

Principles established in the

1992 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment

3.5.1 precautionary principle -

*Where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, **lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.** In the **application of the precautionary principle**, public and private decisions should be guided by:*

- i. careful evaluation to **avoid**, wherever practicable, **serious or irreversible damage to the environment**; and*
- ii. an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options.*

3.5.2 intergenerational equity -

the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.

3.5.3 conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity -

conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration.

3.5.4 improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms -

- environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services.*
- **polluter pays** i.e. those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance, or abatement*
- the users of goods and services should pay prices based on the full life cycle costs of providing goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of any wastes*
- **environmental goals, having been established, should be pursued** in the most cost effective way, by establishing incentive structures, including market mechanisms, which enable those best placed to maximise benefits and/or minimise costs to develop their own solutions and responses to environmental problems.*