Laid out below is a generic Framework for Sustainability Assessment. It is not meant to outline a comprehensive sustainability assessment method but is meant to be a starting point for such assessments and a framework which may provoke discussion and further development.

Precautionary Principle

All sustainability assessments based on the precautionary principle

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation. (Principle 15 of the United Nations Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992)

Principle ***Includes but is not limited to the following***	**Factors** ***Determined on a proposal by proposal basis Some examples -***	**Indicators** ***Determined on a proposal by proposal basis. Some examples-***
Governance		
The process is open, transparent and accountable	The public has full input to the methodology, scope & process	Assessment jointly facilitated & run
Process leads to greater government and bureaucratic openness and accountability	Increased access to decision-makers	All reports accurately record input
All assessment representatives treated equally	The sustainability assessment is a community/government run process	Meeting held at times reasonable for community membership
Adequate time and resources allocated to community representatives	Meetings open to all	All minutes and reports available in set period and in several forms
	No government 'in-principle approval' for proposals	
	Free and fair access to all information	
	Any conflicts of interest identified	
	All publications accurately record community input	
Economic		
Proposal improves economic diversity		Employment sourced from local area
Proposal improves employment opportunities/income levels	Impact of proposal on State finances detailed	Contributes to local manufactures and reduces imports
Proposal creates efficient use of resource(s)	Cost/benefit analysis and opportunity cost analysis carried out	

Proposal will improve intergenerational equity	Impacts from Enhanced Greenhouse Effect/Climate change amelioration	Energy sourced from renewable energy
Improves consumer welfare	Analysis of alternative use of resource	
Promotes environmentally friendly technologies	Use of closed-loop production cycles	
	Impact on employment (gains/losses - where/when)	
Existing property values protected	Impacts on existing users of resource/land	

Environmental

Protects or improves ecological processes	Protection and improvement of:	Proposal will have no impact on protected habitats
No impact on Enhanced Climate Change	surface and ground water, air quality	Proposal will reduce waste flowing into river
	Biodiversity and habitats and coastal processes	
Protects or improves biodiversity		Acid Sulphate Soil areas protected
Implements the ecological precautionary principle defined by United Nations Rio Declaration on Environment and Development or EP Act 1986		

Social

Improves human rights defined by the UN Charter	Improvements to basic services	Improvement in doctor/patient ratio
Improves or encourages community empowerment	Better access to employment and education	
Improves or encourages social equity and inclusion	More affordable housing	
Improves communication flow between government and communities	Community networks strengthened	
Promotes environmental justice	Improved access to public transport	Every house closer to a public transport stop
Improves access to health facilities		
Recreational opportunities increased		
Indigenous/Non-indigenous heritage protected		