

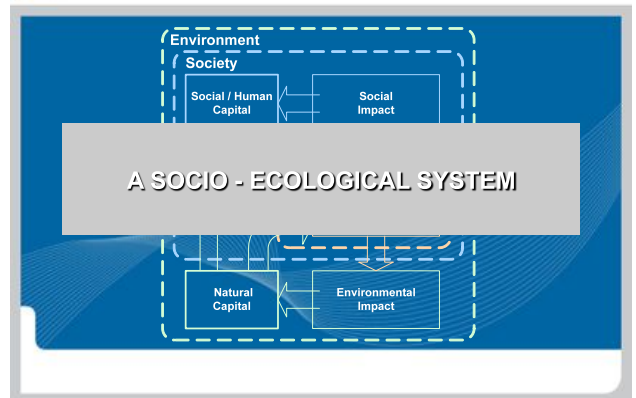
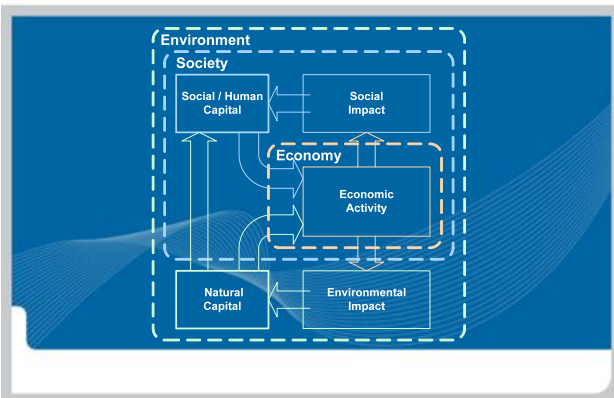
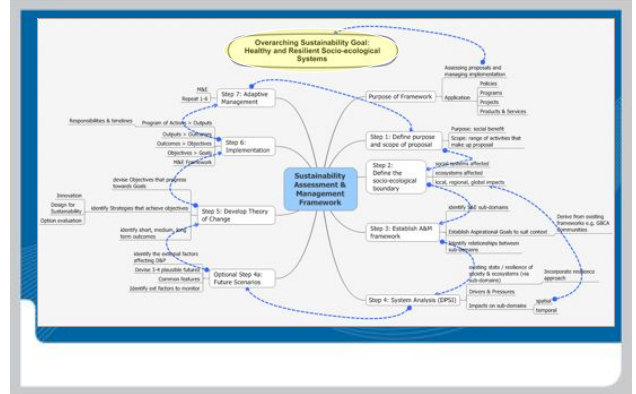
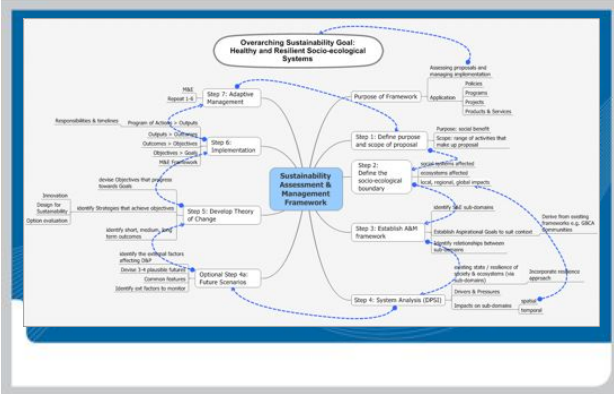
Sustainability Assessment Symposium 2010

Healthy and Resilient Socio-ecological Systems - towards a common approach to sustainability assessment and management

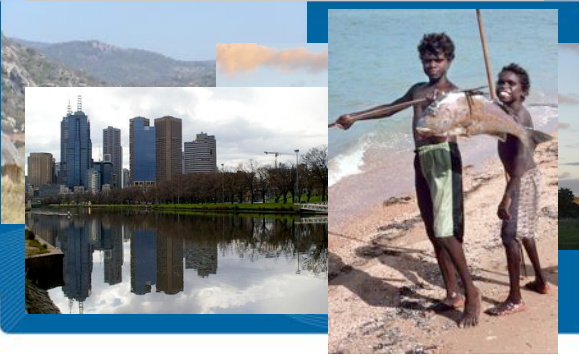
Bill Grace
25th May 2010

A Common Approach

- 20+ years on from Brundtland we have no clear or consistent way of determining whether policies, programs and projects are contributing to sustainability or not
- We need clear goals and conceptual decision making and management frameworks that:
 - can be universally applied
 - draw from, and contribute to the pool of shared knowledge and facilitate collaboration
 - are adaptive to changing circumstances



SOCIO - ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS



RESILIENCE
thinking

Resilient systems and disturbance
Resilient systems and disturbance
Resilient systems and disturbance

How can landscapes and communities bounce back from disturbance and maintain function?

Resilient systems and disturbance
Resilient systems and disturbance
Resilient systems and disturbance

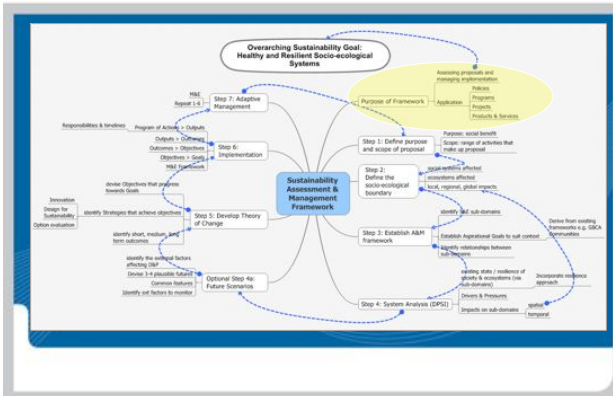
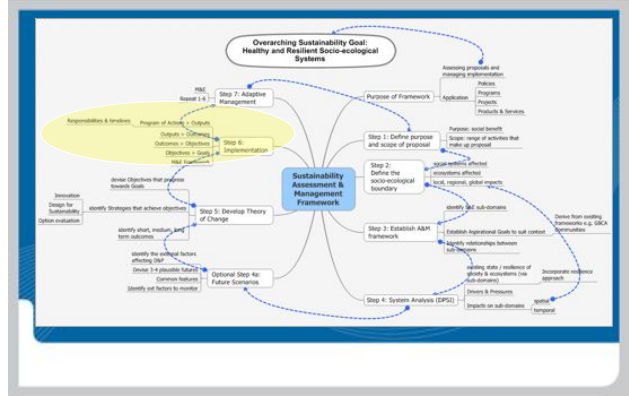
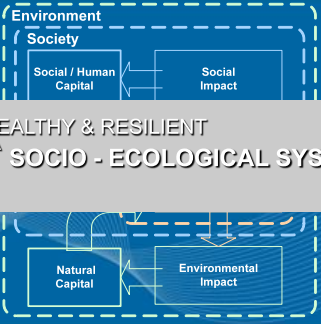


Environment
Society

Social / Human Capital
Social Impact

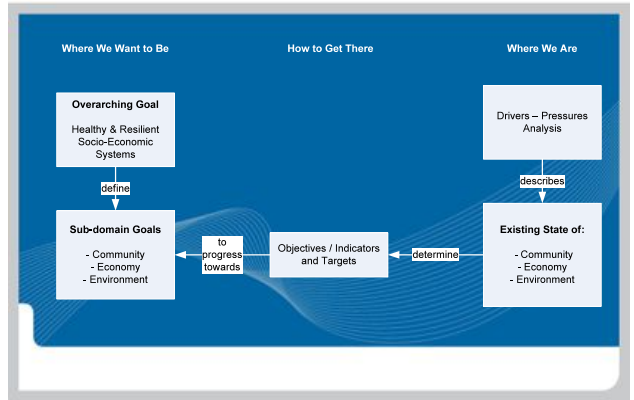
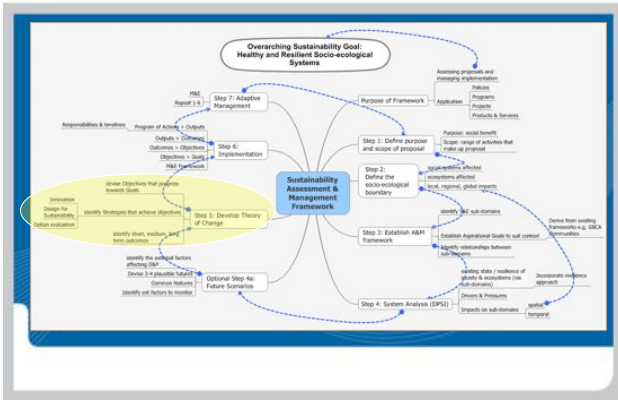
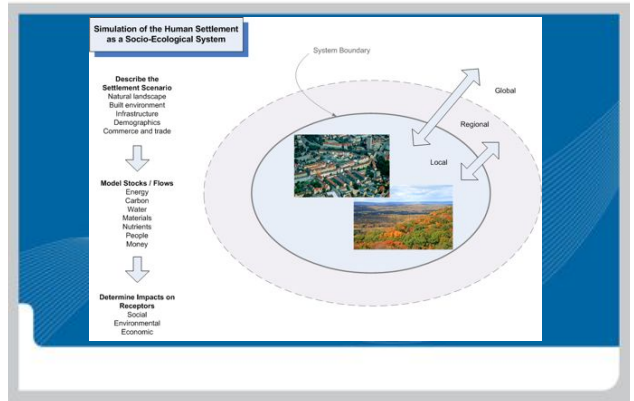
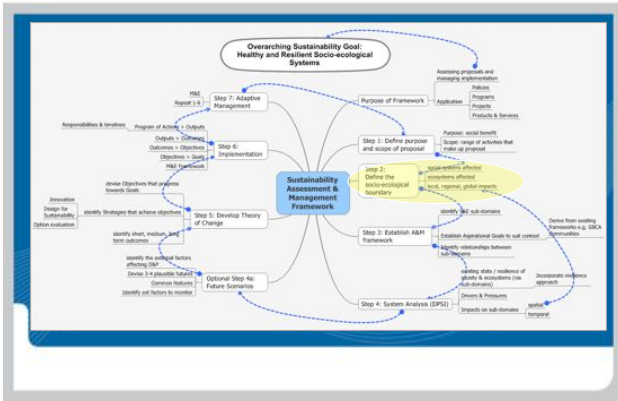
**HEALTHY & RESILIENT
A SOCIO - ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM**

Natural Capital
Environmental Impact



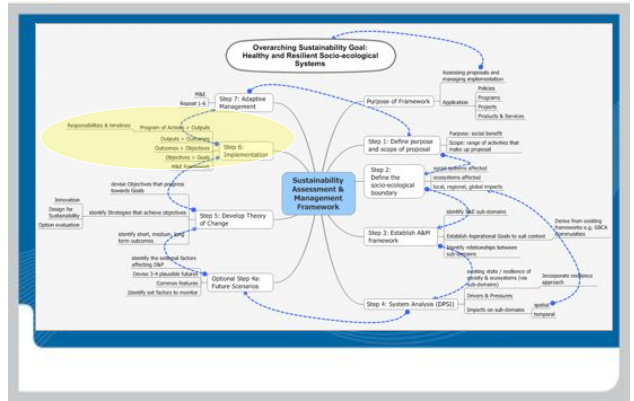
What Are We Assessing?

- The extent to which a proposal contributes to sustainability – ie the creation / retention of healthy and resilient socio-ecological systems
- Thus sustainability is a "place-based" concept and the receptors are nested SES's – local, regional, global
- An individual project (mine, railway, building) cannot be "sustainable", although its characteristics if repeated can contribute to sustainability
- A place based framework can accommodate assessment of any action arising from any kind of proposal

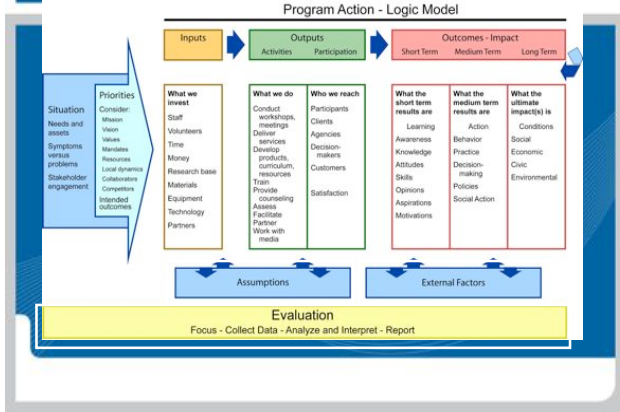


Strategies flow from Objective setting

- Objectives / targets set direction for policies, plans and designs
- Innovation must be invoked to develop alternatives to business-as-usual approaches
- Alternative strategies are assessed using MCA techniques based on objectives framework



Fully detailed logic model



Collaboration

- A uniform approach to sustainability assessment and management
- Promotes a common understanding
- Encourages continual improvement
- Facilitates collaboration

The Approvals Process

- Should be based on adaptive management of SES's at local, regional, national levels
- SOE reports should become SOS reports which are part of adaptive management strategies
- SOE reports should be the starting point for analysing the SES of interest and the scoping of any particular IA
- Every IA should contribute to a continuously updated SOE report (or State of Sustainability Report)

