

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS FOR ISRAEL

Eran Feitelson

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
and Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies

Partners: CBS and MOE

Sustainable Development in Israel

- Israel 2020 Strategic Plan – Sustainability introduced (1995)
- CAMP Israel – Draft SD Strategy (2000)
- MEDERMIS – Draft Indicators prepared (2000 – 2003)
- Draft Indicators published by JIIS (2004)
- Governmental SD Strategy (2003 – present)

Indicator Goals

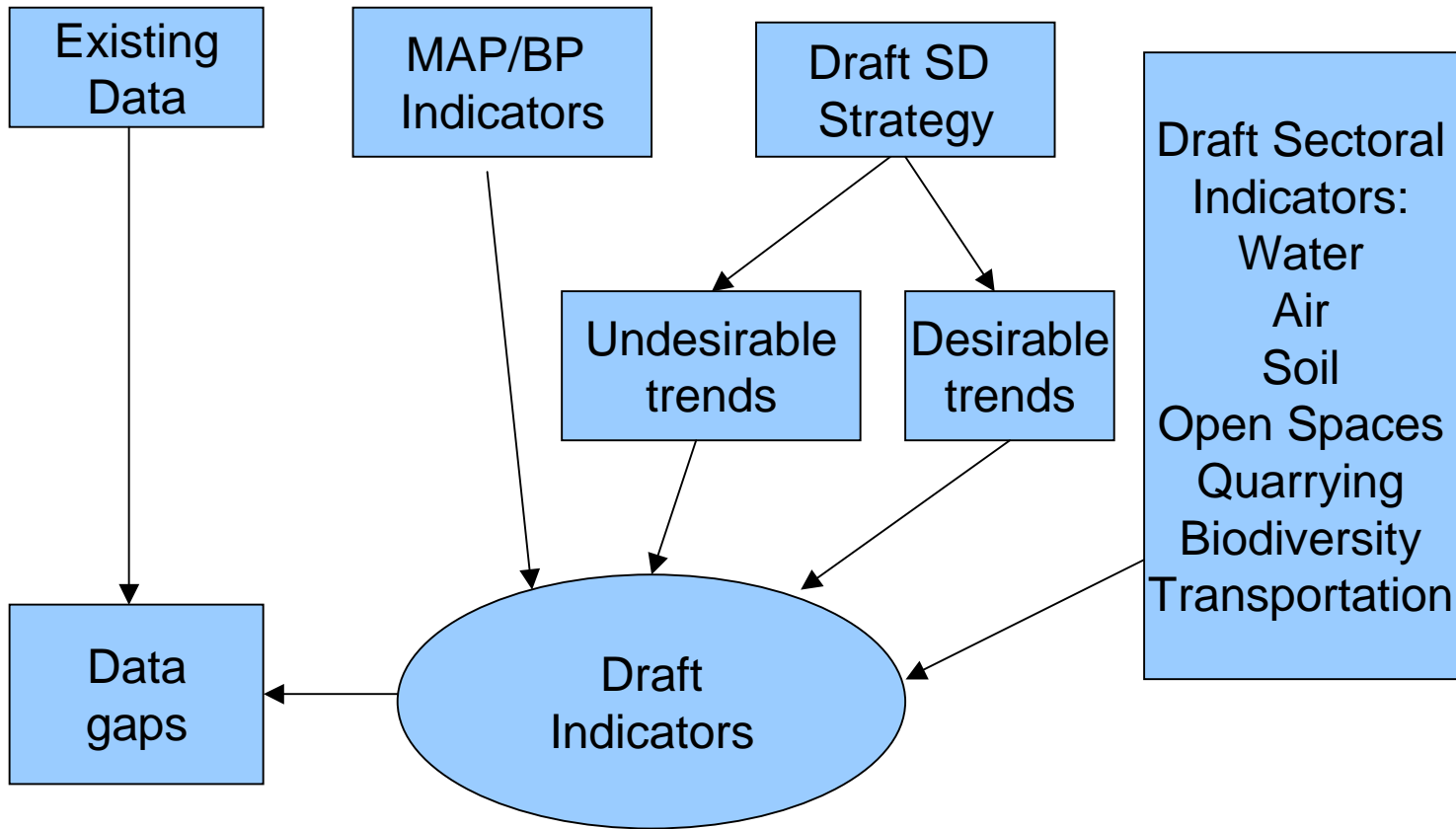
- 'Red lights' – identification of issues that require attention
- Basis for an informed discourse between civil society and government
- Follow up on results of national level policies, particularly those implementing SD strategies

Indicator Requirements

- Describe central major trends
- Relevant for follow-up of SD strategy
- Usable by wide variety of groups
- Reliable
- Available
- Can be followed over time

Method

- Examine relevance of MAP/BP Indicators
- Identify minimal desirable indicators in key areas
- Identify indicators that are necessary to follow up on the draft national SD strategy



SD Targets

- Internalize externalities by pricing
- Conserve land, water and energy
- Reduce environmental damages
- Improve the urban environment
- Public awareness
- Public participation
- Protect weak groups and improve the prospects for their children

Negative Trends

- Economic deterioration
- Deterioration in purchasing power of lower deciles and in the service levels they receive
- Overexploitation of resources
- Continuous decline in knowledge generation capacities
- Deterioration in enforcement capacity
- Unbalanced growth
- The transport-land use “black hole”

The SD Indicators' Framework

- Sustainable economic growth
- Intra-generational environmental and social equity
- Ability to address environmental issues
- Protection of future generations' interests
- Efficient use of resources
- Life quality of current generations

Next Steps

- CBS and MOE prepare indicators on basis of readily available data
- Incorporate indicators derived from government strategy
- Assess indicators from environmental and social equity perspectives
- Assess indicators from an economic perspective
- Add indicators and identify projects that are necessary to implement new indicators

Lessons

- Policy relevance requires discrete meaningful indicators, and not indices
- PSR type systems are insufficient from a SD perspective, as they lack capacity, equity and economic growth dimensions
- Data availability should not be a guiding factor in indicator formation
- Indicators should be sensitive to local issues and contexts
- Indicators are a function of scale – indicators differ by spatial scale (regional, national, local)

Institutional Partners

- Central Bureau of Statistics
- The Ministry of Environment
- Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies