Social Sustainability Assessment Framework [draft]

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Oxford 19-20 February 2009
• What is the social sustainability assessment framework

• Purpose of the framework

• Use of the framework

• Advantages and limitations
What is it?

The framework offers a model for the appraisal of development projects against social sustainability criteria at multiple levels, including:

- Theoretical
- Policy
- Practical

It stems from literature review and results from case study analysis.
Purpose of the framework

The purpose of this framework is to

1. provide practical and simplified guidance to identify, assess and measure key broad social impacts of single development projects

2. rank ex-ante project proposals according to their consideration of social sustainability themes

3. monitor ex-post the social sustainability performance of projects against baseline indicators

4. identify areas for improvements of projects proposals in terms of particular social sustainability aspects
Social Sustainability Assessment Framework (SSAF)

Practice
Methods, Themes and Indicators
- Social mixing/cohesion
- Identity, Image, Heritage
- Well-being
- Empowerment, Participation, Access
- Housing & Environment
- Education
- Employment
- Demography
- Health and Safety

Sustainability Assessment

Policy
Principles and Objectives
- Intra- and inter-Generational Equity
- Recognition and Preservation of Diversity
- Protection and Promotion of Health and Safety
- Uncertainty Principle
- Precautionary Principle

Theory
Approaches
- Equity and Human Rights
- Capital Stock
- Institutional Theory and Governance
- Business and Corporate studies
- Behavioural and Welfare Economics
- Transition Theory
### Use of the Framework

#### Assessment Matrix (Practice level)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Sustainability Theme</th>
<th>Impact value</th>
<th>Negative (1)</th>
<th>Neutral (2)</th>
<th>Positive (3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demographics (migration, ageing etc.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and Skills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowerment, Participation and Access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Safety</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and Environmental Health</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identity, Image and Heritage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social mixing, Inclusion and Cohesion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nine social sustainability themes/areas consistently identified from literature and case studies.
### Applications of the assessment process

#### Ex-ante

**Checklist for project proposals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of themes identified in SSAF</th>
<th>Negative (1)</th>
<th>Neutral (2)</th>
<th>Positive (3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing and Environmental Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Does the project include affordable housing targets in line with national requirements?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Is the social housing element located in an equally accessible and attractive position to the private housing?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Safety</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have education, health, social services and others been involved in planning services for the increased population?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Are doctor surgeries located in the scheme?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Ex-post

**Monitoring of project implementation against selected baseline indicators**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples of themes identified in SSAF</th>
<th>Negative (1)</th>
<th>Neutral (2)</th>
<th>Positive (3)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing and Environmental Health</strong> (Indicators)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• % of new dwellings which have high environmental ratings</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• % of non-decent/unfit homes</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Affordable dwellings as % of new housing completions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Total number of new housing completions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Have education, health, social services and others been involved in planning services for the increased population?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Are doctor surgeries located in the scheme?</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of neighbourhood police officers</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of residents who have been victim of crime in the last twelve months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Scoring system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very Poor</td>
<td>1-1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>1.26-1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barely acceptable</td>
<td>1.76-2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>2.26-2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>2.76-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advantages and Limitations

Advantages
• It provides simplified linear guidelines
• Flexibility to be adapted to contingent contexts
• Based on a normative model

Limitations
• It could be deemed over-simplified
• Operationalisation (e.g. availability of indicators)
• Limited stakeholders’ participation (e.g. technical assessment)
• Work in progress
Questionnaire workshop results

• Report on
  Themes ranking
  Drivers
  Attributes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Checklists or Indicators</th>
<th>Dimension or Theme</th>
<th>Weight (from Delphi workshop survey)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Social mixing/cohesion</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identity, Image, Heritage</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Well-being</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housing &amp; Environment</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demography</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Empowerment, Participation, Access</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health and Safety</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Composite Social Sustainability Index**
Drivers

- Clearer Regulations
- Partnership with local and national authorities
- Toolkits
- Training
- Improved Guidance
- Better Measurement
- Case study exemplars
Attributes

Security | Good housing | Education | Health and Safety | Green | Inclusive Design | Wealth / Work | Services | Community Spirit | Social Cohesion

0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5
THANK YOU

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