

# Environmental Protection and Development

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# What is Meant by “Environment” ?

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- Environment means our surroundings, which comprises of land, water and air and other bodies. Environment is affected by the physical properties of these components. It is also affected by the changes in interrelationship prevailing between and among the components ranging from micro-organism to human bodies

(ref: section 2 (d), ECA, 1995)

# What is Development ?

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- ❑ Development is intended to bring a positive change for human beings and its surroundings. It may take place by bringing about a change in policy, projects and legislation.
- ❑ Development means the interaction of man on natural resources to improve our quality of life by meeting our needs; unrestrained development degrades the environment.

# What is Sustainability?

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## □ 1. Economic Growth

Foster responsible long-term growth while ensuring that no nation or community is left behind.

## □ 2. Conserving Natural Resources and the Environment

For future generations, reduce resource consumption, stop pollution and conserve natural habitats.

## □ 3. Social Development

Throughout the world, people need jobs, food, education, energy, health care, water and sanitation. People also need respect for cultural and social diversity and the rights of workers. All members of society need a role in determining their futures.

Source: World Summit on Sustainable Development brochure, 2002

# What is Sustainable Development ?

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- "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs... As such it requires the promotion of values that encourage consumption standards that are within the bounds of the ecologically possible and to which all could reasonably aspire." (Our Common Future, WCED, 1987)



# Why is the Environment so Important ?

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- Our life-support system is maintained by all the species that make up the biosphere-biodiversity. The survival of all these species are interconnected and dependent on each other. Human being is also a part of this biosphere, extinction of one species is really the extinction of many species and the decline of our life-support system for ourselves and future generations.

# Categories of Environmental Degradation

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- Air Pollution
- Water Pollution
- Land Degradation
- Sound Pollution

# Causes of Air Pollution

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- ❑ Vehicular emissions
- ❑ Industrial emissions
- ❑ Brick Kilns
- ❑ Two-stroke petrol engine emit 30-100 times more unburned hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide than four stroke engine
- ❑ Diesel engine emit 13 times more smoke than non diesel engines.



# Causes of Water Pollution

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- Fecal Pollution
- Domestic waste disposal
- Municipal waste disposal
- Industrial waste disposal
- Chemical fertilizers (runoff water)
- Pesticides (run off water)
- Oil spillage
- Saline water
- Arsenic concentration in ground water
- Low Flow in dry season

# Causes of Land Degradation

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- ❑ Rapid population growth
- ❑ Poverty and over exploitation of natural resources (Bio mass, ground water etc.)
- ❑ Unbalanced use of agrochemicals
- ❑ Unplanned land use
- ❑ Deforestation (agriculture, settlement)
- ❑ Improper disposal of household waste
- ❑ Improper disposal of hazardous industrial effluents
- ❑ Ineffective implementation of existing Laws
- ❑ Disposal of non-biodegradable material
- ❑ Erosion (Top soil, Land)
- ❑ Floods
- ❑ Infrastructure Development (Road, Bldg. )
- ❑ Urbanization
- ❑ Gradual siltation of rivers etc.

# Causes of Sound Pollution

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- ❑ Use of Loud Speaker in the meetings, processions
- ❑ Siren
- ❑ Vehicles
- ❑ Hydraulic horn
- ❑ Construction Machineries
- ❑ Generator
- ❑ Industry
- ❑ Aero plane, Train, Launch, Ship

# Environment-Development Linkage

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- ❑ Environmental protection and economic development are two sectors that supplement each other
- ❑ Development will be decreased without necessary environmental protection
- ❑ Environmental protection is the fundamental benefit and one of the basic goals of long-term development
- ❑ An effective administration institution, healthy mechanism and good policies are the foundation to realize goals of environmental protection and sustainable development.

# Initiatives on Environmental Protection

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- ❑ Creating a separate Ministry of Environment and Forest (1989)
- ❑ Participation in the Rio-Earth Summit (1992) – Signing all the major outcomes of the Rio Summit including UNFCCC, CBD and the Statement of Principles for Sustainable Management of Forest.
- ❑ Environment Policy and Action Plan (1992)
- ❑ Preparation of National Conservation Strategy (1992)
- ❑ Environment Conservation Act (1995)
- ❑ National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP-1995)
- ❑ Environment Conservation Rules (1997)
- ❑ EIA Guidelines for Industries (1997)
- ❑ Environment Court Act (2000)
- ❑ Participation in the WSSD in Johannesburg (2002)
- ❑ Signing all major Conventions and Protocols related to Environment and Development

# The Way Forward

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- ❑ Listening to the voice of the people and integrate in all initiative for achieving environment friendly development
- ❑ Integration of environmental concerns into all national policies and plans
- ❑ Handing out prescriptions for development by aid/assistance/loan agencies like World Bank, IMF, ADB should be stopped
- ❑ Strict implementation of EIA Guidelines before starting any development project
- ❑ New and environment friendly technologies should be promoted to enhance natural resource conservation, particularly the conservation of energy and water
- ❑ Environmental Standards like ISOs should be adopted gradually

# Conclusion

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- To ensure the Development, strategies should care for conservation and replenishment of resources both today and tomorrow. While using environmental resources, destruction of their base must be avoided at all cost; otherwise the process of development will be slowed down and ultimately come to a stop.