THE SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PLAN OF ACTION

OF THE LIBERIAN MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

BY

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ABSTRACT

Liberia is considered to be a failed state after 14 years of civil war. The National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) came into power after the war ended in 2003. The Ministry of Rural Development formed part of this government and had the aim to empower rural people by providing access to the basic social, cultural and economic opportunities that are required for the establishment of sustainable conditions in Liberia. This aim was in line with the principles of sustainable social development. In order to achieve and address the principles of sustainable social development, the Ministry of Rural Development subsequently compiled an action plan.

Sustainable social development that meets international best practices could only be achieved if environmental and human resources are protected against exploitation and are optimally utilised, human welfare (on both community and individual bases) are improved by making sure everybody have the same access to resources, everyone has the freedom to participate in all civil and political matters, processes and decisions affecting them, and economic growth are expanded equally throughout all the different sectors of society. This cannot happen if the correct (stable) political platform or political will does not exist, and human rights are not protected.

The Ministry of Rural Development's action plan was tested to see whether it adheres to international best practices to attain sustainable social development.

Sustainable social development was analysed and it was concluded that it has three integrated aspects consisting of ten (10) elements. The action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development was described according to the twelve (12) goals the Ministry pursued through different projects. The disparities between the twelve (12) objectives of the action plan and the ten (10) elements of sustainable social development were highlighted and it was seen that there were numerous elements of the sustainable social development that were not addressed by these objectives.
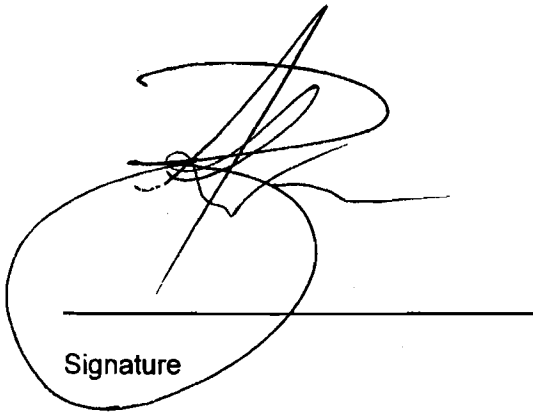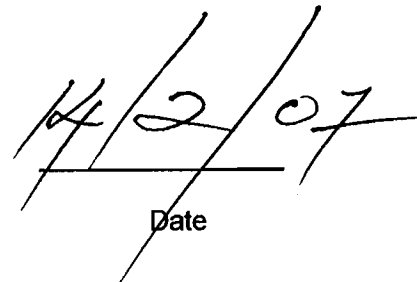
It was concluded that the Ministry of Rural Development's action plan did not meet international best practices to attain sustainable social development.

DECLARATION

I declare that: " The Sustainable Social Development Plan of Action of the Liberian Ministry Of Rural Development: A Critical Analysis" is my own work, that all sources used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references, and that this dissertation was not previously submitted by me or any other person for degree purposes at this or any another university.

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Date

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CHAPTER 1: The Sustainable Social Development Plan of Action of the Liberian Ministry of Rural Development: A Critical Analysis

1.1 Orientation and Problem Statement

From an international perspective Liberia is regarded as a so-called "failed state" (The Economist., 2005:59). In terms of effective governance a failed state is per definition a state that has lost administrative authority over its territorial boundaries (The Economist, 2005:59). Ryan's (2005) description of a failed state is similar and indicates that a failed state can be considered incapable of sustaining itself and depends on foreign assistance and advice for its day-to-day survival. It can therefore be argued that a failed state is a state that has lost its socio-political direction and identity. In more concrete terms national government institutions and programmes in such a state are usually unable to tend to even the basic needs of the population. Most importantly, such a state is typically unsuccessful in achieving a situation of sustainable social development.

A major contributor to Liberia's current international status as a failed state was the 1989-2003 civil war. This civil war devastated the state's existing political and economic infrastructure reducing prospects for development. Literacy levels were at 57.5% (people aged 15 and older who can read and write), and life expectancy were 39.65 years at birth (CIA World Factbook, 2006). Of the total population in 2003/4, 85% were unemployed, and almost 80% lived below the absolute poverty line (less than U$1 per day). Nearly 10% of the total population were residing as refugees in surrounding countries when the war ended (CIA World Factbook, 2006).

In 2003 the aforementioned civil war in Liberia ended through a peace agreement and international mediation. Subsequently a transitional government along with service delivery ministries were established. This meant that an opportunity was created for achieving sustainable development in the medium to long term.

The primary aim of the Ministry of Rural Development in Liberia was to empower rural people by providing access to the basic social, cultural and economic opportunities that are required for the establishment of sustainable conditions in Liberia (Jones, 2004a:4). In accordance with this, Marais et al., (2001:6) said on the one hand, sustainable social development entails all those processes through which the quality of life of a population can be improved in a sustainable way. Mayor (1995:62) in turn viewed sustainable social development on the other hand as a comprehensive result of capacity building, (education, training and access to knowledge), development of rural areas, promoting and participation in community life (enhancing respect for human rights and the forming of democratic attitudes), protecting and safeguarding the environment, improving communication (technology) and establishing early warning systems to detect potential social conflicts and unrest.

The Ministry of Rural Development in Liberia commenced its developmental efforts in 2003 with a war-tainted societal inheritance. In line with international practice such as the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (2000) that stipulated sustainable social development to be indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within nations, the Ministry of Rural Development subsequently developed an action plan according to which sustainable social development should fold out, specifically in rural areas of Liberia.

The aim of the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development was to provide rural people with access to basic social services, including shelter, food, education, health, information,

communication, culture, justice, equity and security. It also required providing rural dwellers to equitable access to economic opportunities, through land, farming, trading, mining, and cottage industries.

"Rural development", according to the Ministry of Rural Development (Jones, 2004a:4), is a process through which the standard of living of people residing in rural areas is improved in a sustainable way without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In terms of specifically rural development (Liberia, 2004:6), the Ministry of Rural Development identified the following key objectives to be addressed as a matter of urgency in rural Liberia:

- The upgrading and development of a functional road system.
- The rehabilitation and upgrading of water infrastructure.
- The upgrading of sanitation services.
- The upgrading of health services.
- Training programmes in the community focusing on environmental sanitation & hygiene awareness.
- The establishment of an effective education system.
- Establishing a sustained staple food (rice) production programme.

Against the background of the above ministerial objectives this research will entail an analysis of the action plan and progress made thus far of the Liberian Ministry of Rural Development. This action plan will be measured against the recognised principles for social sustainable development. By doing this it would be possible to highlight its weaknesses and make specific recommendations.

The research aims to answer the following questions:

a)   What are the principles for sustainable social development in developing states?

b)   What are the substance and content of the action plan for achieving sustainable social development of the Liberian Ministry of Rural Development?

c)   Are the substance and content of the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development in line with the internationally recognised principles of sustainable social development?

1.2   Aims of the Study

The aims of the study are:

- To identify and analyze the principles of sustainable social development.

- To describe the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development for sustainable social development.

- To identify the shortcomings in the above action plan, and make specific recommendations on how it should be changed/ modified/ adapted in order to enhance sustainable social development.

1.3   Hypothesis

The Liberian Ministry of Rural Development's action plan does not meet internationally recognised principles of sustainable social development.

1.4 Method of Investigation

The research is primarily a literature research and content analysis. A content analysis, according to Leedy & Ormrod (2000:155) is a detailed and systematic examination of the contents of a particular body of material (in this case the aim and action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development) for the purpose of identifying patterns, themes, or biases. In this particular study, the characteristics or qualities relating to sustainable social development in the Ministry of Rural Development's action plan will be examined in precise, concrete terms and will then be scrutinised for instances for each characteristic or quality as it is defined by internationally recognised standards for sustainable social development. In this regard the action plan of the Liberian Ministry of Rural Development will be measured against the requirements for sustainable social development. This will be done in order to point out the shortcomings of the plan and implementation strategy and to make specific recommendations. To achieve this objective, a qualitative research approach will be followed. The main mechanisms for achieving these objectives will first be through the description, interpretation, verification and evaluation of relevant literature.

In terms of the literature research it has been established that there are adequate information available on the subject at hand. In this regard there is a variety of published books, magazines and international documentation determining the requirements of sustainable social development. This literature includes Sustainable social development: critical issues 2001 and the Copenhagen declaration on social development 2003. Other books include Governance for sustainable human development: a UNDP policy document; Sustainable urbanization: achieving Agenda 21; Understanding and implementing sustainable development and Sustainable social development in a period of rapid globalization: challenges, opportunities and policy options. For the analysis of the Liberian strategy and action plan for rural development available international and Liberian Government publications will be utilised. These publications include the Liberian Ministry of rural

development's annual report 2004 and the UN guidance note for international UN personnel serving in Liberia. Many books have been written on the situation prevailing in Liberia itself, such as Liberia: Portrait of a failed state and The Price of Liberty: African Americans and the making of Liberia.

In addition, the official United Nations website provides in-depth (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/wssd/agreements/decparti.htm) as well as holistic perspectives of the issue of sustainable social development and socio-political developmental opinions on Liberia. In addition the following institutions and databases have been consulted as a source of information:

- The Liberian Ministry of Rural Development;
- NEXUS;
- Catalogue of books: Ferdinand Postma Library (Potchefstroom Campus);
- Ebsco Host (Academic Search premier, Business source and Master file);
- Science Direct;
- RSAT (Repertoire for South African magazines);
- JSTOR; and
- Internet searches.

1.5 Structure of Research

<u>Chapter 2: International guidelines for sustainable social development</u>

Sustainable social development is a concept that has been actively developed over the last two decades. This chapter deals with the history of sustainable social development and the progress of thought from the concepts of "development" to "sustainable social development".

After defining sustainable social development, an in-depth analysis is made of the elements that sustainable social development consists of.

Chapter 3:   The status of development in Liberia: a desktop study

Liberia is considered to be a failed state by the international community. This chapter describes the current state of development in Liberia and the focus the government has on sustainable social development.

Chapter 4:   The action plan of the Liberian Ministry of Rural Development: a critical comparison

The Ministry of Rural Development aimed to address rural development through its action plan. This chapter discusses the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development and compares it to the elements of sustainable social development as formulated in Chapter 2.

Chapter 5:   Conclusion and recommendations

This chapter deals with that question whether the Ministry of Rural Development's action plan has succeeded in achieving sustainable social development as accepted by international standards. It furthermore provides recommendations to the Ministry of Rural Development on how to better its quest to achieve sustainable social development.

CHAPTER 2: International guidelines for sustainable social development

2.1 Introduction

Social development requires continuous efforts from states and the international community to reduce and eliminate major sources of social distress and instability for the family and for society (WSSD, 1995). Globalisation, which is a consequence of increased human mobility and enhanced communications, greatly increased trade and capital flow, while technological developments opened new opportunities for sustained economic growth and development of the world economy, particularly in developing countries (WSSD, 1995).

The purpose of this chapter is to investigate the meaning of "development", "sustainable development" and how these two concepts relate to "sustainable social development". In order to do this, a short historical overview will be given which will highlight the origins of the sustainable social development-theory. This chapter will also investigate views on how to attain sustainable social development and typically what a government should ideally focus on to be in line with these views. A description of sustainable social development will be formulated along the lines of international recommendations or best practice that sustainable social development should adhere to.

2.2 The origin of the "sustainable social development"- theory

The "sustainable social development" theory has been developed under the auspices of the United Nations in order to find new ways to alleviate poverty, promote employment and to ensure social integration at a time of growing economic globalisation (CDSD, 2000). It was agreed upon at the World Summit for Social Development that economic development, social

development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people (CDSD, 2000).

In 1995, Heads of State and Governments of 117 countries and ministerial delegations from sixty-nine (69) other states met in Copenhagen to discuss what could be done to alleviate poverty, promote employment and ensure social integration (CDSD, 2000; Stauffacher, 2000:1). They adopted the "Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and a Programme of Action". Embodied in the Declaration were ten (10) commitments that signalled a collective determination to treat social development as one of the highest priorities in national and international policymaking and to put the human being at the centre of development (CDSD, 2000; Stauffacher, 2000:1).

Five years later, in June 2000, the United Nations General Assembly met in a Special Session in Geneva to review progress since Copenhagen and to explore new initiatives that might move the social agenda forward. The delegates considered how advances in some areas of development have gone hand-in-hand with setbacks in others; how in some countries improvements in social conditions have been hindered by resource constraints, natural disasters, or conflict; and how the global financial crisis has reversed social gains in a number of countries and has increased human suffering and deprivation. While reviewing progress and lack of progress, the Special Session also explored new ways of implementing the Copenhagen Commitments, including current forms of international cooperation and the role of international institutions (CDSD 2000).

Under the banner "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", the Special Session had the task of reviewing the progress made in implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action

(CDSD, 2000). The final document called for the halving of extreme poverty and achieving free and universal primary education by 2015; reduction of trade barriers affecting developing countries; gender equality in pay for equal work; and debt relief. Steps were called for to help countries in transition to market economies, preserve basic social services and to link up with global markets. It furthermore urged for the reallocation of resources from "excessive" military expenditures to social programmes; for responses to the debt problems of middle-income developing countries; and for efforts to refrain from using food and medicine as "tools for political pressure" (CDSD, 2000).

In parallel to the UN Special Session the other actors in social development (NGOs, parliaments, trade unions, business and industry, professional associations, academics, governmental and intergovernmental actors, civil society groups and the media) shared ideas and experiences on progress, obstacles and innovative ways to overcome them. The United Nations General Assembly convened a special session in Geneva in June-July 2000 to assess the achievements made at the Social Summit of Copenhagen and to discuss new initiatives (UN, 2000). In the Geneva 2000 Forum several thousand participants had an opportunity for free dialogue, information sharing and the exchanging of ideas. By bringing these actors together in close proximity to the UN debates, and ensuring cross fertilisation between the two events, Geneva 2000 Forum completed the process to move social development forward (UN, 2000).

In addition, the United Nations Commission for Social Development, a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was entrusted with the primary responsibility for the follow up to Copenhagen. Its programme of work for the period 1996-2000 included priority themes addressed by the World Summit: eradication of poverty, promotion of full employment, social integration and social services for all. In 2001, the Bureau of the

Commission for Social Development initiated a review of the working methods of the Commission (UN, 2006).

The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (CDSD, 2000) that was prepared after the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 had the conviction that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among nations. In turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this regard the CDSD (2000) stipulated that sustainable social development is indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within nations.

Having the international community professed that sustainable social development is indispensable in today's globalising world, it is necessary to distinguish between "development", "sustainable development" and "sustainable social development" as it is easy to equate these three terms from a layman's perspective, although there are marked differences. In the next section these terms will be discussed in more detail.

2.3 The concept "sustainable social development"

Two opposing but equally restrictive tendencies have emerged in the understanding of the concept of sustainable development: for some: it has become the subject of an excessively economic bias, often being used as a justification for faster growth on the grounds that this will help to reduce poverty and achieve ecological sustainability, whilst at the same time serving the purpose of promoting the opening up of markets, financial deregulation, privatisation of natural resources and biopiracy. For others, sustainable development has undergone a form of ecological over-simplification in which the concept is restricted to

environmental sustainability (Council of Europe, 2003). This section will indicate how the three concepts, "development", "sustainable development" and "sustainable social development" are markedly different yet related to one another.

2.3.1   The meaning of "development"

Princeton University (2006) defined "development" as an act of improving by expanding or enlarging or refining something.   This implies a state in which things are improving or; represents a transformation of society.   Stiglitz (2002:163) argued it is a movement from traditional relations, traditional ways of thinking, traditional ways of dealing with health and education, traditional methods of production, to more "modern" ways. For instance, a characteristic of traditional societies is the acceptance of the world as it is; the modern perspective recognises change, it recognises that individuals and societies, can take actions that, for instance, reduce infant mortality, increase longevity, and increase productivity.

"Development" is thus more than just economic development or the increase in capital and the efficient use of resource allocation and it is not only reliant on the different market mechanisms as originally thought in "old" development paradigms. If a change in mindset is at the centre of development, then it is clear that attention needs to be shifted to how to affect such changes in the mindset of people themselves. Change has to come from within people (Stiglitz, 2002:163).

Du Pisani & Kwang-su (2001:97) added that while science, technology, skills and economic activities may be what constitute development, the foundation is a particular mentality or attitude of the human mind, which serves as the dynamic to set the wheels of development rolling. Such a forward-thinking mentality is based on a sense of human dignity.

For the purpose of this dissertation development will therefore be defined as the wilful transformation, progression and/ or improvement by expanding or enlarging or refining a culture or society.

2.3.2   Describing "sustainable development"

"Sustainable development" is more often than not described as a relationship between economic viability (welfare) and environmental protection (resource accessibility). Pearce & Warford (1993:14) defined it as "development that secures increases in the welfare of the current generation provided that welfare in the future does not decrease". Pearce & Turner (1990:52) said sustainable development "involves maximizing the net benefits of economic development, subject to maintaining the services and quality of natural resources over time".

It is therefore commonly thought that a climate for sustainable development will be created if the environment and its resources are protected, non-renewable capital is used sparingly and economic growth is stimulated. Sathiendrakumar (1996:160) recommended that governments should not ignore the fact that in the long term welfare gains from economic growth may be outweighed by the losses of environmental damage. He therefore further recommends that economic and environmental policies of governments should be integrated when formulating economic development strategies so that both private and social costs of development converge and not diverge. That is, policies should be aimed at making the individual behaviour take account of the true social value of environmental resources. According to Sathiendrakumar (1996:160) such policies should have relied more on economic incentives, but added that incentive-based policies may not be universally applied to all environmental problems.

For the purpose of this dissertation sustainable development will therefore be defined as a political driven development that secures economical and environmental increases in the

welfare of the current generation - provided that welfare in the future does not decrease. This type of development is thought to bring social, economical and environmental welfare.

2.3.3 The link between economic development and social development

Development efforts in the past have given priority to economic growth, but they have been unable to prevent widespread poverty and provide full employment. According to Mayor (1995:62), some of the consequences have been the marginalisation and exclusion of large sections of the population, the acceleration of the rural exodus, the deterioration of the urban habitat, the "ghettoization" of the suburbs and the degradation of the natural environment. Meanwhile, structural adjustment policies (like in certain countries such as Zimbabwe under the Mugabe regime) have severely affected social sectors such as education and health and in some countries have even compromised the prospects for economic recovery. Mayor (1995:62) believed a world-wide "social adjustment" must be achieved. Economic growth should serve the cause of social development and respect the environment. For example, machines should replace people only to do work that cannot really be done efficiently by men and women. Otherwise, there will be a huge social price to be paid in terms of unemployment, extremism and violence, according to Mayor (1995:62).

As stated above, while economic development has often undermined social development, economic development instead can serve to reinforce social development and participatory processes Stiglitz (2002:173). Reinforcing and attaining apt social development in turn ensures positive economic development. Typically, "social" enforcement (reputation) mechanisms are more efficient than "explicit" legal enforcement mechanisms according to Stiglitz (2002:173). That is, it is more cost-effective if transactions take place in an environment in which business people have some confidence that they will not need to engage in legal action each time to have a contract enforced. Basically it means that trust and shared civic norms are associated with better economic performance.

From the description of "sustainable development" much emphasis is placed on the political, economical and environmental aspects of development. This section criticises this view by suggesting that such emphasis had not solved all of societal developmental problems and suggests that economical policies should bear social consequences in mind. In the next section the role of good governance will be discussed in pursuing social development.

2.3.4   The link between good governance and social development

The point was made in the previous section (2. 3.3) that social development is achieved through the pursuit of bettering the social welfare of people and not only of economical and environmental welfare alone. It was suggested that sustainable development is a political decision. Social development, not readily available in the definition of sustainable development, should, if it is to be achieved, be a political aspiration. In this regard, Stiglitz (2002:165) identified "government by discussion" as the most effective way of ensuring that the change in mindset occurs not only within a small elite, but reaches deep down in society. In order for social development to be sustainable it is accordingly necessary for governments to follow a programme of civic engagement and public participation (Stiglitz, 2002:165). The correct processes and not the outcomes are key to ensure participation from the public that will reflect their true mindset.

Where countries have an absence of rule of law and a lack of transparency it both weakens the economy and undermines participatory processes (Stiglitz, 2002:166). Chimere-Dan (1999:449) believed one of the major setbacks for (sustainable) social development in many African countries is the absence of a stable political and institutional environment that is conducive for planning and implementation of programmes on a national scale. The domestic environment for many countries in Africa is characterised by political instability and

uncertainty, institutional fluidity, and a weak and undefined relationship between the state and the civil society (Chimere-Dan, 1999:449).

Stiglitz (2002:167) strongly suggested that concentrations of economic wealth and power will inevitably lead to attempts to influence political decisions in a state. Firstly such attempts can be reduced by limiting these concentrations of economic wealth and power. This can be done via anti-trust laws, redistributive taxation, inheritance taxation, government support for small and medium sized businesses, and strengthening civil society as a source of countervailing power (Stiglitz, 2002:167), secondly, increasing transparency in government and thirdly extending the citizen's right to legal recourse. It is evident that growth via good governance can only be achieved if social development is taken into account (Stiglitz, 2002:168).

Chimere-Dan (1999:450) added that the process of making and implementing social policies for social development in Africa is heavily influenced, and frequently interrupted, by globalisation. African leaders must for that reason show a commitment to develop systems of governance that are conducive to nurturing sustainable social development in the continent. Simultaneously their efforts to develop policies from within the region should be complemented with practical support from international development partners (Chimere-Dan, 1999:450).

It was seen in the previous sections that sustainable development does not incorporate social development, but rather believes that by the process of pursuing economical and environmental welfare or sustainability it automatically enhances social welfare - which is equated then with social development. This was seen however as not being the case. Social development has to be a priority just as much as economical and environmental development is. It can thus be concluded that any type of development is dependent on the

kind of political system that exists, for example whether it allows public participation, provides good governance or is part of the global integrated system. The next section will discuss the elements of sustainable social development.

2.3.5   Sustainable social development

The sections on economic development and good governance indicated that although economical welfare (through good governance) may be directed equally to all segments of society, it will have the most marked difference on those owning little possessions and/ or having the least opportunities in a society. Sustainable social development may be defined as the capacity of all human communities, including the most deprived, to meet their fundamental needs – for accommodation, drinking water, food, satisfactory conditions of health and hygiene, participation in decision-making, social cohesion, a social fabric, cultural and spiritual expression (Council of Europe, 2003). This entails the adaptation of technologies and lifestyles to the social, economic and environmental potential of each region, internalising costs and establishing systems that are compatible with the biosphere (Council of Europe, 2003).

Marais' et al., (2001:vi), view on sustainable social development corresponded with the above description and defined sustainable social development as those processes through which the quality of life of a community can be increased in a sustainable way to the best possible level within the confines of increasing globalisation. Marais et al., (2001:vi), elaborated further and said it should also be aimed at restoring disrupted relationships between individuals, groups and opposing communities, as well as the relationship between society and the resources accessible to them.

Hunger and malnutrition, ill-health, lack of access to safe drinking water, low access to education and other public services and resources, social exclusion, lack of participation and

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violence are some of the many issues that characterise the state of social development in many parts of the world today (Marais et al. 2001:vii). This poor state of social development puts a lot of pressure on positive economical development and participatory, inclusive political processes.

Sustainable social development also calls for a fundamental re-evaluation of societies' basic principles and lifestyles, and of the way it functions, particularly regarding production and consumption. This implies significant changes in attitudes and behaviour, in which an awareness of living in a common space, individual responsibility for actions, and learning to identify long-term perspectives and partnership between players in different regions of the world, including governments, international institutions, business and civil society, take precedence over material factors (Council of Europe, 2003).

Mayor (1995:62) explained that sustainable social development can be viewed practically as a comprehensive result of capacity building, (education, training and access to knowledge), development of rural areas, promoting and participating in community life (enhancing respect for human rights and the forming of democratic attitudes), protecting and safeguarding the environment, improving communication (technology) and establishing early warning systems to detect potential social conflicts and unrest.

Where participatory, inclusive political processes have ceased to function, a lot of tension exists between different sectors of society and ethnic groups. To address this, relationships between the different stakeholders need to be assessed and if need be, restored. According to Marais et al., (2001:vi) the restoration of relationships required the following:

- Delivery of services and goods.
- Good governance, successful adoption of appropriate innovation.
- Effective communication.

- Sustainable use of land and communal resources.

- Other vital and necessary conditions for modernisation and growth.

Training, research and service-rendering in the area of sustainable social development should contribute to addressing burning issues, such as the need for life skills, conflict resolution, democratisation, promotion of an entrepreneurial orientation, effective dissemination of information, sustainable community resources and the effective accessing and utilisation of infrastructure and services (Marais et al., 2001:vi).

Hak-Su (2002:1) described sustainable social development as those processes aimed at alleviating poverty and improving the quality of life in major sectors such as health, education, employment, housing and personal safety. Sustainable social development also aims at enhancing social equity, social inclusion and social protection, and opportunities for access to and full participation in the development process. The next section will list these elements emanating from the above descriptions of sustainable social development and will be regarded that it meets international best practices.

2.3.5.1 *Recurring elements of sustainable social development*

Some recurring elements can be seen from the above descriptions of sustainable social development and may thus be attributed to the description of sustainable social development. These are:

- Economical welfare.

- Restoring disrupted relationships.

- Accepting globalisation.

- Inclusive, participatory political processes.

- Training, research and service-rendering in the area of sustainable social development.

- Capacity building.

- Development of rural areas.

- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.

- Utilising new technology.

- Alleviating poverty.

- Improving the quality of life of people.

- Social protection.

- Improving communication.

- Establishing early warning systems to detect potential social conflicts and unrest.

Section 3(b) will provide a definition of sustainable social development for the purposes of this dissertation, followed by Section 4 that will discuss in more detail these elements of sustainable social development.

2.3.5.2   Definition of sustainable social development

For the purpose of this dissertation and in light of the commonalities in the descriptions of sustainable social development in the above paragraphs, sustainable social development will be expressed as the following:

"The positive relationship over time of and between (i.e. transformation), driven by societal or political will, environmental resources, human welfare and economic growth, with a marked focus to better the quality of life of people from one generation to the next".

From this it can be concluded that the elements of sustainable social development sprout from the dynamics between three interlinking, equally important aspects as illustrated in Figure 1.
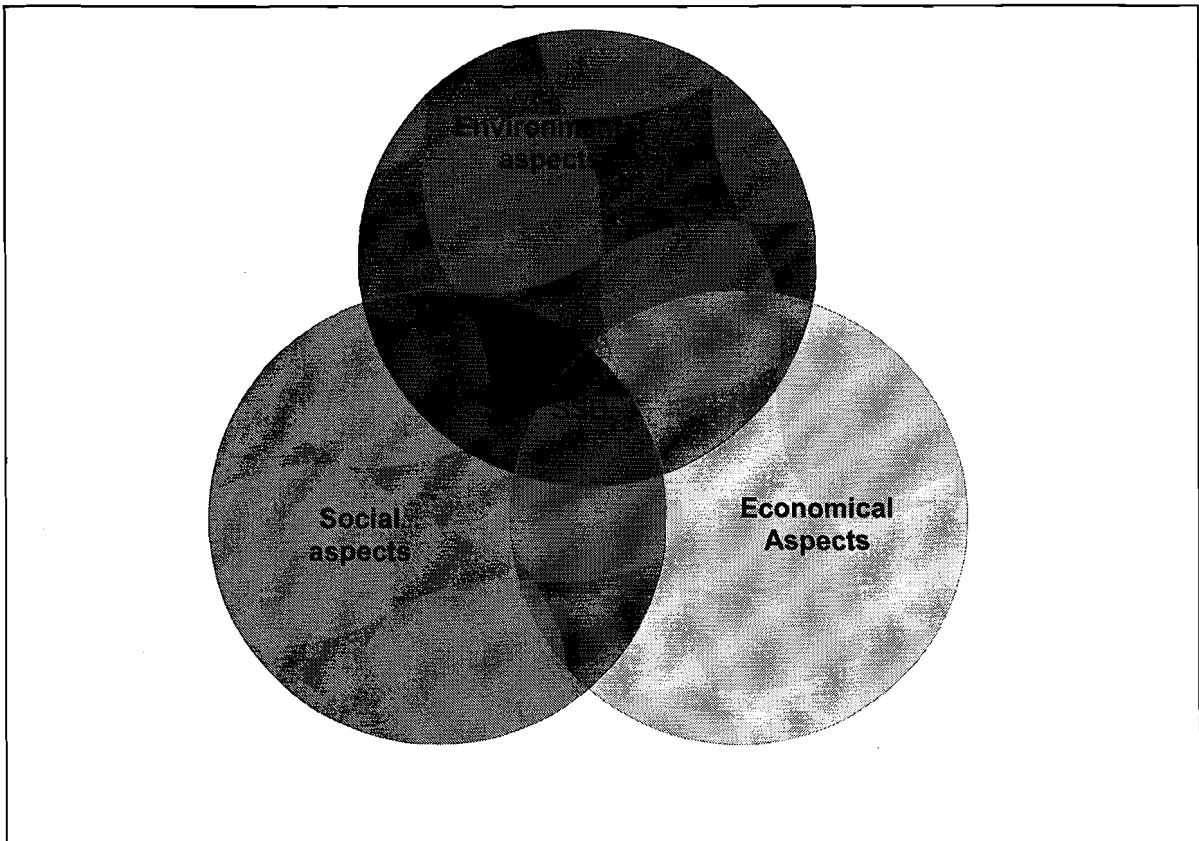
Figure 1:The different aspects of sustainable social development (SSD)

Each aspect consists of different elements that combine to give meaning to sustainable social development. Section 4 will discuss each one of these elements in detail.

2.4 Internationally accepted elements of sustainable social development

By having named the aspects and recurring elements of "sustainable social development", the next step is to explore what is internationally accepted to be the substance of these elements. In view of that, these elements that are listed in Section 3.5 will be discussed extensively in this section.

2.4.1 The different elements of sustainable social development

Some of the elements complement one another, such as information technology that enhances the educational levels of people, while in turn higher education levels lead to better utilisation of information technology and societal development, and has as such, been discussed in one group of the elements. Ten (groups of) elements have been identified and will be discussed.

2.4.1.1 *Poverty reduction*

A common method used to measure poverty is based on incomes or consumption levels. A person is considered poor if his or her consumption or income level falls below some minimum level necessary to meet basic needs (WBG, 2006). This minimum level is usually called the "poverty line" and is defined as living on less than $1 per day ($1.08 in 1993 dollars, adjusted to account for differences in purchasing power across countries). Poverty is described by the WBG (2006) as not having access to food or shelter, not being provided with services such as education and health, and being powerless, having lack of representation and freedom.

Jeffrey Sacks wrote in the essay "The End of Poverty" published in the Time Magazine of March 14, 2005 (as quoted by Shiva, 2005): "A few generations ago, almost everybody was poor. The Industrial Revolution led to new riches, but much of the world was left far behind". This implies, said Shiva (2005), that Jeffrey Sachs viewed poverty as the original sin leading to the problems that the world faces. Instead, to end poverty requires knowing how poverty is created. Poverty is a final state, wrote Shiva (2005), not an initial state of an economic paradigm, which destroys ecological and social systems for maintaining life, health and sustenance of the planet and people. And economic poverty is only one form of poverty. Cultural poverty, social poverty, ethical poverty, ecological poverty, spiritual poverty is other forms of poverty more prevalent in the so-called rich North than in the so-called poor South.

People do not die for lack of incomes but instead they die for lack of access to resources, wrote Shiva (2005).

Hak-Su (2002:9) believed everyone should have access to basic education and primary health services – principally those living in rural areas. Poor households should have the ability to sustain themselves by their labour and be reasonably rewarded, as well as have some protection from external shocks. Poverty is thus better measured in terms of basic education, health care, nutrition, water and sanitation, as well as income, employment and wages. The following factors may have contributed to the escalation of poverty, according to Hak-Su (2002:9):

- People may not have acquired essential assets to sustain their livelihoods because they live in a remote or resource-poor area.

- Essential assets may not be available to the poor because of a lack of political will to address the poverty situation, inadequate governance and inappropriate public policies and programmes.

- People are vulnerable on account of age, health, living environment or occupation.

- Certain people may be denied access to assets because they belong to an ethnic minority or a community considered socially inferior, or simply because they are females or have a disability.

- Situations arise where gross inequality of asset distribution persists because of vested interests and entrenched power structures.

The WBG (2006) indicated that living standards have risen dramatically over the last decades. The proportion of the developing world's population living in extreme economic poverty has fallen from 28 percent in 1990 to 21 percent in 2001. Substantial improvements in social indicators have accompanied growth in average incomes. Infant mortality rates in

low- and middle-income countries have fallen from 86 per 1,000 live births in 1980 to 60 in 2002. Life expectancy in these countries has risen from 60 to 65 between 1980 and 2002.

While there has been great progress in reducing poverty, it has been far from even, and the global picture masks large regional differences (WBG, 2006). Global trends in poverty reduction have been dominated by rapid growth in China and the East Asia and Pacific region. Poverty also fell in South Asia over the past 20 years, and while the decline was not as rapid, almost 45 million fewer people were living in extreme poverty by 2001 (WBG, 2006). But in Sub-Saharan Africa, where GDP per capita shrank 14 percent, poverty rose from 41 percent in 1981 to 46 percent in 2001, and an additional 150 million people were living in extreme poverty. Other regions have seen little or no change. In the early 1990s the transition economies of Europe and Central Asia experienced a sharp drop in income. Poverty rates rose to 6 percent at the end of the decade before beginning to recede (WBG, 2006).

It is imperative to discuss three important components that influence the fight against poverty. The one component relates to how to address rural poverty, another one is how to deal with urbanisation and the last one discusses the influence of globalisation. These components will be discussed in 2.4.1.1.1, 2.4.1.1.2 and 2.4.1.1.3.

2.4.1.1.1 _Addressing rural poverty_

There are two main characteristics of people that live in rural areas according to Rahman & Geissler (2000). First, rural people usually live on farmsteads or in groups of houses containing a few thousand people, separated by farmland, pasture, trees or scrubland. Second, the majority of rural people spend most of their time on farms.

Rahman & Geissler (2000) opinionated that rain fed farmers, smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fishermen, wage labourers/landless, indigenous people, female-headed households, displaced people, and across all categories – women, are some of the rural people that are the most affected by poverty. Other include those who live in remote areas, have higher child/adult ratios, work in insecure and low-income jobs and belong to ethnic minorities. The incidence of poverty is particularly high among indigenous populations; of the world's 250 million indigenous people, 70% live in Asia. Most rural poor are smallholder farmers who live in low-fertility regions and are dependent on uncertain rainfall. Their survival depends on subsistence crops, and sometimes on livestock, said Rahman & Geissler (2000). The landless are among the poorest; they rely on selling their labour during seasonal peaks, but opportunities are rare and the rewards are minimal. Although rural women are most affected by poverty, they are denied equity in household decision-making and community participation. They also have limited access to credit, technology, land, and education and health services (Rahman & Geissler, 2000).

The following domestic strategies could address rural poverty (Hak-Su, 2002:12-13):

- Market liberalisation programmes should be implemented as a way of removing policy distortions that hinder agricultural performance.
- Agro-ecological conditions should be addressed.
- The state of infrastructure (roads, communications, and irrigation) should be assessed and improved.
- Finance within commodity systems should be made more easily available.
- Appropriate technology especially for farming should be readily available.

Mayor (1995:62) made the point that rural areas in developing countries seldom provide the same (perceived) sanguine level of living as in cities. People in rural areas are generally poorer, and may be deprived of those basic services that their counterparts in cities do get.

As a result, promises of a better life attract mostly young people who migrate to urban areas. The next section will highlight the pressing reality of urbanisation.

2.4.1.1.2   *Readiness for urbanisation*

Urban and rural poverty are interlinked. Urban work encourages migration from the countryside to the city. Urban-oriented policies alone may fail to reduce urban poverty Rahman & Geissler (2000). It is therefore important to address rural poverty in order to make sustainable progress on urban poverty. Mayor (1995:62) believed the problems associated with urbanisation could be mitigated particularly through education, through promoting craftsmanship and cultural tourism, encouraging the development of indigenous cultures, ensuring that everyone has access to shelter, and decentralising education and social services at municipal level.

Mass migration from rural to urban settlements has resulted in the growth of city slums; many of which are located on unsafe land and built with environmentally inadequate construction techniques. The marginalisation of poor rural families has led to their relocation on increasingly insecure agricultural lands. Poverty levels, or the absolute number of poor and destitute persons, have increased continually with dramatic effects in terms of increases in social risk and disaster vulnerability (Pelling et al., 2004:31).

This trend can be seen in sub-Saharan Africa, which has the world's highest rate of urban migration according to Kinver (2006). Kinver (2006) argued that the size of Africa's cities bears no resemblance to their economic wealth and is experiencing what the UN's human settlements agency, UN-Habitat, calls "premature urbanisation".

This means that the agricultural sector is not flourishing and urban areas are not generating economic growth but rather failing crops, natural disasters and conflicts are forcing people to

flood into towns and cities. Currently, about 36% of Africa's population lives in urban areas but the continent are experiencing urbanisation rates twice as high as those seen during the West's industrial revolution. It is predicted that Africa will be an urban continent by 2030 (Kinver, 2006).

Urban areas are economically stagnant or in recession, therefore local authorities do not have the money or expertise to provide services such as access to water, housing, education and healthcare. As a result, 70% of Africa's urban population find themselves living in slums (Kinver, 2006).

Sutherland (2006) forecasted that the number of urban dwellers will reach a total of five billion by 2030 - out of a total population of 8.1 billion people on the planet. By 2007, for the first time in human history, more than half the world's population is expected to be living in urban areas.

One reason for this increasing surge in slum dwellers, according to Sutherland (2006), is that increased globalisation means farmers are now no longer able to make a living from the land. Many developing countries' farmers are suppressed by the farmers of the developed world, causing these farmers to flock to the city in search for jobs (Sutherland, 2006). Unfortunately, argues Sutherland (2006), there they find that industries are also in unfair competition with the developed world, which leads to a growth in the slums. The most effective way of addressing slum dwelling is through financing from banks. Money should be made available for people to buy their own homes or to subsidise rural farming.

2.4.1.1.3   *The effects of globalisation*

The forces of globalisation, coupled with demographic dynamics, placed added pressure on trends of social exclusion and discord in developing countries. These forces, presumes Hak-

Su (2002:17), lead to poverty in its different forms, growing inequalities and changing labour-market conditions, increased population movement, the ageing of populations, the prevalence of people with disabilities, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and crises and adjustments, and the potential for conflicts. They present challenges to building socially inclusive societies and prevent some people from achieving their full human development, sustainable livelihood, decent employment, minimum earnings and consumption, among other productive assets (Hak-Su, 2002:17).

Opposing this view of Hak-Su, it was declared at the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD, 1995) that globalisation permits countries to share experiences and to learn from one another's achievements and difficulties, and promotes a cross-fertilization of ideals, cultural values and aspirations. It was acknowledged, however, that at the same time, the rapid processes of change and adjustment have been accompanied by intensified poverty, unemployment and social disintegration (WSSD, 1995).

Threats to human well-being, such as environmental risks, have also been globalised. Furthermore, the global transformations of the world economy are profoundly changing the parameters of social development in all countries. The challenge is how to manage these processes (of development) and threats so as to enhance their benefits and mitigate their negative effects upon people (WSSD, 1995).

The former Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of The World Bank, Nicholas Stern (2001) said that globalisation often had been a very powerful force for poverty reduction, but too many countries and people had been left out. He cited the following reasons for this:

- Weak governance and policies in the non-integrating countries.
- Tariffs and other barriers that inflate prices of goods from poor countries.

- Difficulty poor people face in accessing rich country markets.

- Declining international development assistance.

Stern (2001) acknowledged that some anxieties about globalisation were well-founded, but said that reversing globalisation would come at an intolerably high price, destroying the prospects of prosperity for many millions of poor people. Stern (2001) strongly stated he did not agree with those who would retreat into a world of nationalism and protectionism. That way led to deeper poverty and was fundamentally hostile to the well-being of people in the developing countries. Instead, he advised that globalisation must be made to work for the poor people of the world (Stern, 2001).

Globalisation has brought hope for new opportunities in terms of increased trade, markets, new technologies, foreign investment, employment and participation in development, facilitated communications among people and increased cross-border flows of people and knowledge (Council of Europe, 2003). Such an approach makes sustainable social development a multifaceted process. It seeks a balance between the ecological, economic and social spheres, while also taking account of political (participation and democratisation), ethical (responsibility, solidarity, social justice and sufficiency) and cultural (local diversity and artistic expression) considerations (Council of Europe, 2003).

2.4.1.2   Promoting and participation in community life

The previous section highlighted that minority communities and individuals are often marginalised and excluded from participating in decisions that may affect them or their environment from which they make a living. Having thorough public participation processes are one way of protecting the rights of all sectors of a society. Mayor (1995:62) believed showing the respect for human rights and the forming of democratic values is a key indicator of social development. Tolerance and non-violence should be encouraged by all possible

means, as should intercultural dialogue and press freedom. Social integration should also be encouraged and promoted if respect for human rights and democratic values are to be attained, explained Mayor (1995:62).

Participation in community life will be promoted by enhancing social integration and promoting gender equity. Gender equity is of particular importance, as rural women are the main producers of the world's staple crops - rice, wheat, maize - which provide up to 90 percent of the rural poor's food intake (FAO, 2006) and are often excluded from making decisions in society.

2.4.1.2.1 Enhancing social integration

Despite the opportunities inherent in rapid globalisation during the past two decades, approximately 2 billion people are still excluded from its benefits (UN, 2005).The enhancement of social integration was adopted as one of the core goals of the World Summit for Social Development as a measure to include more people in the benefits brought on by globalisation (UN, 2005).

Social integration is one of the three priority areas for action identified at the 1995 WSSD (UN, 2004). In commitment 4 of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, the UN Member States committed themselves to:
"promoting social integration by fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and that are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, as well as on non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security, and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons"

The basic aim of social integration is to create a society for all where every individual, each with rights and responsibilities, has an active role to play (UN, 2004).

2.4.1.2.2   *Promoting gender equity*

Goal Three of the Millennium Development Goals seeks gender equality and the empowerment of women (United Nations, 2005). Rural women in particular are responsible for half of the world's food production and produce between 60 and 80 percent of the food in most developing countries. Yet, despite their contribution to global food security, women farmers are frequently underestimated and overlooked in development strategies. (FAO, 2006).

Although rural women are assuming an increasingly prominent role in agriculture, they remain among the most disadvantaged of populations (FAO, 2006).War, the rural-to-urban migration of men in search of paid employment and rising mortalities attributed to HIV/AIDS has led to a rise in the numbers of female-headed households in the developing world. This 'feminization of agriculture' has placed a considerable burden on women's capacity to produce, provide, and prepare food in the face of already considerable obstacles (FAO, 2006).

While women in most developing countries are the mainstay of agricultural sectors, the farm labour force and food systems (and day-to-day family subsistence), they have been the last to benefit from - or in some cases have been negatively affected by - prevailing economic growth and development processes (FAO, 2006).Gender bias and gender blindness persist: farmers are still generally perceived as 'male' by policy-makers, development planners and agricultural service deliverers. For this reason, women find it more difficult than men to gain access to valuable resources such as land, credit and agricultural inputs, technology, extension, training and services that would enhance their production capacity.   The empowerment of women or gender equity is key to raising levels of nutrition, improving the

production and distribution of food and agricultural products and enhancing the living conditions of rural populations (FAO, 2006).

The third element of sustainable social development relates to the manner in which the environment is protected and safeguarded. This will be discussed next.

2.4.1.3   *Protecting and safeguarding the environment*

Principle Four of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) states "in order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it". Sustainable development can be ensured only by protecting the environment and using its resources wisely (WBG, 2004).

Most countries have adopted principles of sustainable development and agreed to international accords on protecting the environment such as that stipulated in Principle Four. This is brought on by the fact that around the world land is being degraded, forests are being lost, fisheries are being overused, plant and animal species are becoming extinct and carbon dioxide emissions are driving changes in global climate (WBG, 2004).

Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) pertains to environmental sustainability (WBG, 2004). The Millennium Development Goals commit the international community to an expanded vision of development, one that vigorously promotes human development as the key to sustaining social and economic progress in all countries, and recognises the importance of creating a global partnership for development. The goals have been commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development progress (WBG, 2004).

Wheeler (1999) emphasised that economic and regulatory policy reforms could limit industrial pollution in developing countries, without threatening economic growth. He based his findings on a new model for pollution control (Wheeler, 1999). This model was based on sound economic principles; it incorporated market-based incentives such as a broad commitment to public environmental information, and targeted assistance to managers who are trying to improve environmental performance. The new model stressed participatory regulation, with community representatives taking their place at the negotiating table along with government regulators and factory managers. With much better public information about pollution, market agents also made their presence felt through the decisions of consumers, bankers and stockholders (Wheeler, 1999).

New models such as those described by Wheeler showed that development did not necessarily have to be to the detriment of those it affected. The next sections will follow on the trend of communities being resilient to development effects and will explore some capacity building elements.

2.4.1.4   Building the resilience of communities

UNESCO indicated that societies are in a constant motion of change due to natural, social, political or economical impacts and this affects the way development takes place (UNESCO, 2006). A resilient community is one that takes intentional action to enhance the personal and collective capacity of citizens and institutions to respond to and influence the course of social and economic change (Colussi et al., 2003:11). Thus, communities have to deal with change in such a way that they are resilient to natural, social, political or economical impacts.

The ability to assess and specify their level of resilience allows communities to identify areas of weakness, and select and implement strategies that have been proven to target those difficulties. Colussi et al., (2003:11) recommended three steps to help communities through

a structured and focused process of prioritising and planning. The three steps are based on four dimensions:

- People – Residents beliefs, attitudes and behaviour in matters of leadership, initiative, education, pride, cooperation, self-reliance, and participation.

- Organisations – The scope, nature, and level of collaboration within local organisations, institutions and groups.

- Resources – The extent to which the community builds on local resources to achieve its goals, while drawing on external resources strategically.

- Community Process – The nature and extent of community economic development, planning, participation, and action.

Step 1 is to draft a portrait of community resilience. This includes the data that is collected on the four dimensions as described above. This is useful to identify current resilient strengths and weaknesses, and to track them over time. Resilience is not static. Step 2 is to use the portrait created in Step 1 to establish community priorities. Analysing the portrait gives new insights into factors that increase communities' capacity to adapt and influence the course of change. Step 3 is to select appropriate strategies and tools to address the resilience of communities (Colussi et al, 2003:13).

It was said before that the constant motion of change affects the way development of a community takes place. Having defined sustainable social development earlier as "The positive relationship over time of and between (i.e. transformation), driven by societal or political will, environmental resources, human welfare and economic growth, with a marked focus to better the quality of life of people from one generation to the next", it can be deduced that sustainable social development will only be achieved if societies can cope with change.

Glantz (2003:1) pointed out that to build the resilience of a community there should be some early warning system in place. The structure and functions of an early warning system vary from one kind of hazard to another and from one socioeconomic and political setting to another. They can range from a simple system to a very complex multi-hazard one. The type of early warning system should fit the needs of the society and the groups or regions at risk to hazards of concern (Glantz, 2003:13).

2.4.1.4.1   *Disaster risk reduction*

Disaster risk arises when hazards interact with physical, social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities (ISDR, 2005). Events of hydrometeorological origin constitute the large majority of disasters. Despite the growing understanding and acceptance of the importance of disaster risk reduction and increased disaster response capacities, disasters and in particular the management and reduction of risk, continue to pose a global challenge (ISDR 2005).

Although disasters caused by natural events occur throughout the world, losses to disaster in developing countries are generally much greater than in developed countries in terms of percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) or government revenues, said Parker (2006:xix). Pelling et al., (2004:9) added that meeting the MDGs is challenged by losses from disasters triggered by natural hazards in many communities and countries. The destruction of infrastructure, the erosion of livelihoods, damage to the integrity of ecosystems and architectural heritage, injury, illness and death are direct outcomes of disaster.

Parker (2006:xix) feels that the impact of natural disasters on economic well-being and human suffering has increased alarmingly. Natural disasters destroyed $652 billion in property worldwide in the 1990s alone – an amount fifteen (15) times higher in real terms compared to the 1950s (IEG, 2006). Approximately 2.6 billion people were affected by

natural disasters over the past ten years, compared to 1.6 billion the previous decade. Parker (2006: xix) mentioned that in 2005 the earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean killed an estimated 220,000 people and left 1.5 million people homeless, catastrophic flooding and mudslides in Guatemala killed hundreds of people, and a massive earthquake in Kashmir killed tens of thousands more in Pakistan and India.

Developing countries have borne the brunt of these catastrophes, accounting for over 95 percent of all casualties (IEG, 2006) because they fail to adequately capture the impact of the disaster on the poor who often bear the greatest cost in terms of lives and livelihoods, and rebuilding their shattered communities and infrastructure (UNDP, 2006). The disproportionate effect on developing countries has many explanations, reasoned Parker (2006: xix). Lack of development itself contributes to disaster impacts, said Parker (2006: xix), both because the quality of construction is often low and building codes, land registration processes, and other regulatory mechanisms are lacking, as well as because numerous other development priorities displace attention from the risks presented by natural events.

Sustainable development, poverty reduction, good governance and disaster risk reduction are mutually supportive objectives, and in order to meet the challenges ahead, accelerated efforts must be made to build the necessary capacities at the community and national levels to manage and reduce risk (ISDR, 2005). Such an approach is to be recognised as an important element for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration (ISDR, 2005).

However, disaster losses interact with and can also aggravate other stresses and shocks such as a financial crisis, a political or social conflict, disease (especially HIV/AIDS), and environmental degradation on households most at risk. Accordingly, such disaster losses

may set back social investments aiming to protect the environment as well as economic investments that provide employment and income, according to Pelling et al., (2004:9). There is international acknowledgement that efforts to reduce disaster risks must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction, and supported through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including partnerships (ISDR, 2005).

The most recent international acknowledgement occurred on January 2005 at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, where 168 Governments adopted a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards. The Hyogo Framework is a global blueprint for disaster risk reduction efforts spanning from 2005 to 2015. Its goal is to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015: in lives, and in the social, economic, and environmental assets of communities and countries. The Framework offers guiding principles, priorities for action, and practical means for achieving disaster resilience for vulnerable communities (ISDR, 2005). The following five priorities for action are spelled out in the Hyogo Framework 2005-2015 (ISDR, 2005):

- Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
- Reduce the underlying risk factors.
- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

In their approach to disaster risk reduction, states, regional and international organisations and other actors concerned should take into consideration the key activities listed under each

of these five priorities and should implement them, as appropriate, to their own circumstances and capacities.

2.4.1.4.2   *Providing micro-insurance*

Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations, said (as quoted by Churchill et al., 2006:2) "microfinance is a way to extend the same rights and services to low-income households that are available to everyone else. It protects people against shocks, and allows the majority of the population to become part of a country's economic activity. It can help to build markets, and show that profits and principles can reinforce one another."

Micro-insurance involves voluntary and contributory schemes for the community, and handling small-scale cash flows to address major community risks. Often such schemes are of a local character and have a very small membership (Hak-Su, 2002:154). The primary aim of many of these schemes is to help their members to meet the unpredictable burden of out-of-pocket expenses, such as a hospital emergency, death or funeral expenses. Micro-insurance can provide social insurance at affordable prices, expand coverage when there is a realistic understanding of the problems that communities face and promote community involvement (Hak-Su, 2002:154).

One type of micro-insurance is agriculture-specific insurance. Agricultural insurance provides protection to farming communities (Mayor, 1995:62). It is a financial mechanism in which the uncertainties of farming in terms of potential loss are minimized by pooling a large number of uncertainties that could have an adverse impact on agriculture so that the burden of loss can be distributed (Mayor, 1995:62).The loss may be due to a number of natural disasters such as storms, floods, droughts, hail, frost, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, plant and animal pests and diseases. The risks of loss can be spread temporally or spatially.

With reinsurance, the risks can be further spread across national boundaries (Mayor, 1995:62). During natural disasters of widespread proportions, for instance, other countries could help to share the burden. Agricultural insurance should be re-examined as an effective tool for the development of the rural economy when implemented as part of a package of support services in rural areas, cautiously accompanied by adequate reinsurance mechanisms (Mayor, 1995:62).

2.4.1.5 Ensuring access to education

Adult illiteracy rates in many low-income countries were still only 50% or more as late as the 1980s, as noted by Mayor (1995:83). Mayor argued that while it could not be denied that less developed countries have laboured under severe financial pressures, the evidence suggests that the educational strategies of many countries can be called into question. Mayor (1995:83) pointed out that similarly, the official data on literacy probably give a rather distorted view of reality. Because of underfunding, poor delivery, low attendance and high rates of drop-out, many school leavers could scarcely be considered literate or numerate in the internationally accepted sense (Mayor, 1995:83).

Aldcroft (1998:242) pointed to the fact that in African countries there is a serious quantitative shortfall of students enrolled in educational systems. Even of those who are enrolled, few complete their study. The quality of education given is also questionable. Aldcroft (1998:242) attributes this due to financial constraints, rapidly growing populations, and shortages of books, materials, equipment, teachers and other facilities.

Mayor (1995:62) argued that intensive training courses should be made permanently available without regard to age or level of previous studies. Mayor (1995:83) believes that education and empowerment of girls and women are key factors in curbing population growth, promoting gender equity and in developing the full potential of women. In addition, a

new role for higher education should be found in countries, incorporating lifelong higher-learning facilities.

Continuing efforts should be made to promote the transfer and sharing of knowledge, particular in science and technology. Accordingly, development should be based on the will of each society and should express its fundamental identity. Cultural factors should be an integral part of all strategies designed to achieve balanced development, said Mayor (1995:83).

Aldcroft (1998:249) shared the views of Mayor and argued that basic education or primary schooling is one of the most effective investments, not only in making people more productive and socially aware, but also because it facilitates the attainment of other objectives of social policy, particularly in the fields of fertility control, improvements in health, nutrition, literacy and general communication and the strengthening of national culture. This is based on the premise from Aldcroft (1998:249) that an initial boost to education produces three mutually reinforcing effects:

- A favourable response in output and investment.
- The consequent income gains react favourably on levels of nutrition, health and education.
- The induced rise in income per capita produces favourable movements in death and fertility rates, the net effect of which is a steepening of the growth rate curve and a flattening in the rate of population expansion.

Aldcroft (1998:246) argued furthermore that the level of education attained in a society not only supports the pace at which such a society can exploit technical advances, but it also provides the population with the attitudes and aspirations to facilitate adaptation and change. On the contrary, Aldcroft said the lack of human capital resources in less developed

countries has been seen as one reason why poor countries have in the past attracted relatively little capital and technology from richer nations. A second point to emerge is that countries with high human resource endowments relative to their level of income per capita are the ones most likely to succeed. Thirdly, the most fruitful investment for any country at the initial stage of development is that in basic primary education.

Despite the fact that literacy and education are clearly important for contemporary economic growth, they do not automatically lead to positive economic growth. Aldcroft (1998:240) noted that "the widespread ability to read and write is not a magic charm that ignites the Industrial Revolution in any societal circumstances." According to him it only becomes a dynamic element within a mature cultural and balanced socio-political context, where social values are conducive to change. Importantly he says, to be effective, education must embody secular elements for education grounded in religious doctrine and dogma is a non-starter.

2.4.1.6   Access to Equity Capital

The extent to which reinvestment of capital is influenced or controlled by a community affects its ability to influence economic development. Its absence or the flow of capital from a community is a major factor in the decline of a community economy. In resource dependent communities, this can also be influenced by securing greater control over the local resource base, commented Colussi et al, (2003:13).

2.4.1.7   Access to credit

Without access to credit, enterprise development is impossible. In communities under stress, traditionally risk-averse, conventional sources of credit tend to dry up. Creating sources of credit that are locally owned or are influenced by the community is critical for long term community survival (Colussi et al., 2003:13).

One of the ways to ensure access to credit says Mayor (1995:62) is to create social funds. Social funds have evolved as mechanisms to channel public resources to meet particularly pressing social needs. They are generally supported from external sources. Colussi et al., (2003:13) suggested in this regard strategic, targeted networking and partnership development focuses on strengthening relationships to solve problems, to create new opportunities, and to mobilise community and outside resources to address local priorities.

Community-based social funds are facilities, typically managed at the local level, empowering communities, NGOs and local governments that provide finance for small-scale projects, such as infrastructure schemes and livelihood programmes to community groups. They provide direct poverty relief and encourage skills development while contributing to a community's social capital (Mayor, 1995:62).

2.4.1.8   *Building human resource capacity*

Fundamental to human development is building human capabilities: the range of things that people can do or be in life. The most basic capabilities for human development are to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable, to have access to the resources needed for a decent standard of living and to be able to participate in the life of the community. Without these, many choices are simply not available and many opportunities in life remain inaccessible (Pelling et al., 2004:20).

Capacity for intentional action depends on vision, participation, and the skills of local people. It is critical to the creation of new initiatives, whether they concern social, economic, or entrepreneurial development, argued Colussi et al. (2003:13).

Active, ongoing research into matters that decrease resilience and increase capacity ensures that planning is informed and that local interests can be represented to decision-makers within or outside the community (Colussi et al., 2003:13).

2.4.1.9   Infrastructure planning and provision

While streets, sewers and buildings are typically the domain of the City Planner, it is important to link infrastructure planning to the community's vision and goals (Colussi et al., 2003:14).

The UN General Assembly endorsed the 'right to communication' in 1997 as a human right. In terms of the Internet, which could be seen as a major communication medium, it could be argued that universal service and access to such a communication medium should be considered such a right (De Beer, 2001:137).

Not all countries have equal access to these communication services and Lucas and Sylla (2001:1-17) mentioned that evidence suggests poor countries are being left further behind as a result of the ongoing technological revolution elsewhere in the world. Within such countries there are many barriers to the adoption of new technology; for example, general problems can be related to culture and social influence. Lucas and Sylla (2001:1-17) argued that some countries tend to see the Internet as an American-dominated technology and therefore as something to be distrusted. In addition to cultural issues, the Internet requires a group of knowledgeable users to diffuse the technology to others. Many developing countries lack such a corps of dedicated Information Technology (IT) professionals (Lucas and Sylla, 2001:13).

In contrast to fears emanating from such countries, by instead accepting the technological revolution it will help developing countries to learn from developmental mistakes made in the

past. Developing countries have access to knowledge upon which they can build without reinventing the wheel, so to speak. In fact De Beer (2001:135) pointed out that the United Nations (UN) "has put its faith in the Internet as a means for poor countries to leapfrog stages of development". The future of Africa lies in 'digital bridges', it is argued. The Internet would supply a new digital highway around the problem of infrastructure, which is one of Africa's greatest weaknesses (e.g. roads, power supplies, and telephone lines) (De Beer, 2001:135).

To foster awareness and to promote social integration, communication must be improved world-wide through the use of new communication and information technologies. Countries should draw up overall information policies in these fields (Mayor, 1995:63). Mayor pointed to the fact that many developing countries have undemocratic governments, which are concerned with the hampering of the free flow of information. Another factor hampering communication is that developing countries may also lack the funds to invest in a telecommunications infrastructure, purchasing computers, and providing education on how to use the technology.

The lack of infrastructure, phones and personal computers are a major impediment to Internet adoption, according to Mayor (1995:66). Where the infrastructure does exist, Internet access is considerably more expensive in poor countries than in wealthy ones relative to income. Lucas and Sylla (2001: 14) argued forthwith that wealth is necessary to produce capital and that education and gender equality is important for economic growth. Higher levels of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), higher levels of literacy and communications infrastructure are associated with greater Internet presence for all countries in the world, and lead to better technology infrastructure.

Modern technology has much to offer in meeting the information-communication needs of rural communities, according to Hak-Su (2002:19). ICT can improve the access of the poor to health, micro-credit and government services, create direct employment opportunities, provide training and education to people and support the poor in the production, storage and marketing of farm and non-farm products (Hak-Su, 2002:19). ICT can also facilitate the generation and exchange of community-based information and stimulate the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises and expand their market base. It can break barriers to knowledge by providing demand-driven information and services to the rural poor. Access to information is key to building human capabilities (Hak-Su, 2002:19). The poor are traditionally isolated and lack the means to take collective action, but with ICT, poor communities are empowered to voice their concerns to responsible groups that can take action to help them, mentioned Hak-Su (2002:20).

2.4.1.10   *Protecting and fostering human rights*

Human rights, according to Fagan (2006), aim to identify both the necessary negative and positive prerequisites for leading a minimally good life, such as rights against torture and rights to health care. Human rights refer to the concept of human beings as having universal rights or status, regardless of legal jurisdiction or other localising factors, such as ethnicity and nationality. Fagan (2006) noted that the aspiration of upholding human rights has been enshrined in various declarations and legal conventions issued during the past fifty years, initiated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948) and perpetuated by the European Convention on Human Rights (1954) and the International Covenant on Civil and Economic Rights (1966).

The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development (WSSD, 1995) mentioned the importance of sustaining or promoting human rights numerous times when pursuing sustainable social development. Paragraph 5 of the Chapeau of the Copenhagen

Declaration stated that member states share the conviction that social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security within and among our nations. In turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms (WSSD, 1995). Heads of government participating in the convention affirmed in paragraph 26(j) that one of the principles of the declaration is to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development; promote the effective exercise of rights and the discharge of responsibilities at all levels of society; promote equality and equity between women and men; protect the rights of children and youth; and promote the strengthening of social integration and civil society (WSSD, 1995).

Witte (2006:1) said various classes of rights are commonly distinguished. One common distinction is between public or constitutional rights (those which operate vis-à-vis the state) and private or personal rights (those which operate vis-à-vis other private parties). Witte (2006:1) elaborated that a second distinction is between human rights (those that inhere in a human qua human) and civil rights (those that inhere in citizens or civil subjects). A third is between natural rights (those that are based on natural law or human nature) and positive rights (those that are based in the positive law of the state). A fourth is between individual rights and the rights of associations or groups (whether private, like businesses or churches, or public, like municipalities or political parties). A fifth is between unalienable or nonderogable rights (those that cannot be given or taken away) and alienable or derogable rights (those that can be voluntarily given away or can be taken away under specified legal conditions). Increasingly today, distinctions are also drawn among the discrete claims of particular parties and groups that have historically not received adequate rights protection -- women, children, workers, migrants, minorities, prisoners, captives, indigenous peoples, religious parties, the mentally and physically handicapped, and more. Distinctions are also

increasingly drawn among "first generation" civil and political rights, "second generation" social, cultural, and economic rights, and "third generation" rights to peace, environmental protection, and orderly development (Witte, 2006:2).

As said by Witte (2006:2) human rights are sometimes divided into negative and positive rights. Negative human rights, which follow mainly from the Anglo-American legal tradition, denote actions that a government should not take. Negative rights are usually characterised as civil or political in nature and held to include such rights as the right to life and security of person; freedom from slavery; freedom of movement; freedom of speech, religion and assembly, right to property, habeas corpus, freedom from violent crime, freedom of worship, a fair trial, and the right to bear arms (Wikipedia, 2006c). Positive rights are characterised as social or economic and are held to include rights such as the right to education, right to a livelihood, equality before the law and due process under the rule of law, health care, social security or a minimum standard of living. Positive human rights mainly follow from the Rousseauian Continental European legal tradition and denote rights that the state is obliged to protect and provide. Positive rights have been codified in the UDHR and in many 20th-century constitutions (Wikipedia, 2006c).

Of relevance to this study are the "three generations of human rights" and "negative and positive rights". In the next chapter the constitution of Liberia will be analysed to the extent these types of rights are protected. Vasak & Alston (1982:17) explained three generations of human rights. First-generation rights deal essentially with liberty (freedom of speech, the right to a fair trial, and freedom of religion) and consist primarily of rights to security, property, and political participation. These are most typically associated with the French and US Declarations which were first enshrined at the global level by the UDHR (see Articles 3 to 21 of the UDHR, 2006). They are fundamentally civil and political in nature and serve to protect the individual from excesses of the state.

Second-generation rights are related to equality and are for example construed as socio-economic rights, rights to welfare, education and leisure. These rights largely originated within the UDHR (Articles 22 to 27 of the UDHR, 2006) after World War 1. They are fundamentally social, economic, and cultural in nature. They ensure different members of the citizenry equal conditions and treatment. Secondary rights would include a right to be employed, rights to housing and health care, as well as social security and unemployment benefits.

The final and third-generation of rights go beyond the mere civil and social and are associated with such rights as a right to national self-determination, a clean environment, and the rights of indigenous minorities. These rights have been hard to enact in legally binding documents (Vasak & Alston, 1982:18-19).

The term "third-generation human rights" remains largely unofficial, and thus houses an extremely broad spectrum of rights, including (Wikipedia, 2006d):

- Group and collective rights.
- Right to self-determination.
- Right to economic and social development.
- Right to a healthy environment.
- Right to natural resources.
- Right to communicate.
- Right to participation in cultural heritage.
- Rights to intergenerational equity and sustainability.

2.4.1.11 Summary

The components of the different elements of sustainable social development were described Figure 2 shows how the ten (10) different elements are related to the three interlinking aspects of sustainable social development. Tables 1-4 give a summary of the different aspects and elements and serves as a "best practice" model with which the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development can be compared to. Such a comparison will be done in Chapter 4.
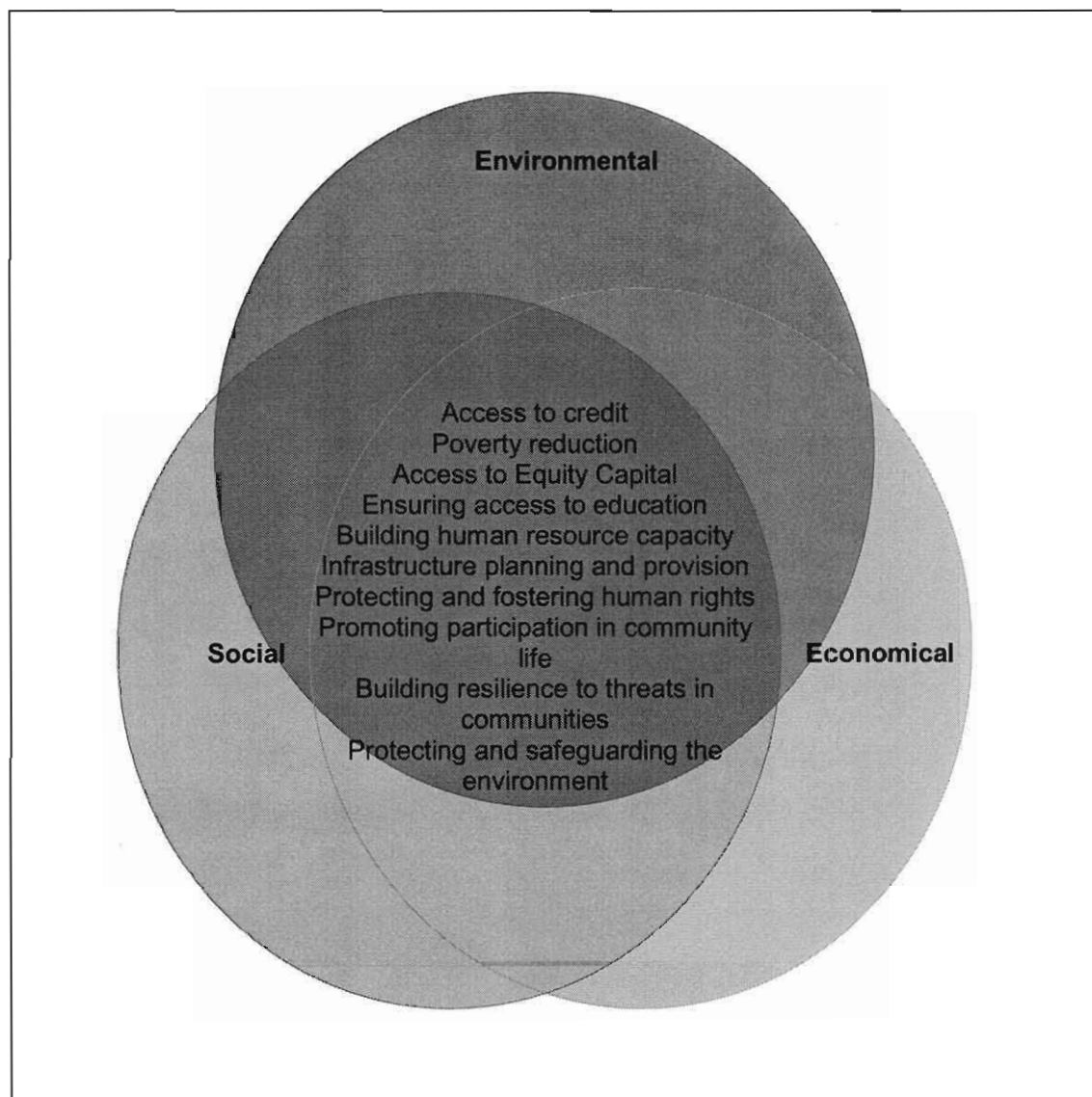
Figure 2:The interlinking of the 10 different elements of sustainable social development (ssd) as concluded in in Chapter 2

Table 1: The social elements of sustainable social development

Sustainable social development		
Aspects	**Elements**	**Section**
Social	Promoting participation in community life	2.4.1.2
	Building resilience to threats in communities	2.4.14
	Ensuring access to education	2.4.1.5
	Building human resource capacity	2.4.1.8
	Infrastructure planning and provision	2.4.1.9
	Poverty reduction	2.4.1.1
	Protecting and fostering human rights	2.4.1.10

Table 2: The environmental elements of sustainable social development

Sustainable social development		
Aspects	**Elements**	**Section**
Environmental	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	2.4.1.3
	Building resilience to threats in communities	2.4.1.4

Table 3: The Economical elements of sustainable social development

Sustainable social development		
Aspects	**Elements**	**Section**
Economical	Poverty reduction	2.4.1.1
	Access to Equity Capital	2.4.1.6
	Access to credit	2.4.1.7
	Building resilience to threats in communities	2.4.1.4
	Ensuring access to education	2.4.1.5
	Building human resource capacity	2.4.1.8
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	2.4.1.3

2.5 Conclusion

From the previous sections it is clear that in order to attain sustainable social development that meets international best practices, environmental and human resources need to be protected against exploitation and should be optimally utilised; human welfare (on both community and individual basis) should be improved by making sure everybody have the same access to resources; everyone has the freedom to participate in all civil and political matters, processes and decisions affecting them; and economic growth should be expanded equally throughout all the different sectors of society. None of this can happen if the correct (stable) political platform or political will does not exist, and human rights are not protected.

Sustainable social development has three integrated aspects consisting of ten (10) elements, all of which have been discussed in detail in this chapter. It was emphasised that communities, governments and the international community need to recognise that economical, social and environmental development complement one another. It was also made clear that if sustainable social development is pursued, sustainable development is generated as a by-product. This spin-off benefits not only nation states in question but also whole regions. In the next chapter the Ministry of Rural Development's action plan will be discussed.

CHAPTER 3: The status of development in Liberia: a desktop study

3.1 Introduction

Sustainable social development was discussed in great detail in the previous chapter. It was highlighted that sustainable social development consists of three interlinking, equally important aspects, i.e. social, economical and environmental aspects. A description of the current status of development in Liberia will serve as background to explain the context in which the Ministry of Rural Development in Liberia functions. It is within this environment that the Ministry of Rural Development intends to empower rural people through its action plan. In this chapter, human rights are seen as the primary inspiration for (any type) of development. The principle argument regarding human rights is that a state enshrines the values it wants to protect or pursue in its constitution. These values equate to rights that its citizens are entitled to (so-called "human rights"). Therefore the type(s) of development a state will pursue has a close link with the type of human rights enshrined in a constitution. Accordingly, a thorough analysis of the constitution of Liberia is done, detailing human rights that are protected and the implications this has for the Ministry of Rural Development plan of action.

3.2 Overview of the status of development in Liberia

Literacy levels were at 57.5% (people age 15 and over who can read and write), (CIA World Factbook, 2006). Of the total population in 2003/4, 85% were unemployed, and almost 80% lived below the absolute poverty line (less than U$1 per day). It should be noted that of the 38% economically active population (as percentage out of the total population), 65% were active in agriculture. Nearly half of the total population (43%) were in the 0-14 years age group (CIA World Factbook, 2006), making it a very young nation.

These statistics indicated that most inhabitants of Liberia make their living straight from subsistence farming and are very dependent on natural food resources and favourable natural conditions. Furthermore, with almost half of the population being in the 0-14 years age group, it means that these children were born when the civil war started (1989). These children are newly adapting to "normal" society and have to learn new trades and skills that were not accessible during the war. Human development and social development therefore are severely challenged by these situations.

Two introductory discussions will serve as a background to the status of development in Liberia: "the legacy of a civil war" and "Liberia's Human Development Index (HDI)". Following this, the current state of development in Liberia will be discussed in both rural and urban areas. Refer to Map 1 and 2 for a geographical orientation of Liberia. Liberia is bounded to the north by Guinea, to the east by Côte d'Ivoire, to the south and southwest by the Atlantic Ocean, and to the northwest by Sierra Leone.
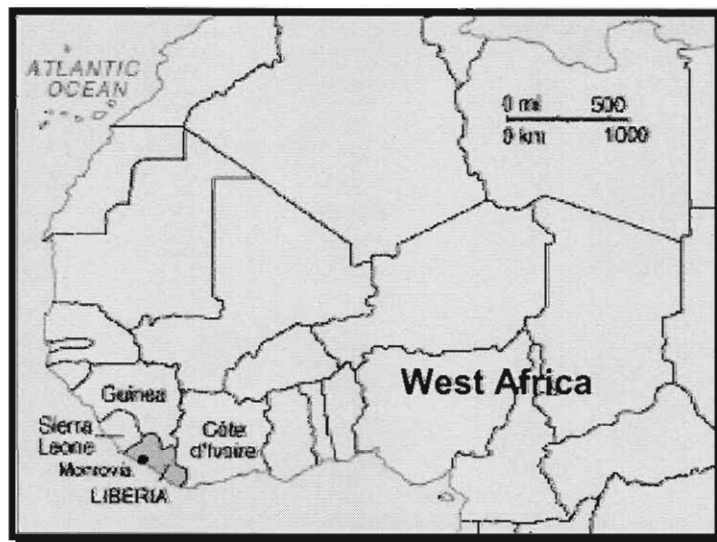
Map 1: African orientation of Liberia (Tiscali, 2006)

Map 2: Political borders of the Republic of Liberia (Maps of world, 2006).

3.2.1   Legacy of a civil war

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement or CPA, signed on August 18, 2003 in Accra, Ghana ended 14 years of civil war in Liberia (1989-2003). It provided for the disarmament of an estimated 40 000 militants and the formation of a broad-based transitional government to guide Liberia to elections on 11 October 2005 (Saunders, 2005:1). Some estimates set the total number of combatants actually higher - as of August 2004. Over 71 300 combatants of the civil war have been disarmed and more than 63 398 were demobilised (Liberia, 2004b:16).

Aboagye and Bah (2004:95) indicate that even though a peace treaty was put in place, the Liberian state was still carved between the various warring factions and the government of former President Charles Taylor. They are furthermore of the opinion that the authority of the central government hardly extended beyond the capital city of Monrovia, of which the control was contested at various stages during the upsurge in fighting in July 2003. Vast territories in the interior of the country were either under the control of one of the warring factions or waiting to be overrun by one of the feuding armed groups. The provision of basic social services, especially education, health, sanitation and potable water, grounded to a halt as the country's infrastructure had been either destroyed, looted or had decayed, as most technical personnel had fled to the capital city of Monrovia or to neighbouring countries (Aboagye & Bah, 2004:95.

The legacy of the civil war made it difficult for the transitional government to promote and sustain transparency, justice, effectiveness, and accountability. By 2004, the political, social and economical circumstances in Liberia had deteriorated to the point where all systems, processes, institutions, rules, procedures and people's attitudes for ensuring good

governance were either non-existent or lacking substance (Governance Reform Commission, 2004:1).

3.2.2   Liberia's Human Development Index (HDI)

It was not possible for the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) to rank Liberia on the annual Human Development Index (HDI) in 2003 as there were no systems or developmental processes in place that could be measured to obtain data (The Economist., 2005:377). Liberia was considered to be a "failed state" by the international community (The Economist., 2005:59).

The poverty statistics and development indices for Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Côte d'Ivoire demonstrated the extreme poverty of the West African region. For instance, Sierra Leone occupied the lowest possible rank (177) of the UNDP HDI. Its neighbours were also among the 20 least developed countries in the world: Burkina Faso occupied the 175th spot on the HDI, while Côte d'Ivoire's rank was 163rd, and Guinea's was 160th (Dufka, 2005:17). Although Liberia's prolonged civil war meant that it had not been included in the HDI, other statistics demonstrated that the living conditions there may have been worse than in Sierra Leone. Liberia's GDP per capita was just US $169 in 2002, whereas Sierra Leone's was US $520. And while 57% of the Sierra Leonean population lived on less than a dollar per day, the Liberian figure – at 76% – was even higher (Dufka, 2005:18).

To illustrate the developmental challenges and living conditions prevalent in Liberia, seven features of the quality of life in Liberia will be discussed next.

3.3   Developmental challenges in Liberia

Sources quoting statistics of Liberia sometimes differed both in content and fact.   For instance, the total population was given to be 3 042 004 people by the CIA World Factbook (2006) as opposed to 3 487 000 people by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO, 2005) in 2005/6.

Karwee et al., (2003) believed the rural population in Liberia to be 1 995 000 in 2003 (>70% of the total population out of an estimated 2 700 000 people (Sweetnam, 2003)). FOA (2005) estimated that in 2004, just slightly more than 50% of the total population lived in rural areas. This indicated a significant increase in people flocking to the capital looking for work or safety from the time when the war ended in 2003. The following developmental challenges will be discussed from the view of levels of infrastructure, health, safety, access to services – basically from a "quality of life of the Liberian" perspective.

3.3.1   Infrastructure and access to basic services

From a service delivery perspective, the political turmoil resulted in people having almost no access to basic services.   There existed no piped water and no electricity supply other than those of generators in the country (The Economist, 2005:377).

The Economist (2005:377) mentioned that the justice system ceased to function during the civil war while the Liberia National Police (LNP) were defunct by the time the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) came into power in 2004 - law and order had to be maintained by external, international peacekeepers after the war. The Economist (2005:377) indicated that the closest approximation to a middle class was 60 000 civil servants who have hardly been paid in fourteen (14) years whereas the 450 000 prosperous and well-educated Liberians were living in America and did not show any sign of returning.

Isaacs (2005:3) noted that the brain-drain caused by the fourteen (14) years of conflict resulted in a dearth of local professionals, making the goal of creating self-sufficiency in meeting basic needs, like health care, illusive.

It is not only the lack of services delivery that had an influence on the high levels of morbidity and mortality in Liberia. Isaacs (2005:3) emphasised this could also be attributed in part from the continued lack of access to safe drinking water. Humanitarian estimates indicated that only 24% of the population had access to safe drinking water and less than 5% of the population had access to improved sanitation, said Isaacs (2005:3).

Hygiene practices were also poor. As a result, cholera, dysentery, and other waterborne diseases were endemic. Ninety-five percent of the households in rural areas stated hand pumps were their main source of obtaining drinking water but most water hand pumps used by people in rural areas and Internally Displaced Person (IDP) settlements were no longer functional (ACF, 2005:5-7). The high degree of malfunctioning hand pumps as well as an insufficient yield for some of these water structures, especially during the dry season, accompanied by a lack of maintenance of these water points, reduced the number of litres available per day and limited the access to safe drinking water (ACF, 2005:5-7). In accordance with this, the Ministry of Rural Development (Liberia, 2004a:6) aimed to deliver water and sanitation services to the rural population and to rehabilitate water infrastructure in rural towns.

Major roads and secondary roads (dirt roads) were in very bad shape by the end of the war, especially in the northwest (Lofa County) and the southeast (Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, Grand Kru and parts of Sinoe Counties). Dirt roads posed problems particularly during the rainy season (March to October) (Liberia, 2004a:6). The condition of Liberia's road network was a major constraint to humanitarian access to populations in need, as well

as a hindrance to Internally Displaced Person (IDP) and refugee returns, the delivery of essential services, and the re-establishment of livelihoods and markets (Isaacs, 2005:3). Many areas were completely inaccessible by land due to the poor conditions of roads and bridges, with a large number being completely washed out. Local capacity to deliver basic services, particularly to remote areas, was severely limited, and the majority of the population remained entirely dependent on internationally-provided services (Isaacs, 2005:3).

3.3.2   Subsistence needs

Living conditions and the difficult access to land resulted in a radical change in food sources. The large majority of IDPs relied on World Food Programme (WFP) monthly food ration distributions. "Purchase" and to a lesser degree, "bush collection", however, remained important ways to access food. Fifty-five percent of people had a meal once a day while others ate twice daily (43%) and very few consumed three daily meals (2%) (ACF, 2005:6). The WFP had a shortfall of 788 metric tons (MT) in cereals in September 2004. Subsequently, WFP had to reduce rations to two-thirds, for approximately 740 000 Liberians. The commodity shortages were due to funding shortfalls (Gottlieb, 2004:3). Approximately one sixth of Liberia's population was during the 2003/4 period dependant on regular food assistance. Furthermore, the ongoing rains during the rainy season made some roads impassable to food convoys, delaying the distribution to some beneficiaries. WFP committed to provide a two-month ration to returnees in 2004 in addition to continuing distributions in IDP camps (Gottlieb, 2004:3). In 2005, WFP assisted more than 940 000 beneficiaries with approximately 89 000 metric tons (MT) of food commodities. Emergency food assistance provided by WFP and implementing partners made significant progress towards sustaining IDPs living in camps and helped to facilitate their return and resettlement prior to the October 2005 elections. (Isaacs, 2005:3).

3.3.3 The ex-combatant and Internally Displaced Person (IDP) situation

3.3.3.1 Combatants

Combatants that had fought in the civil war did not only originate from, or fight only in Liberia, but were also recruited from all neighbouring countries (Dufka, 2005:4). Subsequently, fighters from Liberia also fought in Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea, while mercenary forces from the region were also fighting in Liberia. Fifteen thousand combatants are estimated to be children affiliated with the fighting forces (Dufka, 2005:4).

3.3.3.2 Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration and Repatriation (DDRR)

In paragraph 3 of Resolution 1509 (2003), the United Nations Security Council requested the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to assist in the development of cantonment sites, prepare an action plan for the overall implementation of a disarmament, demobilisation, reintegration and repatriation (DDRR) programme, and carry out voluntary disarmament of the armed groups (Security Council, 2003:5).

The disarmament process in Liberia officially started on December 1, 2003. As at 18 May 2004, a total of 17 485 combatants had been disarmed. These include 2 292 women, 1 561 boys and 352 girls. Some 14 368 weapons were surrendered (mainly rifles and semi-automatic machine guns), together with an estimated 3 648 474 rounds of small arms ammunition and 10 317 pieces of unexploded ordnance -including rocket propelled grenades, mortar shells and hand grenades (Security Council, 2004:5).

It is difficult to find sustainable funds to successfully reintegrate these ex-combatants into society (Liberia, 2004b:16). Most ex-combatants had been fighting in the civil war from a very young age and have little skills or training. By 13 April 2005, 103 000 ex-combatants had

been placed into training programmes and over 42 000 were poised to be integrated back into society (Kpan, 2005:1-2).

Since the formal closure of the disarmament and demobilisation programme in November 2004, UNMIL has continued to collect weapons and ammunition voluntarily surrendered or discovered during search operations. Some 400 weapons, 49 062 rounds of ammunition and 389 pieces of unexploded ordnance have been collected since the formal closure in 2004. By May 2005 over 26 000 ex-combatants are still waiting to be placed into reintegration and rehabilitation projects (Security Council, 2005:8-9).

Charles Achodo as quoted by (Dufka, 2005:62) from the Liberian DDRR programme stressed the importance of sustained engagement with the ex-combatants even after the reintegration and rehabilitation programme was complete. He said such initiatives could complement the job training received through the DDRR programme and, in coordination with short and long-term community development initiatives, enhance the ex-combatants' possibilities for gainful employment. The job training opportunities in the Liberian DDRR programme did involve some elements of community development, including efforts to direct food-for-work participants into public works construction, and an increased emphasis on microfinance, especially for women ex-combatants. However, job training can best contribute to social stability if complemented by long-term community based development programmes that enhance the ex-combatant's ability to engage with his or her society (Dufka, 2005:62).

3.3.3.3 Return of Liberian refugee and IDPs.

An estimated quantity of 350 000 Liberians fled to neighbouring West African countries during the 1989 - 2003 civil war while an estimated 300 000 people were internally displaced (IRIN News, 2005a). According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) 150 000 refugees returned spontaneously since the end of conflict (Gottlieb, 2004:2).

Between October 2004 and August 2005, the UNHCR repatriated more than 38 000 Liberian refugees, primarily from Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia. Conflict in Côte d'Ivoire in 2004/5 has resulted in up to 20 000 Ivorian refugees crossing into Liberia, according to UNHCR estimates. As of September 23 2005, a total of 221 828 IDPs had received assistance to return to and resettle in their home counties (Isaacs, 2005:2). Between February 2002 and July 2004, UNHCR repatriated approximately 30 000 Sierra Leonean refugees. Approximately 4 000 Sierra Leonean refugees have chosen to remain in Liberia, rather than return to Sierra Leone (Gotlieb, 2004:2).

The WFP and UNHCR provide returning IDPs, as well as refugees, a resettlement package consisting of a four-month food ration, provided in two instalments, a set of household items, and a small allowance for onward transportation (Isaacs, 2005:2; Gottlieb 2004:2).

During the civil war, Lofa County had the highest concentration of displaced persons — approximately fifteen (15) percent of all Liberian IDPs, refugees, and ex-combatants — and consequently has the largest number of returnees. However, the deterioration of roads countrywide due to neglect and flooding, limited the return of refugees, the movement of IDPs, and the ability of the humanitarian community to deliver aid. The National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also report that IDPs lack access to safe drinking water, adequate housing and infrastructure, and food security in home villages (Isaacs, 2005:2).

The next feature that will describe the quality of life in Liberia is health care - which is particularly important in a country that presents a life expectancy of 39 years at birth for males and 44 years for females (WHO, 2006).

3.3.4   Healthcare in Liberia

While reliable data on health and nutrition indicators in Liberia are extremely limited it was estimated that less than ten (10) percent of Liberia's population had access to health care in 2004 (Isaacs, 2005:3; Anon, 2005b:8). Health care which was available was provided by the international humanitarian community, and was mainly concentrated in the Monrovia area (Isaacs, 2005:3; Anon, 2005b:8).

Although all of the hospitals and about 90% of all clinics in Liberia were state owned, these health facilities were maintained by NGOs, missionary groups and other humanitarian agencies due to the failure of the state machinery (United Nations Security Council, 2004:13-14). Denny (2005:163) had the same opinion and said that the health sector was essentially organised and paid for by international non-governmental organisations (since 1990) and not the nominally responsible Ministry of Health. More than 90% of pharmaceuticals distributed by the central state pharmacy did not reach their intended beneficiaries, according to Denny (2005:163).

The remaining 10% of clinics consisted of a small number of privately run clinics and health centres. Although many people complained about poor service and the lack of sufficient drugs, all hospitals and most of the clinics provided free medical services to all people (United Nations Security Council, 2004:13-14).

The 33 IDP camps through out the country had a total of 26 health posts - of which six were mobile clinics that provided health care a few times a week. Eight IDP camps which included

camps in Montserrado and Bong County had no health posts. The IDPs from these camps either accessed other health posts in surrounding communities and camps or treated themselves with traditional medicines bought on the streets (ACF, 2005:6).

HIV/AIDS prevalence is calculated to be between 10-13% of the population and is increasing (Liberia, 2004b:11). Others set this estimate at 8% (Isaacs, 2005:3). While suspecting an increasing prevalence, the Liberian government does not have adequate funds or expertise to conduct a proper HIV/AIDS prevalence study (IRIN News, 2005b).

In general, the health condition in rural Liberia has deteriorated to the extent that close to twenty (20) women died daily while giving birth (Anon, 2005c:8). According to the UNDP, as quoted by Isaacs (2005:3), Liberia's maternal mortality rate is among the highest in the world: 578 deaths per 100 000 people. According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the mortality rate for children under five is 235 per 1 000 live births (Isaacs, 2005:3).

Malnutrition is widespread as are incidences of communicable diseases, especially malaria, diarrhoea, and acute respiratory infections (Isaacs, 2005:3). According to UNICEF as quoted by Gottlieb (2004:2), the nationwide measles immunisation campaign reached more than 1.5 million children in Liberia between June 2003 and July 2004.

A lack of qualified health staff and corruption in rural areas were hindering the delivery of medical services during the civil war and continued during the NTGL's governance. Theft of supplies and vandalism of clinics were negatively impacting on the ability of the humanitarian community to provide heath care in many areas. (Isaacs, 2005:2).

3.3.5   Poor quality of education

Liberia's education system was judged for the past two decades to be among the weakest in sub-Saharan Africa. More than half of Liberia's children were not attending school. The gender-based differential among enrolled children was also substantial and was not in line with international recommendations (Liberia, 2004b:12).

An estimated 20 000 ex-child soldiers in rural Liberia still needed to be enrolled in some kind of education programme by 2005 (Liberian Observer, 2005). Dufka (2205:17) expanded on this fact and said many of the 16–20 year old combatants ended their formal education in the fifth or sixth grade to fight in the war. These combatants needed special education and training programmes to integrate them back into society.

While most of the schools in Liberia were either State-owned or managed by missions or private entities, more than 50 per cent of them were partially or completely destroyed during the war. Some of the schools were rehabilitated or renovated by NGOs (Security Council, 2004:14). Of the schools that were still functional, many lacked study material and did not have enough trained teachers. School authorities blamed the severe shortage of teachers on the non-payment of public school teachers. In many cases, teachers had not received salaries for anything from 12 to 24 months. Some teachers complained that salary cheques paid out in Monrovia often did not reach the beneficiaries (Security Council, 2004:14).

The 33 IDP camps had 47 functional primary schools. Five camps in Montserrado County and three (3) camps in Margibi County did not have any schools. The IDP children of these camps had to go to local communities or other camps to attend school. Even though school facilities were available, few displaced children were in fact attending school. The reasons given for this were the lack of available schools in camps, the distances to schools and the lack of money to pay school fees (ACF, 2005:7).

3.3.6   Sexual abuse and gender violence

While entire communities suffered from the consequences of violent conflict, women were especially vulnerable. Many of them suffered the brutality of rape, sexual exploitation and abuse, both during and after conflict (Denny, 2005:163). Between 60 and 70 percent of the population had suffered some form of sexual violence during the conflict. Although predominantly directed against women and girls, findings indicated that some men and boys had also been subjected to sexual violence. Sexual violence documented included: rape, including gang-rape and rape of children; the insertion of foreign objects; and being stripped and publicly displayed. (Amnesty International, 2004b:2).

Sexual violence increased dramatically since the beginning of 2003, as fighting worsened and spread to previously unaffected parts of the country. Deliberate attacks on the civilian population, including that in Monrovia, intensified as Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) forces advanced. Among those bearing the brunt of the fighting were thousands of IDPs and refugees from neighbouring Sierra Leone residing in IDP camps. Women and girls were seized, raped, abducted, forcibly recruited to fight and subjected to sexual slavery (Amnesty International, 2004b:2).

The fighting during three successive attacks by LURD forces on Monrovia in June and July 2003, when more than a thousand people died and many more were injured, was also characterised by widespread rape and other forms of sexual violence (Amnesty International, 2004b:2).

Humanitarian agencies reported that IDPs faced continuing violence after the CPA was signed. This included increased domestic violence and sexual and gender-based violence, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA.) (Isaacs, 2005:2).

3.3.7 Crime prevalence in Liberia

The crime rate in Liberia was generally high and included incidences of petty theft, burglary, and armed robbery. Liberia served as an interim destination for Southeast and Southwest Asian heroin and South American cocaine that was bound for Europe and the United States (Coleman, 2005:30). The U.S Department of State also reported that business fraud became prevalent in Liberia. Once generally confined to Nigeria, advanced fee schemes had spread to other countries in the region. The perpetrators often targeted foreigners (Coleman, 2005:30).

3.3.8 Summary of developmental challenges

As if taken from the mind of Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) as quoted by Friend (2006), the social contract between state and citizen where the citizen is protected from the law of nature and from himself - and in return for this protection give up his individual freedom - was broken in the case of Liberia. The moment citizens were subjected to the draconian rule of President Charles Taylor, little trust remained that the state (government of Liberia) would protect and serve its citizens. Furthermore, the government of Liberia did not show it had the political will to provide protection and services to its citizens anymore. The Liberian government became illegitimate in the eyes of its citizens and this gave way to 13 years of civil war.

When the war ended however, the deep-rooted issues that gave rise to the conflict—endemic corruption, weak rule of law, crushing poverty, and the inequitable distribution of the country's vast natural resources—remained largely unaddressed by the transitional government. The legacy from these deep rooted issues that complicated service delivery and rural development during the rule of the transitional government are spelled out in the aforementioned paragraphs, and can be summarised as follows:

Firstly, the lack of capacity that government had to provide services such as electricity and water, adequate school and health facilities and/or to offer or recruit professionals such as teachers and doctors. This coincided with the low quality of education and lead to poor literacy levels. Apart from educational issues, health issues and risks such as HIV/AIDS and malaria attributed to a low life expectancy among Liberians.

Secondly, the high unemployment rate (85%) among Liberians and the young median age of Liberians (43% of the total population in the 0-14 year old age group) made it difficult to obtain social cohesity as people had to leave their families and look for work. Having no role models or cultural peers, few cultural or social values could be transferred from one generation to the next.

Thirdly, the poor maintenance of infrastructure, such as of bridges and tarred roads, together with the challenges of natural obstacles, such as the rainy season and difficult terrain, impeded aid from reaching its intended destinations on time.

Fourthly, food shortages and the reliance on international food and monetary aid is exacerbated by the high number of IDPs, either originating from Liberia or neighbouring countries, and the low number of economically active population that placed extra pressure on already scarce available resources.

Fifthly, the lack of humanitarian and financial aid needed for social development (such as reintegration programmes) added to the high number of armed combatants that return and do not have access to services. Without being integrated into society or training programmes, they poses a risk to political stability and social development.

Lastly, the incompetence of the government to protect its citizens from criminals and ex-combatants during and post-war intensifies the traumatisation of people who had already been subjected to sexual abuse, war atrocities and gender violence.

Section 3 indicated the social and political weaknesses that existed in Liberia. It highlighted the areas that needed reform and the pressing issues that need to be addressed. In the next section it will be debated whether or not the political platform that guides development, as set out in the Liberian Constitution, is sufficient enough for multi-dimensional development.

3.4   Governmental focus on sustainable social development

This section will focus on the Liberian Constitution and its protection of human rights. The Liberian Constitution is a codified constitution (i.e. contained in a single document, which is the single source of constitutional law in a state) that culminated in the Revolution of April 12, 1980, when the Constitution of July 26, 1847 was suspended (Constitution, 1986:1).

The Constitutional Court in South Africa has a constitution that sets out how all the elements of government are organised and how power is shared (CCT, 2005). It serves as a social contract between those in power and those who are subjected to this power, spells out the structures designed to keep that power in check, and a constitution defines the rights and duties of citizens (CCT, 2005). Princeton University (2006) simply describes it as the law determining the fundamental political principles of a government.

As mentioned in the introduction to this chapter, the protection of human rights is seen as the fundamental guideline for the direction of, or type of, development that a state follows. This premise was based upon the assumptions that the moral doctrine of human rights aims to identify the fundamental prerequisites for each human being able to lead a minimally good life (Fagan, 2006); the right to development is a fundamental human right (UNHCR, 2002); the aspiration of upholding human rights has been enshrined in legal conventions (such as

constitutions) (Fagan, 2006); which serves as the law determining the fundamental political principles of a government (Princeton University, 2006).

Therefore, if Liberia's constitution focus of human rights is limited, the type of development pursued by the Government (in other words – the Ministry of Rural Development) will also be limited. The next sections will discuss sustainable social development as a human right and will be followed by a comparison between the types of rights that are enshrined in the Liberian Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This comparison is illustrated in tables 4, 5, and 6.

3.4.1   Sustainable social development as a right

It was highlighted in Chapter 2 that sustainable social development consist of three interlinking (social, economical and environmental) aspects that are equally important. Human rights and the types of views on human rights were also discussed in Chapter 2.

The right to development is a fundamental human right rooted in the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (UNHCR, 2002).

Since the United Nations was founded, human rights have been at the centre of its activities, particularly in the area of development (UNHCR, 2002). In 1995, the Copenhagen Declaration reaffirmed the link between human rights and development by establishing a new consensus that places people at the centre of concerns for sustainable social development, and by pledging to eradicate poverty, to promote full and productive employment, and to foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all (WSSD, 1995).

The Declaration on the Right to Development made the right to develop explicit, stating that the right to development is an inalienable right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development (UNHCR, 2002).

It can be concluded that according to the theory of "three generations of human rights" as described in Chapter 2, section 2.4.1.10 the aspects of sustainable social development can be considered to be a combination of second (social and economical aspects) and third (environmental) generations of rights while the theory of "negative and positive rights" considers them to be "positive rights".

3.4.1.1 The 1987 Constitution vis-à-vis the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

As quoted in Chapter 2, Vasak & Alston (1982:17) said first-generation rights deal essentially with liberty (freedom of speech, the right to a fair trial, and freedom of religion) and consist primarily of rights to security, property, and political participation. Second-generation rights are related to equality are fundamentally social, economic, and cultural in nature and largely originated within the UDHR (Articles 22 to 27 of the UDHR, 2006) after World War 1. The third-generation of rights go beyond the mere civil and social and are associated with such rights as a right to national self-determination, a clean environment, and the rights of indigenous minorities (Vasak & Alston, 1982:18-19). Thus, to determine whether the aspects of sustainable social development have been enshrined in the Liberian Constitution, third generation of rights should be adequately protected.

The following tables are set out to compare the type of rights that are enshrined in the 1987 Liberian Constitution vis-à-vis those that are advanced by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR was adopted by the United Nations in 1948 in Paris, when of the then 58 member states, 48 voted in favour of the UDHR. This vote showed the

solidarity of thinking of what "human rights" are universally accepted to be. The UDHR are as a result considered to be the benchmark for promoting and advancing of human rights in this dissertation.

The Constitution's (Constitution, 1986) fundamental rights are set out in Chapter 3, Articles 11-26 and have been written next to the corresponding Articles of the UDHR's (UDHR, 2006). This will give a clear indication if all three types of rights (first, second and third) are protected by the constitution and what the ratio is between the types of rights that are protected vis-à-vis the ratio protected in the UDHR. The following tables will also make it clear whether or not the governmental focus of Liberia on sustainable social development is emanating from the core of their societal development (i.e. from the constitution). If this is not the case it will be difficult for the Ministry of Rural Development to promote sustainable social development effectively.

Table 4: Negative and/or First-Generation of Rights

Negative and/or First-Generation of Rights			
Article	**1987 Liberian Constitution**	**Article**	**UDHR**
11(a)	All persons are born equally free and independent and have certain natural, inherent and inalienable rights, among which are the right of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of pursuing and maintaining and security of the person and of acquiring, possessing and protecting property, subject to such qualifications as provided for in this Constitution.	1	All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
11(b)	All persons, irrespective of ethnic background, race, sex, creed, place of origin or political opinion, are entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, subject to such qualifications as provided for in this Constitution.	2	Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind; such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

12	No person shall be held in slavery or forced labour within the Republic, nor shall any citizen of Liberia nor any person resident therein deal in slaves or subject any other person to forced labour, debt bondage or peonage; but labour reasonably required in consequence of a court sentence or order conforming to acceptable labour standards, service in the military, work or service which forms part of normal civil obligations or service exacted in cases of emergency or calamity threatening the life or well-being of the community shall not be deemed forced labour.	4	No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.
13 (a)	Every person lawfully within the Republic shall have the right to move freely throughout Liberia, to reside in any part thereof and to leave there from subject however to the safeguarding of public security, public order, public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others.	13(1) 15(1)	Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
13 (b)	Every Liberian citizen shall have the right to leave and to enter Liberia at any time. Liberian citizens and non-Liberian residents may be extradited to foreign country for prosecution of a criminal offence in accordance with the provisions of an extradition treaty or other reciprocal international agreements in force. Non-Liberian residents may be expelled from the Republic of Liberia for cause.	13(2) 15(2)	Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.
14	All persons shall be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment thereof except as may be required by law to protect public safety, order, health, or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others. All persons who, in the practice of their religion, conduct themselves peaceably, not obstructing others and conforming to the standards set out herein, shall be entitled to the protection of the law. No religious denomination or sect shall have	18	Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship

	any exclusive privilege or preference over any other, but all shall be treated alike; and no religious tests shall be required for any civil or military office or for the exercise of any civil right. Consistent with the principle of separation of religion and state, the Republic shall establish no state religion.		and observance.
15(a)	Every person shall have the right to freedom of expression, being fully responsible for the abuse thereof. This right shall not be curtailed, restricted or enjoined by government save during an emergency declared in accordance with this Constitution.	19	Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.
15(b)	The right encompasses the right to hold opinions without interference and the right to knowledge. It includes freedom of speech and of the press, academic freedom to receive and impart knowledge and information and the right of libraries to make such knowledge available. It includes non-interference with the use of the mail, telephone and telegraph. It likewise includes the right to remain silent.	19	Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.
15(c)	In pursuance of this right, there shall be no limitation on the public right to be informed about the government and its functionaries.	none	
15(d)	Access to state owned media shall not be denied because of any disagreement with, or dislike of the ideas expressed. Denial of such access may be challenged in a court of competent jurisdiction.	none	
15(e)	This freedom may be limited only by judicial action in proceedings grounded in defamation or invasion of the rights of privacy and publicity or in the commercial aspect of expression in deception, false advertising and copyright	none	

	infringement.		
16	No person shall be subjected to interference with his privacy of person, family, home or correspondence except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.	12	No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks
17	All persons, at all times, in an orderly and peaceable manner, shall have the right to assemble and consult upon the common good, to instruct their representatives, to petition the Government or other functionaries for the redress of grievances and to associate fully with others or refuse to associate in political parties, trade unions and other organisations.	20(1) 20(2)	Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.
19	No person other than members of the Armed Forces of Liberia or of the militia in active service shall be subject to military law, or made to suffer any pains or penalties by virtue of that law, or be tried by courts-martial.	none	
20(a)	No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, security of the person, property, privilege or any other right except as the outcome of a hearing judgment consistent with the provisions laid down in this Constitution and in accordance with due process of law. Justice shall be done without sale, denial or delay; and in all cases not arising in courts not of record, under courts-martial and upon impeachment, the parties shall have the right to trial by jury.	3	Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
21(a)	No person shall be made subject to any law or punishment which was not in effect at the time of commission of an offence, nor shall the Legislature enact any bill of attainder or ex post facto law.	11(2)	No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence,

			under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.
21(b)	No person shall be subject to search or seizure of his person or property, whether on a criminal charge or for any other purpose, unless upon warrant lawfully issued upon probable cause supported by a solemn oath or affirmation, specifically identifying the person or place to be searched and stating the object of the search; provided, however, that a search or seizure shall be permissible without a search warrant where the arresting authorities act during the commission of a crime or in hot pursuit of a person who has committed a crime.	9	No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.
21(c)	Every person suspected or accused of committing a crime shall immediately upon arrest be informed in detail of the charges, of the right to remain silent and of the fact that any statement made could be used against him in a court of law. Such person shall be entitled to counsel at every stage of the investigation and shall have the right not to be interrogated except in the presence of counsel. Any admission or other statements made by the accused in the absence of such counsel shall be deemed inadmissible as evidence in a court of law.	none	
21(d)	All accused persons shall be bailable upon their personal recognizance or by sufficient sureties, depending upon the gravity of the charge, unless charged for capital offences or grave offences as defined by law. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor	none	

	excessive fines imposed, nor excessive punishment inflicted.		
21(e)	No person charged, arrested, restricted, detained or otherwise held in confinement shall be subject to torture or inhumane treatment; nor shall any person except military personnel, be kept or confined in any military facility; nor shall any person be seized and kept among convicted prisoners or treated as a convict, unless such person first shall have been convicted of a crime in court of competent jurisdiction. The Legislature shall make it a criminal offence and provide for appropriate penalties against any police or security officer, prosecutor, administrator or any other public or security officer, prosecutor, administrator or any other public official acting in contravention of this provision; and any person so damaged by the conduct of any such public official shall have a civil remedy therefore, exclusive of any criminal penalties imposed.	5	No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
21(f)	Every person arrested or detained shall be formally charged and presented before a court of competent jurisdiction within forty-eight hours. Should the court determine the existence of a prima facie case against the accused, it shall issue a formal writ of arrest setting out the charge or charges and shall provide for a speedy trial. There shall be no preventive detention.	none	
21(g)	The right to the writ of habeas corpus, being essential to the protection of human rights, shall be guaranteed at all times, and any person arrested or detained and not presented to court within the period specified may in consequence exercise this right.	None	
21(h)	No person shall be held to answer for a capital or infamous crime except in cases of impeachment, cases arising in the Armed Forces and petty offenses, unless upon indictment by Grand Jury; and in all such cases, the accused shall have the	None	

	right to a speedy, public and impartial trial by a jury of the vicinity, unless such person shall, with appropriate understanding, expressly waive the right to a jury trial. In all criminal cases, the accused shall have the right to be represented by counsel of his choice, to confront witnesses against him and to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favour. He shall not be compelled to furnish evidence against himself and he shall be presumed innocent until the contrary is proved beyond a reasonable doubt. No person shall be subject to double jeopardy		
21(i)	The right to counsel and the rights of counsel shall be inviolable. There shall be no interference with the lawyer-client relationship. In all trials, hearings, interrogatories and other proceedings where a person is accused of a criminal offence, the accused shall have the right to counsel of his choice; and where the accused is unable to secure such representation; the Republic shall make available legal aid services to ensure the protection of his rights. There shall be absolute immunity from any government sanctions or interference in the performance of legal services as a counsellor or advocate; lawyers' offices and homes shall not be searched or papers examined or taken save pursuant to a search warrant and court order; and no lawyer shall be prevented from or punished for providing legal services, regardless of the charges against or the guilt of his client, no lawyer shall be barred from practice for political reasons.	none	
21(j)	Any person who, upon conviction of a criminal offence, was deprived of the enjoyment of his civil rights and liberties, shall have the same automatically restored upon serving the sentence and satisfying any other penalty imposed, or upon an executive pardon.	none	

22(a)	Every person shall have the right to own property alone as well as in association with others; provided that only Liberian citizens shall have the right to own real property within the Republic.	17(1)	Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
22(b)	Private property rights, however, shall not extend to any mineral resources on or beneath any land or to any lands under the seas and waterways of the Republic. All mineral resources in and under the seas and other waterways shall belong to the Republic and be used by and for the entire Republic.	none	
22(c)	Non-citizen missionary, educational and other benevolent institutions shall have the right to own property, as long as that property is used for the purposes for which acquired; property no longer so used shall escheat to the Republic)	none	
22(d)	The Republic may, on the basis of reciprocity, convey to a foreign government property to be used perpetually for its diplomatic activities. This land shall not be transferred or otherwise conveyed to any other party or used for any other purpose, except upon the expressed permission of the Government of Liberia. All property so conveyed may escheat to the Republic in the event of a cessation of diplomatic relations.	none	
23(a)	The property which a person possesses at the time of marriage or which may afterwards be acquired as a result of one's own labours shall not be held for or otherwise applied to the liquidation of the debts or other obligations of the spouse, whether contracted before or after marriage; nor shall the property which by law is to be secured to a man or a woman be alienated or be controlled by that person's spouse save by free and voluntary consent.	none	
24(a)	While the inviolability of private property shall be guaranteed by the Republic, expropriation may be authorised for the security of the nation in the event of armed conflict or where the public health	17(2)	No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

	and safety are endangered or for any other public purposes, provided: that reasons for such expropriation are given; that there is prompt payment of just compensation; that such expropriation or the compensation offered may be challenged freely by the owner of the property in a court of law with no penalty for having brought such action; and that when property taken for public use ceases to be so used, the Republic shall accord the former owner or those entitled to the property through such owner, the right of first refusal to reacquire the property.		
24(b)	All real property held by a person whose certificate of naturalization has been cancelled shall escheat to the Republic unless such person shall have a spouse and/or lineal heirs who are Liberian citizens, in which case the real property shall be transferred to them in accordance with the intestacy law.	none	
24(c)	The power of the Legislature to provide punishment for treason or other crimes shall not include a deprivation or forfeiture of the right of inheritance, although its enjoyment by the convicted person shall be postponed during a term of imprisonment judicially imposed; provided that if the convicted person has minor children and a spouse, the spouse or next of kin in the order of priority shall administer the same. No punishment shall preclude the inheritance, enjoyment or forfeiture by others entitled thereto of any property which the convicted person at the time of conviction or subsequent thereto may have possessed.	none	
25	Obligation of contract shall be guaranteed by the Republic and no laws shall be passed which might impair this right.	none	
26	Where any person or any association alleges that	none	

	any of the rights granted under this Constitution or any legislation or directives are constitutionally contravened, that person or association may invoke the privilege and benefit of court direction, order or writ, including a judgment of unconstitutionality; and anyone injured by an act of the Government or any person acting under its authority, whether in property, contract, tort or otherwise, shall have the right to bring suit for appropriate redress. All such suits brought against the Government shall originate in a Claims Court; appeals from judgment of the Claims Court shall lie directly to the Supreme Court.		
none		21(3)	The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.
none		23(4)	Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.
Total	**35**	**Total**	**21**

The majority of rights that are protected both in the UDHR and the Liberian Constitution are first generation of human rights or negative rights. According to an earlier description of negative rights, a negative right is a right a person has not to be subjected to an action of another human being, or group of people, such as a state, usually in the form of abuse or

coercion. Given the history of Liberia, it may be safe to say that at the time of writing the constitution, the protection of negative rights was very important.

Table 5: Positive and/or Second Generation of Rights

Positive and/or Second Generation of Rights			
Article	**1987 Liberian Constitution**	**Article**	**UDHR**
11(c)	All persons are equal before the law and are therefore entitled to the equal protection of the law.	7	All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.
18	All Liberian citizens shall have equal opportunity for work and employment regardless of sex, creed, religion, ethnic background, place of origin or political affiliation, and all shall be entitled to equal pay for equal work.	23(1) 23(2) 23(3)	Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
20(b)	The right of an appeal from a judgment, decree, decision or ruling of any court or administrative board or agency, except the Supreme Court, shall be held inviolable. The legislature shall prescribe rules and procedures for the easy, expeditious and inexpensive filing and hearing of an appeal.	none	
none		6	Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere

				as a person before the law.
none			8	Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.
none			10	Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.
none			11(1)	Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
none			14	Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.
none			21(2)	Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.
none			24	Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.
none			25	Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.
none			26	Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and

			fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.
none		29	Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.
Total	**3**	**Total**	**14**

"Positive rights" denote rights that the state is obliged to protect and provide (as spelled out in Chapter 2). Second generation of rights ensure different members of the citizenry equal conditions and treatment. The Liberian Constitution barely protects these types of rights (only three (3) times opposed to fourteen (14) times by the UDHR). The Liberian

Constitution is not on par with the international acceptance of protecting positive or second generation rights.

Table 6: Third Generation of Rights

	Third Generation of Rights		
Article	**1987 Liberian Constitution**	**Article**	**UDHR**
23(b)	The Legislature shall enact laws to govern the devolution of estates and establish rights of inheritance and descent for spouses of both statutory and customary marriages so as to give adequate protection to surviving spouses and children of such marriages.	none	
none		16	Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.
none		21(1)	Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

none		22	Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organisation and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.
none		27	Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.
none		28	Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realised.
none		30	Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.
Total	1	**Total**	6

The Liberian Constitution protects only one "third generation right". This particular right promotes the protection of minority rights as well as the equality of women. This is however well below the quantity of rights that are protected by the UDHR.
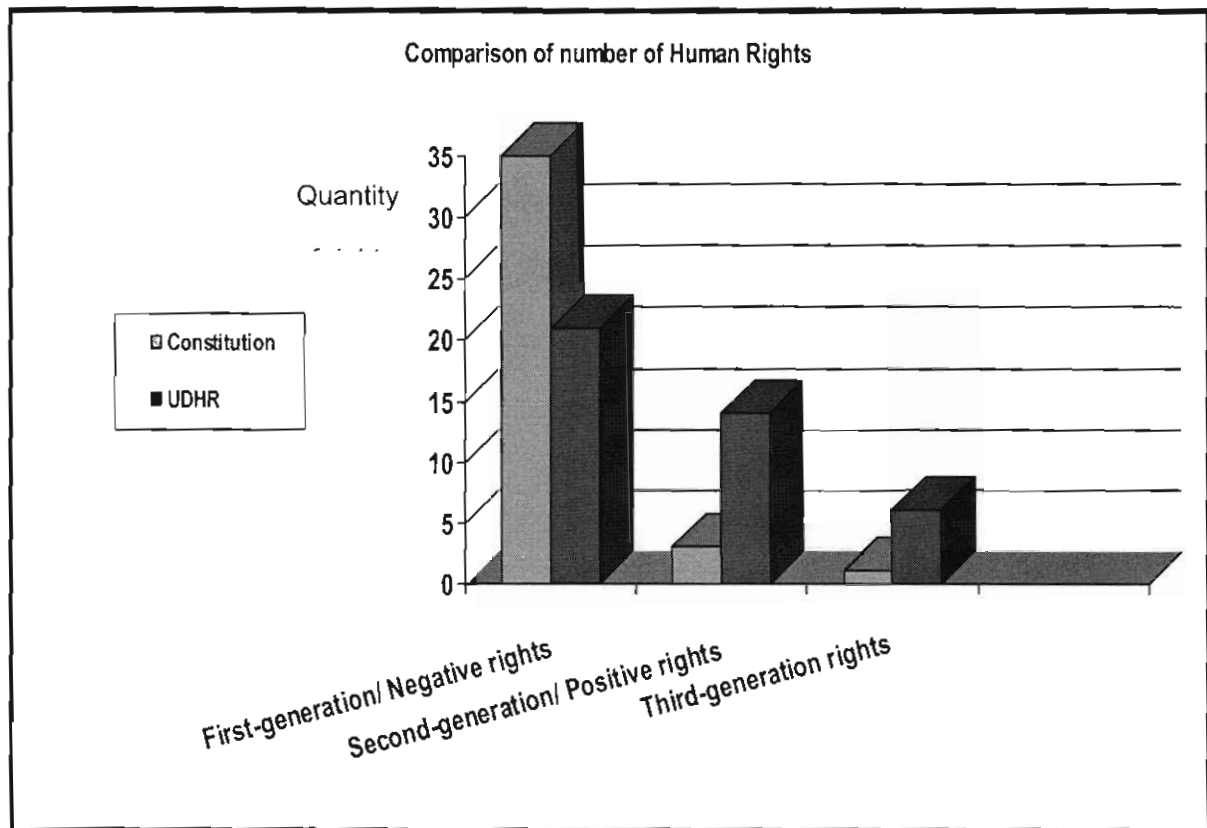
Figure 3: Comparison of number of Human Rights prevalent

As an inductive argument, it can be said that the ratio of first, second and third rights appear to be roughly 3:2:1 in the UDHR. That is to say that for every third generation right that is protected; three first generation rights are protected as well. In the Liberian Constitution however, these rights are much more dispersed: for every one third generation right, thirty-five (35) first generation rights are protected.

3.4.1.2 *Summary*

The above tables and Figure 3 indicated that the Liberian Constitution protected (according to the theory of three generations of human rights) thirty-five (35) "first generation of rights" and three "second generation of rights". On the contrary, the UDHR protected twenty-one (21) "first generation of rights" and fourteen (14) "second generation of rights".

Furthermore, the Constitution preserved or enshrined only one "third generation of right" and very few positive rights (three) as opposed to the UDHR that preserved a total of six "third generation of rights" and fourteen (14) positive rights.

This comparison clearly pointed out which type of human rights were protected under the Constitution, and gave an indication of an international expectation (UDHR). The UDHR gave a design about the type of development(s) a country should follow. However in this case, Liberia had a large emphasis on negative rights.

As said before, neither the protection nor pursuance of third-generation rights or positive rights are explicit in the Liberian Constitution. Given the fact that a constitution is the law determining the fundamental political principles of a government (Princeton University, 2006), it is unlikely that third-generation rights would be pursued and/or protected by governmental ministries (such as the Ministry of Rural Development), as the constitution guides the institutional policies of governmental departments. Although these types of rights are very aspirational and could be seen as an ideal that is very difficult to set in concrete terms in civil law, a constitution is the perfect place to lay down such an ideal. This means that though the Ministry of Rural Development's aim is to uphold and protect the human rights of rural people (an ideal), it may not have the proper political basis or developmental direction to achieve this aim (which is not laid down in the constitution).

3.5 Conclusion

This chapter explained the current status of development by detailing the legacy of the civil war and how the international community perceive Liberia's human or social development status. In addition, the developmental challenges in the rural communities were elucidated in great detail.

The Constitution of Liberia was analysed according to the extent and type of human rights it enshrined. The argument was set so that by enshrining or focusing on only one type of generation of human rights in the Constitution, the Government (Ministry of Rural Development) will have difficulty pursuing sustainable social development through its Ministries (its underlying aim). It was concluded that the Ministry of Rural Development would indeed have difficulty achieving the aim of sustainable social development, because the Liberian Constitution focused primarily on first-generation rights. Sustainable social development, it was seen, originated mainly from third-generation human rights. In the next chapter the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development will be described and compared to the "best-practice" model to achieve sustainable social development as illustrated in Chapter 2.

CHAPTER 4: The action plan of the Liberian Ministry of Rural Development: A critical comparison

4.1   Introduction

The aim of the Ministry of Rural Development is to empower rural people by providing access to the basic social, cultural and economic opportunities that are required for the establishment of sustainable conditions in Liberia (Jones, 2004a:4). Following this, the aim of the Ministry of Rural Development (driven by the action plan as described by Jones (2004a:3)) will be discussed. The action plan will be examined along the practical lines of the project ventures of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Next, a critical comparison will be made between the findings in Chapter 2 on the "best-practice" model of sustainable social development, and the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development. It was concluded in Chapter 2 that sustainable social development can be expressed as the positive relationship over time of and between (i.e. transformations), environmental resources, human welfare and economic growth. Sustainable social development was the result of three different, interlinking aspects, each with its unique elements. In this chapter it will be seen that the action plan's twelve (12) objectives comprise of different goal-related projects. These projects are seen for the sake of this dissertation as the essence of each objective. In accordance with this, each project will be compared to the ten (10) elements of sustainable social development.

4.2   The Ministry of Rural Development's action plan

4.2.1   Introduction

The Minister of Rural Development in Liberia, Ernest C.B. Jones wrote to the Chairman of the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), H.E. Gyude Bryant, stating that rural development cannot be seen as only a single sector of governance (Jones, 2004a:4). "Instead", he wrote, "rural development requires a multi-sectoral, integrated approach that demands effective collaboration and coordination between and amongst the several sectoral Ministries and Agencies of Government that are respectively responsible for Health, Education, Information, Water & Sanitation, Agriculture, Lands, Mines & Energy, Transport, Public Works, Commerce and Industry and Local Government".

The above he wrote to argue forthwith that the role of the Ministry of Rural Development is not necessarily to build infrastructure (roads, schools, wells and so forth) but rather to ensure that rural inhabitants obtain equitable access to all facilities and opportunities necessary to enhance their standard of living (Jones, 2004a:4).

4.2.2   The Ministry of Rural Development's aim

The Ministry of Rural Development's aim, according to Jones (2004a:3) was to improve the standard of living of rural people in a sustainable manner. This entailed not compromising the ability of future generations to improve their standard of living, while the current generation's needs are catered for. Jones (2004a:4) elaborated that the aim of the Ministry of Rural Development was to help rural people gain access to the basic social, cultural and economic opportunities that are required to improve their standard of living; to help rural communities develop capacity to take full advantage of available opportunities, without compromising such availability of future generations to meet their own needs; and coordinate

all interventions (development) in rural areas, be it by government, donor institutions, local and international NGOs, or by community-based organisations (CBO's) and private actors.

In concrete terms, Jones (2004a:2-4) said this aim would be attained by first giving the current generation of rural people access to basic social services such as shelter, food, education, health, information, communication, culture, justice, equity and security; and second by providing economic opportunities, through land ownership, farming, trading, mining, and agriculture.

4.2.3   The Ministry of Rural Development's action plan

The action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development comprised twelve (12) objectives to be achieved through different goal-related projects. This plan of action was a short term one year plan set out for 2005. It was titled: the "Support to productive resettlement programme and development in rural Liberia" and had the objective "to contribute towards 'productive resettlement' in rural Liberia" (Jones, 2004b:1).

4.2.3.1   Objectives of the plan of action

The plan of action specified twelve (12) different objectives of rural development, alongside its respective budget, that had to be addressed by means of different projects. The plan of action does not provide details of the specifics of the projects. (Jones, 2004b:1-6). The twelve (12) objectives focused respectively on the following:

- Community Capacity.
- Land Use.
- Housing.
- Agriculture and Food Security.
- Cottage Industries.

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- Mining.

- Transport.

- Tourism.

- Commerce /Trading.

- Electricity.

- Water and Environmental Sanitation.

- Post and Telecommunications.

Following in Tables 7-19 are the only formal description given by the Ministry of Rural Development about the action plan. It contains different objectives and projects with its respective budgets. As said in the introduction of this chapter, these projects are seen for the sake of this dissertation as the essence of each objective. No other documentation exist that give additional details of the action plan or the projects themselves. The twelve (12) objectives were budgeted to be completed at a total amount of US$37 103 000, 00. The plan of action made provision for an additional US$1 855 150, 00 for "Programme Monitoring and Coordination". This brought the total budget for the plan of action to US$38 958 150, 00. In accordance with this, each project will be treated as the essence of the objective and compared to the ten (10) elements of sustainable social development (see Figure 4 for graphical representation).
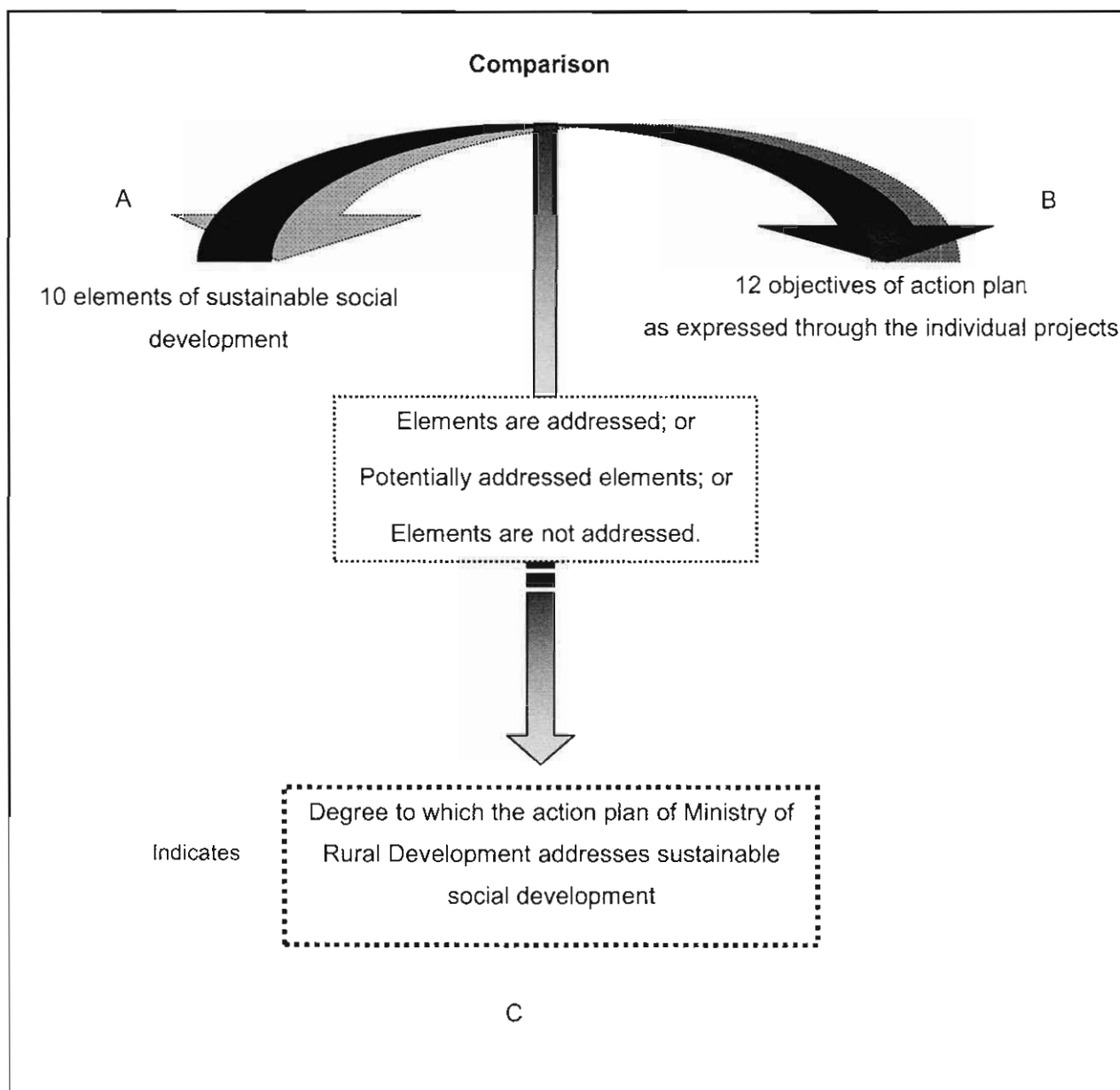
Figure 4: Comparison of sustainable social development elements and objectives of the Ministry of Rural Development action plan

4.3 The action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development: a critical comparison

4.3.1 Objective 1 – Community capacity

Table 7: Objective 1 - Community Capacity

Projects	Budget (US$)
A National Rural Development Council must be established	12 000
A County Rural Development Council must be established in each county	15 000
A District Rural Development Council must be established in each district	88 000
At least one Rural Development Cooperative must be established in each county	15 000
One Rural Development Resource Centre must be established in each of the five development regions of Liberia	500 000
Subtotal	630 000

4.3.1.1 Addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.1.1.1 Building resilience to threats in communities

This objective does comply with the element to allow people to participate in the life of the community. The opportunities certainly exist for new social initiatives to be discussed and if made a priority, research may be conducted through the community structures into matters that increase individual/ or community resilience and capacity.

4.3.1.2   Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.1.2.1   Fostering and protecting human rights

Only one potential aspect of this element is addressed: the (potential of) effective exercising rights at all levels of society

4.3.1.2.2   Building human resource capacity

Some of the elements of sustainable social development are addressed through this objective, but it is more implicit than explicit; for instance this objective will allow people to participate in the life of the community, but it is not sure if new social initiatives will be created or research will be commissioned at these council meetings. No specifics are given of any purpose these councils should serve.

4.3.1.2.3   Promoting participation in community life

It seems the objective here is to set up community structures in the form of Development Councils and one Development Resource Centre from national to county level. The focus is clearly on establishing dialogue in and between the different communities. There is, however, no description given to describe exactly what a "rural development council" is, who sits on the board of directors and what the aim of such a council is. It is not clear if this focus includes one of the elements of the social elements of sustainable social development, "intercultural dialogue".

4.3.1.2.4   Poverty reduction

Setting up community structures as envisaged in this objective, may again bring ideas to a central table to reduce poverty. If properly handled and directed, then such structures could plan for adequate employment, bring essential services to remote or resource-poor areas, care for the vulnerable people in the community and plan for combating urbanisation. It

could be accepted that a rural development council might discuss and address these and similar issues but it would be ideal if the Ministry of Rural Development could put these matters on the agenda. Setting up community structures and establishing dialogue may resist rising social inequalities, but it is not the primary aim of this objective to address factors created by the effects globalisation. The projects associated with this objective are at the most, national in nature and do not (directly) take global or even regional factors into account.

4.3.1.2.5   *Access to credit*

If community structures are set up as depicted in this goal then it would be possible to empower these structures to lend money to the communities they serve. In doing so they will provide locally owned credit sources. Such empowerment will have to be controlled from national government. If it is politically allowed rural development councils may benefit from local taxation and create social funds to enhance community self reliance and resilience.

4.3.1.2.6   *Ensuring access to education*

This objective in particular is expected to plan for rural people to have access to education, but this is not the case. Instead, most of the projects related to any type of training or research spans over the extent of the plan of action and addresses specific issues. There is no specific plan to get people to learn, complete primary education, teach skills as required for cottage industries or commercial farming, teach people to use new technology as required by mining or agriculture, or to teach people basic life skills ,such as sanitation use or traffic rules.

4.3.1.2.7   Infrastructure planning and provision

If community participation is established, it may allow people, by communication and sharing ideas, to link infrastructure development to the community's vision, and to embrace technological advancement.

4.3.1.3   Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development:

- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.
- Access to Equity Capital.

4.3.2   Objective 2 -Land use

Table 8: Objective 2 - Land use

Projects	Budget (US$)
15 000 acres of land must be acquired for rural resettlement and development purpose	750 000
15 000 rural families must be provided with suitable land for housing and small scale productive activities	300 000
A Rural Geographic Information Centre and land Information Centre (GIS/LIS) must be established	250 000
A remote sensing survey must be completed, digitised and incorporated into the GIS/LIS data base	100 000
A study must be conducted on the feasibility of reforming the land tenure system	150 000
Fifteen (15) private surveying and mapping firms must be established, one in each county, with financial and technical assistance	375 000
Subtotal	**1 925 000**

4.3.2.1 *Addressed elements of sustainable social development*

4.3.2.1.1 Infrastructure planning and provision

This goal has a few projects that plan for the utilisation of new technology. New GIS systems and a centralised Rural GIS Centre are planned. In addition to this, ample research are planned to decide on the correct technology for surveying and mapping. There is no planning for using new farming techniques or technology.

4.3.2.2 *Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development*

4.3.2.2.1 Promoting participation in community life

The objective of land use as set out in the different projects might be favourable for protection of minority rights and social inclusion but it does not specifically specify these elements of sustainable social development. In fact it seems as if the project titled "15 000 acres of land must be required" is against the principles of social inclusion, public participation and forming of democratic values.

4.3.2.2.2 Building resilience to threats in communities

This objective only partly addresses the element to build resilience in communities. Land that is earmarked for resettlement or which will be provided to rural families should be assessed according to the elements of "building resilience to threats in communities". This means that development on such land should consider the challenges future developmental changes in a society may hold, be able to respond to social and economic changes and plans should be put in place to deal with the risks disasters hold. The study on "the feasibility of reforming the land tenure system", should not limit itself to the possibilities of where available land is, but should concentrate also on the elements of "building resilience to threats in communities".

4.3.2.2.3   *Poverty reduction*

Land use as envisaged in this goal might help rural communities to protect themselves from external shocks and provide some form of employment. If land distribution is done through a public participation process in an open and transparent manner, it might ensure equal asset distribution. The projects associated with this objective favour social cohesion and fit the planning for ageing populations, higher prevalence of disabilities and stalling the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Unfortunately, this is based on the fact it is designed to acquire land for rural families.

4.3.2.3   *Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed*

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development.

- Ensuring access to education.
- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.
- Access to credit.
- Access to Equity Capital.
- Building human resource capacity.
- Fostering and protecting human rights.

4.3.3 Objective 3 –Housing

Table 9: Objective 3 - Housing

Projects	Budget (US$)
An integrated housing stock inventory, market and management study must be conducted	75 000
A central Indigenous Building Material Research centre must be established	300 000
Appropriate building material technologies must be perfected and transferred to rural dwellers	60 000
A housing finance scheme must be developed	1 000 000
One small-scale community-based housing construction group must be organized, trained, financed and are producing in each county	375 000
150 new model homes must be financed and built using indigenous materials and using appropriate technology	750 000
Subtotal	**2 560 000**

4.3.3.1 Addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.3.1.1 *Building human resource capacity*

This objective allows for human resource capacity building to take place through skills development, utilising a community-based housing construction group.

4.3.3.1.2 *Infrastructure planning and provision*

Ample provision is made in projects associated with this objective to utilise and research the newest and most suitable technologies for building housing. This is in line with the community's vision and goals.

4.3.3.1.3 Access to credit

The projects associated with this goal provides for access to financing (loans) from financial institutions.

4.3.3.2 Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.3.2.1 Building resilience to threats in communities

This objective focuses on technical and financial requirements respectively. The taking of the housing stock inventory could help with the research of assessing the capacity level of communities and building resilience to threats. This is, however, not stated explicitly.

4.3.3.2.2 Poverty reduction

Land use as envisaged in this goal might help rural communities to protect themselves from external shocks and provide some form of employment through the community based housing construction group. Planning should be done for the vulnerable in the society. These projects, coupled with housing, may have a positive result on the effects of globalisation. Building projects are decentralised and put in the hands of local communities, placing less dependence on government housing delivery. By preparing for housing development, ageing populations and people who are sick and suffer from disabilities will be more easily cared for.

4.3.3.2.3 Protecting and safeguarding the environment

The project "appropriate building material technologies must be perfected and transferred to rural dwellers" could be interpreted to mean that building material technologies must be improved for either the sake of the people or the environment. Such ambiguous interpretations should be clarified.

4.3.3.2.4   Access to Equity Capital

The community based housing construction group may cause capital to be reinvested into the local community.

4.3.3.3   Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development.

* Promoting participation in community life.

* Ensuring access to education.

* Fostering and protecting human rights.

4.3.4   Objective 4 -Agriculture and Food Security

Table 10: Objective 4 - Agriculture and Food Security

Projects	Budget (US$)
15 irrigated, integrated small holder vegetable and animal production farms must be established or reactivated	150 000
45 small holder rubber farms must be rehabilitated and reactivated and be productive	450 000
5 specific crop-based studies must be conducted on strategies for increasing agricultural production	25 000
A study on the feasibility of food preservation and appropriate small scale food preservation industries must be conducted	25 000
Five (5) pilot integrated swamp irrigation infrastructure development projects must be initiated	300 000
Agricultural rural development extension services must be provided to farmers in all counties	150 000

Preliminary Agricultural Land Use studies must be concluded in 15 counties and the data incorporated into the GIS/LIS	75 000
All agricultural project activities must be monitored while information must be incorporated into the GIS/LIS	25 000
Subtotal	**1 200 000**

4.3.4.1 Addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.4.1.1 Infrastructure planning and provision

Ample provision is made in projects associated with this objective to research and utilise the newest and most suitable technologies for agriculture. This is especially true for studies that focus on increases in agricultural production and using GIS technology for land use identification.

4.3.4.1.2 Poverty reduction

The projects associated with this objective strive to create or reactivate farms, do crop research and utilise GIS technology. It can be assumed that the creation or reactivation of farms will provide some sort of employment, financial gain and nutrition to rural communities, depending on what kind of economical model is followed (for example: communist, capitalist).

4.3.4.2 Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.4.2.1 Building human resource capacity

This goal indirectly enhances human resource capacity by reinstating agricultural projects and instituting studies on crops and food preservation. These projects allow the community to understand their own world and should render them more self-reliant. By permitting loans from banks to farmers, it also teaches people new economical skills.

4.3.4.3   *Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed*

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development:

- Promoting participation in community life.

- Building resilience to threats in communities.

- Ensuring access to education.

- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.

- Access to Equity capital.

- Access to credit.

- Fostering and protecting human rights.

4.3.5   Objective 5 -Cottage industries

Table 11: Objective 5 – Cottage industries

Projects	Budget (US$)
A study must be conducted on the feasibility of improving cottage industries in Liberia	10 000
Technical assistance must be provided for the rehabilitation, expansion and establishment of 15 cottage industries, one in each county	150 000
A survey of existing cottage industries in Liberia must be completed	30 000
Fifteen (15) Cottage industries must receive bank financing through technical assistance and financial guarantees	300 000
All cottage industries activity must be monitored and information being incorporated into the GIS/LIS	24 000
Subtotal	**514 000**

4.3.5.1 Addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.5.1.1 Infrastructure planning and provision

Provision is made through those projects associated with this objective to research cottage industries and utilise the newest and best suited technologies for it, especially studies for improving cottage industries and using GIS technology for cottage use mapping.

4.3.5.1.2 Poverty reduction

The projects associated with this goal strive to establish cottage industries, to create financing for cottage industries and to utilise GIS technology. It is assumed that the establishing of cottage industries will provide some sort of employment and spin-off enterprises supporting cottage industries in rural communities.

4.3.5.1.3 Access to credit

The projects associated with this objective provide and endorse access to financing (loans) from financial institutions.

4.3.5.2 Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.5.2.1 Building resilience to threats in communities

This objective focuses very narrowly on one specific industry but should coincide with the tourism industry and commerce and/or trading. It is questionable why the action plan wishes to fund fifteen (15) new cottage industries, one (1) in each county, if they have not established what existing cottage industries there are and whether they need financial assistance, or not. Looking from an employment perspective, cottage industries should improve self-reliance and independence of communities. Another plan that may be suggested to coincide with this is to identify unique quality cultural products for external trade.

4.3.5.2.2   _Building human resource capacity_

This objective indirectly enhances human resource capacity by providing technical assistance for the rehabilitation, expansion and establishment of fifteen(15) cottage industries.   It also supports research and GIS surveying.   These projects allow the community to understand their own world and should render them more self-reliant.   By permitting loans from banks to farmers, it also teaches people new economical skills.

4.3.5.2.3   _Protecting and safeguarding the environment_

The idea to map all cottage industries on GIS should be expanded to incorporate the idea of checking how the environment is affected by these industries or communities surrounding them, over time.

4.3.5.3   **Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed**

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development:

- Promoting participation in community life.
- Ensuring access to education.
- Access to Equity capital.
- Fostering and protecting human rights.

4.3.6 Objective 6 -Mining

Table 12: Objective 6 - Mining

Projects	Budget (US$)
One Mining corporative has been established in each county and provides technical assistance	150 000
Twenty (20) new mining claims have been prospected in each county and issued/assigned to ex-combatants; and are employing 6,000 people	300 000
Thirty (30) pieces of mining equipment (washing plants, pumps etc.) have been procured by a corporative with financing	300 000
Fifteen (15) new building materials mining companies are mining and supplying the construction sector with clay, lime, and other assorted materials	600 000
All mining activities are being monitored and information is being incorporated into the GIS/LIS	24 000
Subtotal	**1 374 000**

4.3.6.1   Addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.6.1.1   Promoting participation in community life

This goal has one project that may have an impact on promoting participation in community life: "20 new mining claims have been prospected in each county and issued / assigned to ex-combatants; and are employing 6,000 persons". This project may enhance social inclusion.

4.3.6.1.2   Infrastructure planning and provision

Provision is made through some projects associated with this objective to acquire new mining equipment and building materials. It is planned that the type and place of mining type will be mapped using GIS technology.

4.3.6.2   Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.6.2.1   Poverty reduction

The projects associated with this goal strive to give new mining rights to people which may lead to higher employment opportunities, provided that a decision is taken to recruit local labour. The multiplier effect may also create secondary or associated businesses in rural towns and support or service providers for the mines. The mining industry is potentially a great place to combat some of the effects of globalisation. The new mining claims provide employment to 6 000 people but do not indicate planning for sustainable employment or job security. The element of planning for the aged does not feature. There are also no indications of providing health services to the workforce, or to provide employment opportunities for those that suffer from disabilities. Mining should also benefit the local communities but there are no planned features in this regard. Another element missing is the relationship between the mine, the workforce and the government.

4.3.6.3   Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development:

- Building resilience to threats in communities.
- Ensuring access to education.
- Building human resource capacity.

- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.

- Access to Equity capital.

- Access to credit.

- Fostering and protecting human rights.

4.3.7   Objective 7 –Transport

Table 13: Objective 7 – Transport

Projects	Budget (US$)
A road management tax must be imposed	45 000
A National Road Management Board must be setup with a full time Secretariat	50 000
Fifteen (15) county Road Management Boards must be established with a full time Secretariat	150 000
A National Road Fund must be established	100 000
County Road Management Boards must be authorised to levy road user fees	30 000
800 km rural roads must be rehabilitated or reconstructed	12 000 000
1000 road signs (including names of towns and villages) must be put in place in rural towns	50 000
Twenty (20) transit/parking stations must be rehabilitated or constructed	200 000
Fifteen (15) rural transport companies must be established (one in each county)	300 000
Fifteen (15) County Transport Unions must receive technical assistance, be	75 000

reorganised and must provide better services	
Subtotal	13 000 000

4.3.7.1   Addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.7.1.1   Building resilience to threats in communities

Most of the roads in Liberia are merely an opening in the jungle from point A to point B and as was discussed in Chapter 3, the bad conditions of these roads hamper service and aid delivery to rural communities especially during the rainy season. The plans associated with this goal address these shortcomings and allow room for proper assessment and planning of transport infrastructure. The design of transport networks are the domain of civil engineering, architecture and urban planning and might lead to an increase in the demand for skilled labour.

4.3.7.1.2   Building human resource capacity

This objective provide a few projects that might be regarded as new social initiatives, such as new road management boards, roads signs and giving assistance to transport unions. If this goal is attained (new transport infrastructure), it will certainly have contributed to increasing resilience and human resource capacity.

4.3.7.2   Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

This objective does not potentially address any element of sustainable social development.

4.3.7.3   Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development:

- Promoting participation in community life.

- Ensuring access to education.

- Infrastructure planning and provision.

- Poverty reduction.

- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.

- Access to Equity capital.

- Access to credit.

- Fostering and protecting human rights.

4.3.8   Objective 8 –Tourism

Table 14: Objective 8 – Tourism

Projects	Budget (US$)
Major tourist attractions must be identified in rural Liberia	50 000
A programme for tourism development and promotion must be developed	50 000
Fifteen (15) small holder tourist projects must receive technical assistance and bank guarantees	900 000
Subtotal	**1 000 000**

4.3.8.1   Addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.8.1.1   Promoting participation in community life

Expanding tourism opportunities should create intercultural dialogue and create social tolerance as more communities are exposed to other cultures.

4.3.8.1.2   Poverty reduction

Investing in tourism infrastructure, information communications technology (ICT) and education can create long term employment which benefits local communities. Governments and development agencies need to become aware of this added value chain provided by tourism. Only tourism will then be included as a strategic element in policies targeting job creation, sustainability and poverty alleviation (UNWTO, 2006). Bearing this in mind, it may be concluded that the tourism projects may provide adequate, long term employment opportunities to the rural communities. It is also necessary to bear the effects of globalisation in mind, when addressing this element.

4.3.8.1.3   Access to credit

The projects associated with goal provide for access to financing (loans) from financial institutions.

4.3.8.2   Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.8.2.1   Building human resource capacity

The projects pertaining to this goal are in the "setting-up" stage of tourism, i.e. identification of tourist attractions, developing a programme for tourist promotion and technical assistance for small tourist projects. If instituted and followed up, these projects address the actual implementation/ facilitation of tourism, new social initiatives will be created which will allow people to participate not only in the life of the community, but in their cultural life with others.

4.3.8.3   Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development:

• Building resilience to threats in communities.

- Ensuring access to education.

- Infrastructure planning and provision.

- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.

- Access to Equity capital.

- Fostering and protecting human rights.

4.3.9   Objective 9 -Commerce /Trading

Table 15: Objective 9 - Commerce /Trading

Projects	Budget (US$)
A traders cooperative must be established in each county	50 000
A farmers' wholesale market must be established in each county	1 500 000
A chain community store must be established with one wholesale store in twenty (20) major rural towns	2 000 000
Subtotal	**3 550 000**

4.3.9.1   Addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.9.1.1   Poverty reduction

By creating centralised markets and establishing chain wholesale stores in rural towns, money will be kept in a closed economic system which will ensure that inflation is kept steady (no money enters or leaves the closed economic system, so no inflation of prices will happen). This may have the effect that people who are part of this economic system neither grow rich nor poor. This objective should also take the effects of globalisation into account.

4.3.9.2 Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.9.2.1 Promoting participation in community life

The projects included in this objective are all about integration of markets – establishing a trader's cooperative, a farmer's wholesale market and chain community stores. These projects may have a positive effect on social tolerance and social inclusion. The projects are too broadly described to assess whether these may be some of the planned effects.

Building resilience to threats in communities

Integration of markets – establishing a trader's cooperative, a farmer's wholesale market and chain community stores, may contribute to social cohesion that may make things easier when it is necessary to respond to social or economic change, or tackling disaster-related issues. There is no mention of taxes that may be used for community upliftment, emergency assistance or providing micro-insurance.

4.3.9.2.2 Building human resource capacity

By having centralised markets and establishing chain wholesale stores in rural towns, the possibility exists that one community may learn lessons from others and new initiatives may be created, such as the diversification of food crops or other produce. Knowledge can be transferred from one community to another at these centralised points and theoretically the increase in knowledge may increase resilience and human resource capacity.

4.3.9.3 Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development:

- Ensuring access to education.
- Infrastructure planning and provision.
- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.

- Access to Equity Capital.

- Access to credit.

- Fostering and protecting human rights.

4.3.10   Objective 10 –Electricity

Table 16: Objective 10 – Electricity

Projects	Budget (US$)
A national rural electric power production and management study must be completed	50 000
A mini hydro pre-feasibility study must be completed covering all fifteen (15) counties	100 000
A study of alternative Energy potentials must be conducted covering all fifteen (15) counties	100 000
Subtotal	**250 000**

4.3.10.1   Addressed elements of sustainable social development

This objective does not clearly address any element of sustainable social development.

4.3.10.2   Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.10.2.1   *Infrastructure planning and provision*

It could be argued that the Ministry of Rural Development's vision includes a prosperous society that has electricity. In such a case, providing electricity could be seen as a link to the communities' vision and goals. This is however never stated explicitly.

4.3.10.3   *Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed*

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development:

- Promoting participation in community life.
- Building resilience to threats in communities.
- Ensuring access to education.
- Building human resource capacity.
- Poverty reduction.
- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.
- Access to Equity capital.
- Access to credit.
- Fostering and protecting human rights.

4.3.11   Objective 11 -Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES)

WES relate to access, quality, effectiveness of service delivery, and the responsible management of water as a natural resource in rural and urban areas. Some of the issues that a WES project typically focuses on include (Wes-net, 2006):

- Sustainable use of water;
- Water pollution and contamination;
- Financial resource constraints;
- Inadequate delivery mechanisms and infrastructure;
- Inefficient institutional and governance structures; and
- Socio-economic barriers.

Table 17: Objective 11 - Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES)

Projects	Budget (US$)
A national rural water supply and management study must be completed	50 000
A National Water and Environmental Sanitation assessment must be completed	100 000
Access to water and environmental sanitation must be made available to 40% of rural people	10 000 000
Subtotal	**10 150 000**

4.3.11.1 Addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.11.1.1 Building resilience to threats in communities

This objective addressed the need to plan for social and economic change, for instance assessing how much water is available and planning for future water supplies. This also addressed weaknesses or vulnerabilities that may sprout from sicknesses from contaminated water supplies and poor sanitation.

4.3.11.1.2 Building human resource capacity

Access to WES for 40% of the rural population will increase the resilience and capacity of the rural communities.

4.3.11.2 Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.11.2.1 Infrastructure planning and provision

It could be argued that the Ministry of Rural Development's vision includes the creation of a prosperous society that has a functional WES. In such a case, providing WES infrastructure

could be seen as a step towards the communities' vision and goals. This vision is however never stated explicitly.

4.3.11.3 Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development:

- Promoting participation in community life.

- Ensuring access to education.

- Poverty reduction.

- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.

- Access to Equity capital.

- Access to credit.

- Fostering and protecting human rights.

4.3.12 Objective 12 -Post and Telecommunications

Table 18: Objective 12 - Post and Telecommunications

Projects	Budget (US$)
A rural postal service feasibility study must be completed	25 000
A rural communications study must be completed (including telephone, television and internet access)	25 000
One hundred (100) community managed, district post offices must be established	400 000

Twenty (20) community / privately owned and managed internet centres must be established covering all fifteen (15) counties	500 000
Subtotal	**950 000**

4.3.12.1 Addressed elements of sustainable social development

This objective does not clearly address any element of sustainable social development.

4.3.12.2 Potentially addressed elements of sustainable social development

4.3.12.2.1 Building resilience to threats in communities

Having proper communication systems in place is pertinent to good planning. Most of the elements of "building resilience to threats in communities" cannot be achieved if there are not adequate, modern communication networks in place. For instance it will be near impossible to have WES in place, do recovery in the aftermath of a disaster, or provide disaster assistance without communication systems.

4.3.12.2.2 Building human resource capacity

Having better communication structures in place, especially having access to the internet, will allow people to participate in the life of their communities and share ideas with others. This may lead to new social initiatives.

4.3.12.2.3 Infrastructure planning and provision

Studies are planned to provide details on the type of communication people have access to in rural Liberia. Provision is made through some projects associated with this goal to establish new post offices and internet centres.

4.3.12.3 *Elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed*

This objective does not address the following particular elements of sustainable social development:

- Promoting participation in community life.

- Ensuring access to education.

- Poverty reduction.

- Protecting and safeguarding the environment.

- Access to Equity capital.

- Access to credit.

- Fostering and protecting human rights.

The action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development will be compared to the extent that the twelve (12) objectives correspond to the ten (10) elements of sustainable social development. This means that it will be deliberated whether the different projects (that must achieve the objectives) will capture the fundamental nature of the elements sustainable social development.

4.4 Assessment of the action plan

This section will deal with the manner and/ or satisfactory way the elements of sustainable social development are addressed by the objectives (via the different projects) of the action plan. The plan will be assessed overall after each objective has been discussed.

4.4.1 Objective 1 – Community capacity

"Community capacity" could potentially address numerous elements of sustainable social development, such as "to provide access to resources that people need for a decent standard of living". However, the projects associated with this objective primarily focus on

setting up communication structures. It could well mean that the reasons for setting up these structures are to discuss all matters relating to the community as a whole, but too little detail is given. This objective could address the effects of globalisation to a great extent, but the focus of the objective is too micro in nature.

By setting up community communication structures, resilience to threats could be built while better planning could be done for possible threats to the community and, as a result, the community would be able to react faster and in a more coordinated way in an emergency. The action plan does not use this objective to plan to safeguard the environment or to create systems to keep capital being reinvested in the community.

This objective has great opportunity to expand the goals of its projects to include, but not limit to matters, such as the eradication of social exclusion and the exercising of the public participation processes.

The implementation of these councils is not descriptive enough to foster or protect human rights– more care should be taken to promote equality and equity both between men and women protecting minority rights through representation. In doing so, social integration will be enhanced and civil society will be strengthened.

4.4.2   Objective 2 - Land use

This objective could have put more emphasis on providing access to credit, which it does not address at all. This is not favourable if it planned to provide thousands of rural families with land for small scale productive activities and not provide the means to be productive on the land. This raises the question of whether the action plan endorses profit making agricultural activities or sustenance farming. Another criticism of this objective is the lack of community consultation or public participation that is presented. Though land is earmarked for

resettlement, no indication is given as to whether this is a priority for the community or where (geographically) this should happen. No reasons are given as to why the land tenure system should be changed. A strong point is the use of GIS technology. This technology is typically needed when the following applies (Sogoh, 2006:1):

- Geospatial data is poorly maintained;

- Maps and statistics are out of date;

- Data and information are inaccurate;

- There is no data retrieval service; and

- There is no data sharing.

Once a GIS is implemented said Sogoh (2006:2), the productivity of the staff is improved and more efficient, time and money are saved and better, more informed decisions could be made.

The projects associated with this objective favour social cohesion and fit the planning for ageing populations, higher prevalence of disabilities and stalling the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Unfortunately, this is based on the fact that it is designed to acquire land for rural families. It is recommended that specific details are made clear for the use of this land, such as 99-year leases or ownership or low cost loans to ensure that families that care for the sick and elderly will have a place to stay. This includes specifically the goals of acquiring land for resettlement and providing land for rural families.

This objective should allow for people to participate in the life of the community due the matter of land resettlement and plans for new small scale productive activities. These projects, although they build human resource capacity, should not be a one-sided affair but should include public participation in decision making. In doing so, it will foster and promote human rights by strengthening social integration and civil society.

4.4.3 Objective 3- Housing

Although this objective does take the element of building human resource capacity into account, it does not take community consultation into account. Another weak point is the fact that this objective explicitly states that it will do research into assessing the capacity level of the community and building resilience to threats. There are also some ambiguous descriptions of projects. This objective barely addresses any of the elements of sustainable social development.

4.4.4 Objective 4 -Agriculture and Food Security

Given the state of affairs of food security and the dependence on agriculture (see Chapter 3), this objective is one of the most important ones. From Chapter 3, it can be seen that this objective only focuses on infrastructure and poverty reduction (both elements of the social aspect of sustainable social development). It largely ignores the economic aspect and wholly the environmental aspect. This might be attributed to the fact that the action plan was designed to give immediate (1 year), highly visible results either for developmental or political reasons, but this is speculation.

Although, the projects associated with this objective should make a community less reliant and dependent on outside sources of food and income. It is questionable where the numbers come from ("15" production farms, "45" rubber farms, "5" crop-based studies); yet again there are not enough specifics to know whether these number are as they are for a reason, or if they have been randomly chosen. If the numbers have been pulled from a hat then it will be difficult to measure progress in this goal, i.e. what are total number of farms and what percentage is the target to indicate success.

This objective should be regarded as a failure due to the one-sided focus it has on the social aspect of sustainable social development.

4.4.5   Objective 5 - Cottage industries

This objective endorses research to be done on the subject of cottage industries. This strong point complements the plan to provide technical and financial assistance to entrepreneurs. This objective potentially has strong impacts on the way of community life and it is a weak point of this objective that community consultation is not planned. It is also possible that an increase of businesses might result in an increase of people in the area which might put added pressures on the environment. The effects of globalisation are not taken into account and it lacks projects that will protect or safeguard the environment. Human rights are also disregarded. In the spirit of fostering human rights, any community upliftment and capacitating projects should promote equality and equity between women and men and protect rights of children and minority groups.

4.4.6   Objective 6 - Mining

The fostering and protection of human rights necessitates the identification of positive and negative prerequisites for leading a minimally standard of life (see Chapter 2 "Fostering and protecting human rights"). This identification is not part of the planning for this objective – though it is of cardinal importance. The extraction of minerals, including fossil fuels, was conspicuously absent from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) negotiations, and thus from Agenda 21 (TWN, 1997). Besides being exposed to the ecological effects, millions of people also find their land rights and livelihoods threatened by mining activities. Liberia's natural resources are mostly limited to iron ore, timber, diamonds and gold (CIA World Factbook, 2006). These types of resources are mined using typically opencast, strip mining or surface mining methods that result in great impacts on the environment and livelihoods. The mining development objective does not create or

accentuate policies and measures that emphasise the integration of environmental considerations in mining activities.

Environmental contaminants associated with mining activities may affect wildlife species in many ways and at many levels within the ecosystem. Some contaminants associated with mines (e.g., lead, arsenic, cyanide, etc.) may cause acute or chronic effects on resident wildlife (Custer, 2003). TWN (1997) mentioned the following (especially applicable to large-scale operations) severe impacts resulting from mining activities:

- Appropriation of lands of indigenous peoples which results in massive displacements of communities;

- Large-scale destruction of lands, mountains, forests, agricultural lands, which include erosions, siltation, deforestation, desertification, and flattening of mountains;

- Pollution of soils and rivers with toxic chemicals used in mining and with the toxic mineral by-products. Air pollution, such as dust, is generated from bulldozing and transport activities;

- Frequent occurrences of mining accidents from collapsed underground tunnels, and bursting or overflowing of mine-tailings dams, which cause further pollution of lands, rivers, and eventually the ocean, which leads to the decrease of marine biodiversity, and the killing of plants, animals and even human beings;

- The mineworkers, the people in the mining communities, and even those who are at the receiving end of toxic mine-tailings, are faced with serious health problems such as skin-diseases, respiratory diseases (tuberculosis, silicosis, asbestosis) gastro-intestinal diseases, cancers, problems in reproduction;

- There is a significant erosion or destruction of traditional values and customs, which have been key in sustaining community, tribal, clan, and family solidarity. Mining corporations have also deprived women in matrilineal societies of their rights to their ancestral lands.

There is a high incidence of alcoholism, drug addiction, and prostitution, gambling, and domestic violence in many mining communities; and

- Increasing protests and resistance of communities to the entry of mines, land displacement, and pollution of the land and waters, has meant increasing militarisation in many communities.

It was found that this developmental objective focuses only on elements from the social aspect of sustainable social development. They are "promoting participation in community life" and "infrastructure planning and provision". From the above descriptions of possible impacts by Custer and TWN, it is imperative to have sound Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) and make sure decisions that may have an impact on the local community are made through an all-inclusive public participation process. As its stands, the mining objective has no projects to address environmental issues or financial sustainability. Neither does it addresses or provides for social upliftment (by providing access to equity capital) or provides training or skills that may be utilised after the closure of the mine. This objective does not meet the requirements of the best-practice model, as it focuses only on one aspect of sustainable social development.

This goal does not include projects that address any of the elements of building resilience to threats in communities. The mining industry should incorporate such elements into the business plans. Elements that is particularly relevant here are: the assessment of the impacts of the mining activities on the affected communities, building capacity in communities (education and providing services such as health), and the practice of disaster preparedness.

The planned mining projects should be a protagonist of human resource capacity building. Instead, this goal focuses on the construction phase of the mines, and no mention is made of

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the operational or closure phases. This shows that no thought was put in how to secure jobs, the life of the mines, the impacts of the mines on communities or the environment, or how to give something back to the local communities. Now health plans or education systems are planned, or portable skills envisaged.

This objective is poorly planned and fails to address the elements of sustainable social development.

4.4.7 Objective 7 – Transport

This is one of the stronger spelled-out objectives but it touches only on one or two elements of sustainable social development. The objective succeeds in its aim of planning for road infrastructure that in turn has a positive spin-off to build resilience to threats in communities and enhance human resource capacity. It would be advised that more planning and emphasis should be put on public participation processes, environmental protection and infrastructure planning and provision. This would entail to linking the infrastructure development to the communities' vision and utilising new technologies where it does not interfere with unskilled labour.

4.4.8 Objective 8 – Tourism

This objective does not provide sufficient projects to ensure a sustainable tourism economy. One of the reasons for this is that the objective does not start with providing funding for the projects, but wants to institute small tourist projects. Liberia is severely impoverished (see Chapter 3) and start-up capital will be needed for any enterprise. Furthermore, it is not clear what the tourists will go and see or spend money on, where they will stay or what time frame the road infrastructure will need to be constructed to be adequate enough to use. It also does not take the effects of globalisation into account and does not plan for new communication mediums such as the internet. Lastly, no planning is done for access to

equity capital which could mean that a large portion of money generated in communities by tourism will flow from the region. This could happen for example if the person who provides housing to tourists does not use local labour. This objective addresses the elements of sustainable social development very poorly.

4.4.9   Objective 9 - Commerce /Trading

Chakraborti and Chakraborti (2000) described a closed economic system as a system where the total money is conserved and the number of economic agents is fixed. As indicated in Chapter 3, by centralising the markets, a closed economic system may be created if trade is not encouraged with other regions or countries. Access to equity capital must be ensured. As in the case of Objective 8, no start-up capital is provided for new businesses. Given the dubious result from the only element that is partially addressed, "poverty reduction", where people grow neither rich nor poor, it is doubtful if this objective deals with the elements of sustainable social development in a viable manner.

As noted before, creating centralised markets and establishing chain wholesale stores in rural towns will keep money in a closed economic system. The down side is that there is no monetary expansion. An inflow of capital has to be assured either through lending or market related strategies.

4.4.10   Objective 10 – Electricity

This objective fails to address nine of the ten elements of sustainable social development. It only provides for infrastructure planning and provision to the extent that studies are planned. If completed and the viability is decided upon then it is likely that advanced technology will be utilised. This element is thus addressed implicitly by doing the relevant research. Though access to electricity may facilitate development in many ways, such as helping with education or providing better living conditions, this objective fails to plan anything beyond

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setting up electricity structures. There is no plan to prioritise which community or region should be served first. Providing electricity will also build resilience to threats in communities and help with expanding human resource capacity, but this is also only assumed. This objective does not address the elements of sustainable social development to a notable extent.

4.4.11   Objective 11 - Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES)

Water, sanitation and hygiene should be a priority in all countries where there are development programmes. Local people should be actively involved in the process of identifying water and sanitation problems, designing solutions and managing systems in their own communities (Plan, 2005). This may be the case in projects addressing WES but no care is taken in planning to protect or safeguard the environment. By complying with the goals of a WES, water will be managed as a natural resource so it benefits the different aspects of sustainable social development. Two shortcomings of this objective are the fact that again no proper mention is made to specifically address or protect the environment and that "special" infrastructure may be needed to comply with a WES. All these spin offs may imply that new technology must be sourced, people with specialised skills must be recruited and Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) are needed to cater for the impacts on the environment.

4.4.12   Objective 12 - Post and Telecommunications

This objective deals with providing post and telecommunications to the rural population of Liberia. It emphasises a feasibility study for a rural postal service and a plan to make use of a postal service and the internet as a communication medium. It aims to establish one hundred (100) post offices and twenty (20) privately owned internet centres. It is assumed that such a feasibility study will include detail such as where will be the most likely places to have a financially viable internet centre, if it will be state subsidised, and which postal offices

were damaged beyond repair during the civil war (refer to Chapter 3). Again one should bear in mind where skills and technology will be sourced and who is going to provide the training for the skills needed to utilise the internet (refer to Chapter 3 for the description on the skills shortage in Liberia).

4.4.13   Correspondence with sustainable social development

The following scale (see Figure 5) will be used to determine the degree to which the objectives of the action plan correspond to the elements of sustainable social development:
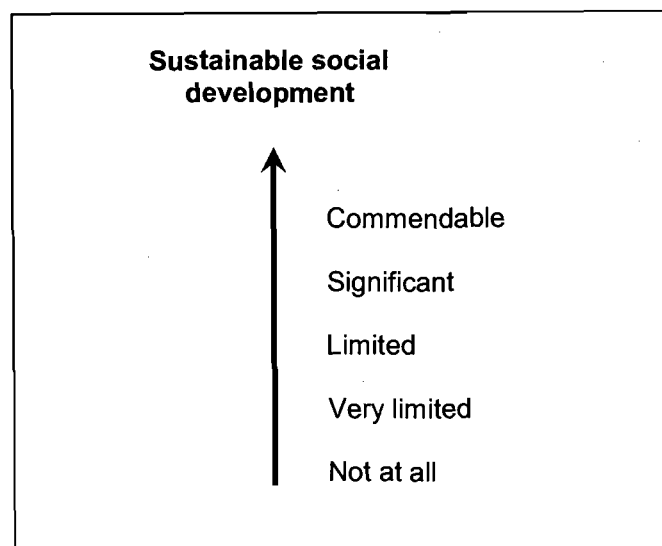
Figure 5: Scale to which sustainable social development elements correspond to objectives of action plan.

Table 19: Degree to which sustainable social development aspects are met by plan of action

12 objectives of the plan of action	10 elements of sustainable social development	The degree of correspondence
Community Capacity	Access to credit	Very limited
	Poverty reduction	Very limited
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all
	Ensuring access to education	Very limited
	Building human resource capacity	Very limited
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Very limited
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Very limited
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Not at all
	Building resilience to threats in communities	Very limited
	Promoting participation in community life	Very limited
Overall correspondence		**Very limited**
Land use	Access to credit	Not at all
	Poverty reduction	Very limited
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all
	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Not at all
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Limited
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Not at all
	Building resilience to threats in communities	Very limited
	Promoting participation in community life	Very limited
Overall correspondence		**Very limited**

	Access to credit	Significant
Housing	Poverty reduction	Very limited
	Access to Equity Capital	Very limited
	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Limited
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Limited
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Very Limited
	Building resilience to threats in communities	Limited
	Promoting participation in community life	Not at all
Overall correspondence		**Very limited**
Agriculture and Food Security	Access to credit	Not at all
	Poverty reduction	Significant
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all
	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Limited
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Commendable
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Not at all
	Building resilience to threats in communities	Not at all
	Promoting participation in community life	Not at all
Overall correspondence		**Limited**
Cottage industries	Access to credit	Limited
	Poverty reduction	Significant
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all

	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Very limited
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Significant
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Very limited
	Building resilience to threats in communities	Not at all
	Promoting participation in community life	Not at all
Overall correspondence		**Limited**
	Access to credit	Not at all
	Poverty reduction	Limited
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all
	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Not at all
Mining	Infrastructure planning and provision	Limited
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Not at all
	Building resilience to threats in communities	Not at all
	Promoting participation in community life	Limited
Overall correspondence		**Limited**
	Access to credit	Not at all
	Poverty reduction	Not at all
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all
Transport	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Limited
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Not at all

	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Not at all
	Building resilience to threats in communities	Very limited
	Promoting participation in community life	Not at all
Overall correspondence		**Very limited**
Tourism	Access to credit	Significant
	Poverty reduction	Significant
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all
	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Limited
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Not at all
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Not at all
	Building resilience to threats in communities	Not at all
	Promoting participation in community life	Significant
Overall correspondence		**Limited**
Commerce /Trading	Access to credit	Not at all
	Poverty reduction	Commendable
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all
	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Limited
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Not at all
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Not at all

	Building resilience to threats in communities	Limited
	Promoting participation in community life	Limited
Overall correspondence		**Limited**
Electricity	Access to credit	Not at all
	Poverty reduction	Not at all
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all
	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Not at all
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Limited
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Not at all
	Building resilience to threats in communities	Not at all
	Promoting participation in community life	Not at all
Overall correspondence		**Very limited**
Water and Environmental Sanitation (WES)	Access to credit	Not at all
	Poverty reduction	Not at all
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all
	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Limited
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Very limited
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Not at all

	Building resilience to threats in communities	Limited
	Promoting participation in community life	Not at all
Overall correspondence		**Very limited**
Post and Telecommunications	Access to credit	Not at all
	Poverty reduction	Not at all
	Access to Equity Capital	Not at all
	Ensuring access to education	Not at all
	Building human resource capacity	Very limited
	Infrastructure planning and provision	Limited
	Protecting and fostering human rights	Not at all
	Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Not at all
	Building resilience to threats in communities	Limited
	Promoting participation in community life	Not at all
Overall correspondence		**Very limited**

4.5   Conclusion

The action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development was described and the aim was showed to improve the standard of living of rural people in a sustainable manner. The action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development was described according to the twelve (12) objectives the Ministry pursued through different projects.

The disparities between the twelve (12) objectives of the action plan and the ten (10) elements of sustainable social development were highlighted. There are numerous elements of sustainable social development that are not addressed by these objectives.

Each objective was then taken and analysed as to what extent it attained the ten (10) elements of sustainable social development ("best-practice" model) and it was commented on the shortcomings each one had. The twelve (12) goals were shown to adhere to the principles of sustainable social development in a very limited manner. In the next chapter recommendations will be given to the Ministry of Rural Development to strengthen its action plan in order to enhance sustainable social development.

CHAPTER 5: Conclusions and recommendations

5.1   Introduction

In Chapter 4, the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development was compared to the ten (10) elements of sustainable social development ("best-practice" model) as described in Chapter 2. This was done by comparing the twelve (12) objectives of the action plan to the ten (10) different elements of sustainable social development. Recommendations will be given in this chapter to the Ministry of Rural Development on how to make the plan more sustainable social development orientated, based on the "best-practice" model for sustainable social development.

5.2   Recommendations

One of the major shortcomings of the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development is the lack of specifics.   There are no project descriptions other than headings and a one-figure budget.   There are also no time frames coupled to the projects. Having said this, the following elements were fully addressed by the objectives of the action plan (the number in brackets shows the number of times it was addressed):

- Infrastructure planning and provision (5);
- Building human resource capacity (4);
- Poverty reduction (4);
- Building resilience to threats in communities (3);
- Promoting participation in community life (2);
- Access to credit (2); and
- Fostering and protecting human rights (1).

At least two conclusions can be made from the above. Firstly, most of the focus of the action plan is on elements emanating from the social aspect of sustainable social development (see Chapter 2). This may be attributed to the visible need of social intervention or upliftment after the civil war. Secondly, objectives should be revisited so projects can be planned that would encompass the other two aspects (economical and environmental) as well. It is concluded that sustainable social development's aspects are integrated and too much focus on only one aspect will be to the detriment of achieving the others.

The environmental aspect consists of two elements: one that builds resilience to threats in communities and one that safeguards and protects the environment. Almost no objective addresses the environmental aspect in both these respects; only building of resilience in communities are touched on (which also has a string social side to it). This aspect is critical when dealing with the objective of land use, mining, agriculture and construction objectives such as electricity supply and road infrastructure, due to the high risk of potential impacts these projects may have on the environment, people and their livelihood.

Typically, this environmental aspect (to safeguard and protect the environment) will be formalised and dealt with through an Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The EMP details the methods and procedures for achieving environmental targets and objectives. Hounsome (2005) explains that EMP implementation is a cyclical process that converts mitigation measures into actions and through cyclical monitoring, auditing, review and corrective action, ensures conformance with stated EMP aims and objectives (Hounsome, 2005). It is therefore recommended that an EMP be drawn up before any infrastructure or mining activities are planned or allowed to commence or be constructed.

The plan of action does not make it clear that the public will be consulted in any way, even in sensitive cases, such as "rural resettlement" and industries such as mining and infrastructure

development that may have a high impact on the community and the environment. Public participation allows government actions to become transparent, effectively avoiding corrupt behaviours, according to FARN (2006:3). It also clarifies responsibilities and facilitates the eventual application of sanctions, in the case of reproachable conducts. In order to build a participatory democracy, it is necessary to provide citizens with an institutional framework that will allow for effective participation in public issues. (FARN, 2006:3).

Furthermore, it is advised that education and training be used to teach people the relationship between development, environmental degradation and worsening poverty. Very little emphasis is placed on education and training. In a country where literacy levels were at 57.5% (see Chapter 3), it could be of cardinal importance to ensure access to education or training programmes, such as how to use the internet, using new agricultural techniques, or basic health and sanitation tips.

It could be argued the effects of globalisation are addressed by most of the projects of the different goals, but the focus of the goal are not mainly on this element as it is more on domestic, short term issues such as employment, food provision and land resettlement.

It seems as if the projects found in the goals were more aspirations or ideals than actual plans to achieve the aim of the Ministry of Rural Development. This may be expected given the fact that the NTGL was only an interim government and did not have the mandate to put medium and long term developmental projects in place.

There is little evidence to suggest that numbers, such as "15 000" acres of land must be acquired (objective 2), are based upon any assumption, such as "this figure is half of the available arable land..." This is also the case for the budget for the action plan. The budget was projected to be US$ 38 958 150,00 while the national budget for Liberia (before

expenditure) was according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (as quoted by Outram, 2006:664) between US$ 44.9 million (2003) and US$ 68.2 million (2004). The actual budget given to the Ministry of Rural Development in 2003 was US$ 675 180, 00 (Jones, 2004a:2). The budget for the action plan is almost thirty (30) times originally allocated and half the national budget of Liberia. This again points to the assumption that the action plan was more of an academic ideal rather than based on actual fact. No evidence suggests the Ministry of Rural Development made an effort to research the actual needs of the rural population in Liberia. It is therefore suggested that more research be done into exactly what is needed in the rural areas, and then such needs are prioritised. There is overall too much emphasis on the amount of money needed for projects, without taking into account where the money will come from and whether the people need that specific project (prioritisation) and whether there are enough people with skills that can institute the projects.

It seems that not enough was planned to utilise new technology, specifically with plans to construct new transport infrastructure. This may indicate the Ministry of Rural Development is still not embracing in the first place the lessons that were learnt by the rest of the world with regards to development, in the second place the technology that can be used to enhance development, and in the third place the communication that could optimise development initiatives (such as the internet).

Little evidence exists that the question of fostering and protecting human rights were a priority. No objective stated any view of equality between sexes, cultures or equal opportunity or access to resources or development. No planning was done from the basis of identifying the necessary positive or negative prerequisites for rural people to lead a minimally good life and to extend it to people from other cultures or foreigners. This action plan, as it stands, does not strengthen or promote social integration of or in civil society. To emphasise this point it should be noted again that the aim of the Ministry of Rural

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Development's action plan was to empower rural people by providing access to the basic cultural and economic opportunities that are required for the establishment of sustainable conditions in Liberia (Jones, 2004a:4). From this aim, certain rights or development directions can be deduced:

"To empower rural people" implicates the right of freedom of choice and participation in decisions of government, which is a first generation right and is protected in the Liberian Constitution.

"Providing access to cultural and economic opportunities" indicates, as articulated in Article 22 of the UDHR (2006), the right that everyone has, "as a member of society, to social security and is entitled to realisation, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organisation and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality". This right is not protected in the Liberian Constitution.

By implication this means that "the establishment of sustainable conditions in Liberia" is not possible under the development direction set out by the constitution and subsequently pursued by the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development.

In accordance with the last point, it may be hypothesised that the Ministry originated from the necessity to pursue second- and third-generation rights - partly where the attempt to achieve negative human rights was not enough to develop the rural communities in a sustainable manner in Liberia. It would be reasonable to conclude it is not enough for example for people to be free from arbitrary arrest if they are not given the chance to develop themselves or their society as well. Freedom, in this sense, means little without purpose added to that freedom.

Poverty is traditionally reduced through increasing employment opportunities (through economic growth). In most of the goals, it is not mentioned where the employees will be recruited from. If they are not locally recruited, then it is less likely that local communities will benefit from employment opportunities. It is advised that as part of any project planning provision should be made to recruit local labour as often as possible. This will adhere to the element of equity capital and ensure that capital is reinvested in the local communities and will prevent capital from being spent in other regions. If it is planned to draw expertise externally, it is recommended to first identify the skills that are available from the local communities and if so, it can be addressed before the project starts. These skills can be recorded on a register for future use. It is recommended that the project titled "Five (5) pilot integrated swamp irrigation development projects" should take environmental impacts into account and the influence humans have on the environment.

The tourism objective is too isolated and should be developed and integrated with other goals, such as setting up cottage industries, building road infrastructure and facilitating commerce/ trading.

Though the action plan was only set up for one year (see Chapter 3) it is recommended that somehow the extent of life of the projects be longer or more ongoing. It is recommended, that when objectives are revisited more aspects of sustainable social development, such as a timeframe should be added to the projects.

The Ministry did not succeed in upholding human rights because it was not fundamentally empowered to do so. It is therefore recommended that the question of human rights, especially third generation of rights, be revisited in the Constitution of Liberia.

Further recommendations are that the action plan should include projects that have emphasis on all ten (10) of the elements of sustainable social development. As a basis,

drawn from Chapter 2, it is recommended to the Ministry of Rural Development that each objective of the action plan includes at least the following components pertaining to each element of sustainable social development :

Table 20: Components of the elements of sustainable social development

List of components	List of components
Promoting participation in community life	Eradication of social / ethnical exclusion
Protection of minority rights	Exercising public participation processes in decision making
Respect for human rights	Forming of democratic values
Showing social tolerance	Having press freedom
Practising non-violence	Promoting gender equity
Having and enhancing intercultural dialogue	Acknowledging the importance women play as "providers
Effects of globalisation	Eradication of social exclusion and discord in developing countries
Planning for ageing of populations	Highlighting politically weak governments
Halting growing social inequalities	Stopping the poor getting poorer
Planning for a higher prevalence of people with disabilities	Stalling the HIV/AIDS epidemic
Protecting the environment against exploitation	Changing labour-market conditions to favour the labourer
Reducing tariffs and trade barriers	Giving poor countries access to rich country markets
Giving more development assistance	Combating Nationalism
Combating Protectionism	Utilising Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
Building resilience to threats in communities	Research to predict future developmental changes in a society

Be able to respond to social and economic change	Select and implement strategies to target weaknesses
Have an early warning system (EWS) in place	Allow development of communities in "secure" areas
Plan for the risk of disasters	Understand or assess the level of resilience or the specific vulnerability in a community
Know the damage disasters can do a community's development	Do recovery in the aftermath of a disaster to improve previous development
Practice disaster preparedness	Plan risk reduction and monitor programmes
Be able to provide emergency assistance	Strengthen local risk-reduction capacity
Provide micro-insurance to spread risk of loss temporarily or spatially or across national boundaries	Be able to respond to social and economic change
Ensuring access to education	Ensuring pupils complete education curricula
Assessing standard of education	Provide equal access to girls and boys
Focus on Primary Education	Investment in training and education
Building human resource capacity	Allow people to participate in the life of the community
Create new social initiatives	Do research into matters that decrease resilience and increase capacity
Provide access to resources needed by people for a decent standard of living	Infrastructure planning and provision
Link infrastructure to community's vision and goals	Embrace technological advancement
Utilise the internet as communication medium	Poverty reduction
Access to basic education	Access to primary health services
Protection from external shocks	Adequate nutrition, water, sanitation
Adequate employment	Bringing essential services to remote or resource poor areas

Caring for vulnerable people in society, due to age, health, living environment or occupation	Protecting minority rights
Having political will to address poverty	Ensuring equal asset distribution
Readiness for urbanisation	Addressing inadequate income levels
Providing essential productive assets	Addressing rural poverty
Protecting and safeguarding the environment	Planning to protect the environment when planning for development is done
Conducting research on the influence Man had/ has on the environment	Acknowledging the relationship between development, environmental degradation and worsening poverty
Reforming Economic and regulatory policy to limit industrial pollution	Access to Equity Capital
Reinvesting capital into community	Access to credit
Creating sources of credit that are locally owned	Creating social funds

Future studies

At least three areas have been identified for possible areas of future study during research for this dissertation:

- The way that human rights are fostered by the Liberian National Government.

- The impact that migrant labour will have on the rural communities in Liberia.

- Environmental impact assessments of the different construction projects related to mining, road and infrastructure, WES and power lines.

This chapter has assessed the extent to which the Ministry of Rural Development's action plan meets the principles of sustainable social development. Every aspect of sustainable social development according to its elements has been discussed and how it relates to the objectives of the action plan. It can only be concluded that the action plan of the Ministry of Rural Development is not in line with the principles recognised internationally for attaining

sustainable social development. From this, the hypothesis "The Liberian Ministry of Rural Development's action plan does not meet internationally recognised principles of sustainable social development" was proven to be correct. Subsequently, recommendations on how to attain sustainable social development are given to the Ministry of Rural Development in Liberia with components to focus on for each element of the three aspects of sustainable social development.

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