

**Peoples' Sustainability Treaties:
Converging on a Peoples' Transformative Agenda Post 2015**

Advancing the Decentralization and Localization Agenda

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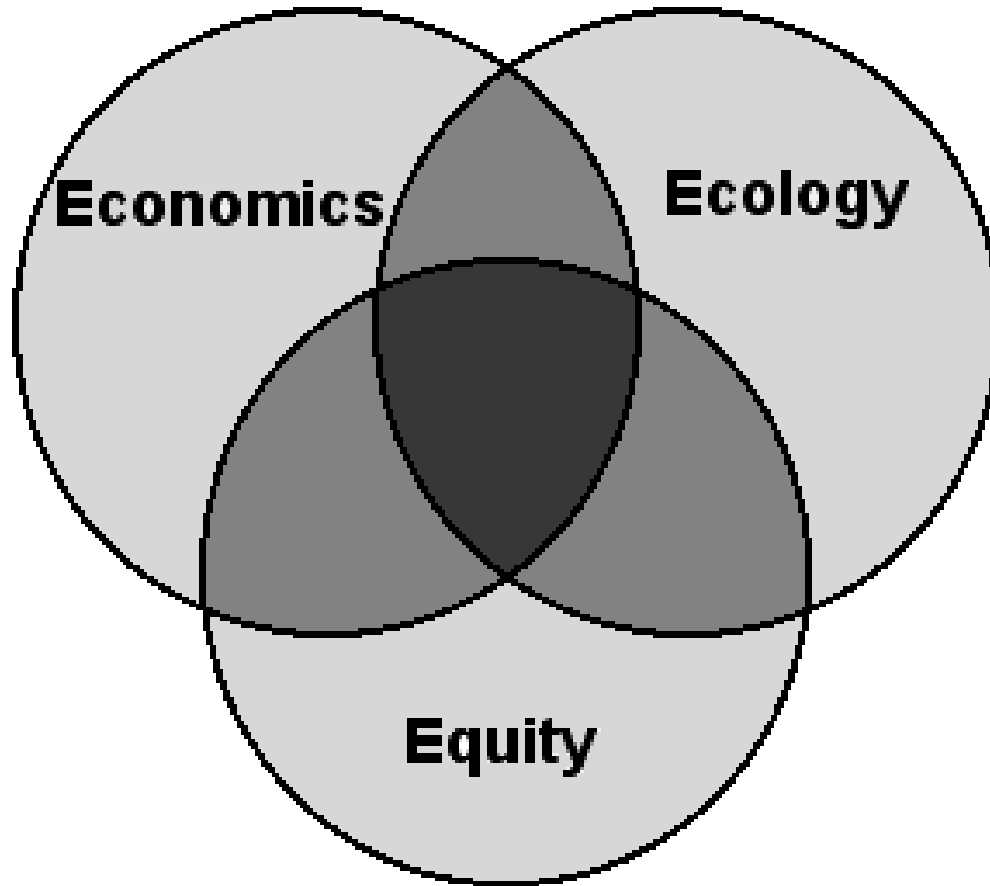
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Contemporary Definitions of Sustainable Development

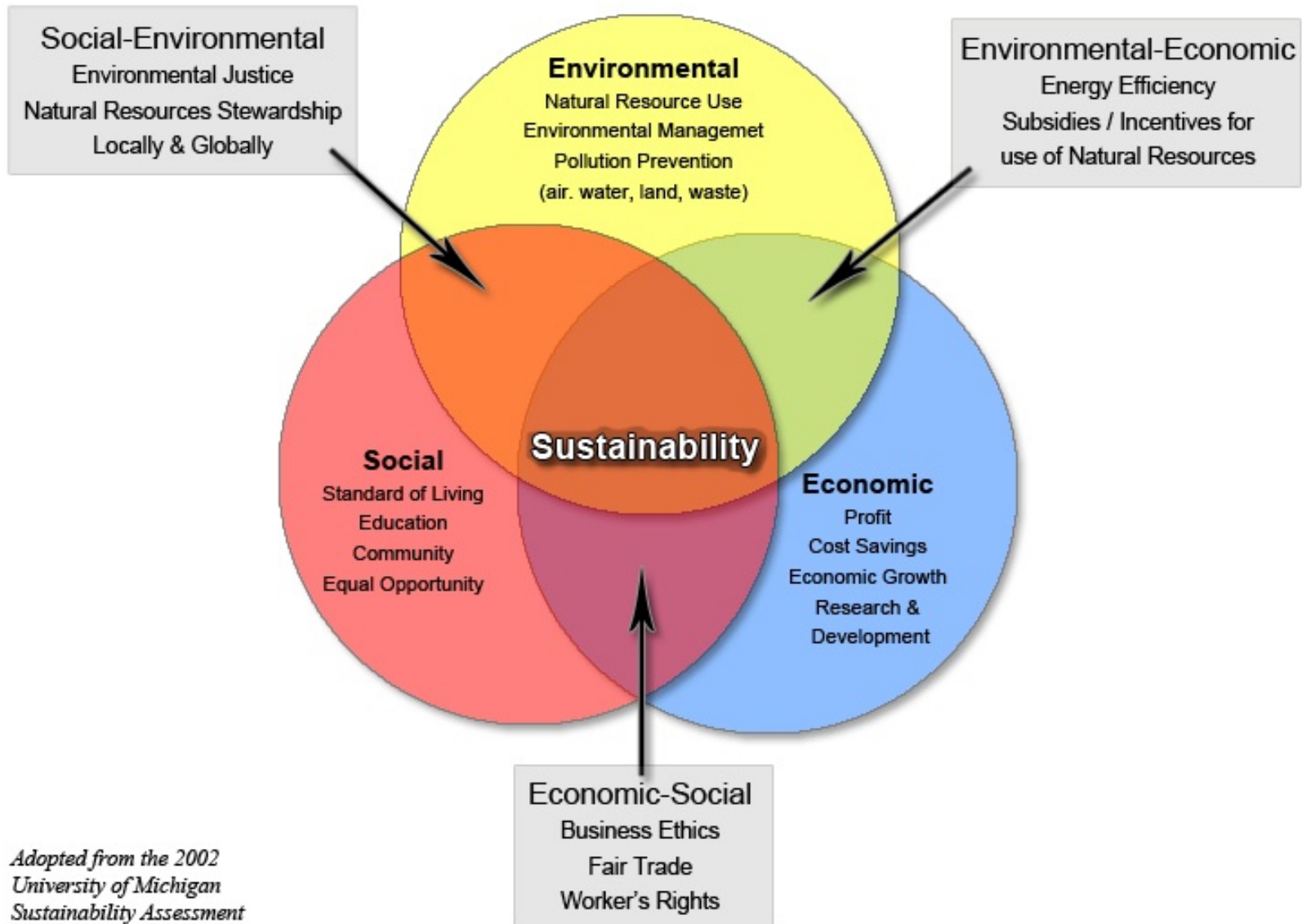
Contemporary Definitions of Sustainable Development

- Intergenerational equity
- Re-evaluation of the almost single-minded emphasis on economic development, to the exclusion of social and ecological concerns
- A call to seek a balance between singular concerns for Economy (Wealth), Ecology (Nature), and Equity (Society)
- Some times referred to as People, Planet, and Prosperity
- Often called “the Triple Bottom Line”

Sustainable Decision Making



The Three Spheres of Sustainability



*Adopted from the 2002
University of Michigan
Sustainability Assessment*

Factors of Production

Capitalism

- Land

- Labor

- Capital

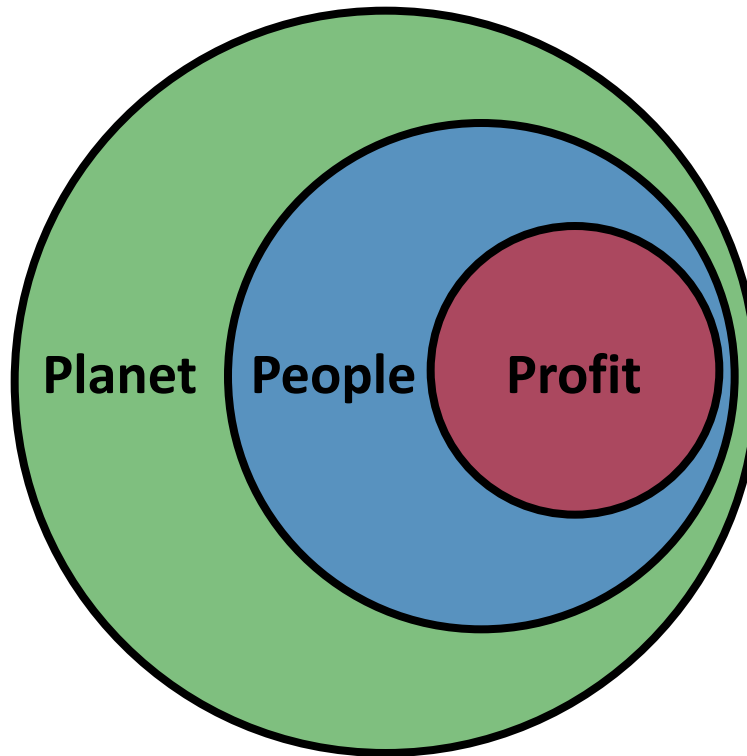
Factors of Production

Capitalism	Sustainability	
▪ Land	▪ Ecology	
▪ Labor	▪ Equity	
▪ Capital	▪ Economy	

Factors of Production

Capitalism	Sustainability	Ecological Economics
▪ Land	▪ Ecology	▪ Natural Capital
▪ Labor	▪ Equity	▪ Social Capital
▪ Capital	▪ Economy	▪ Man-made Capital

A Stricter Triple Bottom Line



Profit becomes a design requirement for the transactional world,
but not the objective

Sustainable Development at the United Nations

Sustainable Development Summits

- **1972: UN Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm**
- **1982: The UN World Charter for Nature**
- **1987: *Our Common Future (The Brundtland Commission Report)***
- **1992: The Earth Summit, Rio de Janeiro (Agenda 21)**
- **2000: UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**
- **2002: World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg**
- **2012: Rio+20, Rio de Janeiro**
- ***2015: MDGs come due/SDGs take shape***

The Brundtland Commission

- Rejects the model of conventional development as “taking” from Nature to meet any and every Human need
- Proposes that development can only be sustainable if it is constrained in such a way that it **allows us to meet the needs of the present generation without curtailing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs**

Agenda 21: The Rio Declaration On Environment and Development

- The 1992 “Earth Summit” called for a sustainable urban development, particularly in the developing world
- It put humans at the center of our concern with sustainable development, and asserted that **all people “are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature”**
- It calls for the development of “sustainable human settlements”

Peoples' Sustainability Treaties

Models of Decision Making

- **Top Down**

- Conventional planning models are typically top down, driven by “experts” who “know best”

- **Bottom Up**

- Grassroots planning models are often posited as a counter to top-down decision making

- **“Middle Out”**

- Rather than posit this as an either/or choice, we propose that what is needed is a combination of top-down, bottom-up and middle-out decision making

Distributed Leadership

- “Heroic Leaders” are mythic, in more ways than one
- Leadership is a ***quality of an organization***, rather than the *attribute of an individual*
- Distributed leadership is a ***practice***
- Rather than being focused on ***actions***, Distributed Leadership is about ***interactions***
- It is about ***relationships*** between leading individuals, rather than the function of one or more leader’s actions

The PST Manifesto

- **The Peoples' Sustainability Manifesto calls for:**
 - Equity
 - Localization
 - Distributed Leadership
- **A New Social Order**
 - A governance architecture for a just and equitable society
- **A New Ecological Order**
 - Honourable lifestyles and livelihoods that respect our planet
- **A New Economic Order**
 - A network of sustainable economies

The Three Needs

The Need to Decentralize

- **Nested Systems and Emergence**
 - Global decisions at the supra-system level need to *emerge* from local actions at the sub-system level
- **Actual Democracy Calls for Distributed Leadership**
 - Representation is a relational quality
- **All Realities are Perspectival**
 - Perspective and purpose determine the nature of reality, which is almost always multiple

The Need to Localize

- **Devolution**

- Decisions are best made close to the level at which they manifest themselves

- **Decentralization**

- Actions are best taken close to the level at which the need for them is articulated

- **Subsidiarity**

- Responsibility for actions and decision must belong to the people affected by them

The Need to Ecologize

- **Ecological Capitalism**
 - Using Man-made Capital to enhance and restore Natural Capital
- **Humans as Components of Ecosystems**
 - Our planet is emergent from the interactions between human society and nature's web
- **Nature is the Supra-system**
 - We are all nested within the Ecosphere

Questions?

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