

**Table 1.1** Benefits and drawbacks of various planning theories, in relation to different aspects of a strategy for promoting a sustainable development.

	<i>Global/national environmental and resource concerns</i>	<i>Local environmental concerns</i>	<i>Fair distribution</i>	<i>Civil and political human rights</i>	<i>Potential for change of societal frame conditions</i>
Synoptic	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	?
Incremental	-	-	-	(+)	-
Transactive	(-)	(+)	(+)	+	+
Advocacy	?	+	(-)	+	+
Radical	+	?	+	-	+

+, Usually well suited; (+), may be suited under certain conditions; ?, vague or ambiguous function; (-), may have a negative effect; -, usually has a negative effect.

**Radical planning** has two main trends. The first is an anarchist-inspired approach emphasizing decentralized control and the experimentation with alternative societal organizations. The second main school of radical planning is more structurally oriented. It takes a Marxist direction focusing on the impacts of the economic system on class conditions and the role of planning in the class struggle. The first group of radicalist planning theorists includes the environmentalist movements. The Marxist radical version proposes government control of the means of production and that production, instead of being governed by profit motives, should be directed towards meeting societal needs as defined through the political process.

Naess analysed these five main alternative planning theories with a view to determining their ability to deliver sustainable development.<sup>31</sup> The criteria Naess used to evaluate these theoretical positions were:

(a) To what extent will the planning form be able to contribute to long-term preservation of global and national environmental qualities ... and management of natural resources in a way that does not

reduce the abilities for future generations to meet their needs?

(b) To what extent will the planning form be able to contribute to the preservation of local environmental qualities?

(c) To what extent will the planning form be able to contribute to a distribution of goods which ensures basic rights to welfare for everybody, regardless of nationality or social group?

(d) To what extent will the planning form be able to advance, or be in conflict with civil and political rights, especially minority rights?

(e) To what extent will the planning form be able to contribute to the improvement of the conditions for planning in accordance with the criteria for a sustainable development?<sup>32</sup>

Table 1.1 shows the results of the evaluation conducted by Naess. It indicates that each planning model has certain strengths with regard to achieving sustainable development. Assuming that society has the political will and the power to promote sustainable development, then synoptic planning, which forms the basic philosophical underpinning of the method outlined in this text, is appropriate for the task. It is particularly well suited to the promotion of global and national environmental concerns and