



# Sustainability indicators

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# Two types of Sustainability Indicators

- Composite indexes
  - HDI
  - Set of environmental indicators ( or norms)
  - Green GDP, GPI, ISEW ( monetary units)
  - Ecological Footprint ( bio capacity unit )
- Constraints on the use of capital stocks
  - Adjusted Net Savings  $> 0$

## Differing by the question they answer

- How to better measure PRESENT welfare, inequalities, freedom, capabilities, environmental degradation, etc...?
- How and how much can we use the capital stocks we have inherited?

## Differing by the equity norm

- Mainly INTRA generational equity, with implicit and weak INTER generational equity
- Strictly INTER generational equity

# Differing by the economic foundations

- Very weak
- Stronger

# Differing by the processes

- Sustainable development as a political process:
  - the present development path is sustainable, if a wide “democratic” process says it is...
- Sustainable development as:
  - a general inter generational equity norm, decided par a democratic process,
  - translated into a macro objective by the “scientists”

# Do we need to choose?

- No
- Technically, we still need both types
- To count is to act, let's count...
- Let the “political selection” decide on the value and rules of use of the various indicators