



Policy Science and Sustainable Development



Copernicus Institute

Sustainable Development and Innovation



50 million dollar





Whom to invite?

Ministries

Local/regional Government

NGOs



Business/labor organizations

Scientists





What would happen in the first round?





- **Many visions, problems and solutions**
- **No coherence, even not within the sectors**



How to explain this?





- **There is no common point of reference**
- **No guiding state plan on sustainable development**





A closer look at the first round



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Governments





- **Group with many internal conflicting ideas**
- **Each government agency focused on its own tasks**
- **Hardly any attention to North-South relationship**





Business





- **Rather homogeneous**
- **Excellent opportunity to improve sustainable economic development**
- **We can take care of efficient spending**





Trade Unions





We will wait and see, but improving labor relationships and employment opportunities have priority





NGOs





- **Glad with the money**
- **Political choices necessary**
- **If not we will take action**
- **No priorities of their own yet**
- **Mask their internal conflicts**





Scientists





- **Making choices not our task.**
- **Let us define indicators for sustainable development**
- **Let us define long-term integrated research programmes (scientists and social scientists)**





What has happened after the first meeting?





- **A lot of informal meetings**
 - **Within government sector between ministries**
 - **Some ministries apart with their natural target groups**
 - **Industry representatives, labor unions and NGOs started a collaboration (the coalition)**
 - **Scientists stayed at home studying**





The second meeting





- **Governments have not yet made up a set of common ideas**
- **Share the idea that each ministry should get an equal part of the money**
- **Private parties should take their responsibilities**
- **The coalition suggests that they will develop projects in partnerships**
- **Governments glad with this broadly sustained idea. Agree if they can have a say in the procedure**
- **Scientists agree if they are also able to suggest projects**
Don't talk about a scientifically-based programme anymore





Is this way of working a problem?





This is how governance for sustainable progress develops

- Don't put all your trust in governments
- Don't put all your trust in fixed targets
- Be aware that dynamism comes mostly from market parties and the civil society
- Be aware of the opportunities of this approach

Governance is always an incremental process





What more to learn from this presentation?





- **Interactivity goes together with manipulation and hidden use of power**

A critical analysis of rationalisations of stakeholders is part of the policy analysis





From Practice to Theory





The discourse on sustainable development

- **the relation between society and the physical environment; and**
- **the organization of societal decision-making.**





- **The classic paradigm of primary sustainability**
- **The new paradigm of secondary sustainability**





The classic paradigm of primary sustainability

- **Sustainable development is an objective concept**
- **The government is generally cast in a leading role**
- **Policy scientists support the regulatory state**





The classical relationship between science and policy

- **Science plays a central role in policy-making.**
- **Science is impartial and objective.**
- **There is a well-defined policy problem available**
- **The policy process is a well-structured process**
- **Policy itself is a logical system of goals and means**





Reflection on primary sustainability

- **A strict delineation of the role of environmental social scientists**
- **The question of inclusiveness of scientific knowledge**





The paradigm of secondary sustainability

- **Sustainable development is a subjective concept**

Assessment of risks

- **Policy as a joint responsibility of public and private actors**





The new relationship between science and policy

- **Scientific data are only one of the inputs in policy-making**
- **Science is often based on debatable estimates of risk**
- **More scientific input does not necessarily imply better policy**
- **Policy processes are interactive processes of trial and error**
- **Policies are temporary coalitions of societal interests**

Science plays a central role in policy-making.

Science is impartial and objective.

There is a well-defined policy problem available

The policy process is a well-structured process

Policy itself is a logical system of goals and means





The new competence of environmental social scientists

- a) The ability to combine rigorous scientific research with other stakeholders' tacit knowledge, perceptions, and values.**
- b) The ability to understand and facilitate dialogues as the core of policymaking processes.**
- c) The ability to design institutional arrangements for cooperation of public and private parties.**





An analysis of 50 PhD theses (1990-2003)

- **Environmental policy research and the policy practice**
- **Environmental policy research and environmental sciences**
- **Environmental policy research and policy sciences**

