Two years ago, we had a workshop on poverty and sustainable development. We knew then that you cannot have sustainable development if you have poverty.

Two years later, we have the world community acknowledge the link when WSSD has made it clear that we cannot have sustainable development when we have nearly half of humanity living in poverty.
IISD – Conceptual Framework

Socio-Economic Dimension

- A multi-dimensional approach to human development and poverty reduction.
- A move away from the space of primary goods and income to the space of **Capabilities**.
  - It focuses on what individuals value doing or being – **Values** and **Agency**
  - It focuses on individuals ability to achieve these doings and beings – **Instrumental Freedoms** and **Choices**

Informative space:
- Personal heterogeneities; gender, age etc
- Environmental diversities: climate, vulnerability
- Variations in Social climate: education levels etc
- Differences in relational Perspectives: conventions and customs
- Distribution with family: gender

A utilitarian framework relies on a mental metric- pleasure, desire – reduced to commodities in the neo-classical economic framework and this is an inappropriate framework due to some of the dimensions listed above.

Distribution aspect cannot be captured. Sum total of utilities is the objective. Millionaire and starving. The transfer mechanism is wholly monetary and is inadequate especially we now know poverty and well-being is multi-dimensional
Many poor people say that they want to be able to make choices, to decide to do basic things without constraint, to live in a predictable environment and have some control over what happens.
Human Development

Human development is about creating choices, fostering agency and improving Human Wellbeing

Wellbeing: The freedom to adapt and achieve that which individuals value doing and being in situations of dynamic change.
Poverty

The *World Development Report 2000/01* defined poverty as “the pronounced deprivation of well-being”

In this light, poverty can be defined as capability deprivation.
IISD Conceptual Framework
Ecological Dimension-Respecting all three services

Regulating & Supporting

Provisioning

Enriching
Ecosystem Services

**PROVISIONING**
- Food
- Micro-organisms, plant and animal products
- Genetic material, biochemicals and pharmaceuticals
- Fuels/energy
- Fiber
- No-living materials
- Fresh water

**REGULATING**
- Purification of air and water
- Mitigation of floods and droughts
- Detoxification and decomposition of wastes
- Generation of renewal of soil and soil fertility
- Pollination of crops and natural vegetation
- Control of a vast majority of potential agricultural pests
- Dispersal of seeds and translocation of nutrients
- Maintenance of biodiversity, from which humanity has derived key elements of its agricultural, medicinal and industrial enterprise
- Protection of the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays
- Partial stabilization of climate
- Moderation of temperature extremes and the force of winds and waves

**ENRICHING**
- Spiritual uses and relationship of people to land and water
- Aesthetic values
- Social relations and values
- Education and scientific value

Constituents and Determinants of Wellbeing

- Being able to be adequately nourished.
- Being able to be free from avoidable disease.
- Being able to live in an environmentally clean and safe shelter.
- Being able to have adequate and clean drinking water.
- Being able to have clean air.
- Being able to have energy to keep warm and cook.
- Being able to use traditional medicine.
- Being able to have cultural and spiritual practices using ecological systems respected.
- Being able to cope against extreme natural events like floods, tropical storms and land slides.
- Being able to make sustainable management decisions with respect to the use of natural resources in order to achieve a sustainable income stream.

Human Wellbeing-Ecosystem Links
Endowments: Labor, land etc

Entitlements: The process of turning those endowments into capabilities

Present focus is on only one or two of the elements of an institutional framework and in reality you need to address all three.

Ecological Security – I call it the sixth freedom.

An ecological safety net that provides the necessary supporting services required to provide a sustainable flow of provisioning, regulating and cultural services needed by local communities to meet their basic capabilities. The Arthashastra” by Kautilya
Challenges

First, move away from a one size fits all approach to a complex adaptive management strategy that embraces, understands and respects the heterogeneity of ecosystems and people.

Second, different stakeholders use ecosystem services in different ways and have different degrees of dependency on these services. Some have clear substitutes while others have more limited options. We need to adopt strategies that respect these differences and make sure that no one stakeholder group is marginalized in the process.

Third, start with people. Identify what is acceptable and sustainable based on affordability, accessibility and appropriateness with ecosystems.
Challenges

Fourth, create partnerships between public and private sectors, especially small and medium enterprises. Establish research and development (R&D) centers that undertake incremental R&D rather than extensive R&D centers as seen in developing countries.

Fifth, encourage a mix of traditional knowledge and new technology to fit the social, cultural, political and ecological conditions. Establish mechanisms to protect the property rights that are produced by these initiatives.

Sixth, provide capacity building support at the local level to increase awareness of ecosystem services and the way they can improve individual capability and improve wellbeing and reduce poverty.
Policy Implications

- Not limited to economic dimensions but includes social and ecological systems
- Emphasis on equity of access to instrumental freedoms
- Targeting and Sequencing of policies
- Distinction between Means (instrumental freedoms) and Ends (Capabilities)
- Emphasis on autonomy of individuals
PARTICIPATIVE FREEDOM

Taking Stock
2. Rapid assessment of poverty-ecosystem and ecosystem services links.

Integrated Assessment
1. Analyzing the poverty-ecosystem links in more detail.
2. Identifying Drivers
3. Formulating Responses

Mobilizing the Actors
1. Disseminating the “Taking Stock” report for wider public discourse and debate.
2. Develop a “Taking Action” report.

Formulate and Implement an Action Plan
1. Identifying task forces
2. Setting terms of reference
3. Setting time frames

Develop the Strategy
1. Setting the vision, objectives and goals.
2. Setting timelines.
3. Setting budgets

Monitoring and Evaluation
1. Yearly review
2. Three year evaluation
3. Six year and final evaluation of strategy
Stage 1
Make an inventory of the 10 elementary constituents for communities – a poverty profile through a participative process. To work with the conditions group at MA as well as GRID-Arendal. Draw on results and lessons learned from other initiatives.

Stage 2
Identify ecosystems and establish ecosystem boundaries for the respective communities identified in Stage 1 through a participative process. Determine State, Production and Condition of Ecosystems. Draw on MA, GEO and other national and local ecosystem assessments.

Stage 3
Diagnose and analyze the poverty-ecosystem linkages. Draw on results and lessons learned from other initiatives.

Stage 4
1. Identify the drivers underlying the poverty-ecosystem linkages.
2. Formulate response options to improve wellbeing through sustainable use of ecosystems. Both steps require close cooperation with the Driver and Response group at the MA as well as with officials from the Finance, Environment, and Planning ministries in the respective countries.

Stage 5
Integrate response options into national poverty reduction strategies. To work closely with officials from the Finance, Planning and Environment ministries in the respective countries.
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IISD Poverty Environment Strategy

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