Exercises, chapter 4

Analysis assignments

4.1. Sustainable development and the UN
Write an essay of 500 to 1,000 words in which you explain what the UN means to sustainable development. You can limit yourself to information found in this chapter or you can seek out further facts. Before starting, focus on a specific target group that fits in with your current or future situation as either a professional or an individual.
Your target group could, for example, be: municipal officials, corporate managers, politicians, technical designers, artists, or children in a given primary school or senior secondary school grade. You could also use your neighbours, parents or your children as a target group.
You can also vary the assignment by selecting a different topic in this chapter.

4.2. Certification marks
a. Which requirements must wood meet in order to be awarded FSC certification?
b. Are there other certification marks that deal with sustainable development?

4.3. Science and technology as a source of vigour
In section 4.5 several examples were studied of how science and technology are able to contribute to sustainable development.
Find at least three other examples, describing them in the same way as the ones that were outlined in the chapter.

4.4. Art and music as a source of vigour
Do you know a singer/rapper/band/artist/filmmaker that acts as a source of vigour for sustainable development? Provide examples of his/her/their work and explain why you believe the work contributes to sustainable development. Use the PPP classification.

4.5. President Andrew Jackson
Imagine that former US president Andrew Jackson was still alive, and imagine you were a prosecutor at the International Criminal Court. Write a legal charge against him relating to his actions that caused the ‘Trail of Tears’.

Numerical assignments

4.6. The price of coffee
a. If a 250 gram pack of coffee was to cost 30 cents more, how much more would a cup of coffee cost? (six to ten grams of ground coffee goes into making one cup)
b. Imagine that this thirty cents was entirely for the benefit of the coffee farmers – by how many percent would their profits increase (in dollars, euros, pounds sterling, etc.)?
Assume that a coffee farmer receives 72 cents for every kilogram of ‘green coffee’ – the unprocessed coffee beans. For one kilogram of roasted and ground coffee, 1.5 kilograms of green coffee is required.
c. Let’s say that a coffee farmer has to spend 62 cents per kilogram of green coffee in order to produce and sell the coffee. With regard to question b, by how many percent will his income increase?

Research assignments

4.7. Sustainable business practices
Select a multinational company that is in the Top Ten of the World Index of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI). Investigate what this company does in respect of sustainable development.

4.8. Amnesty International
Describe a success story for Amnesty International, using a case-based approach, in the same way that a success is detailed on the part of the UNDP in the chapter.
4.9. The International Criminal Court
a. Detail the history of the UN International Criminal Court (ICC).
b. What is ‘The Hague Invasion Act’?
c. Outline the strong and weak aspects of the International Criminal Court.

4.10. Sudan
a. Describe the events in Darfur in Sudan that led to the UN Security Council deciding to launch proceedings in the International Criminal Court in 2005.
b. Outline the course of this criminal case.

4.11. Médecins Sans Frontières
a. Detail the history of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) or Greenpeace, Amnesty International, the World Wildlife Fund or the Society for the Preservation of Nature Monuments. If you undertake this assignment in a group, then each must select a different organisation. If it is a larger group, find other organisations aside from the ones listed above.
b. Using your findings, write a consideration on the opportunities that individuals have to advance sustainable development on a large scale.

4.12. Earth Charter
The Earth Charter is a document that brings to mind the speech by Chief Seattle in certain aspects.
a. The document reveals a non-anthropocentric view of sustainable development. What does this mean?
b. Could the document have practical consequences in terms of the disciplines (education, subjects) within the group performing this exercise?

Debating assignments
4.13. Your own situation (work or education)
Is the institution where you study, or the company where you work, a source of vigour for sustainable development? Use the PPP classification in your response.

4.14. Shifting views on humanity
Discuss figure 4.5.

4.15. Schedule of values
First read the ‘Additional material’ that is a part of chapter 4: ‘Diversity in values’, which can be found on the website of ‘Fundamentals of Sustainable Development’.
Figure 3 in this text contains a number of schedules of values. These are of course all models, and the actual situation is, in its totality, much more complicated than a model. Many people have a world image that is made up of combinations of the schedules in the figure and, even further, many of them simultaneously adhere to multiple schedules, even when they conflict each other.
You can see, by the existence of these types of schedules of values, that the question of for whom sustainable development is intended is not a simple one.
a. Do you recognise yourself in one or more of the schedules in the figure, or maybe in combinations of them? Or would your own schedule be different?
b. Discover whether there are differences between the schedules of values of the members of the debating group.
c. Have you ever spoken with people who have a dramatically different schedule of values? What was that like?

4.16. Transition management and judo
The martial art of judo is well-known for the fact that the strongest or heaviest person will certainly not always win. Lighter and weaker fighters have a good chance of beating their larger opponents.
a. Investigate why this is so.
b. Find a parallel between the principle behind question a and transition management.
4.17. War
Two views on war:

**Extract from: Peace**
Come tonight with stories,
Of how the war has gone,
And repeat them a hundred times,
Every time I shall weep.

**Fragment from: Lines in the sand**
Oh sons and daughters
Listen to me
March on to Glory
And Victory
The whole world will watch
As you make your brave stand
As you try to defend the
Lines in the sand.

‘Peace’ (Vrede) is a poem by Leo Vroman, which first appeared in his 1957 book ‘Sleepwalking’ (Slaapwandelen). The lines of the poem were later written on a wall in one of the buildings of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

‘Lines in the sand’ is a song by Randy Newman, from his 1998 album ‘Definitely Guilty’.

War is one of the primary causes of poverty, refugees and economic destruction.

A war has never been waged between the members of the EU, but before the EU existed thousands of wars had been fought in Europe.

a. Put the image that arises from the extract from ‘Peace’ into words.

b. The extract from ‘Lines in the Sand’ is ironic. But if you read it literally, put the image detailed in the extract into words. First read the lyrics of the whole song, and if possible, listen to it too.

c. Repeat question b, this time taking into account the fact that it is ironic.

d. Discuss the question of whether it is realistic to hope that one day the world will no longer be confronted by wars – or even further, that they will be zealously opposed.

**Problem-based learning assignments**

4.18. WTO
The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is both praised and criticised. Do you think the WTO is a source of vigour for sustainable development?

4.19. Democracy in Malaysia
Prosperity and democracy generally go hand-in-hand in Western countries, something that is not always the case elsewhere in the world. An example of this is the Asian country of Malaysia, which was created in 1963 through the amalgamation of a number of former British colonies. There are a number of political parties, and elections are held once every five years. However, since independence it has been ruled by the Barisan Nasional (National Front) and its predecessor, the Parti Perikatan (Alliance Party), a coalition of parties that receive the large majority of parliamentary seats in every election – 198 of the 219 available seats in 2004, for example. Although the party received a serious blow in the 2008 elections, it still (in 2012) holds 140 of the current 222 seats. Critics consequently refer to it as a sham democracy.

The laws in Malaysia are extremely strict, but there is little protest against the situation, with most of the population being satisfied. This may not be that strange, as Malaysia is performing extremely well economically. It is one of the ‘Asian tigers’ – far-eastern nations marked by great economic growth. The GNP per capita in

The huge Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Image by Andy Mitchell, UK, on www.Flickr.com
Malaysia approaches that of the wealthy western nations, while one symbol of this prosperity is the two Petronas Towers in the capital city of Kuala Lampur, the tallest buildings in the world at 452 meters upon completion in 1998.

4.20. Growth or continuity
‘Rubbish! Imagine thinking that there will ever be a paradigm shift in the economy, where growth makes way for continuity. Growth is part of human nature – it is an instinct and will always be ingrained.’

4.21. Transition management

To: Ms C.G. Gülmaz, Provincial policy administrator.
Concerns: Request for official recommendations.

Dear Ms Gülmaz,

The Queen’s Commissioner for your province, Ms Staines, intends to take the instructions of the Provincial Executive very seriously, and is working on reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 75 percent over the next 15 years.

In order to achieve this ambitious target, Ms Staines first wants to engage in exploratory talks with all relevant bodies that can contribute to achieving this target. Ms Staines will be pleased to receive recommendations from you in respect of which organisations or bodies should be invited for these initial talks.

With kind regards,

N. Velikovsky, Provincial secretary

4.22. Source of vigour for staff
Imagine that you are the manager of a company that provides financial services to individuals and other companies and has a staff of 250 people. What are your options in respect of becoming a source of vigour for sustainable development with regard to your own staff?

4.23. Litter

(Image by FaceMePLS on www.Flickr.com)
Project assignments

4.24. National Strategy
a. Examine the present state of affairs in respect of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) in your country. If your country does not have a NSSD, select another country that does. Discuss your conclusions objectively and succinctly, without voicing your direct opinions of it.
b. Create four parties and divide the group into these parties, being the national government, the national Oxfam committee, the national Employers’ Federation and the national Consumers’ Association.
c. Each party has a week to familiarise themselves with their standpoints in terms of the NSSD. Try to sincerely understand your party’s point of view, putting aside any personal opinions.
d. Next, with a neutral chairperson in place, the parties spend at most 90 minutes evaluating the present state of affairs.
e. After that the negotiations commence, which can last for one month in total. Everything is permitted, from informal chats between two or three parties to formal meetings, as well as dinners, secret meetings, etc. You do not have to tell the truth, you only have to ensure that your party gets the most beneficial result possible.
f. Then all the parties meet again, once more with a neutral chairperson in place. Try to reach a decision within the space of two hours on how to adjust the NSSD.
g. If you reached a consensus you can hold a celebration, but if not you must examine why this did not succeed.

4.25. You as a source of vigour for sustainable development
If possible, perform this exercise simultaneously with a number of people, so that the participants can compare their answers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Citizen</th>
<th>Consumer</th>
<th>Student or Professional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planet (nature and the environment)</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>•</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prosperity</td>
<td>•</td>
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<td>•</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4.26. Microcredit
Examine the microcredit system, and prepare a PowerPoint presentation on it. Make sure you have a good opportunity to give your presentation, with a suitable audience. Give your presentation to that audience. Amongst other things, devote attention to the following in your presentation:
- a comparison between the huge loans to nations and microcredit
- a comparison between a top-down and a bottom-up approach to development
- various actual examples (cases) of successful companies that were launched thanks to microcredit
- the significance of microcredit for the emancipation of women
- the significance of microcredit for poor nations
- a critical consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of microcredit.

4.27. World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSC-SD)
a. Examine the work of the WSC-SD.
b. Check whether any organisations in your own country are members of the WSC-SD.
c. If there are, see whether you can participate in some way.
d. If there are not, see what you can do to create a membership. Check whether there is an existing organisation that could become a member and get in touch with it. If this does not succeed, then start your own organisation.

4.28. Speaking of value ...
First read the ‘Additional material’ for chapter 4: ‘Diversity in values’, which can be found on the website the website of ‘Fundamentals of Sustainable Development’. After reading the material, are you curious about the reason why one person in the USA is worth 397 persons in Bangladesh? The figures can all be checked using the spreadsheet called ‘What is it all worth’, which can be downloaded from the website of ‘Fundamentals of Sustainable Development’. This spreadsheet also contains an empty section. Complete it so that you can create a table that is comparable to the above. Ensure that you input data into that table that – in your opinion – are very strange and/or unjust.

Film assignments
4.29. Feature films and documentaries
Watch one of the following, preferably with others in your class:
- Earth, the Biography (2008), a documentary series from the BBC that provides a grand overview of the beauty, power and diversity of the living planet.
- Gandhi (1982), a feature film directed by Richard Attenborough on the life of Mahatma Gandhi and his non-violent struggle for Indian independence.
Read the reviews and other comments. Discuss the film.

4.30. Make your own nature video
Watch the video ‘Natura 2000 in Hungary’, which you can find on the website of ‘Fundamentals of Sustainable Development’. Visit a protected natural area in your region, if possible an area that is a part of Natura 2000 or another large-scale nature project, and make a documentary about the area. Should you be very happy with your film, then submit it to the above website. Who knows, maybe your film, along with your name, will be placed on the website so that all users can view it. If you decide to do this, do make sure that you hold full copyright, including for any music, photos or anything else used.
4.31 Taking action!
Watch the videos ‘10000 Dance for the Climate’ and ‘Hundreds Strip Naked on Glacier’, both of which can be found on the website of ‘Fundamentals of Sustainable Development’.

Think of an attention-getting activity that you can perform in public and that involves at least a thousand people, focusing on a major form of unsustainability. Perform the action and make a video report of it.

If possible, try and get the official media to also attend.

Should you be very happy with your video, then submit it to the above website. Who knows, maybe your film, along with your name, will be placed on the website so that all users can view it. If you decide to do this, do make sure that you hold full copyright, including for any music, photos or anything else used.