

PRINCIPLES FOR
**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

COMHAR

THE NATIONAL
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP



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Principles for Sustainable Development

Introduction

Comhar, the National Sustainable Development Partnership, was set up in 1999 with the aim of advancing the national agenda for sustainable development, and contributing to the formation of a national consensus regarding this very important process. Comhar is made up of 25 members drawn from a wide range of nominating bodies representing stakeholders from environmental, community, statutory, professional and economic sectors. Comhar seeks to work in partnership to encourage sustainable development across Irish economy and society, and to advise Government on policies which support and promote sustainable development. To do this, the members of Comhar felt it was important to set out an agreed view on what sustainable development means, and particularly to relate the concept in a practical way to the Irish situation. The scope of this document is limited to a statement of principles and an explanation of their relevance to Ireland. Action plans and targets arising from the adoption of these principles are not included.

The concept of sustainable development does not easily lend itself to precise definition. It can be considered more as a process than a state of being, dynamic rather than static. The usual starting point for most people trying to define sustainable development is the Brundtland formulation “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. After much discussion, the members of Comhar felt that this formulation needed to be further developed in order to make it more relevant and practical, and to address clearly the priorities in an Irish context.

For this reason, Comhar decided to develop a set of principles for sustainable development, which could be used to determine whether policies, existing or future, are likely to lead to sustainable development. In other words, these principles can be used as a benchmark for policies.

From the start of the process, members of Comhar were agreed that sustainable development must encompass environmental protection, economic development, and social development in an integrated manner. Sustainable development is a process in which these three objectives, which can be mutually reinforcing, are addressed on an equal footing. Actions which fail to take account of the need for a harmonious balance between the three objectives may

undermine the system as a whole, even if progress is made in one particular area. Implementation of sustainable development requires a consensus-based decision making process involving all parties concerned. Therefore, the principles developed by Comhar needed to address all three objectives. An *a la carte* approach to the principles is therefore not appropriate. All must be pursued, and in tandem.

The approach adopted by Comhar is based around a framework which, rather than defining the concept rigidly, seeks to identify a number of dimensions of sustainable development. These are expressed as themes which in turn yield principles. The separation of themes is somewhat arbitrary because by definition, principles are inter-dependent. Each principle is discussed in terms of significance, meaning and justification. The relevance of each principle in the Irish context is further elaborated. The themes take account of the traditional economic/social pillars of sustainability but at the same time recognise that the concept is above all about integration. Hence the environment is treated as an integral part of economic development and a part of the socio-cultural sphere rather than as a separate dimension. The framework includes citizen participation as a key dimension in moving towards sustainability.

The principles agreed here are the result of much discussion and debate by Comhar. Doubtless, in time to come, the specific examples will change as these challenges are overcome and new challenges emerge. However, the basic principles should remain relevant in the future as Ireland progresses towards sustainability. It is hoped that this contribution to a set of agreed principles of sustainable development will be of help to policy makers and to all stakeholders in seeking to encourage Ireland along the path to sustainable development. Major challenges lie ahead in developing and implementing policies in all areas. Comhar believes that these principles for sustainable development will be a useful tool in framing these policies.

Themes

Satisfaction of human needs by the efficient use of resources

Equity between generations

Respect for ecological integrity and biodiversity

Equity between countries and regions

Social equity

Respect for cultural heritage/diversity

Good decision-making

Principles

- 1 The use of non-renewable resources should be minimised
- 2 Use of hazardous/polluting substances and wastes created should be minimised; waste management should be environmentally sound
- 3 Renewable resources should be used within the capacity for regeneration
- 4 The quality of soils and water resources should be maintained and improved
- 5 The diversity of wildlife, habitats and species should be maintained and improved
- 6 Air and atmosphere should be protected and human-induced effects on climate minimised
- 7 The development of resource potential in one region should not compromise the ability of other regions to achieve their own potential
- 8 Social inclusion should be promoted to ensure an improved quality of life for all
- 9 Sustainable development depends on co-operation and agreement between states
- 10 The quality of landscapes, the heritage of the man-made environment and historic and cultural resources should be maintained and improved
- 11 Decision-making should be devolved to the appropriate level
- 12 Stakeholder participation should be promoted at all levels of decision-making

T H E M E

Satisfaction of human
needs by the efficient
use of resources

Principle 1:

The use of non-renewable resources should be minimised

Significance, meaning, justification

All resources should be used to satisfy human needs in as efficient a manner as possible. In order to use resources more efficiently, it is necessary that progress be made on de-materialisation; in other words, reduce the amount of resources used per unit of production. The level of de-materialisation required is a matter of debate, with suggested rates falling in a wide range between 10% and 90% of current resource use. Efficient levels of use would permit current generations as well as future generations in developed and developing countries to meet their needs and to have an acceptable standard of living without undermining the carrying capacity of living systems.

Non-renewable resources, such as oil, metals, and soil and groundwater in many instances, need to be used especially carefully as once used they are no longer available, that is they do not regenerate quickly enough to be available to our children and grandchildren. Therefore, to ensure that future generations may meet their needs, we must ensure that we pass on to them essential non-renewable resources.

Relevance to Ireland

Ireland uses many non-renewable resources, some available within the jurisdiction of the State, many imported from outside. Oil products are very important in this context, and issues relevant here include transport policy (private versus public transport, roads versus railways, and traffic congestion and attendant problems of increased hydrocarbon consumption). Metals are used extensively in everyday living and in the manufacturing process. Some (such as zinc and lead) are mined within Ireland, most are imported from elsewhere. Again, use of metals in products with short life spans, without adequate re-use or recycling, results in rapid depletion of resources. Soil and groundwater may be thought of as further examples of non-renewable resources. Overgrazing in certain areas, as well as other insensitive agricultural practices, result in soil erosion and the loss of an important resource. Groundwater, once depleted or polluted, may never again provide a productive aquifer. Groundwater pollution in Ireland is now serious in some areas, especially in relation to sources of water for rural drinking water schemes.

We use resources not just from Ireland, but also from other countries. It is necessary therefore to consider the needs of future generations in these other countries.

T H E M E

Satisfaction of human
needs by the efficient
use of resources

Principle 2:

Use of hazardous/polluting substances and wastes created should be minimised; waste management should be environmentally sound

Significance, meaning, justification

Continuing human welfare depends on the effective working of our life support system on Earth. This system, through energy flow and material cycling, provides us with food, maintains the fertility of soil and water, maintains the balance of atmospheric gases, maintains global climate, and provides natural beauty and complexity necessary for the well-being of many people. Past and present-day activities associated with industrial, agricultural, transport and domestic systems produce substances which are too large in volume or too poisonous to be assimilated by these life support processes. Polluting substances therefore accumulate within soil, water and air, reducing the effectiveness of our life support system. This may have very serious implications for the future: we do not yet have accurate information on the effects of many pollutants both on the environment and on our health. Therefore we have to work to the precautionary principle, and minimise use of polluting substances by finding environmentally-friendly substitutes, and to find ways to adopt cleaner and alternative technologies.

Relevance to Ireland

In contemporary Ireland we are facing a crisis in relation to waste management. Hazardous wastes (including highly toxic substances) have been deposited in landfills without adequate safety measures or proper record-keeping. While in recent times the need for properly engineered landfills has been recognised, past landfills were operated at very poor standards, with resulting toxic pollution of surface and groundwater, and reduction in air quality. Some former industrial activity, especially mining, has left us with contaminated land which creates continuing serious problems such as acid mine drainage.

High material consumption in society in the absence of efficient re-use and recycling necessarily produces large quantities of surplus material which to date has been thought of as “waste”. Waste management has been seen as separate from productive industries. This view is fundamentally flawed and will need to change if we are to approach sustainability. Many wastes can be utilised as a resource, for example, for electricity generation. Re-use and recycling facilities require major enhancement, and material going to landfill and thermal treatment must be kept to an absolute minimum. The fundamental target is to greatly increase the significance of reduction in wastes produced, in re-use and recycling, and reduce the importance of waste disposal.

There is now a national plan for the management of hazardous wastes, and we should move towards a situation where the production of such waste is minimised as all disposal methods available involve a degree of risk to the environment and thus human welfare.



Equity between generations

T H E M E

Principle 3:

Renewable resources should be used within the capacity for regeneration

Significance, meaning, justification

Renewable resources such as agricultural products, aquaculture products, timber and wildlife resources provide us with an opportunity to take a crop without endangering the stock. Thus, year after year we may take for our use a proportion of the resource, without reducing its overall availability. A problem arises if we take too large a crop. For example, if in a year we net more cod than are recruited into the population through the growth of fry into juveniles (regeneration), then the cod population will decline, and the size of future crops available to us reduces. If under these circumstances we continue to take a large crop, the population declines to such a point that the species may become extinct, or the population density is so low that the fishery is forced to close. In this way we lose a resource, and we deprive future generations of the resource. Globally under current economic and social conditions, there is a danger of over-harvesting many renewable resources: timber, cod, salmon, prawn, whale, turtle, game birds and many other renewable resources are in danger of being depleted: our use of these resources is clearly not within their capacity for regeneration. Therefore there is a need to re-organise the mode of harvesting of these resources, so that harvesting is within the bounds of regeneration, and stocks are maintained for present and future generations.

Relevance to Ireland

Ireland is faced with many issues in relation to our use of renewable resources, both in relation to species present in Ireland, and those harvested elsewhere for consumption within Ireland. Irish sea fisheries have recorded major reductions in catches over decades as fish stocks and genetic diversity have been severely depleted by over-fishing: we have reached a crisis point. High value species such as salmon are badly affected. Reduction in the crop taken is required and also additional research to provide adequate information for future planning, so that more species are not endangered.

Bogs and fens are under threat from peat extraction, afforestation and overstocking of sheep. These activities need to be controlled and regulated to conserve important bog types into the future.

Much timber used globally and imported into Ireland is the product of forest management involving clear felling, soil erosion and no subsequent replanting. While international measures are in place to counter such forestry management, timber on sale in Ireland is not all from well-managed forests. Thus our ecological footprint affects other countries. Future generations are therefore being deprived of access to these resources.



Equity between generations

T H E M E

Principle 4:

The quality of soils and water resources should be maintained and improved

Significance, meaning, justification

Two resources absolutely fundamental to human survival are fertile soils and clean water. Therefore it is crucial that we pass on to future generations at least the present extent of fertile soils and clean water supplies. As the global human population grows, demands on these resources will continue to grow. At global scale there is a loss of fertile soil through a range of processes resulting from poor management practices. Overgrazing in semi-arid lands leads to desertification, clear-felling of forests exposes soil to weather and often results in erosion and chemical changes, rendering the soils infertile. Over-intensive agriculture, especially the over application of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, may reduce long term soil fertility. At global scale some estimates suggest that the earth is losing 20% of fertile soils per decade. Water resources are also being depleted by over-use and pollution. Growing demand has seen the building of dams, with negative as well as positive consequences for societies affected by the dam and downstream of it. Groundwater is being used for agriculture and industry at a rate far in excess of recharge, so that the water table falls, marshes and wetlands dry up, and soils become much more prone to erosion. Because of the growing human population, we need not only to maintain existing soil fertility and water resources; in addition we need to increase the availability of these resources, while at the same time maintaining biodiversity.

Relevance to Ireland

While we are fortunate to have a climate which tends to produce neither very dry conditions nor very intense rainfall and soils which are often naturally fertile and clay-rich, we cannot afford to take soil and water resources for granted. Soil erosion occurs, for example, as a result of overgrazing. The fertility of soil may be reduced through over-use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Some Irish soils are already saturated with phosphorus. Intensive, mechanised agriculture involving the use of heavy machinery may compact soils, reducing fertility. Agricultural practices need to be continually reviewed in relation to their impacts on the long term survival and fertility of our soils.

Water resources need careful management. While most of our population lives in the east of Ireland, our greatest water resources lie to the west. Monitoring of rivers and lakes over time shows a decline in very serious pollution but an increase in pollution overall. Sources of pollution include sewage, poor farmyard management and unsatisfactory practices in relation to spreading of organic manures, and some industry. These factors, together with for example poorly engineered landfills, inadequate waste storage facilities, and poorly functioning septic tanks, collectively have resulted in some areas in a serious decline in groundwater quality. We need to take action to stop further deterioration in quality, and reverse the trend so that over time we are able to pass on to future generations, water at a quality which sustains their needs.

Respect for ecological integrity and biodiversity

T H E M E

Principle 5:

The diversity of wildlife, habitats and species should be maintained and improved

Significance, meaning, justification

Ecological systems are the basis and precondition for all life. The intrinsic value of diversity of species and habitats should be recognised. The maintenance of biodiversity is a pre-requisite for the continuation of living systems. Loss of biodiversity at global level is a serious problem. Maintenance of atmospheric gases (for example oxygen maintained at a high level, carbon dioxide at a low level), conservation of soil and water fertility, avoidance of toxic concentrations of pollutants and naturally occurring toxins, all depend on biogeochemical cycling, involving a combination of geological and ecological processes. Research shows that these ecological processes operate much more efficiently in species-rich communities but there are many gaps in our knowledge.

In addition to the intrinsic value of a diversity of species and habitats, biological communities have other significant attributes such as protection of water supplies, providing us with food, plants and sources of novel drugs and horticultural species. From an economic perspective gene-based science provides opportunities for the development of new crops, drugs and raw materials. Biodiversity and the appreciation of nature in diverse forms are central to the quality of life of humankind: species-rich habitats and landscapes are enormously important aesthetic and amenity resources.

Relevance to Ireland

Ireland has a rich diversity of habitats and species. To halt the loss experienced and maintain that diversity involves taking action to ensure that a sufficient range and number of sites and species are designated for protection from unsustainable development activity (that is, any activity that would undermine the conservation of habitat or species). The greatest threats to biodiversity in Ireland are habitat loss, pollution and introduced species. The absence of adequate data for all plant and animals groups is also a serious problem. Habitats requiring protection include (native) woodlands and hedgerows, bogs and fens, eskers, turloughs, freshwater habitats, and coastal and marine habitats. We need to eliminate all sources of pollution to land, sea and air that undermine the carrying capacity of living systems, and ensure that nutrient and pollutant loads in watercourses do not impair biological diversity. There is need to accelerate the process of transparent sustainable management of designated sites and species and to require all development to be consistent with planning guidelines; this would include strictly regulating and controlling drainage and extraction activity to prevent damage to bogs, fens, turloughs and other wetlands, as well as coastal habitats (including estuarine mudflats, sand dunes, machair and other vulnerable habitats). In addition, guidance should be developed for key professions, and ecological education introduced into all types of education and training.

T H E M E

Equity between countries and regions

Principle 6:

Air and atmosphere should be protected and human-induced effects on climate minimised

Significance, meaning, justification

Earth's life support system works at global scale. Policies and actions in one part of the globe may influence some or all of the rest of the globe. Therefore there is need to ensure that policies and actions within a state do not negatively impact on other states. A prime example is climate change as a consequence of human activity. Global climate is maintained as a result of atmospheric gases which naturally trap some heat near the Earth's surface which otherwise would be radiated into space. This process has been operating over many millions of years. Changes in the gaseous composition of the atmosphere affect the workings of the process. Thus, emissions of gases such as carbon dioxide and methane (greenhouse gases) resulting from human activities increase the amount of heat trapped near the Earth's surface and therefore increase temperature. Emissions from one state potentially affect all other states. States which manage their emissions in such a way as not to alter the balance of greenhouse gases will not capture the benefits of these policies if other states do not manage emissions effectively. States with low emissions resulting from low levels of industrialisation are often located in areas of the world where small changes in climate may be expected to have very major consequences, such as the encroachment of deserts or the reduction in already scarce water resources. Increased global temperature will be associated with a global increase in sea level, with potentially disastrous consequences for people living on islands formed of coral, and on low-lying areas such as deltas. Increased temperature is also expected to lead to a more vigorous hydrological cycle, with more severe droughts and/or floods in some areas, and the possibility of more extreme rainfall events. To achieve inter-regional equity, therefore, it is necessary that all states agree to and implement policies to effectively manage emissions of greenhouse gases at levels unlikely to provoke climatic change.

Relevance for Ireland

The Irish Government has published a National Climate Change Strategy which is designed to require approximately 20% reduction in present day emissions. The outcome of Kyoto negotiations is not yet entirely clear but it seems likely that the European Union will implement measures designed to reduce emissions, and as a member state Ireland will be required to reduce its emissions. Major sources at present are electricity generation (oil, coal and peat fired stations), transport (aircraft, cars and HGVs especially), agriculture (methane from cattle and organic wastes) and domestic heating (coal, oil and gas). To substantially reduce our emissions, Ireland will have to implement measures which have significant impacts on activities associated with these major sources. Failure to implement such measures will have potentially very serious implications for people throughout Ireland, including increased flooding, more severe storm events, and the impact of increased winter and decreased summer rainfall, as well as the economic cost of emission reductions on future generations.

T H E M E

Equity between countries and regions

Principle 7:

The development of resource potential in one region should not compromise the ability of other regions to achieve their own potential

Significance, meaning, justification

The development of one region at local, national or global scale should not compromise the ability of other regions to develop their potential (i.e. utilise the full capacity for development arising from the endowment of natural resources, population, economic activity, social capital and location). Activities upstream need to take account of often unintended consequences downstream (for example, the impact of pollutants moving through rivers). The cumulative effect of economic activity in one region can have consequences in another (for example, the occurrence of acid rain far from the initial source of contamination). Waste accumulation and inefficient waste management practices in one region may compromise the ability of other regions to manage waste in a sustainable manner. The contamination of water sources through agricultural or urban/industrial activity and the inefficient use of water (for example, through over-extraction) will affect the ability of other localities within a catchment to achieve their potential. Conversion of large tracts of tropical forest to grazing land, for example, not only compromises biodiversity but also the opportunity for indigenous economic development based on sustainable forest management. Air pollution does not respect national boundaries. Impacts generated in one region will affect others through damage to the earth's atmosphere. At the global level, the extent and nature of development in Ireland and other countries and regions of the more developed North (globalisation) has a direct impact on the ability of poorer countries to meet their own needs through the utilisation of their own resources.

Relevance to Ireland

Current levels of development in the Dublin region in particular may compromise the ability of other regions to reach potential. At the same time the consequences of inappropriate development in heavily urbanised areas are apparent: increased congestion and reduction in quality of life. Road traffic in urban areas is the largest source of air pollution. Switching to other less-polluting modes of transport will reduce the cumulative impact on air quality for all regions.

In the absence of policies for coastal zone management inappropriate development is inhibiting the potential for more sustainable activities in coastal zones. Inland waterways are a significant resource. Catchment based planning is required to ensure that the use of inland water resources for one activity does not compromise the opportunities for the development of more sustainable alternatives.

Social equity

T H E M E

Principle 8:

Social inclusion should be promoted to ensure an improved quality of life for all

Significance, meaning, justification

Planning for the future should focus on the need for everybody, both in this generation and those to come, to achieve a quality of life which provides essential needs and offers dignity. There is need for social inclusion and equality of outcomes, so that there is no discrimination through which some sectors of society are disadvantaged and therefore unable to meet their own needs. There are many reasons why this is important, some of which are described here. At a very practical level, there cannot be long-term planning in a society in which poverty is rife: people are understandably more concerned with satisfying everyday needs in whatever way is available to them. Significant differences amongst social groups in quality of life and wealth work against development of social cohesion. Without social cohesion, the implementation of long-term strategies is made very difficult. Everybody, as a human right, should have the opportunity to make a living and achieve a satisfactory quality of life. But there exist social and economic barriers to the achievement of such equity.

Relevance to Ireland

Within Ireland, there exist examples of inequalities in wealth and quality of life, in towns and cities, in rural communities and among particular social groups, such as Travellers. The benefits of recent economic growth have not been shared equally, and this has resulted in increasing, rather than decreasing, disparities in quality of life. Access to basic services and the ability to meet fundamental needs are accepted as essential to sustainable development. Nonetheless, Ireland continues to have a comparatively high level of functional illiteracy, there has been an increased in the level of homelessness in recent years, and problems of access to accommodation and health services, particularly by those less well-off. These inequalities work against social cohesion, and create problems which need to be addressed within a broad strategy to move Ireland towards sustainability. Barriers to sustainable development and participation need to be identified and as far as possible removed.

Social equity

T H E M E

Principle 9:

Sustainable development depends on co-operation and agreement between states

Significance, meaning, justification

Economic barriers work at international scale, and result in continuing exclusion and growing disparity between the wealth of richer and poorer countries. Such disparities, if not reduced, will hamper attempts to achieve the level of international co-operation and agreement that is necessary if we are to approach sustainability at a global scale. International trading agreements must take full account of the wider impacts of globalisation on society and environment. Sustainable trade enhances social and economic equity and supports economic prosperity while protecting the global environment in all its diversity.

There are many examples of international co-operation in relation to the environment. These have emerged in response to the growing concern about global environmental problems such as climate change and rising sea-levels; ozone depletion, deforestation and loss of biodiversity as well as recognition of the transboundary dimension of many environmental issues. Transboundary air pollution, pollution in larger rivers such as the Rhine, the international trade in toxic wastes and rare animals and the wide effects of radioactive pollution of air and sea are further examples of environmental problems that require international co-operation if they are to be solved.

Relevance to Ireland

Ireland has an open economy and trades with the rest of the world. It therefore has a responsibility in addressing social and environmental issues arising from world trade agreements. These include the establishment of trading arrangements which create additional wealth and well-being in less well off trading partners while reducing adverse environmental impacts. Ireland can play a role in developing new policies regarding, for example, trading regulations and debt relief, by active involvement in policy making by the European Union and the United Nations, and through support for agreements such as Rio (Agenda for the 21st Century) and the Kyoto Protocol. Ireland also has a role in developing and implementing policy in relation to, for example, acidification, and trade in endangered wildlife, and can act with other European Union member states in the conservation of European wildlife and habitats. Irish people are particularly concerned with nuclear pollution of marine environments, associated with the Sellafield plant in the UK: here the need for international co-operation is very clear. In addition, Non-Governmental Organisations have an important role to play.

Creation of a more equitable society at international level is in the long term interest of Ireland, as without this change, movement towards sustainability will be much more difficult to achieve.

THEME

Respect for cultural heritage/diversity

Principle 10:

The quality of landscapes, the heritage of the man-made environment and historic and cultural resources should be maintained and improved

Significance, meaning, justification

Heritage and culture make an essential contribution to quality of life, giving a context and coherence to the present that acknowledges the contribution of the past. Measures must be taken to ensure the continued diversity of languages and cultures worldwide; of music and art; to manage the natural heritage including habitats and species, special landscapes and areas of high amenity; and to protect the components of archeological, historical, architectural, industrial and vernacular heritage, as well as folklore and ethnology that make up our cultural inheritance.

Relevance to Ireland

Ireland has a rich multi-faceted heritage, many strands of which fall within the ambit of the Heritage Council. There should be ongoing support for promoting all aspects of the cultural heritage including the Irish language, music, literature, folklore and folklife. Traveller culture is also a significant component of cultural heritage. At the same time, the cultural richness of other languages and customs should be recognised and valued as a contribution to the changing landscape of cultural diversity.

Many of Ireland's landscapes have been shaped by thousands of years of human activity; thus the environmental dimension of sustainability should also encompass the man-made environment and built cultural heritage. The integrity of the living landscape is threatened by the rapidity of change in a number of sectors. In the absence of a coherent policy for landscape management, such development activity may be unsustainable. The Heritage Council has prepared a draft landscape policy which recognises the interdependence of people and landscapes. Guidelines for landscape management need to be incorporated into the planning framework at national, regional and county level in order to achieve better integration of sectoral policies, with particular reference to settlement, forestry, agriculture, tourism, recreation, marine, energy, transport and industry.

The built environment is a significant component of Ireland's heritage. There are policies for protection of historic buildings, country houses, and archeological monuments but these policies need to be improved and enhanced to ensure protection and management at a time of rapid change. In particular, there is need for greater awareness of the significance of building artefacts, vernacular architecture and industrial archaeology.

Good decision-making

T H E M E

Principle 11:

Decision-making should be devolved to the appropriate level

Significance, meaning, justification

Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration stress the importance of participation, recognising the value of local/indigenous knowledge. Subsidiarity, which means taking decisions at the lowest appropriate level, acknowledges the importance of ownership of decision-making. This means that decisions about the use of resources, including economic and social policy, should, as far as possible, be taken where those resources are to be deployed. Some decisions have to be taken at global level because the consequences affect everyone, for example, international agreements on Biodiversity and Climate Change. Others are appropriate to bodies such as the European Union: thus social policy directives, for example, ensure that citizens are treated equally no matter where they reside; habitats and species are protected through European directives for the benefit of everybody. Other decisions are taken at national level to protect the interests of nation states, and at regional and local level to ensure involvement and real participation by communities in policies and actions that affect them.

Relevance to Ireland

Ireland has had until recently a highly centralised form of government with local government having very limited powers. The current reform of local government is addressing the deficit in decision-making at local level by broadening the scope of participation through Strategic Policy Committees and County/City Development Boards. County and city long-term strategies are attempting to address the full spectrum of economic and social activity in a sustainable context. These Boards provide an institutional framework for Agenda 21 at county/city level. The National Spatial Strategy is developing a long-term framework for achieving balanced regional development. These strategies, at both national and county level, will require changes in decision-making processes in order to be able to deliver effective solutions to current problems. In the area of transport, for example, which is one of the keys to more efficient resource use, some control over decision-making will have to be invested at local and regional level to ensure that public transport options are fully explored and utilised.

The emergence of area-based local development partnership structures has taken place in the context of a growing realisation globally, nationally and locally that to be sustainable, development should bring about not only an improvement in social and physical conditions but must also contribute to an improvement in the capacity of people and communities to control and sustain those conditions.

Good decision-making

T H E M E

Principle 12:

Stakeholder participation should be promoted at all levels of decision-making

Significance, meaning, justification

Progress towards sustainable development requires co-operation and consensus and the participation of all actors in society, including civil society. Without such active involvement it will not be possible to bring about the kinds of societal change needed to make a real difference. The participation of citizens in decision-making is needed to ensure that social and environmental, as well as economic, dimensions are included in the process.

Involvement in decision-making will increase the level of awareness and thus understanding. Better understanding leads to action, at individual and corporate level, to bring about lifestyle changes – in respect of more efficient use of resources and conservation of heritage. Hence participation by stakeholders is an integral part of the process of sustainable development. Partnership is a mechanism for participation of all stakeholders in decisions that affect quality of life. It involves a commitment to establishing trust, sharing expertise and working towards consensus. Stakeholder participation and responsibility is important at all levels of government and governance, from global through national to local. At global level, the Rio process marked the beginnings of stakeholder participation. The European Union's Fifth Environmental Action Programme, *Towards Sustainability*, led to the establishment of multi-stakeholder forums to follow through with actions to implement the programme. It is now accepted that citizen participation in local development is the key to equality, inclusiveness and sustainability.

Relevance to Ireland

In Ireland, stakeholder participation in the form of Social Partnership and the national partnership agreements has been an important part of national policy development over recent decades. As the process has developed, the partnerships have been broadened to include those traditionally excluded from involvement in decision-making. The challenge now is to move towards real participation and to support the participation of those traditionally excluded to ensure that it will bring about societal change.

The remit of the local government system in Ireland is to deliver a range of services to the community that it serves, through a democratic system of locally elected councillors. However, it is increasingly recognised that development is a multi-dimensional process incorporating economic, social and environmental objectives, which can only be successfully delivered through direct participative governance and cross-sectoral partnerships. Traditionally, the local government system engaged citizens only in limited passive participation. The scope for engagement in the processes of local government and governance has been significantly extended through partnership bodies and most recently through the establishment of County/City Development Boards which are an attempt to integrate local government and local development structures and to enhance participative democracy.

NA PRIONSABAIL

D'FHORBHAIRT INBHUANAITHE

COMHAR

AN PHÁIRTÍOCHT
FORBARTHA
INMHARTHANA
NÁISIÚNTA

COMHAR

AN PHÁIRTÍOCHT

FORBARTHA

INMHARTHANA

NÁISIÚNTA



Clár Ábhair

Réamhrá	2
Téamaí agus prionsabail	4
Na prionsabail	6

Na Prionsabail d'Fhorbairt Inbhuanaithe

Réamhrá

Bunaíodh Comhar, An Pháirtíocht Forbartha Inmharthana Náisiúnta, i 1999 is é mar aidhm aige an clár náisiúnta d'fhorbairt inbhuanaithe a chur chun cinn agus chun cur le bunú chomhthoil náisiúnta maidir leis an bpróiseas thar a bheith tábhachtach seo. Tá 25 comhalta rannpháirteach i gComhar agus iad ainmnithe ag raon leathan de pháirtithe leasmhara atá bainteach le earnálacha timpeallachta, pobail, reachtúla, gairmiúla agus eacnamaíochta. Is é atá ó Chomhar go mbeifí ag obair i gcomhpháirtíocht ionas go spreagfaí forbairt inbhuanaithe in eacnamaíocht agus i bpobal na hÉireann agus chun an Rialtas a chomhairliú ar bheartais a thacaíonn le forbairt inbhuanaithe agus a chuireann chun cinn é. Chun é sin a dhéanamh cheap comhaltaí Chomhar go raibh sé tábhachtach teacht ar aontú tuairime ar an gciall atá le forbairt inbhuanaithe agus go háirithe an coincheap a chur in oiriúint i modh praiticiúil don staid in Éirinn. Tá scóip na caipéise seo teoranta go dtí ráiteas prionsabal agus míniú maidir lena n-oiriúint d'Éirinn. Ní cuirtear san áireamh plean gníomhaíochta a d'éireodh as glacadh leis na prionsabail seo.

Níl sé ró-éasca sainmhíniú a thabhairt ar choincheap seo na forbartha inbhuanaithe. Is féidir é a áireamh mar phróiseas seachas mar rud ann féin, rud a bhíonn fuinniúil seachas a bheith ina stad. Formhór díobh siúd a bhíonn ag iarraidh forbairt inbhuanaithe a mhíniú is le foirmlíú Brundtland a thosaíonn siad amach “forbairt a mbíonn riachtanais láithreacha ag brath air ach nach gcuireann as d'ábaltacht na nglúine atá le teacht freastal ar a riachtanais sin.” I ndiaidh go leor díospóireachta cheap comhaltaí Chomhar gur cheart an fhoirmlíú seo a fhorbairt níos faide chun go mbeadh sé ag baint níos mó le hábhar agus go mbeadh sé níos praiticiúla agus ag díriú go soiléir ag na nithe is mó a bhí ag teastáil i gcomhthéacs Éireannach.

Mar gheall ar seo do bheartaigh Comhar forbairt a dhéanamh ar shraith prionsabal i gcomhair fhorbairt inbhuanaithe a bhféadfaí úsáid a bhaint astu chun a fháil amach an mbeadh beartais atá ann anois ná a bheidh ann amach anseo ag dul i dtreo na forbartha inbhuanaithe. I bhfocail eile is féidir na prionsabail seo a úsáid mar chaighdeán i gcomhair beartas.

Ó thús an phróisis bhí comhaltaí Chomhar ar aon aigne go gcaithfidh cosaint timpeallachta, forbairt eacnamaíochta agus forbairt shóisialta a bheith san áireamh i bhforbairt inbhuanaithe agus go ndéanfaí sin i mbealach lánpháirtithe. Próiseas is ea forbairt inbhuanaithe ina bhfuil trí chuspóir, a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag tacú le chéile, á n-áireamh ar chomhchéim. D'fhéadfadh gníomhartha, nach dtugann san áireamh an gá atá le cóimheá comhchuí idir na trí chuspóir,

an bonn a bhaint den gcóras iomlán, fiú má dhéantar dul chun cinn i ngné amháin. Chun forbairt inbhuanaithe a chur i gcrích tá gá le módh déanta cinní a bhfuil comhthoil mar bhonn aige agus ina mbíonn gach páirtí ar spéis leo é rannpháirteach ann. Mar sin, bhí ar na prionsabail a thug Comhar chun cinn na trí cinn de chuspóirí a chur san áireamh. Dá bhrí sin, níl dearcadh *a la carte* i leith na bprionsabal, oiriúnach. Caithfear iad go léir a áireamh, ceann ar cheann.

Ghlac Comhar modh oibre chuige atá bunaithe ar chreat ina dtugtar faoi thoisí éagsúla den fhorbairt inbhuanaithe a aithint seachas míniú docht daingean a thabhairt ar an gcoincheap. Cuirtear iad seo i bhfeidhm mar théamaí ina mbíonn prionsabail mar thoradh orthu. Rud cineál dírialta is ea idirdhealú na dtéamaí mar de réir mínithe, bíonn prionsabail éagsúla ag brath ar a chéile. Déantar díospóireacht ar gach prionsabal ar bhonn brí, céille agus cirt. Deintear mionscrudú ar cé chomh hoiriúnach is atá gach prionsabal i gcomhthéacs Éireannach. Cuireann na téamaí san áireamh na crainn taca inbhuanaithe traidisiúnta eacnamaíochta/sóisialta ach ag an am céanna aithnítear gur mar gheall ar uilechuimsitheacht thar aon rud eile é. Chuige seo cuirtear an timpeallacht san áireamh mar chuid riachtanach d'fhorbairt eacnamaíochta agus mar chuid den réimse soch-chultúrtha seachas mar ghné ann féin. Cuirtear san áireamh sa chreat seo rannpháirtíocht an tsaoránaigh mar ghné príomha sa ghluaiseacht i dtreo na hinbhuanaithe.

Is mar thoradh ar chuid mhaith díospóireachta agus cur agus cúiteamh ag Comhar atá na prionsabail atá aontaithe anseo. Gan aon dabht, san am atá le teacht athróidh na samplaí ar leith atá tugtha anseo de réir mar a athróidh na dúshláin agus de réir mar a thiocfaidh dúshláin nua chun cinn. Mar sin féin, ba cheart go bhfanadh an bhrí sna bunphrionsabail amach anseo de réir mar a théann Éirinn i dtreo na hinbhuanaitheachta. Táthar dóchasach go mbeidh an tsraith prionsabal comhaontaithe i dtreo fhorbairt inbhuanaithe atá san iarracht seo ina chúnadh do lucht déanta beartas agus dóibh seo atá páirteach in iarracht chun Éirinn a spreagadh chun dul i dtreo fhorbairt inbhuanaithe. Tá dúshláin mhóra le teacht ó thaobh forbartha agus cur i gcrích beartas i ngach réimse. Ceapann Comhar go bhfuil na prionsabail seo d'fhorbairt inbhuanaithe ina uirlis fóna chun na beartais sin a dhréachtadh.

Téamaí

Riachtanais dhaonna a shásamh trí úsáid éifeachtach ar acmhainní

Cothromas idir glúine

Meas ar lánpháirtiú éiceolaíochta agus ar bhithéagsúlacht

Cothromas idir tíortha agus réigiúin

Cothromas sóisialta

Meas ar oidhreacht/éagsúlacht chultúir

Dea-chinnteoireacht

Prionsabail

- 1 Ba cheart laghdú chomh mór agus is féidir a dhéanamh ar úsáid acmhainní nach féidir a athnuachan
- 2 Ba cheart laghdú chomh mór agus is féidir a dhéanamh ar úsáid shubstaintí dainséaracha/shubstaintí is cúis le truailliú agus ar dhramhaíl a chruthaítear; ba cheart go mbeadh bonn láidir ó thaobh na timpeallachta faoi bhainistiú dramhaíola
- 3 Ba cheart acmhainní is féidir a athnuachan a úsáid laistigh den chumas atá iontu athghiniúint a dhéanamh
- 4 Ba cheart caighdeán na n-acmhainní ithreach agus uisce a choimeád agus a fheabhasú
- 5 Ba cheart éagsúlacht an fhiadhúlra, na ngnáthóg agus na speiceas a choimeád agus a fheabhasú
- 6 Ba cheart an t-aer agus an t-atmaisféar a chosaint agus tionchar an duine ar an aeráid a laghdú chomh mór agus is féidir
- 7 Níor cheart go ndéanfadh forbairt ar acmhainneacht acmhainní i réigiún amháin an bonn a bhaint ón gcumas atá ag réigiúin eile a n-acmhainneacht féin a bhaint amach
- 8 Ba cheart uilechuimsitheacht shóisialta a chur chun cinn chun lena chinntiú go mbeadh caighdeán maith saoil ag cách
- 9 Braitheann forbairt inbhuanaithe ar chomhoibriú agus ar chomhréiteach idir stáit
- 10 Ba cheart ardchaighdeán na dtírdhreach, oidhreacht na timpeallachta atá cruthaithe ag an duine agus acmhainní cultúrtha agus stairiúla a choimeád agus a fheabhasú
- 11 Ba cheart cinnteoireacht a thiomnú go dtí an leibhéal cúf
- 12 Ba cheart rannpháirtíocht pháirtithe leasmhara a chur chun cinn go dtí gach leibhéal cinnteoireachta

T É A M A

Riachtanais dhaonna a shásamh trí úsáid éifeachtach ar acmhainní

Prionsabal 1:

Ba cheart laghdú chomh mór agus is féidir a dhéanamh ar úsáid acmhainní nach féidir a athnuachan

Brí, ciall, údar

Ba chóir gach acmhain a úsáid chun riachtanais dhaonna á shásamh ar mhódh chomh héifeachtach agus is féidir. Chun acmhainí a úsáid níos éifeachtaí tá sé riachtanach go ndéanfaí dul chun cinn maidir leis an dí-ábharú: i bhfocail eile, laghdú a dhéanamh ar an méid acmhainní a húsáidtear do gach aonad táirgíochta. Is ábhar díospóireachta é an méid dí-ábharaithe a bhíonn riachtanach; le rátaí atá molta ag titim i raon leathan idir 10% agus 90% d'úsáid reatha acmhainní. Thabharfadh leibhéil éifeachtacha úsáide cead do na glúine reatha chomh maith leis na glúine atá le teacht i dtíortha forbartha agus i dtíortha atá ag forbairt freastal ar a riachtanais agus caighdeán inghlactha maireachtála a bheith acu gan an bonn a bhaint ó acmhainn iompair na gcóras maireachtála.

Ní foláir acmhainní nach féidir a athnuachan, ar nós ola, miotail, agus ithreacha agus screamhuisce i roinnt mhaith cásanna, a úsáid go ffor-chúramach mar nach mbíonn siad ar fáil níos mó tar éis a n-ídithe, is é sin le rá nach ndéanann siad athnuachan mear a ndóthain chun a bheith ar fáil dár gclann agus do chlann ár gclainne. Dá bhrí sin, chun a bheith cinnte go mbeadh na glúine atá le teacht in ann freastal ar a riachtanais, caithfidimid deimhin a dhéanamh de go gcuirfidimid ar aghaidh chucu acmhainní riachtanacha nach féidir a athnuachan.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

Úsáideann Éirinn go leor acmhainní nach féidir a athnuachan, cuid acu atá ar fáil laistigh de dhlíne an Stáit, agus cuid mhaith a tugtar isteach ón iasacht. Tá táirgí ola an-tábhachtach sa chomhthéacs seo agus ar chuid de na nithe is mó atá i dtreis anseo tá polasaí iompair (taisteal príobháideach seachas taisteal poiblí, bóithre seachas iarnróid, agus brú tráchta agus na fadhbanna a ghabhann le ídiú breise ar hidreacarbón). Baintear úsáid fhorleathan as miotail sa ghnáthshaol agus sa phróiseas déantúsaíochta. Déantar cuid acu (leithéidí sinc agus luaidhe) a bhaint as mianaigh in Éirinn, tugtar isteach a bhformhór ó áiteanna eile. Arís, is é an toradh a bhíonn ar úsáid táirgí nach maireann ach tamall gearr, gan athúsáid ná athchúrsáil, go ndéantar ídiú mear ar acmhainní. Is féidir ithir agus screamhuisce a úsáid mar shamplaí breise d'acmhainní nach féidir a athnuachan. Is é a bhíonn mar thoradh ar ró-innilt in áiteanna áirithe, chomh maith le cleachtais talmhaíochta eile nach mbíonn aireach, go n-ídtéar an chré agus go gcailltear acmhainní luachmhara. Ar ídiú nó ar thruailliú screamhuisce d'fhéadfadh sé nach mbeadh sé ina uiscíoch torthúil go deo arís. Tá truailliú screamhuisce in Éirinn ina ábhar tromchúiseach in limistéir áirithe, ach go háirithe maidir le foinsí uisce do scéimeanna uisce le hól faoin tuath.

Úsáideann muid acmhainní ní hamháin ó Éirinn ach ó thíortha eile chomh maith. Tá sé riachtanach mar sin na riachtanais a bheidh ag glúine atá le teacht sna tíortha eile sin a chur san áireamh.

T É A M A

Riachtanais dhaonna a shásamh trí úsáid éifeachtach ar acmhainní

Prionsabal 2:

Ba cheart laghdú chomh mór agus is féidir a dhéanamh ar úsáid shubstaintí dainséaracha/shubstaintí is cúis le truailiú agus ar dhramhaíl a cruthaítear; ba cheart go mbeadh bonn láidir ó thaobh na timpeallachta faoi bhainistiú dramhaíola

Brí, ciall, údar


Braitheann leas leanúnach an duine ar an gcóras tacaíochta maireachtála ar an domhan a bheith ag obair go héifeachtach. Trí shreabhadh fuinnimh agus trí chúrsáil ábhar tugann an córas seo bia dúinn, cothaíonn sé torthúlacht na hithreach agus an uisce, cothaíonn sé cothromaíocht i measc gháis an atmasféir, cothaíonn sé aeráid dhomhanda agus soláthraíonn sé áilleacht nádúrtha agus an chastacht atá riachtanach chun go mbraithfeadh go leor daoine go maith iontu féin. Cuireann gníomhartha san am a caitheadh nó san am i láthair, a bhfuil baint acu le tionsclaíocht, talmhaíocht, iompar agus córais tís, substaintí ar fáil atá ró-thoirtiúil nó a bhfuil an iomarca nimhe iontu chun go dtógfadh na próisis tacaíochta maireachtála seo isteach iontu féin iad. Dá bhrí sin méadaíonn ábhair truailithe de réir a chéile san ithir, in uisce agus san aer, agus laghdaíonn siad éifeacht ár gcórais tacaíochta maireachtála. D'fhéadfadh impleachtaí an-thromchúiseacha a bheith aige seo sa todhchaí; níl aon eolas cruinn againn go fóill ar an éifeacht atá ag go leor ábhar truailithe ar an timpeallacht ná ar ár sláinte. Dá bhrí sin ní mór dúinn cur chun oibre de réir an phrionsabail réamhchúraim agus laghdú chomh mór agus is féidir a dhéanamh ar shubstaintí truailithe agus substaintí atá oiriúnach don timpeallacht a fháil ina n-ionad agus teacht ar bhealaí chun glacadh le teicneolaíochtaí atá níos glaine nó a bhfuil a malairt ar fáil.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

In Éirinn na linne seo tá géarchéim romhainn amach maidir le bainistiú dramhaíola. Táthar tar éis dramhaíl chontúirteach (ar a n-áirítear substaintí atá thar a bheith tocsaineach) a chaitheamh isteach ar láithreáin líonta talún gan bearta leordhóthanacha sábháilteachta ná cuntais chearta a choimeád. Cé go n-aithnítear le tamall anuas go bhfuil gá le láithreáin líonta talún a bhfuil an innealtóireacht chúfí déanta orthu, is ar chaighdeán an-íseal a oibríodh láithreáin líonta talún san am a caitheadh agus bhí truailiú tocsaineach uisce dhromchla agus screamhuisce mar thoradh air sin, chomh maith le laghdú ar chaighdeán aeir. D'fhág gníomhaíocht tionscaláíochta san am a caitheadh, mianadóireacht go háirithe, talamh truailithe againn a chruthaíonn fadhbanna tromchúiseacha leanúnacha ar nós draenáil mianraí aigéadacha.

Caithfidh go dtáirgíonn ídiú ard ar ábhar sa sochaí, in éagmais athúsáide agus athchúrsála éifeachtaí, cuid mhór d'ábhar breise a measadh mar “dhramhaíl” go dtí seo. Facthas bainistiú dramhaíola mar rud atá scartha amach ó thionscail tháirgiúlachta. Dearcadh é seo atá lochtach ó bhonn agus a chaithfear a athrú má táimid chun dul i dtreo na hinmharthanachta. Is féidir go leor den dramaíol a úsáid mar acmhainn, mar shampla, chun leictreachas a ghiniúint. Ní mór feabhas as cuimse a chur ar shaoráidí athúsáide agus athchúrsála agus ba cheart ábhar a cuirtear go dtí láithreáin líonta talún agus cóireála teasa a choimeád chomh beag agus is féidir. Is í an sprioc bhunúsach go ndéanfaí béim i bhfad níos mó a chur ar an tábhacht atá le laghdú a dhéanamh ar an dramhaíl a táirgtear, ar athúsáid agus athchúrsáil agus tábhacht dhiúscairt dramhaíola.

Tá plean náisiúnta anois ann chun bainistiú a dhéanamh ar dhramhaíl chontúirteach agus ba cheart dúinn a bheith ag dul i dtreo staid ina mbeadh táirgeadh dramhaíola den sórt sin chomh beag agus is féidir mar go mbaineann baol áirithe don timpeallacht leis na modhanna diúscartha atá ar fáil dúinn, agus dá thoradh sin baol áirithe do leas an duine.



Cothromas idir glúine

T É A M A

Prionsabal 3:

Ba cheart acmhainní is féidir a athnuachan a úsáid laistigh den chumas atá iontu athghiniúint a dhéanamh

Brí, ciall, údar

Tugann acmhainní is féidir a athnuachan, ar nós táirgí talmhaíochta, táirgí dobharchultúir, adhmaid agus acmhainní fiadhúlra, an deis dúinn barr a thógáil gan an stoc a chur i mbaol. Dá bhrí sin, bliain i ndiaidh bliana is féidir linn cuid den acmhainn a thógáil dúinn féin, gan laghdú a dhéanamh ar an teacht iomlán a bhíonn air. Bíonn fadhb ann má thógaimid barr atá ró-mhór. Mar shampla, má thógaimid le líonta in aon bhliain amháin níos mó trosc ná mar a cuirtear isteach sa phobal trí fhás mhion-iasc ina n-éisc óga (athghiniúint), rachaidh pobal na dtrosc ar gcúl dá bhrí sin agus laghdaíonn an barr a bhíonn ar fáil dúinn sa todhchaí. Faoi na coinníollacha seo má leanaimid orainn ag tógáil bairr mhóir, téann an pobal i laghad chomh mór sin go mb'fhéidir go rachadh an speiceas i léig ar fad nó go mbíonn dlús an phobail chomh híseal sin go mbíonn ar an iascach dúnadh ar fad. Sa tslí seo caillimid acmhainn agus bainimid an t-acmhainn sin ó glúine atá le teacht. Ar fud an domhain ar fad faoi na coinníollacha láithreacha a bhaineann le cúrsaí eacnamaíochta agus soisialta tá dainséar ann go mbainimid an iomarca d'acmhainní ar féidir athnuachan a dhéanamh orthu: adhmaid, trosc, bradán, cloicheán, míol mór, turtar, éanlaith seilge agus tá an baol ann go n-ídeofar go leor acmhainní eile is féidir a athnuachan: is léir nach bhfuil an úsáid a bhainimid as na hacmhainní seo lastigh den chumas atá iontu athghiniúint a dhéanamh. Dá bhrí sin tá gá le hatheagar a chur ar an modh a mbainimid fóimhar na n-acmhainní seo, go mbíonn an fóimhar lastigh de theorainneacha athghiniúna agus go gcoimeádtar stoic do na glúine atá ann i láthair na huaire agus na glúine atá le teacht.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

Tá go leor gnéithe ar a haire ag Éirinn maidir leis an úsáid a bhainimid as acmhainní is féidir a athnuachan, i dtaca leis na speicis atá in Éirinn féin, mar aon leo sin a bhaintear in áiteanna eile agus a ídítear in Éirinn. Tá laghduithe móra ar ghabhálacha éisc cláraithe le tamall maith de bhlianta taifeadta ag iascach mara na hÉireann mar go bhfuil laghdú an-mhór déanta ar stoc éisc agus ar éagsúlacht chineálacha éisc mar gheall ar ró-iascaireacht: tá géarchéim bainte amach againn. Tá curtha as go mór do speicis a bhfuil luach mór orthu ar nós an bhradáin. Tá gá le laghdú a dhéanamh ar an mbarr a thógtar agus chomh maith leis sin taighde breise a dhéanamh chun eolas leordhóthanach a chur ar fáil le haghaidh pleanála amach anseo, i dtreo is nach gcuirfear tuilleadh speiceas i mbaol.

Tá portaigh agus criathraigh i mbaol mar gheall ar bhaint mhóna, ar choilltí agus an iomarca caorach bheith orthu. Ní foláir na gníomhaíochtaí seo a smachtú agus a rialú chun caomhnú a dhéanamh ar chineálacha tábhachtacha portach sa todhchaí.

Is de thoradh ar bhainistiú foraoise ar a n-áirítear glanleagan crann, creimeadh ithreach agus gan athphlandáil a dhéanamh ina dhiaidh sin cuid mhaith den adhmaid a úsáidtear ar fud an domhain agus a allmhairítear go hÉirinn. Cé go bhfuil bearta idirnáisiúnta i bhfeidhm chun cur i gcoinne a leithéid de bhainistiú foraoise, ní ó fhoraoiseacha a bhfuil dea-bhainistíocht orthu an t-adhmaid ar fad atá ar díol in Éirinn. Dá bhrí sin tá tionchar ag ár rianú éiceolaíochta ar thíortha eile. Baintear an ceart de na glúine atá rochtain a bheith acu ar na hacmhainní seo, dá bhrí sin.



Cothromas idir glúine

T É A M A

Prionsabal 4:

Ba cheart caighdeán na n-acmhainní ithreach agus uisce a choimeád agus a fheabhasú

Brí, ciall, údar

Dhá acmhainn atá thar a bheith riachtanach chun go mairfeadh an duine is ea ithreacha torthúla agus uisce glan. Dá bhrí sin tá sé thar a bheith tábhachtach go gcuirimid, ar a laghad ar bith, an fhairsinge ithreach thorthúla agus uisce glan atá againn faoi láthair ar aghaidh go dtí na glúine atá le teacht. De réir mar a théann an daonra daonna domhanda i méid, leanfaidh an t-éileamh atá ar na hacmhainní sin ag fás. Ar scála domhanda tá ithreacha torthúla á gcailliúint mar gheall ar chleachtais bhainistíochta nach bhfuil ar fónamh. Is fásaigh a bhíonn mar thoradh ar ró-innilt i dtailte breachtúra, nochtann glanleagan crann i bhfhoraíseacha an ithir don sion a mbíonn creimeadh agus athruithe ceimiceacha go minic mar thoradh air, rud a dhéanann na hithreacha neamh-thorthúil. D'fhéadfadh feirmeoireacht ró-dhian, ach go háirithe nuair a cuirtear an iomarca leasuithe ceimiceacha agus lotnaidicídí amach, torthúlacht fhadtréimhseach na hithreach a laghdú. Ar scála domhanda tugann meastacháin áirithe le fios go bhfuil an domhan ag cailleadh 20% d'ithreacha torthúla gach deich mbliana. Tá acmhainní uisce á n-ídiú chomh maith mar gheall ar ró-úsáid agus truailliú. Toisc an t-éileamh a bheith níos mó, bíonn mar thoradh air sin go dtógtar dambaí, le hiarmhairtí diúltacha chomh maith le dearfacha do phobail a mbíonn tionchar ag an damba orthu agus do phobail atá le sruth ó na dambaí sin. Úsáidtear screamhuisce i gcúrsaí talmhaíochta agus tionsclaíochta ar ráta i bhfad níos airde ná mar is féidir é a chur ar ais, sa tslí is go dtiteann an léibhéal sáithiúcháin, triomaíonn riasca agus tailte fliucha agus bíonn baol i bhfad níos mó ann go ndéanfaí creimeadh ar ithreacha. Toisc an daonra daonna a bheith ag fás, ní foláir dúinn torthúlacht na hithreach agus na n-acmhainní uisce atá ann faoi láthair a choimeád; in éineacht leis sin beidh orainn méadú a dhéanamh ar an bhfáil atá ar na hacmhainní, fad is atáimid ag coimeád na bithéagsúlachta ag an am céanna.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

Cé go bhfuil an t-ádh linn go bhfuil aeráid againn a bhfuil claonadh inti gan coinníollacha ró-thirime ná titim uisce ró-dhian a thabhairt dúinn agus go bhfuil ithreacha againn atá torthúil agus saibhir le cré, níl sé de cheart againn neamhaird a dhéanamh d'acmhainní ithreach agus uisce. Tártaíonn creimeadh ithreach, mar shampla, de dheasca ró-innilte. Is féidir torthúlacht na n-ithreacha a laghdú tríd an iomarca úsáide a bhaint as leasuithe ceimiceacha agus lotnaidicídí. Cheana féin tá an iomarca fosfair i gcuid de na hithreacha in Éirinn. Is féidir le dianfheirmeoireacht mheicnithe ina mbaintear úsáid ar innealra trom an chré a bhrú, rud a laghdaíonn torthúlacht. Ní mór athbhreithniú a dhéanamh go leanúnach ar chleachtais feirmeoireachta i dtaca leis an tionchar a bhíonn acu ar mhaireachtáil fhadtréimhseach agus torthúlacht ár n-ithreacha. Ní mór bainistiú cúramach a dhéanamh ar ár n-acmhainní uisce. Cé go maireann an chuid is mó dár ndaonra san oirthear tá an chuid is fearr dár n-acmhainní suite i dtreo an iarthair. Taispeáineann monatóireacht ar aibhneacha agus lochanna ar feadh tréimse ama go bhfuil laghdú ag teacht ar dhroch-thruailliú ach go bhfuil truailliú ag méadú ina iomláine. I measc na bhfoinsí truaillithe tá séarachas, droch-bhainistiú ar chlóis feirme agus cleachtais neamhshásúla maidir le leathadh leasuithe orgánacha agus tionsclaíocht áirithe. Tá na cúinsí seo, chomh maith le, mar shampla, láithreáin líonta talún a bhfuil droch-innealtóireacht orthu, áiseanna stórála uisce nach bhfuil sásúil agus dabhcha séarachais nach bhfuil ag obair ró-mhaith, le chéile ina gcúiseanna go bhfuil laghdú trom tagtha ar chaighdeán an screamhuisce in áiteanna. Ní mór dúinn beart a dhéanamh chun nach dtiocfaidh meath níos mó ar chaighdeán agus an nós a chur ar gcúl sa treo is, in imeacht na mblianta, go mbeimid ábalta uisce, ar chaighdeán a chothaíonn a riachtanais, a chur ar aghaidh go dtí na glúine atá le teacht.

Meas ar lánpháirtiú éiceolaíochta agus ar bhithéagsúlacht

T É A M A

Prionsabal 5:

Ba cheart éagsúlacht an fhiadhúlra, na ngnáthóg agus na speiceas a choimeád agus a fheabhasú

Brí, ciall, údar

Tá córais éiceolaíochta ina mbonn agus ina réamhchoinníoll don bheatha ar fad. Ba cheart an luach intreach atá in éagsúlacht na speiceas agus na ngnáthóg a aithint. Tá sé ina réamhchoinníoll i gcomhair leanúnacht na gcóras atá ina mbeatha go ndéanfaí cothabháil ar bhithéagsúlacht. Fadhb thromchúiseach is ea cailleadh na bithéagsúlachta ar leibhéal domhanda. Braitheann coimeád na ngás atmaisféarach (mar shampla ocsaigin a choimeád ag leibhéal ard, dé-ocsaíd charbóin a choimeád ag leibhéal íséal), caomhnú thorthúlacht na hithreach agus an uisce, seachaint chomhchruinnithe tocsaineacha d'ábhair truailithe agus tocsainí a thárlaíonn go nádúrtha, go léir ar chúrsaí bhithgheoiceimiceach, ar a n-áirítear meascán de phróisis geolaíochta agus éiceolaíochta. Taispeáineann taighde go n-oibríonn na próisis éiceolaíochta seo i bhfad níos éifeachtaí i bpobail ina bhfuil saibhreas speiceas ach tá cuid mhaith bearnaí inár n-eolas.

In éineacht leis an luach intreach atá in éagsúlacht mhór speiceas agus gnáthóg, tá buanna suntasacha eile ag pobail bhithéolaíochta ar nós cosaint ar sholáthairtí uisce, bia a chur ar fáil dúinn, plandaí agus foinsí do dhrugaí nua agus speicis gairneoireachta. Ar bhonn eacnamaíochta tugann eolaíocht géinbhuanithe deiseanna d'fhorbairt bharr, drugaí agus amhábharr nua. Tá an bhithéagsúlacht agus meas ar an nádúr i gcruthanna éagsúla lárnach do chaighdeán maireachtála an chine daonna: is acmhainní tábhachtacha aestéitiúla agus taitneamhachta iad gnáthóga agus tírdhreacha atá saibhir le speicis.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

Tá éagsúlacht shaibhir ghnáthóg agus speiceas in Éirinn. Chun an cailleadh atá fulangtha a stad agus chun an éagsúlacht sin a choimeád ní foláir dul i mbun gnímh chun a chinntiú go bhfuil raon agus líon dóthanach de láithreáin agus de speicis curtha san áireamh chun iad a chosaint ó ghníomhaíocht fhorbartha nach bhfuil inbhuanaithe (is é sin aon ghníomhaíocht a bhainfeadh an bonn ó chaomhnú gnáthóg nó speiceas). Tá cailleadh gnáthóg, truailiú agus speicis a thugtar isteach ar na baoil is mó don bhithéagsúlacht in Éirinn. Cúis thromchúiseach eile is ea an t-easpa sonraí atá ann maidir le gach grúpa plandaí agus ainmhithe. Ar na gnáthóga a bhfuil cosaint ag teastáil uathu tá coillearnaigh (dhúchasacha) agus fála sceaigh, portaigh agus criathraigh, eiscir, turlaigh, gnáthóga fionnuisce agus gnáthóga cósta agus mara. Ní mór dúinn deireadh a chur le gach foinse truailithe don talamh, don fharraige agus don aer a bhaineann an bonn ó acmhainn iompair na gcóras atá beo agus a chinntiú nach ndéanann ualaigh ábhair cothaithe agus truailithe i sruthchúrsaí díobháil don bhithéagsúlacht. Tá gá le brostú a dhéanamh ar phróiseas bhainistithe fhollasaigh inbhuanaithe ar láithreáin agus ar speicis ainmnithe agus iachall a chur ar gach aon fhorbairt déanamh de réir treoirilínte pleanála; áirithe anseo bheadh rialú agus smachtú dian ar ghníomhaíocht draenála agus eastósctha chun díobháil do phortaigh, do chriathraigh, d'eiscir, do thurlaigh agus do bhogaigh eile, chomh maith le gnáthóga cósta (ar a n-áirítear réileáin láibe ag inbhir, dumhcha gainimhe, machairí agus gnáthóga eile atá leochailleadh) a sheachaint. Ina theannta sin ba cheart treoracha a fhorbairt do ghairmeacha tábhachtacha agus oideachas éiceolaíochta a thabhairt isteach i ngach cineál oideachais agus oiliúna.

TÉAMA

Cothromas idir tíortha agus réigiúin

Prionsabal 6:

Ba cheart an t-aer agus an t-atmaisféar a chosaint agus tionchar an duine ar an aeráid a laghdú chomh mór agus is féidir

Brí, ciall, údar

Tá an córas a choimeádann an dé sa bheatha ar domhan ag oibriú ag scála domhanda. D'fhéadfadh polasaithe i bpáirt amháin den domhan tionchar bheith acu ar an domhan ar fad nó ar chuid de. Dá bhrí sin is gá a chinntiú nach mbíonn tionchar diúltach ar stáit eile ag polasaithe agus gníomhartha laistigh d'aon stát ar leith. Sampla príomhúil de sin is ea athrú aeráide de dheasca ghníomhartha an duine. Coimeádtar aeráid sa domhain seo mar thoradh ar gháis san atmaisféar a ghabhann go nádúrtha roinnt teasa gar do dhromchla an domhain, teas a bheadh gathaithe isteach sa spás mura mbeadh sin. Seo próiseas atá ag tarlú le mórán milliún bliain. Bíonn tionchar ag athruithe i gcomhshuíomh na ngás san atmaisféar ar an tslí a n-oibríonn an próiseas. Dá bhrí sin, méadaíonn astú gás ar nós dé-ocsaíd charbóin agus meatán (gáis cheaptha teasa), ar gníomhaíocht dhaonna is cúis leo, an méid teasa a gabhtar in aice le dhromchla an domhain agus dá bhrí sin éiríonn an dhromchla níos teo. Tá sé de chumas ag astuithe ó stát amháin cur isteach ar gach stát eile. Ní bheidh stáit, a dheineann bainistiú ar a gcuid astuithe sa tslí is nach gcuirtear isteach ar chothromaíocht na ngás cheaptha teasa, in ann sochar a bhaint as buntáistí na bpolasaithe sin mura ndéanann stáit eile bainistiú éifeachtach ar astuithe. Bíonn stáit, a bhfuil astuithe ísle acu mar thoradh ar leibhéal íseal tionsclaíochta, suite go minic i limistéir den domhan ina mbítear ag súil go mbeadh iarmhairtí mhóra ag mionathruithe aeráide orthu, ar nós gaineamhlaigh a bheith ag teacht i ngaobhar dóibh nó laghdú ar acmhainní uisce atá gann cheana féin. Bainfidh méadú teochta ar domhan le méadú domhanda i leibhéal na farraige, rud a bhféadfadh cúinsí tubaisteacha bheith aige do dhaoine atá ina gcónaí ar oileáin atá déanta as coiréal agus ar cheantair ar ísleáin ar nós deilteanna. Ceaptar chomh maith go rachaidh méadú sa teocht i dtreo timthriall hidreolaíoch níos bríomhaire, le triomach níos déine agus/nó tuille i gceantair áirithe agus b'fhéidir go dtarlódh tarluithe níos déine titim bháistí. Chun cothromas idir-reigiúnach a bhaint amach, dá bhrí sin, tá sé riachtanach go mbeadh gach stát toilteanach agus sásta le feidhmiú pholasaithe chun bainistiú éifeachtach a dhéanamh ar gháis cheaptha teasa ag leibhéal gur dócha nach mbeidh siad ina gcúis le hathrú aeráide.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

Tá Straitéis Náisiúnta um Athrú Aeráide foilsithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann atá deartha chun leaghdú isteach agus amach le 20% a éileamh sna hastuithe atá ann faoi láthair. Níltear ró-shoiléir go fóill mar gheall ar thoradh na hidirbheartaíochta in Kyoto agus is dócha go gcuirfidh an tAontas Eorpach céimeanna i bhfeidhm a bheadh deartha chun laghdú a dhéanamh ar astuithe agus mar bhallstát beidh iachall ar Éirinn laghdú a dhéanamh ar astuithe. Is iad na príomhfhoinsí i láthair na huaire ná giniúint leictreachais (stáisiúin a bhfuil ola, gual agus móin á ndó iontu), iompar (eitleáin, gluaisteáin agus Feithicilí Troma Earraí ach go háirithe), talmhaíocht (meatán ó ainmhithe agus fuílligh orgánacha) agus teas tís (gual, ola agus gás). Chun laghdú suntasach a dhéanamh ar ár n-astuithe ní foláir d'Éirinn bearta a chur i gcrích chun go mbeadh tionchar nach beag acu ar ghníomhaíocht a bhaineann leis na mór-fhoinsí seo. Má theipeann ar chur i gcrích na mbearta sin beidh impleachtaí a d'fhéadfadh bheith an-tromchúiseach ann do dhaoine ar fud na hÉireann, ar a mbeidh méadú ar thuille, níos mó tarluithe a bhaineann le stoirmeacha agus an tionchar a bheidh ag titim bháistí níos airde sa gheimhreadh agus níos ísle sa samhradh, chomh maith leis an gcostas don eacnamaíocht as laghdú a dhéanamh ar astuithe sna glúine atá romhainn.

T É A M A

Cothromas idir tíortha agus réigiúin

Prionsabal 7:

Níor cheart go ndéanfadh forbairt ar acmhainneacht acmhainní i réigiún amháin an bonn a bhaint ón gcumas atá ag réigiúin eile a n-acmhainneacht féin a bhaint amach

Brí, ciall, údar

Níor cheart go ndéanfadh forbairt réigiúin amháin ar scála áitiúil, náisiúnta nó domhanda, an bonn a bhaint ó chumas réigiúin eile a n-acmhainneacht féin (i.e. úsáid a bhaint as lánacmhainn d'fhorbairt a eascraíonn as ioncam ó acmhainní nádúrtha, daonra, gníomhaíocht eacnamaíoch, caipiteal sóisialta agus suíomh). Ba cheart go gcuirfí san áireamh le linn gníomhaíochta ar chríocha i uachtar srutha na torthaí nach mbeadh coinne leo go minic ar chríocha le sruth síos (mar shampla an tionchar a bheadh ag ábhair thruaillithe ag gluaiseacht trí aibhneacha). Is féidir go mbeadh drochthionchar ag éifeacht carnach ghníomhaíocht eacnamaíoch i réigiún amháin ar réigiún eile (mar shampla báisteach aigéadach bheith ag tarlú i bhfad ó bhaile ón chéad fhoinsé truaillithe). D'fhéadfadh carnadh ábhar dramhaíola agus cleachtais neamhéifeachtacha i mbainistiú dramhaíola cur isteach ar chumas réigiúin eile dramhaíl a bhainistiú i modh inbhuanaithe. Cuirfidh truailliú ar fhoinsí uisce trí gníomhaíocht talmhaíochta nó gníomhaíocht uirbeach/tionsclaíochta agus úsáid mí-éifeachtach ar uisce (mar shampla trí ró-eastóscadh) isteach ar chumas cheantair eile laistigh de dhobharcheantar a n-acmhainneacht a bhaint amach. Nuair a athraítear réimsí móra d'fhoraois thropiciúil isteach ina dtailte féaraigh, mar shampla, ní hamháin go mbaineann sin an bonn ón mbithéagsúlacht ach chomh maith leis sin ón gcumas chun forbairt eacnamaíoch dhúchasach a dhéanamh a bhíonn bunaithe ar bhainistiú foraoise inbhuanaithe. Ní aithníonn truailliú aeir teorainneacha náisiúnta. Tionchair a ghintear i réigiúin áirithe d'fhéadfaidís cur isteach ar chinn eile trí dhíobháil a dhéanamh d'atmaisféar an domhain. Ar an leibhéal domhanda, tá tionchar díreach ag raon agus cineál chúrsaí forbartha in Éirinn agus i dtíortha agus réigiúin níos forbartha an Tuaiscirt (domhandú) ar chumas tíortha níos boichte a riachtanais féin a bhaint amach trí úsáid a bhaint as a n-acmhainní féin.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

D'fhéadfadh leibhéal forbartha reatha i réigiún Bhaile Átha Cliath ach go háirithe an bonn a bhaint ó chumas réigiúin eile a n-acmhainneacht a bhaint amach. Ag an am céanna is folasach iad iarmhairtí na forbartha míchuí i gceantair uirbeacha; brú méadaithe agus laghdú ar chaighdeán na beatha. Tá trácht ar bhóithre i gceantair uirbeacha ar an bhfoinsé truaillithe aeir is mó. Ar athrú go dtí modhanna iompair eile nach mbíonn an oiread truaillithe ag baint leo déanfar laghdú ar an tionchar carnach ar chaighdeán an aeir do gach réigiún.

In éagmais aon pholasaí a bheith ann maidir le bainistiú ar chriosanna cósta tá forbairt neamhoiriúnach ag cur as don acmhainneacht do ghníomhartha inbhuanaithe i gcriosanna cósta. Tá uiscebhealaí intíre ina n-acmhainn shuntasach. Is gá pleanáil atá bunaithe ar dhobharcheantair chun a chinntiú nach gcuireann úsáid acmhainní uisce intíre do aon gníomhaíocht amháin isteach ar fhorbairt ar a mhalairt de ghníomhaíochtaí a bhíonn níos inbhuanaithe.

Cothromas sóisialta

TÉAMA

Prionsabal 8:

Ba cheart uilechuimsitheacht shóisialta a chur chun cinn lena chinntiú go mbeadh caighdeán maith saoil ag cách

Brí, ciall, údar

Ba cheart do phleanáil don todhchaí díriú isteach ar na riachtanais a bhíonn ag cách, sa ghlúin seo agus sna ghlúine atá le teacht, caighdeán saoil a bhaint amach a sholáthraíonn nithe riachtanacha agus a thairgeann dínit. Tá gá le uilechuimsitheacht shóisialta agus comhionannas torthaí, ionas nach mbíonn aon idirdheighilt ina mbíonn earnálacha áirithe den phobal ar mhí-bhuntaíste agus nach mbíonn siad ábalta freastal ar a riachtanais féin dá bhrí sin. Tá go leor cúiseanna ann go bhfuil sé sin tábhachtach agus tá cur síos ar chuid acu anseo. Ar leibhéal an-phraiticiúil ní féidir pleanáil fhadtréimhseach a dhéanamh i sochaí a bhfuil an bochtanas go rábach ann; ar ndóigh is féidir a thuiscint go bhfuil daoine tógtha i bhfad níos mó lena riachtanais laethúla a shásamh in aon tslí atá ar fáil dhóibh. Tá difríochtaí suntasacha i measc grúpaí sóisialta agus i gcaighdeán saoil agus saibhris ag obair i gcoinne uilechuimsitheacht shóisialta. Gan uilechuimsitheacht shóisialta a bheith ann bíonn sé thar a bheith deacair straitéisí fadtréimhseacha a chur i gcrích. Tá gach duine, mar cheart daonna, i dteideal deis a fháil chun slí bheatha a bhaint amach agus caighdeán sásúil maireachtála a bhaint amach. Ach tá bacainní sóisialta agus eacnamúla ann ar cothromas den sórt sin a bhaint amach.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

In Éirinn féin tá samplaí ann de neamhchothromais i gcúrsaí saibhris agus i gcaighdeán saoil, i mbailte móra agus i gcathracha, i bpobail tuaithe agus i measc grúpaí sóisialta ar leithligh, ar nós an Lucht Siúil. Níl roinnt cothrom déanta ar na sochair a bhain leis an mborradh eacnamaíochta le déanaí agus tá sé seo ina chúis le méadú seachas laghdú a dhéanamh ar na difríochtaí sa chaighdeán saoil. Glactar le rochtain ar sheirbhísí bunúsacha, agus a bheith in ann riachtanais bhunúsacha a bhaint amach, a bheith mar chuid riachtanach i leith forbairt inbhuanaithe a bhaint amach. Mar sin féin, tá leibhéal ard comparáideach den neamhlitearthacht fheidhmiúil fós in Éirinn, le blianta beaga anuas tá méadú ag teacht ar líon na ndaoine gan dídean agus fadhbanna i leith rochtain ar chóiríocht agus ar sheirbhísí, ach go háirithe acu seo nach bhfuil chomh maith sin as. Téann na míchothromais seo i gcoinne uilechuimsitheacht shóisialta agus cruthaíonn siad fadhbanna ar gá aghaidh a thabhairt orthu laistigh de straitéis leathan ionas go ngluaisfidh Éirinn i dtreo na hinbhuanaitheachta. Ní foláir na constaicí atá i gcoinne forbairt agus rannpháirtíocht inbhuanaithe a aithint agus fáil réidh leo chomh fada agus is féidir sin.

Cothromas sóisialta

TÉAMA

Prionsabal 9:

Braitheann forbairt inbhuanaithe ar chomhoibriú agus ar chomhréiteach idir stáit

Brí, ciall, údar

Bíonn bacainní eacnamúla i bhfeidhm ar scála náisiúnta agus é mar thoradh orthu go mbíonn eisiámh leanúnach agus méadú ar mhíchothramas idir shuibhreas na dtíortha saibhre agus na dtíortha bochta. Mura ndéanfar na difríochtaí seo a laghdú cuirfidh siad as d'iarrachtaí chun an leibhéal riachtanach comhoibríthe agus comhréitigh ar bhonn idirnáisiúnta a bhaint amach má táimid le dul i dtreo na inbhuanaitheachta ar scála domhanda. Caithfidh comhaontuithe trádála idirnáisiúnta na tionchair leathana atá ag domhandú ar an sochaí agus ar an timpeallacht a chur san áireamh ina iomláine. Cuireann trádáil inbhuanaithe le cothromas shóisialta agus eacnamaíochta agus tacaíonn sé le rathúnas eacnamaíochta fad is a chosnaíonn sé an timpeallacht dhomhanda ina chuid éagsúlachtaí ar fad.

Tá go leor samplaí ann de chomhoibriú idirnáisiúnta maidir leis an timpeallacht. Tháinig siad sin chun cinn mar thoradh ar mhéadú ar an imní i dtaobh fadhbanna timpeallachta domhanda ar nós athrú aeráide agus leibhéal farraige a bheith ag éirí; ídiú ar an ózón; dífhoraísiú agus cailleadh bithéagsúlachta chomh maith lena aithint go mbíonn toisí tras-teorainneacha ag go leor gnéithe den timpeallacht. Tá truailliú aeir tras-teorainneach, truailliú in aibhneacha móra ar nós na Réine, trácht idirnáisiúnta i bhfuílligh tocsaineacha agus ainmhithe atá gann agus éifeachtaí leathana an truaillithe radaighníomhaigh ar an aer is ar an bhfarraige ina samplaí breise d'fhadhbanna idirnáisiúnta a bhfuil comhoibriú idirnáisiúnta riachtanach ina dtaobh má táthar lena leigheas.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

Tá eacnamaíocht agus trádáil oscailte leis an gcuid eile den domhan ar bun anseo in Éirinn. Dá bhrí sin tá an fhreagracht ann dul i ngleic le ceisteanna sóisialta agus eacnamaíochta a eascraíonn as comhaontuithe trádála domhanda. Ina measc sin tá bunú comhaontuithe trádála a chruthaíonn saibhreas agus dea-bhail breise i gcomhpháirtíochtaí trádála nach bhfuil chomh maith as agus a laghdaíonn cúinsí a mbíonn tionchair dhochracha acu ar an timpeallacht. Is féidir le hÉirinn bheith páirteach i bhforbairt pholasaithe nua, maidir le, mar shampla, rialacháin trádála agus faoiseamh ar fhíacha, trí bheith rannpháirteach go gníomhach i ndéanamh polasaithe ag an Aontas Eorpach agus sna Náisiúin Aontaithe agus tacaíocht a thabhairt do chomhaontuithe ar nós Rio (Clár Oibre don 21ú Aois) agus Prótocal Kyoto.

Tá ról ag Éirinn chomh maith i bhforbairt agus i bhfeidhmiú polasaí a bhaineann le, mar shampla, aigéadú, agus trádáil i bhfiadhúlra i mbaol agus is féidir léi gníomhú in éineacht le ballstáit eile an Aontais Eorpaigh i gcaomhnú fhiadhúlra agus ghnáthóga na hEorpa. Tá imní faoi leith ar mhuintir na hÉireann mar gheall ar thruailliú núicléach ar thimpeallachtaí mara, a bhaineann le hionad Sellafield sa Bhreatain Mhór: tá sé rí-shoiléir anseo go bhfuil gá le comhoibriú idirnáisiúnta. In éineacht leis sin, tá ról tábhachtach ag Eagraíochtaí Neamh-Rialtais sa chúram.

Tá cruthú shoचाí níos cothromaí ag leibhéal idirnáisiúnta chun leasa fadtréimhsigh na hÉireann, mar mura dtarlaíonn an t-athrú sin, beidh gluaiseacht i dtreo na hinbhuanaitheachta i bhfad níos deacra le baint amach.

TÉAMA

Meas ar oidhreacht/ éagsúlacht chultúir

Prionsabal 10:

Ba cheart ardchaighdeán na tírdhreach, oidhreacht na timpeallachta atá cruthaithe ag an duine agus acmhainní cultúrtha agus stairiúla a choimeád agus a fheabhasú

Brí, ciall, údar

Tugann oidhreacht agus cultúr cúnamh riachtanach do chaighdeán na beatha, tugann sé comhthéacs agus comhleanúnas don am i láthair a thugann aitheantas don mhéid atá tugtha dúinn ag an am a caitheadh. Ní mór bearta a ghlacadh chun éagsúlacht leanúnach teangacha agus cultúr ar fud an domhain a chinntiú; mar aon le ceol agus ealaín; chun bainistiú a dhéanamh ar an oidhreacht nádúrtha lena n-áirítear gnáthóga agus speicis, tírdhreacha speisialta agus limistéir ardtaitneamhachta; agus chun cosaint a dhéanamh ar chomhpháirteanna den oidhreacht seandálaíochta, stairiúil, ailtireachta, tionsclaíochta agus dhúchasach, chomh maith le béaloideas agus eitneolaíocht a chomhdhéanann ár n-oidhreacht chultúrtha.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

Tá oidhreacht láidir ilghnéitheach in Éirinn, a dtiteann cuid mhaith de faoi anáil na Comhairle Oidhreachta. Ba cheart go mbeadh tacaíocht leanúnach ann chun gach gné dár gcultúr oidhreachta a chur chun cinn lena n-áirítear an Ghaeilge, ceol, litríocht, béaloideas agus saol na ndaoine. Is cuid shuntasach den chultúr oidhreachta é cultúr an Lucht Siúil. Ag an am céanna ba cheart aitheantas a thabhairt don saibhreas cultúrtha atá i dteangacha agus i nósanna eile agus meas a bheith orthu as iad a bheith ag cur leis an athrú leanúnach atá ag teacht ar éagsúlacht chultúir.

Tá tírdhreach chuid mhaith d'Éireann múnlaíthe ag gníomhaíocht dhaonna leis na mílte bliain; dá bhrí sin ba cheart go gcumhdódh diminsean timpeallachta na hinbhuanaitheachta chomh maith an timpeallacht déanta ó láimh agus an oidhreacht chultúir fhoirgnithe. Tá lánpháirtiú an tírdhreacha bheo i mbaol ag na hathruithe atá ag tarlú go mear i roinnt earnálacha. In éagmais aon pholasaí soiléir a bheith ann i dtaca le bainistiú an tírdhreacha, d'fhéadfadh nach mbeadh a leithéid seo de ghníomhaíocht forbartha inbhuanaithe. Ta dréachtpholasaí i leith an tírdhreacha ullmhaithe ag an gComhairle Oidhreachta, a aithníonn go mbíonn an duine agus an tírdhreach ag brath ar a chéile. Is gá treoirlínte i dtaobh bhainistiú an tírdhreacha a bheith curtha san áireamh i gcúrsaí pleanála ar leibhéal náisiúnta, réigiúnach agus contae chun go ndéanfaí lánpháirtiú níos fearr ar pholasaithe earnálacha, le tagairt ar leith do lonnaitheacht, foraoiseacht, talmhaíocht, turasóireacht, caitheamh aimsire, an mhuir, fuinneamh, iompar agus tionscal.

Is cuid mhór d'oidhreacht na hÉireann í an timpeallacht fhoirgnithe. Tá polasaithe ann chun cosaint a dhéanamh ar fhoirgnimh stairiúla, tithe móra faoin tuath agus séadchomharthaí ailtireachta ach is gá feabhas agus méadú a chur ar na polasaithe d'fhonn is cosaint agus bainistiú a chinntiú in am a bhfuil athruithe ag tarlú go mear. Ach go háirithe, tá gá le heolas níos fearr a chur ar lámhdhéantúsáin fhoirgnithe, an ailtireacht dhúchasach agus an tseandálaíocht thionsclaíoch.

Dea-chinnteoireacht

T É A M A

Prionsabal 11:

Ba cheart cinnteoireacht a thiomnú go dtí an leibhéal cuí

Brí, ciall, údar

Cuireann Clár Oibre 21 agus Dearbhú Rio béim ar an tábhacht atá le rannpháirtíocht, ag aithint na tábhachta atá le heolas áitiúil/dúchasach. Aithníonn coimhdeacht, a chiallaíonn go ndéantar cinnteoireacht ag an leibhéal cuí is ísle, an tábhacht atá le húnéireacht na cinnteoireachta. Ciallaíonn sé sin go gcaithfear cinnteoireacht maidir le húsáid acmhainní, ar a n-áirítear polasaí eacnamaíochta agus sóisialta, a thógáil, chomh fada agus is féidir, ar an láthair ina bhfuil na hacmhainní seo le húsáid. Caithfear cuid den chinnteoireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal domhanda mar cuireann a dtagann ina ndiaidh isteach ar gach duine, mar shampla, comhaontuithe idirnáisiúnta ar Bhithéagsúlacht agus Athrú Aeráide. Tá baint ag cuid eile acu le heagrais ar nós an Aontais Eorpaigh: dá bhrí sin cinntíonn treoracha i leith pholasaí sóisialta, mar shampla, go gcaitear mar a chéile le saoránaigh is cuma cá bhfuil siad lonnaithe; trí threoracha Eorpacha tá cosaint á déanamh ar ghnáthóga agus ar speicis ar mhaithe le gach duine. Déantar cinnteoireacht eile ag leibhéal náisiúnta chun cosaint a dhéanamh ar leasanna náisiúnta, agus ar leibhéal réigiúnach agus áitiúil chun a chinntiú go mbeadh pobail rannpháirteach i bpolasaithe agus i ngníomhartha a mbíonn tionchar acu orthu.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

Go dtí le déanaí tá cineál rialtais anseo in Éirinn atá thar a bheith lárnach agus gan ach cumhacht an-theoranta ag rialtas áitiúil. Tá leasú reatha an rialtais áitiúil ag dul i ngleic leis an easnamh atá i gcinnteoireacht ar leibhéal áitiúil le scóp rannpháirtíochta a mhéadú trí Choistí Polasaí Straitéisigh agus Boird Forbartha Contae/Cathrach. Tá straitéisí fadtréimhseacha contae agus cathrach ag iarraidh dul i ngleic leis an speictream iomlán de ghníomhaíocht eacnamaíochta agus shóisialta i gcomhthéacs inbhuanaithe. Cuireann na Boird seo creat institiúideach ar fáil do Chlár Oibre 21 ag leibhéal contae/cathrach. Tá an Straitéis Spásúil Náisiúnta ag forbairt creata fhadtréimhsigh chun forbairt chothrom réigiúnach a bhaint amach. Beidh athruithe ar phróisís chinnteoireachta ag teastáil ó na straitéisí seo, ar leibhéal náisiúnta chomh maith le leibhéal áitiúil, chun réitigh éifeachtacha a fháil ar fhabhbanna reatha. I gcúrsaí iompair, mar shampla, atá riachtanach chun go n-úsáidfí acmhainní níos éifeachtaí, caithfear smacht éigin ar chinnteoireacht a fheidhmiú ar leibhéal áitiúil agus náisiúnta chun a chinntiú go scrúdófar agus go n-úsáidfear na roghanna atá ann ó thaobh iompair phoiblí de.

Tá struchtúir áitiúla forbartha comhpháirtíochta atá bunaithe ar limistéir tagtha chun cinn i gcomhthéacs na tuisceana a bheith ag méadú ar fud an domhain, go náisiúnta agus go háitiúil, le bheith inbhuanaithe, gur chóir go dtabharfadh an fhorbairt feabhas i gcoinníollacha sóisialta agus fisiciúla i gcrích, agus ní sin amháin ach go gcuirfidh sí le feabhas i gcumas na ndaoine agus na bpobal na coinníollacha sin a rialú agus a bhuanú.

Dea-chinnteoireacht

T É A M A

Prionsabal 12:

Ba cheart rannpháirtíocht pháirtithe leasmhara a chur chun cinn go dtí gach leibhéal cinnteoireachta

Brí, ciall, údar

Má táthar chun dul chun cinn a dhéanamh i dtreo na forbartha inbhuanaithe beidh comhoibriú agus comhthoil ag teastáil agus rannpháirtíocht na ngníomhaithe ar fad sa phobal, lena n-áirítear an sochaí chathartha. Gan a leithéid de rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach a bheith ann ní beifear in ann na hathruithe a dhéanamh ar an tsochaí atá riachtanach chun difríocht mhór a dhéanamh. Is gá rannpháirtíocht na saoránach i gcúrsaí cinnteoireachta lena chinntiú go mbíonn diminsin shóisialta agus timpeallachta, chomh maith le diminsin eacnamaíochta, san áireamh sa phróiseas.

Méadóidh rannpháirtíocht i gcinnteoireacht an leibhéil feasachta agus dá bhrí sin an leibhéal tuisceana. Bíonn gníomh mar thoradh ar thuiscint níos fearr, ag leibhéal aonair agus corparáideach, chun athruithe a dhéanamh ar mhodhanna saoil – i dtaca le húsáid níos éifeachtaí ar dhéanamh ar acmhainní agus caomhnú na hoidhreachta. Dá bhrí sin is cuid riachtanach do phróiseas na forbartha inbhuanaithe is ea rannpháirtíocht na bpáirtithe leasmhara. Modh is ea an chomhpháirtíocht chun go mbeadh na páirtithe leasmhara ar fad rannpháirteacht i gcinnteoireacht a mbíonn tionchar aici ar an gcaighdeán saoil. San áireamh ansin tá tiomantas d'iontaoibh a bhunú, saineolas a roinnt agus obair i dtreo na comhthola. Tá rannpháirtíocht agus freagracht na bpáirtithe leasmhara tábhachtach ag gach leibhéal rialtais agus rialaithe, ó leibhéal domhanda anuas go leibhéal náisiúnta agus áitiúil. Ar leibhéal domhanda, bhí próiseas Rio mar chomhartha do thús rannpháirtíocht na bpáirtithe leasmhara. Bhí Cúigíú Clár Gníomhartha Timpeallachta an Aontais Eorpaigh, *I dtreo na hInbhuanaitheachta*, ina chúis le bunú fóraim ina raibh go leor páirtithe leasmhara rannpháirteach agus a lean orthu le gníomhartha chun an clár a chur i bhfeidhm. Glactar leis anois go bhfuil rannpháirtíocht shaoránach i bhforbairtí áitiúla ina eochair do chomhionannas, d'uilechuimsitheacht agus d'inbhuanaitheacht.

Ábharthacht d'Éirinn

In Éirinn, cuid thábhachtach d'fhorbairt pholasaí náisiúnta le tamall maith de bhlianta is ea rannpháirtíocht na bpáirtithe leasmhara i bhfoirm na Comhpháirtíochta Sóisialta agus comhaontuithe na gcomhpháirtíochtaí náisiúnta. De réir mar atá forbairt tagtha ar an bpróiseas, tá na comhpháirtíochtaí leathnaithe chun go gcuirfí san áireamh iad siúd atá fágtha amach as a bheith rannpháirteach i gcinnteoireacht. Is é an dúshlán anois dul i dtreo rannpháirtíocht cheart agus tacú le rannpháirtíocht na ndaoine atá fágtha as an áireamh go traidisiúnta chun a chinntiú go mbeidh sé ina bhonn le hathrú sóisialta.

Tá sé mar chúram ar an gcóras rialtais áitiúil in Éirinn raon seirbhísí a chur ar fáil don phobal a mbíonn sé ag freastal air, trí chóras daonlathach ina ndéantar comhairleoirí a thoghadh go háitiúil. Mar sin féin, aithnítear de réir a chéile gur próiseas ilthoisiúil í an fhorbairt, ar a n-áirítear cuspóirí eacnamaíola, sóisialta agus timpeallachta, ach nach féidir a thabhairt i gcrích go rathúil trí rialú rannpháirteach díreach agus trí chomhpháirtíochtaí tras-earnalacha. Go traidisiúnta níor thug an córas rialtais áitiúil deis do shaoránaigh gabháil i mbun an phróisis ach amháin i rannpháirtíocht theoranta éighníomhach. Tá an scóip chun gabháil i mbun phróiseas an rialtais áitiúil agus an rialaithe leathnaithe go suntasach trí chomhlachtaí comhpháirtíochta agus níos déanaí ná sin trí bhunú Bhoird Forbartha Contae/Cathrach ar iarracht iad chun rialtas áitiúil agus struchtúir forbartha áitiúla a lánpháirtiú agus chun daonlathas rannpháirteach a mhéadú.