

APPENDIX ONE: DEFINITION OF TERMS

Adaptability: Refers to the degree to which adjustments are possible in practices, processes, or structures of systems to projected or actual changes of climate. Adaptation can be spontaneous or planned, and be carried out in response to or in anticipation of changes in conditions. <http://www.weathervane.rff.org/glossary/index.html>

Architect: A person who designs and supervises the construction of building. Dictionary of buildings. Maclean, J.H., and Scott, J.S. 1995.

Assessment framework: A document designed to support the integration of particular goals and objectives (such as sustainable development objectives) in to particular fields (such as building and construction).

Benchmark: A measurable variable used as a baseline or reference in evaluating the performance of an organisation. Benchmarks may be drawn from internal experience or that of other organisations or from legal requirement and are often used to gauge changes in performance over time. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Benchmarking: Developed in areas such as Total Quality Management (TQM), benchmarking involves the comparison, ranking or rating of different processes, units or organisation against standards. The aim of this is identify ways of improving the performance of operations, systems and processes. Elkington, J.1997.

Binding targets: Refer to environmental standards that are to be met in the future. <http://www.weathervane.rff.org/glossary/index.html>

Biodegradeable: Capable of decomposing rapidly by microorganisms under natural conditions (aerobic and/or anaerobic). Most organic materials, such as food scraps and paper are biodegradable. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/B/biomass>

Biodiversity: Assemblage of living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/B/biomass>

Biological productivity: Refers to nature's ability to reproduce and regenerate living matter. Biological productivity of a given land category (i.e. pasture, forest, etc.) is determined by dividing the total biological production (how much is grown and living on the land) by the total land area available in this category. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Biomass or biomatter: Is the amount of living organic matter of an ecosystem - usually measured in dry weight. <http://www.redefiningprogress.org/programs/sustainability/glossary/terms.html>

Biomass: The biodegradable fraction of products, waste and residues from agriculture (including vegetal and animal substances), forestry and related industries, as well as the biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal waste. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/B/biomass>

Brief: Set of instructions developed by a client to be used by an architect to design a building.

Buffer zone: The region near the border of a protected area; a transition zone between areas managed for different objectives <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/B/biomass>

Building: A building is any structure with a roof to provide shelter from the weather for its occupants or contents. Maclean, J.H., and Scott, J.S. 1995.

Building lifecycle: Term used to describe the different stages in the development, use and demolition and reuse of buildings.

Building site: A plot of land for building or on which work for a building project is in hand. Maclean, J.H., and Scott, J.S. 1995.

Building stakeholder: People actively involved in, or affected by the design and use of buildings such as occupants, owners and developers, a design team and local communities and government.

Carbon sequestration: Generally refers to capturing carbon -- in a carbon sink, such as the oceans, or a terrestrial sink such as forests or soils -- so as to keep the carbon out of the atmosphere. <http://www.weathervane.rff.org/glossary/index.html>

Carrying capacity: Is conventionally defined as the maximum population size of a given species that an area can support without reducing its ability to support that same species in the future. In the human context, William Catton defines it as the maximum "load" (population x per capita impact) that can safely and persistently be imposed on the environment by people. <http://www.redefiningprogress.org/programs/sustainability/glossary/terms.html>

Conservation: Maintenance or sustainable use of the earth's resources that maintains ecosystems, species and genetic diversity and the evolutionary and other processes that shaped them. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Construction: The activity of erecting buildings and other structures, including commercial, industrial and residential work. Maclean, J.H., and Scott, J.S. 1995.

Consumption: Refers to all the goods and services used by households. This includes purchased commodities at the household level (such as food, clothing, and utilities), the goods and services paid for by government (such as defense, education, social services and health care), and the resources consumed by businesses to increase their assets (such as business equipment and housing). <http://www.redefiningprogress.org/programs/sustainability/glossary/terms.html>

Contractor: A person (or company) who agrees to do something in return for payment Maclean, J.H., and Scott, J.S. 1995.

Community participation: Process whereby a community or communities are encouraged to voluntarily take part in decision making and implementation of development programmes especially when the community of the beneficiary. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Composting: The controlled biological decomposition of organic material in the presence of air to form a humus-like material. Controlled methods of composting include mechanical mixing and aerating, ventilating the materials by dropping them through a vertical series of aerated chambers, or placing the compost in piles out in the open air and mixing it or turning it periodically. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Descriptive indicator: Descriptive indicators show the development of a variable, but are not connected with a concrete policy target. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Developing countries:, Or *less developed countries (LDCs)*, are those countries which are in the process of becoming industrialized but have constrained resources with which to combat their environmental problems <http://www.weathervane.rff.org/glossary/index.html>

Differentiation: In the context of the Framework Convention refers to differing national circumstances that might imply differing obligations. It can refer to North-South distinctions, or to differences within the rich Annex 1 countries. The differences can reflect population, income, economic composition, or energy <http://www.weathervane.rff.org/glossary/index.html>

Disability: A disability is any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being (WHO). The term 'disability' can also summarise a great number of different functional limitations occurring in any population in any country of the world. People may be disabled by physical, intellectual or sensory impairment, medical conditions or mental illness. (Standard Rules on the Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, United Nations, 1994) It is also defined as the disadvantage or restriction caused by contemporary social organisation which takes no or little account of people who have impairments and thus excludes them from the mainstream of social activities (Disabled Peoples International)
http://www.fao.org/scripts/Rural_D/query/Glo_Select.idc

Downstream: Refers to any point in the economy, and in particular, at the level of energy consumers rather than suppliers. It is commonly interpreted to be industrial boilers, electric utilities and other major energy users, but also applies, in theory, to all consumers of gasoline, coal, electricity etc. Conversely, *upstream* refers to the point (or close to it) where fossil fuels enter the economy. In the U.S., it means at the input to oil refineries, at coal processing plants and where natural gas enters pipelines.
<http://www.weathervane.rff.org/glossary/index.html>

DPSIR: The causal framework for describing the interactions between society and the environment adopted by the European Environment Agency: Driving forces, Pressures, States, Impacts, Responses (extension of the PSR model developed by OECD).
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Ecodevelopment: Development at regional and local levels, consistent with the potentials of the area involved, with attention given to the adequate and rational use of natural resources, technological styles and organizational forms that respect the natural ecosystems and local social and cultural patterns. http://www.fao.org/scripts/Rural_D/query/Glo_Select.idc

Eco-labelling: Special product labels that indicate that a product meets standards of environmental soundness that are supported by extensive research into the product's impact on the environment <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecology: Study of natural environment and of the relations of organisms to each other and to their surroundings. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecological approach: Natural processes that recycle nutrients in various in various chemical forms from the non-living environment to living natural resource planning and management activities that assure consideration of the relationships among all organisms, including humans and their environment. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecological diversity: Variety of forests, deserts, grasslands, oceans, streams, lakes, and other biological communities interacting with one another and with their nonliving environment. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecological integrity: Degree to which an ecosystem has the ability to be self-sustaining over the long term. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecological footprint: Land (and water) area of the planet or particular area required for the support either of humankind's current lifestyle or the consumption pattern of a particular

population. It is the inverse of the carrying capacity of a territory. United Nations. 1997. *Glossary of Environment Statistics*.

Ecological land use planning: Method for deciding how land should be used; development of an integrated model that considers geological, ecological health, and social variables.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecological processes: Actions or events that link organisms, including humans, and their environment, including production, decay, nutrient cycling, disturbance and successional development. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecological zone: A large natural unit controlled by a set of common processes, mostly climatic and dominated by life forms with similar physical adaptations to those processes.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecosphere: Entire global ecosystem that comprises atmosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere as interacting components. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecosystem: Is the complex of plant, animal, fungal, and microorganism communities and their associated non-living environment interacting as an ecological unit. Ecosystems have no fixed boundaries; instead, their parameters are set according to the scientific, management, or policy question being examined. Depending upon the purpose of analysis, a single lake, a watershed, or an entire region could be considered an ecosystem.
<http://www.weathervane.rff.org/glossary/index.html>

Ecosystem approach: Comprehensive and holistic approach to understanding and anticipating ecological change, assessing the full range of consequences, and developing appropriate responses. It recognises the complexity of ecosystems and interdependence of component parts.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecosystem diversity: Variety of ecosystems in which species or communities of organisms, occur. It also includes an ecosystem structure and function.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecosystem restoration: Returning an ecosystem from a non-sustainable to a sustainable condition. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecosystem sustainability: Ability to sustain biodiversity, productivity, health, resilience to stress, renewability, yields of desired values, resource uses, products or services from an ecosystem, while maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem over time.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ecotourism: Tourism that focuses on nature-related, non-consumptive activities or experiences such as bird watching. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Efficiency indicator: Indicators that relate environmental pressures to human activities. These indicators provide insight in the efficiency of products and processes: Efficiency in terms of the resources used, the emissions and waste generated per unit of output.
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Embodied energy: Of a commodity is the energy that is used during the entire life cycle of the commodity for manufacturing, transporting, and disposing of the commodity.
<http://www.redefiningprogress.org/programs/sustainability/glossary/terms.html>

Erosion: Is the process of soil and nutrient loss that leads to a decline in the ability of the land to support life. Can also be used metaphorically to refer to depletion (e.g. of natural capital).
<http://www.redefiningprogress.org/programs/sustainability/glossary/terms.html>

Effluent: A liquid waste material that is a by-product of human activity (e.g. liquid industrial discharge or sewage) <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Environmental degradation: Depletion or destruction of a potentially renewable resource such as soil, grassland, forest or wildlife by using it at a faster rate than it is naturally replenished.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Environmental impact assessment: Critical appraisal of the likely ecological effects of a proposed project, activity, or policy, both positive and negative.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Environmental indicator: Selected key statistic that represents or summarizes the state of the environment, natural resource sustainability or related human activity.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Environment: Components of the earth, including air, land and water, all layers of the atmosphere, all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms, and the interacting systems that include all these organisms <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Environmental accounting: 1) National accounting: physical and monetary accounts of environmental assets and the costs of their depletion and degradation. 2) Corporate accounting: the term usually refers to environmental auditing, but may also include the costing of environmental impacts caused by the corporation. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Environmental impact assessment: A technique used for identifying the environmental effects of development projects. As a result of Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended 1997), this is now a legislative procedure to be applied to the assessment of the environmental effects of certain public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. An EIA requires a scoping study to be undertaken in order to focus the assessment. This can be carried out in the field or as a desk study depending on the nature/scale of the project.
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Environmental management system: A means of ensuring effective implementation of an environmental management plan or procedures and compliance with environmental policy objectives and targets. A key feature on any effective environmental management system (EMS) is the preparation of documented system procedures and instructions to ensure effective communication and continuity of implementation. There are certification systems for EMS ISO 14001 and EC's EMAS scheme (EMAS is now compatible with ISO 14001) which demonstrate that a system is operated to an internationally recognised standard. Alternatively a customised system can be developed addressing the particular needs of the operation.
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Financial capital: The financial resources which are available to people (whether savings, supplies of credit, or regular remittance of pensions) and which provide them with different livelihood options. Adapted from Scoones. I. 1998.

Fossil fuels: Are coal, natural gas and fuels made from crude oil (such as petrol and diesel).
<http://www.redefiningprogress.org/programs/sustainability/glossary/terms.html>

Full cost accounting: A tool to identify, quantify and allocate the direct and indirect environmental costs of ongoing company operations. Full cost accounting helps identify and

qualify the following four types of costs for a product, process or project: direct costs, hidden costs, contingent liability costs, and less tangible costs. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Gaia: Greek Goddess of the earth. Also name given to a hypothesis proposed by James Lovelock which views the planet as a self regulating and self-organising organism. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Gaia Hypothesis: This postulates that the physical and chemical condition of the surface of the Earth, of the atmosphere, and of the oceans has been and is actively made fit and comfortable by life itself. This contrasts with conventional wisdom, which held that life adapted to the planetary conditions as it, and they evolved their separate ways. Lovelock, J.1987

Genetic diversity: Infinite variation of possible genetic combinations among individuals. Genetic diversity is what enables a species to adapt to ecological change. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Global warming: Modification of climates due to retention of an increased proportion of radiation on land, and increasing temperatures. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Greenhouse effect: Is the progressive, gradual warming of the earth's atmospheric temperature, caused by the insulating effect of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that have proportionately increased in the atmosphere. The greenhouse effect disturbs the way the Earth's climate maintains the balance between incoming and outgoing energy by allowing short-wave radiation from the sun to penetrate through to warm the earth, but preventing the resulting long-wave radiation from escaping back into the atmosphere. <http://www.weathervane.rff.org/glossary/index.html>

Greenhouse gases: Include the common gases of carbon dioxide and water vapor, but also rarer gases such as methane and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) whose properties relate to the transmission or reflection of different types of radiation. The increase in such gases in the atmosphere, which contributes to global warming, is a result of the burning of fossil fuels, the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere, and deforestation. <http://www.weathervane.rff.org/glossary/index.html>

Green taxes: Economics jargon for a group of financial instruments favoured by those who see market forces as the best form of forcing business to pay for pollution. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Gross domestic product (GDP): Unduplicated value of production originating within the boundaries of a country, regardless of the ownership of the factors of production. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Gross national product (GNP): Unduplicated value of production by nationally-owned factors of production, regardless of where it takes place. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Ground water: All water, which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground of the soil. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>
Greenhouse effect: Warming of the atmosphere due to the reduction in outgoing solar radiation resulting from concentrations of gases such as carbon dioxide <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Habitat: The place where an organism lives or the place one would go to find it. The habitat is the organism's address, and the ecological niche its profession, biologically speaking. Odum, E.P.1959. p. 53.

Hazardous waste: Waste that poses a risk to human or ecological health.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Human Capital: The skills, knowledge, ability to labour and good health important to the ability to pursue different livelihood strategies. Adapted from Scoones, I. 1998.

Human Development Index (HDI): Measure based on three indicators: (a) longevity, as measured by life expectancy at birth, (b) educational and combined primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment ratios (one-third weight) and (c) standard of living, as measured by real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita (in purchasing power. United Nations. 1997. *Glossary of Environment Statistics*.

Human well-being: A condition in which all members of society are able to determine and meet their needs and have a large range of choices to meet their potential. Prescott-Allen, R. 2001.

Hydrological cycle: Is the natural cycle of water from evaporation, transpiration in the atmosphere, condensation (rain and snow), and flows back to the ocean (e.g. rivers).
<http://www.redefiningprogress.org/programs/sustainability/glossary/terms.html>

ICT: Information and Communication Technologies - generally refers to Internet-based computer technologies and applications http://www.fao.org/scripts/Rural_D/query/Glo_Select.idc

Indicators: A variable, pointer, or index. Its fluctuation reveals the variations in key elements of a system. The position and trend of the indicator in relation to reference points or values indicate the present state and dynamics of the system. Indicators provide a bridge between objectives and action. 2. Signals - of processes, inputs, outputs, effects, results, outcomes, impacts, etc. - that enable such phenomena to be judged or measured. Both qualitative and quantitative indicators are needed for management learning, policy review, monitoring and evaluation Indicators for sustainable development of marine capture fisheries. FAO.1999.

Indigenous: People, plants or animals that originate naturally in a region.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Indigenous ecological and environmental knowledge: Through a traditional way of life over many generations, indigenous people have developed an in-depth knowledge of the ecosystems in which they live. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Infiltration: Penetration of water into the ground.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Internet: Worldwide collection of interconnected, heterogeneous computer networks.
http://www.fao.org/scripts/Rural_D/query/Glo_Select.idc

Intranet: A collection of interconnected computer networks at a local level.
http://www.fao.org/scripts/Rural_D/query/Glo_Select.idc

Landfill: Tipping of wastes into holes in the ground. A relatively cheap way of using domestic waste and more hazardous chemicals. Landfill sites to handle more difficult wastes are now engineered, managed and monitored to prevent poisons leaking out.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Lifecycle: Consecutive or interlinked stages of a product or service, from the extraction of natural resources to the disposal of the final product.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Lifecycle assessment: The overall process of assessing the lifecycle impacts associated with a system, function, product or service. Elkington, J.1997.

Life support systems: According to the World Conservation Union (IUCN), refer to the biophysical processes "that sustain the productivity, adaptability and capacity for renewal of lands, waters, and / or the biosphere as a whole."
<http://www.redefiningprogress.org/programs/sustainability/glossary/terms.html>

Management: The art of taking measures affecting a resource and its exploitation with a view to achieving certain objectives, such as the maximization of the production of that resource. Management includes, for example, fishery regulations such as catch quotas or closed seasons. Managers are those who practice management. Cooke, J.G.1984.

Monitoring: 1) A combination of observation and measurement for the performance of a plan, programme, or measure, and its compliance with environmental policy and legislation. 2) The provision of the necessary information about progress of implementation of a project, plan, etc. in order to ensure that project management and cooperation partners are able to follow the implementation of the projects and if necessary adjust activities, inputs and budgets, in order to obtain the objectives laid down for the project. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Municipal wastewater: Discharge of effluent from waste water treatment plants which receive waste water from households, commercial establishments, and industries. Combined sewer/separate storm overflows are included in this category.
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Municipal waste: Waste from households, as well as other waste which, because of its nature or composition, is similar to waste from household. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Modelling: An investigative technique using a mathematical or physical representation of a system or theory that accounts for all or some its known properties. Models are often used to test the effect of changes of system components on the overall performance of the system.
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Natural Capital: Refers to the existing air, water, land and energy resources from which all resources derive. Main functions include resource production (such as fish, timber or cereals), waste assimilation (such as CO₂ absorption, sewage decomposition), and life support services (UV protection, biodiversity, water cleansing, climate stability).
<http://www.redefiningprogress.org/programs/sustainability/glossary/terms.html>

Non-renewable resource: Natural resource that cannot be replaced, regenerated, or brought back to its original state once it has been extracted.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Non-renewable: Minerals, oil, gas and coal. Their use as material and energy sources leads to depletion of the Earth's reserves and are characterised that they do not renew in human relevant periods. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Noise pollution: Harmful or unwanted sounds in the environment, which in specific locals, can be measured and averaged over a period of time <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Natural Capital: The natural assets (i.e. stocks of resources such as land, water, wildlife, biodiversity, and other environmental resources) providing inputs for economic production and from which resource flows useful for livelihoods are derived. Natural assets in their role of providing natural resource inputs and environmental services for economic production The natural resource stock from which resource flows useful for livelihoods are derived (e.g. land, water, wildlife, biodiversity, environmental resources). Adapted from Scoones. I. 1998

Objective: Expresses the object of an action or what is intended to be achieved. Any objective will include explicit statements against which progress can be measured, and identify which things are truly important and the way they inter-relate; quantified objectives are referred to as targets. Natural resource that does not have a barrier to its use. Scialabba N. (ed.), 1998. p.256

Ozone: At the ground level is a form of air pollution that is produced when nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons react in sunlight. It is not to be confused with stratospheric ozone, which is found 9 to 18 miles high in the Earth's atmosphere and protects people from harmful radiation from the sun. Ground-level ozone pollution, or smog, is mainly a problem during hot summer days.
<http://www.fao.org/fi/glossary>

Ozone layer: A thin layer of ozone that lies about 25 kilometres above the earth, in the stratosphere. It forms a prospective screen against harmful radiation, filtering out ultraviolet rays from the sun. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Performance indicator: Performance indicators compare actual conditions with a specific set of reference conditions. They measure the 'distance(s)' between the current environmental situation and the desired situation (target): 'distance to target' assessment.
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Performance: Accomplishment; fulfilment; functioning, usually with regard to effectiveness. Indicators of performance will be interpreted in relation to reference points and objectives. FAO. 1998. p113

Photovoltaics: Light-sensitive panels used to generate electricity from the sun. Used to power electronics in satellites, navigation buoys, oil rigs and ocean-going yachts but is still too expensive for most domestic or general industrial uses.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Physical Capital: The basic infrastructure (transport, shelter, water, energy, and communications) and the production equipment and means which enable people to pursue their livelihoods Adapted from Scoones, I.1998

Policy: A set of government or corporate objectives and guidelines deliberately chosen to influence future decisions <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Pollution: The poisoning of land, air or water with anything that reduces its ability to support life.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Population: A group of organisms of the same species living within a specified region.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Precautionary principle: 1) Principle adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992) that in order to protect the environment, a precautionary approach should be widely applied, meaning that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to the environment, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. 2) The precautionary principle permits a lower level of proof of harm to be used in policy-making whenever the consequences of waiting for higher levels of proof may be very costly and/or irreversible.
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Recycling: 1) A resource recovery method involving the collection and treatment of a waste product for use as raw material in the manufacture of the same or a similar product. 2) the EU waste strategy distinguishes between: reuse meant as a material reuse without any structural changes in materials; recycling meant as a material recycling, only, and with a reference to

structural changes in products; and recovery meant as an energy recovery only.
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Renewable resources are energy sources that do not use exhaustible fuels. Sources of renewable energy include water, wind, solar energy and geothermal energy, as well as some combustible materials, such as landfill gas, biomass, and municipal solid waste
<http://www.weathervane.rff.org/glossary/index.html>

Renewable resources: Resources which renew themselves within a human time-scale, such as trees and freshwater, and have the potential to be used on a sustainable basis without depletion.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Resilience: Capacity for a natural area to recover from disturbance.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Resource depletion: For renewable resources, the part of the harvest, logging, catch and so forth above the sustainable level of the resource stock; for non-renewable resources, the quantity of resources extracted. Portion of rainfall, melted snow or irrigation water that flows across the ground's surface and is eventually returned to streams. Run-off can pick up pollutants from air or land and carry them to receiving waters. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Reuse: Material reuse without any structural changes in materials.
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Runoff: Storm water running off from the ground surface.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Social Capital: A measure of the ability of people to work together for a common purpose in groups or organisations. A key element of social capital is the sense of mutual trust. Elkington, J.1997

Solar energy: Energy from the sun which can be captured and used.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Solid waste: Wastes disposed of on land.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

State indicator: Indicator for the condition of different environmental compartments and systems in physical (e.g. temperature), chemical (e.g. atmospheric CO₂ concentrations) or biological (fish stocks) variables <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Species: Group of related individuals with common hereditary morphology, chromosome number and structure, physiology and way of life, separated from neighbouring groups by a barrier that is generally-related in nature. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Species diversity: Total number of different species in a given area.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Species richness: Number of species in a region, site or sample
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Stewardship: Management of natural resources that conserves them for future generations. Usually used to distinguish from short-term, utilitarian management objectives
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Structured process: A process designed to ensure that the assessment framework and target setting document are used in effective ways to integrate sustainable development into building and construction processes. This involves ensuring that it uses the right information, involves the right people at the right time and influences decision-making.

Surface water: Water found on the surface of the land, for example rivers, lakes and dams.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Sustainability: The ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes and functions, biodiversity and productivity over time. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Sustainable Building Assessment Tool or SBAT: A tool that has been developed to support the integration of sustainable development into building briefing and design processes.

Sustainable development: Term coined by the World Commission on Environment and Development to denote development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; development that does not require a continuous input from the outside to sustain itself. - there is no consensus on the definition of SD. Ekins, P., Hillman, M., and Hutchinson, R.1992.

Sustainable resource use: Use of resources (i.e. organisms or ecosystems) in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biodiversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Sustainability: There are over 100 definitions of sustainability and sustainable development, but the best known is that of the World Commission on Environment and Development. This suggests that development is sustainable where it “meets the needs of present without compromising that ability of future generations to meet their own needs”
<http://globalsustainability.org/Education/Definitions/>

Sustainability indicator: A variable, a pointer, an index of a complex phenomenon. Its fluctuations reveal the variations in components of the ecosystem, the resource or the sector. The position and trend of the indicator in relation to the criteria indicate the present state and dynamics of the system. Ideally, composite indicators are needed, the position and trajectory of which, within a system of reference of related criteria, would allow simple holistic assessment of sustainability. One can distinguish indicators of state of the system, pressure (or stress, driving forces) on the system, and response (reflecting action taken to mitigate, reduce, eliminate or compensate for the stress). http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary/S/sustainability_indicator

Species: Group of related individuals with common hereditary morphology, chromosome number and structure, physiology and way of life, separated from neighbouring groups by a barrier that is generally-related in nature. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Sustainable use: The use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations. FAO.1998.

Target setting document: A document consisting of sustainable development objectives and targets that have been discussed and agreed by building stakeholders for a building project.

Target setting workshop: A workshop involving key stakeholders of a building project where an *assessment framework* is used to discuss and agree sustainable development objectives and targets for a building project in order to produce a *target setting document*.

Tender: Offer made by a contractor to do certain work for a price. Maclean, J.H., and Scott, J.S. 1995.

Tendering: The process of sending out drawings and bills of quantities to contractors for them to prepare a tender price. Maclean, J.H., and Scott, J.S. 1995.

Toxic: Any substance entering or that may enter the environment in a quantity or concentration or under conditions constituting a danger to the environment or human life or health.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Trend: A persistent tendency in the slope of a time series.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Urban: A place or area that has a population of at least 1,000 people concentrated within a continuously built up area, at a density of at least 400 per square kilometre.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Urban wastewater: The liquid wastes deriving from domestic, commercial and industrial activities of an urban settlement. 2) Urban waste water means domestic waste water or the mixture of domestic waste water with industrial waste water and/or run-off rain water.
<http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Vulnerable: Official designation of any indigenous species, subspecies or any geographically separate population that is particularly at risk because of low or declining numbers, small range, or some other reason but is not a threatened.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Waste: Physical waste is product that is caught but does not have market value. It is a by-product of the production process, which is not utilized.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Water consumption: Water abstracted, which is no longer available for use because it has evaporated, transpired, been incorporated into products and crops, consumed by man or livestock, ejected directly into sea, or otherwise removed from freshwater resources. Water losses during transport of water between the points or points of abstractions and point or points of use are excluded. <http://glossary.eea.eu.int/EEAGlossary>

Water erosion: Process of soil erosion beginning when raindrops bombard bare soil, loosening and washing away soil particles and culminating eventually in gully formation, most severe in areas with long dry seasons and agricultural practices that leave little vegetation cover on the soil.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Water harvesting: Any system to collect and concentrate rainwater or any other precipitation.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Water infiltration: Water moving down into pore spaces in the soil.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Water table: A more or less horizontal layer in the soil below which all spaces between soil particles are saturated with water. <http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>

Zero emissions: Industrial or other waste producing processes which completely recycle or capture wastes so that none are released to the environment except in completely benign forms.
<http://www.iucnrosa.org.zw/work/vesats/m2/m2gloss.htm>