

# Bringing Back 'the Social' to Sustainable Development

*Rio+20 : challenges, opportunities, responses*

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[www.unrisd.org/greeneconomy](http://www.unrisd.org/greeneconomy)

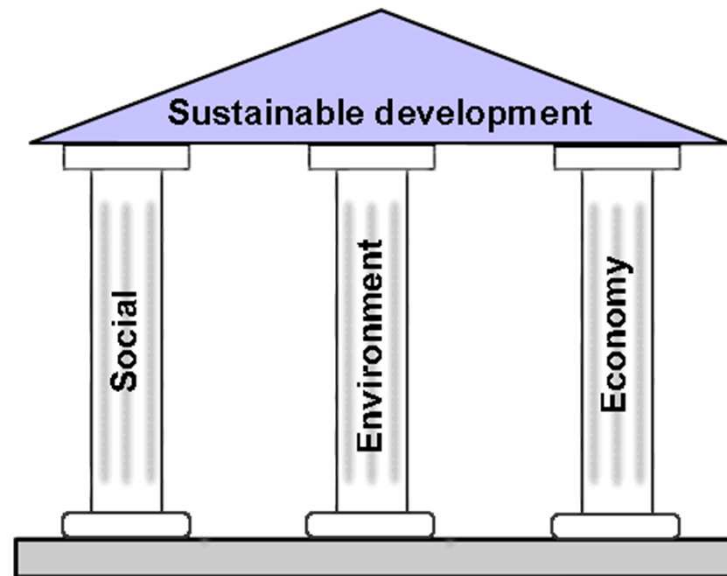


# Our Common Future

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- Brundtland Commission (1987)

*Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*



# A Future Worth Choosing

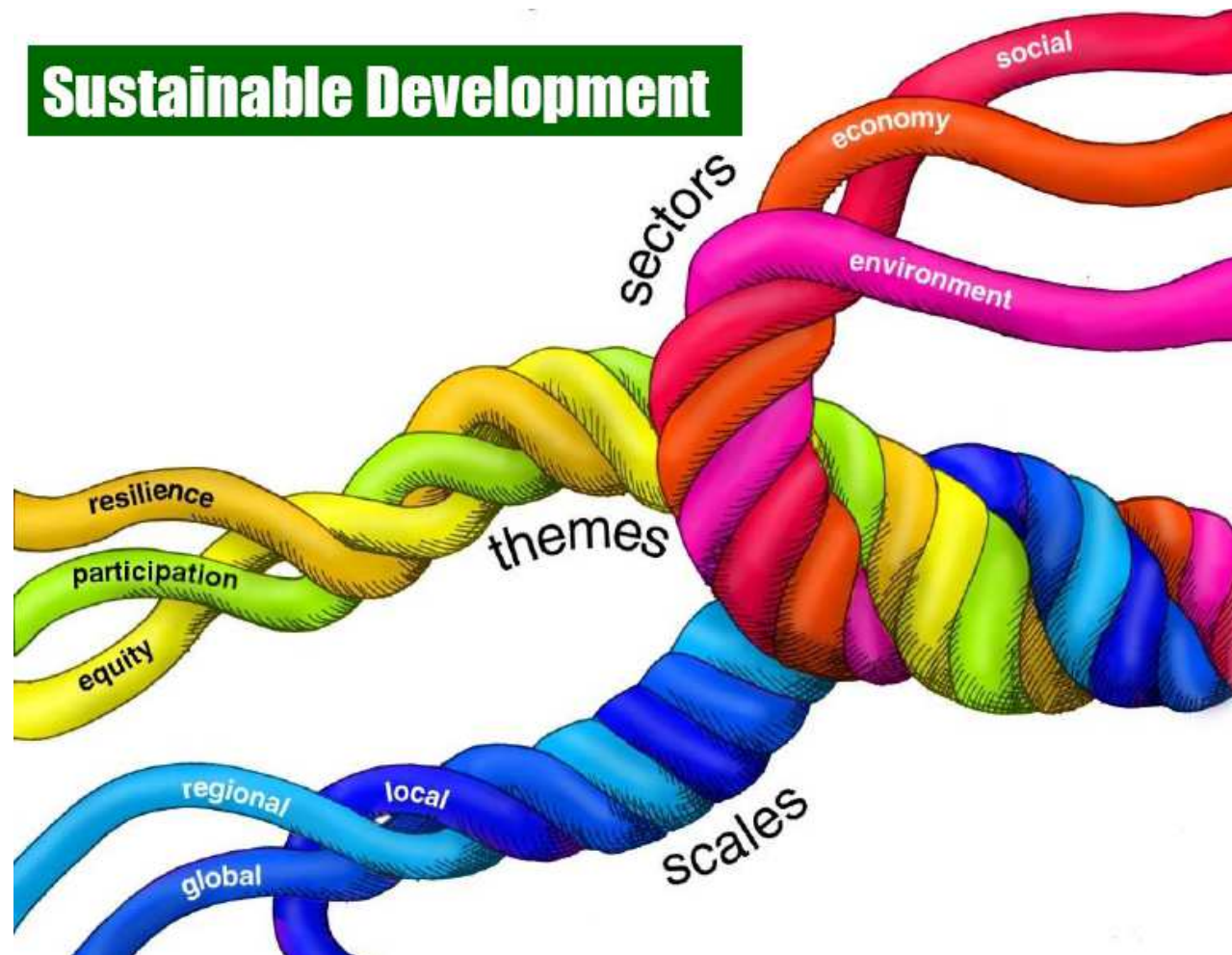
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- The UN High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (2012)



# Complexity

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# Key challenges

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- Uncertainty and complexity
- The limits of science and technological solutions
- Differences of scale
- Timeframe
- The working of the market
- Separation from economic decision making



# Rio+20 Earth Summit



- Theme

*Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication*

- UNEP definition

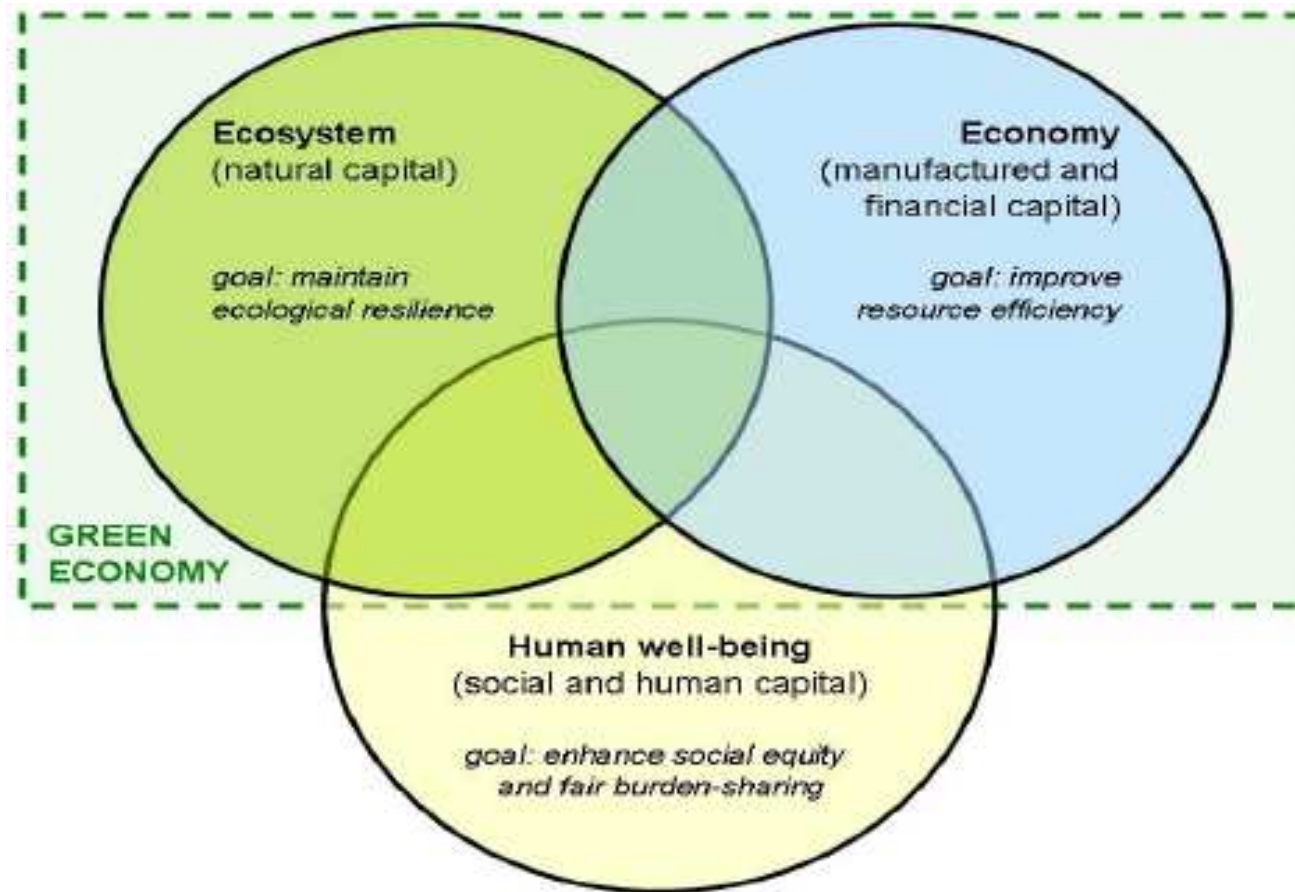
*A Green Economy is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities*





# Green Economy

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# The social dimensions of transition paths under different models for green economy

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	Capitalism with a green face	Strong Sustainability	Social Economy
<b>Worldview</b>	Market liberal	Institutionalist	Social green
<b>Social</b>	'Green' jobs Social protection for vulnerable groups Equity as equality of opportunity Green consumerism	Stronger local & national institutions Inter/intra-generational equity Capacity building	Rights-based Social justice Equity, as equality of outcomes Citizen action
<b>Environment</b>	Eco-efficiency Technology transfer REDD	Eco-regulation More effective global environmental governance REDD+	Environmental justice Agro-ecology Grassroots environmental action
<b>Economy</b>	Low-carbon 'green' growth Market mechanisms to revalue environmental externalities (e.g. carbon markets) Production focused	Economic and trade reform Green finance Green taxes (i.e. redistribution) Enhance state capacity	De-globalization Localization of trade and production Reforms to global economic institutions Regional solidarity



# ‘Selling nature to save it’

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- Carbon sequestration - Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)
- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)
- Commodification of nature
- Social limits of market-based approaches



# A double injustice

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*Those most harmed are the least responsible and have the least resources to respond, this is the double injustice.*

- Examples

- Increases in the price of household electricity tend to be socially regressive
- “Conservationist” regulation versus indigenous rights and stewardship
- Biofuels vs food security
- Privatization of the commons



## Viewing green economy through a social lens

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- Social impacts and distributional consequences
- Knowledge and values
- Social structures, institutions and relations
- Social processes, actors and agency
- Social and solidarity economy 'alternatives'
- Social policies



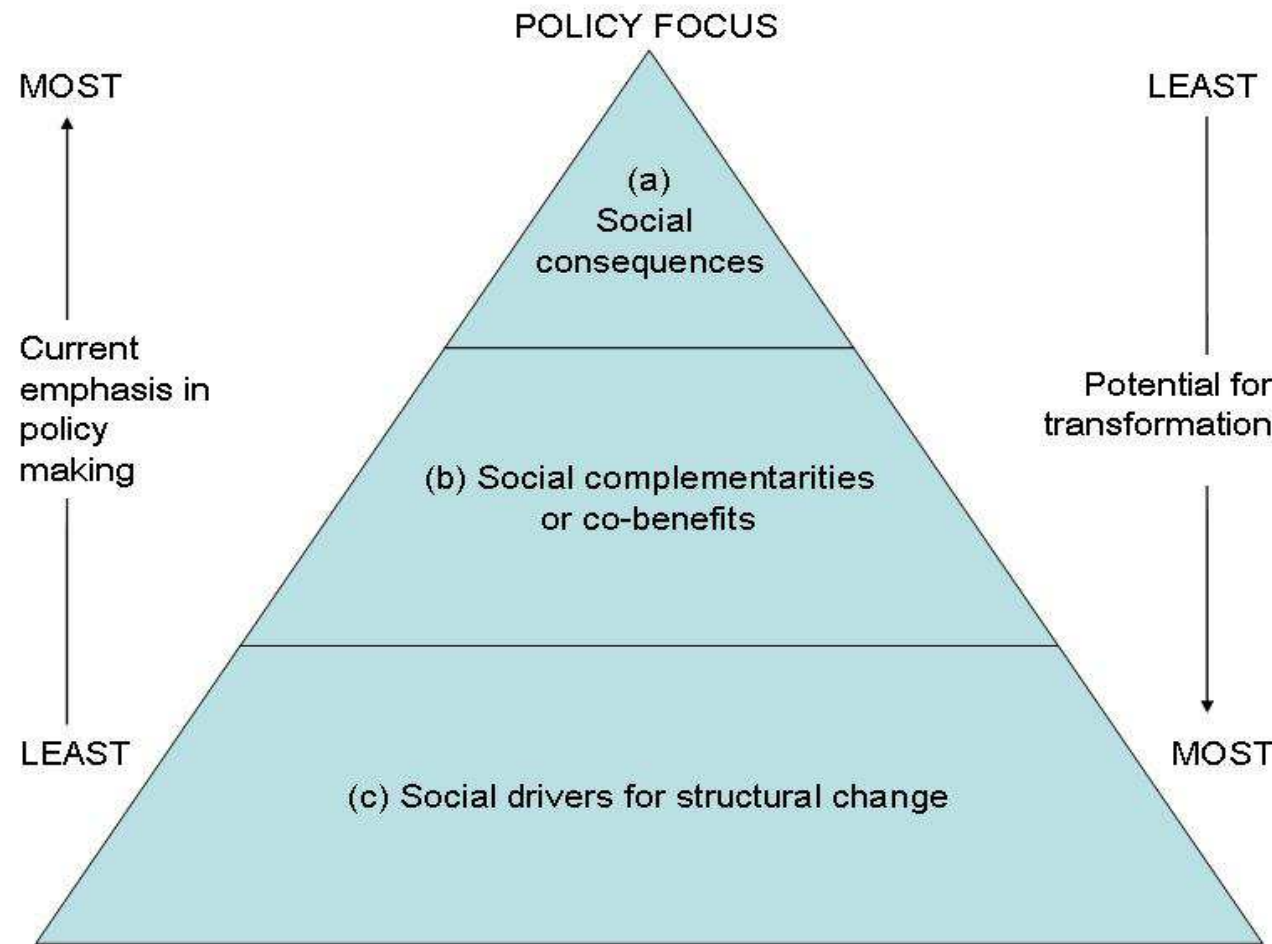
# Eco-social policies

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- Social protection and adaptation
- Co-benefits between economic, social and environmental outcomes
- Social policy
  - Investments and infrastructure
  - Housing
  - Consumption patterns
  - Distribution
- Social “drivers” of change



# The transformative potential of social policy



# UNRISD outputs

- Occasional Papers
- Conference News
- Research and Policy Brief
- Special issue of *Development*, Vol. 55, No. 1
- Online think pieces
- Podcasts
- UNRISD newsletter for Rio+20
- UNRISD inputs and articles for UN publications and reports

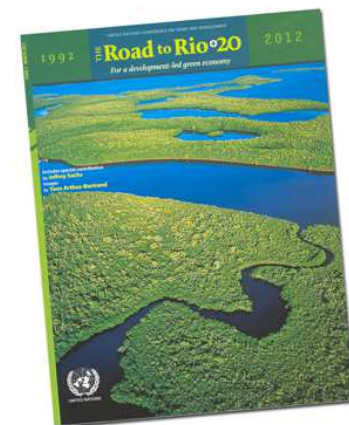


The Global Political Economy of REDD+  
Engaging Social Dimensions in  
the Emerging Green Economy

Rocio Hiraldo and Thomas Tanner



Occasional Paper Four  
Social Dimensions of Green Economy and Sustainable Development



[www.unrisd.org/greeneconomy](http://www.unrisd.org/greeneconomy)



# Outputs - videos

- Series of **6 video documentaries** based on conference findings and footage
  1. Green Economy and Sustainable Development: Bringing Back the Social
  2. Putting a Price on Nature: Can Markets be Green and Social?
  3. Social Policies for Sustainable Development
  4. Coalitions for Change
  5. Food for the Future: Agriculture in a Sustainable World
  6. Sustainable Futures, Alternative Visions



[www.youtube.com/unrisd](http://www.youtube.com/unrisd)

# Thank you

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