

Abaza, Hussein and Andrea Baranzini (eds.) 2002. Implementing sustainable development: Integrated assessment and participatory decision-making processes. Edward Elgar Publishing. Cheltenham, UK. Northampton, MA., USA. Cloth: Price: Unknown. XII + pp. 292 + index.

This volume concentrates on the concept of sustainable development with particular reference to the operationalization of the concept. The authors wrestle with the issues encountered when attempting to implement policies pertaining to sustainable development. Matters related to the assessment of policy impact of sustainable development are examined in great depth.

The authors essentially argue that development can only be sustainable if it embraces the ramifications of development on the environmental, social and economic dimensions of societies. Since the concept of sustainability is frequently pivoted on three areas: biophysical or environmental, social or (ethical) and economic (monetary), the contributors have honed in on these three criteria in their chapters.

The complexity and uncertainty of sustainable development decision-making process make this book quite vital to scholars, researchers and practioners of development. The holistic approach of addressing environmental issues gives a better perspective of what, why and how environmental problems can be address so as to provide benefits to the society. This book is a welcome addition to the literature on a participatory approach which seeks out a consensus in ensuring the maximization of inputs from concerned parties.

Valentine U. James
Fayetteville State University
Fayetteville, NC