

# Introduction to Environmental Justice and sustainable Development:

Part concepts of development, sustainability, environment and  
Justice

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# Structure of the Session

1. Presentation
2. Working phase
3. Sharing and discussing the findings
4. Critical Hypothesis
5. Discussion

# Part Concepts of Development, Sustainability, Environment and Justice

# 1. Table of contents

2. Introduction

3. Different approaches towards sustainable development and sustainability

4. Conclusion

5. Sources

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5. Hypothesis

7. Discussion

## 2. Introduction

- Problem: Failing to grasp the whole concept of sustainability
- Task Finding a definition in order to progress
- “sustinere” = defend, maintain, assume, bear, etc.
- However: Complex concept with a broad range of definitions

“The management of a resource (natural and renewable) is defined as sustainable when, aware of its reproductive capacity, its use does not exceed a given limit, i.e., its carrying capacity” (p. 9)

- Early example of sustainability was caused due to a shortage of timber
- Today's examples: overexploitation of fisheries or desertification of fields

### 3. Different approaches towards sustainable development and sustainability

#### **Capitalist view:**

- Development is only defined economically
  - Disregarding the environment
- Advanced countries were just measured on economic aspects (GDP, World Bank ranks and the GNI per capita)

# Environmental Economics

- How to allocate goods
- How to deal with scarcity
- Putting a price tag on the environment
- Weak sustainability



# Ecological Economics

- "balance and respect for limits in natural resource management" (p. 12)
- Adequate management of natural resources
- Focus is set on natural resources
- Strong sustainability

# Disconnection from Economical Growth:

- Aiming towards a transition
- Human progress -> degrowth of the economy
- Hard to achieve

# Human development:

- Development is more than just economics
  - It also means to eradicate problems like poverty, malnutrition, increasing life-expectations etc.
  - Moreover: Human freedom

## 4. Conclusion

- Approaches are all somehow connected
- Focus on sustainability differs strongly in each model
- Connections to Kimeri-Mbote can be drawn (1994)

## 5. Sources

- Bolis, Ivan, Morioka, Sandra, and Sznelwar, Laerte: When sustainable development risks losing its meaning. Delimiting the concept with a comprehensive literature review and a conceptual model. In: Journal of Cleaner Production (2014). P. 7-20.
- Kameri-Mbote, Patricia: Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development. In: International Environmental Law Research Centre. (1994). P. 1-11.

## 6. Hypothesis

*In order to achieve a sustainable development one has to shift the priorities from economic growth to the needs of the environment.*