SUSTAINABILITY - RELATED STRATEGIES AND URBAN SETTLEMENTS

KEY CONCEPTS:

In this session, we will consider the following:

- Rural Development Programmes & Strategies
- Rural Development Programmes & Strategies in South Africa
- Classification of Urban Settlements
- Urban Hierarchy

X-PLANATION

SUSTAINABILITY - RELATED STRATEGIES

*Rural Development Programmes and Strategies*

Rural development programmes seek to alleviate rural poverty and create development in rural areas. Some of these programmes have been implemented in South Africa:

- primary education
- levels of employment
- access to basic needs services
- HIV/AIDS education (awareness stereotyping, abstinence)
- environmental sustainability (ecological conservation, sustainable eco-tourism)
- community-based development communication at grassroots level
- economic growth

**STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE AND INCREASE**
strategies to reduce

high death rates (low life expectancy, infant mortality)

high birth rates (HIV rates)

infected diseases

AIDS, cholera, TB etc.

Rural Development Strategies and Programmes Implemented in South Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy or programme</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Aims</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agenda 21</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Global plan of action to achieve sustainable development through international consensus on environment and development issues (including poverty, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation)</td>
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<td>Habitat Agenda</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Goals, principles, and commitments for sustainable human settlements (where all have adequate shelter, a healthy and safe environment, basic services, and productive and freely chosen employment)</td>
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<td>Millennium Development Goals (MDG's)</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Plan to support global development objectives with a commitment to eight development goals (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other disease; ensure environmental sustainability; develop global partnership for development)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI)</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Support of Agenda 21 and MDGs by outlining actions for further implementation of international agreements and including additional targets (e.g. sanitation)</td>
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Southern Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Partnership of Africa’s Development (NEPAD)</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Framework for economic growth and sustainable development in Africa and a pledge to eradicate poverty and put Africa on a path of sustainable development</td>
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<td>SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Strategic direction for programmes, policies and activities, and an agenda for social and economic policies</td>
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**South Africa (regional, local)**

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<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Programme</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Programme to improvement governance at local level and eradicate poverty through cross-sectional priority projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>National collective strategy to fight poverty, hunger, unemployment and lack of development in rural areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Growth Path (NGP)</td>
<td>2011/2012</td>
<td>National strategy for accelerated job creation through planning and infrastructural development</td>
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There are also a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that have programmes dedicated to rural development.

- A number of programmes to improve the lives of rural people
- The Integrated Rural Development Programme (launched in 2001) has a number of programmes to reduce poverty and improve the lives of rural communities

**Urban Settlements**

**Classification of Urban Settlements**

Classification of settlements are done according to size, number of people and functions. Urban settlements range in size from a large town to a megalopolis. Very important is that urban settlements have predominantly secondary, tertiary and quaternary activities.

Let’s re-emphasise the differences between rural and urban settlements.
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>URBAN</th>
<th>RURAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POPULATION SIZE</strong></td>
<td>Larger than rural settlements (bigger than a small village or town).</td>
<td>Smaller than urban settlements (smaller than a large town).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td>Secondary and tertiary (e.g. industrial, commercial and professional).</td>
<td>Primary (mostly agriculture, but also forestry, mining and fishing).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FUNCTIONS</strong></td>
<td>High and low order, with high order dominating (e.g. specialist shop such as a jeweller that lots of people use). Multi-functional.</td>
<td>Low order (e.g. corner café or general dealer used by a few people, but regularly). Uni-functional.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PATTERN</strong></td>
<td>Nucleated (buildings close together).</td>
<td>Nucleated (buildings close together) or dispersed (buildings far apart).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LAND USE</strong></td>
<td>Different land-use zones (e.g. commercial, residential, industrial, recreational and green belt).</td>
<td>Mainly used for farming, forestry and mining (all primary activities).</td>
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**Urban hierarchies**

Towns provide a **central place** in which the local population can obtain services such as shops, banks, schools, hospitals, libraries, theatres, police stations, government offices etc. These shops and services can be hierarchically organised, as depicted in the diagram below:
The diagram below explains the hierarchical ordering of settlements according to size and complexity.

There is a positive correlation between population size and the range of services offered by settlements. Higher order settlements offer a wider variety of services within a broader range, than lower order settlements.

Central place theory was formulated by Walter Christaller (1933). It attempts to explain the size and spacing of settlements and the services they offer, using the ideas in the diagram on the following page.
The following definitions / terminology is of immense importance:

- **The sphere of influence** is the area served by the settlement. It is the area from which people travel to use the settlement or the area to which bus services run and deliveries are made.
- **The hierarchy** of settlements extends from metropolitan areas, through cities, towns and villages and hamlets. The number of services offered and the sphere of influence increase up this hierarchy.
- Everyday items, such as newspapers, bread and groceries are called **low-order** or **convenience goods** and will be available in the smallest village. Customers travel a short distance to obtain these goods.
- **High-order** or **comparison goods** such as furniture, jewellery and motor cars are not regular family purchases, so traders who sell them can only operate profitably in towns which have a large population of potential customers.
- The minimum number required for the business to make a satisfactory profit, is called the **threshold population**.
- The maximum distance that customers are willing to travel to obtain a particular service is called the **range of the service**.
In 1967 Prof. R.J. Davies divided the 601 urban settlements in South Africa into eight hierarchical categories. Davies’ classification is based on the functional content of urban settlements. He gave each of the eight hierarchical categories a name:

Refer to the diagram below:

**Diagram explanation**

**Highest Order Central Place:**

1. Primate metropolitan area: Johannesburg-Pretoria conurbation
2. Major metropolitan area: Cape Town
3. Metropolitan area: Bloemfontein, Port Elizabeth; Pietermaritzburg
4. Major country town: Nelspruit, Grahamstown, Polokwane, Paarl
5. Country town: Upington, Harrismith, Ermelo
6. Minor country town: Bredasdorp, Moor River
7. Local service centre: Drummond, Wilderness
8. Low-order service centre: Matjiesfontein, Van Reenen, Clarens
X-AMPLE QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1:  (Source: DoE various papers)

Shortly after coming to power in 1994, the new government introduced the RDP. The RDP principles are still used as guidelines today, but the basis of the government’s economic strategy at present is called GEAR.

1.1 What does RDP stand for?  
1.2 Name the key principles of this programme.  
1.3 What does GEAR stand for?  
1.4 What are the key elements of this strategy?

QUESTION 2:  (Source: DoE various papers)

Study the following graph which shows the relationship between the number of shops and the size of the population.

2.1 How many shops are there in settlement A?  
2.2 What is the population of settlement B?  
2.3 Explain what is meant by the term “urban hierarchy”, using the relationship shown on the graph between the number of shops and the size of the population.
QUESTION 3:  (Source: DoE March 2010)

Refer to the map below

3.1 What factors determined the site of city A?  
3.2 Why did the main development of the city occur west of the river and not east of the river?  
3.3 What is the main function of city A?  Give reasons for your answer.  
3.4 What is the main function of city B?  Give a reason for your answer.  
3.5 Differentiate between Urban Growth and Urban Expansion.
4.1 What is the relationship between the two factors shown in the graph? (1x2) (2)
4.2 Name the two largest types of cities. (2x2) (4)
4.3 Explain the term range by comparing 3 and 5. (2x2) (4)
4.4 What is a settlement’s sphere of influence? (2x2) (4)
4.5 The distribution of urban settlements is often determined by the function of the town. List three main settlement functions and their respective patterns. (3x2) (6)
4.6 What is the opposite of urbanisation? (1x2) (2)