

Workshop
Sustainable Development and National Strategies
by Dina Barbian
at Sofia University "St Kliment Ohridski", 2014

Instructions for students:

Before starting choose a country.

You are free to use the following questions in your project study. The purpose of this workshop is to apply the concept of sustainable development on the special situation of a nation. Try to find out some feasible solutions in order to implement strategies for a sustainable development.

General questions about the geographical location:

1. How big is the country (km²) and how many inhabitants do they have? How big is the population density (number of people per km²)?
2. What is the capital? National language?
3. Geographical region? (continent, type of region, climate specialties)
4. How big is the population growth rate?
5. How many people live in urban/rural areas?

General questions about the economic situation:

1. How big is GDP and GNP?
2. What kind of natural resources can be found? (Renewable and Non-renewable)
3. How many people live on less than 1,25 \$ per day? (see MDGs by UN)
4. How many people are unemployed? Rate?
5. How is the relation between the 25% richest and the 25% poorest in this country?
6. How big is the import and export rate?
7. How big is the agrarian, industrial and service sector?
8. How are the four well-being indicators according to HDR?
9. How are the indicators for sustainability? (HDI, EF, GNH, HPI)

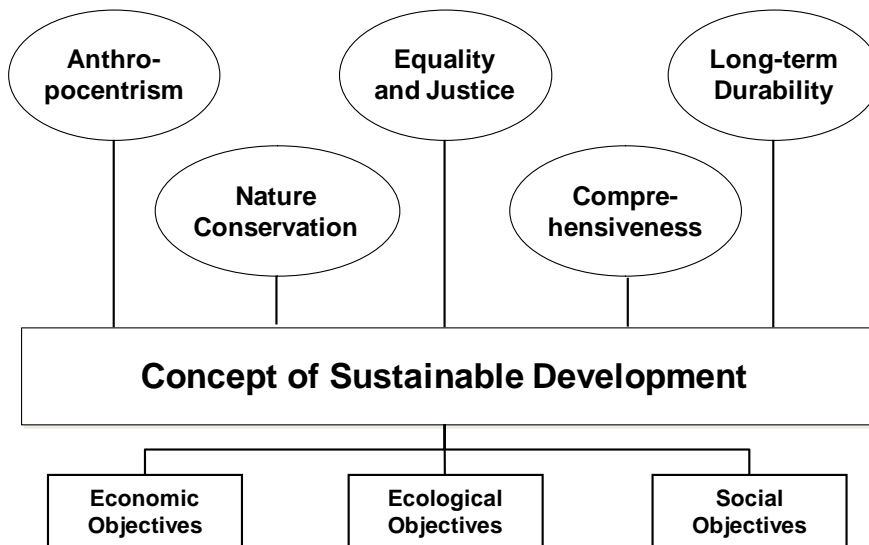
Impact of interference to nature:

1. What are the special features in this country according to water, air, soil and the ozone layer? (These are the elements necessary to sustain life on earth.)
2. What kind of waste is found? Do they have appropriate facilities to collect and dispose waste (solid, fluid, gaseous)?
3. What kind of special national and regional environmental problems do they have?
4. How big is their carbon footprint?

Satisfaction of needs:

1. On which level (according to Maslow's hierarchy of needs) do the most people in this country live?
2. How do the most people satisfy their basic needs? (food, energy, mobility)
3. Do they have their own national agricultural products? (such as Maniok in Nigeria or Kenya)

Application of the concept:



Source: Barbian, D., 2001, p. 64 and Vornholz, G., 1997, p. 47.

1. Try to find some strategies in order to fulfill the five descriptors (anthropocentrism, nature conservation, equality and justice, comprehensiveness, and long-term durability).
2. What is the state of the three pillars (economic, ecological, social)?
3. Name some economic, ecological, and social objectives for the country.

Strategies for a national sustainable development:

1. Implementation of an appropriate waste management system. (avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover, dispose)
2. Enhance the recycling rate.
3. Is there an option to realize an energy system based only on renewable energies?
4. How could the big cities reduce their eco footprint?
5. How can they reduce existing threats to sustainability? (deforestation, desertification, species loss, erosion, pollution, noise, ...)

Assessment:

The student's output is an oral presentation (appr. 20-30 minutes) and a short written summary (maximum 10 pages, Arial 11pt) delivered latest by 17th April 2014.

The assessment consists of two parts: oral presentation (counting 50 %) and written paper (counting 50 %).