

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

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Defining Socio-Economic Sustainability

- Using resources efficiently while preserving the environment*
- Inter generational interests*
- Finding the right balance between various competing interests*

Unsustainable Situation

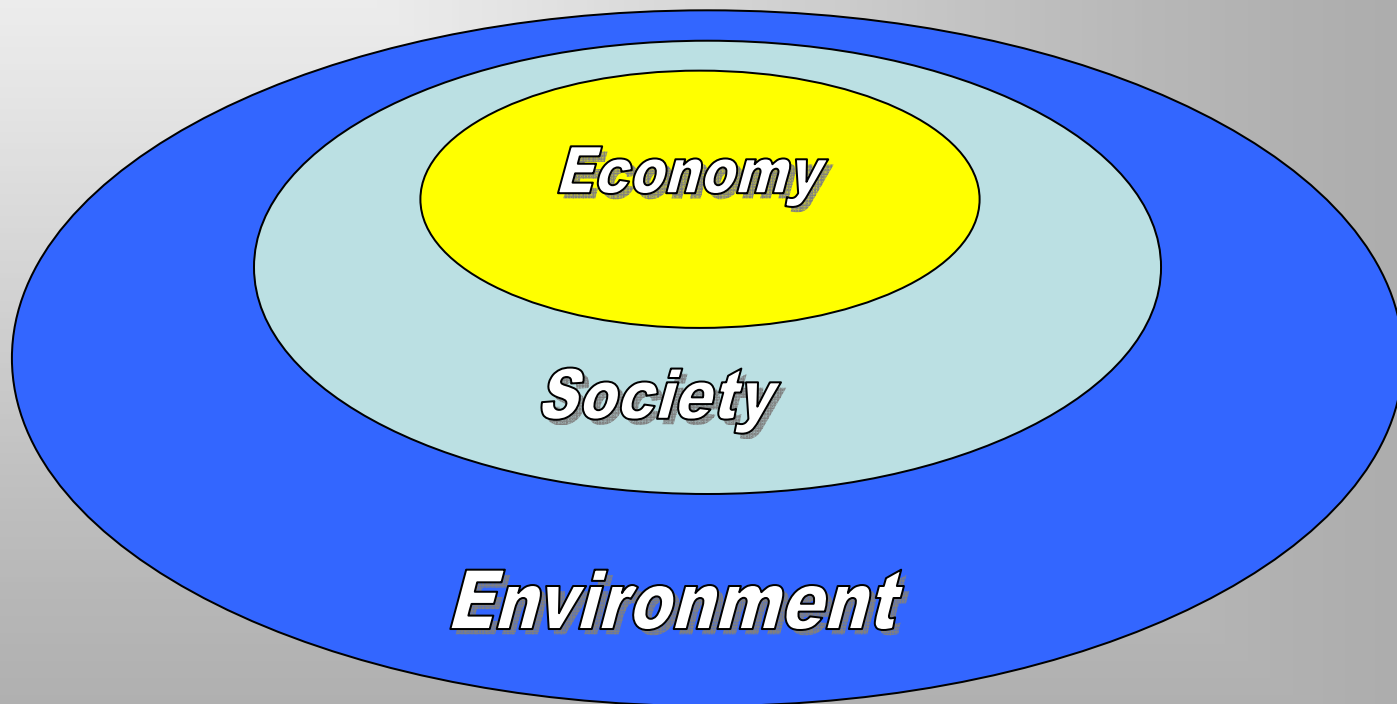
- ❑ *Resources being used at a faster rate than can be replenished.*
- ❑ *Systems can no longer cope with demand (carrying capacity)*
- ❑ *Societies need to manage three types of capital:*
 - *Economic*
 - *Social and*
 - *Natural*

which may be non-substitutable and whose consumption might be irreversible.

Sustainability

- ❑ *Sustainable issues are generally global or national in scope*
- ❑ *However, we relate most directly to what is happening where we live (community).*
- ❑ *A shift to more sustainability is necessary at the local level and not focusing exclusively on national level.*

A view of Community (*Respecting the boundaries*)



Sustainable Community

- ❑ *Interconnectedness of Society, Economy and the environment.*
- ❑ *Systems that make up the community.*
- ❑ *Acknowledgement of limits to the Social, Economic and Environmental systems at community level.*

Participation in Decision-making Process

- ❑ *Sustainable communities are about the participation of local groups in the decision-making process.*
- ❑ *Local government plays a key role in helping communities to become more sustainable.*
- ❑ *Sustainability must be community led and consensus-based (involving local government, local groups and NGOs)*
- ❑ *Community-based process can overcome the political, bureaucratic and psychological barriers to change*
- ❑ *... but only with the help of central government.*

Principles for Socio-Economic Sustainable Development

- Acknowledging carrying capacity of resources and systems.*

- Promoting shared values amongst members of the Community*

Conclusion

- Need for greater inclusion and transparency in decision making.*
- New forms of public participation continue to be explored.*
- Is there an appropriate forum for effective participatory democracy?*
- Society needs innovative methods of decision-making based on ideas of inclusion and participation.*