

Section 1 : Social and Economic Dimensions

Chapter 3 : Combating Poverty

This chapter focuses on enabling all people to achieve sustainable livelihoods by simultaneously tackling issues of development, sustainable resource management and poverty eradication.

Objectives

- to provide all people with the opportunity to earn a sustainable livelihood.
- to focus on integrated human development, including income generation and increased local control of resources.
- to develop for all poverty-stricken areas integrated strategies and programmes for sustainable management of the environment, resource mobilization, poverty eradication and alleviation, employment and income generation.
- to create a focus in national development plans and budgets on investment in human capital, with special policies and programmes directed at rural areas, the urban poor, women and children.

Activities

Sustainable development must be achieved at every level of society, through a community driven approach, including:

- empowering women through full participation in decision-making
- respecting the cultural integrity and rights of indigenous people and communities
- promoting or establishing grassroots mechanisms to allow for the sharing of experience and knowledge between communities
- enabling community participation in sustainable management and protection of local natural resources
- establishing networks of community based learning centres.

Governments should:

- generate sufficient paid employment opportunities
- give priority to basic education and professional training
- promote economically efficient resource productivity that benefits local populations
- empower community organisations and people to achieve sustainable livelihoods
- rehabilitate degraded resources
- implement mechanisms for participation by poor people, women and local community groups, in promoting sustainable development

- adopt integrated policies aiming at sustainable urban centres
- support research on and integration of traditional methods of production that have been shown to be environmentally sustainable
- seek to integrate informal sector activities into the economy.