

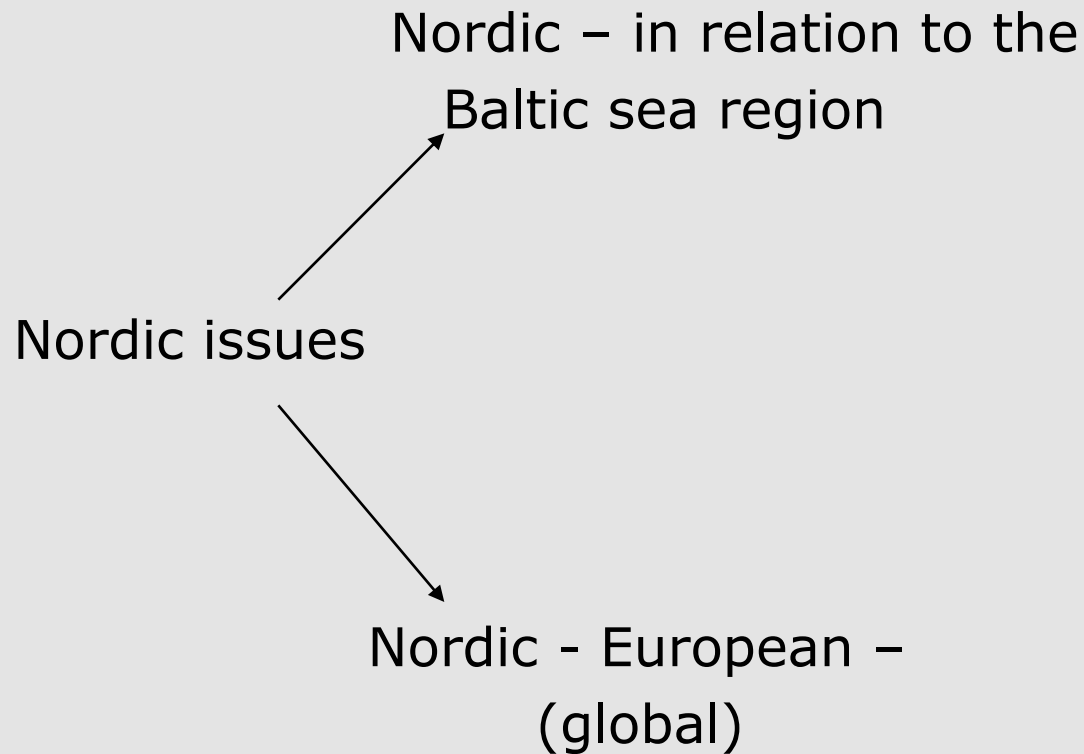
The Nordic Council of Ministers and Strategies for Sustainable Development

Tryggvi Felixson
Head of Department
Nordic Council of Ministers
tfe@norden.org

Nordic Council of Ministers

- Governments of Denmark, Finland, Island, Norway and Sweden
- Greenland, Faroe Islands and Åland Islands
- 11 ministerial councils for different areas
- Secretariat based in Copenhagen

Three perspectives



Cooperation in adjacent areas



Nordic – Baltic Dimension



- Major Baltic Sea region engagement since beginning of 90 'es
- Offices in Tallinn, Riga, Vilnius, St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad
- 20 percent of budget allocated to activities in the Baltic Sea countries other than the Nordic countries

NCM's ambition

- To support efforts to make the region the most creative and dynamic in Europe
- To share experiences in safeguarding democracy, rule of law and a sustainable development

With Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania



- From assistance to partnership
- Mobility programs on equal footing
- NGO-cooperation

Sustainable Development

Brundtland Commission
1987: the three pillars:
Ecological,
economical and social

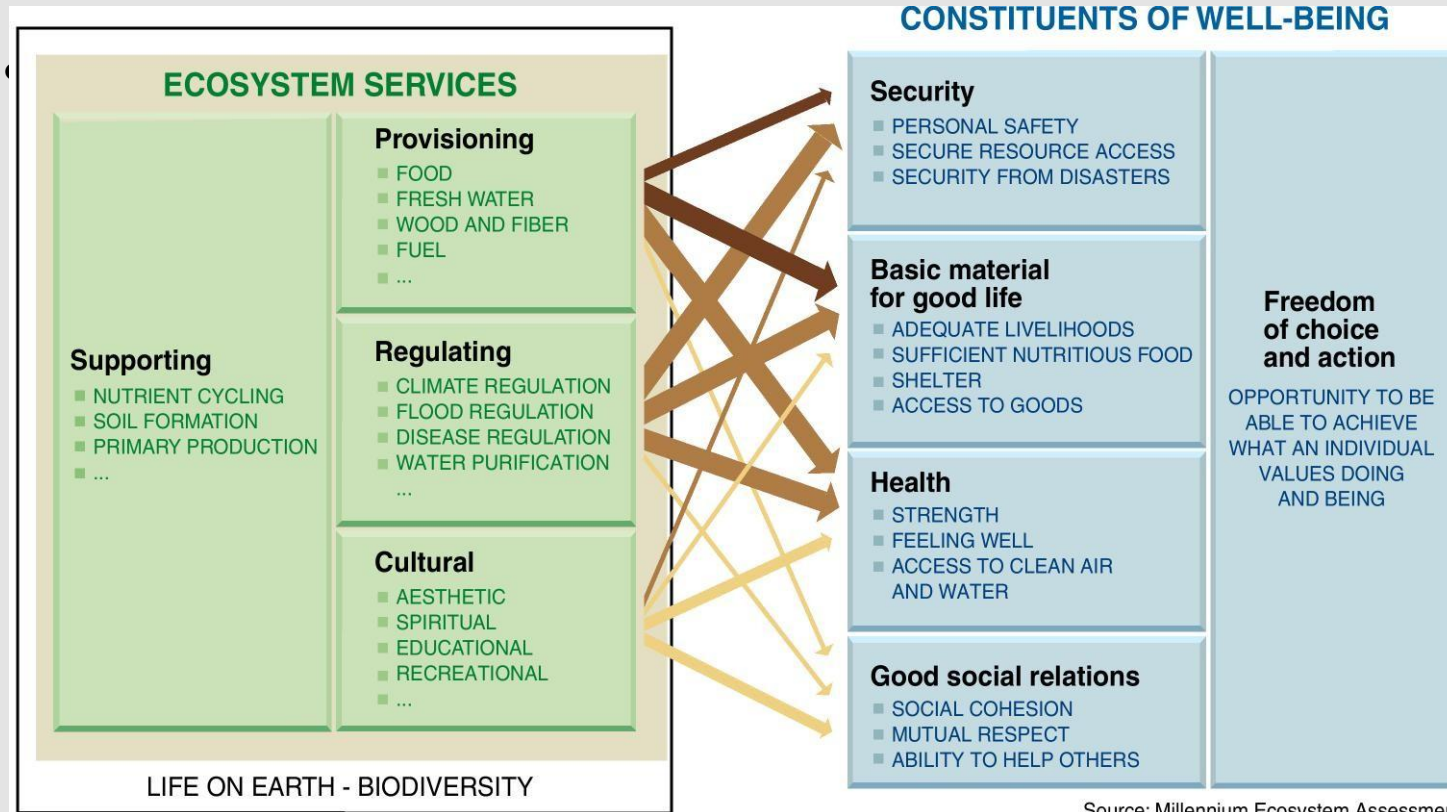


“Sustainable development is ... development that meets the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

- **Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration 1992 and World Summit on SD in 2002.**
- In November 1998, the Nordic Prime Ministers adopted a Declaration on a Sustainable Nordic Region.

SD strategy until 2020

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2004)



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

ARROW'S COLOR
Potential for mediation by socioeconomic factors

- Low
- Medium
- High

ARROW'S WIDTH
Intensity of linkages between ecosystem services and human well-being

- Weak
- Medium
- Strong

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Main Conclusion

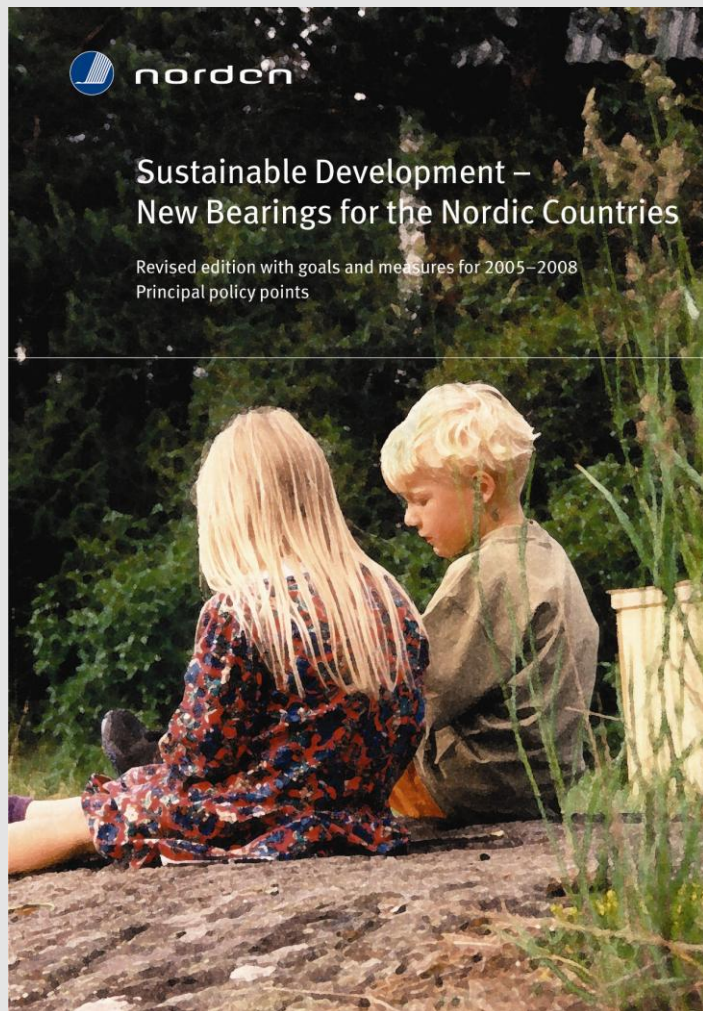


- Over the **past 50 years**, humans have changed ecosystems faster and more extensively than in any period in human history. This has been due largely to rapidly growing demands for food, freshwater, timber, fibre and fuel.
- The result has been a substantial and largely **irreversible loss** in the diversity of life on Earth.
- **Growing pressures** on ecosystems during the first half of this century could result continued loss of biodiversity, and further degradation of some ecosystem services.
- Most direct drivers of change in ecosystems, such as climate change, overexploitation, and pollution, are likely **to remain constant or increase in intensity** in most ecosystems.

Sustainable Development – New Bearings for the Nordic Countries



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First period

2001 -04

Revised strategy

Goals and initiatives

2005 - 08

Goals-Actions

Monitoring-Follow-up

Seven cross-sector issues:

- ✓ **Production and consumption**
- ✓ Social dimension
- ✓ Atmosphere and Climate
- ✓ Biodiversity
- ✓ The Oceans
- ✓ Chemicals
- ✓ Food Safety

Five sectors

- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Forestry
- ✓ Fisheries

Participation
Local Agenda 21
Adjacent Areas

Why is a SD-strategy a useful tool?

- To identify the **main issues**
- To identify **who is responsible** for action
- To increase **awareness**
- To facilitate **sector integration**
- To have an instrument for a **follow - up**

Sustainable production and consumption patterns



Long term goals 2020:

Transition to a more sustainable society, in which the the economy can grow without increasing pressure on the natural resources and the natural environment.

At global level, the Nordic region intends to lead the way in meeting the WSSD goal of reversing the pattern of unsustainable production and consumption.

SCP Goals and initiatives



- Effective cooperation and active dialog between central and local government authorities, the business community and NGOs
- Use of economic policy levers
 - by applying economic instruments/incentives in environmental policy-making
 - restructuring of government support measures with a negative impact on the environment

Goals and initiatives cont.....



- Promote social responsibility in the enterprise sector
- Integration of environmental concerns into all relevant sectors
- Clear signals on sustainable consumption and production requirements by using:
 - Green public procurement
 - environmental management systems
 - Environmental labelling

Public participation and Local Agenda 21



Rio 1992 and WSSD 2002

- The task is complex and all actors need to be involved:
 - ✓ National Governments
 - ✓ Local and regional authorities/governments
 - ✓ Business
 - ✓ NGOs and the public at large

An important instrument is
Local Agenda 21

15. Public participation and Local Agenda 21



Long term goal:

The Nordic countries will

- promote public participation by
 - making information accessible
 - citizens to take part in the drafting and implementation of a policy for sustainable development
- To ensure the integration of sustainability concerns in local planning processes
 - boost support for Local Agenda 21 work in local authority areas
 - from agenda setting to concrete action

Thank you!

