

Measuring New Zealand's Progress Using A Sustainable Development Approach

Rachael Milicich
Manager, National Accounts

Background

GDP Per Capita

GDP per capita slightly below OECD average in New Zealand

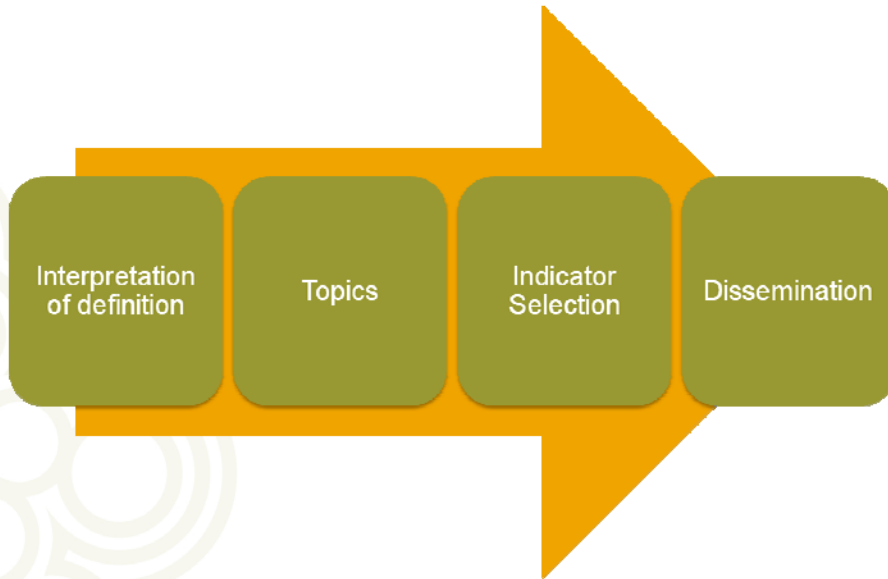
GDP Per Capita Using Current Purchasing Power Parities (PPP) 2005	US\$
Luxembourg	53,800
United States	37,000
Norway	33,200
Iceland	33,200
Switzerland	32,500
Denmark	30,700
Austria	30,600
Canada	30,500
Netherlands	30,500
Australia	30,100
United Kingdom	29,800
Ireland	28,700
Belgium	28,500
Sweden	28,500
Finland	28,500
Japan	28,400
France	22,000
Germany	21,000
Italy	20,600
OECD	20,500
Spain	20,500
New Zealand	20,200
Greece	20,500
Korea	19,200
Portugal	18,700
Czech Republic	17,200
Hungary	15,200
Slovak Republic	15,100
Poland	11,500
Mexico	6,500
Turkey	6,000

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita is commonly used as a measure of prosperity. The GDP data of different countries can be compared when converted into a common currency by using Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs). PPPs are calculated by measuring the relative amounts of different countries' currencies required to purchase a common basket of goods and services.

New Zealand's GDP per capita was below the OECD average in 2005 and was twenty-first of the 30 countries. At US\$20,200 or 88 percent of the OECD average (US\$23,000), New Zealand's GDP per capita was most similar to that of Spain. Luxembourg continued to be the highest rating OECD country in 2005; its GDP per capita was more than twice the OECD average. The lowest rating country in the OECD was Turkey; its GDP per capita was 26 percent of the OECD average.



Overview of the Process



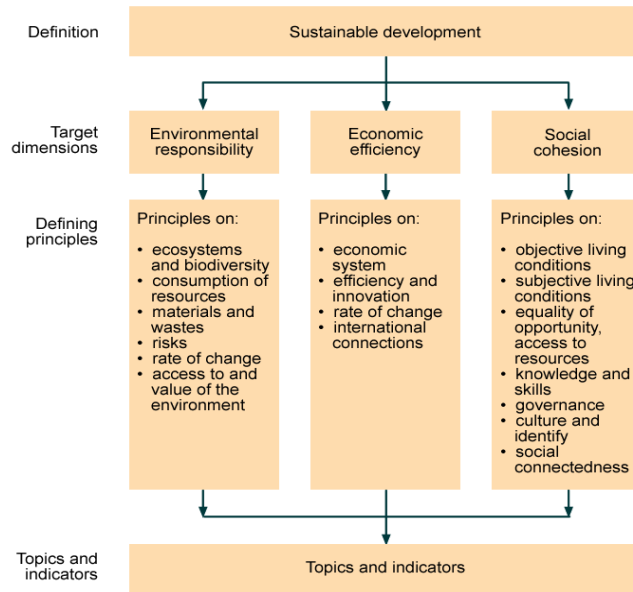
Our definition

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

Sustainable development means ensuring that well-being is at least maintained over time. The principle of fairness among and between present and future generations should be taken into account in the use of environmental, economic and social resources.

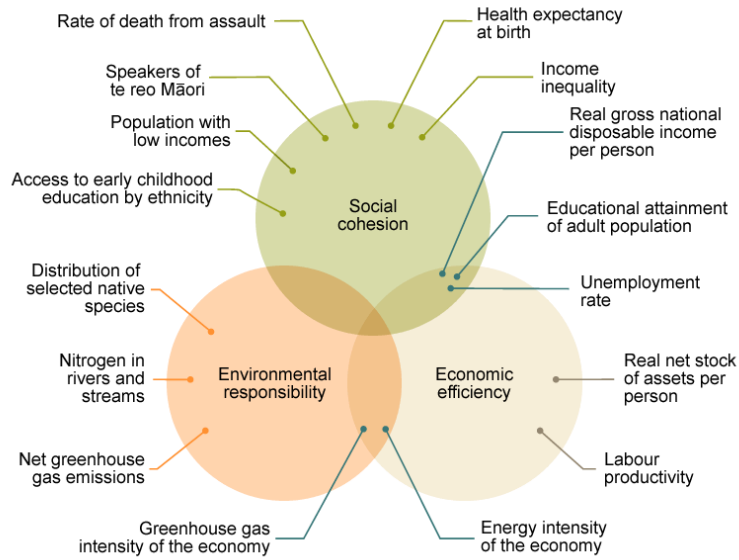
Meeting these needs in practice requires living within the limits of the natural environment

Measurement framework



Relationship between target dimensions and key indicators

Relationship between target dimensions and key indicators



Four Key Questions



Meeting Needs • How well do we live?

Fairness • How well are resources distributed?

Preservation of resources • What are we leaving behind for our children?

Decoupling • How efficiently are we using our resources?

How well do we live?

Indicator	Target trend	What has happened	Actual result
10.2 Unemployment rate	↓	Annual rate is little changed from 1987 after peaks in 1992 and 1998. The rate fell from 2002–07 but rose again to 4.2% in 2008.	≈
12.1 Real gross national disposable income	↑	Since 1992 average income has steadily increased.	✓
13.1 Health expectancy at birth	↑	Between 1996 and 2006, health expectancy increased, but there are gender and ethnic disparities.	✓
14.2 Rate of death from assault	↓	Between 1987 and 2005, the rate of deaths by assault per 100,000 people decreased but there was little change since 2000.	✓

How well are resources distributed?

Indicator	Target trend	What has happened	Actual result
10.8 Access to early childhood education, by ethnicity	↑	Since 2000, the gap in participation rates in early childhood education by different ethnic groups narrowed.	✓
12.3 Income inequality	↓	Between 1988 and 2007, income inequality between households with high incomes and households with low incomes widened.	✗
12.4 Population with low incomes	↓	The proportion of the population recognised as having low incomes has risen since the early 1980s.	✗

How efficiently are we using our resources?

Indicator	Target trend	What has happened	Actual result
3.4 Greenhouse gas intensity of the economy	↓	Although total emissions have increased, the intensity of emissions in relation to the economy has decreased.	✓
6.2 Energy intensity of the economy	↓	The energy intensity of the economy has decreased since 1995.	✓
10.4 Labour productivity	↑	Since 1985, labour productivity has increased an average of 2.2% per year.	✓

What are we leaving behind for our children?

Indicator		Target trend	What has happened	Actual result
2.2	Distribution of selected native species	↑	Since the 1970s, the distribution of all seven indicator species has continued to decline.	✗
3.1	Net greenhouse gas emissions	↓	New Zealand's net greenhouse gas emissions have grown since 1990, although there has been little change since 2002.	✗
4.2	Nitrogen in rivers and streams	↓	Levels of nitrogen at monitored river and stream sites have increased since 1989.	✗
10.5	Educational attainment of the adult population	↑	The proportion of adults with at least secondary qualifications has increased between 1990 and 2008.	✓
11.1	Real net stock of total assets per person	↑	Net capital stock per person rose 29% from 1988–2008.	✓
15.1	Speakers of te reo Māori	↑	The proportion of Māori able to hold an everyday conversation in Māori language decreased slightly between 1996 and 2006.	≈

Challenges

- Conceptual Framework
- Indicators
- Communication



Pathways to Sustainability *What Matters Most to NZers*

Abraham Lincoln said, "With public sentiment nothing can fail, without it, nothing can succeed."
You are invited to participate in a free joint workshop with Statistics New Zealand and Arew NZ.
"Pathways to Sustainability – What Matters Most to New Zealanders"
to enable New Zealanders to choose future directions for the country that will improve our wellbeing and sustainability.
You will be examining wealth, wellbeing, sustainability and progress—and contributing directly to developing a national vision for the country through the project "What Matters Most to New Zealanders" (see www.snewnz.org.nz)
You will be assisting directly in the development of a national set of sustainable development indicators by Statistics NZ. They seek public views on sustainable development and the topics that should be included in its measurement. (see www.stats.govt.nz/environment/sustainable-development/default.htm)
These workshop outcomes will be used to inform and influence government decision makers and stimulate public/community engagement.
Auckland, Friday 29th August - Wellington, Tuesday, 9th of September
Stage 1: 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM, discuss framework and topics for Sustainable Development Indicators
• develop national vision
Lunch: 1:00-1:30 PM
Stage 2: 1:30 PM – 3 PM, activating the vision
Registration is required for attendance – through your organisational office. Attendance will be limited. Catering included for those staying on after lunch. Please indicate if you are able to attend in the afternoon.
You will be sent pre-workshop materials to inform participants. See www.snewnz.org.nz for more detail.
The world is moving fast – New Zealand has an opportunity to be a leader while we support and tap the wisdom of community.

Questions

