



Public participation in EIA to guide industry to sustainable development

Tisha Greyling
Golder Associates Africa



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- A way of viewing sustainable development
- How to measure
- Role of pp in EIA towards sustainable development
- What do we need to do differently?
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EIA – desired outcome

- Providing decision-makers with sufficient information to help decide if project will contribute to sustainable development
- EIA often the 1st building block of the industry's social license to operate in the project zone of influence

➤ A way of viewing
sustainable
development

“Sustainable development”

➤ Sustainable

- “can be kept up without intermission or flagging” – ie **continued indefinitely**

➤ Development

- “to change in character through successive periods, to become bigger, better, more useful or more improved” – ie **aggregate advances in social, economic and environmental terms**

Australian National Strategy

Sustainable development defined
as...

“development that improves **the total quality of life**, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends”

Industry contribution to SD (1)

Industry that brings about vast advances in social, economic and environmental terms and immense shareholder wealth

during the life of the project

But leaves its community worse off after cessation

Cannot be defined as sustainable

Industry contribution to SD (2)

Industry that brings about
aggregate advances in quality of
life

That extend indefinitely beyond
the life of the project

May be defined as sustainable

Towards sustainability

The industry of the past

Intruder

The industry of today

Good neighbor

The industry of the future

Facilitator of development

- Without turning the industry into a surrogate government
- Without creating undue stakeholder expectations
- With the EIA often the starting point

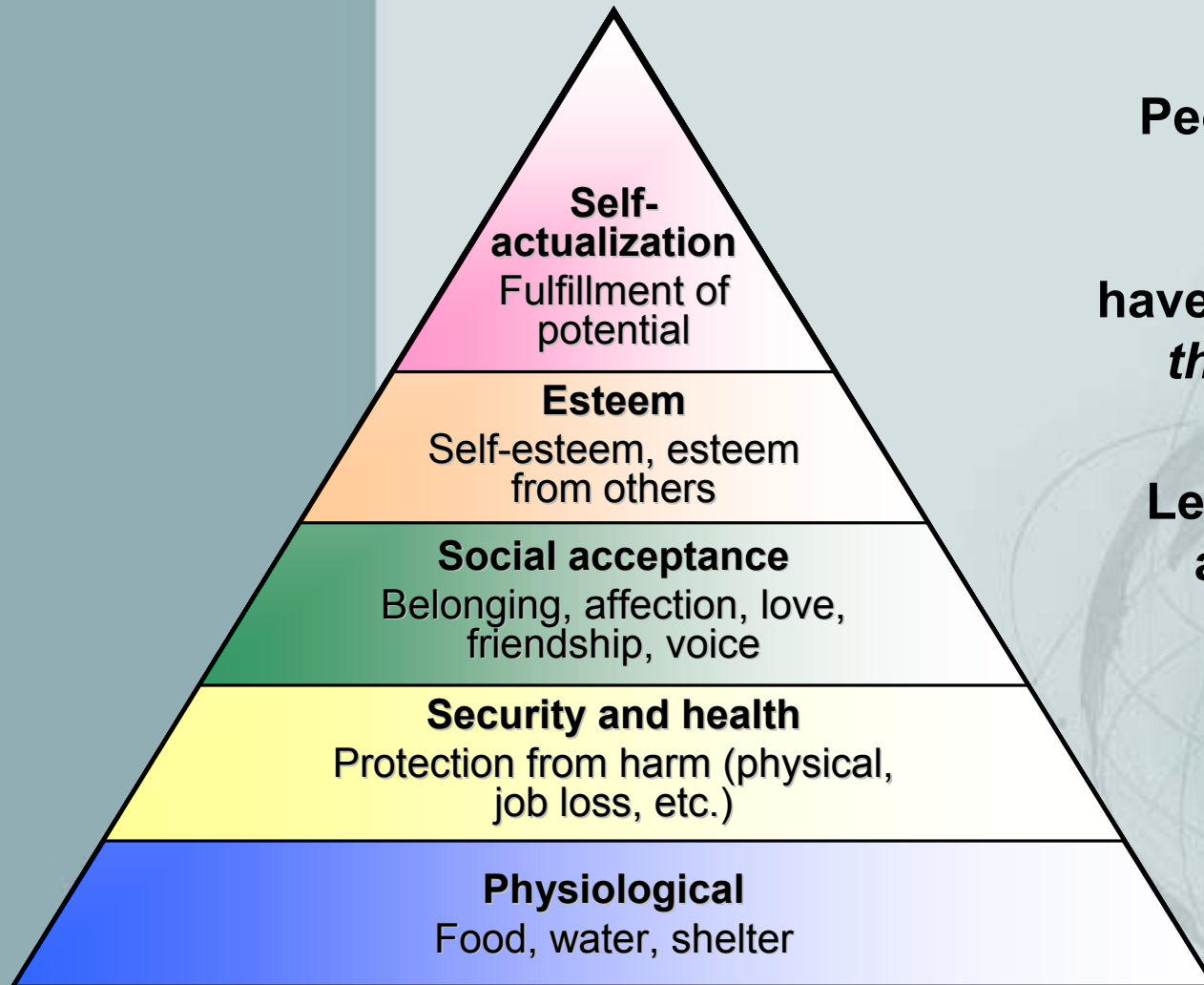
- We need a systematic method to categorise and respond to community needs and measure quality of life

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

People perceive that their lives have quality when their needs are satisfied.

People are motivated by unsatisfied needs, not by those that have been gratified, *and by threats to their needs.*

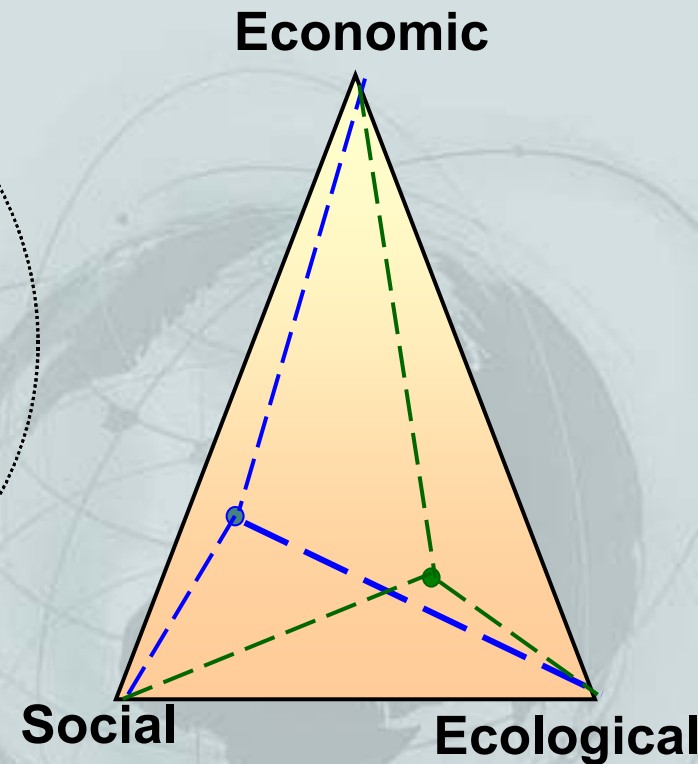
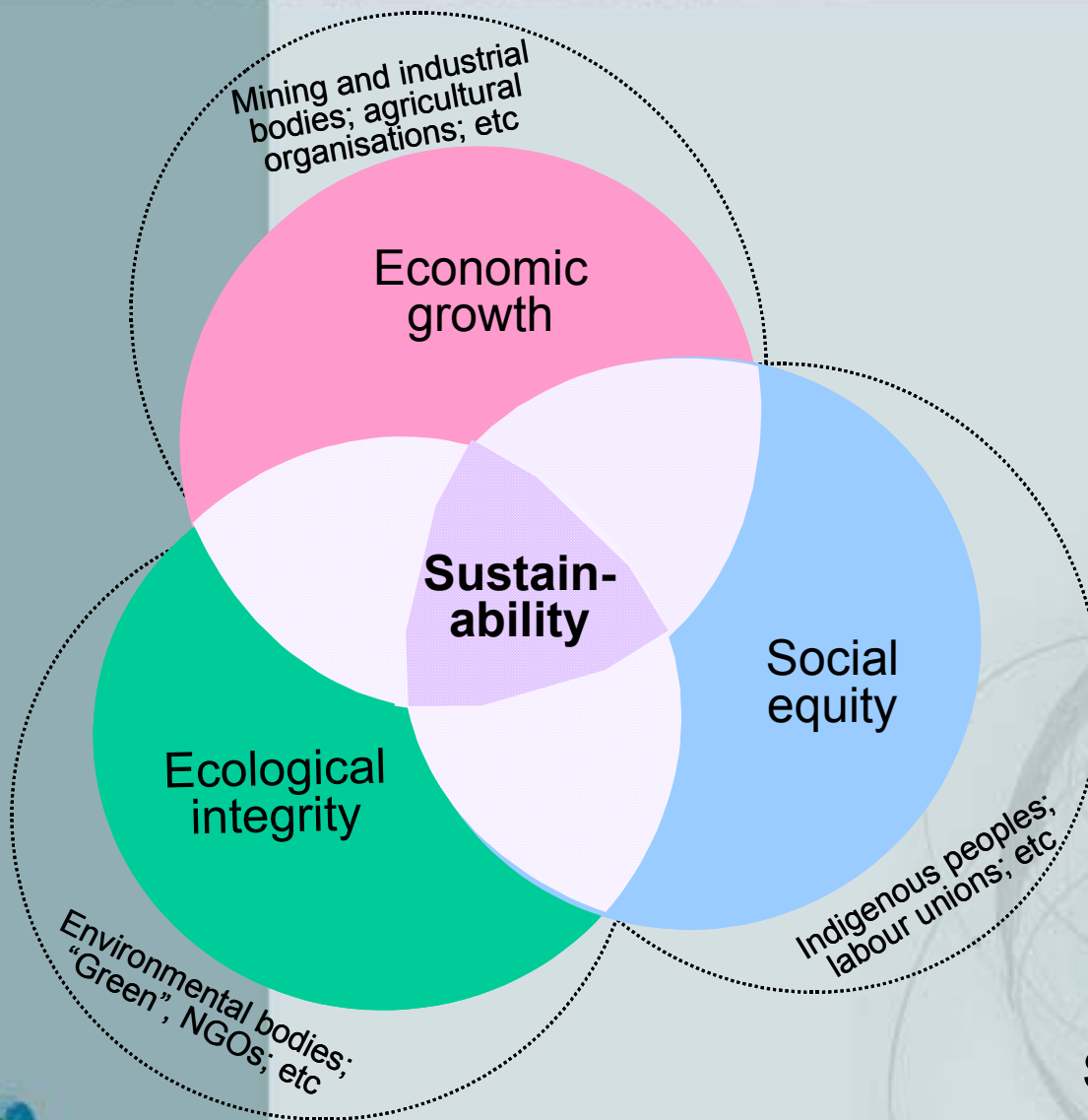
Level of aspiration rises as accomplishments develop



Basic needs

- What role for public participation in EIA towards sustainable development?

Trade-offs and weighting



Order issues systematically

Community concerns – what they *don't* want

Influx of work seekers

Children will get asthma

Cattle will drown
Want acknowledgement
Property value will reduce

Odours
Loss of soil fertility
Loss of sense of place
Want feedback

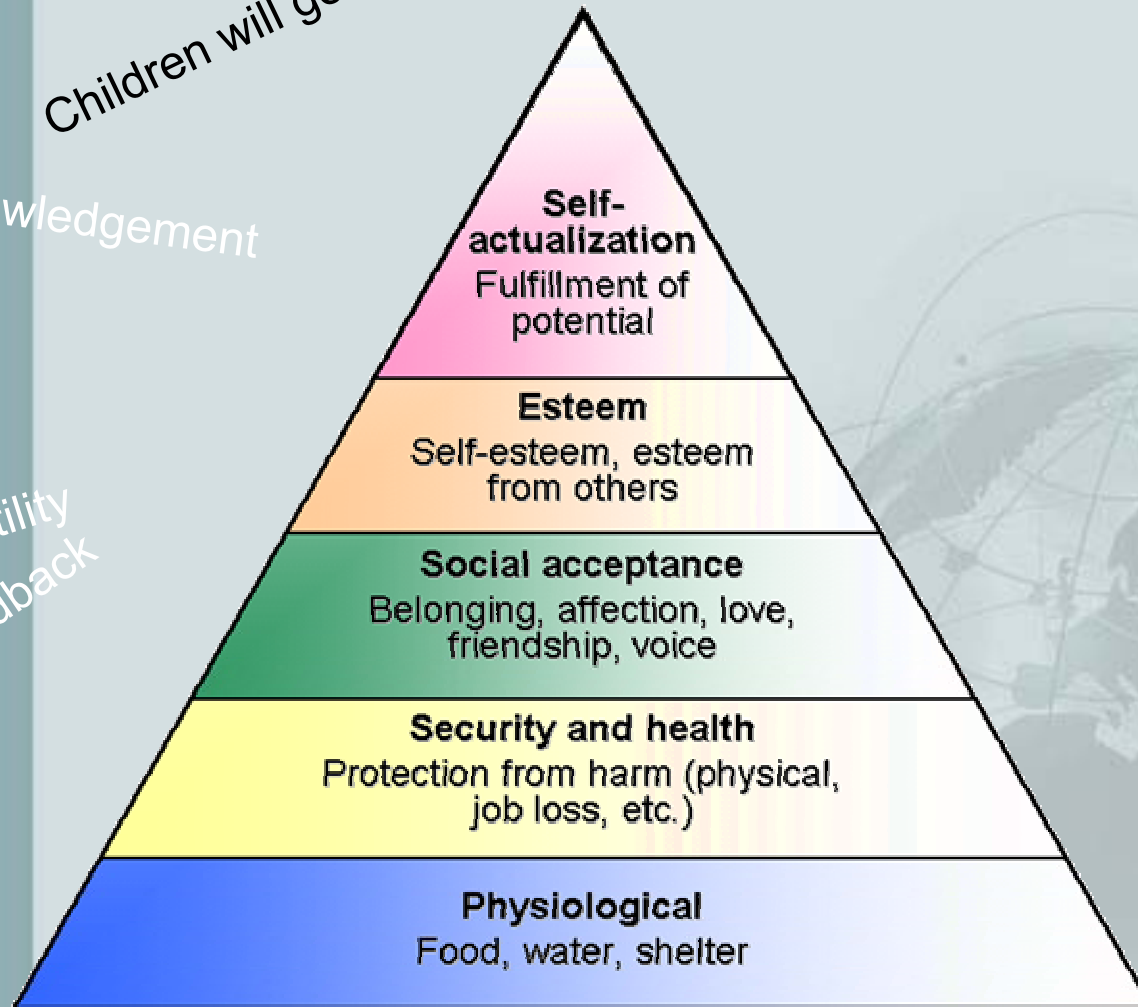
Quality of life values – what they *want*

Freedom to develop

Stable, functioning society

Wealth, knowledge, skills, entrepreneurship, security

Healthy biophysical environment



Example 1 – Southern Africa

- Site and dedicated town in remote desert
- Set aside millions for closure costs, of which
- 75% for rehabilitation of site incl extensive landscaping
- Public participation for closure incl vision for community quality of life
- The industry, govt and stakeholders participated
- Closure fund partly reallocated to build human capital

➤ What do we need to do differently?

We need ...

- PP during EIA to be a **constructive, collaborative, positive process, including visioning** for the future, and the 1st building block of an enduring “pact” between industry and community
- **Emphasis on enhancement of benefits**, not only mitigation of negative impacts or risks
- EIA **recommendations to include sustainable development** thinking / initiatives
- Industry **CSR guided by quality of life needs** of community in zone of influence

Public participation during EIA

- Builds capacity to participate meaningfully
- Collects information; issues; suggestions; communicates; creates trust
- Helps sketch a possible future (vision)
- Mediates
 - agreement on trade-offs
 - a 'pact' with sufficient detail and flexibility to endure but not scare
- Informs company's ongoing *community relations* program
- Building block of company social licence and sustainable development

Example 2, Southern Africa

- Smallish mine, 8-yr operation, rural area, abject poverty
- EIA vision – sustainable development
- Constructive relations with stakeholders, foundation of social license
- Defendable specialist assessments and mitigation of negative impacts, but specialists identified and emphasized benefits
- Practical list of recommendations for company CSR tailored directly to community needs and government policy /vision for the area
- Job descriptions for CLOs
- Monitoring plan



**Today's problems cannot be solved
by the thinking that created those
problems in the first place.**

Albert Einstein

