

A Global Assessment for Prosperity, People and the Planet (II)

50 years Later, SESAs as a possible Strategy



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Intent of this Session

High Level Review of last 50 years of International Efforts

The Debate

- **Climate change and biodiversity loss** are top of the global agenda- but our capacity to deal with these and other crises is **limited**.
- What **steps** can be taken to **achieve institutional reforms and better global governance** through use of SEA?

An Emergency over 50 years in the making

- Arguably one of the most complex periods in global history
 - Catastrophic weather events
 - Famine
 - Mass migration
 - Political instability
 - Ongoing conflicts
 - Post Covid-19 economy with questionable resilience for the next pandemic.

1972 Report *Limits to Growth* to the Club of Rome

- Focus on the future on the global economy
- Warning that it could not grow unabated on a finite planet – our planet is essentially a closed system (other than for solar radiation)
- Closed systems inherently have constraints
- Not focusing on depletion, pollution and overpopulation would lead to global economic collapse – perhaps as early as 2000-2020

1987 *Our Common Future* (aka the Brundtland Report)

- World Commission on Environment and Development (**WCED**) targets were **multilateralism and interdependence** of nations in search for a sustainable development path
- Attempt to **rekindle energy** behind the **1972 Human Environment Conference** in Stockholm which had introduced **environmental concerns** to the **formal political development sphere**

“The concept of sustainable development **does imply limits - not absolute** limits but limitations imposed by the **present state of technology and social organization** on environmental resources and by the ability of the biosphere to absorb the effects of human activities. But **technology and social organization can be both managed and improved** to make way for a new era of economic growth.”
- Optimistic
- Escape valve

1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development

- Political leaders, diplomats, scientists, representatives of the media and NGOs from **179** countries
- **Global Forum** of NGOs held at same time

“The Rio de Janeiro conference highlighted how **different** social, economic and environmental factors are **interdependent** and evolve together, and how **success in one sector requires action in other sectors to be sustained over time**. The primary objective of the Rio 'Earth Summit' was to produce a broad agenda and a new blueprint for international action on environmental and development issues that would help guide international cooperation and development policy in the twenty-first century”.

1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development

This Rio Summit had a number of high-profile outcomes including:

- Agenda 21 – a nonbinding action plan for sustainable development
- Rio Declaration
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Declaration on the principles of forest management
- Creation of the Commission of Sustainable Development

1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development

Agenda 21's first statement in the preamble reads,

“Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being. However, integration of environment and development concerns and greater attention to them will lead to the fulfilment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future. No nation can achieve this on its own; but together we can - in a global partnership for sustainable development.”

- Reference to limits to growth
- BUT suggestion of a pareto optimal outcome

2000 Millennium Summit

The **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** were **eight international development goals** targeted for **2015**

The MDGs were based on the OECD DAC International Development Goals agreed by Development Ministers in the "Shaping the 21st Century Strategy. All 191 United Nations member states, and at least 22 international organizations, committed to help achieve the following Millennium Development Goals by 2015:

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. To achieve universal primary education
3. To promote gender equality and empower women
4. To reduce child mortality
5. To improve maternal health
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To develop a global partnership for development

Specific targets and dates, debt forgiveness. Created capacity and understanding.

Did we achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?

Summary of global progress of the United Nations' (UN) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which spanned the period 2000-2015. Shown are the Targets of the MDGs*, levels in the baseline year, the final target level and actual achieved level for each Target.

- Achieved Targets are marked in **green**;
- Missed Targets are marked in **red**.

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Target	Baseline level	Target level	Achieved final level
MDG1.A: halve share of people living in extreme poverty (<\$1.25 per day)	47% in developing regions	Reduce to 23.5%	Fell to 14%
MDG1.B: achieve full and productive employment, as well as decent work for all, including young people and women	62% global working-age population in employment	Full (100%)	Fell to 60%
MDG1.C: halve the proportion of individuals suffering from hunger	23.3% in developing regions	Reduce to 11.5%	Fell to 12.9%
MDG2.A: ensure that children universally – including both boys and girls – will be able to complete a full course of primary education	83% in developing regions	Universal (100%)	Increased to 91%
MDG3.A: eliminate gender disparity at all education levels	Developing regions: 0.87 in primary 0.77 in secondary 0.71 in tertiary	Gender parity index (GPI) between 0.97-1.03	Developing regions: 0.98 in primary 0.98 in secondary 1.01 in tertiary
MDG4.A: reduce the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds	90 per 1,000 live births	Reduce to 30 per 1,000	Fell to 43 per 1,000
MDG5.A: reduce the maternal mortality ratio by 75 percent	380 per 100,000 births	Reduce to 95 per 100,000	Fell to 210 per 100,000
MDG5.B: achieve universal access to reproductive health. <i>Pregnant women receiving adequate antenatal care visits</i>	35% in developing regions	Universal (100%)	Increased to 52%
MDG5.B: achieve universal access to reproductive health. <i>Women aged 15 – 49 in marriage/union, using contraceptives</i>	55% in developing regions	Universal (100%)	Increased to 64%
MDG6.A: halt and have started to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	3.5M new cases per year	0 new cases	2.1M new cases per year
MDG6.B: achieve global access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for those who need it by 2010	3% of people with HIV	100% of people with HIV	23% of people with HIV (2010) 45% of people with HIV (2015)
MDG6.C: ceased & started reversal of incidence of malaria & TB. <i>Incidence of malaria</i>	158 new cases per 1,000 at risk	Fewer than 158 new cases per 1,000 at risk	Fell to 94 new cases per 1,000 at risk
MDG6.C: ceased & started reversal of incidence of malaria & TB. <i>Incidence of tuberculosis (TB)</i>	172 new cases per 100,000 people	Fewer than 172 new cases per 100,000 people	Fell to 142 new cases per 100,000 people
MDG7.A: integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies & reverse loss of environmental resources			Multiple metrics (nearly all deteriorating)
MDG7.B: reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss			Red List Index shows continued biodiversity loss
MDG7.C: halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to <i>safe drinking water</i>	24% without access to improved water source	Reduce to 12% without access	Fell to 9% without access
MDG7.C: halve the proportion of the population without sustainable access to <i>sanitation</i>	46% without access to improved sanitation	Reduce to 23% without access	Fell to 32% without access

*MDG8 (Global Partnership) does not have easily quantifiable targets and is therefore not included.

Source: United Nations (UN), the MDG Report (2015) & MDG Monitor.

The data visualization is available at OurWorldinData.org. There you will find further data on this topic.

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2016 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- 1.No Poverty
- 2.Zero hunger
- 3.Good health and well-being
- 4.Quality education
- 5.Gender equality
- 6.Clean water and sanitation
- 7.Affordable and clean energy
- 8.Decent work and economic growth
- 9.Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- 10.Reduced inequalities
- 11.Sustainable cities and communities
- 12.Responsible consumption and production
- 13.Climate action
- 14.Life below water
- 15.Life on land;
- 16.Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 17.Partnerships for the Goals

2016 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs emphasize the **interconnected** environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development by putting **sustainability at their center**” What is striking is that the number of goals is **increasing** and we are seeing a further splintering of concepts (in Linnaean Biology, we could call this splitting and not clumping).

Progress as of the latest report.

- “At the mid-way point towards 2030, this Special Edition report provides an update on progress made since 2015 against the global SDG indicator framework. It finds that many of the SDGs are moderately to severely off track and puts forward five major recommendations to rescue the Sustainable Development Goals and accelerate implementation between now and 2030, for Member State consideration in advance of the SDG Summit.”

The Debate Context

The earlier panel has talked about the Land Use Planning, Biodiversity, ESG and industry like mining, Strategic Environmental Assessments and communities, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.

We are facing in many ways something that represents a spectrum of wicked problems.

A Wicked Problem can be described as **“a social or cultural problem that’s difficult or impossible to solve because of its complex and interconnected nature.** Wicked problems lack clarity in both their aims and solutions and are subject to real-world constraints which hinder risk-free attempts to find a solution.

Classic examples of wicked problems are:

- Poverty
- Climate change
- Education
- Homelessness
- Sustainability

The Debate Context

- SDGs are arguably wicked problems.
- The opportunity to explore Strategic Environmental Social Assessments through regional or national pilots as a means to quickly explore another alternative approach, a constrained approach that will have SMART elements and management.
- We have no time to come up with yet another iteration of goals, another global compact that is non-binding.
- We need to Triage the situation we are in and start to act in an adaptive management manner, to implement and monitor aggressively to determine what is working and what is not and adapt for success.
- We believe a Strategic Environmental Assessment Approach has merit and is worth the time and treasure to fully explore it. After all, what do we have to lose other than Life itself?

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA23 app.



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