

# *Seven Questions to Sustainability: Overview*

*Summary Presentation to the  
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*Corporate Stream*

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## *The Challenge:*

If sustainability concepts aren't meaningful  
to people on the ground they will be of  
little use

# *The Response:*

*Seven Questions to Sustainability:*

*How to Assess the Contribution of  
Mining and Mineral Activities*

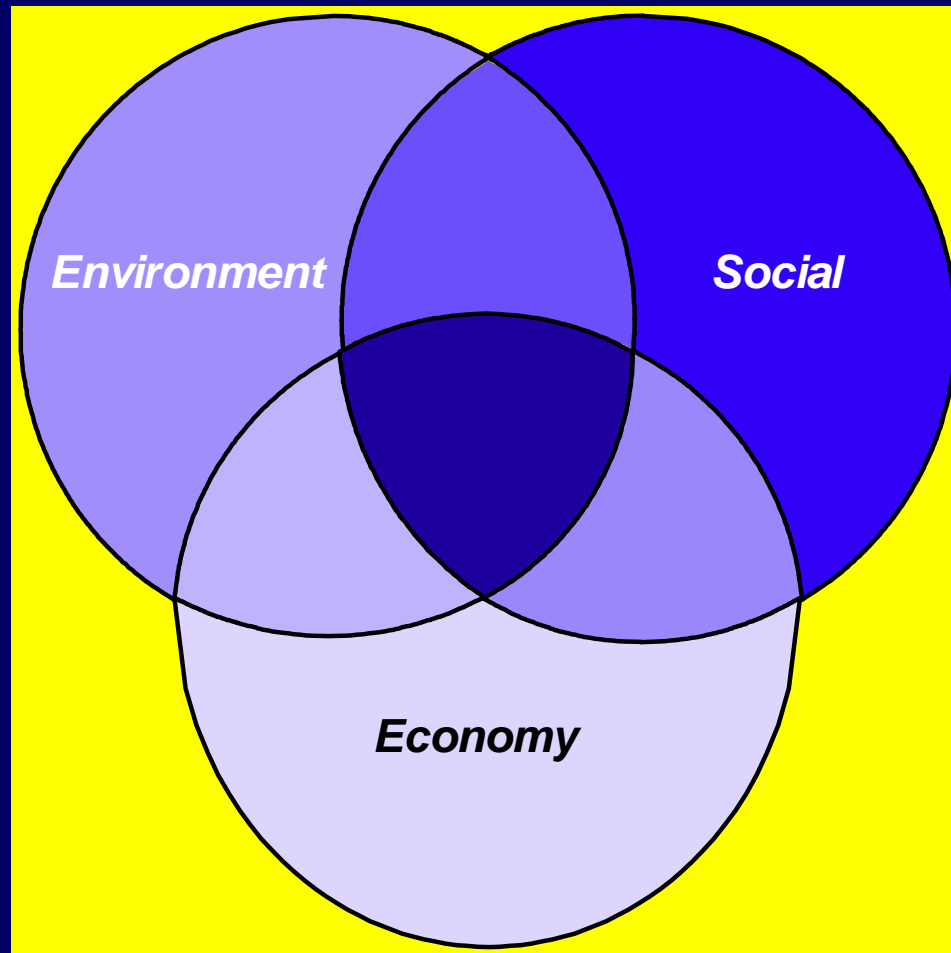
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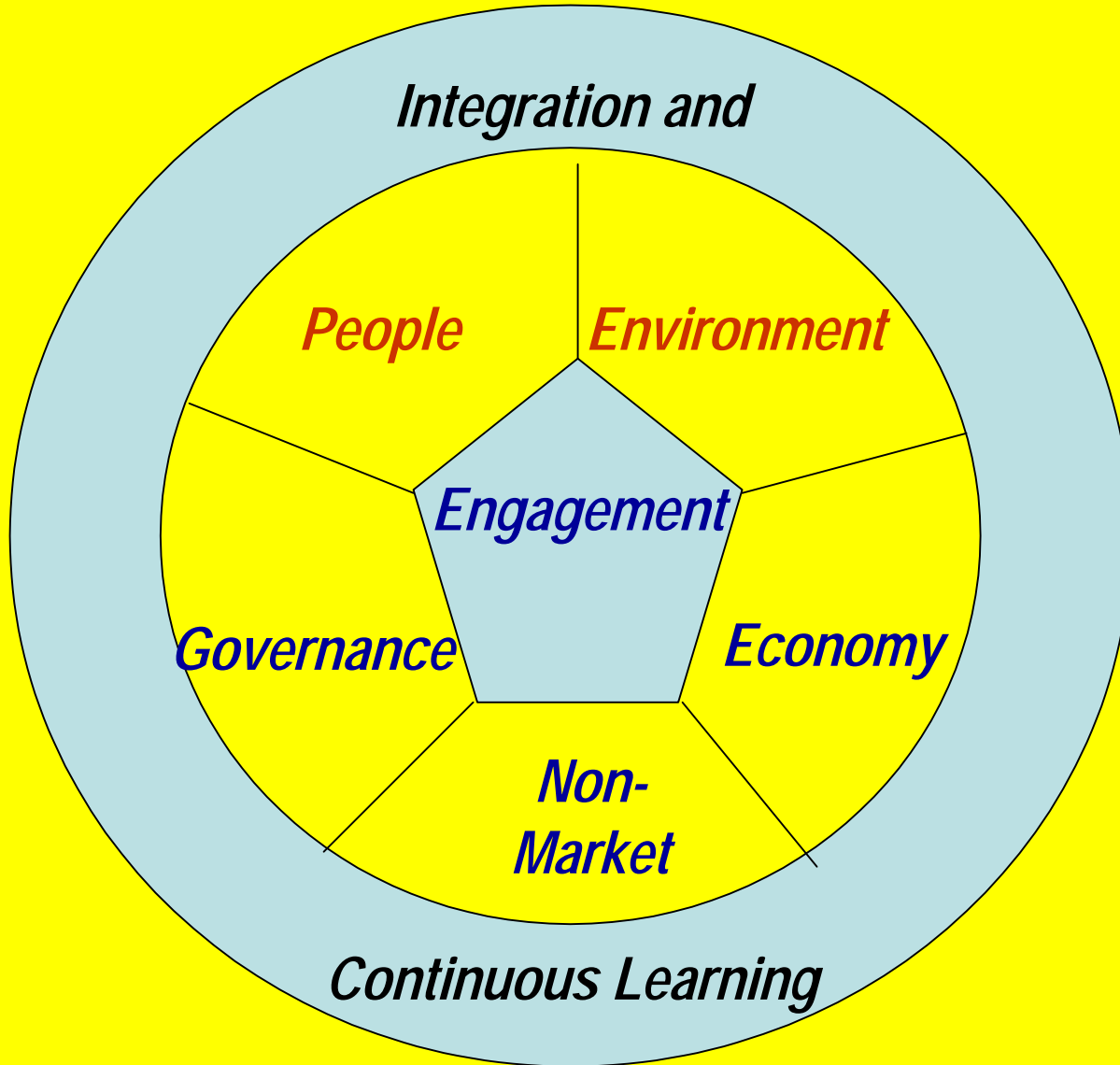
# Overall Question:

Is the contribution to people and the environment net positive over the long term ?

- *shift away from impacts and their mitigation to an assessment of « contribution » ;*
- *thus, the bar is set higher than before; but the effect is to*
- *encourage fuller and fairer treatment of the positive.*

# *The Standard SD Approach*





# Framework Development Sequence

1. Question (*interrogative form of goal statement*)
2. Ideal Answer (*foundation of assessment criteria*)
3. Objectives
4. Indicators
5. Metrics

Note: Application adjusted across project life cycle from exploration through to post closure

# *Key Characteristics*

- Built on real experience
- Shift to “contribution” analysis from “impacts” analysis
- Interrogative rather than prescriptive
- Brings consistency across applications and phases of the life-cycle that can lead to significant efficiency gains
- Outcomes/results oriented and pragmatic – explicitly aimed at enhancing effective risk management and decision-making
- Blends economic, environmental and social criteria
- Employs a mix of metrics
- Qualified by place, culture, scale and time
- Knowledge based



# Applications

- **Early Appraisal:** can/should a project be acquired or implemented?
- **Planning:** what do we do and who do we involve?
- **Financing and Insuring:** does the overall risk lie within an acceptable range?
- **Licensing and Approvals:** does the project pass or fail?
- **Internal Corporate Reviews:** how are we doing; what's missing; how do we do things better?
- **Corporate Reporting:** how do we communicate?
- **External Reviews:** from the perspective of an external interest, how is the project/operation doing?

# Continuing Issues

- **Equity:** how to best identify and fairly distribute costs, benefits, and risks
- **Trade-offs:** how to effectively and fairly address trade-offs in any given site application
- **Need and alternatives:** how to assess the need for a given project and/or commodity
- **Achieving a whole system perspective:** how to factor in a sense of the whole system
- **Uncertainty, precaution and adaptive management:** how to deal with uncertainty, use an appropriate level of precaution and implement an adaptive approach
- **The attribution problem and dealing with cumulative impacts:** how to apportion responsibility when there are multiple contributors, how to address cumulative implications
- **Integration, synthesis and language:** how to best bridge across disciplines, synthesize, and find a common language that will facilitate effective synthesis