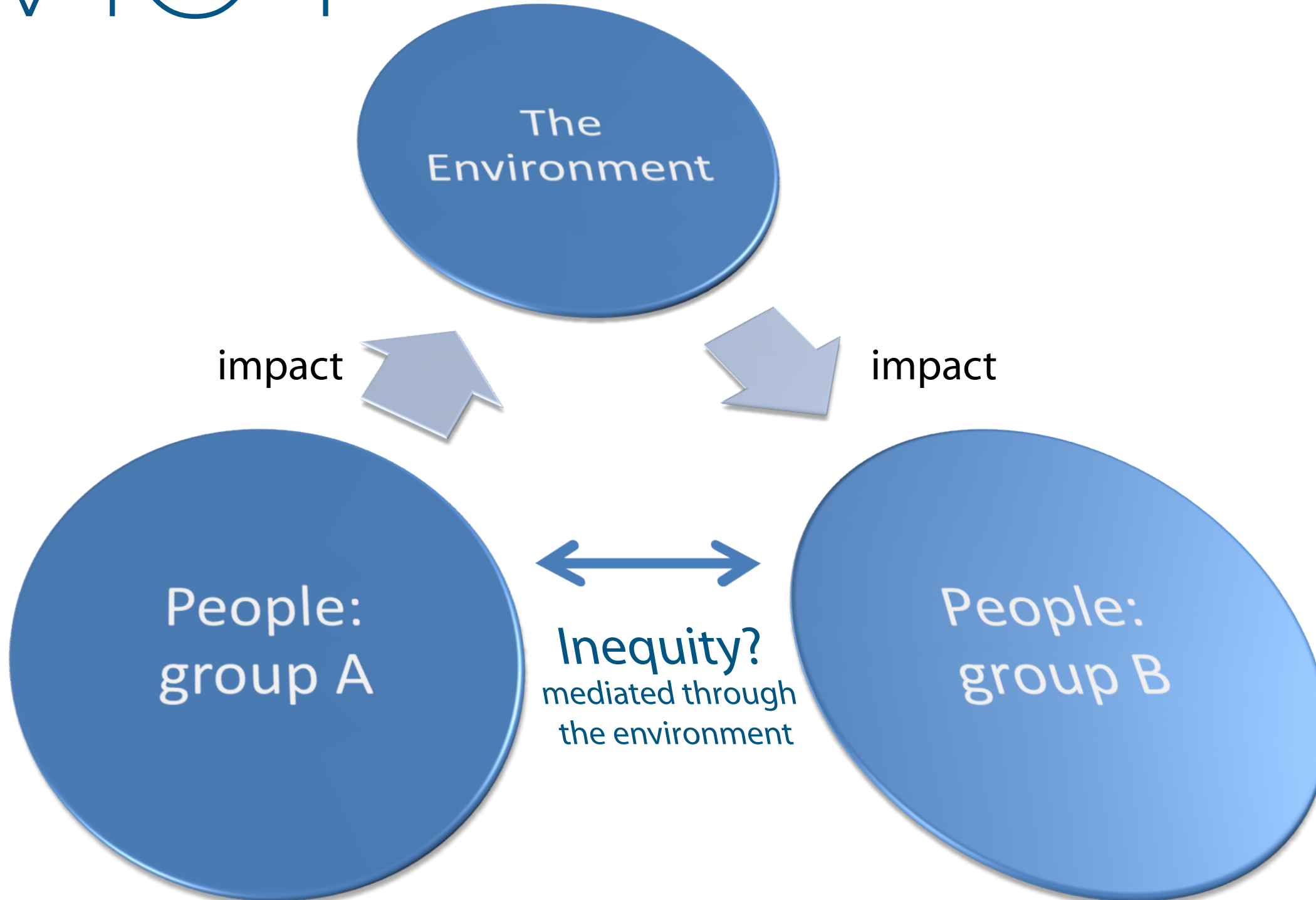




A framework for assessing ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY

SUE MoT



THE DYNAMICS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY
 Traditionally, environmentalism's focus has been on the impact that people have on the environment while the concept of environmental equity includes an exploration of how the impacted environment then affects other people. For example "group A" receives the benefit of a new road but "group B" is most affected by the noise.

RESEARCH TASKS

- 1. Examine the main concepts, definitions and UK legal and policy contexts
- 2. Identify generic assessment criteria
- 3. Explore possible existing related assessment methods, tools & data sources
- 4. Identify assessment procedures
- 5. Identify possible indicators
- 6. Develop prototype framework
- 7. Verify and test prototype through surveys and a case-study

LOCAL ISSUES

Distribution of

- Local emissions to air
- Local emissions to ground and water
- Generated noise and vibration
- Loss of visual amenity
- Loss of built cultural and heritage assets
- Loss of recreational and community facilities (including green-space and access routes)
- Increased traffic (accident risk)

NON-LOCAL ISSUES

- Emissions of Green House Gases
- Supply chain impacts

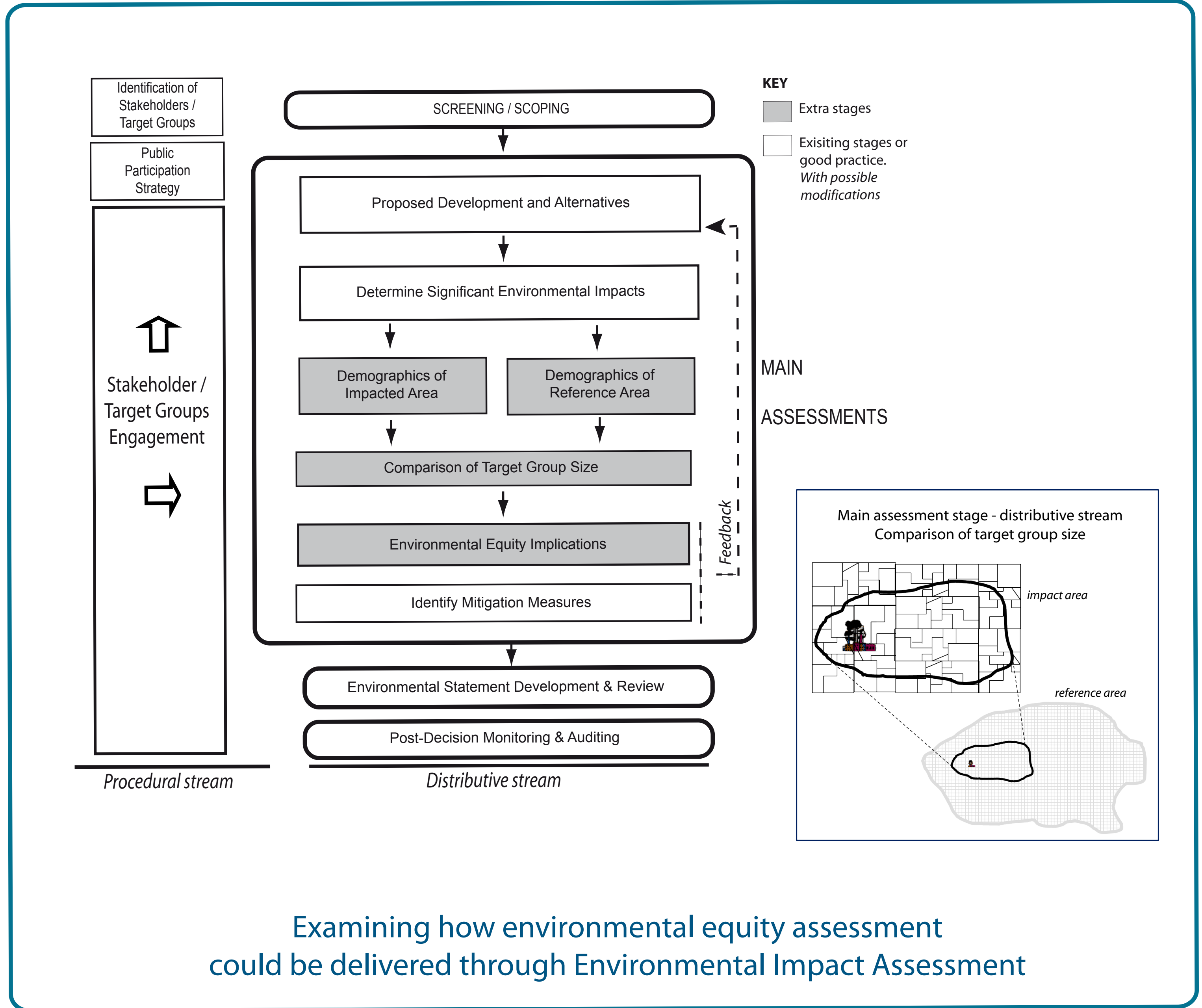
Suggested possible distributional environmental equity issues associated with an urban development

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY ?

Greater equity both amongst people alive today and between the current and future generations is critical for sustainable development. Concepts of environmental justice and environmental equity are concerned with how environmental impacts are distributed among different people. Already disadvantaged communities often repeatedly suffer the greatest environmental burdens such as noise and air pollution associated with developments like factories and waste treatment centres. One of the critical reasons for this situation is because these same communities are excluded from the urban design and planning process.

RESEARCH AIM

This SUE-MOT research seeks to develop a framework that will allow urban decision-makers in the UK to examine the environmental equity implications of a proposed urban development and promote community involvement in that process.



For more information on this and other research by SUE-MoT please visit our web-site.
 SUE-MOT (Sustainable Urban Environment - Metrics, Models and Toolkits) is a UK EPSRC funded consortium of academic, industrial and community focused partners.