

Checklist on viability for a potential project within K2C



The following table can be used to ascertain the viability of a project within the concepts and principles of a Biosphere Reserve/ Region as set out by UNESCO in their MaB (Man and the Biosphere) Programme

Yes	No	Unsure	Criteria
			Core criteria
			A. Does the project further the purposes of K2C and the MaB principles? (ie Conservation of Biodiversity, Sustainable Development or Research and Environmental Education)
			B. Does the project promote enhance and generate greater awareness and understanding of sustainable development?
			C. Does the project demonstrate innovation or best practice?
			D. Does the project have the support and involvement of the community?
			E. Does the project link two or more of the following: community, environment, economic and cultural issues?
			F. Does the project demonstrate imagination and creativity?
			Desirable criteria: Environmental
			A. Does the project conserve and/or enhance biodiversity?
			B. Does the project reduce, reuse, or recycle waste?
			C. Does the project encourage energy efficiency?
			D. Does the project minimize pollution to air/water/land?
			E. Does the project reduce the need for fossil fuel based transport?
			F. Does the project use traditional and/or local materials?
			G. Does the project achieve aesthetic improvement to the built or natural heritage
			Desirable criteria: Social
			A. Does the project encourage / demonstrate community engagement, empowerment, ownership and/or involvement?
			B. Does the project involve young people?
			C. Does the project address local social needs?
			D. Does the project have community structures in place to manage it?
			E. Does the project conserve and promote aspects of community heritage and culture?
			F. Has a local feasibility or appraisal been carried out?

Yes	No	Unsure	Criteria
			Desirable criteria: Economic
			A. Does the project generate its own income?
			B. Does the project help the local economy?
			C. Does the project contribute to employment, training, or volunteering?
			D. Does the project have a business plan?
			E. Does the project fully explore opportunities for levering in funds and/or support in kind from other sources?
			F. Is the project cost effective?
			Desirable criteria: other
			A. Does the project demonstrate a partnership approach?

Give a 1 point score for each "yes" answer and a 0 for each "unsure" answer and a -1 for any "No" answers. Add up the total per criteria and list in the table below

Relative Score of project against criteria

	1 low / poor	2 below average	3 medium / high	4 above average	5 high/excellent
Core					
Environmental					
Social					
Economic					
Total score					

The following notes give guidance on what is looked for when completing the sustainability appraisal of potential projects.

Core Criteria

The Kruger to Canyon Biosphere purposes

Whereas the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization) (**hereafter referred to as the UNESCO**) has through the launching of the Man and Biosphere Program (**hereinafter referred to as the MaB Program**) introduced a way for conserving the diversity of plants, animals, micro-organisms and landscapes which fall within the biosphere and maintain healthy natural systems whilst at the same time be able to meet the developmental needs and aspirations of the increasing population. The Vision of the K2C is to be a leading demonstrator by example in maintaining a balance between conservation of biodiversity, fostering economic development and social development, through the following potential activities and focus areas:

- Recreation ('the demand for recreation should be met insofar as this is consistent with the conservation of biodiversity and/or the principles of Sustainable Development')
- **Conservation of Biodiversity:** Contributing to the **conservation** of landscapes, ecosystems, species, biodiversity and genetic variation,
- Sustainable development ('particular regard should be paid to promoting sustainable forms of social and economic development that in themselves conserve and enhance the environment')
- Socio-economic ('account should be taken of the needs of agriculture, forestry, other rural industries, and the economic and social needs of local communities')
- The **building of local capacity** for research, monitoring, education and training activities related to the promotion of conservation and sustainable development.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development: The fostering of sustainable development, which refers to development that is socially culturally , economically and ecologically sustainable.

Achieving sustainable development requires meeting four main goals at the same time:

- Social progress which meets the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- A diverse and prosperous rural economy;
- Prudent use of natural resources.

Individual projects can place particular emphasis on any one of these four goals, should seek to make progress on all, and must demonstrate no negative impact on any.

The K2C S21 Board will be seeking to ensure that the cumulative impact of project's focus areas is a balanced achievement of the four main goals of sustainable development.

It is recommended that projects should clearly demonstrate the benefits of the project can be sustained for a minimum of five years from completion, and have long term benefits beyond this time.

Innovation and best practice

Innovation: Projects that demonstrate the use of new ideas, unique design and have thought beyond the usual "constraints" will be preferred.

Best Practice: Projects where possible should build upon what is considered to be best practice in the particular area of work. Knowledge of what has been done elsewhere should inform but not constrain the planning and design of the project.

Support and Involvement of Community:

Ideally community projects must have achieved some kind of consensus from and / or involvement of people living within the local community. An integral aim of the K2C is to encourage individuals, communities, and businesses to develop and test new ways of living more sustainably within the region.

Linking Community, Environmental, Economic, and Culture:

Projects linking two or more of these aspects will be preference.

Imagination and Creativity:

These are associated with sustainability in the sense that a sustainable community is thought to be one that liberates, harnesses and celebrates these qualities in its inhabitants. Sustainable development requires an imaginative and creative approach that encourages lateral thinking and the unorthodox.

Desirable criteria

Environment Criteria:

A. Biodiversity: means the ecological richness and diversity of a place (or places) as reflected in the number of species and range of habitats. The rarity of the species and habitats protected or created and their quality, would improve the biodiversity score.

B. Reduce, reuse, recycle: can be applied to any resource consumption e.g. from water to wood. An approach that reduces consumption of something is usually more sustainable than one that **reuses**, which in turn is more sustainable than one that **recycles**.

C. Energy efficiency: sustainable projects seek to minimise the energy consumption, and efficiency of use of energy, over all aspects of the project, e.g. using efficient products (in use and manufacture), conserving heat and reducing electricity use, minimising transport.

D. Minimise pollution to air/water/land: using products and processes that have a minimal impact on the environment be it peat-free products, low water extraction or minimising the release of gases that contribute to climate change.

E. Sustainable transport means having as smaller an impact on fossil fuel based transport as possible and limiting the impact of traffic in the K2C Region. This also includes transport distances for goods used in the project.

F. Traditional materials: may not always be appropriate but in general the use of materials such as wood, slate or local stone is likely to enhance its aesthetic appeal and aid sustainability.

G. Aesthetic improvements: refers to projects which improve the quality of the local environment though visual/artistic improvements to the built (historic or contemporary), or natural environment. This can help to promote better quality of life, as well as conservation, enhancement and better understanding of natural beauty in the AONB.

Social Criteria:

A. Participation/support and ownership: refers to the degree to which local people and/or people who use or work in a place or service have been involved in planning and implementing the project being put forward for funding. As with the local appraisal, a high degree of participation and ownership will only come if it has been consciously sought and encouraged.

B. Local Social Needs: projects are preferential if they alleviate gaps or support community needs across K2C such as; the provision of services or amenities, opportunities for 5-18 yr olds, health issues, elderly, and disadvantaged or minority groups.

C. Community structures: is a term used to describe the degree to which locally run organisations are in place to manage and develop the project over the long term. Something imposed from outside, paternalistically or by a well-meaning individual is less likely to be sustainable than one owned and controlled by a local organisation or partnership.

D. Community heritage and culture: refers to engaging communities in exploring, enjoying and conserving their local history, heritage and traditions. This is linked to developing a greater sense of involvement and ownership in a local area, and ensuring heritage and history are enriched rather than lost.

E. Local appraisal/feasibility: is a term that describes a consultative process designed to draw out the views of people living in a local community. There are numerous ways of undertaking an appraisal, from a public meeting to a sophisticated questionnaire. The more rigorous and involving the appraisal, the more weight can be placed on its results.

Economic Criteria:

A. Generates own income. The ability to create a resource, service or activity for which there is a demand and a willingness to pay, improves its long-term sustainability.

B. Helps local economy: A sustainable community is considered to be one in which there is a diverse range of economic activities, which actively trade with each other. This enables it to be more stable and less vulnerable to destabilizing external influences. Local sustainable developments should help diversify the local economy and use local products and services.

C. Jobs, training, volunteering: refer to the degree to which a resource, service or activity creates or supports paid or voluntary jobs, and training opportunities. If voluntary tasks are of a good quality and linked to training they can enable people to move into paid work.

D. Business plan: this is a written document that is 'owned' by those who have responsibility for long-term management. It should clearly state the business objectives of those involved in the management of a resource, service or activity, and the way in which financial and human resources will be found and applied to achieve those objectives.

Other Criteria

A. Partnership working: applications that work with other relevant organisations to develop and deliver the scheme or project will be given preference as this helps demonstrate wider support for the idea and helps improve long term benefits.

