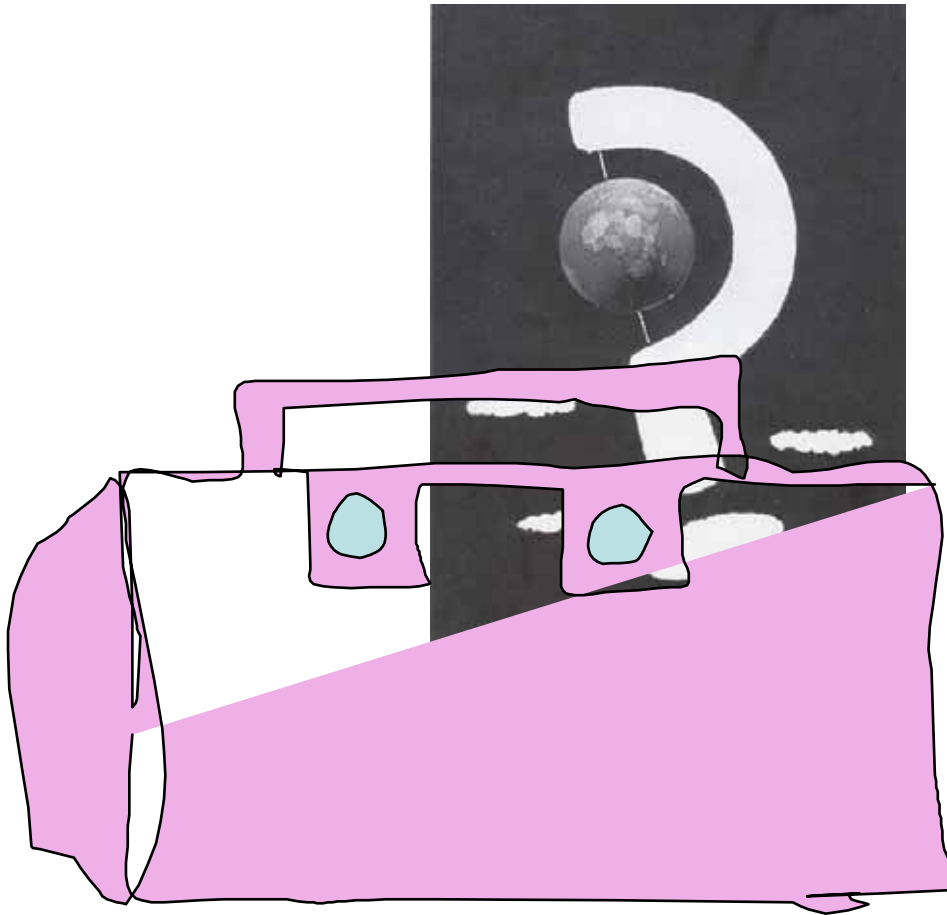
We are in a situation of ecological debt- every action/development has to put back rather than just aim for ensuring no losses

What are the measures of development success? Until these measures reflect true sustainable development the tools cannot help us achieve sustainable development for eg instead of GDP into our actions.

Cant solve problems through reductionism approaches such as using tools and singular focused approaches – this is what caused the problems in the first place. Changing values and cultures

Link environment to national priorities for it to make the political agenda or challenge national priorities – talking the need for speed and magnitude of change

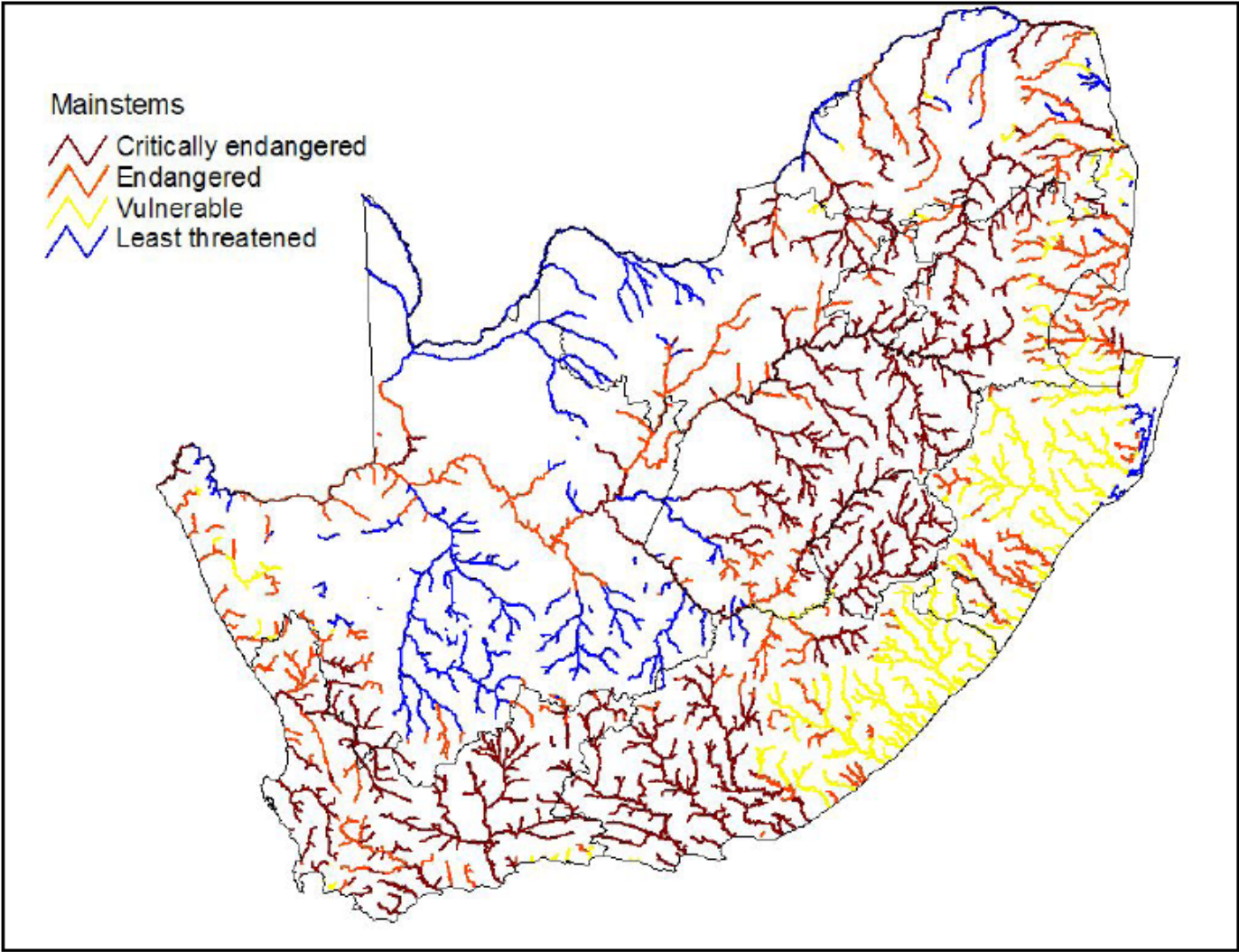
We must stop using the word 'tools' – same instrument that Michael Angelo used was used by Jack the Ripper for their vastly different works of art.



Speeding up and
justifying destruction

Slowing down
destruction

Redirecting and
exploring new ways
and winning – scale
required











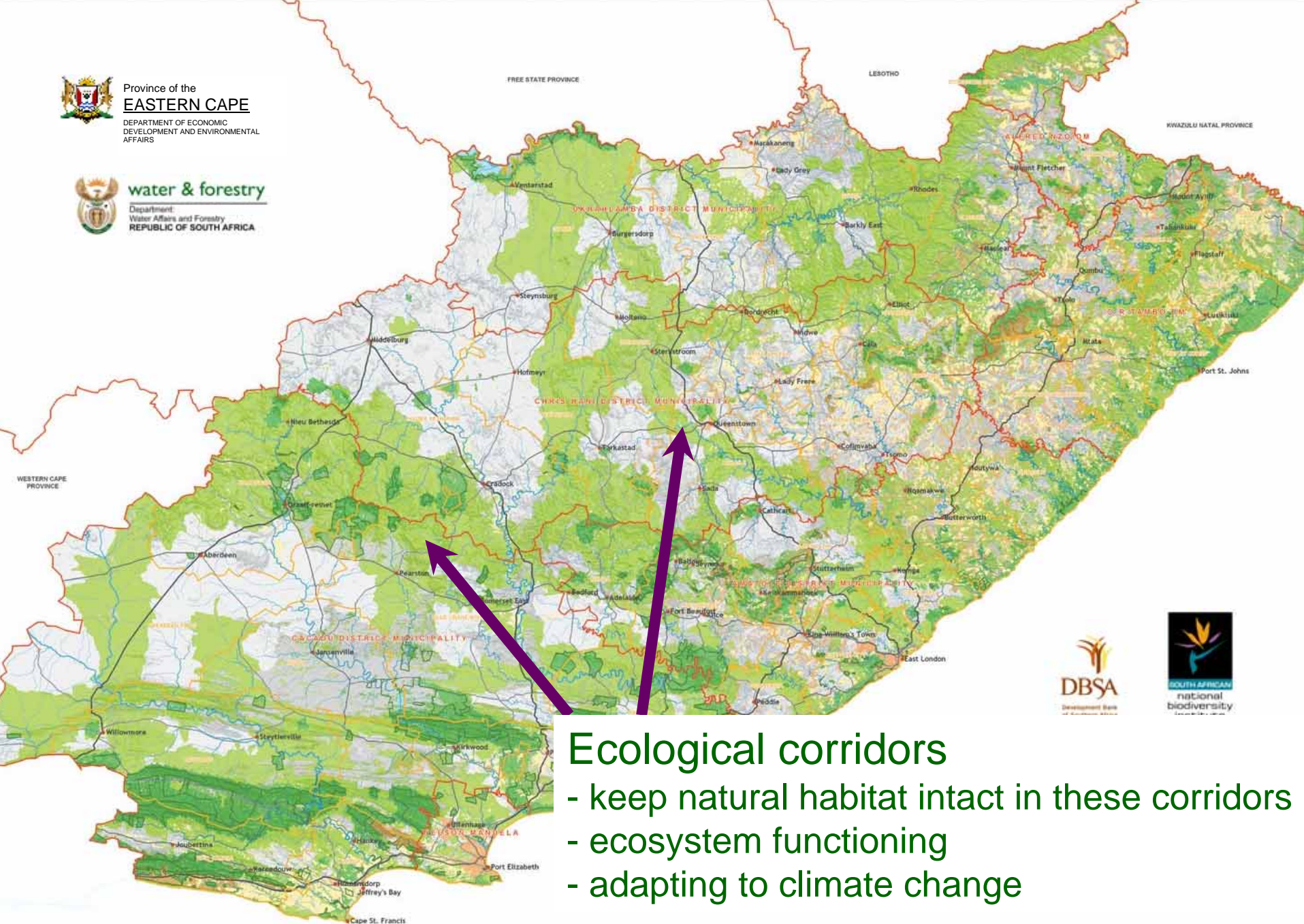
Province of the
EASTERN CAPE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS



water & forestry

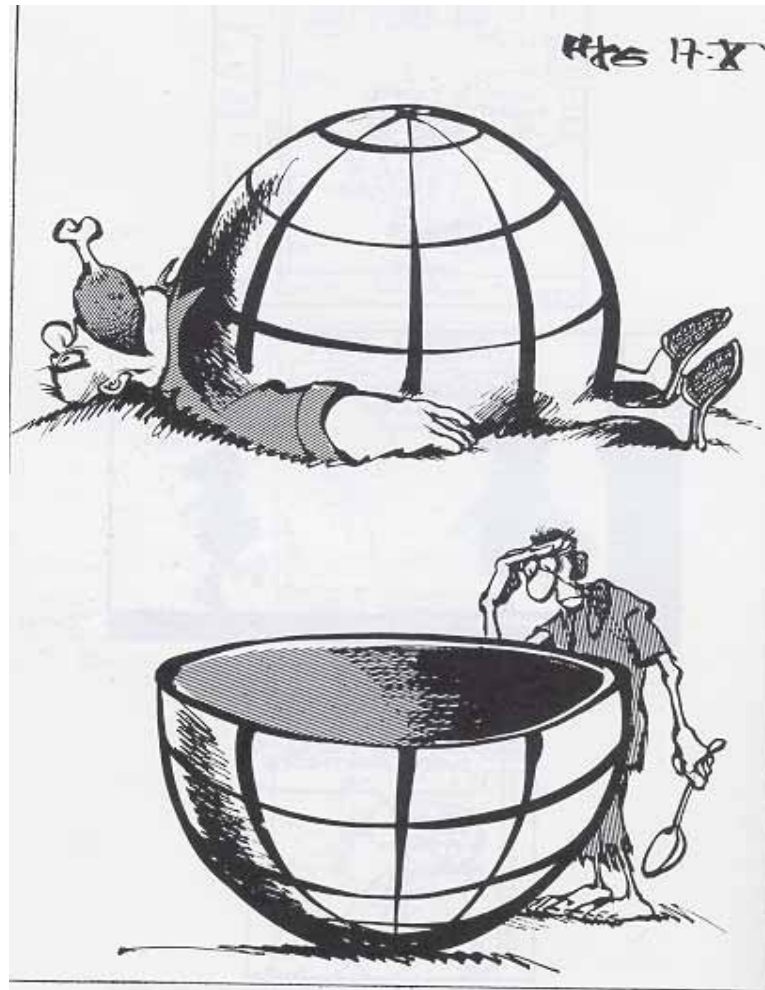
Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Ecological corridors

- keep natural habitat intact in these corridors
- ecosystem functioning
- adapting to climate change

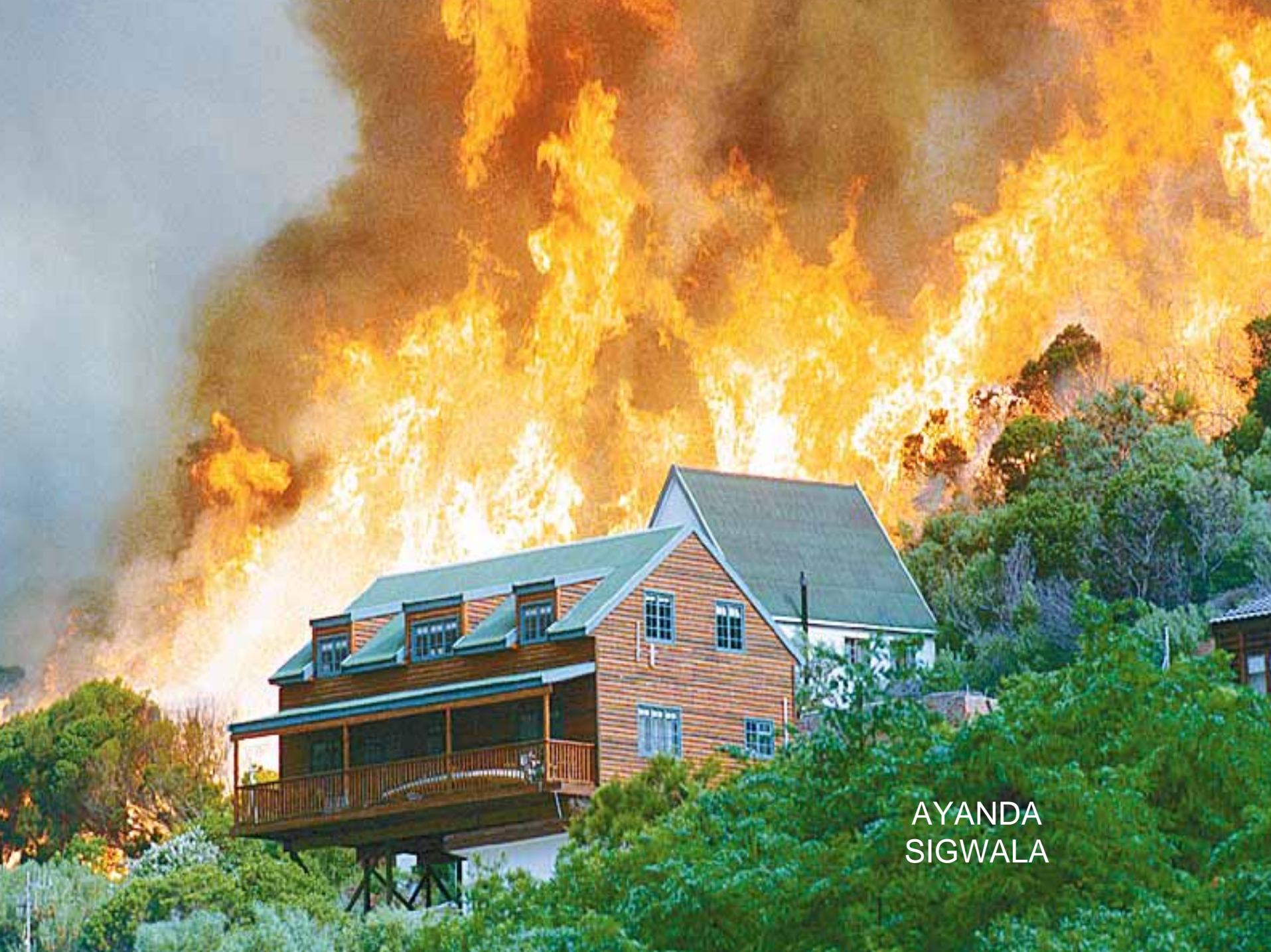
Affluence and Poverty of a Consumer Based Society – right to pillage and plunder



A photograph of a dead, skeletal tree with a single pink flower, set against a background of a forest fire with smoke and falling ash.

**The murder of nature is the biggest
form of genocide this world will ever
know**

Vandana Shiva



AYANDA
SIGWALA

Positive proof of global warming.



***18th
Century***

1900

1950

1970

1980

1990

2006

There is an increasing realisation that economic development is not bringing about a positive change in human wellbeing or addressing major inequities between the haves and the have-nots – we need to start thinking of ‘development’ differently.

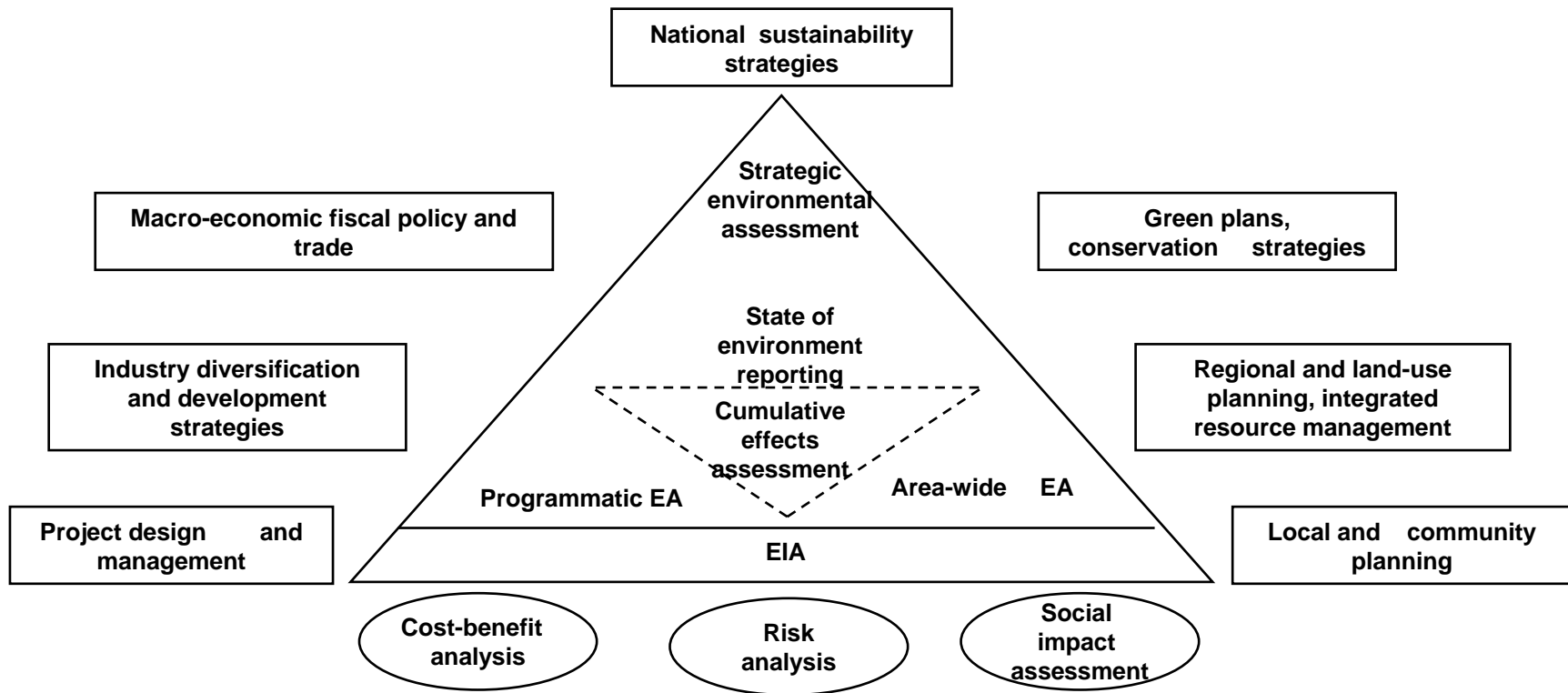


Fig. 20.1 The emerging context of EIA
Source: Sadler (1994a, p. 0)

Methodology

Involved stakeholder workshops, interviews, questionnaires and case studies trying to use different types of interviewers and networks

There are 4 – 5 key case studies covered in this study

- **A powerful tool not needed in law – Screening of large high impact projects**
- **Municipal governance and changing mindsets**
- **Climate change and the tools used by local communities to adapt**
- **Land Reform strategies tools and tactics**
- **Subsidiarity: tools need to be integrated and nested in holistic planning approaches using an Energy Project EIA as an example – still awaited**

Themes

- **It is not about the tool it is about the world view/paradigm of the user and how the user relates to the environment and the tool itself and the values of the user**
- **Environmental justice and equity issues – how current tools promote or distort promotion of justice and NEMA principles**
- **It is about vision building and a road map – common understanding of what we are seeking as an outcome otherwise we can never get there**
- **Seeing tools as part of an integrated approach to sustainable development and not stand alone items that work as separate entities**
- **The place and the times – different views from different places**
- **A role for precision tools and a role for fuzzy stuff – the need to span the range**
- **Monitoring and reporting – many tools are failing due to weaknesses and flaws in monitoring and auditing and enforcement**
- **Not about minimising damage but restoring**

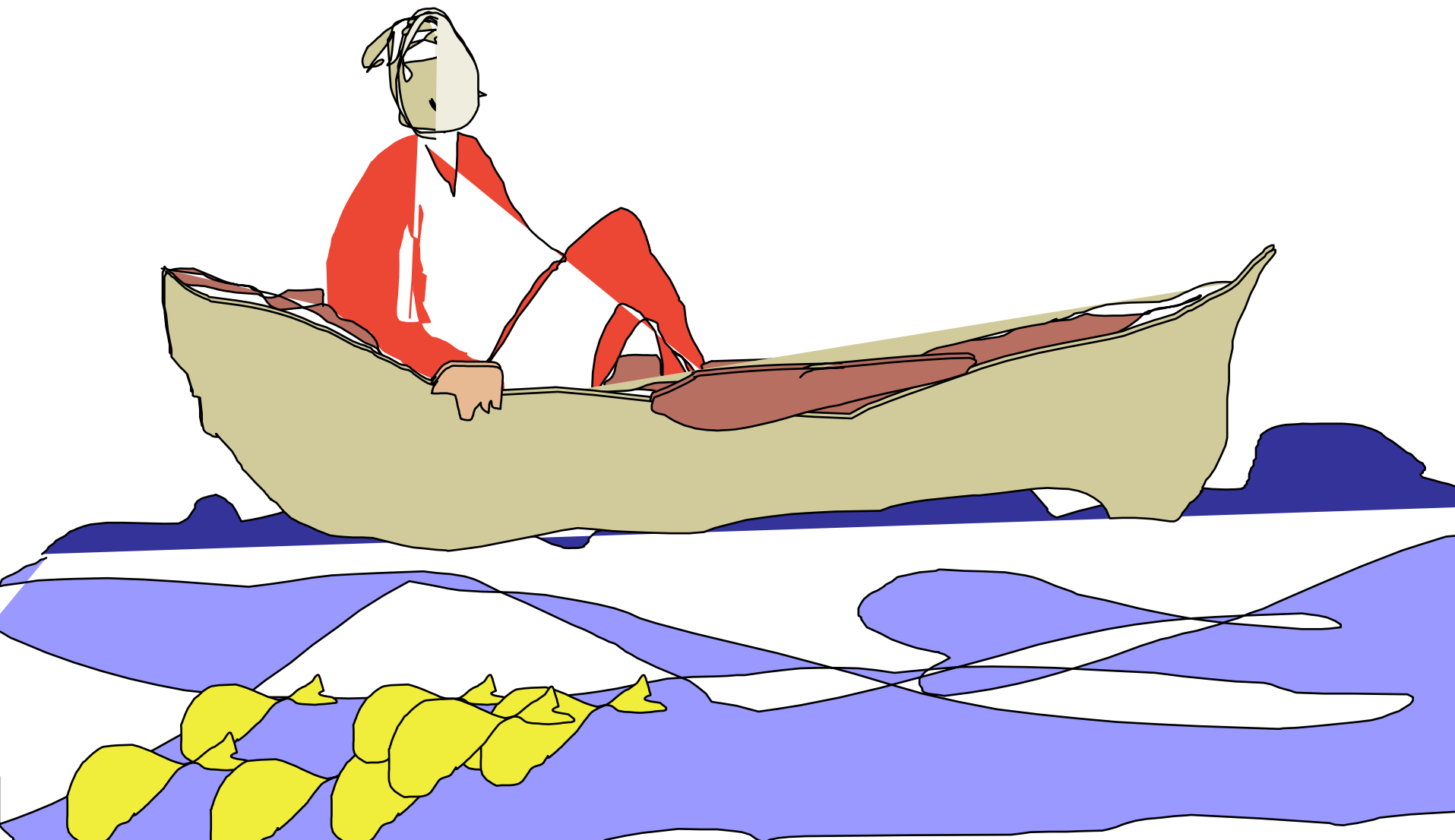
There is NO substitute for professional competence in the fields which tools are used in.

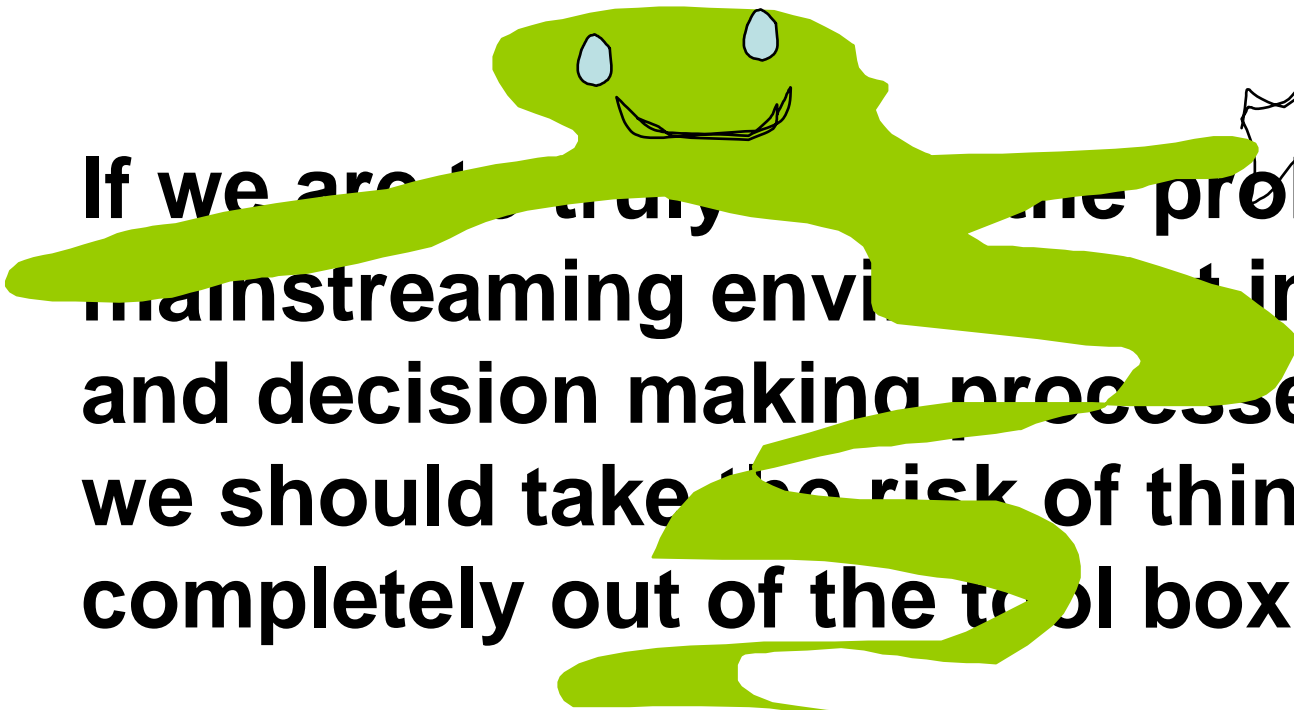
Knowing how to use a tool doesn't make one competent in the matter the tool is being applied to.

On reflection, one can learn some things about a matter through using a tool on it, but we appear to be in a paradigm where being able to use a tool is mistaken for competence in the arenas where the tool is put to use.

This is a lethal deception

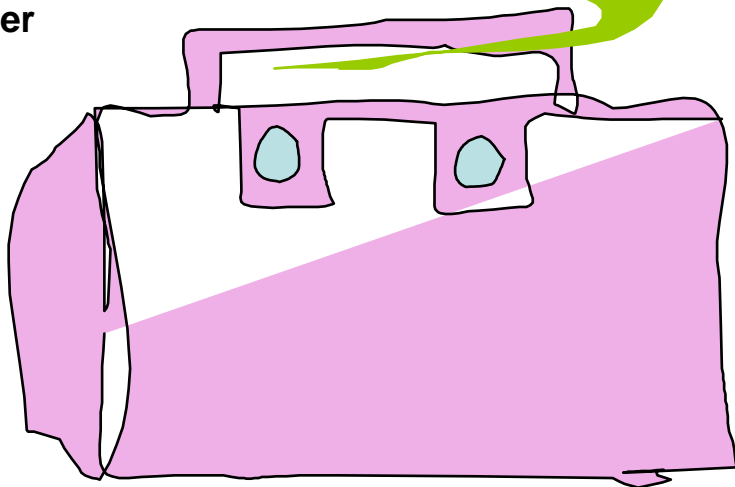
Nic Scarr



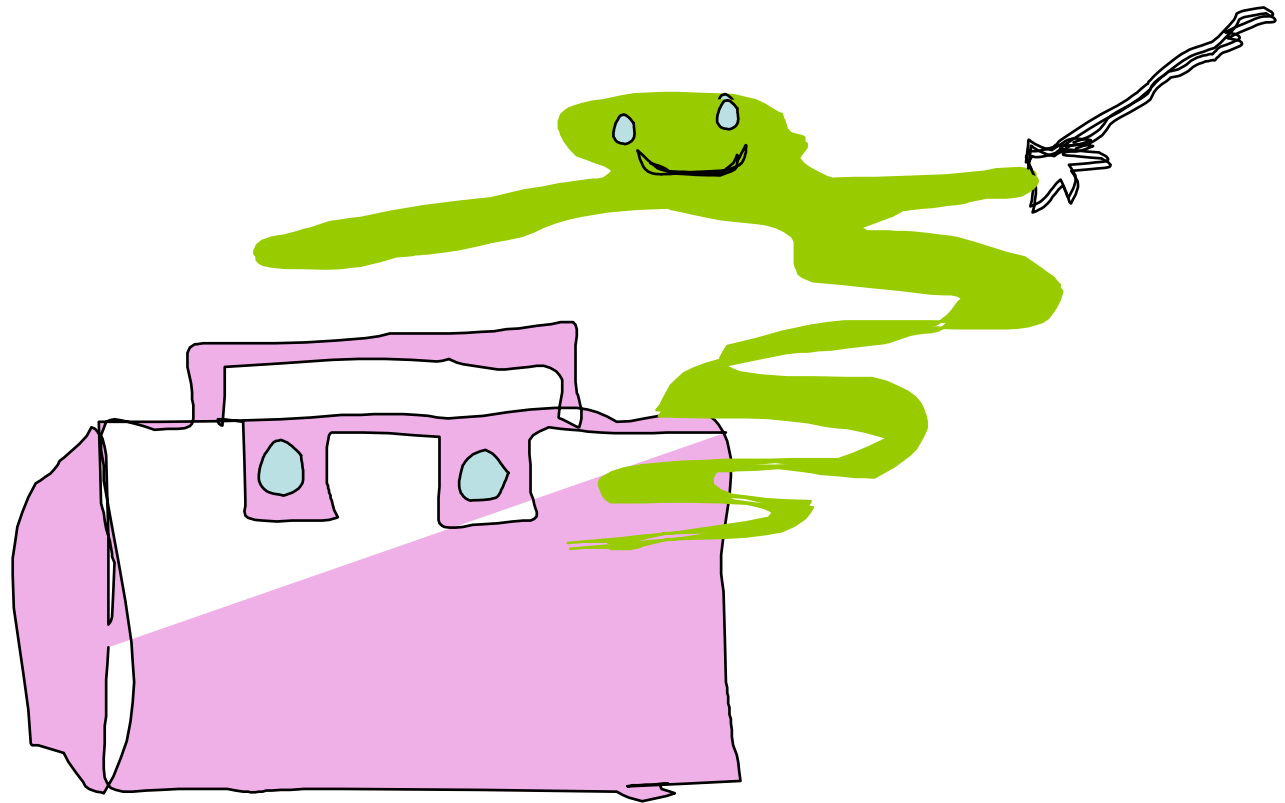


If we are to truly solve the problem of mainstreaming environment in policy and decision making processes maybe we should take the risk of thinking completely out of the tool box.

Sandy Heather



DRIVERS



- National legislation and regulations – ie it is not about a will to achieve sustainable development it is more about achieving legal requirements to minimise legal risks involved.
- Value of organisations
- Stakeholder demands
- Personal values
- Rising poverty and inequality
- Increasing disasters of all kinds related to the environment
- The degradation of the environment and the need to protect ecosystems and their services
- Lender conditions

(no listed are the multiple minority views on various issues and aspects such as ensuring net ecological gain through development scenarios)

CONSTRAINTS

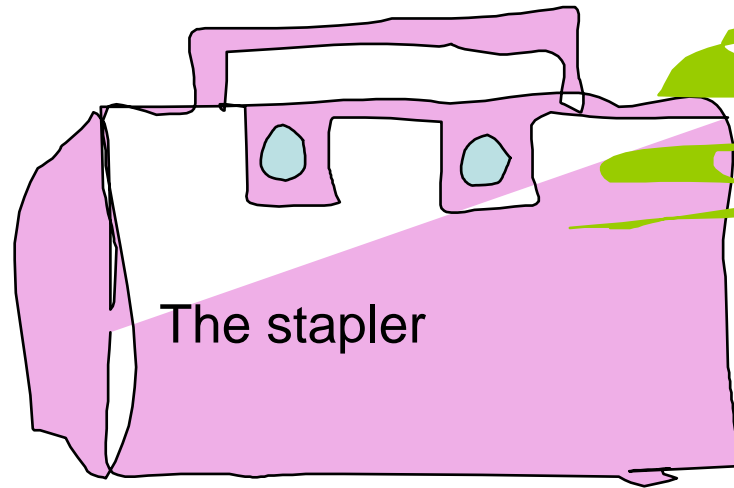


- **Lack of human resources**
- **Lack of Skills**
- **Lack of Political will**
- **Some interviewees believed that if people understood the nature of the problem of environmental management all the rest would fall into place (minority felt that people do understand but put short term personal interest first)**
- **Money rules the world – develop or die – conserve or die**
- **Others believed there was a dialectical (everything influences everything) relationship between values, needs, material conditions and structural change.**

Tasks and tools used for integration

Communities - the use of tools often failed to empower them to participate

- alienating them from the decision making process
- issues of how power worked in society
- how control of the process was governed
- jargon used
- consultants use tools for money making rather than for environmental and social justice



- Politicians, communities, non environmentally trained struggled to name any tools

Tasks and tools used for integration

- **The two sets of tools that came out more often**
 - *participatory tools*
 - *legal tools*
- **People also acknowledged**
 - the value of sustainable development and systems tools
 - general in house management tools
 - the role of land use planning tools
 - Personal values cultural tools

Voluntary, informal, experimental approaches

- Sustainability Science work covered several case studies of relative success stories across South Africa (CSIR)
- A guideline on Strategic Environmental Assessments (Department of Environment and Tourism)
- A paper on mainstreaming environmental issues into municipal decision making (UCT)



Need for a User Guide

- There is an expressed need by decision makers who were not trained in environmental management but want to catch up on the facts and the tools and tactics
- The need however is greater for building knowledge about the environment and developing appropriate value systems/ cultures and world views –popularising it
- There are several relevant studies but there is no real duplication of the kind of User Guide envisaged

Criteria in a User Guide which aims to judge the utility of tools

- Various criteria were identified for a User Guide
- Radical guideline for achieving change – including the fuzzy, messy things, the non tools – addressing values and tactics. If this is to be the case progress would need to be made in defining the methodologies.

Most valued tools in mainstreaming the environment for sustainable development

- Legal tools were often the only tools – even though they were hardly effective
- The participatory tools - Empowerment of all sectors of society was obviously a key need
- Philosophies/value systems
- The visioning tools - range of world views
- Management tools
- Land use and integrated planning tools
- The top 10 - 30 most efficient and effective tools - list of 60



The least useful tools - identifying the gaps

- A list of tools was provided along with reasons for disillusionment.
- There were no blatant gaps identified just a few inputs over a wide spread of tasks – some very specific gaps such as in biodiversity planning



Conclusions of the study

- Guide principle led development, create space for indigenous, ecocentric systems thinking, give a voice to the poor
- We need to work with tools that highlight and respect different views- but we also need tools that are also able to help challenge dominant paradigms and power relationships

As long as such myths that environment can be separated from economic and social development prevail there will be very little hope

- Tools are like fishing boats - more and more fishing boats when indeed there are no fish left in the seas.
- Depends on who you interview

Depends on who you interview and how much weight you give to which group

- Selective audience of sustainable development practitioners/systems activists (very small group in SA of limited voice and reach)
- Deep rural communities (voiceless group some of whom have an acute understanding of integrated and sustainable development concepts – obviously use different languages to describe this)
- Conventional environmental practitioners and officials (influential group – motivated by the stretching legal limits and by personal profit and an environmental concern to a degree of comfort)
- Ordinary person with and or without formal training in environmental management and integrated development (largest group – the mainstream business and political and church thinkers. Pursuing 6% growth rate rather than sustainable development. This group has strongest influences comprising a large number of denialists who believe environmental concerns come after development and economic growth)

Discussions at workshops with well informed environmentalists in government, NGO, community and businesses

- Lessons learnt through struggle for womens rights and war on apartheid. Once movements or individuals become effective those in power cut them out. It is a political war over rights of the earth and its life forms and human rights issues. Memory in SA society of tools and tactics learnt in these struggle years such as passive resistance, conscientisation, citizen action etc. Conventional tools and tactics such as EIA, SEA etc are meaningless at this level of battle – more appropriate are tools such as gorilla warfare, forming unholy alliances and winning through cunning moves and covert strategies at committee level decision making.
- Analogy – preventative medicine as apposed to curative medicine
- Not denying the value of conventional technologies and tools for integrating environment in practice – but acknowledging these tools are rarely responsibly used and have been manipulated and their worth distorted by those in power who use them for their own means.

THE NO GOs

- **Decision Makers Group**
- There are not any No Go tools – beware of the dangers of throwing the baby out with the bath water. The ones being most abused are:
- SEAs (need more value driven processes and products)
- More guides and more research - these are being abused and used as a decision tactic
- EIA's abused - practioners and decision makers need to look more seriously at impacts on the receiving environment
- Capacity Building and Awareness not getting very far
- Anti social tactics
- **Challengers Group**
- Public participation without outcome:
- Legitimising deficient processes:
- Non-strategic, reactive approach:
- Voluminous reports: reports need to be minimised (not minimal!).
- Minimal legal compliance:

- **Balanced Public Participation:** Severe inequity in ability to participate by under-resourced, civil society/NGOs vs fulltime proponents and their consultants. Important opportunity is development of an 'Intervention Fund' to allow for Independent Review and participation on processes, from initial ToRs and Scoping, through drafts etc – the higher the strategic level this intervention, the better. Every development could be required to pay a contribution to this fund, and an expert register be drawn-up of individuals capable of putting together an appropriate group and chairing deliberations (see paper by King & o'Bierne, IAIA-SA 06).
- **Severe inequity in access to information.** Needs to be fully transparent, and produced in simple, concise formats.
- **Facilitating Dialogue and Common Vision:** Driving for a for engagement, convening proactive multi-stakeholder, civil-society led debates, offering independent, impartial observers and attempt to obtain a common vision/objectives so that all parties attempt to work towards common goal rather than starting out as opponents.
- **Counter Tactics:** is an approach used by both sides, so need to prepare for this, as well as to counter this. Examples are:
 - Lack of response to inputs;
 - Deliberate polarisation of issues – in SA, specifically 'need for development to meet social imperatives (read 'political rhetoric'!) vs 'saving butterflies'; people vs plants'; 'you are trying to keep poor people poor', etc
 - Naming and shaming, both based on fact and fabrication;
 - Deliberately deluding public and authorities regarding the quality of the process;
 - 'buying-off' dissent by 'buying in' individuals, NGOs etc to participate in the process.
 - Deliberately drawing out the process to exhaust civil society ability to participate.

Strategies from Decision makers

- **Pull leadership out of the dark holes/shower**
 - We need new powerful radical and informed leadership
 - Need a social and economic revolution one that takes us towards an equitable society
 - Questioning the growth paradigm – focus on quality of life equity and sharing resources – it is the opposite philosophy of business as usual which focuses on hoarding and competing
- **We need to develop a culture of change and critical mass awareness** and consciousness – generate mass value shifts- ethics spirituality and democratizing psychopathic organizations – social marketing and mobilization
- **Traditional structures leaderships and tactics and methods** – decision making , meetings, imbizos, story telling, codes of practice
- **Indigenous knowledge:** methods that open the door to peoples knowledge/ conscientisation (which recognizes no one is superior to anyone else – everyone has valuable knowledge and experience in some form or another and needs to share it). Develop community knowledge banks and conservation of our resources and ecosystems
- **National level sustainability reporting** , green budgeting, green recruiting procurement, BEE becomes SEE (Sustainable and Equitable Empowerment)

- Scenario Building – high integrity and for buy in need modeling (more science and less personal judgments and normatives)
- Legal instruments
- Risk management norms and stds
- Human Rights Responsibilities
- Empower people to take personal and collective action
 - People Action
 - People have responsibility to comment and make changes and police and be watchdogs
- Visualize and develop the full potential of people and landscapes and maintain them
 - Alternative solutions /exposure
 - Demonstrations need to be high profiled
- Develop informal organic relationships and networks
 - Combination tactics
 - Guerilla warfare
 - Unholy and holy alliances

Strategies from Challengers

- **Strategic SD Vision and Targets:** ('Happy Planet Index' of increased life expectancy, life satisfaction and ecological footprint. In SA, all govt depts. actually have other measures they are required to report on, but these are always subsumed under economic contribution indicators – these need elevation and enforcement. Until this fundamental paradigm-change occurs, it is impossible to shift to an SD footing 'everywhere the rhetoric of sustainability is ignored in practical decision-taking' (IUCN 2006).
- **Integrated Multi-scale land-use planning:** Improved land-use planning requires integration of all spatial scales from fine-scale planning at the biodiversity and agricultural decision-taking, through 'landscape/scale planning, at the 'farm community/group' scale, up to sector-specific MFs – integrating these three scales allows for comprehensive EMF-like planning tools to be derived
- **Legal Challenges Approach:** many of the legislative tools are still untested and ambiguous – a key (but dangerous) approach is to challenge these in court where they appear not to meet the intentions of movement towards equity and SD.
- **Engage with/ become an ally of the State:** civil society, usually in form of NGOS, needs to engage better with various agencies, for example in positive law reforms, and in contributions to capacity building in state agencies
- **Early Warning and Mobilisation:** civil society needs a much greater preparedness and ability to monitor general external 'development' agendas. Scales should be from national e.g. in SA the debate on a national Energy Policy, down to local EMFs and development projects. Key is to have an ability to filter proposals which are quite simply nonsense ('crap detectors') before they can actually 'enter the system' and absorb valuable resources.

Strategies from Challengers

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- Depends on who you interview/ whose views you emphasise

- The conference delegates participated in a national survey on which are South Africa's most promising tools, tactics and philosophies/approaches for transformation of our economy and society to being more environmentally responsible and sustainable. The national survey indicated there would need to be a change that favoured approaches such as systems thinking, zero waste and vision building tools that brought about equity and social justice, gave voice to rural communities and the poor and that guided development along a principle led approaches.

Imagine political perceptions of environment:

- Environment is an obstacle to development
- It is development versus environment
- Environment is a luxury we can't afford
- Biodiversity can't vote
- Should people go hungry and live in shacks while chameleons are protected in grasslands that have high potential for crops

Now imagine the Environment Management Tool Box and the developing context.

Imagine the:

- Best tools in the world
- Best mechanics to use them
- Best guidelines for using the tools

So is there an alternative paradigm for environment management to operate in?

- Yes – by re-imagining the role of environment in development

In Ethekekwini Durban

the total annual municipal budget is approximately R12 billion. It is estimated that the replacement costs of ecosystem services supplied by natural assets is currently R4.2 billion

if Durban did not have its natural assets - then the municipality would have to find another R4.2 billion, or an additional third of the current budget, to supply the replacement services necessary to keep the residents in the quality of life they already enjoy.

- Quality living environment
- Better health
- Adequate quantities of clean water
- Easy access to recreation opportunities
- Housing
- Energy
- Food
- Economically productive opportunities

What has the Durban example taught us?

- The perceptions of people drive their behaviour. The tool box will stay closed if the perceptions are such that people don't think it necessary to open it i.e. – environment is for butterflies chameleons only
- Re-imagine the role of environment – as it works for people - and this will help to motivate the use of our environment management tool box.

When humans use nature (as we inevitably will), the pursuit of ecological sustainability requires that we continue striving to reduce the risks of causing irreversible damage to the biosphere and its component parts. As part of the process, we must embrace the fact that money is not the common currency of ecosystems and that nature has many other values beyond the purely economic.

David Lavigne