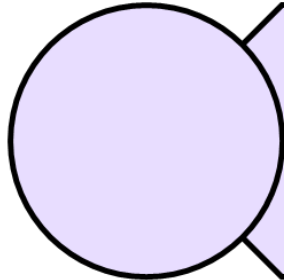
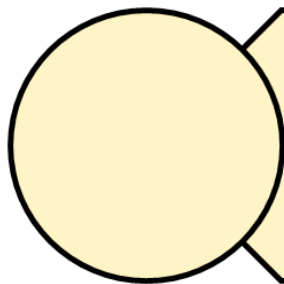


Guide to annotations

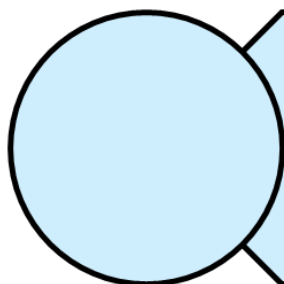
What do the colours mean?



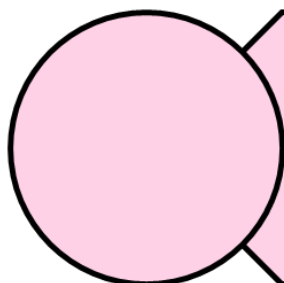
Shows the general purpose related to the whole annotated text-type and that of entire sections. Titles of sections or headings are defined in terms of purpose and content.



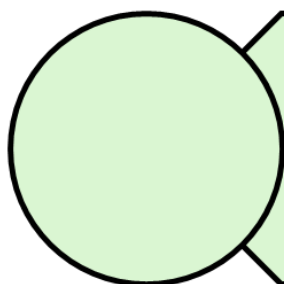
Indicates the function of a paragraph or of group of sentences in terms of content and relation to the whole text



Key-words and terms related to the general content and concepts and main themes.



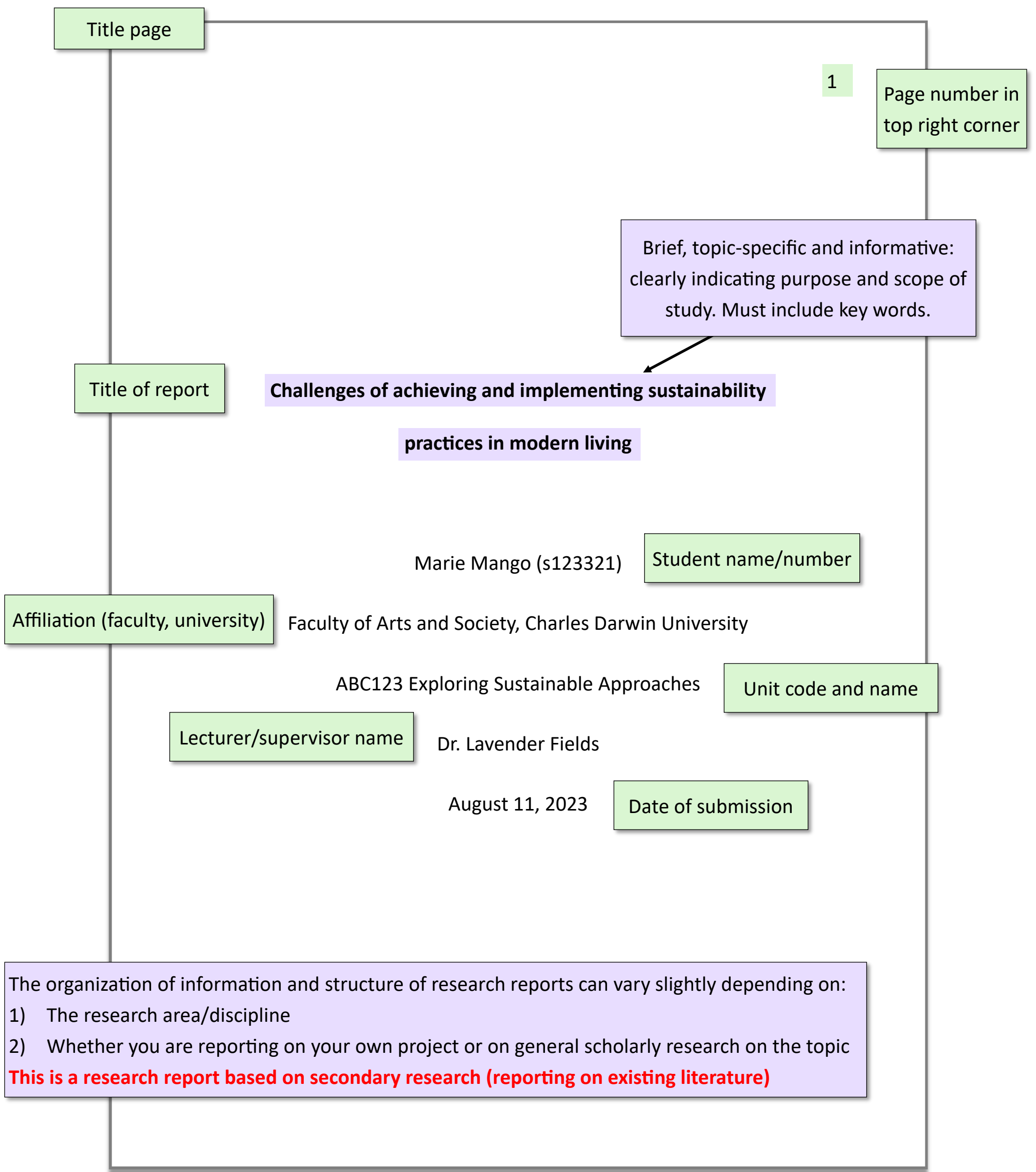
Grammar features or discourse markers that are important to the annotated text-type.



In-text citations and general reference to papers and books within the annotated text

Note. 'Discourse markers' refers to words used to start and end conversations and topics.

Examples: also, therefore, thus, similarly, however, for instance, in conclusion, besides



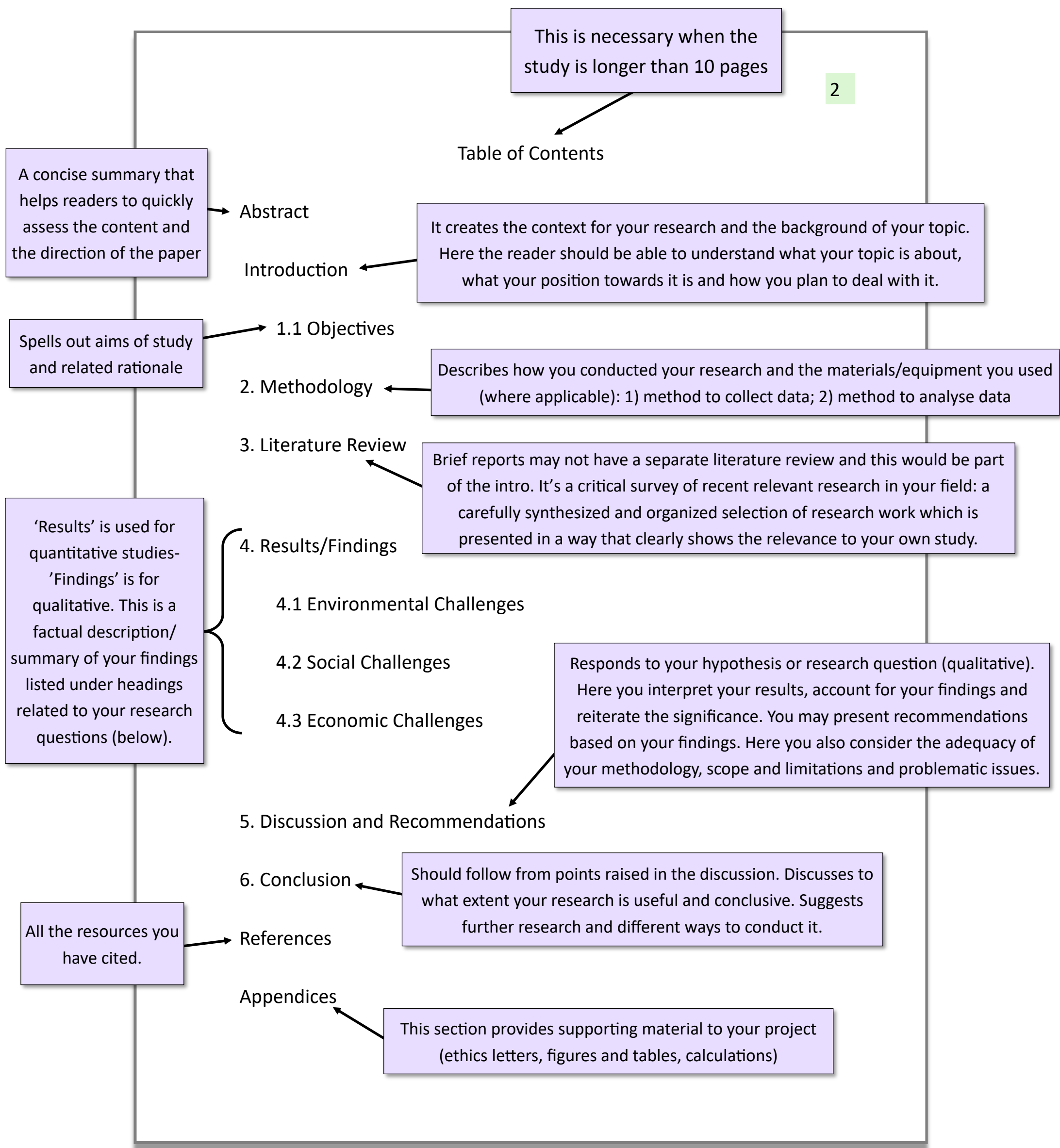
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Abstract

This paper examines relevant research conducted in regards to the challenges faced by contemporary societies in adopting and maintaining sustainability practices especially but not exclusively in relation to environmental issues. The definition of sustainability adopted here reflects the holistic view of sustainability as the ability to maintain and support the balance between economic, social and environmental aspects of viable living standards without depleting natural resources and therefore compromising the livelihoods and progress of future generations. Within this context, the present report identifies and examines the most salient challenges faced in the effort to implement sustainability practices through contemporary research. It further highlights how these challenges represent determinant factors to consider by decision makers in order to overcome the risks associated with a growing population, climate change, and depletion of natural resources. Strategies, as emerging by scientific investigations, are also suggested for applying established sustainability principles in timely interventions.

Aim of paper

Key-words point to paragraph's content/themes

Sets boundaries and limits of the area of study/topic

Narrows the scope and outlines paper's content

Identification of scope and definition of issue

Discourse markers indicate which aspects the text will deal with

Proposing solutions

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Headings used to mark sections

4

Introduction

Level 1 heading—centred and bold

Parenthetical in-text citations: Organisation as author

Sustainability has been on the agenda as the major pillar on which the SDGs are founded (United Nations, 2015) since the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) agenda was established in 2012. It is a complex concept founded in philosophical tenets dating back 1987 (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987) and which has evolved over decades parallel to the emergence of awareness regarding the relationship between human populations, their life practices and the ability of future generations to continue benefiting from the livelihood provided by natural resources.

Presents background information and gives context of the issue

Introduces the aims and stages of the paper

This paper will highlight how current research has progressively focused on identifying the challenges posed by the practical application of sustainability principles in relation to contextual factors related to the balancing of economic, environmental, and social factors which appears to be particularly difficult in specific areas of the world. An analysis of the literature reveals how the long-term well-being of the planet and its inhabitants is especially bound to the

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continuing growing population and societies' demands of fast-paced technology and commodities required by modern living (Gavin & Czelusta, 2006) and how an ecological solution encompassing economy and environment is to be sought.

Parentetical in-text citation: 2 authors
Use '&' not 'and'

Level 2 heading—
centred and left
aligned

Objectives

This research report is aimed at analysing and synthesising the literature concerning key factors impinging on sustainability practices and the associated contextual and social aspects that societies face to attain sustainability. In particular, it will address the following:

- ◆ the most significant sustainability challenges facing the world today from a global perspective;
- ◆ some of the possible major causes for these challenges;
- ◆ the potential solutions to overcome these hurdles and the expected outcomes.

Detailed description of objectives

Description of how research was conducted

Methodology

Information for this report was sourced from various secondary sources. However, this report does not claim to be a comprehensive study of the available literature in the field but rather to provide a

Acknowledges the limitations of the methods of enquiry to pre-empt readers negative attitude

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broad overview of the major trends followed by most recent research.

The secondary research was conducted using a multiple set of sources approach. The diagram below (Figure 1), illustrates the investigation conducted across different types of databases and websites as well as literature on both the broader study areas and the more specific context-bound investigations pertaining the topic. This allowed to contextualise the areas of inquiry through the identification of broad themes on the one hand and channel the information and interpretation of studies towards the points of interests on the other and gear the analysis towards the proposed recommendations.

To these aims, the following databases were consulted:

- ◆ CSIRO Journals
- ◆ Scopus
- ◆ Web of Science

Detailed description of procedure, tools and rationale

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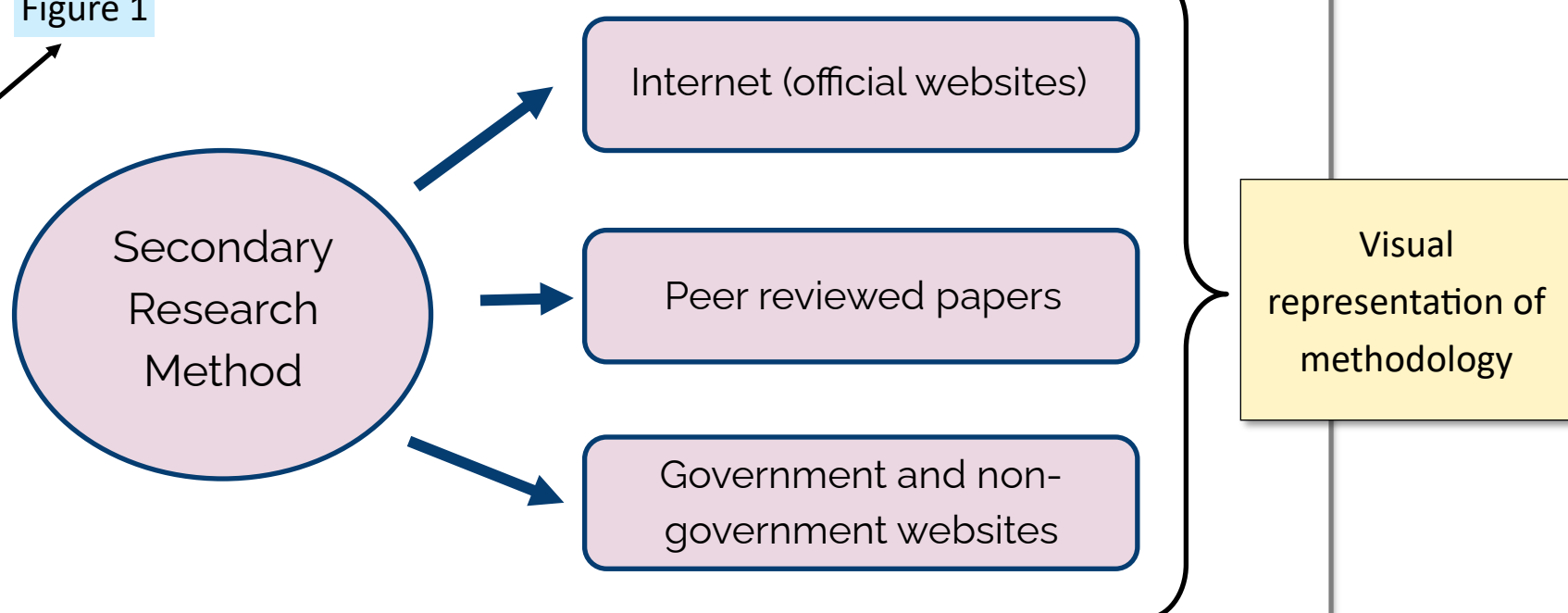
Description of analytical tools

The various stages of data gathering were conducted by using:

- ◆ keywords such as sustainability, renewable, degradation.
- ◆ noun clusters' which allowed the identification of a 'narrower' research topic and selection of relevant statistics (e.g., renewable energy, developing countries, environmental impact assessments).
- ◆ The analysis and interpretation of data were inscribed within the presentation of the findings and included a synthesis of the literature.
- ◆ This final stage concerned the emergence of potential solutions and related recommendations

Numbers the visual representation with Figure # (in this case, a diagram)

Figure 1



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Literature Review

Critical survey of relevant research in the areas pertaining the topic and related aspects: the synthesis shows where your research is collocated within the corpus.

In this model the literature is incorporated in the introduction and the findings

Findings

Identification and description of first challenge

Environmental Challenges

Current research suggests that one of the most pressing sustainability challenges facing the world today is climate change.

Modern living, especially in developing countries has determined an increased use of fossil fuels for energy production,

transportation, and industrial processes has led to a significant

increase in greenhouse gas emissions. The Intergovernmental

Panel on Climate Change (2021) found that these emissions

caused global temperatures to rise, leading to more frequent and severe weather events, melting ice caps, and rising sea levels.

An additional environmental challenge is the depletion of natural resources. The world's population continues to grow, and as a result, the demand for resources such as timber, water, and

Narrative citation:
Organisation as author

Explanation of causes and consequences

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minerals is increasing. Extraction and use of resources is often unsustainable and can lead to environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity (United Nations Environment Program [UNEP], 2021). Technological and scientific research aimed at discovering other forms of energy livelihood, able to adequately serve societies in terms of quantity and quality, is not keeping pace with their demand as shown in figure 2, below (Curtis et al., 2018).

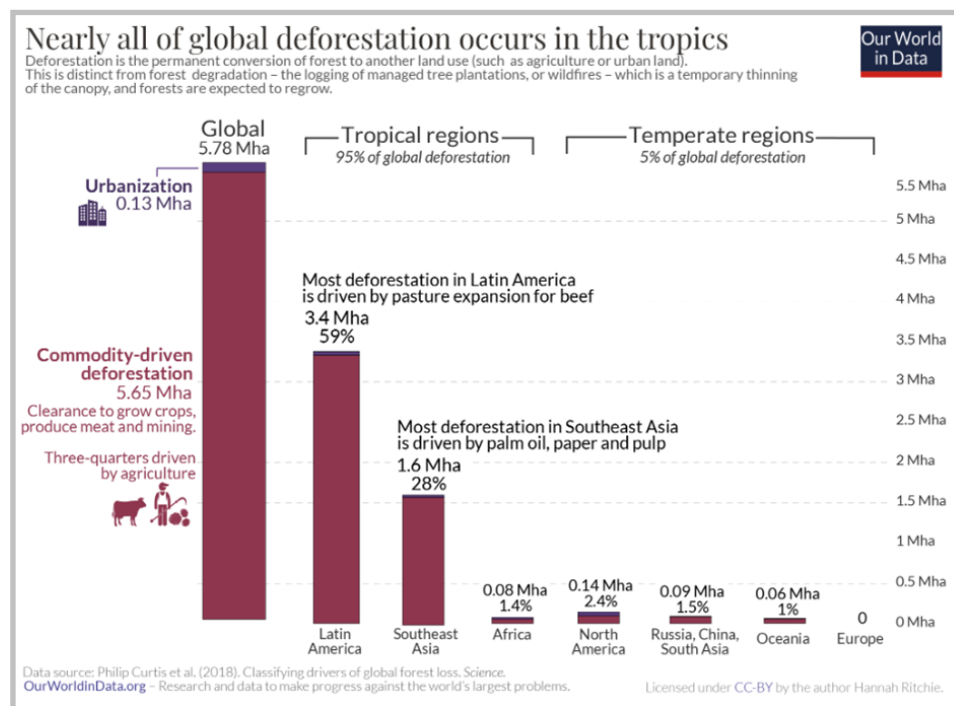
Parenthetical citation:
Organisation as author
First citation: Author written in full with abbreviation in brackets

Parenthetical citation: 3+ authors
Use et al.

Figure 2

Numbers the figure

Labels the figure



Visualization of results of deforestation in percentages across regions and state of affairs

Reference including caption to point to source of the figure

From Deforestation and forest loss, by H. Ritchie and M. Roser, 2021, OurWorldinData (<https://ourworldindata.org/deforestation>). CC-BY.

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Description of the figure. Explains to the audience what the figure means.

The chart in Figure 2 above is the result of satellite images. This chart assesses where and why the world lost forests globally between 2001 and 2015. The chart shows a breakdown of forest loss globally, and by region.

Just over one-quarter of global forest loss is driven by deforestation. The remaining 73% came from the three drivers of forest degradation: logging of forestry products from plantations (28%); shifting, local agriculture (24%); and wildfires (23%).

We see remarkable differences in each driver's significance across the world and that 95% of the world's deforestation occurs in tropical regions. In Latin America and Southeast Asia in particular, deforestation is commodity-driven.

Data commentary

Analysis and interpretation of figure

In contrast, two thirds of forest degradation is currently in temperate countries while centuries ago it mainly occurred in temperate regions in which systematic deforestation was carried out and replaced it with agricultural land.

The overall picture shown by the chart indicates that in

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developing countries forests are mainly cut and burned to make space for localised subsistence livelihood or for fuelwood. This has resulted in a combination of deforestation and degradation and accounts to the world's largest loss.

Analysis and interpretation of figure

A concurrent factor, confirmed by other studies (Sen, 2017) is highlighted here: less than 20% of people in Sub-Saharan Africa have access to clean fuels for cooking, meaning they rely on wood and charcoal to cook food.

Evidence/research used to strengthen argument
Parenthetical citation:
One author

Identification and presentation of second challenge

Social Challenges

Social challenges such as poverty also represent the significant hurdles facing sustainability. The economic imbalance among countries in the world means that some countries' dependence on others is based on the exploitation of their natural resources by the developed world. For developing countries, this is a short term solution for survival. The lack of economic viability means that these regions of the world cannot prioritize research and implementation expenses towards sustainability.

Argument: causes and consequences (why and how social challenges)

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Consequences

Additionally, the resort to exploitation practices prolong the use of unsustainable practices such as deforestation and overfishing, which are often carried out with no planning and to exhaustion of natural resources and environmental detriment (United Nations Development Program, n.d.).

The resulting economic inequality impacts on access to other forms of potential development such as education, healthcare, and clean water which often means lack of opportunities for the people of these regions, making it difficult to exit the cycle of poverty. The consequences of unequal access to resources can lead to conflict and social unrest with further negative impacts on sustainability (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2021).

Identification and presentation of third challenge

Economic Challenges

An additional challenge associated with economic priorities is faced by developed countries where emphasis is placed on economic growth. The pressure to generate revenues favour decisions aimed at economic growth over sustainability. The

Analysis and interpretation of findings

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result is often unsustainable practices such as overconsumption and the excessive exploitation of one's own or other countries' natural resources. This emphasis on economic growth may determine a long term unequal distribution of wealth, exacerbating social inequality (UNEP, 2021).

Parenthetical citation:
Organisation as author
Second citation: the abbreviation can be used

Another reason impeding the adoption and consistence in the maintenance of sustainable practices is the lack of investment due to the high costs of both research and implementation of the same practices (Donofrio et al., 2017). Costs in this regard represent upfront and long term investments which are difficult to incur for businesses and governments. Lack of investment on the other hand can hinder progress towards sustainability and efforts to carry out environmental and social interventions (International Energy Agency, 2022).

Parenthetical citation: 3+ authors

Hurdles and challenges to solutions

Parenthetical citation:
Organisation as author

Further analysis and deeper interpretation of findings

Discussion and Recommendations

The research presented in this study points to the interrelation of several factors rather than single determinants causing hindering the attainment and implementation of sustainable practices. These

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challenges are manifesting at global levels and invariably all countries are and have been interdependently affected by the difficulties of adopting sustainable practices in collaboration (Blowers, 1998).

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit it was stated that a prosperous and liveable world could only be achieved through reciprocated and continuous help among all countries (United Nations, 2015). This further points to the need for the adoption of a global policy towards elimination of poverty that champions long term benefits and progress for all peoples.

Brief reiteration of points to consider and reiteration of author's stance through synthesis of analysis' findings

Recommendations as aligned to identified challenges

The following recommendations have been identified as possible solutions to overcoming the challenges presented in this report:

1. governments to promote research aimed at identification of investment areas and the consequent benefits of project finance in the provision of infrastructure contributing towards economic growth;
2. enabling nations to support projects' finance by creating a conducive environment for the use and planning of funds in

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order to attract foreign capital to perceived high-risk environments (Donofrio et al., 2017);

3. policy changes to ensure the successful planning of investments such as amendments to existing legislation to facilitate the establishment and exchange among countries of special funds:

a. changes to the legal system governing the public sector of specific countries;

b. changes to procurement systems and the control of funding;

c. strengthening public sector institutional capacity by regulatory policies (Kamau, 2018);

Detailed description of policies

Discourse markers indicating paragraph's function and concluding remarks/reasoning supporting argument and thesis statement (see intro and abstract)

Conclusion

Summarizes the whole text and reiterates significance of research

In conclusion, sustainability is a complex and multifaceted concept that requires the balancing of economic, environmental, and social factors in a concerted and holistic way at the global level.

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However, achieving sustainability is not without its challenges.

Environmental challenges such as climate change and the depletion of natural resources, social challenges such as poverty and inequality, and economic challenges such as the emphasis on economic growth and the lack of investment in sustainable practices are all significant barriers. Most recent research has shown that the aim is for the governments across the world to create international best practices through cooperation, investment, and innovation towards a more sustainable future for all.

Closing with outlook to future research and innovation

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- ◆ Title References centred and bold
- ◆ Reference list in alphabetical order
- ◆ References have a hanging indent

17

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as author

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