

Different visions of sustainable development

1. 'Wolfgang Sachs argues that sustainable development is an oxymoron — that the very idea of development is about the whole world aspiring to be like the United States. Development contains a notion of increase which is inherently unsustainable.'
(Regan (ed), 2002, p. 77)
2. 'Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'
(Brundtland Commission, 1987, quoted in Regan (ed), 2002, p. 77)
3. 'Improving the quality of life whilst living within the carrying capacity of the supporting ecosystem.'
(International Union for the Conservation of Nature, 1991, quoted in Regan (ed), 2002, p. 77)
4. 'The most essential element in any notion of a preferable future has to be that of sustainable development — the major focus of concern at the Earth Summit in 1992. Here, actions needed to preserve the world's environment reduce inequalities and achieve sustainable development were discussed and agreed, and set out in Agenda 21 — a plan for the 21st century.'
(Hicks, 2001, p. 4)
5. 'Sustainability emphasizes the need to improve economic and social well being (particularly amongst the poor and disadvantaged), yet simultaneously to protect the biosphere on which life depends, and to ensure that future generations inherit environmental and material wealth that is comparable to that of current generations.'
(Butt, 2000, p. 180)

References

- Butt, G. (2000) *Continuum Guide to Geography Education*, London, Continuum.
- Hicks, D. (2001) *Citizenship for the Future: a practical classroom guide*, Godalming, WWF.
- Regan, C. (ed) (2002) *80:20 Development in an Unequal World*, Birmingham, 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World and Teachers in Development Education (TIDE).