

Securing sustainability & long-term impacts of RWHI through establishing partnership & networks



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What is sustainability?

- Sustainability is the **endurance of systems and processes**, encompassing the following pillars:

Ecology

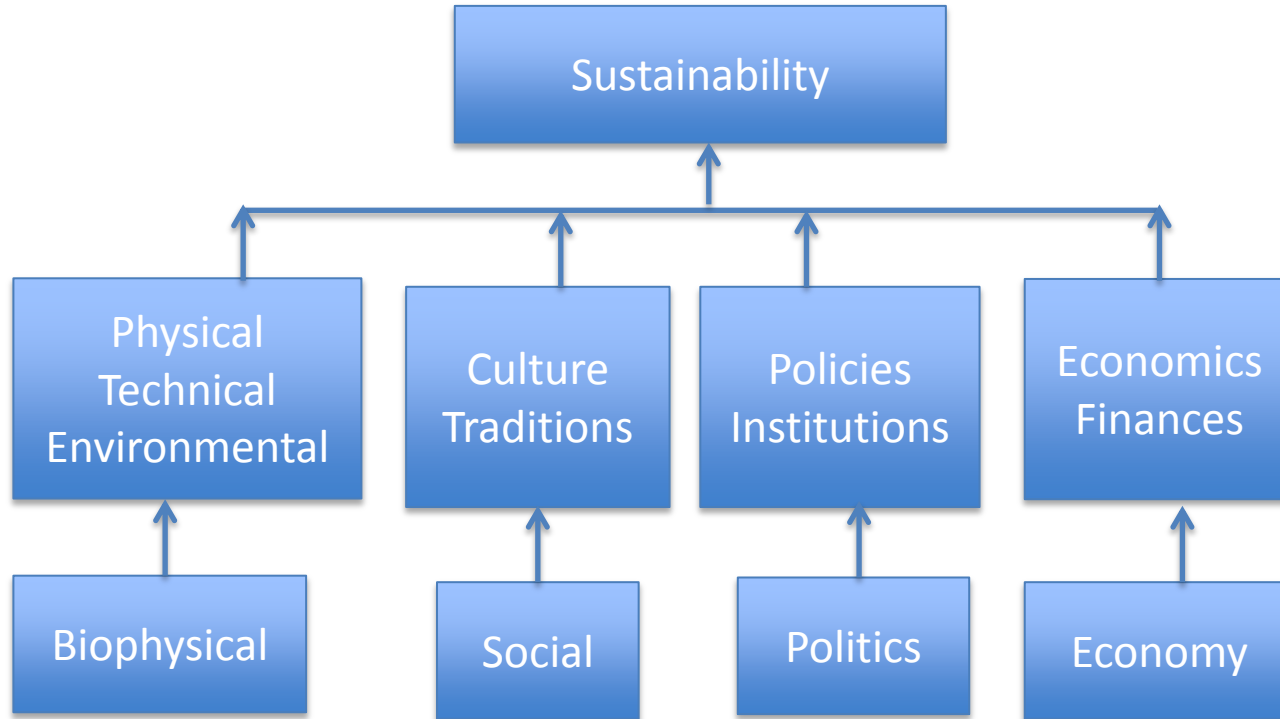
Culture of the people

Politics

Economics

- Sustainable development recognizes that growth must be both **inclusive** and **environmentally sound**

Factors Influencing Sustainability



Factors influencing endurance of systems & processes

Flow of information: Consistent and updated access locally, regionally and internationally.

- Achieved through: Network conferencing, websites and print media

Well trained extension personnel: able to incorporate sustainability factors in their messages and demos

i.e. Climate Smart farming

Low cost & scale-able technologies

Reinforcing Policies and by-laws: enactment and reinforcement



Plate I. Interview with Extension Personnel



The Southern & Eastern Africa Rainwater Network (SearNet)

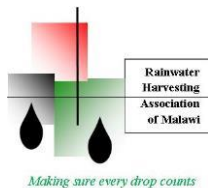
SearNet

- SearNet is a **Regional RWH Network** since 1998
- Housed at ICRAF Campus in Nairobi, Kenya
- First **sub-continental** RWH network
- Second known network on RWH at national level is ABCMAC of Brazil
- The newest network that connects RWH with Irrigation is AFRHINET
- SearNet has influenced formation of IRHA in Switzerland & RAIN in the Netherlands



Legally registered

Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia,
Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana,
Somalia, Malawi and Swaziland



Associates

Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ghana,
Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and
Swaziland



SearNet Mission and Vision

- The mission is to **Network** among its member Associations for the **Promotion** of RWH and Utilization
- The vision is to **improve the livelihoods** of people of the region through the contribution of sustainable management, **utilization of rainwater** and encouraging community based rainwater harvesting.

SearNet Objectives

- To form a mass movement of practitioners (An army of > 12000 individuals) able to promote RWH for domestic, agricultural, industrial and environmental uses within Eastern and Southern Africa

SearNet and Sustainability

SearNet is composed of **members from varied disciplines:**

- **Social Scientists:** Promote ownership & empowerment
- **Biophysical Scientists:** Promote sustainable technologies suitable for varied agro-ecological conditions
- **Economists:** Promote cost-effectiveness and return to investments for practitioners & beneficiaries
- **Planners:** Promote policy development, lobbying, awareness, reinforcement and mainstreaming of guidelines & laws to facilitate development.

Modus Operandi of SearNet

- **Create awareness on RWH at regional level:**
 - print & electronic media
 - E-newsletters
 - Websites
 - Posters, etc.
- **Share knowledge and experiences**
 - Annual SearNet conferences
- **Policy development/support**
 - Partnership with CSE-India, RAIN, IRCSA, IRHA & AFRHINET
- **Fundraising**
 - Solicit for funds to strengthen/facilitate network
- **Capacity Building of SearNet members**
 - Training in India & China
 - Facilitating members to participate in international forums



Plate II. RWH intervention in Tiigray, Ethiopia

Modus Operandi of National Networks

- **Create awareness on RWH at national level:**
ie. Newsletters, etc.
- **Policy development /support at national level**
 - Partnership with Govt., farmers, NGOs, Private sector and facilitate interaction
- **Fundraising**
 - Solicit for funds to facilitate/strengthen information sharing & best practices
- **Promote decentralized & participatory Water management Systems**
- **Capacity Building Build capacity of RWH practitioners**
 - Training on RWH technologies and developments
 - Train communities i.e.: leaders, artisans, extension agents & farmers.



Plate III. Interviewing an Ethiopian farmer

Achievements of SearNet

- **Eight National Associations registered**
- 100+ members sponsored for 2 months RWH course, China
- **Drafted RWH declarations** at the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW)
- Participated at the **World Water Week in Stockholm**, Sweden & won 5 consecutive awards
- **Trained over 300 artisans** some of whom have established innovative water reservoirs in Eastern Africa
- **Published more than 20 books** of > 20,000 copies; over 12 categories of posters etc.
- National Associations have **established their own websites**
- Some National associations have become independent & now employ staff.

Continued Visibility for SearNet

- Plans to **improve SearNet website**
- Create **platform for more discussion/interaction** amongst members
- **Rebrand SearNet Newsletters** and active membership contribution stimulated
- Implementation of **Communication tools**
- **International Conference** with SearNet and others partners
- If visibility and funds for network is strong, SearNet can continue to promote **exchange of knowledge and use of RWH**

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