

Urbanity, rurality, governance and resilience

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Four propositions:

- ☐ **The move to urbanity is both inevitable and desirable**
- ☐ **Rural and urban are principally political constructs and unhelpful policy categories**
- ☐ **The key challenge for Europe is to become both sustainable and resilient**
- ☐ **Transition strategies will be required involving major social and governmental change, including how we view 'rural' and 'urban'**

“In 100 years we will be an entirely urban species”

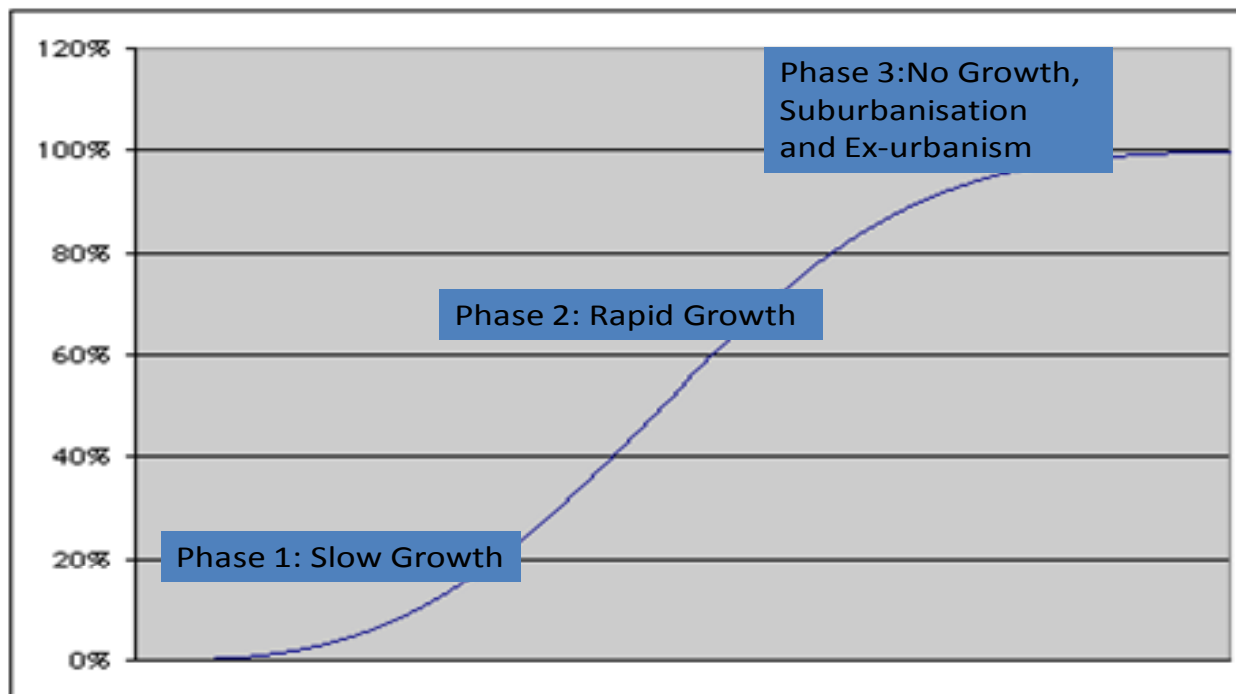
Doug Saunders, *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World*, Heinemann, 2010

The move to urban living is both inevitable and desirable.....

- ☐ **Worldwide, urban areas perform better than rural areas**
- ☐ **In Europe, urbanisation has improved the lives of those that move to the city**
- ☐ **European urbanisation is largely complete. Increasingly those who live in rural areas choose to do so**
- ☐ **Fewer than 5% of Europe's jobs are in agriculture**

Urban growth and urbanisation

Figure 2: The Phases of Urbanisation



Increasingly, there is little difference between urban and rural lifestyles in contemporary Europe...

- ☐ **Ferdinand Tönnies – Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft (Community and Society)**
- ☐ **‘Truly rural’ is rapidly vanishing from Europe**
- ☐ **‘Urbs in rure’ and ‘rures in Urbs’**
- ☐ **Social class, gender, ethnicity and life-cycle stage are the determinants of ‘ways of life’, not geographical milieux**

So, urban, rural, suburban, peri-urban.....

- ❑ are categorisations of landscape.**
- ❑ but they do not represent useful social, economic, political nor policy categories.**
- ❑ and, they are likely to be interpreted, defined and defended according to our social class, life-cycle stage and political persuasion**

The key challenge for Europe is to become more sustainable.....

But, why do we need to take sustainability seriously?

Answer No. 1

Because we are altruistic and responsible – we care about global warming, our environmental footprint, ‘unseen others’ and as yet unborn generations

Why do we need to take sustainability seriously?

Answer No. 2

Because our world is changing rapidly, we need to develop robust and resilient communities if we are to secure a long term quality of life for ourselves and our children

Shifts in global prosperity and power...

- ❑ **Currently there are about 2 billion people in the global economy**
- ❑ **65% of the human population has never made a telephone call. 1/3rd has no access to electricity**
- ❑ **All indications are that this is changing rapidly as a consequence of developments in China, India, Brazil and the Pacific rim, and then Africa.**

- ❑ **China is on track to quadruple its economy by 2020**
 - **If China is to drive cars at the same density as Germany, this will mean 650 million new vehicles**
 - **Beijing aims to encourage every citizen to eat 200 eggs per year. This = 260 billion eggs = 1.3 billion chickens = a grain crop equal to Australia's annual production**
- ❑ **India is predicted to replace China as the world's most populous country by 2050**

If China's economy continues to expand by 8% p.a.

- ☐ **Income per capita will equal the US by 2031**
- ☐ **At that point, China's 1.45 billion people will consume 2/3rds of the current world grain harvest**
- ☐ **Paper consumption would be twice world current production**
- ☐ **It would use 99million barrels of oil per day.**
- ☐ **Current world production is 84 million barrels per day**



"One thing is clear: the era of easy oil is over. What we all do next will determine how well we meet the energy needs of the entire world in this century and beyond."

- David J O'Reilly, Chairman & CEO, Chevron Corporation, July 2005

Resilience and transition...

Our world is changing rapidly and this change is likely to be:

- ☐ **Non linear**
- ☐ **Unstable**
- ☐ **Unpredictable**
- ☐ **Volatile**

A resilient socio-ecological system..

- ☐ **Can withstand shocks**
- ☐ **Can rebuild itself when necessary**
- ☐ **Can identify uncertainties**
- ☐ **Has high adaptive capacity**

Transition strategies to....

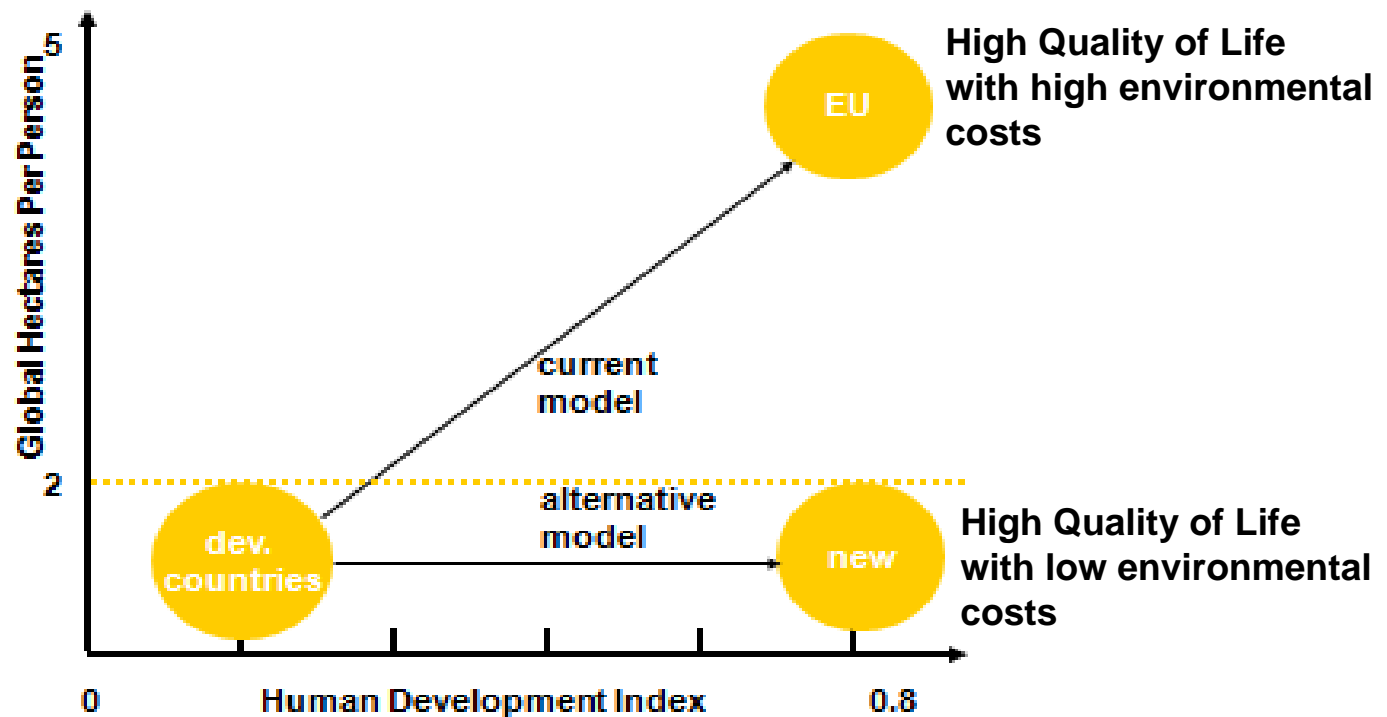
- ☐ **Mitigate carbon lock in**
- ☐ **Develop energy descent**
- ☐ **Optimise resource use,**
- ☐ **Etc**

**.....will demand major changes in behaviour,
values and attitudes, for example.....**

Percentage reductions in consumption required in Europe to secure sustainable resource use.....

<input type="checkbox"/> Energy use	50%
<input type="checkbox"/> Fossil fuels	75%
<input type="checkbox"/> CO ₂ emissions	77%
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural land	57%
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood	55%
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminium	90%
<input type="checkbox"/> Cement	85%
<input type="checkbox"/> Chlorine	100%

Figure 3: Sustainability Trajectories



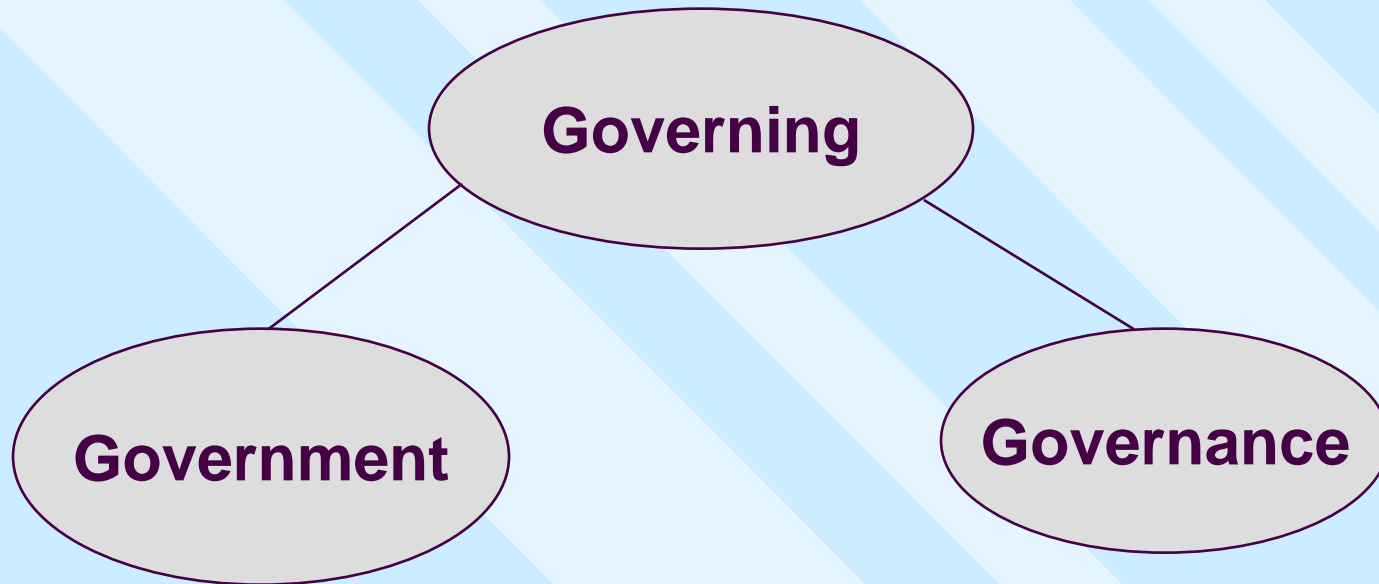
A resilient socio-ecological system will demand, amongst other things.....

- ❑ a commitment to more effective processes of governance**
- ❑ a recognition that ‘sustainable city’ is an oxymoron and that we need to develop more effective mechanisms for territorial governing**

What is so important about governance.....?

- ☐ **The challenges implied in sustainable development are so enormous, so complex and so difficult to implement, that they cannot be left to governments alone.**
- ☐ **Civic engagement is the key to sustainability and community resilience**
- ☐ **‘Government’, ‘Governance’ and ‘Governing’**

Governing sustainable and resilient communities.....

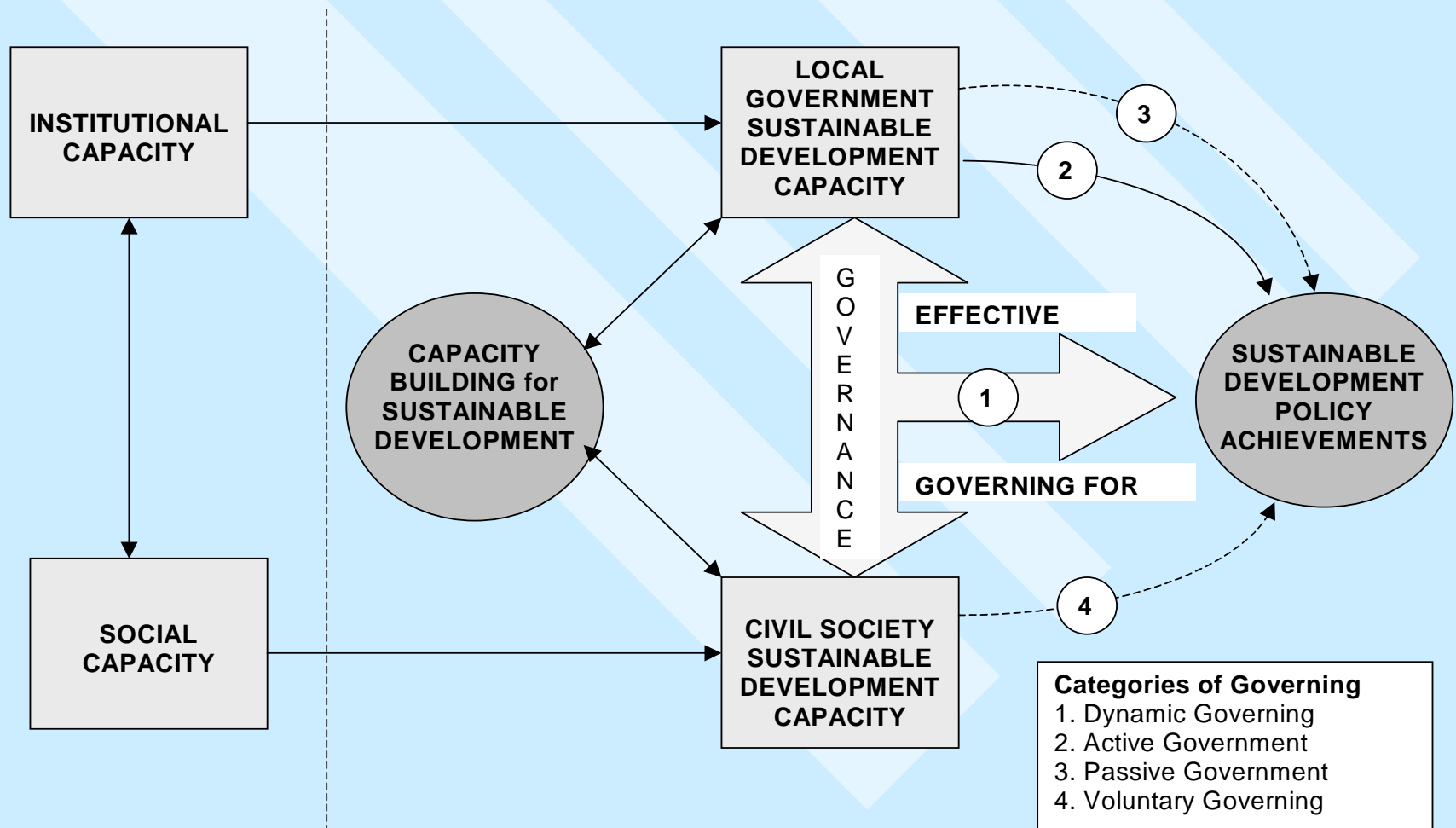


From 'Governing Sustainable Cities' by Evans, Joas, Sundbach & Theobald, Earthscan Press, 2004

Governance is.....

- ☐ part of the process of governing and it is
- ☐ the sphere of public debate, partnership, interaction, dialogue and conflict entered into by local citizens and organisations and by local government

Figure 6.6
DYNAMIC INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY ACHIEVEMENT



Local government is the key to local governance

- ☐ **Effective urban governance is nurtured by local government**
- ☐ **The governance process can build institutional capital**
- ☐ **The governance process can build social capital**

We all have well established preconceptions about our cities, towns and countryside.....but:

- ☐ In social, economic and environmental terms, European urban and rural futures are **inextricably intertwined and interdependent**
- ☐ They have much more **in common** than we tend to assume and
- ☐ In terms of policy, there is a pressing need to develop more holistic and integrative approaches to managing local territories

What all this implies is....

- ☐ **Urban containment and densification**
- ☐ **Integrated territorial management**
- ☐ **Political compacts based upon territory**
- ☐ **Government structures and governance processes to deliver the above**

The political challenge will be to secure the future of this.....



and this.....through integrated territorial management



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