



Strategic environmental assessment and national development plans in Turkey: Towards legal framework and operational procedure

Nuriye Peker Say^{*}, Muzaffer Yücel

Çukurova University, Department of Landscape Architecture, 01330 Balcalı, Adana, Turkey

Received 1 April 2005; received in revised form 1 August 2005; accepted 1 August 2005
Available online 21 September 2005

Abstract

National development plans were started to be prepared in Turkey in 1963. These plans are mandatory for public investments and guiding principles for private investments. They have a quality which guides and sets objectives for other plans in the country. Therefore, they can be evaluated as the main reason of successes and failures of sectoral investments or the problems that they cause directly or indirectly.

Turkey is undergoing rapid industrialization, urbanization and population growth, thus environmental problems are on the increase. Although Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been applied to individual investments in Turkey since 1993, natural environment has continued to be affected because of human activities. Today, parallel to the developments in the world, it has been discussed that it is necessary to strengthen project-level Environmental Assessment (EA) and to practice Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The interest in SEA, that is, EA at the level of proposed policies, plans and programs has grown significantly since 2000 in the country. Discussions and preparations have started about regulation which provides the legal and institutional framework for SEA in The Ministry of Environment and Forestry. However, since the scientific approach into the subject is very new in Turkey, it will take time to answer the questions about how and in what fields to practice.

This research project aims at analyzing the possible practice opportunities of SEA in Turkey and the practicability of SEA into the National Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP) which is assumed at the highest level of planning hierarchy in the country. The research is conducted on two sections. In the first section, procedural approaches to SEA on national development plans are investigated and a framework for

^{*} Corresponding author. Tel.: +90 322 338 70 24; fax: +90 322 338 61 89.
E-mail address: nursay@cu.edu.tr (N.P. Say).

these approaches is adapted at the institutional level. In the second section, SEA form for energy sector in the development plans is developed. In this article, the findings related to the first part of the project are given.

© 2005 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Keywords: SEA; National development plans; Turkey

1. Introduction

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) can be defined as a systematic process in which environmental, economic and social consequences of proposed policies, plans and programs are evaluated at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making (Lee and Walsh, 1992; Wood and Djeddour, 1992; Therivel et al., 1992; Buckley, 1994; Sadler and Verheem, 1996; Partidario, 1996; Partidario and Clark, 2000; Fischer, 2002). SEA, as an approach to achieve sustainable development, undertake to integrate environmental considerations into decision-making processes in relation with governmental policies. SEA practices have mostly been observed in the developed countries, however, the practice of this subject is more important for the developing countries aiming sustainable development (Barrow, 1998; Say, 2000; World Bank, 1999; Abaza, 2000; Wood, 2003; Abaza et al., 2004; Dalal-Clayton and Sadler, 2005a). In these countries, the development process till now has been followed with an approach which aims economic income in the short term. The evolving problems have been tried to be solved by policies which intend to decrease current pollution. The international relationships, organizations, external financial sources for investments, non-governmental organizations and the public impact have been effective in order to form “*preventive policy tools*” such as EIA, SEA against environmental problems among the developing countries, one of which is Turkey.

Project-level Environmental Assessment (EA), applied almost universally, has contributed into the prevention of the environmental effects of individual projects. However, there have been many changes since the first years when EA was introduced in the world (Goodland, 1998). To exemplify, the concept of “*development*” has deviated from national development into regional and global one, today National developments rely on international economic relationships, the activities and investments related to the environment have been achieved at the global scale policies and plans prepared for long term. In line with this, determination on the environmental effects of future-oriented development policies is more important than environmental assessment studies for individual projects. Although project EIA has become a useful tool in decision-making, it largely reacts to development proposals rather than proactively anticipating them (Briffett et al., 2003).

Project-level EA has been practiced in Turkey since 1997. 952 EIA reports were prepared and concluded till 1.11.2004. However, today, the problems mainly from industry and energy; transportation, housing, agriculture, tourism sectors have decreased but they have still continued. Say (2000) and Yücel (2001) mentioned that SEA gains more importance gradually and it is inevitable to utilize SEA in the early phases of policy, plan and program in Turkey.

Currently, SEA practice has been increasing; however, there are still defects about where and how to utilize it. Some development agencies, international organizations (CIDA, Danida, Sida,

متن کامل مقاله

دریافت فوری ←

ISIArticles

مرجع مقالات تخصصی ایران

- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه تمام متن مقالات انگلیسی
- ✓ امکان دانلود نسخه ترجمه شده مقالات
- ✓ پذیرش سفارش ترجمه تخصصی
- ✓ امکان جستجو در آرشیو جامعی از صدها موضوع و هزاران مقاله
- ✓ امکان دانلود رایگان ۲ صفحه اول هر مقاله
- ✓ امکان پرداخت اینترنتی با کلیه کارت های عضو شتاب
- ✓ دانلود فوری مقاله پس از پرداخت آنلاین
- ✓ پشتیبانی کامل خرید با بهره مندی از سیستم هوشمند رهگیری سفارشات