

Environmental Development Assessment

By: Ramzy Ali Hamed Mohammed Salih

University of Khartoum

Sudan

E-mail: harazzawrag@gmail.com

Abstract:

The fourth principle of the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 states: "In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection must be an integral part of the development process, and it should not be considered in isolation.". The problems of the environment are represented in development, specifically the ways in which development takes place. The Environmental Impact Assessment, since its inception until now, faces many challenges. To overcome these challenges, many approaches have been developed that base on environmental impact assessment. All these approaches seek integration between economic, social and environmental factors in the development process. Despite this development in environmental impact assessment, the environment continues to suffer from degradation, which has resulted in global warming and climate change. These results lead to finding a new powerful approach that is an extension of the environmental impact assessment and its development. Therefore, the Environmental Development Assessment (EDA) approach trying to benefit from all the shortcomings and criticism directed to all approaches.

Keywords: *EDA Environmental Development Assessment, EIA Environmental Impact Assessment, SEA strategic environmental assessment, SA sustainable assessment, NEPA National Environmental Policy Act.*

Introduction

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) principles and rules were laid down in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the United States of America in 1970. Since then it has begun to spread around the world. In the 1970s,

concepts of environmental assessment emerged within the framework of city planning and land use concepts.

Impact assessment has gained great importance as a decision-making tool in the development process. This role has been formally defined by Principle No. (17) of the Earth Summit, Reo de Janeiro 3- 14 June 1992 Development and Environment which states: (Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority.).

All this lead us to ask:

Do developments and integration in assessing the environmental impact in this way lead to strengthening the economic agenda or environmental factors?! .

To answer this question, it is necessary to clarify some facts and criticism of the existing EIA approaches that can be summarized in the following points:

- The primary focus on the natural environment was one of the basic principles of the environmental impact assessment since its appearance in 1970. Sadler (1996).
- The narrow scope of the EIA and also the SEA, which tends to focus on minimizing impact.
- Weakness of the environmental factor and the strength of the economic factor in strategic environmental impact assessment and sustainable assessment is the result of the objectives of strategic environmental impact assessment and sustainable assessment being derived from the sustainable development goals. (Morrison and Fischer, 2006).
- Focusing of adding of issues beyond the increasingly limited capacity of the EIA is considered a weakness. (Sadler, 1996; Clayton and Sadler, 2005).

As a summary of this brief presentation on the criticism directed at environmental assessment, strategic environmental assessment and sustainable assessment in their current state are not effective tools to support environmentally sustainable decisions, and that the potential impacts arising from socioeconomic factors may systematically affect the environmental factor. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a more cautious approach to integration in environmental impact assessment in

which the environmental, social and economic elements are compatible, respectively, (because it is clear that the current procedures for strategic assessment (SEA) and sustainable assessment (SA) do not serve the interest of the environment but they serve economic factor) . (Morrison and Fischer, 2006).

Objectives:

This paper aims to:

1. Finding a strong environmental assessment methodology that can contribute to preserving the environment and be abler to deal with development and convert it into real sustainable development.
2. Incorporating environmental, economic and social considerations into the decision-making process.
3. Create strong law, tools and mechanisms that are able to control development. Law and regulations must be enforced.

Methodology:

This paper contains a narrative and analytical description of the environmental impact assessment and all the approaches that have evolved from it. The descriptive method of gathering information about the problem to be researched directly depends on several tools of books and scientific papers.

Environmental Development Assessment (EDA)

The Environmental Development Assessment (EDA) Approach is a new approach designed to solve the problems facing the environment and controlling development, and the Environmental Development Assessment is based on its concept and objectives on the results of the Earth Summit Rio de Janeiro 3- 14 June 1992 Development and the environment. And using of technology in the environmental development assessment (a database for each project that is updated continuously throughout the project life cycle to follow the situation of the environmental. And using data base in evaluation of the project at the end of its cycle).

Definition of EDA

An attempt to establish the new EDA approach, is define as:

“it is a tool for managing, controlling and creating the ability to find a balance between the environment and development without there being economic and social control over the environment. Rather, these factors work in harmony with each other, with the prevention and treatment of any deterioration or any erosion of the stock natural capital to the level that it cannot perform its natural functions, waste disposal jobs and service functions, which results in the unsustainability of approved development patterns On these jobs”.

The Environmental Development Assessment Approach includes within it four parts represented in: environmental economics, natural capital, environmental accounting and environmental statistics, which work to make the process of development a real sustainable development and lead to achieving the inevitable goals of fulfilling and achieving human desires and well-being without having impacts on The present and the future.

Because the results of the Earth Summit and the Rio de Janeiro 3- 14 June 1992 AD were not mandatory, the Environmental Development Assessment (EDA) attempted to adopt them to contribute to the process of improving and obligating environmental and development decision-making. This is done by integrating environmental, economic and social issues into the development process, so that they are environmentally safe, economically effective, fair and socially responsible through:

1. Unify decision bodies related to environmental projects and development.
2. Incorporating environmental, economic and social considerations into decision-making at all levels in all ministries.
3. Adopting a locally formulated policy framework that reflects a long perspective and a multi-sectoral approach as a basis for decision-making, taking into account the links between the various environmental, economic and social issues involved in the development process.
4. Developing local methods and means to ensure the harmonization of policies, plans and tools for the implementation of sectoral, environmental, economic and social policies, applying these mechanisms at various levels and bringing together all parties concerned in the development process.

5. Systematically monitor and evaluate the development process through conducting regular annual reviews of the environment and development to assess the achievements of sustainable development by various government departments (Environmental Assessment Manual).
6. Clarity and accountability for the effects of economic and feudal policies.
7. Ensure that information reaches the public and actively participate in the decision-making process.

The components of the Environmental Development Assessment (EDA)

Conducting the Environmental Development Assessment Report consists of several steps:

1. Designing a statistical analysis guide for the environmental situation in the region where the project will be built in the light of environmental data, standards and indicators, and the detailed evaluation and analysis it includes of the geographic (spatial) data set, the biological environment and the social environment.
2. Designing a statistical guide with the project data (economic feasibility study), the stages of the project establishment, the project area, the stages of the project until completion, the period of time for each stage, the number of workers working in the project, the original workforce housing areas (whether from the region, from other states or foreigners) Sources of raw materials, stages of production and the amount of daily, monthly and yearly production and methods of transferring production from the project to the markets.
3. Study and evaluate the environmental damage resulting from the project's establishment in this region. Builds on statistical guideline (in step 1 and with step 2).
4. Study and analyze the procedures of the project in protecting the environment (its impact on the environment and its impact on the surrounding environment).
5. Studying and analyzing the external environmental costs, which mean those costs borne by society without being shown or referred to in the project accounts, and the methods of treating them. (Builds on step 3)
6. Preparing the financial accounting report (physical and monetary evaluation of environmental damages, as well as evaluating the environmental improvement in the project).

7. Preparing the final report.
8. Monitoring and follow-up will be through the results of Step 3 and Step 5).

Conclusion

This paper deal with the importance of this approach (Environmental Development Assessment), there are some real concerns about expanding the environmental impact assessment and building the goals of those approaches from sustainable development, so the economic factor is the strongest aspect of the development process.

Carbon, (1995) says, "I think we have not paid attention to the changing audience, changing players and changing decision makers to ensure their participation and informed enough. I wonder if our thinking of such policy and strategic assessment has led us to be alienated from the main game."

Environmental Development assessment is an approach that works to reformulate sustainable development by integrating all its environment, social and economic aspects. The Environmental Development Assessment approach looks for the true integration of environmental impact assessment into the sustainable development process by absorbing environmental costs within economic accounts and taking natural capital into account.

Results

Environmental Development Assessment (EDA) is keen to ensure that there is no control and effect from one of the factors over the other in the evaluation process, but all factors must complement each other to ensure that development is real development. This approach addresses all the shortcomings and criticism directed at other curricula, and increases it by working on the issue of sustainable development by integrating all environmental, economic and social factors together.

Recommendations

There was an urgent need for a more cautious approach towards integration in environmental assessment, in which the environmental, social and economic elements are compatible, respectively.

This approach (environmental development assessment) came as an attempt to contribute to the development of sustainable development.

The EDA approach tries to make the sustainable development goals derive from this approach.

The environment, social and economic components must be agreeing and work together in any project.

There must be strong law and institution to ensure of the applied all the element together.

The goals of sustainable development must be reformulated from the objectives of the environmental development assessment.

Reference

1. Earth Summit Rio de Janeiro 3- 14 June 1992
2. Morrison-Saunders, A. and Fischer, T. (2006) What is wrong with EIA and SEA anyway? A skeptic's perspective on Sustainability assessment. *Journal of Environmental Assessment Policy and Management*, 8 (1). pp. 19-39.
3. Sadler, B (1999). A Framework for Environmental Sustainability Assurance. In Petts, J (ed.), *Handbook of Environmental Impact Assessment Volume 1 Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Methods and Potential*, pp. 12–32. Oxford: Blackwell.
4. John Glasson, Riki Therivel and Andrew Chadwick, *Introduction to Environmental Impact Assessment*, Third Edition, 2005.
5. "WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?", www.accion.com, Retrieved 2019-4-29.
6. Sadler, B (1996). International Study of the Effectiveness of Environmental Assessment, Final Report, *Environmental Assessment in a Changing World: Evaluating Practice to Improve Performance*, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the International Association for Impact Assessment, Minister of Supply and Services, Hull, Quebec.
7. Kidd, S and T Fischer (2006). Towards Sustainability in the English Regions: Is Integrated Appraisal a Step in the Right Direction? *Environment and Planning C*, Forthcoming.
8. Dalal-Clayton, B and B Sadler (2005). *Strategic Environmental Assessment: A Sourcebook and Reference Guide to International Experience*. London: Earth scan.
9. <https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/sustainabledevelopment>