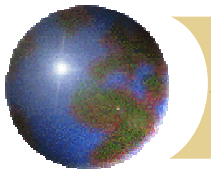


Sustainable Development & Sustainable Communities

Ivan Turok

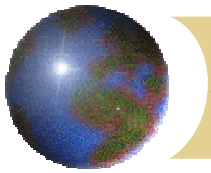
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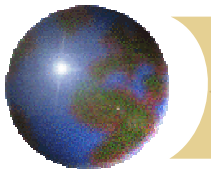
Outline

- Background
- Clarifying concepts, meanings & relationships
 - Sustainable development
 - Sustainable communities
- Key challenges for governance



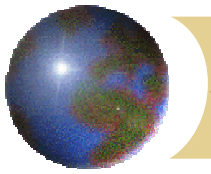
Background

- Complex & highly ambitious goals –
 - Holistic (environmental, economic & social)
 - Integrative (how to combine?)
 - Long-term & wide-angle perspective on consequences
 - Recognition of interdependencies between 'areas' and between scales of decision-making
- But uncertainty & confusion in practice
- Ambiguity useful for consensus building?
- But not for decision-making & implementation because it avoids difficult issues



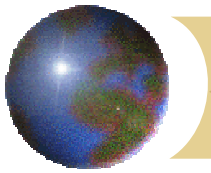
Concepts: from Global to Local

Concept	Prime concerns	Spatial scale
Sustainable Development	Safeguard ecological resources Careful economic development	Global and National
Sustainable Communities	Delivering housing supply Regeneration through 'liveability'	Regional and Neighbourhood



Sustainable development: Bruntland

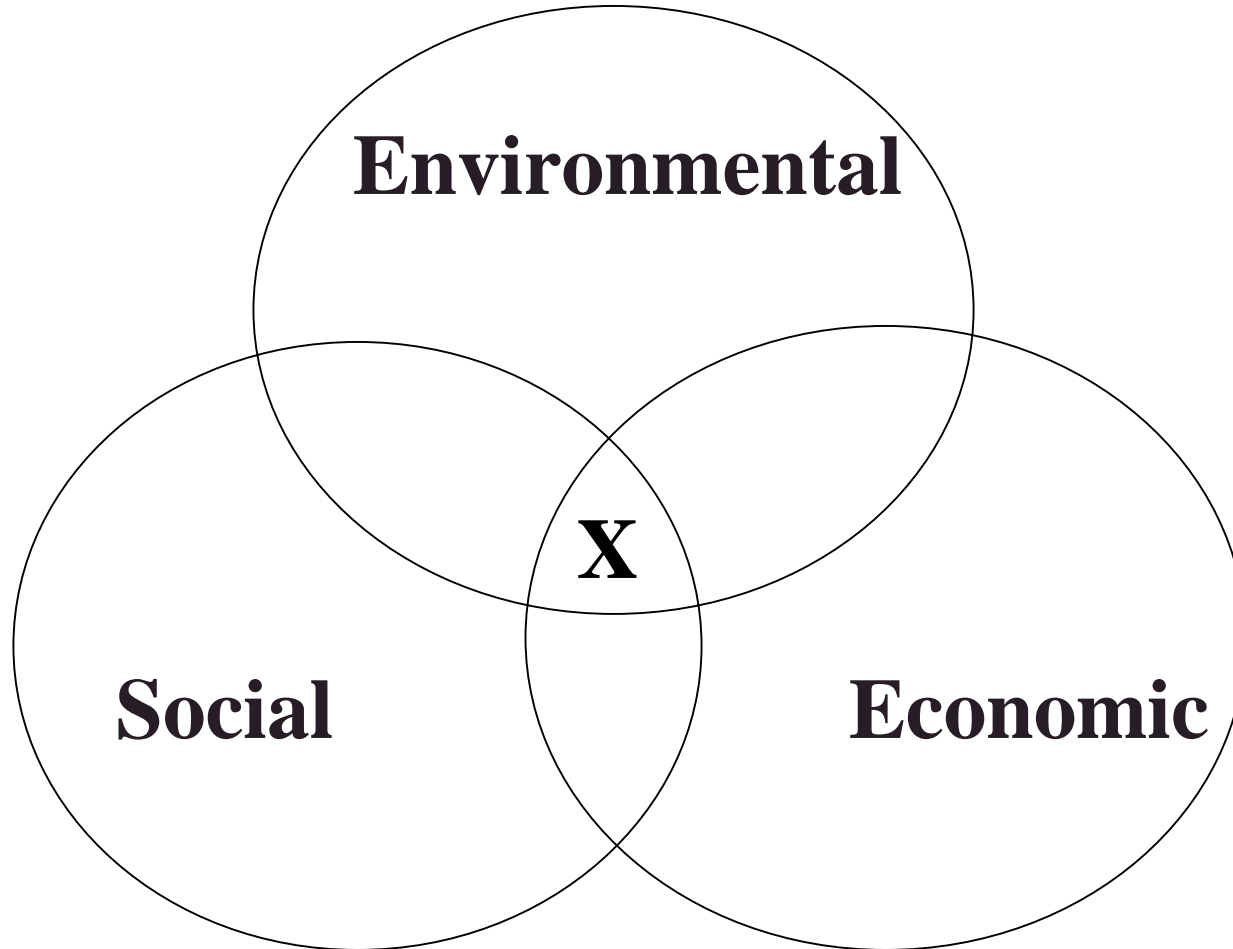
- ❖ Inter-generational equity (future generations equal standing)
- ❖ Intra-generational equity (basic needs met)
- ❖ Economic growth + safeguard ecological resources
- ❖ More careful economic development respecting ecological systems
- ❖ Social dimension an integral part of economic development – jobs & incomes



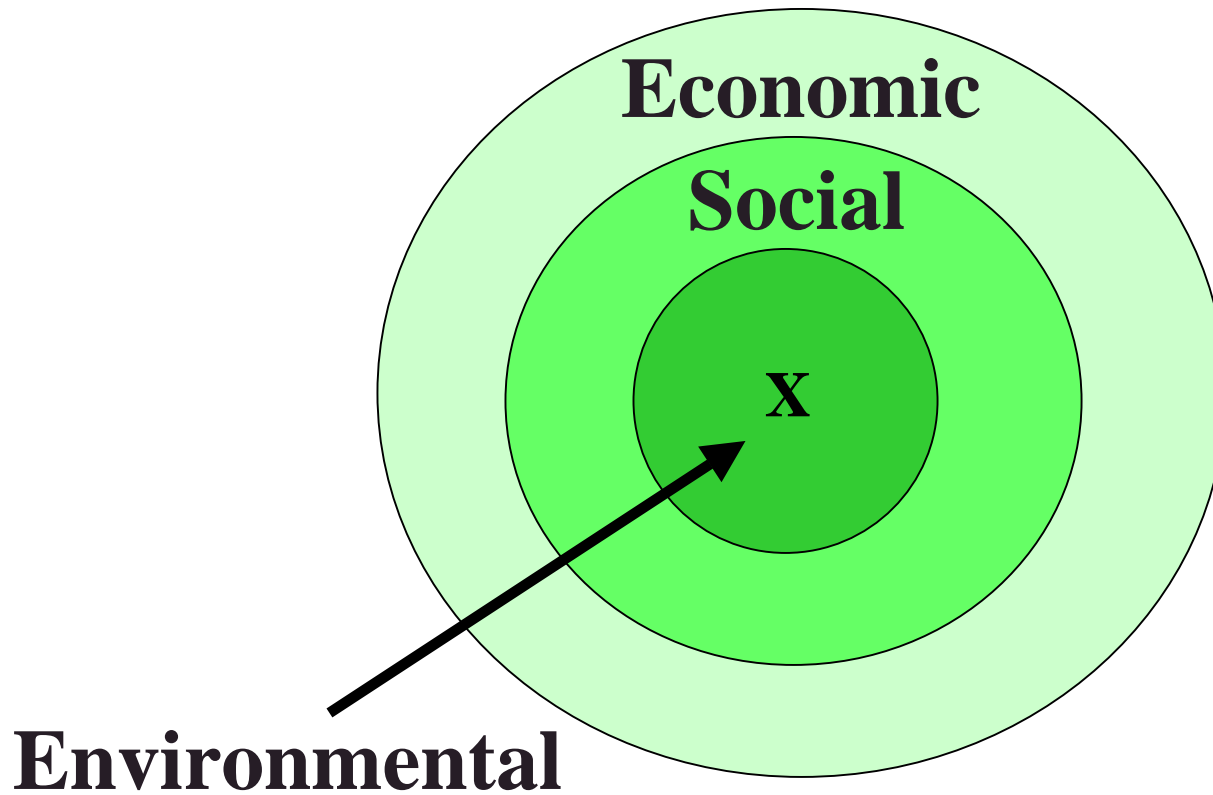
What's new about this agenda?

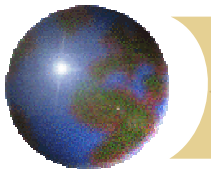
- Understanding ecological systems
 - Thresholds, cocktail effects, cumulative effects of small changes, irreversibility
 - Hence issues of RISK not definite causes & outcomes, requiring careful development
- A new form of economic development
 - Equalising growth across groups & nations
 - Issues of power and who benefits
 - Not marginal changes to form of settlements

*Alternative approach: relationship
between three separate dimensions*



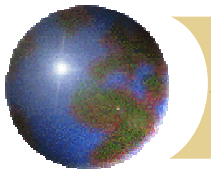
Environmental concerns at the core





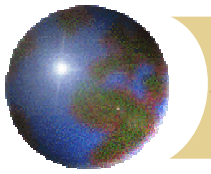
Two views of the relationship

- ❖ Trade-off between separate elements:
 - ❑ e.g. balancing growth and damage to environmental assets
 - ❑ but what balance? (risk of tokenism)
- ❖ Or new outcomes that combine economic, social & environmental objectives at same time? Win-win-win.
 - ❑ e.g. by building in environmental values into economic calculations (eco-taxes)



Embedding environ. & social values into economic systems

- ⊕ Sustained, dynamic process, not a one-off compromise
- ⊕ Progressive adaptation of systems & markets
- ⊕ Continuous improvement all-round
- ⊕ Culture & behaviour changes
- ⊕ Mainstreaming so becomes routine



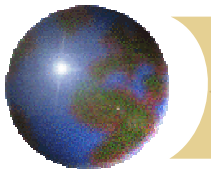
Sustainable development is also about process

✿ Effective delivery:

- ▣ Institutional capacity to deliver on goals - powers, resources, co-ordination ...

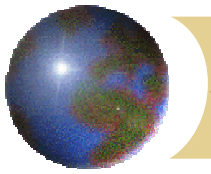
✿ Inclusive process:

- ▣ Involving all interested groups/stakeholders in decision-making & implementation
- ▣ Difficult to reconcile with strategic goals



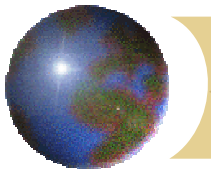
Sustainable communities

- ⊕ A more limited concept in various respects
- ⊕ Accommodating projected growth through delivery of additional housing
 - ⊞ Albeit conserving resources as far as possible
- ⊕ Promoting neighbourhood regeneration through environmental improvement
 - ⊞ Liveability: 'crime & grime', better housing, public services & facilities



Sustainable communities

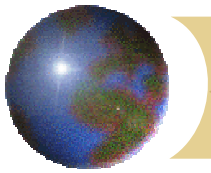
Location	Combined goals?	Sustained contribution?	Delivery capacity?	Inclusive process?
Growth areas	Priority is to accommodate econ. growth (& conserve resources?)	Focus on location of new housing development	Relatively strong	Weak
Low demand areas	Aim to retain & attract population	Focus on initial physical improvement & better services	Relatively weak	Strong



Can it be more ambitious?

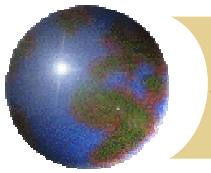
Definition of sustainable communities:

“Urban settlements which meet the diverse needs of all existing and future residents; contribute to a high quality of life, and offer appropriate ladders of opportunity for household advancement, either locally or through external connections. They also limit the adverse external effects on the environment, society and economy.”



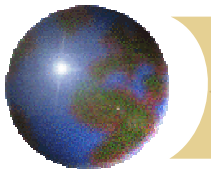
Criteria for Sustainable Communities

- ⊕ Adaptive
- ⊕ Durable
- ⊕ Economically Viable
- ⊕ Environmentally caring and efficient
- ⊕ Harmonious and tolerant
- ⊕ Healthy
- ⊕ Integrated
- ⊕ Minimising externalities
- ⊕ Popular
- ⊕ Self-sufficient



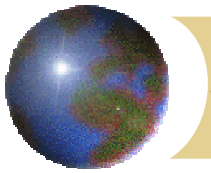
Components

- ⊕ Residential & Environmental
- ⊕ Economy: quality & quantity of jobs
- ⊕ Services
- ⊕ Transport and connectivity
- ⊕ Social and cultural
- ⊕ Governance
- Different priorities in different historical & spatial contexts and for different groups



General Cultural Challenges

- ❖ Household behaviour – residential preferences, travel patterns, recycling, consumerism, resource consumption in a context of rising incomes
- ❖ Business behaviour – ‘bells & whistles’, built-in obsolescence, resource use
- ❖ Developer behaviour – building designs, materials, energy standards ...



Governance Challenges

- ❖ Complex & radical ideas
 - Popular resonance & public commitment?
- ❖ Government ambition?
 - Marginal or mainstream?
 - Political cycles, economic imperatives
- ❖ Capacity to deliver:
 - Specific policy tools: regulate, negotiate, tax, invest
 - Institutional fragmentation
 - Multi-level governance & local participation (NIMBY)
 - Uncertain scope for growth management (N/S divide)