

Second Edition



Strategic Environmental Assessment in Action

Riki Therivel



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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
CAEP	competent authority of environmental protection
CBA	cost-benefit analysis
CEC	Commission of the European Communities
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CLG	Communities and Local Government
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England (formerly Council for the Protection of Rural England)
DBERR	Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
DCENR	Department for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DTP	district transport plan
EA	environmental assessment
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EIR	environmental impact report
EIS	environmental impact statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPDGHKSAR	Environmental Protection Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
EqIA	equality impact assessment
FONSI	finding of no significant impact
GIS	geographical information system
HDA	Habitats Directive assessment
HRA	Habitat Regulations assessment
HS2	High Speed 2
IAIA	International Association for Impact Assessment
IDeA	Improvement and Development Agency
IROPI	imperative reasons of overriding public interest
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature

IWAPHD	International Workshop on Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Directive
LCA	life cycle analysis
LUC	Land Use Consultants
MCA	multi-criteria analysis
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCEA	Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPFA	National Playing Fields Association
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PAS	Planning Advisory Service
PDGHKSAR	Planning Department of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PEAA	planning examination approval authority
PEIA	plan environmental impact assessment
PEIS	programmatic environmental impact statement
QoLA	quality of life assessment
RDC	République Démocratique du Congo
RECCEE	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
RTPI	Royal Town Planning Institute
SA	sustainability appraisal
SANGS	Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space
SDC	Sustainable Development Commission
SEA	strategic environmental assessment
SEPA	State Environmental Protection Agency
SPA	Special Protection Area
TMfS	Transport Model for Scotland
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDoE	United States Department of Energy
USDoI	United States Department of the Interior
WCED	World Commission on Environment and Development

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Part I

Introducing Strategic Environmental Assessment

Chapter 1

Introduction

Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is a process that aims to integrate environmental and sustainability considerations into strategic decision-making. It has the potential to make the world a greener and more liveable place. It also has the potential to be a dreary and resource-intensive formality, applied in a grudging minimalist fashion by people who just *hate* having to do it, adding still further to some great useless administrative burden paid for by hapless taxpayers. This book is intended to help people to set up good SEA processes and carry out effective, efficient SEAs: it is a manual for SEA. It presents straightforward SEA approaches and techniques that achieve the objectives of SEA – green, equitable – but with a minimal burden.

Book structure

Part I of this book introduces SEA generally and three SEA systems in particular:

- Chapter 2 explains what strategic actions and SEA are, and the benefits and constraints of SEA.
- Chapter 3 presents an example of SEA to explain how the whole process hangs together. It considers what aspects of SEA are crucial and less crucial. It also presents a quality assurance checklist for SEA.
- Chapter 4 discusses the development, requirements and issues raised by the US National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, European SEA Directive of 2004, and Chinese regulations on plan environmental impact assessment (PGIA) of 2009. Appendices A and B present the European and Chinese legislation in full.

Part II discusses techniques, approaches and issues related to different stages of SEA: