

# Sustainable Development

Understanding and Managing  
Existence and Development  
Within Nature, the Natural  
Parameters of Existence

# Sustainable Development

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- Sustainable Development
- Approach and Context
- Central Argument
- Natural Conditions of Existence
- How Today We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

# Sustainable Development

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- Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings
- Direction of the Answers and Solutions

# Sustainable Development

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- → Sustainable Development

# Sustainable Development

- ◆ Understanding and managing human existence and development in sustainable, secure and peaceful ways
- ◆ Understanding and managing the role and responsibility in our existence and development that by nature are individually ours to understand and manage
- ◆ Within the natural parameters, the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature, which lie beyond human control
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, our natural role and responsibility without contradicting, conflicting with or falling short of the natural conditions of existence, without causing persisting and growing environmental problems and difficulties

# Sustainable Development

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- Sustainable Development
- → Approach and Context

# Approach and Context

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## ■ Approach

- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions, from the ground up and from the inside out
- ◆ A different approach, focus and direction of development, of understanding and managing existence and development
- ◆ Understanding and managing everything in life we face and we have to deal with in a comprehensive way, in their essence, in depth and detail, in a differentiated, but integrated, connected and related way

# Approach and Context

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- ◆ Understanding and manage existence and development from the ground up, at the level of the natural conditions of existence, common to all human beings, which in the first instance define and govern human existence and development, that lie behind and that are reflected in individual human experience
- ◆ From the inside out, beginning with the mind and mental existence
- ◆ Where we consciously exist and act, where we experience, become aware and must consider the conditions of existence, our own mental and physical existence and the world around us, and how to deal with them

# Approach and Context

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- ◆ Not, as traditionally is the case, understanding and managing existence and development from the top down and from the outside in
- ◆ In a fragmented, generalized, dissociated and disconnected way in the abstract
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development from the human-created socio-cultural level, different, competing and conflicting beliefs, views, values, conventions and practices down to the level of the natural conditions of existence
- ◆ From the socio-cultural, religious, political, economic, scientific and technological level down to the individual

# Approach and Context

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- ◆ Understanding and managing external conditions and the world around us to understand and manage ourselves, the mind and mental existence
- ◆ Dividing and separating existence and development into different issues, subject matters, disciplines, fields of study and areas of human activity, specialization and expertise
- ◆ Each defined and governed by different, competing and conflicting assumptions, objectives, approaches and practices
- ◆ Collectively trying to create the ideal external socio-cultural and physical-material conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world of easy material abundance

# Approach and Context

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- ◆ Instead, establishing individually the necessary internal mental conditions, before engaging and dealing with external conditions, others and the world around us
- ◆ Establishing and maintaining a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, clarity of mind and understanding, a sense of certainty, security and confidence, individually in the mind and mental existence in everything we do and we engage in
- ◆ Where we are in charge and in control, individually in the mind and mental existence

# Approach and Context

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- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions
- ◆ At the level and within the context of understanding and managing, in the first instance, the mind, mental existence and mental development
- ◆ From within the mind and mental existence, as reflected in individual experience

# Approach and Context

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## ■ Context

- ◆ The context, focus and concentration are the human condition
- ◆ Persisting and growing cultural, religious, political, social, economic-financial, environmental, interpersonal and individual problems, difficulties and crises, conflicts, confrontations and violence
- ◆ Problems and difficulties we face, we create, and we have to deal with, individually, as societies and as a species, locally and globally around the world today

# Approach and Context

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- ◆ Problems and difficulties dealing with the human self, understanding and managing, particularly individual mental existence and mental development
- ◆ Problems and difficulties connecting, communicating, interacting and cooperating with each other
- ◆ Problems and difficulties relating and interacting with the world around us, with nature and the natural environment
- ◆ More specifically, the focus and concentration are the human causes, and what lies behind them
- ◆ What lies behind problematic human behaviour, actions and practices

# Approach and Context

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- ◆ The mind and mental existence, the internal mental conditions, how we understand and manage them
- ◆ How we understand and manage, what takes place, what we face and have to deal with, what we do and need to do, what we must establish, develop and maintain in the mind and mental existence
- ◆ How in the mind and mental existence, we deal with, respond and adjust to demands and challenges, change and changing conditions
- ◆ The understanding, mental faculties, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices we develop, on which we rely, how we develop and use them

# Approach and Context

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- ◆ The choices and decisions we make, and how we make them, the aims, goals and objectives we pursue, and how we define them
- ◆ The mental behaviour and actions in which we engage, how we plan, organize and manage them
- ◆ The direction of the answers and solutions, the direction we need to take in conceptual and mental development and growth, individually, as society and as a species
- ◆ The understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices we need to develop, how to develop and use them

# Approach and Context

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- ◆ To sustain an expanding global human population in equitable ways, on the limited and finite natural material resources base of the earth, within the natural parameters, the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature
- ◆ And not to contribute further to the premature demise in the long term of the human species at its own hands

# Sustainable Development

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- Sustainable Development
- Approach and Context
- → Central Argument

# Central Argument

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- ◆ The answers and solutions to environmental problems and difficulties, in conventional views, are seen to lie in advances in science and technology
- ◆ A better, more detailed and in-depth knowledge of nature and the natural environment, ecological systems, environmental habitats, natural forces, processes and developments
- ◆ The answers and solutions are seen to lie in understanding and managing external conditions and the world around us in an environmentally more friendly and less destructive way

# Central Argument

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- ◆ Integrating environmental concerns and issues more firmly and effectively into social, political, economic, scientific and technological development, planning and public policy
- ◆ Managing the environment in a less harmful and destructive way
- ◆ The limits and shortcomings of current efforts are, they consider and address only symptoms and consequences
- ◆ They do not touch on deeper-rooted problems, developments and causes

# Central Argument

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- ◆ Such as, problematic human behaviour, actions and practices, how we understand and manage existence and development, and what lies behind them
- ◆ The central focus and concentration are sustaining scientific culture, the historical path and direction of socio-cultural development, and how today we understand and manage existence and development
- ◆ Albeit, in an environmentally more friendly, less harmful and destructive way

# Central Argument

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- ◆ In reality, the direction of the answers and solutions lies in understanding and managing existence and development within nature, the natural parameters, the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature
- ◆ It requires understanding and managing existence and development from the ground up and from the inside out, in a comprehensive way, in their essence, in depth and detail, in a differentiated, but integrated, connected and related way
- ◆ From the ground up, at the level of the natural conditions of existence, common to all human beings, which in the first instance define and govern existence and development, that lie behind and that are reflected in human experience

# Central Argument

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- ◆ From the inside out, beginning with the mind and mental existence
- ◆ Establishing individually the necessary internal mental conditions, before engaging and dealing with external conditions, others, the world around us, nature and the natural environment
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, at the level and within the context, of understanding and managing in the first instance the mind and mental existence

# Central Argument

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- ◆ Understanding and managing from the inside where we consciously exist and act, where we experience, become aware and must consider the conditions of existence, our own mental and physical existence and development and the world around us, and how to deal with them
- ◆ Where we make choices and decisions, define aims, goals and objectives, and where we must consider, plan, organize and manage our behaviour and actions
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, the mind and mental existence, from within the mind and mental existence, as reflected in individual experience, within existing and changing conditions

# Central Argument

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- ◆ Nature and the natural environment are not the problem, we are the problem, how we understand and manage ourselves
- ◆ The answers and solutions lie in understanding and managing the role and responsibility in our existence and development that by nature are individually ours to understand and manage, within the natural parameters
- ◆ Not managing the role of nature, which lies beyond human control

# Sustainable Development

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- Sustainable Development
- Approach and Context
- Central Argument
- → Natural Conditions of Existence

# Natural Conditions of Existence

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- We exist in and as part of a constantly unfolding, changing and transforming world
  - ◆ We are biological organisms, whose existence and development is defined and governed, in the first instance, by natural forces and processes
  - ◆ But, by nature we have a role to play in our existence and development
  - ◆ We must individually take an active part in managing our existence and development, meeting our needs, and dealing with, responding and adjusting to change and changing conditions

# Natural Conditions of Existence

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- ◆ We are not naturally-genetically preconditioned to behave and act in necessary and appropriate ways, meeting our needs and responding to change and changing conditions
- ◆ Managing existence requires a sense, an understanding of the nature, conditions, demands and challenges of existence
- ◆ To define, guide and direct our behaviour and actions, our choices and decisions, and our goals and objectives
- We exist mentally and physically independent of each other and of any larger organic collective social whole

# Natural Conditions of Existence

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- ◆ But, we depend on and must interact with each other and the world around us, with nature and the natural environment to meet our basic needs
- **Consciously we exist and act in the mind and mental existence**
  - ◆ It is where we experience, become aware and must consider the conditions of existence, our own mental and physical existence and development and the world around us, and how to deal with them
  - ◆ It is where we make choices and decisions, where we define aims, goals and objectives, and where we must consider, plan, organize and manage our behaviour and actions

# Natural Conditions of Existence

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- ◆ We experience and become aware of the conditions of existence, our own mental and physical existence and development and the world around us, through perceptions, sensations and feelings
- ◆ Perceptions, sensations and feelings are the only access of the mind and awareness to external conditions and the world beyond
- ◆ We do not experience all of reality
- ◆ Our experience fragment, divide and separate an integrated, connected, related and interacting world and reality

# Natural Conditions of Existence

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- ◆ Perceptions, sensations and feelings do not on their own impress themselves fully, in all their details on our awareness
- ◆ They do not order and arrange themselves in meaningful ways in the mind and awareness
- ◆ They do not form clear and detailed images in the mind about the conditions that lie behind them
- Initial mental conditions, or states of mind
  - ◆ Are disorder and instability, doubt and confusion, uncertainty and insecurity

# Natural Conditions of Existence

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- ◆ What comes to mind and we become aware of first appear as vague notions, lacking in clarity, depth and detail
- Managing existence in and as part of a constantly changing world
  - ◆ Requires clarity of mind and detailed understanding about the conditions, demands and challenges of existence
  - ◆ It requires establishing the necessary internal mental conditions, before engaging and dealing with external conditions, others and the world around us
  - ◆ Considering and making sense of our experience, the conditions that lie behind them, and how to deal with them

# Natural Conditions of Existence

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- ◆ Dealing with mental disorder and instability, doubt and confusion, uncertainty and insecurity
- ◆ Developing the necessary understanding and mental faculties, our natural mental potential, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary mental skills and practices, and engaging in the required mental work and effort

# Sustainable Development

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- Sustainable Development
- Approach and Context
- Central Argument
- Natural Conditions of Existence
- → How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

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- How we Understand and Manage Existence and Development
  - ◆ We understand and manage existence and development from the top down and from the outside in, in a fragmented, generalized, dissociated and disconnected way, in the abstract
  - ◆ We understand and manage existence and development from the human-created socio-cultural level, different, competing and conflicting beliefs, views, values, conventions and practices down to the level of the natural conditions of existence

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

- ◆ We understand and manage existence and development from the social-collective, political, economic-material and scientific-technological level down to the individual
- ◆ We try to understand and manage ourselves, the mind and mental existence through understanding and managing external conditions and the world around us
- ◆ We divide and separate existence and development, an integrated, connected, related and interacting world into different, competing and conflicting issues, subject matters, disciplines, fields of study, and areas of human activity, specialization and expertise

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

- ◆ Each defined and governed by different, competing and conflicting assumptions, objectives, approaches and practices
- ◆ Specifically, we understand and manage existence and development in the collective, not individually, in cooperation with each other
- ◆ We conceptualize and understand the conditions of existence in the abstract, beyond our experience of them
- ◆ We collectively try to create externally in the world around us what by nature we must establish individually in the mind and mental existence

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

- ◆ Trying to establish a sense of self, an identity, a sense of order and stability, clarity and coherence, certainty and security externally, beyond the mind and mental existence, in socio-cultural and physical-material terms
- ◆ We try to understand and manage existence and development through understanding, managing and improving external conditions and the world around us, not within existing and changing external conditions
- ◆ We understand and manage existence and development, primarily and in the first instance, in socio-cultural terms, at the level of human-created socio-cultural reality

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

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- ◆ The focus and concentration are collectively creating the ideal external, socio-cultural and physical-material conditions, of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world of easy material abundance

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

- Results and Consequences
  - ◆ The results and consequences of how we understand and manage existence and development include persisting and growing problems and difficulties, cultural, religious, political, social, economic-financial, environmental, interpersonal and individual problems, difficulties and crises, competition, conflicts, confrontations and violence
  - ◆ Problems and difficulties understanding and managing the individual self, particularly the mind and mental existence
  - ◆ Mental disorder and instability, doubt and confusion, uncertainty and insecurity, fear, stress, anxiety and frustration

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

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- ◆ Problems and difficulties connecting, communicating, interacting and cooperating with each other
- ◆ Competition, conflicts, confrontations and violence over shared resources and about different beliefs, views, values, conventions and practices
- ◆ Problems and difficulties relating and interacting with the world around us, with nature and the natural environment
- ◆ Exploiting natural material resources beyond actual human material needs

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

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- ◆ Degrading the natural environment and interfering in nature, natural forces, processes and developments beyond what is necessary and required to sustain and manage human existence
- ◆ Bringing about changes in natural development, which in the long term will render the natural environment uninhabitable for human beings
- ◆ Human behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, aims, goals and objectives are not informed, guided and directed, and they are not constrained by the natural conditions of existence

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

- ◆ Because we conceptualize and understand the conditions of existence in the abstract, beyond our experience of them
- ◆ We exploit natural material resources beyond actual human material needs, and we degrade the natural environment and interfere with nature, natural forces and processes beyond what is required to manage and sustain human existence
- ◆ Because we try to meet non-material mental needs in material ways, through the accumulation, possession and consumption of material resources, goods and values, and creating the ideal external socio-cultural and physical-material conditions

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

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- ◆ Resulting in persisting and growing mental problems, difficulties and unmet mental needs, and rising demand for material goods and increasing exploitation of natural material resources beyond actual human material needs
- ◆ We try to understand, manage and improve human existence through understanding, managing and improving external conditions and the world around us
- ◆ Trying to create the ideal external socio-cultural and physical-material conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world of easy material abundance

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

- ◆ We construct an artificial, socio-cultural superstructure, which we superimpose on nature and the natural environment
- ◆ Trying to integrate nature into the structure, attempting to manage, rearrange, control and direct nature and the natural environment, natural forces and processes within the human-created socio-cultural superstructure
- ◆ Leading to further, expanding and deepening interference in nature and the natural environment, which today we try to manage, rearrange, control and direct at the cosmic, subatomic and genetic level

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

- ◆ Bringing about changes in natural developments, which, in the long term, will render the natural environment of the earth uninhabitable to the human species
- ◆ We try to manage the role of nature, while failing to understand and manage the role and responsibility in our existence and development that by nature are ours to understand and manage
- ◆ Understanding and managing, in the first instance, the mind and mental existence, from within the mind and mental existence, within the natural parameters, the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

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- ◆ Establishing the necessary internal mental conditions, before engaging and dealing with external conditions, others and the world around us
- ◆ We develop inappropriate and insufficient understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices, aids, tools, methods and techniques
- ◆ We develop the understanding, powers and abilities, skills and practices, aids, tools, methods and techniques to understand, manage and improve external conditions, rearrange, control and direct nature, the natural environment, natural forces and processes

# How We Understand and Manage Existence and Development, Results and Consequences

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- ◆ We fail to develop the understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices to understand and manage existence and development within existing and changing conditions
- ◆ At the level of the natural conditions, within the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature

# Sustainable Development

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- → Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

- Conventional Views and Responses
  - ◆ In the conventional view, sustainable development, in its essence, is to address environmental problems and difficulties through advances in science and technology
  - ◆ Environmental science, technology and engineering, managing, protecting and saving the environment, ecological economics and environmental education
  - ◆ The central focus and concentration is to sustain scientific culture, the way we understand and manage existence and development, and the historical path and direction of socio-cultural development, in an environmentally more friendly, less harmful and destructive way

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ The path and direction of understanding and managing human existence and development through understanding and managing external conditions, the world around us, nature and the natural environment
- ◆ Managing, controlling and directing nature, the natural environment, natural forces, processes and development, through science, technology and engineering
- ◆ Uncovering regularities, uniform and recurrent patterns and processes in nature and the natural environment
- ◆ Capturing them in scientific theories, models and formulas

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

- ◆ To control irregular, non-recurrent and unpredictable natural processes, developments and changes
- ◆ Manage, control, rearrange and direct nature, the natural environment, natural forces and processes, in depth and detail, at the cosmic, sub-atomic and genetic level
- ◆ To create the ideal external socio-cultural and physical-material conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world of easy material abundance
- ◆ Within this context, environmental science is to provide a better, more detailed and in-depth knowledge and understanding of nature and the natural environment

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ About the workings and precise limits of nature and the natural environment, such as, for example, the carrying and regenerative capacity of ecosystems, ecosystems dynamics and processes
- ◆ The natural rate of soil creation and regeneration versus the rate of soil consumption or erosion, the rate of ground water replenishment versus the consumption rate
- ◆ Fish stocks reproduction versus fish harvesting and consumption

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ The ozone layer depletion and rate of regeneration, the absorption of greenhouse gases from energy consumption, deforestation and agriculture, global warming due to human activities versus due to retreating ice age permafrost
- ◆ The human impact on the biosphere, adding compounds, chemicals and gases
- ◆ The loss of biodiversity, of natural species and organisms, and the level of biodiversity necessary to sustain human existence

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ Environmental technology is to provide more effective and efficient, environmentally more friendly, less harmful and destructive tools, methods and techniques
- ◆ For natural resource extraction and processing, production and distribution of material goods, and the disposal and treatment of human waste
- ◆ The objective is to reduce, through scientific and technological development, the destructive impact of human activity on nature and the natural environment

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

- ◆ To manage, control and direct nature and the natural environment, and integrate them more effectively into the human-created socio-cultural, physical-material and scientific-technological superstructure
- ◆ Managing, protecting and saving the environment, through measures, such as, environmental management, environmental assessment and accountability and environmental stewardship
- ◆ Cleaning up the environment, repairing and correcting environmental damage and degradation, environmental protection and managing global environmental change

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ Ecological economics is to address the depletion of natural material resources and the degradation of the natural environment through including nature and the natural environment as factors in the economy, in economic theories and calculations
- ◆ Considering the natural environment and ecological systems as a part of the economy, as natural capital
- ◆ Nature, the natural environment and natural resources are to be considered as elements in the material process, as cost factors in the economy

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ The objective is, through including nature, natural environment and natural resources as factors in economic cost-benefit analysis, to use them in more effective, efficient and less wasteful ways
- ◆ Thereby reducing the human impact on the natural environment
- ◆ Environmental education, finally, is to develop in the individual a better understanding, greater awareness and appreciation of nature and the natural environment

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ Develop an awareness, knowledge, understanding and appreciation in the individual of the makeup and workings of nature, the natural environment and ecological systems
- ◆ It is to lead to relating and interacting with nature and the natural environment, and meeting human material needs in less destructive and harmful ways
- ◆ Greater awareness, understanding and appreciation, so the argument, will reduce the human impact on the environment

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ Greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of nature and the natural environment are expected to lead to acting more in harmony with nature and the natural environment
- ◆ Reducing the human “ecological footprint”

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

- Limits and Shortcomings
  - ◆ Conventional views and responses do not address deeper-rooted problems, developments and causes
  - ◆ They do not address and move beyond the limits, shortcomings and contradictions, the problematic results and consequences of how we understand and manage existence and development
  - ◆ They do not address or move beyond problematic assumptions, approaches and practices that lie behind, define and govern how we understand and manage existence and development, and the path and direction of socio-cultural development

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ Assumptions, approaches and practices that contradict, conflict with and fall short of the natural conditions of existence, leading to persisting and growing environmental, social and individual problems and difficulties
- ◆ Conventional views and responses do not address the causes and developments that lead to exploiting natural material resources beyond actual human material needs
- ◆ That lead to the degradation of the natural environment and interfering in nature, natural forces, processes and development beyond what is necessary and required to manage and sustain human existence

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ The causes and developments that lie behind trying to manage the role of nature that lies beyond human control
- ◆ While failing to manage the role and responsibility in our existence and development that by nature are individually ours to understand and manage
- ◆ Conventional views and responses do not address the approach and practice of considering and understanding the conditions of existence in the abstract, beyond our experience of them

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

- ◆ Trying collectively to create externally in socio-cultural and physical-material terms what by nature we must establish individually in the mind and mental existence
- ◆ Establish a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, clarity and coherence, certainty, security and confidence externally, beyond the mind and mental existence, in socio-cultural and physical-material terms
- ◆ Meeting non-material mental needs in material ways
- ◆ They do not address the approach and practice of understanding, managing and improving existence through understanding, managing and improving external conditions, nature and the natural environment

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ Creating the ideal external socio-cultural and physical-material conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world of easy material abundance
- ◆ Through managing, controlling, rearranging and directing nature, the natural environment, natural forces and processes
- ◆ Conventional views and responses do not address the problem of human behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives not being informed, guided and directed, and not being constrained by the natural conditions of existence

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ Conventional views and responses do not distinguish and differentiate between natural and human-created conditions, demands and challenges
- ◆ Consider and understand where and how human-created conditions and developments contradict, conflict with and fall short of the natural conditions of existence
- ◆ Conventional views and responses rest on problematic traditional human assumptions, approaches and practices, looking for answers and solutions within them, and within the traditional path and direction of socio-cultural development

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ Conventional views and responses, at best, are short term, interim measures, addressing and controlling symptoms and consequences
- ◆ Buying time for a path and direction of development and a way of understanding and managing existence that are not sustainable
- ◆ They may raise public awareness and highlight problems and difficulties, problematic results and consequences, but they do not address underlying causes and developments

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ They are not long-term measures, answers and solutions to deeper-rooted problems, developments and causes
- ◆ The focus and concentration is to sustain scientific culture, the historical path and direction of human-created socio-cultural development, and how today we understand and manage existence and development
- ◆ Albeit, in an environmentally more friendly, less harmful and destructive way

# Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings

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- ◆ Conventional views and responses are not measures to sustain human existence in changing conditions and narrowing natural parameters, and prevent the premature demise in the long term of the human species at its own hands
- ◆ They do not provide, and they do not lead to the development of the necessary understanding, mental faculties, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary and appropriate mental skills and practices, the required mental work and effort
- ◆ To understand and manage existence and development in changing conditions, within the natural parameters, the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature

# Sustainable Development

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- Conventional Views and Responses, Limits and Shortcomings
- → Direction of the Answers and Solutions

# Direction of the Answers and Solutions

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- ◆ The answers and solutions do not lie in addressing and controlling symptoms and consequences
- ◆ They require addressing deeper-rooted problems, developments and causes
- ◆ Nature, the natural environment, natural forces, processes and development are not the problems or causes
- ◆ We are the problems and the causes

# Direction of the Answers and Solutions

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- ◆ The problems and causes are how we understand and manage existence and development
- ◆ The development through the ages of the assumptions, approaches and practices that lie behind, define and govern how we understand and manage existence and development
- ◆ How we behave and act, how we view, understand and conduct ourselves individually, how we connect, communicate, interact and cooperate with each other, and how we relate and interact with the world around us, with nature and the natural environment

# Direction of the Answers and Solutions

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- ◆ The answers and solutions lie in understanding and managing existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions at the level and within the context of the natural conditions of existence
- ◆ Within the natural parameters, the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature
- ◆ In order not to contradict, conflict with or fall short of the natural conditions of existence
- ◆ Not to exploit natural material resources beyond actual human material needs

# Direction of the Answers and Solutions

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- ◆ And not to degrade the natural environment and interfere in nature, natural forces and processes beyond what is necessary and required to manage and sustain human existence
- ◆ The answers and solutions require changing the approach, focus and direction of development, of understanding and managing existence and development
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions, from the ground up and from the inside out

# Direction of the Answers and Solutions

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- ◆ From the ground up, at the level of the natural conditions of existence, common to all human beings, which in the first instance define and govern existence and development, that lie behind and that are reflected in individual human experience
- ◆ From the inside out, beginning with the mind and mental existence
- ◆ In a comprehensive way, in their essence, in depth and detail, in a differentiated, but integrated, connected and related way
- ◆ The answers and solutions require understanding and managing existence and development individually, in cooperation with each other, not in the collective

# Direction of the Answers and Solutions

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- ◆ Considering and understanding the conditions of existence through making sense of our experience of them, not in the abstract
- ◆ Establishing a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, clarity and coherence, certainty and security, where we are in charge and in control, individually in the mind and mental existence, not externally in the world around us
- ◆ Establishing individually the necessary internal mental conditions, not collectively trying to create the ideal external conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world around us

# Direction of the Answers and Solutions

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- ◆ Establishing the necessary internal mental conditions, before engaging and dealing with external conditions, others and the world around us
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development within existing and changing conditions, not through understanding, managing and improving external conditions, nature and the natural environment
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, at the level and within the context of understanding and managing, in the first instance, the mind and mental existence, within existing and changing conditions

# Direction of the Answers and Solutions

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- ◆ Developing, exercising and practicing individually the necessary understanding and mental faculties
- ◆ Developing a conceptual foundation and framework of understanding of the fundamentals and essentials of the natural conditions of existence,
- ◆ Developing our natural mental potential, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary mental skills and practices, and engage in the required mental work and effort
- ◆ Engage in a process of continuous, life-long conceptual and mental self-development and growth

# Direction of the Answers and Solutions

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- ◆ Constantly reconsidering, updating, correcting, expanding and improving individual understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices in light of change and changing conditions
- ◆ Reconsidering, updating, correcting, expanding and improving, whenever necessary and required, the understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices we develop, on which we rely, how we develop and use them
- ◆ The choices and decisions we make and how we make them, the aims, goals and objectives we pursue and how we define them, the behaviour and actions in which we engage and how we plan, organize and manage them