



*A Sustainability Framework for
the Lake Superior Basin*

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Canada¹³¹

Overview



- DSC
- Current Sustainability Framework
 - *Description*
 - *Strengths and Limitations*
- Proposed Sustainability Framework
 - *Description*
 - *Anticipated benefits and challenges*
- Next Steps





Developing Sustainability Comm.

- Established in 1996 with other Standing Committees of the Lake Superior Binational Program:
 - *Reach beyond its charge of protecting and restoring habitat and reducing toxic chemicals in the basin and restore and preserve a range of social, economic, and environmental values (00)*
 - *Cultivate a society in which humans use but do not degrade the basin's natural resources (02)*
 - *Promote and nurture regional and community sustainability by capitalizing on the basin's rich natural and cultural heritage while ensuring our technologies, social institutions and activities "honor, support, and cooperate with nature's inherent and outstanding ability to sustain life" (08).*





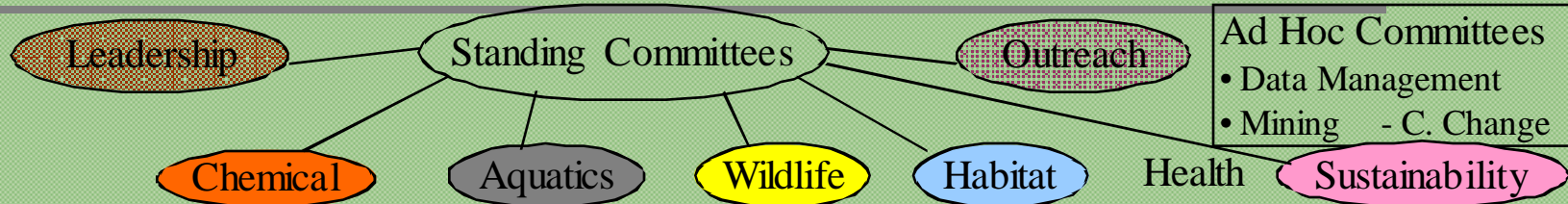
Developing Sustainability Comm.

- Four roles:
 - *Sustainability Architect*
 - *Project Manager*
 - *Educator*
 - *Communicator and Facilitator*
- Achievements:
 - *Implemented numerous projects (H₂O Conservation, Leadership School, LS Land Trust Partnership, Riparian Buffers, Hg reduction, etc.)*
 - *Summarized complex data (Decision Makers Survey, Baseline Study, CARD)*
 - *Reflected public input (objectives, indicator, TRACS, etc)*
 - *Informed projects initiated by other committees (Realtors, Green Challenge)*



A Vision for Lake Superior (92)
 General Objective (EPO 98)

A) LSBNP ZDDP (91) B) LSBNP Broader Ecosystem Program (91)



| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|----|----|---|--|
| Objectives (EPO 98) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sub-Objectives (98) | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Mix of Other Elements | 12 Principles (97 / 04) ZDDP Goals (91) Reduction List (00) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 Strategies • 198 Activities High / Medium Priority (05) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 Additional Strategies • Numerous Activities | Consolidation + Mission (06) GLFC Fish Community 1 Overall Objectives +10 Sub-Objectives (03) | | | 7 Habitat & Wildlife Principles (05) 10 Ecosystem Strategic Outcomes (03) 24 Goals (07) 35 Sub-Goals (07) | 5 DSC's LaMP Sustainability Principles (02) |
| Indicators (98 / 99) | 6 | 5 | 16 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| Sub-Indicators | 38 | 51 | 39 | 18 | 18 | 45 |



Evolving Framework Summary



Lake Superior Vision
General Objective

| General Objective | ZDDP | Broader Ecosystem Program | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|---------|----------|----------------|
| | Chemical | Aquatics | Wildlife | Habitat | (Health) | Sustainability |
| Mission | — | — | yes | | — | — |
| Guiding Principles | 12 | — | 7 | | — | 5 |
| Strategic Outcomes | — | — | 10 | | — | — |
| Goals | 9 | — | 34 | | — | — |
| Sub Goals | — | — | 35 | | — | — |
| Objectives | 1 | 1+1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Sub Objectives | 6 | 5+10 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| Strategies | 22+25 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Actions | 198 + ? | — | — | — | — | — |
| Indicators | 5+ 1 | 5 | 16 | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| Sub-ind / Monit. Prog | 38 | 51 | 39 | 18 | 18 | 45 |



Strengths and Limitations



- Strengths

- Familiar
- Easily understood?
- Developed collaboratively
- Flexible
- Solid platform for current LaMP activities
- DSC:
 - Focus on environmental education straightforward
 - Limited / Broad Scope

- Limitations

- Complex, cumbersome, too many levels
- Lacks a common language
- Poorly integrated
- Poorly understood?
- Difficult to communicate
- DSC:
 - Dated representation of sustainability
 - Silos, not system.
 - How does it all fit together?
 - Climate change? Other issues?
 - Accountability / reporting

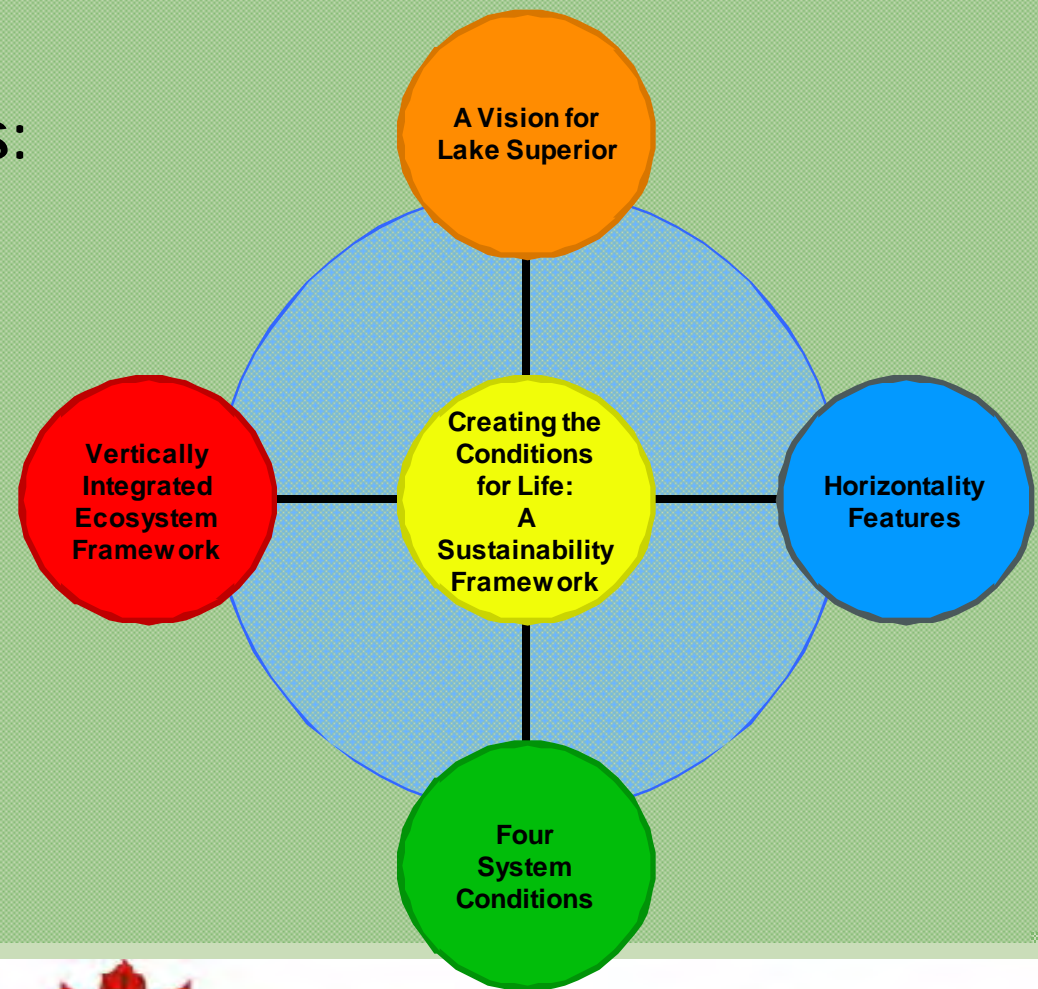


Proposed Sustainability Framework



4 complementary elements:

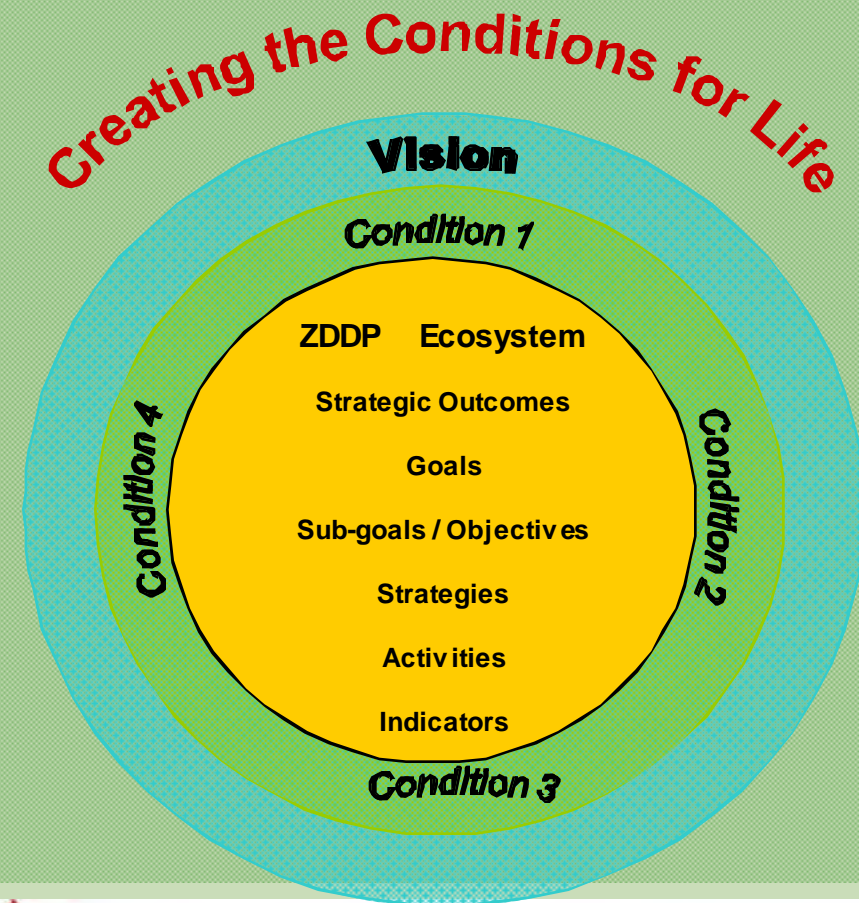
- Vision
- Design Criteria embodying Systems Model of SD
- Streamlined Taxonomy
- Communication



Next Sustainability Framework ?



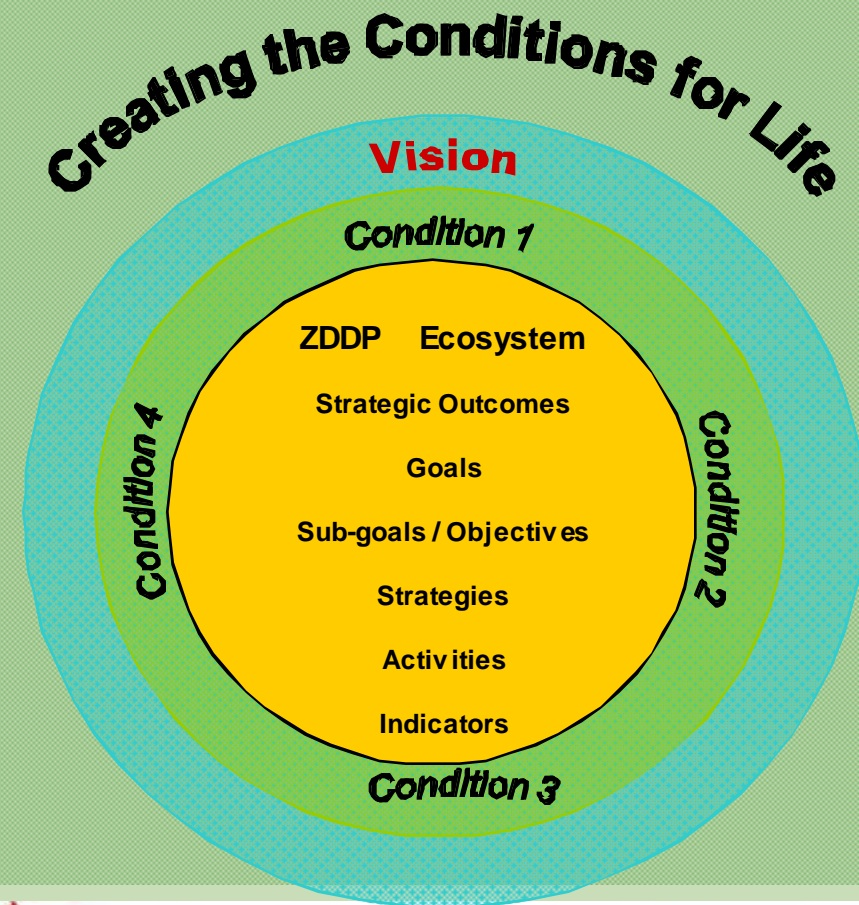
- Poor adaptation = extinction
- "Life Creates the Conditions Conducive to Life" (J.Benyus)
- Living for the future is Stewardship
- Tech, products, processes, policies, way of life well adapted and conducive to life?



Next Sustainability Framework ?



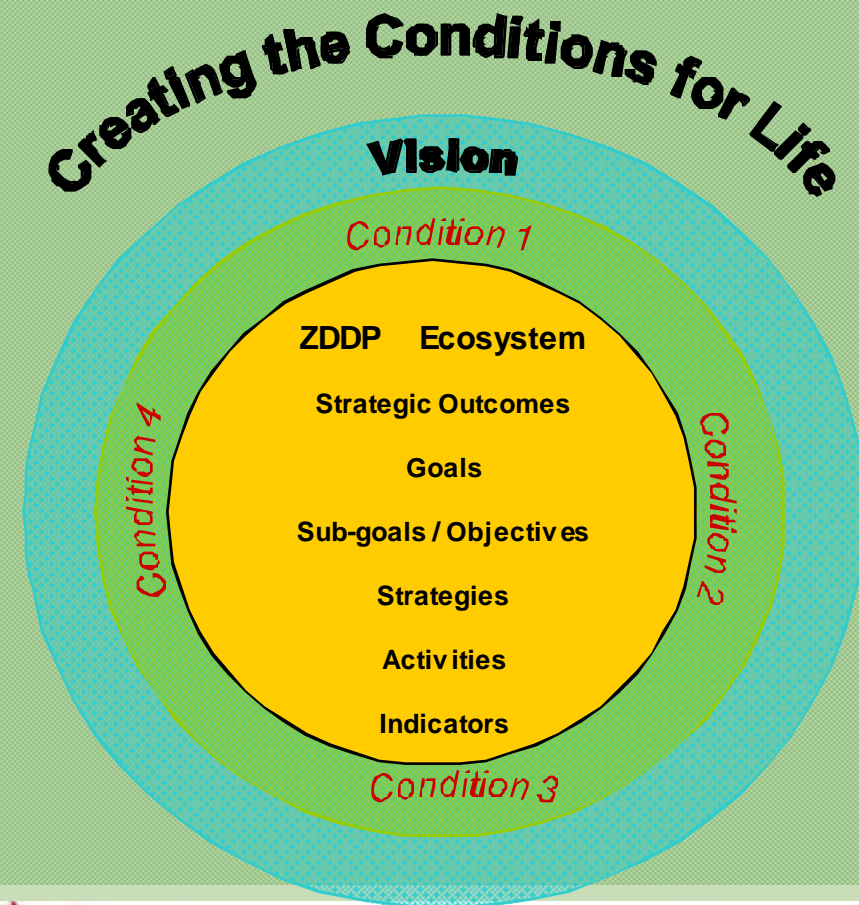
- Inspires and substantiates the need for SF
- Expresses commitment and desire of LS community to foster a healthy, clean, and safe LS basin



Next Sustainability Framework ?



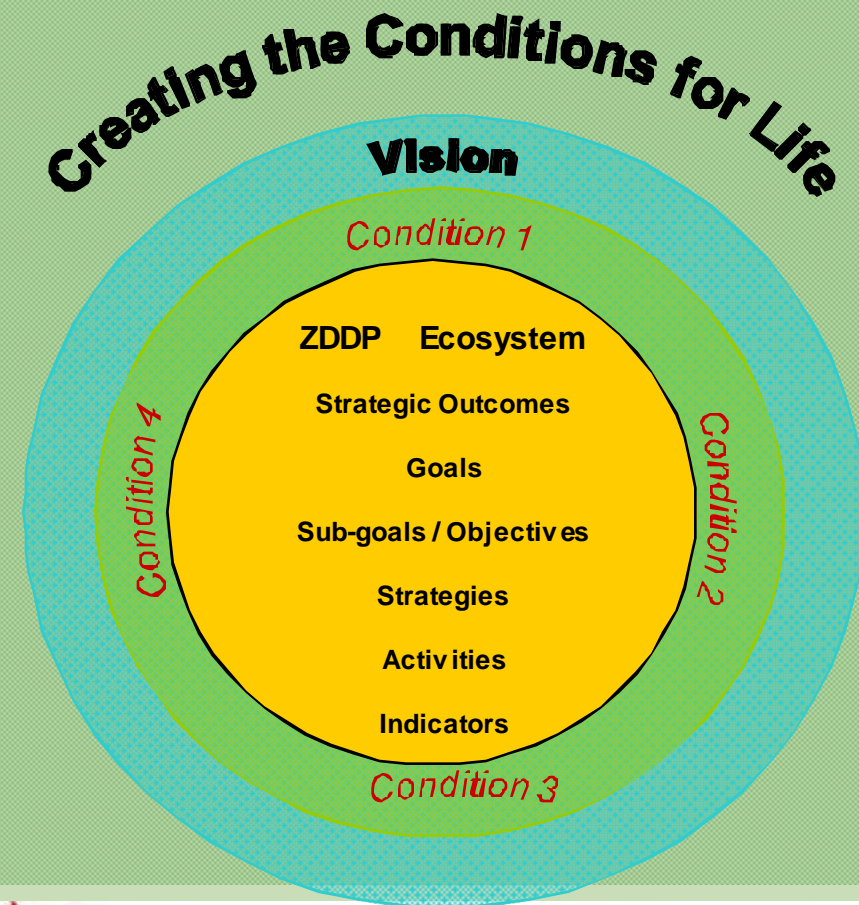
- Systematic & comprehensive approach to community & regional sustainability
- Conditions link decisions & actions to Vision
 - Guiding principles
 - Practical set of design criteria
- Address root causes



Next Sustainability Framework ?



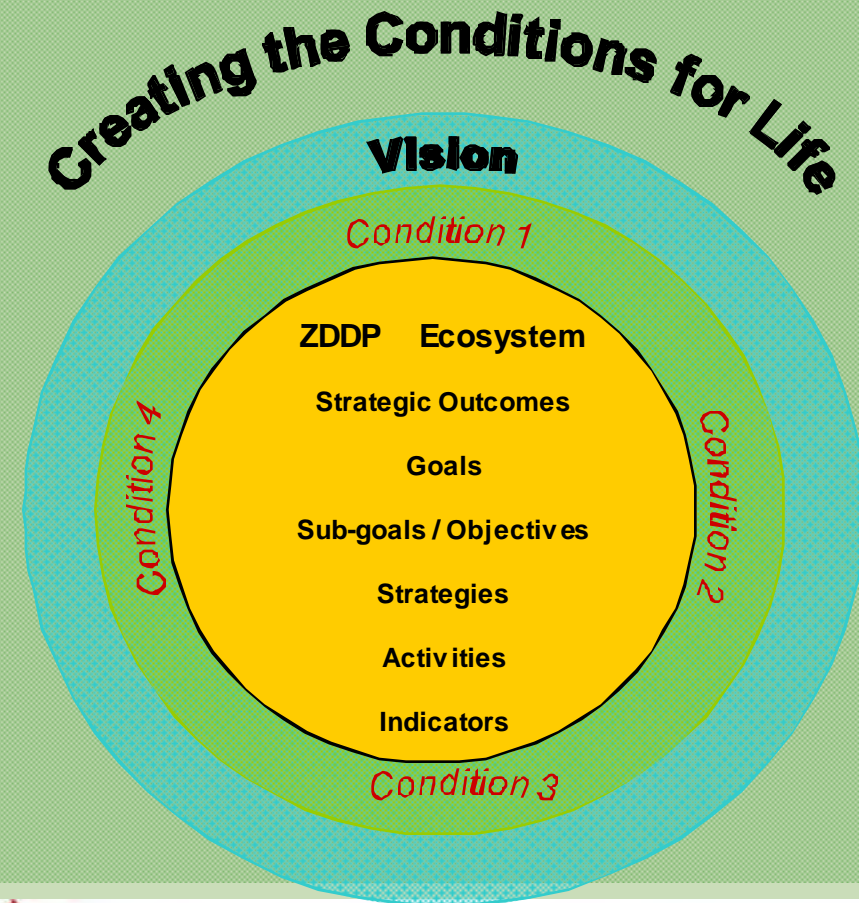
- Nature's functions & diversity are not systematically subject to:
 1. ↗ [substances] extracted from earth
 2. ↗ [substances] produced by society
 3. Impoverished by physical displacement, over-harvesting, or other forms of ecosystem manipulation.



Next Sustainability Framework ?



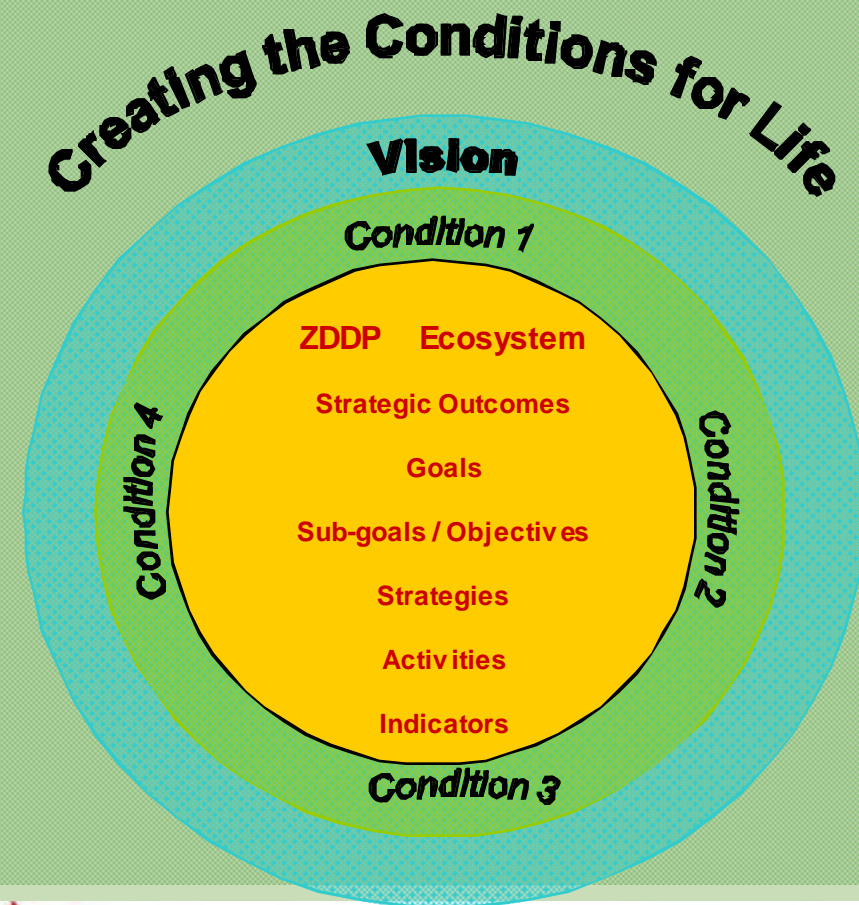
- People are not subject to:
 1. ...
 2. ...
 3. ...
 4. Conditions that systematically undermine their capacity to meet their needs.



Next Sustainability Framework ?



- Streamlined Binational Program suite of goals, objectives, etc.
- Common language
- Consistent taxonomy / hierarchy
- Compatible with System Conditions
- Highlighting relationships
- Enhancing accountability



Anticipated Benefits & Challenges



- Benefits

- Working better
- Creating conditions for significant change
- Promoting interventions that support the basin's life-giving systems
- Focusing on relationships and connections
- Providing a holistic approach for measuring progress / accountability
- Making more explicit why people should care
- Raising awareness of LaMP

- Challenges

- Communicating paradigm shift / embracing new way of thinking
- Consensus in multi-agency context
- Developing new working relationships
- Engaging given workload
- Visualizing end product (value added)
- Execution of ideas
- Built in inertia
- Change process



Next Steps



- Discussions
 - *WG, TF, Forum*
 - *Concept and Operationalization*
- Implementation schedule – 2008 & 2010 LaMP
- Linkages with Indicators reporting
 - *Sustainability Phase II*
 - *Lake Superior LaMP*
 - *SOLEC*
 - *Community Indicators Projects*



*Thank You
Questions?*

Opportunities for public involvement

- LS Binational Forum
- Ask yourself how your organization can participate in the Binational Program efforts
- Volunteer with your local NGO

photo credit: John Marsden, Environment Canada, 2002



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Lake Superior Binational Program

- Program announced in 1991 to restore and protect the Lake Superior basin
- A partnership opportunity for federal, state, provincial, First Nation and Tribal governments to work together with citizens to protect the Lake.
- Zero Discharge Demonstration and broader ecosystem programs

