SUEMoT

Metrics, Models and Toolkits for Whole Life Sustainable Urban Development
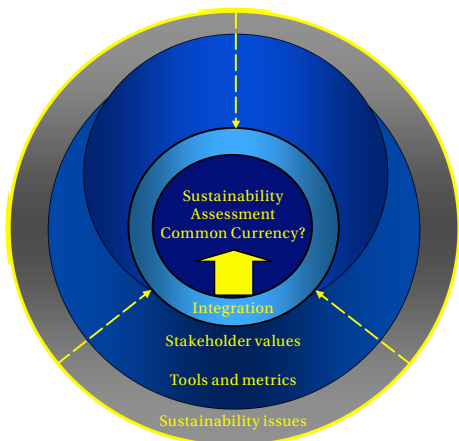**www.sue-mot.org**

ISAT
The development of a generic, integrated assessment framework
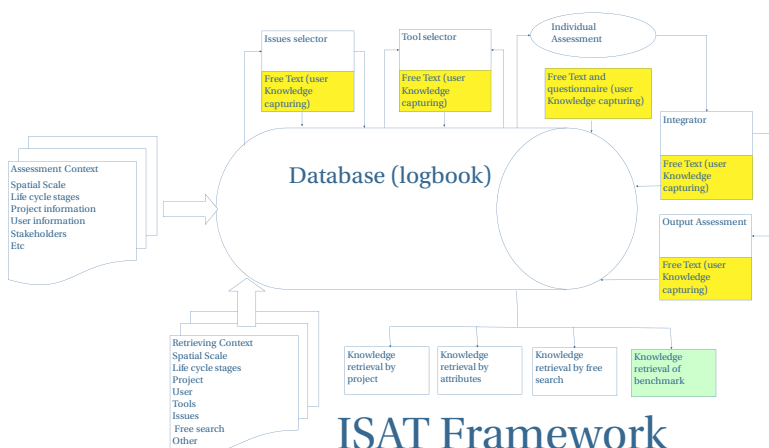

Conceptualising Sustainability Assessment

The requirements of assessment include:

- proper identification of the environmental, economic and social issues to be assessed and the context within which this is to happen

- prioritisation of issues taking account of the key decision-makers and wider stakeholders

- proper identification and application of appropriate methodologies and data to assess these priority issues

- a systematic approach allowing assessment of a subsystem at a particular scale to be viewed in relation to other scales and subsystems perhaps ultimately through a common measure

Research Aim

Integration of environmental, social and economic topics is still a key challenge to the delivery of sustainable development and accordingly sustainability assessment. In attempting to address this challenge in relation to the built environment, SUE-MoT (a consortium of academic, public and private partners) has been formed with a particular focus on integrating metrics, methods and tools in a way that reflects stakeholder values. Currently SUE-MoT is working to develop an Integrated Sustainability Assessment Toolkit (ISAT) that brings together many such mechanisms, allowing key decision-makers to identify the most appropriate for their project and combining their results based on such values.

ISAT Framework

Research Tasks

- create an input structure defining context

- assemble databases containing all conceivable issues and stakeholder values

- develop an issues prioritiser module which is context-specific and which takes account of all relevant stakeholder values

- populate an "MoT" database containing a comprehensive set of selected sustainability metrics, models and tools

- design a selector module for choosing the most appropriate model, metric or tool

- develop an assessment and decision support system which will integrate the selected outputs of the MoT database