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"Environmental Quality and the Quality of our Way of Life"

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Boersema, Jan J. "Environmental Quality and the Quality of our Way of Life." *Environmental Values* 4, no. 2 (1995): 97–108. doi:10.3197/096327195776679547 .

Today, sustainable development is generally accepted as a guiding principle. The present relation societies have with the natural environment is considered as being not-sustainable. However this presupposes some idea about the quality of the environment and of activities affecting the environment and, as a consequence, of the quality of life. In this article I defend the proposition that the limited progress made with respect to the environment—despite all the good intentions—could be due to a potential conflict between "quality" and sustainable development. In other words: our interpretation of the concept of "quality" is not compatible with the aims of sustainability. Some consequences for research and policy of accepting this proposition are discussed.

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