ΑΤΛΑΝΤΙΣ
ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΕΥΤΙΚΗ

A.L.A Planning Partnership

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SDA

The concept of
Sustainable Development

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Life

URBANGUARD

The Sustainable Development agenda

June 1972: U.N. Conference of Stockholm
A major meeting to discuss about the environment.
6000 persons (Representatives of 113 countries; international organisations; ONG)
Eco-development

1987 : Brundtland Report (U.N.): "Our common Future"
The report is defining the concept of "sustainable development".
Part of the conclusions of the report is that:
* poverty and environmental degradation are correlated in the world;
* way how "North" countries are consuming world resources is not viable;
* environment is not a free resource;
* natural resources are not all renewable.

Sustainable Development, *a development that answer the needs of today populations without compromising the capacity of the future generations to sustain their ones.*

Different conventions and other decisions are taken from 1972 till 1987... and after

Some examples:
- Convention for the protection of World Heritage
                                                    (Natural and cultural) (Paris, 1972)
- Convention for the protection of he Sea
                        (Prevention of pollution by waste sea-disposal) (London, 1972)
- Convention on commerce of endangered species (Extinction risk)
                                                                    (Washington, 1973)
- Convention for the protection of he Sea (Prevention of pollution by boats
                                            – convention "MARPOL") (London, 1973)
- Convention on migratory species (Bonn, 1979)
- Convention for the protection of wildlife and nature in Europe
                                                                    (Berne, 1979)
- Convention on sea rights (Montego Bay, 1982)
- Convention for the Ozone layer (Vienna, 1985)
- Convention against product attacking the O3 layer (Montréal, 1987)
- Resolution of the U.N. assembly for the Climate protection (1988)

June 1992: Rio Summit
Stockholm + 20
2nd U.N. Conference on Environment and Development
Declaration of Rio (27 key principles for SD)
Climate convention
Biodiversity convention
Forest Declaration
Agenda21

1997: Rio + 5
June – New York: lack of concrete engagement
December – Kyoto: 2nd Convention on global warming (159 states are signing the Climate Convention: reduction of 5,2% of production of green house emissions)

2000: U.N. Millennium Goals

8 Objectives for 2025:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

August 2002: Johannesburg

Rio + 10

Confirmation of need of action for poverty alleviation, consumption change, natural resources management, globalisation, health, youth an specific geographic initiatives for SD (ex.: Africa)

Planning of actions and definition of targets & agenda

It exists about 200 international treaties about environment.

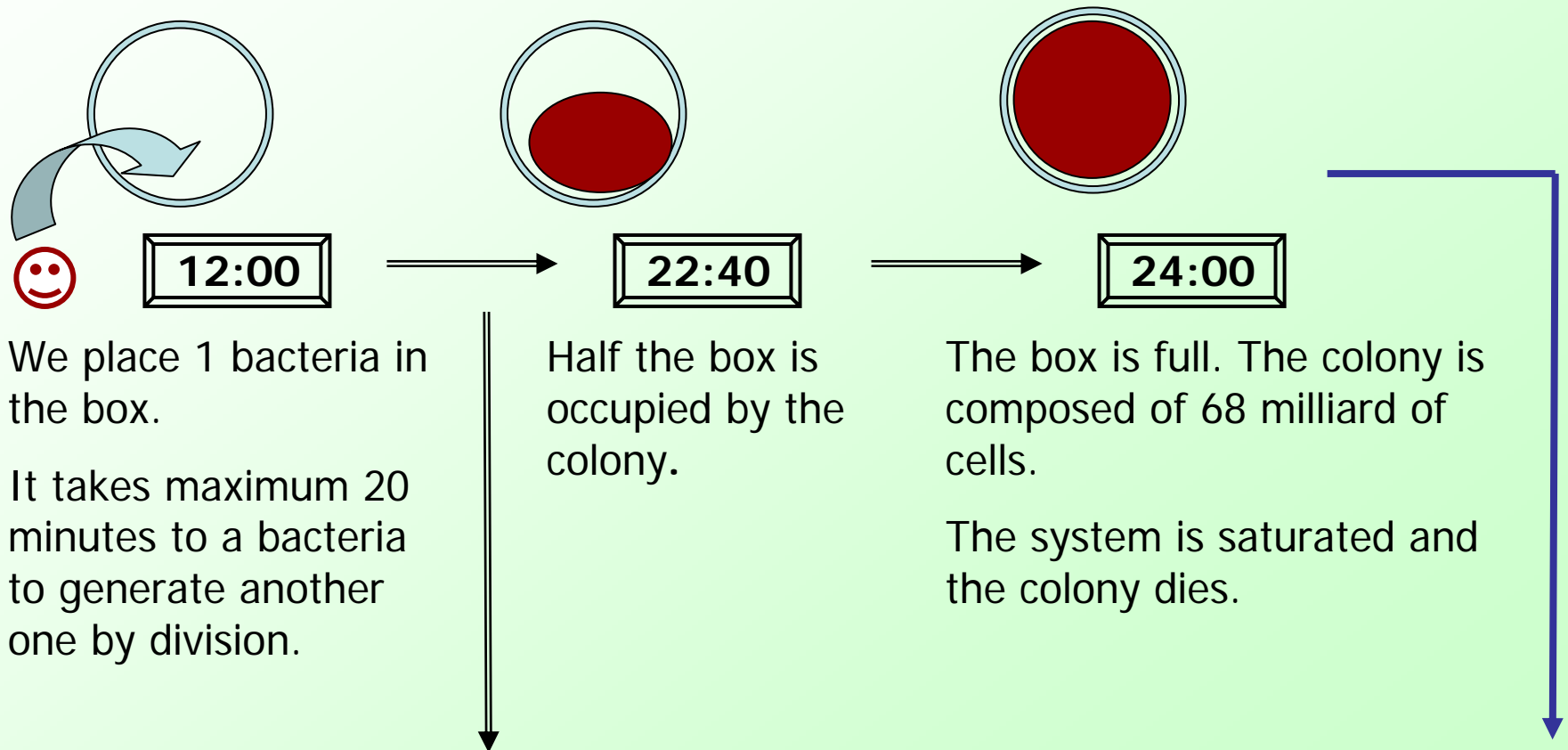**About 3/4 of them have been ratified during the last 30 years…**

… their efficiency is too often annihilated by the vague definitions and by a certain lack to enforce them.

Sources: **Saddrudin Agha Khan**,
Développement, une notion pervertie,
Monde Diplomatique – Ecologie, le grand défi,
p.68-70, June – July 2005
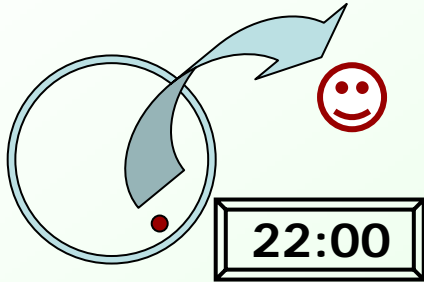
Earth is a closed system!

… Exponential growth is a major risk?

12:00 → **22:40** → **24:00**

We place 1 bacteria in the box.

It takes maximum 20 minutes to a bacteria to generate another one by division.

Half the box is occupied by the colony.

The box is full. The colony is composed of 68 milliard of cells.
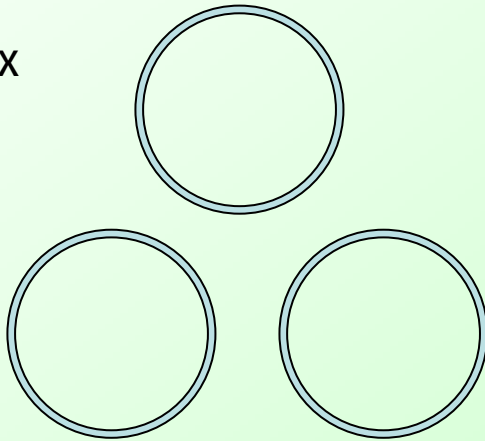
The system is saturated and the colony dies.

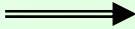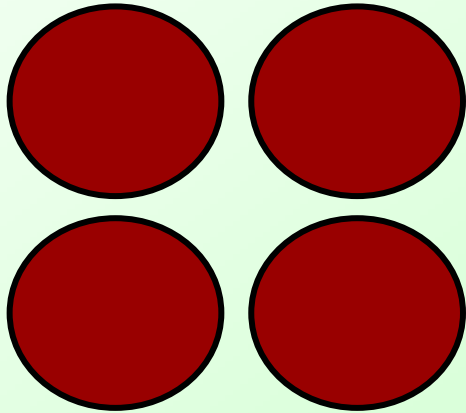*One bacteria is developing a strategy to find more space...*

3 new boxes are found.

24:40

1,5% of the box is occupied by the colony.

22:00

All the boxes are full.

The system is saturated and the colony dies.

They have only gained 40 minutes.

The « **Ecological Footprint** » of the early 21th Century Humanity corresponds almost to 120% of our planet, considering the current huge disparity between humans in the world.

If the world population was generating activities, consuming resources and releasing waste as the United States citizens,
we should need 4 to 5 planets earth to survive!

Sources: *Redefining Progress*, www.rprogress.org

Ecological footprint : surfaces needed to support all the human activities without destroying the ecological balance.
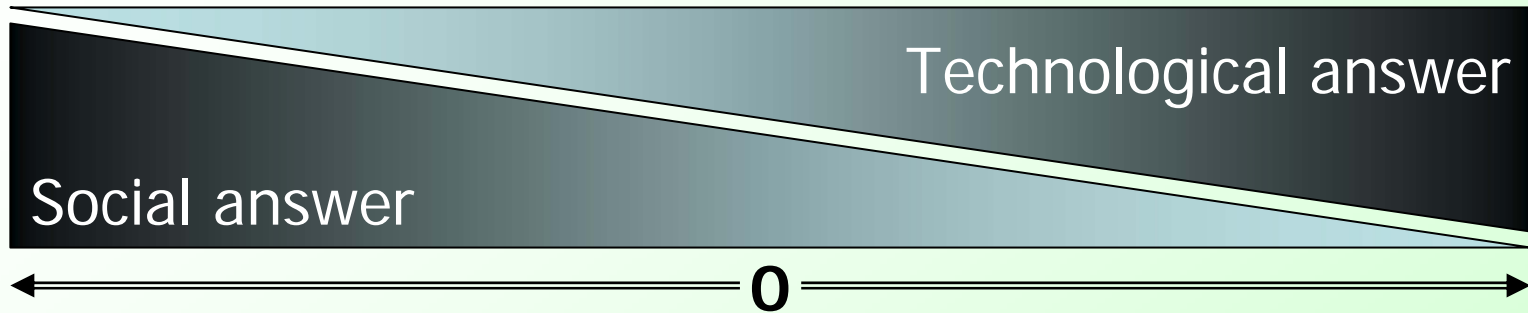
Country	Average surface consumed (Ecological Footprint / Citizen)
US	9,6 Hectares
Canada	7,2 Hectares
Europe	4.5 Hectares

If we consider, the concept of sustainable civilisation – *which includes a world equity between humans* – and if the current population was stable, each citizens should not more consume than 1,4 Hectares.

The development question…

Sustainability and Development?

Technological answer

Social answer

0

Negative Growth

Growth 0

Positive Growth

Citizens have to make difficult choices and accept changes in their way of living. Behaviours have to be modified allowing reduction of human impact on the environment. Economic Growth should not orient our options; solidarity is the driving force.

Growth will be the driving force allowing R&D. R&D solutions will solve the current major ecological and disparity.

Developing a status-quo by using all the available tools (Human and technology). We have to limit our activities and deeply analyse their impacts on the eco-system before implementing them.

A mix? The GREEN Growth

Redefining growth

Redefining the economy

Green accountability & responsibility

Social accountability & responsibility

Building the appropriate human and
financial resources

Education

Governance

Developing new policies

Monitoring development and its impact

Promoting ecological options

Developing Eco-R&D

Enforcing laws, regulations and decisions

Supporting eco-initiatives

From Sustainable Development to Sustainable City

Development = *capacity of a society to generate added value, capacity of improving things, by mobilising its own capacity of action and transformation and corresponding to a lifestyle expression.*

Sustainable = *responding to present needs without jeopardising the opportunity of future generations to answer their own needs.*

Sustainable Development means a transformation of the behaviours and lifestyles of individuals as well as societies. It is a learning process based on democratic approaches and participation. It is a process to build cooperation in between stakeholders of a territory about key issues and related actions.

Sustainable Development

<u>6 principles</u>

Global responsibility: We are all affected and are all responsible but the weight of our responsibility can be different from one to another country. (Geographic solidarity)

Vision oriented process: Long term vision is developing equity between generations. (Generation solidarity)

Integration: It is an integrated process. Economy, social and environment issues are part of the development process.

Precaution: The principle of precaution introduces the aspect of risk management.

Participation: The citizen is integrated at all the stages of the process. He is co-responsible with the other actors of the SD planning.

Pro-action: The SD is action oriented more than reaction.

SD can be everything!… and nothing.

Despite the definition, the term sustainable is now use as a generic term.

Economy is sustainable; sustainable employment; sustainable education; etc.

It is therefore important to clearly read between the lines and limit the "marketing" or "mode" effect. Greening the issue is not solving the problem.

Developing a SD process needs the involvement of all the stakeholders. It is a long "individual" process of learning.

The "local" input is a key issue: "Thinking globally, acting locally" is the motto of the "Local Agenda 21".

If the benchmarking is important to achieve SD, it does not mean that developing an SD planning is to transfer existing data from one place to another.

Sustainable City

To develop a sustainable urban develop planning, it is important to develop a participatory process that will express:

1. the issues that are concerning:
   - Decision makers
   - Citizens
   - NGO & other associations
   - Urban planners
   - Public officers
2. what is the common vision of the "sustainable city"
3. what is the vision of the "local" sustainable city

Another element is to identify, the decisions that have already been taken related to the "sustainability" of the town.
Sustainable Development means action. The SDI are there to support the initiatives by identifying the trends: Do my decision have effects? Is the impact of my decision improving the situation?

Sustainable City: some common issues.

1. Transport
2. Housing
3. Energy & water
4. Waste
5. Security
6. Quality of life (including quality of the physical environment)
7. Accessibility to public services (including "satisfaction" factor)
8. Accessibility to green spaces
9. Employment & poverty

More and more interests are shown for the following topics:
- Urban environment & health
- Accessibility to culture
- City & disable people
- City & population ageing
- Heritage
- Tourism

But again the reason why an issue is important in one place is not the same in another one. Its expression should therefore be adapted to the local reality.

The benchmarking should mostly – if not only – be used to facilitate the process not to format it. The process used to obtain SD indicators and policies are transferable but not necessarily the indicators and the policies themselves.

This does not mean that we cannot try to have common indicators and practices but it should not be the leading process towards local sustainability.

Local Agenda 21
(Chapter 28 of the "Agenda 21":"initiatives from local authorities to support the Action 21")

The approach is global, systemic, interdisciplinary, long term oriented

Building a Local Agenda 21 project: *Some principles:*

1. Environmental, social and economic aspects should be integrated in a short, medium and long term vision.

2. It should develop clear and concrete goals and actions, show involvement, provide deadlines, identify actors and resources

3. The efficiency of such project is based on the interaction between the Community and the Local Authorities. It cannot be generated by a top-down approach led by experts or/and authorities.

4. Time is a key factor: time for adaptation, discussion, "education" of the citizens to the principles, values and impact of a SD process. Information and exchange are the key tools of such action.

5. The process should be monitored: facilitating, animation, evaluation tools are important.

Making a Local Agenda 21 does not mean to develop all the topics presented in the Agenda 21.

Choices have to be made and adapted to the local needs.

The Local Agenda 21 is a tool to simplify, gather, show what is done, what is ongoing, what will be done towards local sustainability.

Remarks:

It appears from the various experiences existing in Europe an abroad that, when assisting local authorities towards a local SD plan and therefore integrating social, economic and environmental policies, the difficulties are to coordinate the different sectors under the local authority and in the same time integrate the comments of all the parties of the communities, that are often representing opposed interests.

To tackle such problems, the analysis has to be holistic; the problems have to be identified; all parties have to be represented.

Source: "Un Agenda 21 pour Genève", 1999

The Charter of Aalborg

In 1994, 80 representatives of local authorities and 253 other experts are gathering in Aalborg, Denmark, to discuss about the "Sustainable City".

Charter:

- Declaration of the Municipalities:

                                   European Towns & Cities for Sustainability

- Sustainable Towns & Cities campaign Network
- Local action plan for SD *

* Guidelines for the SD Local Action Plan:

1. Consider the local planning methods and tools, the financial tools, the different plans and programmes
2. Identify all the problems and causes <u>through a large public consultation</u>
3. Classify actions by priority allowing to properly answer the identified problems
4. Define the concept of sustainable community <u>with the participation of all partners</u>
5. Identify and evaluate the alternative strategies of development
6. Establish a local plan of action (long term) with measurable goals
7. Plan the implementation phase (agenda, work load definition and attribution)
8. Establish a system and related procedures to monitor the implementation (Indicators; reporting)