

APPENDIX A



LOCATING THE MINING AND MINERALS SECTOR WITHIN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN VISION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

This document has been produced following a workshop held on 13 March 2001 in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

As part of the process of refining the concepts presented herein, MMSD SOUTHERN AFRICA invites stakeholders to comment critically and send feed-back to Marie Hoadley at hoadley@egoli.min.wits.ac.za. We will maintain a current copy of this document on our web site.

This document is intended to:

1. provide guidance for the more detailed research projects to be commissioned by MMSD SOUTHERN AFRICA; and,
2. initiate further debate and discussion leading to the formulation of a framework within which the various stakeholders in the mining and minerals sector can best contribute to the regional transition towards sustainable development.

Web sites

Global Mining Initiative - <http://www.globalmining.com>

MMSD - <http://www.iied.org/mmsd/>

MMSD SOUTHERN AFRICA - <http://www.mining.wits.ac.za>

The economies of most Southern African countries either depend on the mining and minerals industry, or are strengthened by the industry's downstream activities. The entire sector¹ has recognized the critical role it plays in the region, and the opportunity this presents to act as a catalyst in the region's transition towards sustainable development.

The Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development (MMSD) Project has been initiated to identify how the mining and minerals sector can contribute to the global transition towards sustainable development. Southern Africa is one of the six key regions of the world identified for this project. The objective of MMSD SOUTHERN AFRICA is to determine how the mining and minerals sector can best contribute to the region's transition to sustainable development.

The intention of this document is to place the mining and minerals sector in Southern Africa within the context of the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) goals for sustainable development presented in the following box and figure.

It is not the intention of this document to redefine the current thinking on SD within SADC, but to place the mining and minerals sector within this definition. In terms of the SADC vision for sustainable development, the region must:

- *accelerate economic growth with greater equity and self-reliance;*
- *improve the health, income and living conditions of the poor majority;*
- *ensure equitable and sustainable use of the environment and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.*

<http://www.un.org/esa/earthsummit/sadc-cp.htm>

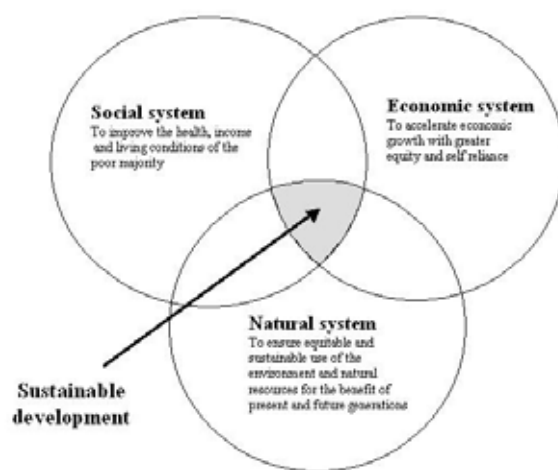


FIGURE 1: A vision for sustainable development in Southern Africa.

¹ In this document, the term "sector" includes stakeholders such as government, labour, NGOs, industry, CBOs, academia, small scale mining and consumers.

Making the transition to a Southern Africa that is consistent with the above vision is beyond the capability or responsibility of any one individual, institution, industry or state. For the mining and minerals sector to effectively contribute to sustainable development will require close collaboration between all stakeholders. The section that follows provides a provisional view of how the sector could best contribute to the transition to sustainable development in Southern Africa.

The term 'sustainable development' is applied differently according to circumstances, therefore focusing the generic concepts of sustainable development is critical to ensure regional relevance and sectoral applicability. We recognise that different stakeholders have different capacities to participate in and contribute to SD.

The perspective in this document is provided for discussion purposes and should not be considered definitive.

Prerequisites for sustainable development

Stakeholders must promote the necessary conditions for sustainable development. These include:

- operating within ecological limits, where services provided by ecosystems are maintained at their present levels or better;
- ensuring fair and responsible access to resources by both current and future generations (inter- and intra-generational equity);
- minimising risk and abandoning and or rejecting policies and practices that could have unacceptable negative impacts;
- engaging transparently to promote participation and form partnerships; and
- being accountable for actions and decisions through good governance.

THE THREE INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Promoting economic equity and stability

Stakeholders can make significant positive contributions to regional economic development and stability through, for example:

- stimulating and enhancing diverse and allied activities (in addition to mining and mineral processing);
- actively encouraging downstream opportunities to derive added economic value (e.g. further processing and associated ventures);
- planning and designing infrastructure for wider long-term benefit (e.g. roads and housing); and,
- actively supporting regional collaboration and integration to strengthen Southern Africa's economic competitiveness, reduce economic dependency and enhance resource security.

Enhancing social benefit

Stakeholders are mutually accountable for:

- increased opportunities for skills and competency development (e.g. general education and technical training) to enable active participation in the mining and minerals sector and other spheres of the economy;
- reduced risks to human health and well-being;
- access to meaningful social and health services (e.g. schools, health care and HIV/AIDS education);
- gender equity, employment equity and security, as well as opportunities for career enhancement and sustainable livelihoods; and,
- ensuring that opportunities to conserve and develop cultural heritage are realized.

Maintaining the natural resource base

Natural resources and waste sinks are finite. Therefore stakeholders should play an important role in maintaining or improving the natural resource base and the ecosystem services necessary for human survival and welfare by:

- limiting or preventing impacts of their activities on land, water, air and biological communities;
- operating within the carrying capacity of the region's ecosystems;
- promoting environmental education and fostering an understanding of the value of the region's natural heritage;
- preventing the exhaustion of non-renewable resources (e.g. through sponsoring research and development in product recycling, waste minimization and the search for alternative raw materials).
- Undertaking the repair or replacement of natural ecosystems at a rate that is at least equal to the rate of destruction and degradation (e.g. through planning, research and financing of rehabilitation and restoration).

ESSENTIAL ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES

In addition to the above, sustainable development in the region will require stakeholders to:

- actively contribute to processes and structures that support good governance;
- participate in initiatives aimed at strengthening regional co-operation; and
- recognise that the profits gained at the expense of environmental or social systems are short-term and non-sustainable. Such profits must therefore be avoided.

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The three vectors driving the social, economic and natural systems towards an expanding area of interaction and integration are shown in **Figure 2**. This symbolizes that sustainable development entails a process of transition and change in direction rather than moving towards a pre-determined end-point.

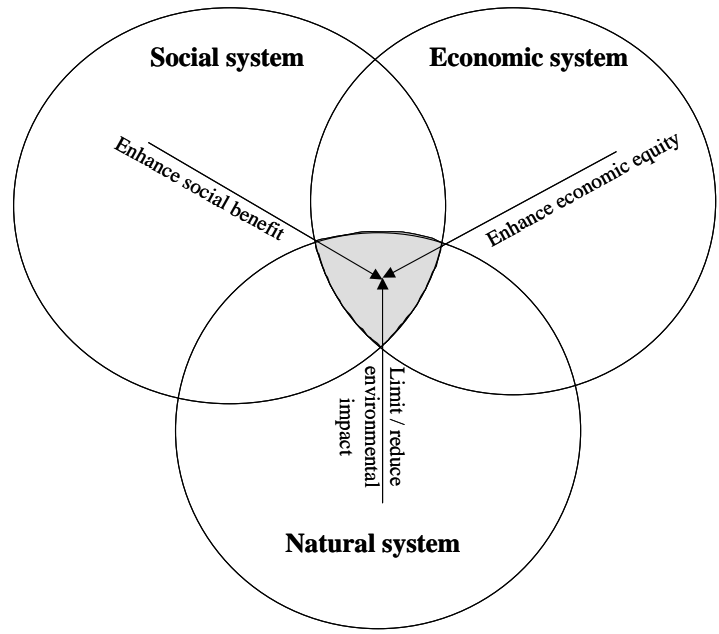


FIGURE 2: The role of stakeholders in the mining and minerals sector within the Southern African vision for sustainable development.