Second Edition

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Strategic Environmental Assessment in Action

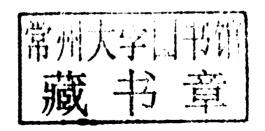
Riki Therivel



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Second Edition

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
$\operatorname{CL}\widetilde{\operatorname{G}}$	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 Potection 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 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: