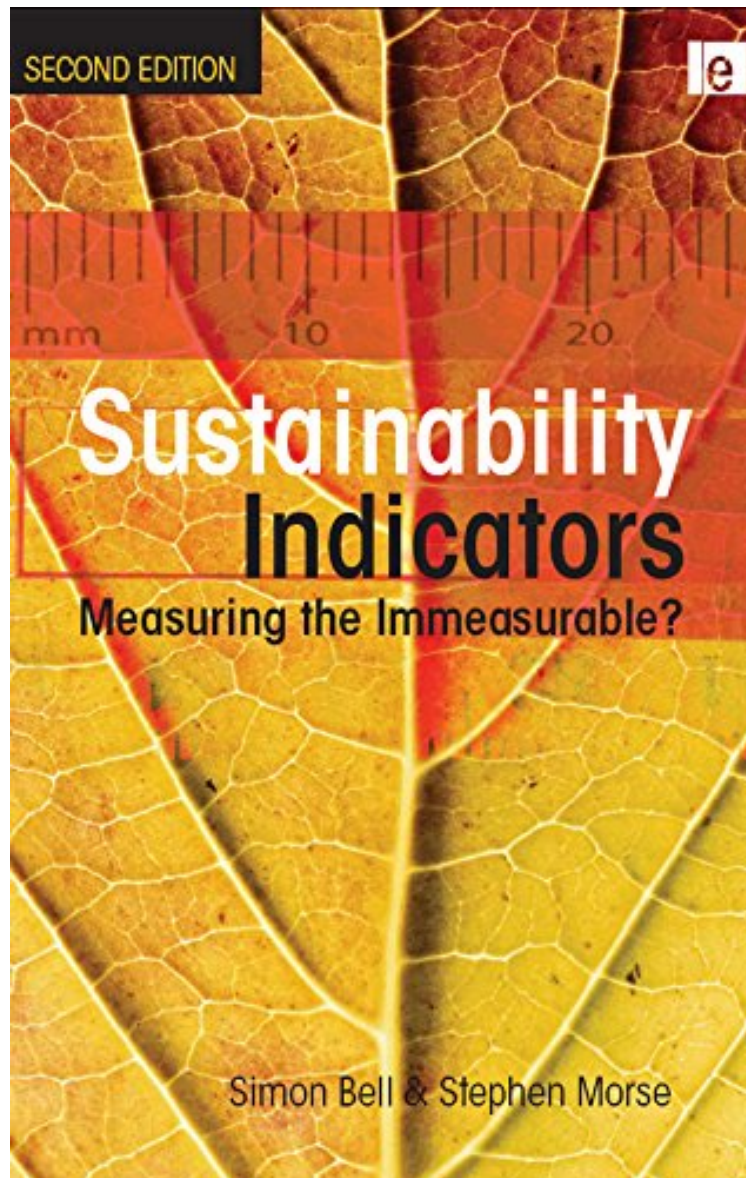


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Sustainability Indicators: Measuring the Immeasurable?

Simon Bell, Stephen Morse

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Simon Bell, Stephen Morse : Sustainability Indicators: Measuring the Immeasurable? before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sustainability Indicators: Measuring the Immeasurable?:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Utopian assessment of sustainability without adequate focus on environmental sustainability
By Sam Lyman
This book contained a good history of sustainability assessment but it did not adequately focus on the the most important aspect of the current crisis - assessing the sustainability of ecosystems.

I am all for increasing social justice in this world but I do not believe that this should be our primary focus in assessing sustainability. I would not recommend this book to those who desire to better understand the environmental basis of sustainability. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very Technical Book By RI didn't use most of this. I thought this was going to be a great tool for understanding sustainability concepts and practices, this is more about research. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful book By GN ADAMSI'm no ecologist or environmentalist but I wanted to read a book that would allow me to think about sustainability in an objective way. So many I looked at are so laden with value judgements and the moral high ground that they don't help you to make sense of what is unquestionably the debate of the 21st century. I've said its wonderful, I don't use the term lightly. Let me explain why: 1 it is wonderfully presented. You are taken on a journey which is cleverly navigated with maps and figures. Chapters flow and are expertly introduced and concluded. This all helps to make the subject matter, which is difficult, much easier to understand. 2. It is wonderfully referenced - this isn't some cranks view, it is based on the authors experience and knowledge coupled with thorough research and evidence. 3. It is humorously written...this is perhaps a strange thing to say, and I'm not claiming that it will have you belly laughing but the authors humour comes of the page.....it contains wonderful insights on some of the more ludicrous aspects of what is done or measured in the name of sustainability. The theory of unintended consequences most definitely applies to our approach to sustainability. 4. nowadays practically anything can be argued for or against on the basis of sustainability. for anyone faced with these arguments this book has a wonderful assortment of frameworks and tools that you can use for applying logic and reason.

Praise for the first edition: 'This book should be of interest to anyone interested in sustainable development, and especially sustainability indicators. Bell and Morse easily succeed in exposing the fundamental paradoxes of these concepts and, more importantly, they offer us a way forward. Readers ... will find their practical recommendations for those attempting to do sustainability analysis in the field most welcome, which is also the book's greatest strength.' Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability 'This book makes a valuable contribution to the theory and practice of using indicators for sustainability. It introduces systems ideas and a range of tools and techniques that have the potential to broaden and deepen our understanding of a whole range of complex situations. Well worth a closer look.' Christine Blackmore, Open University 'This is a book that explores new ways of thinking about how to measure sustainability... It offers stimulating food for thought for environmental educators and researchers.' Environmental Education Research 'This book tells me, as an SI 'practitioner', where I have been and why, and more importantly how I should be thinking in order to effectively present to and empower the local community in the years ahead.' David Ellis, Principal Pollution Monitoring Officer, Norwich City Council 'A practical guide to the development of sustainability indicators which offers a systemic and participative way to use them at local scale. Our preliminary results are highly positive and the approach is applicable in many contexts.' Elisabeth Coudert, Programme Officer Prospective and Regional Development, Blue Plan 'The groundbreaking first edition of Sustainability Indicators reviewed the development and value of sustainability indicators and discussed the advantage of taking a holistic and qualitative approach rather than focusing on strictly quantitative measures. In the new edition the authors bring the literature up to date and show that the basic requirement for a systemic approach is now well grounded in the evidence. They examine the origins and development of Systemic Sustainability Analysis (SSA) as a theoretical approach to sustainability which has been developed in practice in a number of countries on an array of projects since the first edition. They look at how SSA has evolved into the practical approaches of Systemic Prospective Sustainability Analysis (SPSA) and IMAGINE, and, in particular, how a wide range of participatory methodologies have been adopted over the years. They also provide an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of projects that undertake work in the general field of sustainable development.

'The book by Bell and Morse provides much insight and enlightenment to a wide audience that deals, in some way or another, with sustainability. The book challenges the current way of thinking; developing new practical approaches to sustainability that incorporates the views and values of local people is proposed as the science of the future. Academics and practitioners alike will find this book a must-have to the ever growing literature on sustainability.' Alan Brent, International Journal of Sustainable Engineering About the Author Simon Bell is Director of the Bayswater Institute in London, a Senior Lecturer at the Open University and co-author with Stephen Morse of Measuring Sustainability (2003) and also co-author of How to Set Up Information Systems (2003). Stephen Morse is Reader in development studies, Department of Geography, University of Reading, UK, and author of Indices and Indicators in Development (2004).