SUSTAINABILITY:

"Sustainability is a characteristic of a process or state that can be maintained at a certain level indefinitely" - (Wikipedia)

Ethical principle or political concept: "Sustainable Development is to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

The Brundtland Commission, 1987

Quantitative Definition: Life expectancy of the system, trajectories of certain factors

Operationalization: requires a quantitative definition, a metric to measure, means to predict consequences of action.