

Towards A National Strategy for Sustainable Development

The Global Environment at the Dawn of the New Millennium

We woke up to the dawn of the new millennium the morning of the year 2000, some eleven years back,
After much anticipation and many cliché's,
But after the celebrations were over and the anticipation now a mere memory, what kind of world will we be living in?

- Planet earth still is the only place in the universe known to sustain life
- Yet human activities are progressively reducing the planet's life-supporting capacity at time when rising human numbers and consumption are making increasingly heavy demands on the only source of life
- World's population stands at just under 7 billion, with a 2 million (0.0285 % of the world's population) fraction living in Botswana. Of the 2million, half is around the average age of 15, hence the momentum for not just growth, but consumption of the natural capital as well, 500 000 are in learning institutions, they must be fed, clothed, and most importantly educated to be responsible stewards of the planet and its resources.
- The development process has indeed to date modified the bio-sphere, the thin covering of the planet that contains and sustains life.
- Humanity's relationship with the biosphere will continue to deteriorate until a new international economic order sets in.

- The earth's biological system are facing an unprecedented strain.
- The human population is just under 7 billion with 10% on the African continent, and still growing.
- The major components of the bio-sphere,
 - the atmosphere
 - the oceans
 - soil cover
 - the climate system
 - range of plants & animals species

have all been altered by the intensity of human exploitation of the earth's resources before and during the twentieth century.

- The by-products of economic growth- the burning of fossil fuels, the emissions of sulphur and nitrogen oxides and other waste, and their introduction into the air, water and soil, and elimination of forests cover, continue to cause cumulative stress on the bio-physical environment.
- This threatens human health and economic wellbeing the world over.

- World's economic development has evolved over time and
- we have since learnt, and now do know that the most effective way societies should avoid developmental crisis is through integration of the environment and development at all levels and all times
- We also know that through the adoption of anticipatory environmental policies and the adoption of cross-sectoral environmental/ conservation measures and strategies and the pursuit of a sustainable development ethic; and
- we can continue to improve on the quality of life and attain a sustainable development paradigm.

- At the same time, we are in a period of transition between the two centuries.
- We're leaving behind a century shaped largely by the world wars and ensuing cold wars, and entering a new one shaped principally by ecological limits, redistributive politics and the global reach of technology.
- While the future is certainly not going to be devoid of military threats (which maybe compounded by the spread of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons), - it may be the conflict with the natural environment that will erupt on a world wide scale.
- As in the case of military conflict, it is international cooperation that offers the best hope for bringing about a sustainable world peace.

Thinking Globally While Acting Locally

- While cooperation among nations has proven to be necessary in the quest for trans-boundary environmental management, virtually all policies must be implemented at the national or local level,
- As there are no international Governments to enforce binding decision on sovereign nations.

- Environmental concerns are the latest in a series of threats to international security and development that have called attention to the political need for laws and institutions that operate beyond the zones of sovereignty
- Global environmental Governance is needed to shape the environmental future of the planet and the quality of life that it makes possible.
- Global environmental governance, involves people, political institutions, non –governmental organizations at all levels of public and private policy making that are collectively responsible for managing world affairs
- In order to achieve effective environmental governance, both the global and local ends of the environment and development spectrum must be established and strengthened and should cooperate more with one another.
- National governments need to recognize the importance of the natural environment and take the necessary measures to economically sound and environmentally sustainable development
- Local communities need to be educated to adopt sustainable lifestyles and empowered so that they can engage in dialogue with, and perhaps influence national and international environmental initiatives

- Our development efforts have been guided by four planning objectives-
 - rapid economic growth
 - economic independence
 - economic justice
 - sustainable development
- Development Policies have primarily focused on;
 - unemployment
 - poverty
 - inequality of incomes, improvements in health, education, inter alia, and yet,
- environmental concerns have not featured explicitly and sufficiently in policies that have guided the foregoing, despite the sustainable development objective.

- Botswana sustainable development paradigm has the following milestone;
 - NDPs/DDPs that have dedicated environmental chapters (Starting with NDP 7 to date)
 - Policy on Natural Resource Conservation & development 1990
 - the NCS Action Plan 1998
 - Our subscription to Agenda 21 with its 27 principles, our obligations arising out of the Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), WSSD and the JPOI, MDGs, particularly 7, which reinforces and is reinforced by the other 7.

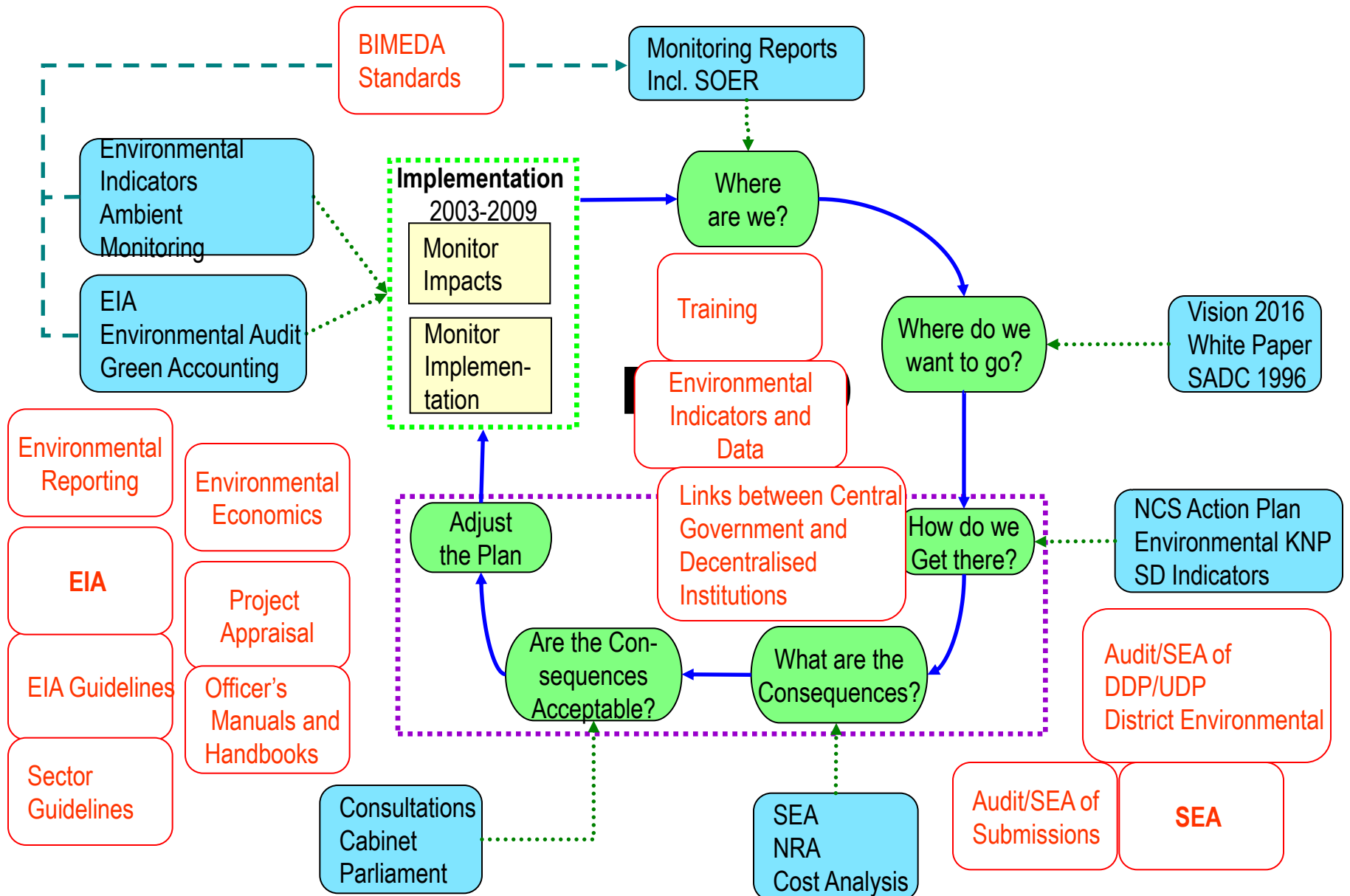
- NDP 10 provides a once in a life time opportunity for the sustainability paradigm to be a reality as it shall serve as the vehicle to the attainment of the our 2016 aspirations, and should thus take full recognition of the role of natural resource in providing for current generations and for posterity.
- The environment and development paradigm should be seen as strategic concept that links the population, economy, natural and financial resources, in the context of socio-economic development for the long-term, to ensure inter and intra-generational equity.
- This should foster the enthusiasm for a sustainable future rather than squander it.

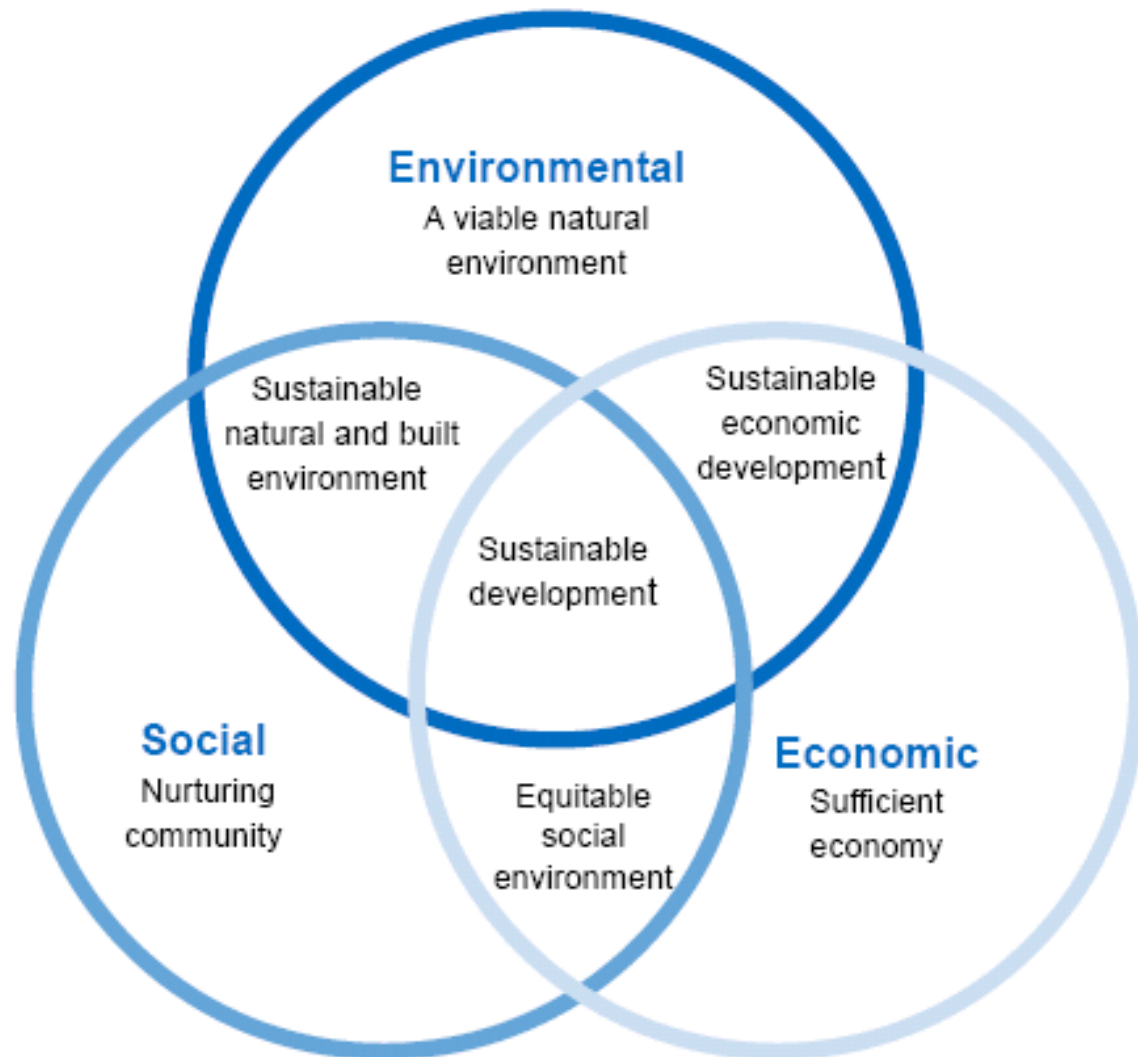
- As we emerge from the dawn of the third millennium, our long-term planning for sustainable development should extend beyond the time horizon of the NDP 10, to consider issues of a long term nature, which are crucial for a better quality of life for present generations and for posterity.
- We have witnessed rocketing food, energy and recently, the financial crisis.

The long term planning perspective should be based on the following pillars;

- *Human resource development
- *sustainable use of natural resources
- *sustainable economic and financial growth and diversification, and a democratic dispensation, good governance which is inclusive of good environmental governance, environmental rights and responsibilities,
- AN NSSD provides the way towards a sustainable future.

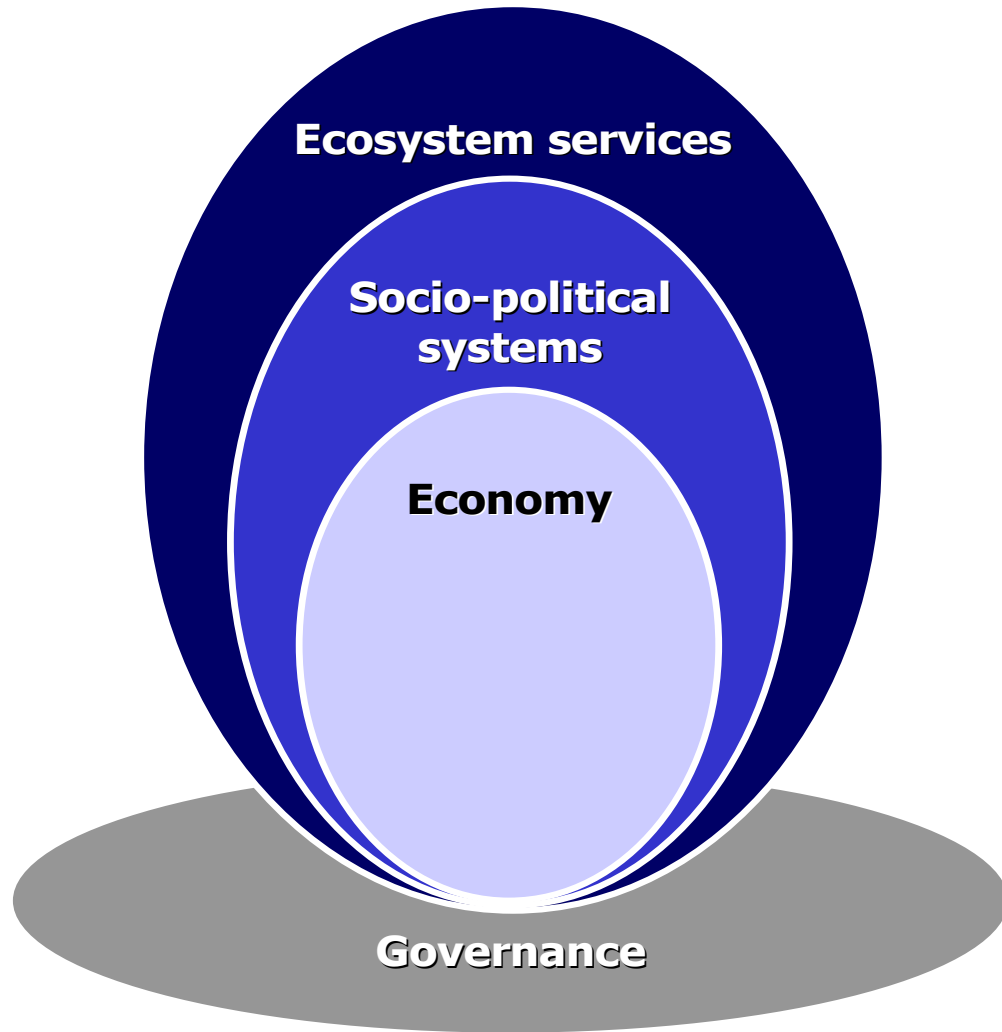
Links to Development Planning











Ecosystem services

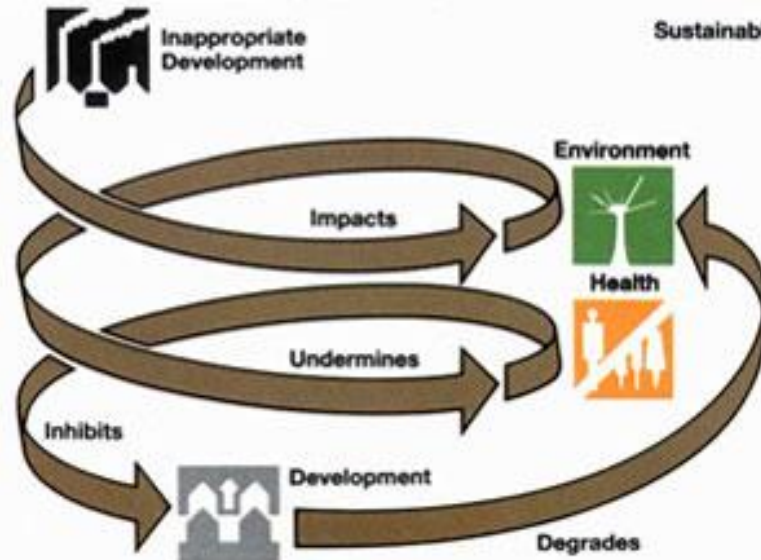
**Socio-political
systems**

Economy

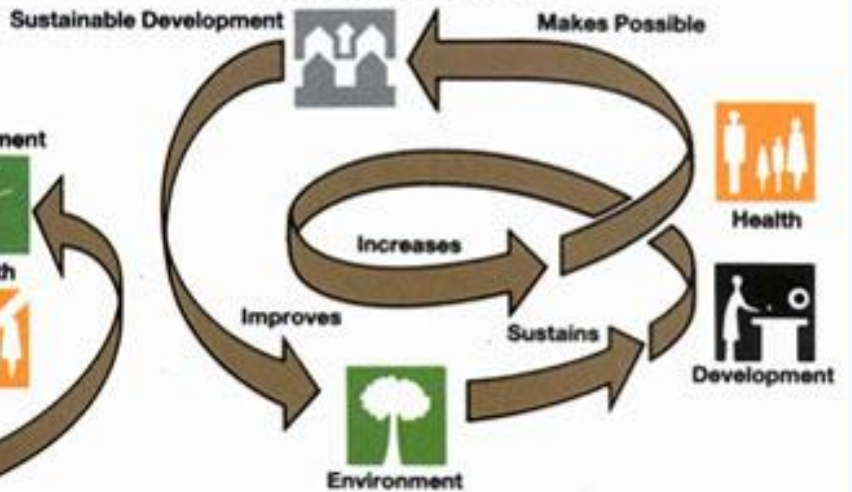
Governance

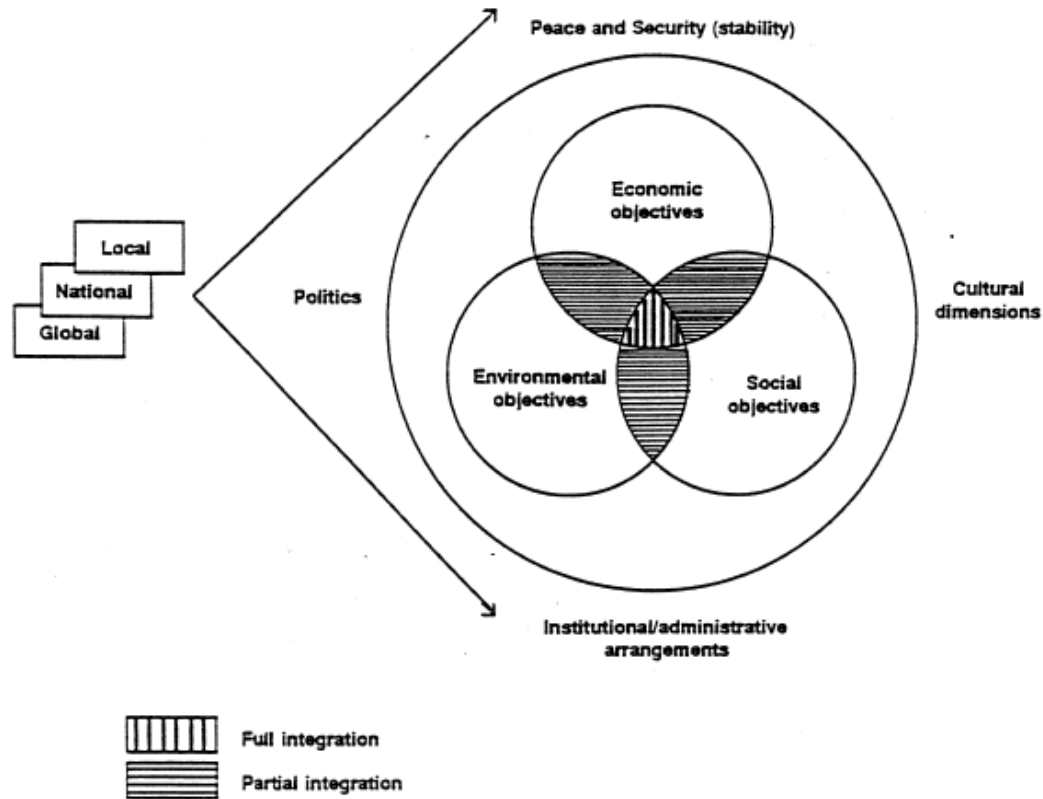
Sustainable development spirals

THE DESCENDING SPIRAL



THE ASCENDING SPIRAL





Sustainable development will entail integration of objectives where possible; and making trade-offs between objectives where integration is not possible.

- **Sustainable development also predicated legal principles**
- **These must be oriented and combined with other social, political and economic forces in order for the law to be truly effective.**
- **There should be no disjuncture between the law as enshrined in the statute books and the development policies.**
- **Environmental law underscores the policies that aim to encourage sustainable use, development and management of natural resources.**
- **This is particularly critical where there no constitutional provision regarding the environment, which is the case here, compared to the recent developments in some of the Southern African countries which have environmental clauses either within the principles of state policy of “bill of rights”.**
- **Such an entrenchment of a fundamental environmental right in the constitution would certainly ensure that such rights stand on an equal footing with other fundamental rights and freedoms.**

NSSD

- This comprises of a coordinated set of participatory and continuously improving processes of analysis, debate (environment & development dialogue), capacity strengthening, planning and investment, which integrates the economic, social and environmental objectives of society, seeking the trade-offs where this is not possible.
- This has to be based on a set of principles, which encompass a set of desirable processes and outcomes, which taken together, are likely to help ensure success of strategies for sustainable development.
- NSSDs require individual local ownership, effective participation at all levels, and high level commitment.
- An NSSD points towards convergence and coherence between different planning frameworks, integrated analysis and capacity development.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN IN PRACTICE!