

## THE ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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**Abstract:** *The concept of sustainable development means all forms and methods of socio-economic development, whose foundation is the first to ensure a balance between the socio-economic systems and elements of natural capital. Sustainability starts from the idea that human activities are dependent on the environment and resources. Health, safety, social and economic stability of society are essential in defining the quality of life. A long time to prioritize growth, excluding environmental problems. Serious forms of manifestation of environmental damage imposed the change of this view.*

**Keywords:** *sustainable development, environment, eco-economy*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

By the early '70s, economic development was seen as a phenomenon of continuous GDP growth, both in the overall economy and per capita (economic development is considered in most cases, only a phenomenon of growth) phenomenon the beneficial effects of population by creating new jobs and by increasing the supply of goods and services.[1] That approach, based primarily on an extensive development largely overshadowed intensive development factors and do not take into account social problems: poverty, unemployment, unequal distribution of income. These social problems have led international organizations to accord a high human issues related to population growth, the impact of industrialization on the environment and quality of life effects of pollution, depletion of natural resources and food issue.

So it concluded that sustainable development has many dimensions, it is not only green issues. And the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - are interconnected. Therefore, sustainable development and dimensions must be addressed in a concrete view, realistic and complex.

### 2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – DEVELOPMENT MODEL FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Although initially sustainable development was meant to be a solution to the ecological crisis caused by intense industrial exploitation of resources and the continuous degradation of the environment and seek primarily the preservation of environmental quality, now the concept has spread to the quality of life in its complexity, and in terms economically and socially. It is now the object of sustainable development and concern for justice and equity between countries, not only between generations.

## MANAGEMENT

The concept of sustainable development has experienced over 60 definitions. At one extreme are the supporters of "deep ecology", which gives a value of nature, independent of human needs and advocates absolute protectionism leading to a steady state economy. Opposite lies "ecocentrism" who consider that it is always possible to substitute natural and produced capital assets, as such, there were no real environmental constraints; for them the nature has only an instrumental value and technical progress will always offer solutions to repair the damage before they become too important. Between the two diametrically opposing ranks debate main between those who believe that natural resources and environmental services are a specific form of capital, thereby creating a strong substitutability between natural capital and capital items and those who refuse this, less for a number of natural assets whose stock must thus kept constant (or above a critical level). Beyond the differences that characterize these views on sustainable development, the common idea refers to binding sustainability of some capacity to provide certain constants on the duration, even if discussions on the specificity of what must remain constant and National Development Strategy Durable.[2]

Sustainable development deals with the concept of quality of life in complexity, economically, socially and environmentally, promoting the idea of balance between economic development, social equity, efficiency and environmental conservation. The key element of sustainable development is reconciliation between the development and the environment, promoting the integrated development and decision-making, both globally and regionally, nationally or locally. Also, sustainable development depends on the fair distribution of costs and benefits between generations and developing nations.

The essential characteristics of sustainability are:[3]

a) equity, which implies a fair distribution of costs and benefits of development, both between rich and among generations and nations;

b) long-term approach, which involves taking into account the needs of future generations of design scenarios and equitable development, which upon in the planet's limited natural resources;

c) systemic thinking involves understanding the complex interactions between subsystems planet, the effects spread from local to global, and interrelationships between the environment, economy, technology and society.

Sustainable development aims to eliminate disparities in access to resources, both for poor communities often marginalized, and for future generations, trying as much as possible, to ensure every nation the opportunity to develop according to their own social and cultural values, without denying other states or future generations that right.

### **3. SIZE OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Environmental concept definitions and meanings are still very varied.

Environment means all the conditions of the Earth and natural elements: air, water, soil and subsoil, all layers of the atmosphere, all organic and inorganic materials and living beings, natural systems interact, material and spiritual values. The environment consists of three subsystems: biotic, abiotic and human.[4]

The environment is all natural and anthropogenic elements, events and energies that are in constant action and that contribute to maintaining the ecological balance of the planet. Elements of human action is due to anthropogenic effects on topography, vegetation.[5]

The environment is represented by a combination of living and non-living factors that are not influenced in a significant way to human beings. Most often the term is used to

describe an ecological complex consists of biotic factors (plants, animals, microorganisms) and abiotic factors (minerals, rocks or magma, water, atmosphere).[6]

Environmental legislation defines the legal dimension of the term "environment" in the following aspects:

- ❖ total environment as a resource and natural biosphere and lithosphere processes, as well as a system of natural resources;

- ❖ total environment as a resource to be protected against pollution or degradation, which is composed of the following elements: water, air, soil, subsoil, flora, fauna, natural energy sources and floor space;

- ❖ total environment as a resource for human needs.[7]

The relationship between the environment and sustainable development is based on the following:[8]

- ❖ increase sustainable development can be ensured by the scientific understanding of ecosystem functioning and a profound change of mentality at the social level, making it possible to apply the philosophy of sustainable development;

- ❖ promote sustainable development can be based on equal opportunities in public and private sector, both engaged in ensuring efficiency in the relationship between the environment and sustainable development;

- ❖ solutions for future requirements imposed by the relationship between the environment and sustainable development can be useful and effective by using the general theory of systems analysis and action and involvement in subsystems economic, social, environmental, technological;

- ❖ systemic-cybernetic approaches and may multifunctional helps to explain both the ecological and geographical sense functionality processes and technical-economical and influence, effectiveness interrelationship between environment and sustainable development.

Regarding the ecological balance and sustainable development, currently the strategy for environmental protection policies, detaches two fundamental guidelines:[9]

a) anticipatory strategy - was done progressively, by using different methods:

- forecasting of sustainable development and technical progress in those sectors that may influence the quality of the environment and changes in the consumption of natural resources and waste production;
- ways of expanding the use of the "polluter pays" and determining prices of resources;
- studies of environmental impact in the design and planning of development projects;
- ways of expanding the production and use of chemical control.

b) integration strategy:

- it is closely related to anticipatory strategy and frequently complement this;
- intensifies use plan, after 1985 when the OECD countries began to pay greater importance to integration, which can manifest itself in two forms:
  - in the formulation of environmental policy goals;
  - to refine the means of achieving the objectives on the one hand, within the environment and, on the other hand, the environment and other sectors of sustainable development.

Currently, environmentalists are beginning to take an increasingly important role in economic decision-making process. This is because they bring to the whole system, a package of environmental practices aimed at enhancing socio-economic development and long-term perspective that emphasizes prevention. Environmentalists increasingly involve more development projects, coming up with solutions to protect air and water quality,

conservation of natural resources and fostering economic development for achieving effective environmental management.

By its nature, the relationship between the environment and sustainable development determines minimize the adverse effects of human activities on the environment. Therefore, to ensure compatibility between the environment and sustainable development, sustainable development management should encourage sustainable ecological point (eco-development).

Term eco-development should safeguard the biosphere, i.e. biodiversity and the normal course of events and bio-geo-chemical cycles.[10]

Term eco-development appears as a new strategy of development of the economy in general. She is able to provide improved quality of life and protecting the environment, while maintaining an increased pace of sustainable development. At the same time, term eco-development, the compatibility between the environment, the greening of production and the technologies employed, can lead to prevent damage to the environment.

Term eco-development is based on three fundamental ecological principles:[11]

a) human economic activity is a subsystem operating within a larger but finite - ecosystem. Clutter in the ecosystem (e.g., resource depletion and pollution) interfere, ultimately, life support systems, which are based economy;

b) as human activity expands and the population is growing, they are used increasing amounts of natural resources, which generate a growing volume of waste, risking exceeding the tolerance limits of ecosystems;

c) in some cases produce environmental changes impact the development of long-term or irreversible.

Now that environmentalists are increasingly involved in the development, has formed a sense of development, which aims to:

- the integration of environmental issues into economic and sectorial development policies;
- the design of preventive strategies and looking for development projects;
- highlighting the positive impact of environmental policies on development.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

❑ Sustainable development has many dimensions, interconnected: economic, social and environmental. Therefore, sustainable development and dimensions must be addressed in a concrete view, realistic and complex.

❑ Sustainable development promotes the idea of balance between economic development, social equity, efficiency and environmental conservation.

❑ Environmentalists are beginning to take an increasingly important economic decision-making process as they bring a package of environmental practices aimed at enhancing socio-economic development and long-term perspective that emphasizes prevention.

❑ To ensure compatibility between the environment and sustainable development, sustainable development management should encourage sustainable ecological point (eco-development).

❑ Eco-development is able to provide improved quality of life and protecting the environment, while maintaining an increased pace of sustainable development.

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