

## **Sustainability assessment and rating systems for infrastructure: what next in scope, coverage, methodology and benefits?**

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At the outset of the development (1999 to 2000) of what became CEEQUAL, its scope was expressly restricted – on practical grounds by its supporters and funders – to environmental matters. Hence the original title of **Civil Engineering Environmental Quality Assessment Scheme**. From its first operations in 2003, CEEQUAL was progressively widened in scope and coverage until, in 2012, its scope (by now CEEQUAL was just a name) was such that it had become a *sustainability* rating system and included an assessment of the worthwhileness of a project from a sustainability point of view.

In parallel with CEEQUAL's progressive development, CEEQUAL collaborated with Australian and American organisations developing sustainability assessment & rating systems for their respective countries – Infrastructure Sustainability in Australia and Envision in the USA – and substantial benefits flowed for all three parties. The systems are different, because cultural and environmental context is important to how they develop. However, their objectives and benefits are essentially the same – better outcomes for projects with lower environmental impacts and better social consequences and, often, lower initial and/or life-time costs.

This presentation will outline the main common and contrasting aspects of these three main systems and then explore what challenges lie ahead for them in terms of scope, coverage, methodology and benefits. Examples include: How best to use them at, and how can they be adapted for, the early stages of project formulation to maximise sustainability-related attributes from the outset?, and How to increase the number of metrics-based assessment questions rather than judgement-based questions.

These strands will then be brought together to indicate how these systems might be usefully further developed to assist clients, design and construction teams to maximise their contribution to delivering the UN SDGs, including climate change mitigation and adaptation.