

# Geography Education for Sustainable Development

Hartwig Haubrich



# Objective of UNDESD 2005-14

- „A world, where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from quality education and learns the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for sustainable future and for positive societal transformation“  
(<http://portal.unesco/org.education/>).



# Action Themes of UNDES

- Environment
- Water
- Rural Development
- Sustainable Consumption
- Sustainable Tourism
- Intercultural Understanding
- Cultural Diversity
- Climate Change
- Disaster Reduction .....

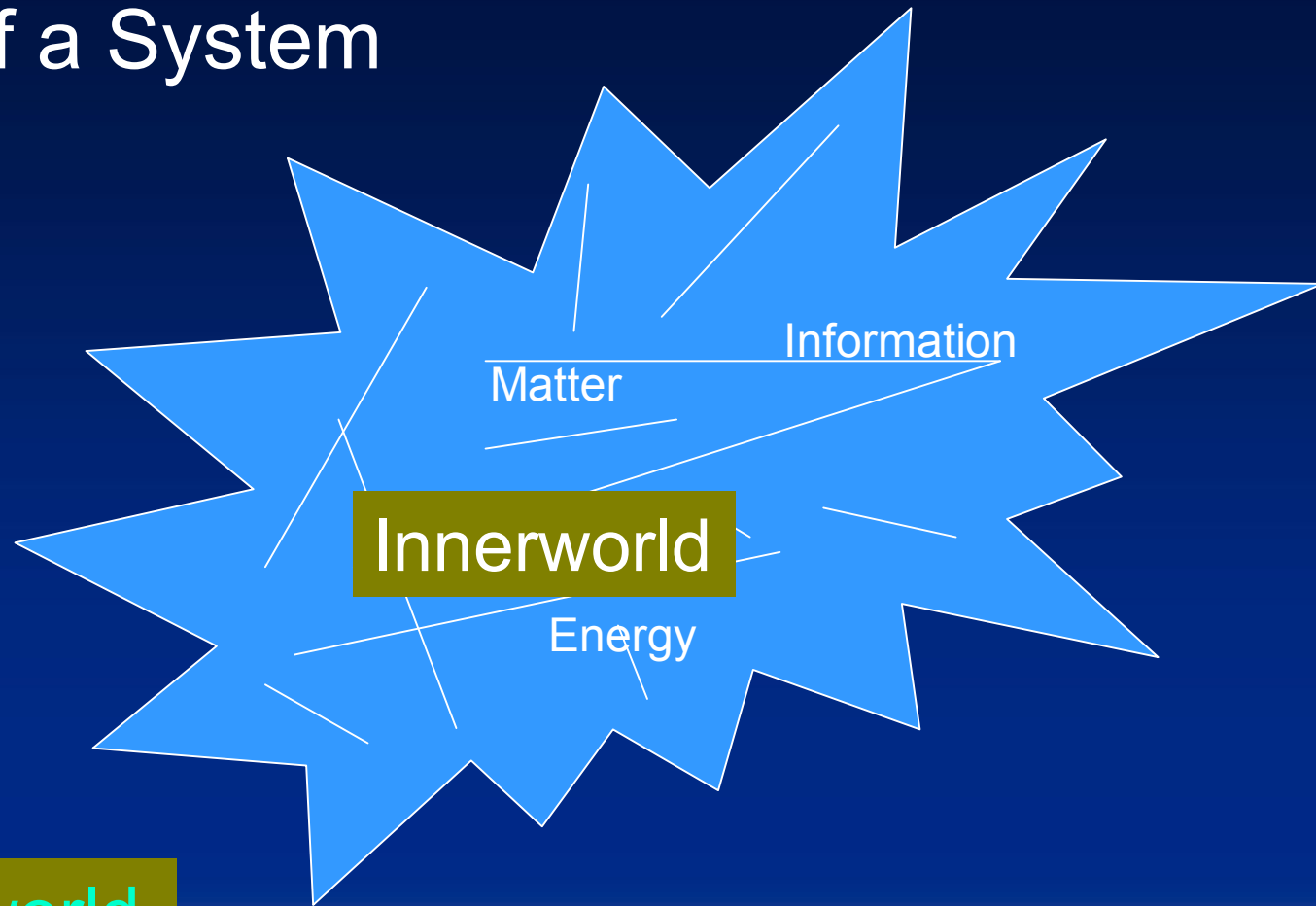


# What is an ecosystem ?

- Eco = oikos = household
- Ecology is the science to keep the house:
  - the house of nature
  - the house of society
  - the house of economy

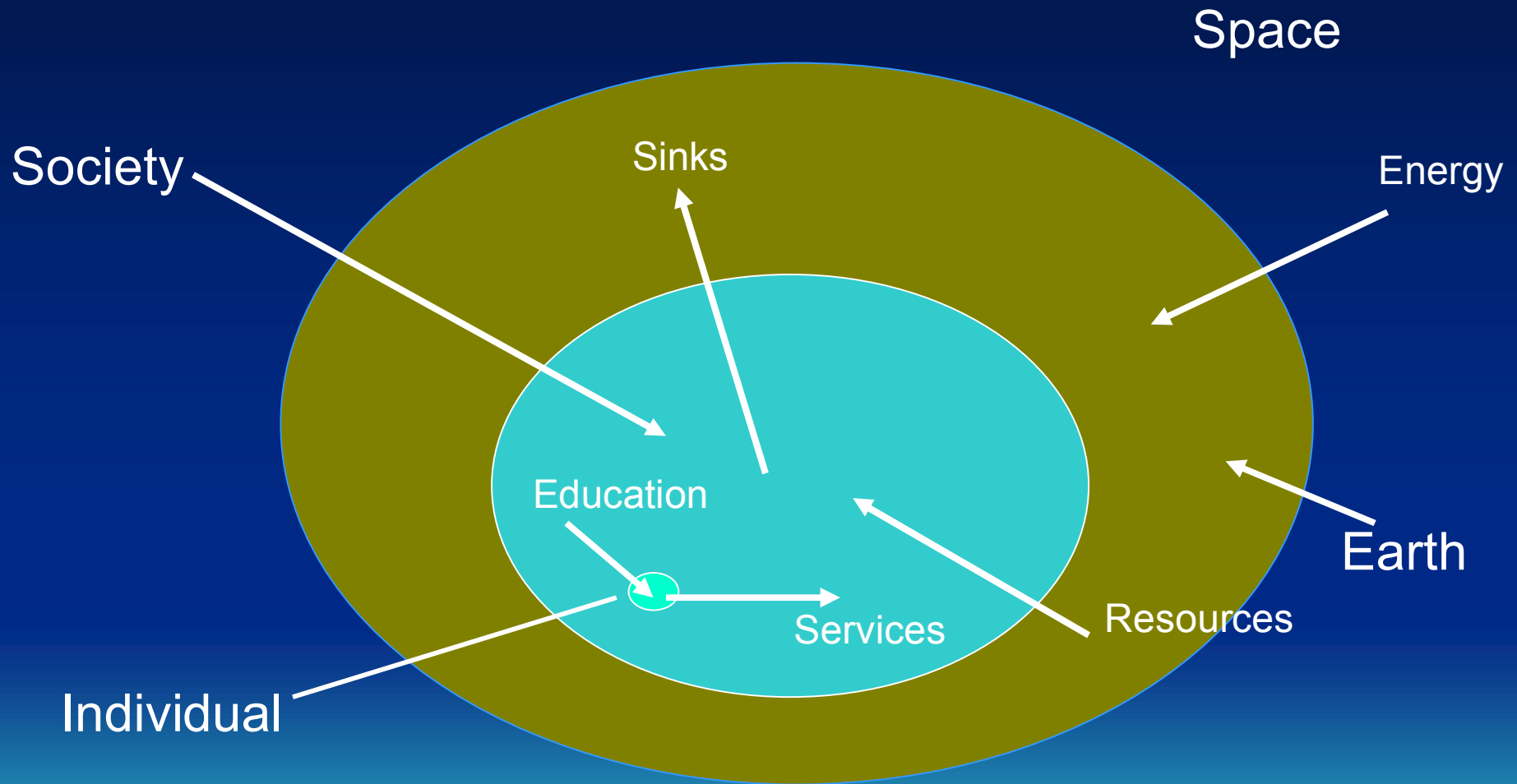


# Model of a System



Outerworld

# Model of the Ecosystem Human-Earth



# Sustainability – Sustainable Development

- Sustainability is the potential of an ecosystem to subsist overtime in a balanced way
- Sustainable development includes environmental considerations in the steering of societal change



# The Three Pillars of Sustainable Development

- „The social: this relates to human mores and values, relationships and institutions
- The economic: This concerns the allocation and distribution of scarce resources
- The ecological: this involves the contribution of both the economic and the social and their effect on the environment and its resources“ (Ekins 2000)



# Characteristics of Sustainable Development/SD

- SD is an ongoing process across space, time, societies and cultures
- SD will be different in different societies but needs common normative principles
- SD is a dynamic, comprehensive concept of modernising living patterns (Baker 2000)



# Paradigm of Sustainable Development

- Changing the quality of growth
- Reducing population growth
- Food security
- Maintaining biodiversity
- Establishing safe energy
- Ecological modernization of industry
- Guiding landuse and urbanization
- (Brundtland Report/WCED 1987)



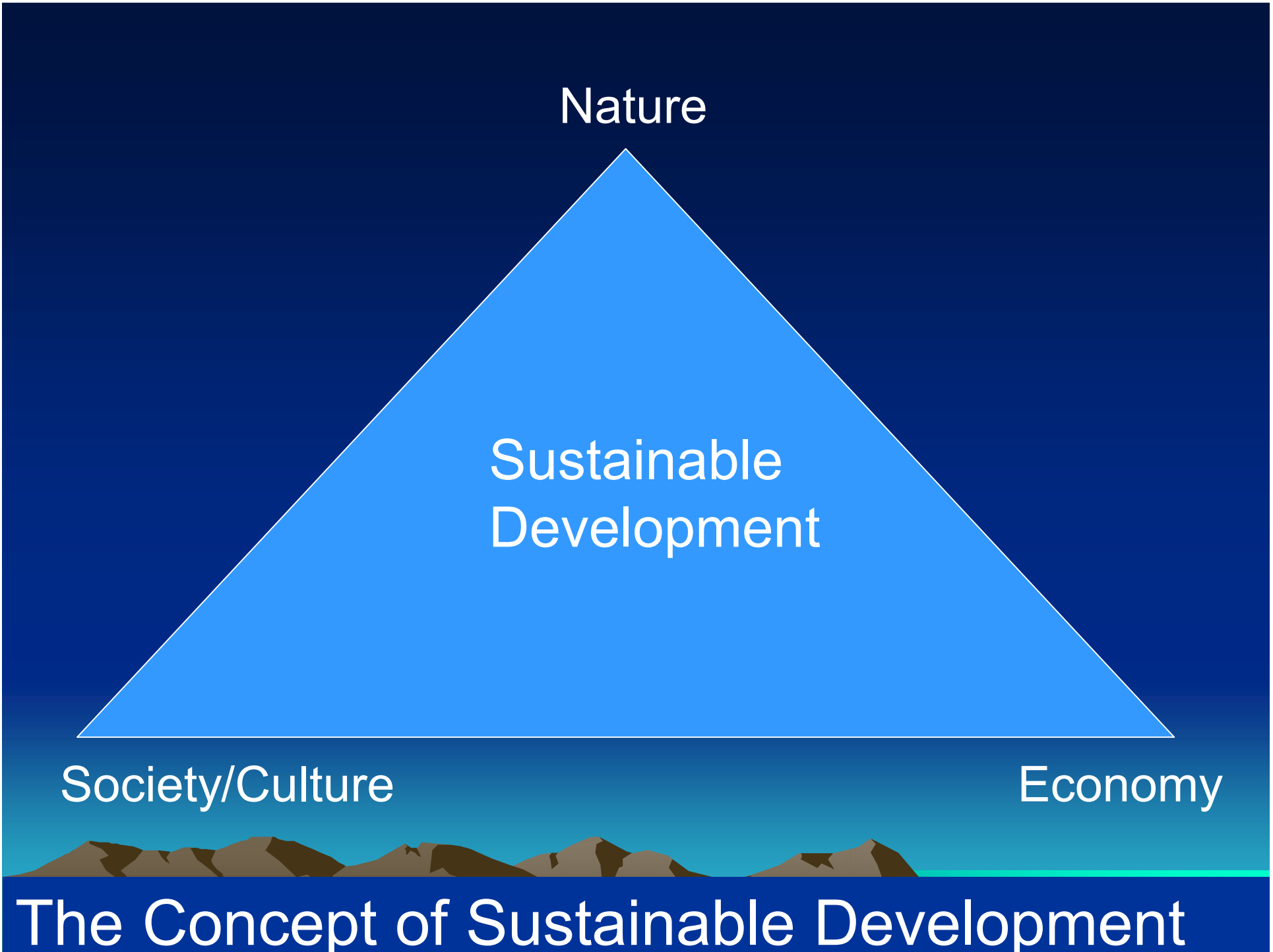
Nature

Sustainable  
Development

Society/Culture

Economy

The Concept of Sustainable Development



# Strategies for Implementing Sustainable Development

- Efficiency-Strategy
- Consistency-Strategy
- Permanency-Strategy
- Sufficiency-Strategy
- Educational and Social Commitment

( E. U. von Weizsäcker 1997)



# Aim of Education for Sustainable Development

- „The aim of education for SD is to put people in a position to play an active role to shape an ecologically sustainable, economically efficient and socially just environment, while remaining mindful of the global dimension.“

(BMBF 2006)



# Principles of Education for Sustainable Development

- ESD is relevant to everyone
- ESD is an ongoing process
- ESD promotes societal change
- ESD is a cross-sectoral task
- ESD aims to improve life situations
- ESD creates new opportunities
- ESD promotes global responsibility
- ESD is relevant to all levels of learning
- ESD is open to new forms of co-operation
- ESD enriches individuals' lives



# Geographical Qualifications for Sustainable Development

Knowledge and Understanding of

- Major natural systems and
- Major socio-economic systems

Skills in

- Using communication-, thinking-, practical and social skills to explore geographical topics from local to global scales

Attitudes and Values to

- Dedication to seeking solutions to local, regional, national and international problems

(International Charter on Geographical Education 1992)

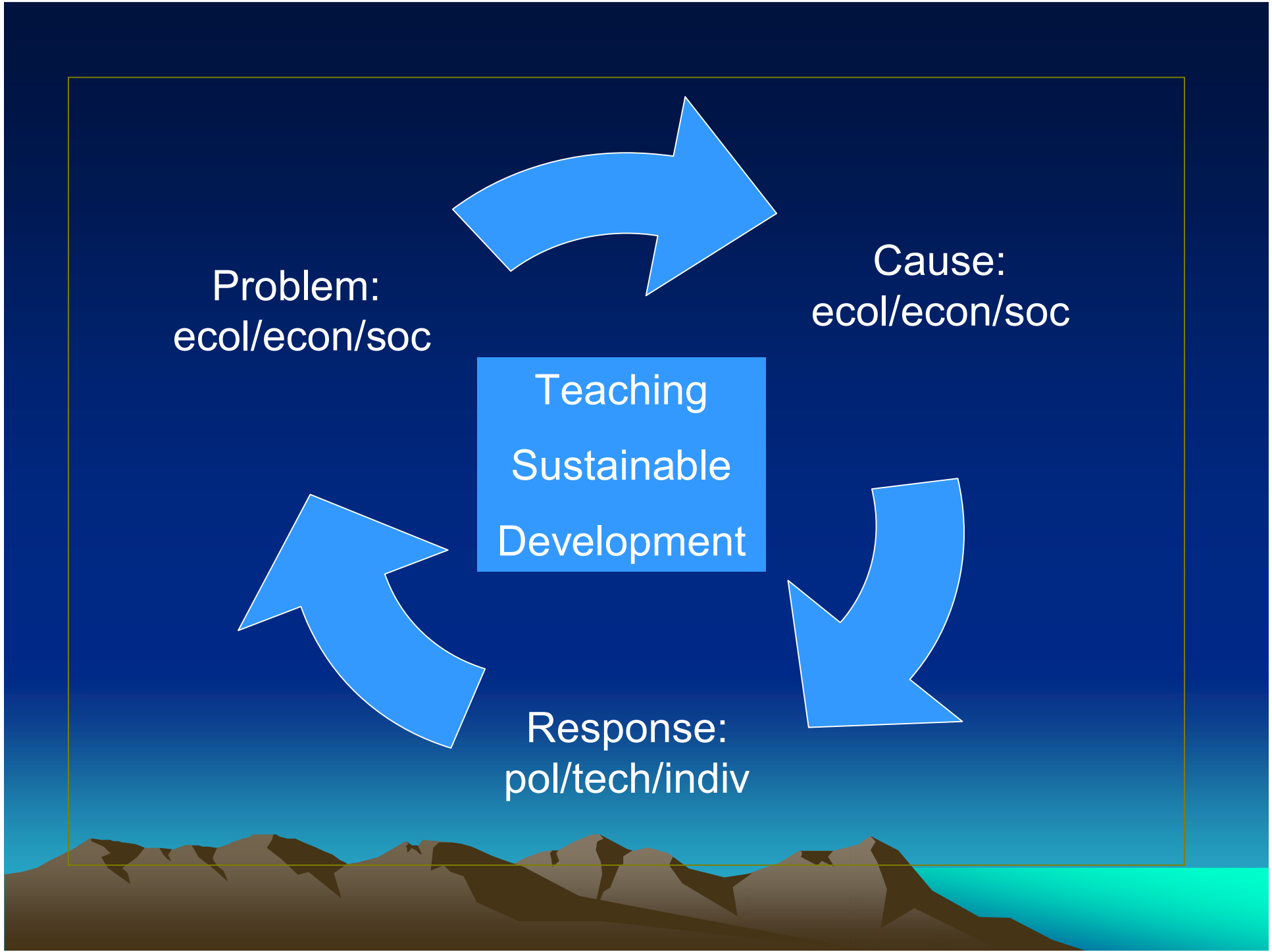
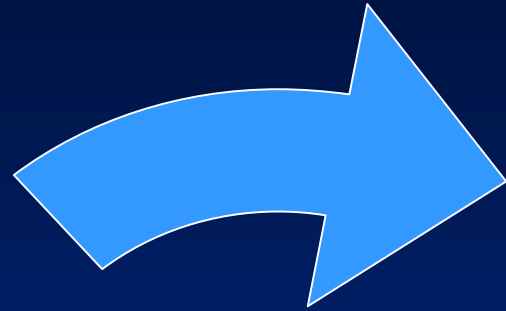


Problem:  
ecol/econ/soc

Cause:  
ecol/econ/soc

Teaching  
Sustainable  
Development

Response:  
pol/tech/indiv



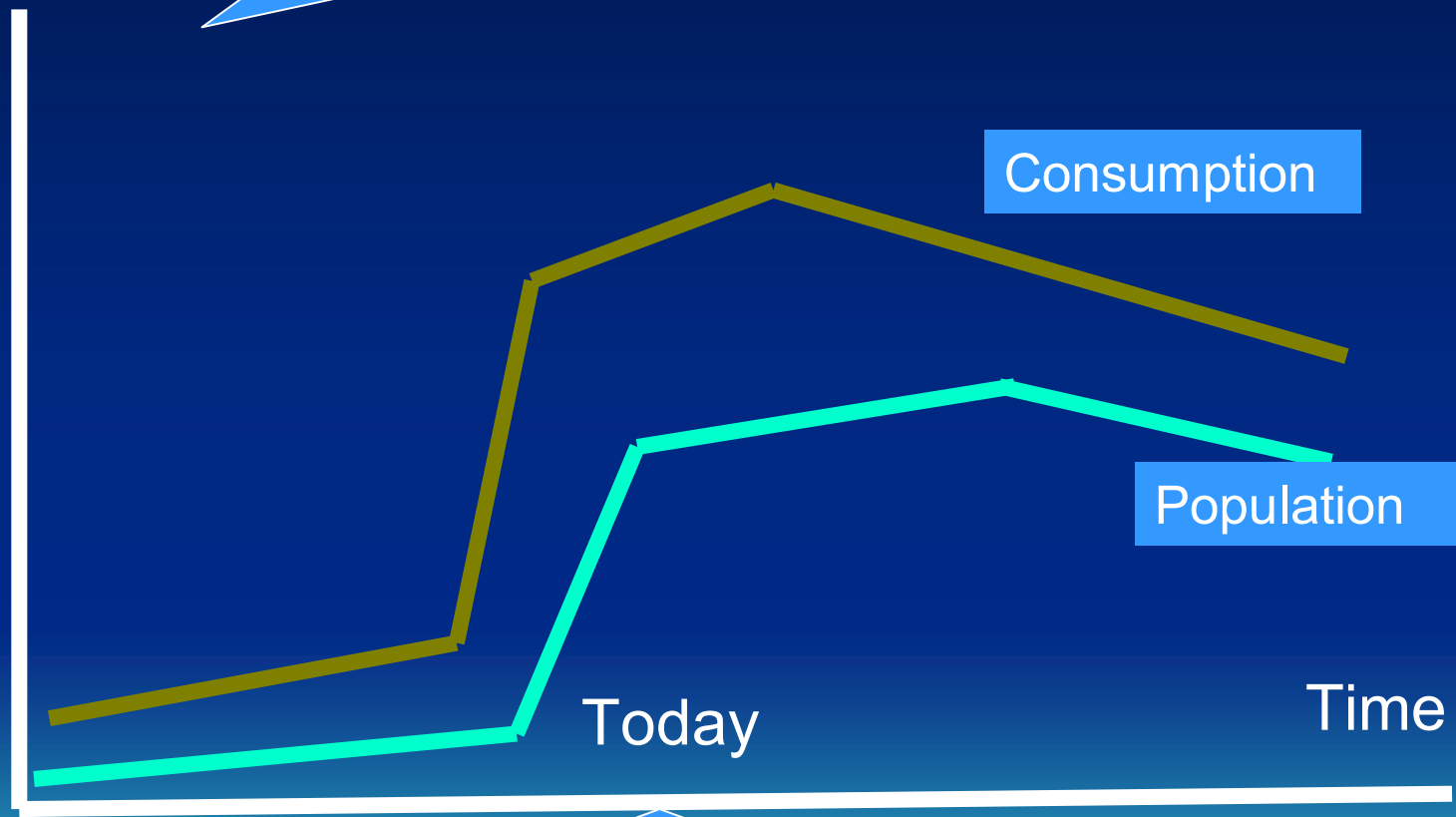
# Interdisciplinary Qualifications for Sustainable Development

- System analysing
- Systemic thinking
- Anticipating thinking
- Creativity
- Research comp.
- Self-evaluation comp.
- Value orientation
- Team skills
- Social orientaion
- Learning in networks
- Situation-orientation
- Decision-making com.
- Participation comp.
- Self-organisation
- Evaluation comp.
- Lifelong learning
- Holistic learning
- Global perspective

Action Competency for Sustainable Development

# Change to Sustainable Development through Geography Education

Size



Consumption

Population

Today

Time

Knowledge, Skills



Values, Attitudes

Action Competence

# Local Agenda 21

- LA 21 plans are built on the concept of SD
- LA 21 facilitates dialogue between groups
- LA 21 develops a sense of community
- LA 21 creates educated forums
- LA 21 enhances the quality of decisions
- LA 21 eases acceptance and legitimacy
- LA 21 enhances civil society
- LA 21 develops democracy
- LA 21 needs education to succeed in the thorny field of decision making and acting for SD



