



Sustainable Development

Towards a Sustainable Development Strategy

Sustainable Development – a Global Concept!



The Problem with Sustainable Development?

- Too many definitions – sceptics!
 - 70 different definitions (Holmberg and Sandbrook, 1992)
 - Uncertainty
 - Flexibility and popularity
-
- Such flexibility can also be of strength in a very diverse world.



Sustainable Development?



- ▶ Concepts are not difficult to grasp:
 - About finding the right balance between economic well-being, the benefit of society and concern for the environment and its resources, together with a notion of intergenerational equity...

Unsustainable living – a new problem?





Is this our future?



Unsustainable living – a new problem?



(Goffman, 2005)

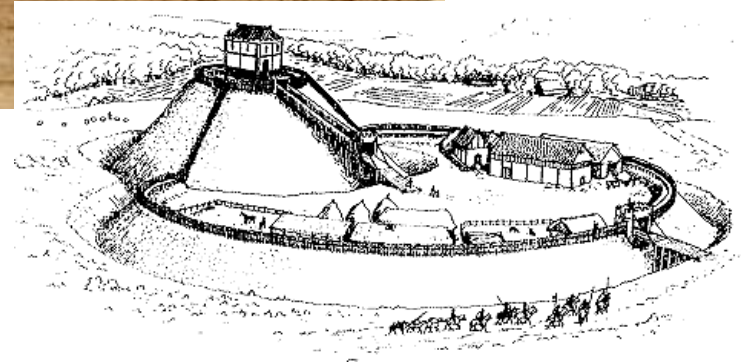
So how did we get here?

A Systems Approach



- Primitive periods
- Hunter gatherer.

Urban phase



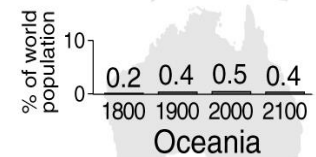
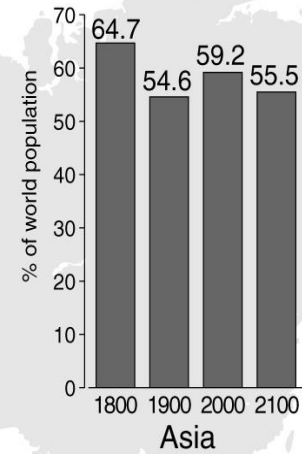
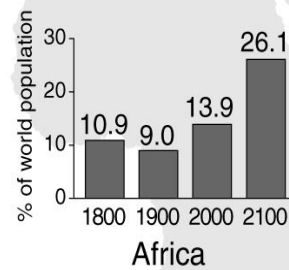
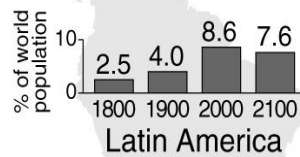
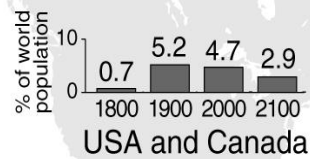
- ▶ Urban Phase
- ▶ Trade
- ▶ No science and technology

Technical phase



- ▶ Mass production
- ▶ Standardisation
- ▶ Progress?

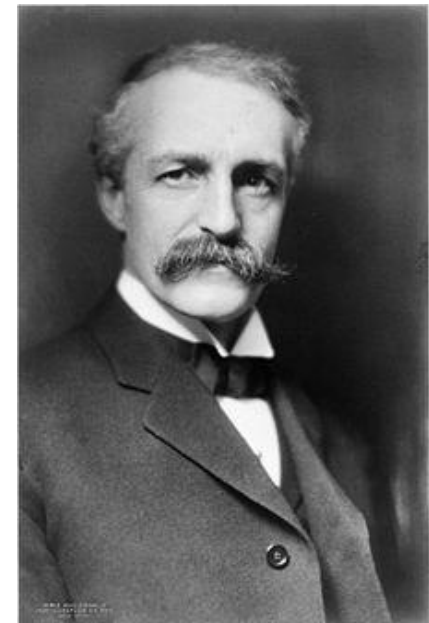




Global Distribution of Population

SD – an old concept

- ▶ *‘the greatest good for the greatest number’*
..Jeremy Bentham
(1789:1)
- ▶*for the longest time*....Gifford Pinchot
- ▶ Could we end up like the Easter islanders?



If in any doubt.....



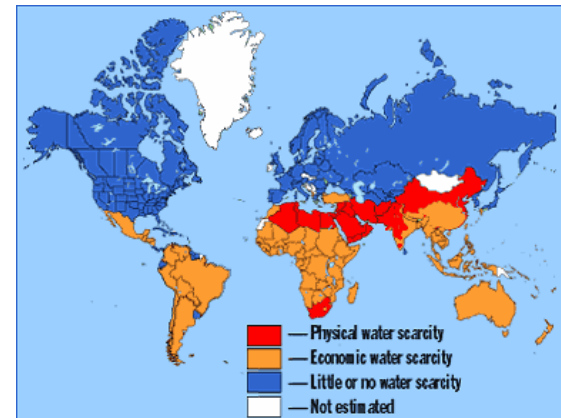
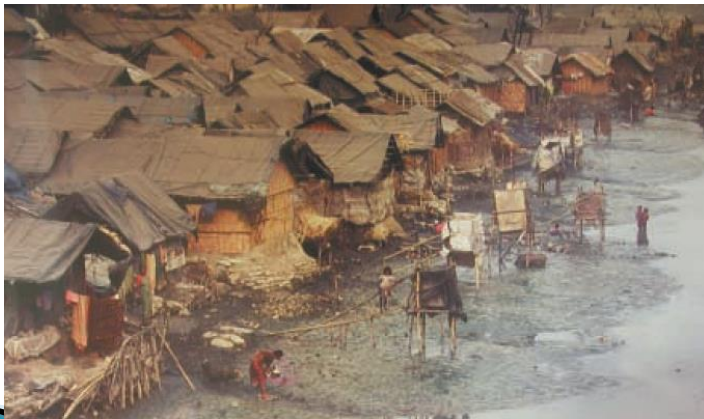
- Water demand doubling every 21 years
- Over 70% – irrigation
- Limits on irrigation $\Rightarrow$ limits on food production
- Limits on food production in poor countries $\Rightarrow$ imports, higher prices and political instability
- Water tables falling
(WHO, 2015)

Sustainable Development – Quality of Life

- ▶ How do we define quality of life?
- ▶ What do you as an individual regard as quality of life
- ▶ Subjective and diverse



Quality of life?





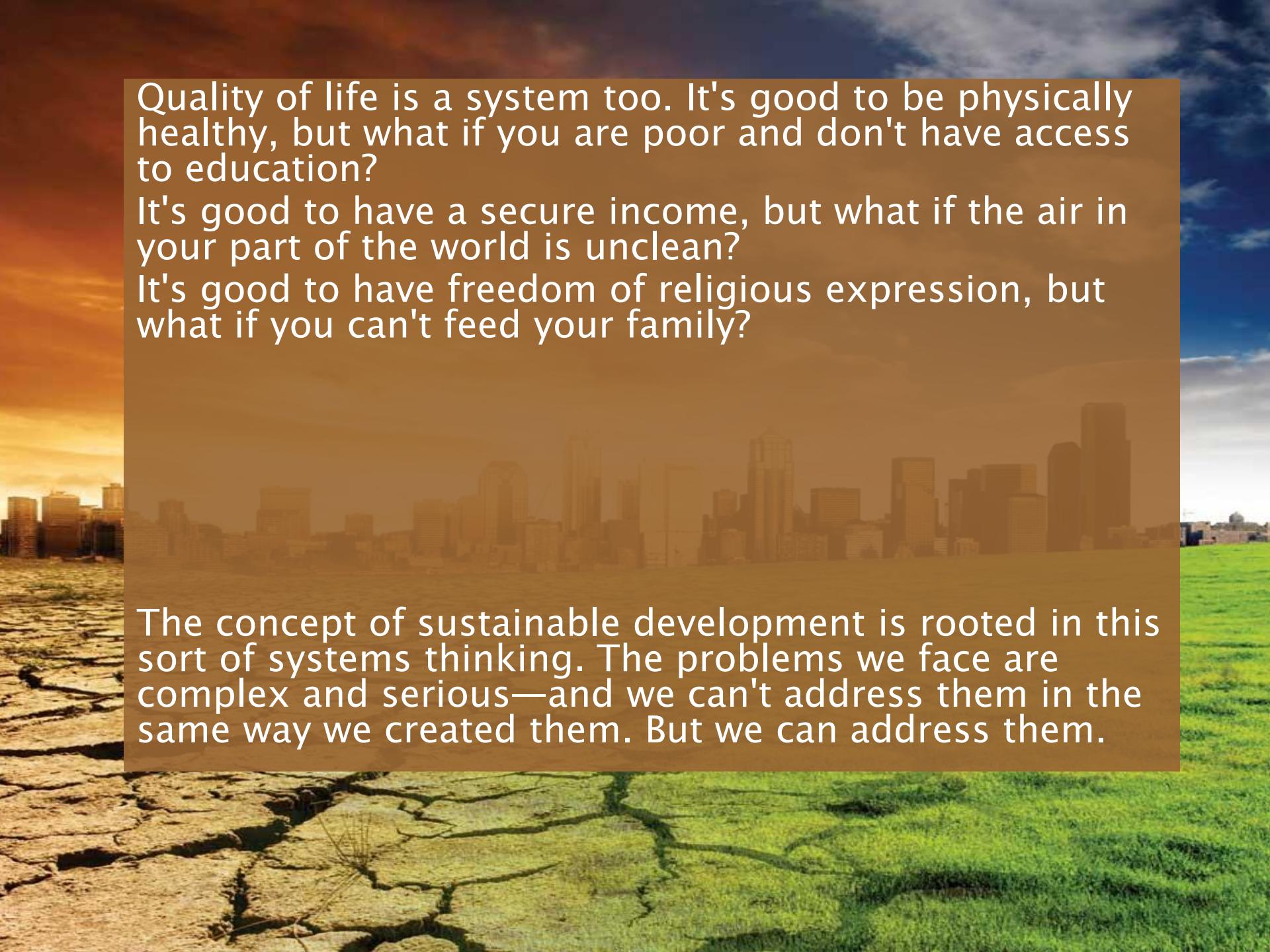
Intensive farming



Dust storm...the cost of soil erosion is calculated at £14m per year. Soil loss in the UK & USA is 17 times greater than soil formation. (UNEP, 2002)

Sustainability

- ▶ Is Brundtland's definition sufficient?
 - *"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".....*
- ▶ Does an increasing gap between rich and poor meet the sustainability test if environmental and population stability is achieved?
- ▶ Equity is also needed!



Quality of life is a system too. It's good to be physically healthy, but what if you are poor and don't have access to education?

It's good to have a secure income, but what if the air in your part of the world is unclean?

It's good to have freedom of religious expression, but what if you can't feed your family?

The concept of sustainable development is rooted in this sort of systems thinking. The problems we face are complex and serious—and we can't address them in the same way we created them. But we can address them.

CHINA: SHIFTING NATURE (2006)

Development at any cost!

- Chinese economy growth rate 6.8% year-on-year since 1989
- Burgeoning population growth
- Environmental consequences
- Social engineering
- Increasing gap between wealthy and poor

Consider whether China is developing sustainably. What are the key challenges identified that relate to the three pillars of SD?

1.5 sides A4 max (include your notes additionally)