

MAPPING COMMON GROUND on environmental equality

A roundtable event led by Capacity and the Environment Agency

South Bank University, London. 11 October 2001

Introduction

Tackling poverty and inequality remains one of the toughest challenges facing society, and is fundamental to sustainable development. Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. The UK Strategy for Sustainable Development¹, which uses that definition of sustainable development, has four objectives:

- social progress which recognises the needs of everyone
- effective protection of the environment
- prudent use of natural resources
- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

For many people, sustainable development is about the environment, but the UK Strategy makes it clear that "Everyone should have a share in the benefits of increased prosperity and a clean and safe environment. We have to improve access to services, tackle social exclusion, and reduce the harm to health caused by poverty, poor housing, unemployment and pollution. Our needs must not be met by treating others, including future generations and people elsewhere in the world, unfairly." ².

Sustainable development is now becoming an underpinning philosophy to all government actions, as all government departments are required to develop a sustainable development strategy. At the same time, there is a growing emphasis on fairness and equity - both key principles of sustainable development (e.g. Treasury guidelines on the need for all public spending programmes to take the distributional effects of their impacts into account i.e. whether they will affect poor people and communities disproportionately).

There is a growing body of evidence that poorer communities are more likely to live in poorer environments, and to have poorer access to environmental resources³. However, current environmental policy does not take sufficient account of social exclusion and social exclusion policy fails properly to integrate environmental concerns.

This event was intended to examine the issue which lay behind this failure to integrate existing knowledge and evidence into policy and practice within government more widely.

All those attending the meeting were interested in finding ways forward, to ensure that future plans for social, economic and environmental progress can only be sustained to the extent that they support movement towards a more equitable society, where the benefits of progress are more evenly distributed⁴.

Rationale

The event was designed to contribute to debates which had been taking place within and between various institutions on the links between social policy and environmental issues. In particular, it was designed to build on linkages which had begun to be created through the University of Westminster's '2 For 1' event in February 2001, which aimed to bring together those currently involved in research and practice which connected social and environmental issues, and the Environment Agency's Annual General Meeting in 2000, which took the theme of environmental equality.

These earlier events, and other research (notably by Friends of the Earth) suggested that:

- The social issues within sustainable development could be better understood, and progress could begin to be made, by forging closer links between environmental and social policy priorities.
- These links had not been well made within Government, and nor were other organisations communicating in sufficient depth to strengthen this area of work.
- One specific focus for these links, around the environmental equality agenda, had gathered considerable momentum during the previous year and was now at an interesting and potentially important stage of development.

Purpose

The purpose of the event was to develop some clear messages for government, and others working in the field, on the emerging opportunities. The objectives of the event were:

- to bring together selected stakeholders - from across government, NGOs, community, business and media - working on social environmental research and policy (see Annex A for attendance list)

- to enable participants to gain an overview of the current state of the environmental equality agenda, by mapping current operational, research and policy activities of key relevance
- to highlight areas of potential synergy and common ground, creating opportunities for further development and mainstreaming (including through developing better informed debate on relevant key issues e.g. transport, health, regeneration, pollution, housing, access to information and services).

Format

- Short presentations from organisations whose work demonstrates clear links between environment and social policy. The speakers were (see Annex B for summary of key points made by speakers):
 - Maria Adebawale, Director of Capacity
 - John Colvin, Manager of Social Policy at the Environment Agency
 - Asher Craig from the Ethnic Minority Foundation and the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO)
 - Ravi Gurumurthy, Head of the transport division at the Social Exclusion Unit
 - Tim Hemmings, Head of the National Strategy Policy Team at the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit
 - Jake Werksman, Member of the Board of Capacity
- Interactive whole group working, to produce a mind map to show the themes and linkages between the issues raised by the speakers, and from the participants knowledge and experience (see Annex C for resulting mind map). The map was then given greater depth by the provision of information by participants on relevant existing projects and programmes (see Annex D).
- Small group work by participants, addressing the following issues:
 - common themes and linkages between social inclusion and environmental issues and environmental equality (this discussion was used to inform the production of the mind map)
 - barriers to effective cross-sector work on social inclusion and environmental policy and implementation
 - drivers and opportunities for effective cross-sector work on social inclusion and environmental policy and implementation (including issues of governance)

- identifying the key issues for a central government team working on social inclusion and environmental equality
- identifying the key stakeholders in any such programme of work.

Initially there was a focus on the establishment of a new Priority Action Team (PAT), to be based in the Government's Social Exclusion Unit or Neighbourhood Renewal Unit. However, during the meeting it was agreed that this would narrow the scope of the debate unnecessarily and thus the discussion ranged more widely than this specific organisational option.

Key findings

The drawing of the mind map showed the extensive common elements in discussions about environmental equality and social inclusion, and identified many of the areas of continuing uncertainty and confusion as well as areas where current custom and practice continued to make 'joining up' difficult between the three elements of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental).

Among the key themes identified were:

- The separation of programmes tackling the three policy legs of sustainable development: environmental, economic and social progress, which has led to projects which are neither sustainable nor inclusive.
- Understanding of the basic minimum needed for meeting basic social needs (especially around health as a basic minimum need), alongside debates about rights and responsibilities and limits to meeting demands from consumers.
- Issues of power and engagement in improving relationships between policy and programme makers, local communities and national stakeholders, including the need for people to feel they would be able to make some difference if they are to continue to give their time to these debates.
- The lack of an obvious public policy arena for debates about 'place', although there were positive messages emerging from policy strands around open space, urban green space and liveability, and from initiative such as those managed by Groundwork.
- The lack of a common language, and lack of common understandings of concepts such as social exclusion, environment, equity.
- The huge variance in the scale of the issues being discussed makes it difficult to identify practical policy and programme solutions for tackling environmental problems ranging from global warming and energy use to food production methods and dog mess, and

social problems ranging from poverty and health to withdrawal of support from existing governance institutions because of lack of trust.

- Ways of valuing and tapping into the experience and knowledge outside the mainstream, and bringing that into the policy process while feeding the full range of experience and knowledge on these issues into education and professional training and development appropriate for sustainable development.
- Understanding the role of gatekeepers - both in terms of political influence and power (in government and in communities), and in terms of access to resources (funding but also people resources).
- The social impacts of environmental schemes being undervalued by Government agencies, and vice versa (the environmental impacts of social development programmes). As a result, the potential for gaining benefits from greater synergy is lost.

The wealth of initiatives identified from discussions around the room (see Annexes C and D) showed that there was a great deal of practical activity already addressing many of these issues, but that many of these were not widely known about outside their specific field.

The small working groups then addressed the other four questions identified for discussion at the meeting (the full findings are given in Annex E). All participants were then invited to 'score' the findings of all the groups, and the following emerged as the most important issues.

Opportunities and drivers

- Recent and imminent legislation especially the Human Rights Act and the Aarhus Convention, which provides rights to environmental information and to participate in decision-making. Europe is leading on the development of this legislation, on other environmental regulation, and on governance and democracy.
- Learning from what works, and from each other as groups holding valid knowledge and different skills and viewpoints. This includes recognising, uncovering and sharing social gains from environmental projects which already exist, and vice versa (environmental gains from social projects).
- At local level, daily life is 'integrated' (even though formal policy and programmes often are not)
- The Earth Summit in Johannesburg
- The community empowerment agenda within the neighbourhood renewal strategy
- Better networks

- The move to devolution and subsidiarity
- The quality of life agenda, including health and food concerns
- The anti-globalisation / youth culture movements

Key barriers

- Compartmentalism
 - in funding, policy, politics and tools - funding in silos and thinking in silos
 - organisational and professional boundaries including fear of failure
- Absence of effective participation
- Governmental organisational structures work against integration and 'joined up-ness'
- The power of organisational culture, including gendered culture, top-down and bottom-up, the 'canteen culture'
- Knowledge and power
- Exclusion of grassroots interests and knowledge
- Vested interests against breaking down differential distribution of power and resources
- Lack of core funding for developmental time
- Sheer number of people and organisations to be involved
- Focus on outputs rather than outcomes
- Lack of links in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy to transport, energy, waste, planning

Messages for social exclusion team working on these issues

- Need to have strong links to community and voluntary sectors e.g. through secondments
- Learn from other countries, especially developing countries
- Focus on environmental justice / racism, health and mechanisms for participation
- Making it relevant within formal political processes
- Institutional learning, including direct experiential learning by sending senior board members and middle managers into real situations with excluded groups / neighbourhoods.

Key stakeholders for this work

- Real involvement of voluntary and community sectors, especially grassroots community organisations and local residents
- Black and minority ethnic communities
- Young people

- Local and national government

Developments since October 2001

Since the seminar there has been a number of moves in regards to policy development, growing awareness of governments, institutions and public interest in the issue of environmental justice in the and related issues such as environmental democracy or environmental equality. This has developed both in the UK and abroad.

Here are a few:

- Friends of the Earth report on *Environmental Justice: Mapping transport and social exclusion in Bradford*. Correlates statistics from the Index of Multiple Deprivation with air pollution statistics
- Sustainable Development Commission, (November 2001) published its review on the UK Sustainable Development Strategy. It discusses handling issues of regeneration, in particular poverty and environment through a environmental justice lens.
- Minister for the Environment, Michael Meacher, gives speech on Environmental Justice (November 2001) and states that more needs to be done to ensure environmental equality and notes the work of Capacity Global and other NGO's in promoting environmental justice in the UK.
- ESRC Global Environmental Change Programme (with Friends of the Earth and the London School of Hygiene), launches a Special Briefing on *Environmental Justice: Rights and Means to a Healthy Environment for All* (January 2002). Copies from Friends of the Earth, 56-58 Alma Street, Luton LU1 2PH (code 503), or downloaded from www.foe.co.uk/resource.reports/environmental_justice.pdf
- United Nations Conference on Human Rights (UNCHR) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) run joint seminar on human and environmental rights in Geneva (January 2002). Klaus Topfler and Mary Robinson, respective heads of the UN bodies, agree the need to discuss an unprecedented joint role for the UNCHR and UNEP on issues of human and environmental rights, including environmental justice.
- First Minister of the Scottish Executive, Jack McConnell, stated in a major speech on environmental policy (Feb 2002) that "... for the early 21st century is to combine economic progress with social and environmental justice". As such social and environmental justice were central to poverty reduction, social justice and environmental protection in Scotland.
- European Commission, Directorate General Environment, publish a series of working documents covering access to environmental information, access to participation and access to environmental justice including *Access to Justice in Environmental Matters* (April 2002).

- British Council and Capacity Global run a one week seminar for participants from around the world on review global approaches to environmental democracy in the run up to WSSD 2002 (May 2002).
- British Council run an 'E-conference' web debate on environmental democracy and environmental justice (June 2002).
- WSSD in Johannesburg
- Under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, all public authorities listed in the Act (including agencies such as the Environment Agency) have to have due regard to the need to tackle racial discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good race relations. All public authorities listed have to produce plans for meeting these duties by 31 May 2002.
- The Sustainable Development Commission publishes its *Vision for Sustainable Regeneration. Environment and Poverty - the missing link?* (June 2002). The report stresses seeking synergies between the social, economic and environmental needs of communities, rather than trade-offs. It concludes that sustainable regeneration therefore requires a new approach which not only considers social and economic inequalities within society but also environmental inequalities and the link between the quality of the local environment and poverty. It also requires a longer-term perspective which considers how communities can help themselves through increased ownership of their local environment. Contact Deborah Newlands at the Commission for details (020 7944 4150 or deborah.newlands@defra.gsi.gov.uk).
- The Environment Agency publishes its report on urban regeneration: *Our urban future. Putting the environment at the heart of urban renewal* (September 2002). The report shows how responding to environmental imperatives will get economic and social results at the same time. It proposes three key changes which are needed for a better urban future:
 - Environmental improvement should form an integral part of urban regeneration programmes, given its essential contribution to enhancing people's quality of life
 - New urban developments should minimise the effect they will have on the wider environment by using resources efficiently and limiting pollution
 - Environmental protection and improvement can make a significant contribution to economic and social objectives of urban regeneration.

Copies available from the Environment Agency (0845 933 111).
- Detailed proposals for work on social exclusion and the environment put to the Social Exclusion Unit, the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit and the proposed interdepartmental

team working on public space issues (September 2002), following the Cross Cutting Review of Public Open Space.

Next steps

John Colvin summarised the next steps following on from this event:

- Everything that had been discussed and created would be summarised and sent to all participants, including the details of all initiatives which had been provided.
- The Environment Agency would reflect on what they had heard during the event in planning further activities in this field. It was likely that the Agency would want to share proposals for continuing mapping and learning and to continue to build on those.

Maria Adebawale raised the idea of the establishment of a network from this meeting, alongside the Environmental Justice Network, and it was agreed that all contact details should be circulated (see Annex A).

Notes

- 1 *A Better Quality of Life. A strategy for sustainable development for the UK.* Cm 4345, May 1999.
- 2 *ibid*, page 9.
- 3 ESRC Special Briefing No 7. *Environmental Justice. Rights and Means for a health environment for all*, November 2001, has an overview.
- 4 Dr John Murlis, Chief Scientist at the Environment Agency, quoted on the Agency website in the report on the Agency's AGM 2000 which focused on *Achieving Environmental Equality*. www.environment-agency.tv/agm/at_the_agm.htm

Diane Warburton
5.12.02

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Annex A. Participants list

John Adams, Head of the Sustainable Development Unit, DEFRA
Maria Adebawale, Director, Capacity
Phil Barton, Director of Corporate Strategy, Groundwork UK
Simon Bullock, Research Officer, Friends of the Earth
Kate Burningham, Department of Sociology, University of Surrey
Chris Church, Community Development Foundation
Margaret Clark, Director, Countryside Agency
John Colvin, Social Policy Manager, Environment Agency
Asher Craig, Development Director, Ethnic Minorities Foundation
Dr Malcolm Eames, Research Fellow, Policy Studies Institute and Network Co-ordinator for the Sustainable Development Research Network
Ravi Gurumurthy, Head of Transport, Social Exclusion Unit
Tim Hemmings, Head of the National Strategy Policy Team, Neighbourhood Renewal Unit
Chris Hewitt, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Public Policy Research
Alison Jarvis, Senior Research Manager, Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Peter Lainson, Chairman of the Access Advisory Committee, Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR)
Ann Link, Waste Programme, Women's Environmental Network
Karen Lucas, Senior Research Fellow, University of Westminster
Helen Lynn, Health Programme, Women's Environmental Network
Nick Mabey, Team Leader, Globalisation and SD, Foreign Office
Chris Newton, Head of Sustainable Development, Environment Agency
Dr Caroline Stephens, Environmental Epidemiology Unit, London School of Hygiene
Diane Warburton, Shared Practice
Jake Werksman, Staff Lawyer FIELD and Trustee of Capacity
Judy Ling Wong, Director, Black Environment Network

Annex B. Key points from presentations

Jake Werksman

Trustee of Capacity, and staff lawyer at FIELD

Jake welcomed participants, on behalf of Capacity. He explained that Capacity was set up earlier in 2001 to work on community participation, environment and poverty with the aim of finding solutions which have a bottom up approach.

He also summarised some of the initiatives which have fed into the development of the planning for this event (see Annex D for full list). Capacity's hopes for the event were that it would allow participants to take stock and map initiatives, policy and operational changes, thus adding quality to future work, and to discuss opportunities and breakthroughs for integrated approaches and initiatives.

John Colvin

Head of the Social Policy team, Environment Agency

John welcomed participants on behalf of the Environment Agency. He summarised the five key roles the Agency has, to be:

- an efficient operator
- a modern regulator
- an influential advisor
- using information to catalyse change
- champion of the environment, in the context of sustainable development.

The Agency's work on environmental equality fits most neatly into the fifth of these roles (recognising the need to understand environmental equality in working towards sustainable development), but the Agency recognises that these issues actually inform all five roles and to delivering the environmental outcomes the Agency is seeking.

The Agency's AGM in 2000 focused on the theme of Achieving Environmental Equality, which identified six priority areas for future action on these issues:

- Mapping out and identifying where there are social and environmental inequalities and sharing this information.
- Working with business to ensure that our regulation work improves the environment for everyone.
- Providing better information and consultation techniques, to contribute to community plans, local waste strategies, local transport plans and local land use.
- Working with key national and regional initiatives which are tackling social exclusion.
- Further developing the skills and capacity of our people to work with stakeholders.
- Understanding how the international dimensions of environmental equality affect us.

This event is helping us make progress in these priority areas, and will contribute to the continuing debate within the Agency. Working on these issues is a major challenge for the Agency - a challenge which could best be described as three interlinked strands:

- mapping and analysing social and environmental inequalities, and the links between these (the conceptual challenge)
- understanding how to develop the most effective forms of partnership, stakeholder involvement and inclusive working processes to tackle these inequalities - particularly linking top down with bottom up (the leadership / social challenge)
- appreciating the different meanings and value which different stakeholders ascribe to the environment, and understanding how best to build upon and work with these differences (the emotional challenge).

This event has been designed to create an inclusive inquiry which will enable us to address environmental equality, social inclusion, and the links between these in a manner which is congruent with the three themes outlined above (socially and emotionally as well as intellectually).

Ravi Gurumurthy

Head of Transport, Social Exclusion Unit

Ravi introduced the specific issues around transport and inequality as they are being examined by the Social Exclusion Unit. This stream of work had started about two months and had two main themes:

- problems people face in getting to work, hospital and other essential services and activities, including transport problems being a barrier to getting employment (cited by 40% of people on New Deal; and 20% cite difficulties in getting to hospitals - which rises to 40% among older people.
- the impact of transport on socially excluded communities e.g. traffic pollution, road safety (e.g. higher numbers of children die in road accidents in disadvantaged areas).

The SEU was starting a major research programme to investigate these themes but already some priorities were becoming clear:

- walking and cycling were key, and needed greater recognition in plans and programmes
- pollution, severance and other access problems are critical
- the role of the car in relation to sectors of the community with special needs (e.g. rural, of people with disabilities), which has particular problems in balancing increasing social equity in relation to opportunities to travel (possibly increasing car usage), with reducing car use overall.

Maria Adebowale

Director of Capacity Global

Maria explained that Capacity Global had been established to create links between social and environment justice, to overcome the problems which now arose as a result of social issues and environmental issues often being dealt with in silos. The green movement has been 'institutionally exclusive', that is excluding the social issues and concerns of socially and economically excluded groups. Research by the Social Exclusion Unit, Friends of the Earth and others illustrates the linked concerns related to the impact of environmental issues on vulnerable groups. Just like the rest of the world it is the UK's poorest and most vulnerable people who are hit the hardest by a degraded and polluted environment¹:

Environmental Inequality in the UK:

- People living in the 44 most deprived areas in England, cited pollution, poor public transport, and the appearance of the estate as a major issues about where they live
- The 44 most deprived areas in England contain four times as many people from ethnic minority groups as other areas
- Families living on incomes less than £5000 are twice as likely to live next to a polluting factory than families with incomes of £60,000 or more
- 66 per cent of all cancer-causing chemicals emitted into the air come from factories in the most deprived 10 per cent of communities in England
- Pollution is a major factor in poor health and health inequalities.

Maria explained that Capacity Global is working to ensure a bottom-up approach to these issues via workshops, skill shares etc; establishing and co-ordinating the UK Environmental Justice Network; and creating cross-sectoral alliances and networks on issues of poverty, environment health and social justice.

Asher Craig

Programme Director, Ethnic Minority Foundation (EMF), and the Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO)

Asher explained the role of the Ethnic Minority Foundation, based on an aim of building an endowment fund of £100 million (£8 million had been raised to date), and recruiting up to 100,000 professionals, to develop capacity building and funding for community projects among black and ethnic communities. CEMVO is more focused on institution-building for the black and minority ethnic voluntary sector. Current work within the EMF included links to the Kings Fund for a health advocacy network; Millennium Awards to black and minority ethnic individuals across London (including for environmental projects); £5 million towards an MBA at the University of East London, from which graduates were working with voluntary organisations to improve effectiveness; and two information technology centres (in Bristol and Tower Hamlets).

Although the 6% of the population which are black and minority ethnic communities have proportionately higher levels of disadvantage, they are often excluded from regeneration and other mainstream programmes, for example less than 1% of SRB funds is given to black and minority ethnic communities. Her work in establishing the Black Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration Network is aimed at increasing the involvement of these groups in regeneration programmes, so these communities can share in the benefits and contribute to innovation.

Issues around sustainability and the environment have not been high on their agenda to date, although she personally has been involved in Sustainability South West. The main environmental concerns among black and minority ethnic communities tend to be around the built environment e.g. housing, graffiti, open space, which can be quite different from the priorities of the mainstream environment movement. In many ways, environmental issues are still primarily a white middle class issue. It is part of her responsibilities to integrate environmental issues with the social and regeneration agenda, through seven regional offices (including in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and she is working with organisations like Capacity and Black Environment Network to draw on their knowledge of environmental and sustainable development issues.

Tim Hemmings

Head of the National Strategy Policy Team, Neighbourhood Renewal Unit

Tim spoke at the end of the event, reflecting on the mapping and discussions that had taken place. Rather than respond in detail to the wealth of material generated, Tim was keen to take away the findings of the meeting and consider them in more depth. However, he did stress that "there is an inextricable link between environment and social exclusion, though that is not adequately recognised". Government does recognise these links, and that they are tied to all the issues the NRU is working on all the time, but clearly the links do need to be made more explicit.

Tim felt that access to gatekeepers was an important issue, and more effort was needed on how to do that. He felt that the cross-cutting review on public space was a unique opportunity as aspects of this agenda are being recognised in that review. And he agreed with the feeling from the meeting about how important these issues are and that the key issue now is what should be done next. There are some areas of agreement and some of disagreement. His own view was that "the key approach will be to get the ideas into strategies, and also to find ways to ensure that people at local level have their voice heard".

Tim was very enthused about the groups and people who had shared ideas during the day and wanted to continue this process and find ways of implementing that, through finding good ways of where to go next.

Notes to presentations

- 1 See *Acheson Report: Independent Enquiry into Inequalities in Health Report*, 1998; *Pollution Injustice* Research Report, Friends of the Earth January 2001; *Bringing Britain Together*, Social Exclusion Unit 1998; *Minority Ethnic Issues in Social Exclusion and Neighbourhood Renewal*, Black Regeneration Forum June 2000.

Annex C. Mind map

See Mind Map document

Initiatives which lay behind the headings on the mind map

The following listing covers the initiatives identified by participants as supporting / linking to the themes identified on the mind map. These were added on post-it notes to the mind map, and helped further develop linkages. The headings in bold relate to the themes identified on the mind map; the bullet point notes are specific initiatives etc.

Basic minimum for meeting basic needs

- New report on transport / social exclusion links www.foe.co.uk.
- Campaigns/transport.

Awareness of resource gatekeepers

- Environment Agency: mapping social policy agendas to help us learn how we can contribute/they can help us.
- Black Environment Network/Council for National Parks: Project to enable access by ethnic communities to everything the National Parks have to offer:
 - built-in training and capacity building of National Parks to gain awareness and skills to work effectively with ethnic groups
 - stimulate and support development of programme of trips to National Parks with ethnic groups.

Glass ceilings re community activism

- Info on environmental justice website www.capacity.org.uk

Limits effects on policy

- Capacity runs skills share workshop on policy development.

Policy separation

- Exclusive Countryside: report of JRF Rural Action programme covers range of issues, particularly empowerment, policy silos, cross cutting themes.

Capacity building for participation AND to hear what is said

- Developing Institutional and Social Capital for Urban Sustainability (DISCUS). 3 year project funded by the European Commission. Research into local governance and capacity building across the EU.

Experience + knowledge outside the mainstream needs to be valued and brought into this room

- Race and Regeneration (LGIU + LB Camden) copies available from EMF/CEMVO.
- JRF funded research into lessons for national policy from local practice -about 1800 major local projects across the UK that are already doing it!

Lack of common language

- Loftus Development Trust. Skinningrove Sea Defence Project (also encompasses art)

Expressing basic needs may help us over language barrier

- Contested space Peace Line Belfast (Groundwork)

Valuing lived experience + local focus+ knowledge

- Research for JRF: Kate Burningham and Diana Thrush (2001) *Rainforests are a long way from here*, the environmental concerns of disadvantaged groups.

A policy framework in which people can demand rights to be met

- United Kingdom Institute for Inclusive Design (www.UkiiD.org); newsletter, seminars, publications, projects, regional network, membership of special interest groups. Groups include: Built Environment, Transport, Products.

Atmosphere of service delivery which is health-giving

- Black Environmental Network/Scottish Refugee Council/ BTCV : Project enabling asylum seekers and refugees in Glasgow to define environmental participation and benefit socially and culturally on their terms.

Joining up with the employment agenda

- Environmental Equality and Justice Network.
- Namibian Exchange Teaching Scottish National Park Managers how to do community management (WWF Scotland).
- WWF + Cornish Fishing Association collaboration on fisheries management.

Scale: from global warming to dog shit

- Sustainable Development Research Network

Place not on the policy agenda until recently

- JRF: Transport, environment and social exclusion
- Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Westminster: evaluating LA21 as a model for joined-up community activity.
- JRF: reconciling environmental and social concerns research programme.

Social impact of environmental schemes

- Waste prevention/minimisation can encourage local authorities to form partnerships. Oldham Borough Council spends £328,000 annually on disposing of nappy waste. Some parents were using 2 or 3 disposable nappies in 24 hours because they couldn't afford more. The hospital is now using real nappies, using spare capacity in the hospital laundry and introducing them to parents so they have an alternative to disposables. Other examples exist where local employment is being created in nappy laundries. Many other examples exist where avoiding waste or increasing supply of healthy fresh food can create employment and have other social benefits. Contact Contact Women's Environmental Network (www.wen.org.uk).
- 2 for 1: social exclusion and sustainable development. Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Westminster and Government Sustainable Development Unit.
- Danube basin community project: collaboration after Esmarerdá mining accident to 'heal the Danube'; FCO funded.
- 'Knowledge is power' community projects in Kosovo working with minority communities on using environmental protection system.

Polluting industry often sold to communities on basis of local jobs

- Framework on Sustainable Development in the south west. References to environment, social issues, and local communities. Contact Sustainability South West.

Food supply

- Globalisation and local food links -- LSHTM

Home environment

- CA/BHF/NOF Healthy walking project to increase walking to tackle heart disease.

Look at causes not symptoms

- Putting breast cancer on the map + women taking action for a healthier planet. WEN
www.wen.org.uk/health.htm.
- Warm front evaluation and health -- LSHTM
- Impacts on inequalities -- LSHTM

Learning for health through increasing social capacity

- Winter mortality and inequalities -- LSHTM

Potential role of the Public Health Service

- Youth Works: engaging young people in regeneration. East Lancashire and elsewhere.
(Groundwork)

Livability agenda

- Livability spending review.

Litter and dog shit

- Changing Places: schemes include garden near Mythyr in South Wales and 21 other sites
(Groundwork)

Energy efficiency/fuel poverty

- Energy Savings Trust

No policy area focused on the place people live

- Numerous Groundwork projects throughout UK.

Place and community agenda

- Public space cross cutting review.

Annex D. Related initiatives

Introduction

The following summary of initiatives covers those identified during the meeting, and initiatives which have subsequently come to the attention of Capacity and the Environment Agency's Social Policy team. Both organisations continue to monitor developments in the field and would be interested to hear of additional related initiatives (including research, publications, projects and programmes).

Capacity

Capacity was set up earlier in 2001 to work on community participation, environment and poverty with the aim of finding solutions which have a bottom up approach. Mapping Common Ground was directly related to its work on environmental justice.

Contact: Maria Adebawale (info@capacity.org.uk, www.capacity.org.uk)

Environment Agency

Directly relevant research and development activities include:

- urban policy
- research on joined up indices (co-ordinated by Clare Twigger-Ross and Jane Kinneburgh) to research and map linkages and correlation's between key environmental data sets and indices of multiple deprivation
- work within the Agency to prepare for the EC Directive on public access to environmental information to conform with the Aarhus Convention
- research work on flooding and vulnerable groups
- research and development work in the Lower Lea Valley, London
- partnership work within the West Midlands Urban Regeneration Zones

UK Environmental Justice Network

The UK Environmental Justice Network was proposed at the joint US-UK environmental justice meeting in April 2001. The purpose of the Network is to add gravitas to the environmental justice debate within the UK and secure its place within the UK sustainable development agenda, by linking various organisations whose remits link directly or indirectly to environmental justice to pool resources, add pressure at policy level and develop policies favourable to environmental justice.

The Network is co-ordinated by Capacity (directed by Maria Adebawale). It would be accountable to a membership of non-for-profit, charitable and academic organisations (interested commercial concerns, government departments and agencies would be given observer status subject to their agreement to membership criteria). Contact: Maria Adebawale, (info@capacity.org.uk)

Sustainable Development Research Network

The SDRN is a network for researchers and policy makers, with the aim of improving the use of evidence and research in policy making. It is funded by Defra. Contact Dr Malcolm Eames at m.eames@psi.org.uk, or www.sd.research.org.uk

Centre for Sustainable Development, University of Westminster

Several research projects including on transport, environment and social exclusion; evaluating Local Agenda 21 as a model for joined up community activity and sustainable lifestyles.

Contact www.wmin.ac.uk/cfsd

Black Environment Network (BEN)

BEN runs numerous national and local programmes including building the capacity of National Parks staff to engage effectively with black and minority ethnic communities, and stimulate and nurture greater access to parks for those communities. BEN is also working with refugees and asylum seekers to contribute to the care of the environment and to benefit socially and culturally on their own terms. Contact Judy Ling Wong OBE, Director [web address]

Developing Institutional and Social Capital for Urban Sustainability (DISCUS).

Study of local governance and capacity building in 40 European municipalities. Funded by the EU 5th Framework Research Programme, for three years from November 2001. Contact Bob Evans [Northumberland University???

Environmental Concerns of Disadvantaged Groups.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation- funded research study; results published under title of The Rain Forests are far from here. Contact Kate Burningham, University of Surrey:
k.burningham@surrey.ac.uk

Women's Environmental Network (WEN)

Various programmes which have drawn out particular problems for disadvantaged communities e.g. their Putting Breast Cancer on the Map campaign in 1997 invited women and communities to collect information and give voice to their own knowledge of pollution sources and perceived health effects. One result was the prosecution of a polluting factory in Cefn Mawr, North Wales, resulting in reduced pollution affecting local people, no job losses, and the beginning of positive joint working between local residents and official bodies on regeneration programmes. Contact Helen Lynn (health@wen.org.uk) or Ann Link (waste@wen.org.uk).

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Government report, reported in The Guardian 29.5.02, which overlaid maps of air pollution in four cities with maps of social deprivation: the poor of London, Birmingham and Belfast lived in the most polluted areas, but in Cardiff, the rich lived in the most polluted part of town. Ref www.airquality.co.uk

Making the Connections. Transport and social exclusion

This was the report of the interim findings of a Social Exclusion Unit study which found that poor transport contributes to social exclusion in two ways. First it restricts access to activities that enhance people's life chances, such as work, learning, health care, food shopping, and other key activities. Second, deprived communities suffer disproportionately from pedestrian deaths, pollution and the isolation which can result from living near busy roads. Cabinet Office, May 2002 (www.cabinet-office.gov.uk/seu/publications).

Annex E. Full reports from the working groups

Record of flip charts listing prioritised group lists on opportunities, barriers, messages for any PAT (focus) and stakeholders.

Group A

Opportunities/Drivers:

• At local level daily life is “integrated”	7
• Ongoing dialogue with social groups	
• Challenging organisations is a meeting point	
• Learning from each other as groups holding valid knowledge and different skills and viewpoints	4
• Recognising, uncovering and sharing social gains from environmental projects which already exist, and vice versa	4

Barriers:

• Organisational and professional boundaries	1
■ fear of failure/ management	5
■ loss of power/expertise	0
■ Funders “boxes”	6
■ “They just don’t get it”	1
“Who’s side are you on?”	
• Power of organisational culture—including gendered culture, Top down – bottom up, “Canteen culture”	11
• Lack of experience of “real” equality	1
• Lack of core funding for developmental time	7

Messages for the PAT:

• Experiential learning – send senior board members and middle managers into real situations with excluded groups/neighbourhoods	3
• Learn from other countries – learn from developing countries	7
• Stimulate and support partnership projects – implement rhetoric of soft governance	1
• Institutional learning	4
• Making it relevant within formal political processes	5

Group B

Opportunities/drivers

• People	2
• New resources (for some!)	
• Desire (a new one!) to explore new connections	2

• Political will (from some)	
• Better education (for some)	
• Learning from what works	6
• Better networks	6

Barriers

• Language	3
• Agenda not set by participants	3
• Sheer number of people/organisations to be involved	7
• Lack of trust of people/communities, of other sectors, of “them”	4
• Governmental structures (organisational) work against integration “joined-up-ness”	11
• Short-termism	4
• Performance indicators and targets	1
• Focus on “outputs” rather than “outcomes”	6
• Lack of political will	3

PAT?

• Why? What would it be? Isn't there enough information already?	1
• Focus on involving excluded	2
• Focus on how do you get a “consumer consensus”	1
• How to turn rhetoric (joined-up) into joined-up reality	2

Stakeholders

• Informed consumers	1
• Everyone	1
• Should it be balanced? Who decides?	
• Inclusive, not exclusive	3
• Real involvement of voluntary/community sector	6

Group C

Opportunities/drivers

• PAT	
• PM liveability speech	2
• NRS agenda – community empowerment	4
• Local initiatives happening	3
• Modernising Government agenda (LSPs, Community strategies etc)	1
• Pressure to reduce costs: better (env) solutions	1
• Human Rights Act. Rights to information and to participate	7

Barriers

• Compartmentalisation – funding, policy/politics, tools	17
• Language e.g. environment	5
• Glass ceiling – influencing policy ; local knowledge	4
• Connecting local → national → global and vice versa	
• Environmental solutions often seen as technical	4

• Lack of links in NRS to transport, energy, waste, planning	6
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PAT?

• Right process/structure	
• Need to make persuasive case FAST i.e. not 2 years	1
• Needs to have strong links to community and voluntary sector: secondments?	14

Stakeholders

• Environmental Justice Network	1
• RDAs	
• Local government	1
• Local communities	3
• Voluntary sector	

Group D

Opportunities/drivers

• Analysis of failure	
• “EC – driven” democracy	3
• Greater appreciation of human rights	6
• Heightened concern/scarcity of resources	1
• Devolution/subsidiarity	4
• Cross fertilisation/networking	
• LA21	2
• “Quality of life” agenda	3

Barriers – Power

• Funding in silos, thinking in silos	11
• Glass ceilings	1
• Distrust of motives/hidden agendas, misinformation	5
• Knowledge/power	10
• Scale: timescales; economies of scale; scale of place	3
• Structures	1

PAT?—Focus issues

• People and places they live	1
• Locally defined agendas	4

Stakeholders

• Residents	6
• Local SMEs	1
• Local Government	2
• Government agencies delivering to locality	1

Group E

Opportunities/drivers

• Green technologies	
• Community planning	3
• Human rights legislation	4
• Earth summit II	7
• Sept 11 th → Global reassessment	
• Anti globalisation/ youth culture	4
• Children	1
• Business interest in corporate social responsibility	
• Good practice	
• Health concerns	4
• Food issues	3
• European policy (Arhus, EU env, action plan)	7

Barriers

• Historical damage	
• Problems of valuing environment and social goods	
• Pressure for a quick fix	3
• Narrow funding criteria	
• Vested interests against breaking down differential distribution of power and resources	9
• Lack of political will and public awareness	5
• Capacity – lack of	1
• Lack of clarity – over agenda and organisational roles	1
• Language differences	2
• Professional self interest	1
• Absence of effective participation	12
• Exclusion of grass roots interests and knowledge	10

PAT? Focus issues

• Transport	2
• Environment as a novel way into social exclusion	1
• Environmental justice/racism	5
• Health	4
• Mechanisms and resources for participation	3
• Liveability	1
• Energy conservation/fuel poverty	2

Stakeholders

• Grassroots community organisations	9
• Black/ Asian/ Ethnic minorities	5
• Young people	3
• Government	1
• Local Government	1

