









Planning for Environmental Sustainability



Implications for Local Government





* What is sustainable development? *Is it a principle one should take into account in the planning context? *Is effect given to the principles of sustainable development in practice?





What is Sustainable Development?

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. – Bruntland Report 1987



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

- i. 1987 Brundtland Report
- ii. 1992 United Nations Conference on E Janerio
- iii. 2000 Millennium Development Goals
- iv. 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg
- v. 2012 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio De Janerio
- vi. 2015 UN Agenda for Sustainable Dev Agenda 2030



1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio De

evelopment in Johannesburg Environment and Development in Rio De

vi. 2015 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development: Sustainable Development Goals:





Weak vs Strong Sustainability





Ecosystem services

Sociopoliitical systems

Economy

Governance

The Constitutional Environmental Right

s24: 'Everyone has the right -

- a. to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
- b. to have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future
- generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that
 - i. prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
 - ii. promote conservation; and
- iii. secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.'



"South Africa aspires to be a sustainable, economically prosperous and self-reliant nation that safeguards its democracy by meeting the fundamental human needs of its people, by managing its limited ecological resources responsibly for current and future generations, and by advancing efficient and effective integrated planning and governance through national, regional and global collaboration." – NFSD 2008



NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ACTION PLAN

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND **ACTION PLAN**

Strategic Priorities 3.Towards a green economy; 4. Building sustainable communities; and **5.**Responding effectively to climate change.



- 1. Enhancing systems for integrated planning and implementation; 2. Sustaining our ecosystems and using natural resources efficiently;

StraussDaly THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: 2030 AGENDA

- Chapter 5
- Parallels with the SDGs
- Aims to ensure environmental sustainability and an equitable transition to a low carbon economy by 2030 by guidance from the following principles:
- Just, ethical and sustainable \bullet
- Global solidarity \bullet
- Ecosystems protection \bullet
- Full cost accounting lacksquare
- Strategic planning
- Transformative \bullet
- Managed transition \bullet
- **Opportunity-focused** \bullet
- Effective participation of social partners lacksquare
- Balance evidence collection with immediate action
- Sound policy-making lacksquare
- Least regret. \bullet
- A regional approach
- Accountability and transparency





MUNICIPAL SYSTEMS ACT 32 OF 2000

- "development" means sustainable development and includes integrated social, economic, environmental, spatial, infrastructural, institutional, organisational and human resources upliftment of a community aimed at—
- (a) improving the quality of life of its members with specific reference to the poor and other disadvantaged sections of the community; and
- (b) ensuring that development serves present and future generations.

"environmentally sustainable" in relation to the provision of a municipal service, means the provision of a municipal service in a manner aimed at ensuring that reasonably possible under the circumstances;

- (b) the potential benefits to the environment and to human health and safety are maximised to the extent reasonably possible under the circumstances: and
- (c) legislation intended to protect the environment and human health and safety is complied with.



SUSTAINABILITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

- (a) the risk of harm to the environment and to human health and safety is minimised to the extent

Spatial and Land Use Planning Act 2013 SPLUMA

StraussDaly

 Preamble: the sustainable development of land requires the integration of social, economic and environmental considerations in both forward planning and ongoing land use management to ensure that development of land serves present and future generations;

 Further recognition of section 24 of the Constitution - to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations which include a land use planning system that is protective of the environment as well as recognition of the right to adequate housing (s26 Constitution- social) and to sufficient food and water (s27(1)(b) Constitution - social).

One of the objects of the Act (s3) is to provide for the sustainable and efficient use of land;

 Provincial planning: planning by a province for the efficient and sustainable execution of its legislative and executive powers insofar as they relate to the development of land and the change of land use.



NATIONAL BUILDING REGULATIONS AND BUILDING STANDARDS ACT 103 OF 1977

Empowers Local Authorities to refuse to grant the approval of an application should the Local Authority be of the opinion that the proposed development would **not be sustainable.**



SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING / STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL **MANAGEMENT TOOLS**

1. Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA)

- decision-making;
- \$\$ \$24(5) of NEMA empowers the Minister to make SEA related regulations;
- sensitivities;

2. Environmental Management Frameworks (EMF)

- In the measure or control to determine the potential impact of a policy, plan or programme; *Essentially indicates the extent of environmental authorisation requirements in defined geographical areas;

- Guideline 6, Environmental Management Frameworks 2011).



SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING / STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TOOLS

The environmental assessment of strategic decisions at policy, planning and programme levels of

SPLUMA calls for the inclusion of a strategic assessment of environmental pressures and opportunities within the Municipal SDF, including the spatial location of environmental

Strengthens the screening mechanisms of EIA beyond mere reliance on listed activities as defined in the EIA regulations (GNR 544, 545 and 546) by considering location sensitivity. Strengthens sustainability within planning as an explicit EMF mandate has been incorporated into NEMA s24(2)(b) and (c), the EMF regulations (GNR547) and accompanying guidelines (DEA











- **3.** Conservation planning (C-Planning) implementing the strategy
 - inform the SDFs and IDPs.
- 4. Environmental impact assessments (EIA) Section 24 of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 Strong version of sustainable development The Interface between land use management and EIA



SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING / STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT TOOLS

The process of identifying areas of critical biodiversity, developing a strategy to protect these areas, aligning the strategy with existing planning tools and frameworks and

Act 10 of 2004 empowers local authorities to consult the national biodiversity framework and the bioregional plans which

While blamed for delaying development recent research indicates that land use management authorisations take far longer than environmental authorisation processes

EIA is one of the most successful environmental policy interventions of the last four decades





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