

CHAPTER 9: PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Achieving sustainability on the African continent.

Since the guiding sectoral plans of municipalities often don't take a community's individual view on sustainability into concern (as pointed out in section 8.1) it is advised that precinct plans for each community be compiled to act as supporting documents to the formulation of the sectoral plans. This will contribute to, and can form part of, the community participation phase of sectoral plan compilation. The phases for compiling sectoral plans currently provide for public participation and ensuring the community's participation will allow the community to plan for the community.

9.2 Adjusting the decision making framework

Town planning concerns the what, where and when of development and if desirability and need are the only guiding factors in decision making and project formulation in the IDP and supporting sectoral plans sustainability will never be achieved. While current statutory planning approaches is based on need and desirability it is imperative that sustainability also be incorporated into the decision making process, as is illustrated in **Figure 9.1**.

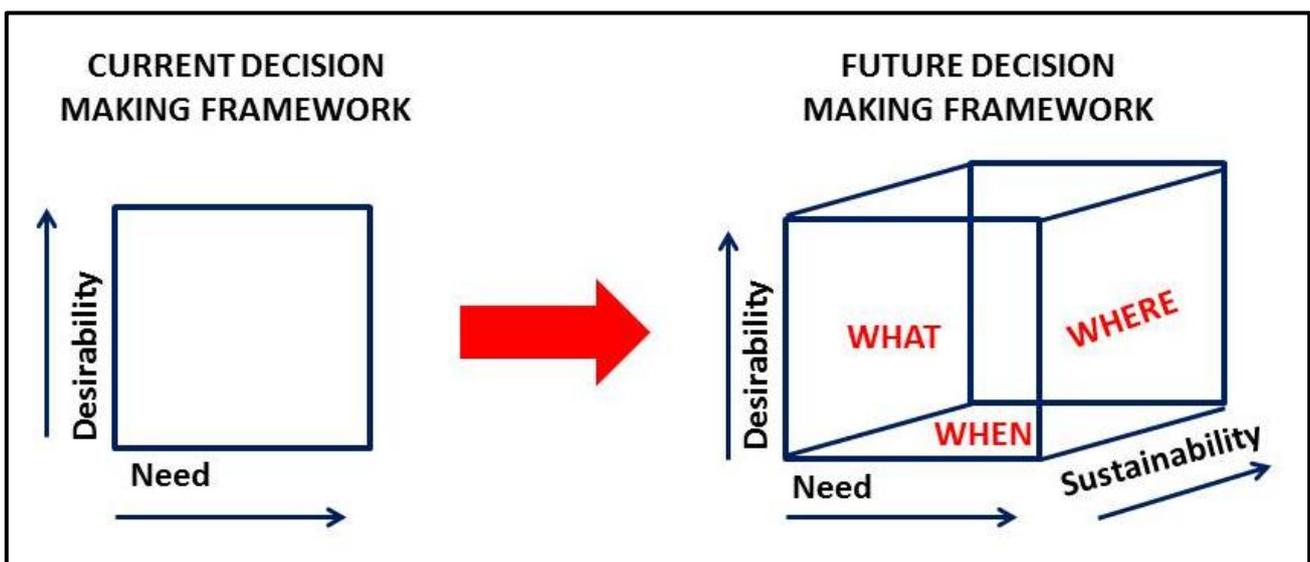


Figure 9.1: Decision making frameworks

Source: Own construction

In order to assure that sustainability is included as a decision making factor it is advised that a committee be established whose responsibility it is to ensure that all sector plans adhere to the objectives of sustainability and sustainable development.

9.3 Overcoming data limitations

The use of sustainability indicators to assess the sustainability performance of different spheres of government is a useful planning instrument for sustainable community development and planning, but can only be successfully utilised if the needed data is easily and accurately available. It is in nations', provinces' and municipalities' own best interest to ensure that data for indicators of sustainability is captured and made available. National census data collection sheets should also be revised to ensure that all information gathered is applicable.

9.4 Prioritising projects and strategies for sustainable community development

The identified priority projects resulting for the GAM assessment (section 7.5) should be seen as fundamental projects for achieving the goal set forth by the municipality and special precedence should be given to these projects to ensure their successful implementation.

The use of GAM can assist the prioritisation of sectoral plans' projects and strategies for sustainable community development. However this is not the only aspect of sectoral plans which prioritising sustainable community development is needed. The vision, mission and objectives of the IDP and sectoral plans should have sustainability, sustainable development and sustainable community development as guiding influence.

It is recommended that a GAM assessment of all sectoral plans should be conducted as part of the revision and compiling phase to ensure the alignment of objectives, plans, projects and strategies toward the predetermined goal of sustainable community development.

9.5 Best practice guidelines for sustainable community development

When planning for sustainable community planning it is recommended that the planning principles for sustainable community development (section 3.4) coupled with the functional elements of sustainable community development (section 4.1) be used as best practice guidelines. Both the planning principles and functional elements of sustainable community development are considered to be fundamental (section 6.7). These sustainable community development fundamentals help guide and align development to the goal of sustainable development.

It is also advised that the lessons learnt from the international and national case studies (section 5.5-5.6) be considered best practice guidelines. Learn from the mistakes of others and profit from their wisdom.

The assessment matrix approach as discussed in **Chapter 6** and implemented in **Chapter 7** is a valuable tool in planning for sustainable community development. It can be used to identify areas in which intervention is needed to improve sustainability within a region and to ensure that expenditure is directed accordingly.

It is recommended that all municipalities conduct a sustainability assessment as part of the compilation process of sectoral plans. This will ensure that sustainability is taken into consideration when planning for communities and not just the need and desirability of the development as it currently the practice. The areas for intervention highlighted through the assessment matrix can also be properly addressed when formulating plans and policies.

In order to prioritise projects for sustainability or sustainable development, a GAM approach may be used (as discussed and implemented in **Chapter 6** and **7**). The prioritisation of projects allows municipalities to see at a glance which projects are fundamental for sustainable community development.

Applying both the assessment matrix approach linked with MCA and the GAM assessment is recommended as a best practice guideline for achieving sustainable community development.