

# Using GIS and RS Techniques for the Determination of Green Area Priorities within the Context of SEA

S. N. Çabuk, H. Uyguçgil, A. Çabuk and M. Inceoglu

**Abstract**— Man has mostly preferred to live in communes and settle in particular areas to survive. Together with the growth of population and immigration, these settlement areas have developed into cities in time. Depending on the rapid growth in science and technology, the economical, cultural and social structures of the cities and so their physical appearances change continuously. Within this rapid and non-ecological structural change and growth, the necessity of open green areas is usually ignored. In fact, open green areas have significant positive effects on man's psychological renewal, as well as social and cultural development. From this point of view, open green areas are one of the most important spaces in the urban environment that should be considered during the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process of urban planning. In this study, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) techniques were used for determining suitable lands for open green areas within SEA process in Eskisehir city centre. In addition, the importance of GIS and RS technologies for handling multi-data sets in EIA and SEA studies are also discussed. As a result, environmental and ecological planning studies are performed by analyzing and overlaying hundreds of different data sources. Therefore; the RS and GIS based methodology described in this manuscript is very useful for environmental and ecological planning studies compared with traditional assessment methodology.

**Index Terms**—Environmental Impact Assessment, Geographic Information Systems, Open Green Areas, Strategic Environmental Assessment

## I. INTRODUCTION

In 1970, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was first developed as a tool to predict the environmental effects of any proposed activity prior to implementation and since

Manuscript received March 08, 2010.

S. N. Çabuk is with the Directorate of Planning of Odunpazarı Municipality, Camkoru Sk. No:4, Eskisehir TURKEY (e-mail: skarademirler@yahoo.com).

H. Uyguçgil is with the Satellite and Space Sciences Research Institute, Anadolu University, 2 Eylül Campus, Eskisehir TURKEY (e-mail: uyugcgil@anadolu.edu.tr).

A. Çabuk is with the Satellite and Space Sciences Research Institute, Anadolu University, 2 Eylül Campus, Eskisehir TURKEY (corresponding author to provide phone: +90-222-3239129; fax: +90-222-3222266; e-mail: acabuk@anadolu.edu.tr).

M. Inceoglu with the Architecture Department, Anadolu University, 2 Eylül Campus, Eskisehir TURKEY (e-mail: mehmeti@anadolu.edu.tr).

then it has been widely used as an authorization mechanism. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), on the other hand, is a considerably new environmental management tool. In SEA; environmental effects of certain plans and programs, as well as their alternatives are assessed before their implementation.

In Our Common Future Report (1987), while sustainable development was highlighted, an important detail came into the picture. According to report, the fragility of the Earth was realized from the photographs of the planet taken from space. These photographs played an important role in developing an environmental consciousness and thus, development requirements and environmental consequences were discussed in the same frame. In practice, the technology and development seem to stand in one scale of the balance while environment and protection concepts occupy the other one. From this point of view, sustainability is described as the point of balance. Regarding this, one may wonder how the technological advances can improve the quality of life, while it threatens the survival of the environmental cycles and so the survival of humankind at the same time.

EIA and SEA are the most important tools for the solution of this dilemma. Today, the method of this controlling the development is usually based on some legal necessities and processes such as EIA and SEA. It is necessary to properly balance the burdens that development projects are likely to put on the cities and the environment, to minimize the damage on the existing structure and to determine the proper development sites in order to meet the requirements in the long term. For determining the proper sites, many factors such as natural, cultural and physical properties are evaluated. Almost all of these factors are spatial data. Spatial data are outstandingly advantageous especially when the technological developments in the field of spatial data management are considered. Today, spatial processes are operated very fast and accurately. GIS is the most important technique to handle spatial data. The GIS software in the market can easily process, save and manage numerous data sets; make analysis, queries and overlay operations. GIS was first introduced as a tool to ease planning requirements, especially to provide rapid and accurate map overlay. Since then, it has been the most effective, accurate and the fastest tool for site detection.

The images captured with Remote Sensing (RS) techniques provide up-to-date data sources for many applications and processes such as EIA and SEA. In addition to this, RS

images are significant for change detection. Environmental changes and effects of an activity can be traced easily with these images. Besides, RS and GIS data are also used for visualizations, which are quite helpful for decision makers to better understand the possible environmental effects of the activities and the changes likely to take place in time.

The aim of this study is to emphasize the necessity of GIS for processes such as EIA and SEA, requiring fast and accurate spatial data management. To fulfill this aim, the use of GIS and RS techniques for SEA are discussed through a case in which proper lands for open and green area construction are determined. The data sets in this study were formerly used to determine the suitable lands for mass housing projects [1].

## II. BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT SEA AND LITARATURE REVIEW

Although EIA has been implemented in many countries for many years, there are some practicing limitations due to various political, socio-economical, and cultural factors. Moreover, EIA is generally carried out at later stages. Thus, in recent years, the framework of SEA was introduced internationally as a supplementary tool for EIA, so that the deficiencies of EIA could be compensated [2].

The need for SEA comprise two main dimensions: SEA counteracts some of the limitations of EIA, and secondly, it more effectively promotes sustainable development. SEA can also deal with many of the EIA difficulties. It can incorporate environmental issues intrinsically into project planning by influencing the context within which project decisions are made. It allows the consideration of alternatives or mitigation measures that go beyond the confines of individual projects. It can also allow for consultation on more strategic issues. SEA is also needed as a way of implementing the concept of sustainability. The key reasons for initiating SEA are also defined as follows [3]-[4]:

1. to provide input on environmental and sustainability issues to planning decision making;
2. to reduce the number and complexity of project EIAs;
3. to assess cumulative impacts and identify sustainability indicators.

Within this context, SEA can be defined as “a systematic method of considering the effects on the environment of strategies, plans and programs helping to reduce or avoid environmental impact”. SEA is “the formalized, systematic and comprehensive method of evaluating the environmental effects of a policy, plan or program and its alternatives” [5]-[6].

SEA is a method that provides information on the nature and extent of environmental impacts arising from the construction and operation of the proposed projects and from the implementation of the proposed plans and programs. This information is the basis for the public participation and contributes to decision making on the consent for the projects and on the adoption of the plans and programs [7].

Although SEA gains widespread recognition as an environmental management tool, there are still questions about the quality of SEA decisions. As the major answer to

this question, the indirect effects of the probable effects that grows out of a policy or a plan and the difficulty to make accurate effect determinations, which is mostly based on predictions are pointed out [8].

It has been generally recognized that four tiers of strategic decision-making including law, policy, plan and program are subjected to SEA and related to all level of government from central and provincial to municipal. The relationships of these four tiers are as follows [6]:

1. Law is an instruction for human’s social and economic behaviors drawn up by the state and local congress, and implemented by all levels of government. A law is usually regarded as finalized design and embodiment of a policy.
2. Policy is the core of the four, which permeates into a series of plans or programs, and can be escalated to become a law through legislation procedure.
3. A plan means the arrangement of series of action-schemes with a specific spatial scope, a distinct temporal span and a clear purpose for implementing policies.
4. Program means a series of pertinent projects for implementing a specific plan. Both words “plan” and “program” are sometimes used confusedly, but plan denotes a series of large scale actions in a long period (e.g. 20-year plan), and program means a number of specific projects or actions which will be built or implemented in a rather shorter period (e.g. 5-year plan or year plan).

The basic phases of SEA, on the other hand, are as follows [9]:

1. Definition of objectives.
2. Formulation of alternatives.
3. Scenario analysis.
4. Environmental analysis (including the use of objective and acceptable aggregated indicators, based on more traditional natural sciences).
5. Valuation (including the use of controversial aggregation methods, and political and ethical values).
6. Conclusions, review of quality/follow up measures, etc.

There are many publications about SEA in the literature. Stoeglehner and Narodoslowsky (2008) gave information about ecological foot printing as a valuable tool for decision making processes on LCA, local and regional Agenda 21 and SEA [10]. Höjer *et al.* (2008) aimed to give connections between procedural tools such as SEA and environmental management systems and analytical tools such as LCA and cost benefit analysis in their article [11]. Hanusch and Glasson (2008) explored the application of SEA monitoring for English Regional Spatial Strategies as a tool for providing sustainable development and compare SEA monitoring with findings of monitoring approaches of German Regional Plans [12]. Burns and Bond (2008) gave information about human health effects of plan making process within the SEA directive as a framework for improving the consideration of health in the East England land use planning system [13]. Sinclair *et al.*

(2008) underlined the importance of environmental assessment for gaining sustainability in their article [14]. Koornneef *et al.* (2007) investigated EIA and SEA as a procedural tool to assess and evaluate possible environmental effects of carbon capture and storage activities in Netherlands and bottlenecks in the application of SEA and EIA procedures on carbon capture and storage activities [15]. Retief (2007), presented the results of research which evaluated the performance of SEA practice in South Africa in order to develop understanding of how SEA functions within a developing country with a voluntary SEA system. The research applied a combination of methods in a mixed research strategy, including a macro level survey of the SEA system together with case study reviews exploring micro level application [16]. Garcia-Montero *et al.* (2007) gave information about a screening tool for strategic environmental assessment in the rapid evaluation of the environmental impact of land use change and infrastructure development plans [17]. Bina (2007) proposed a number of promising fields of inquiry that could help respond to the growing expectations attached to SEA and strengthen its 'strategic' dimension: revisiting the concept of assessment in SEA, promoting strategies for the introduction of SEA, and strengthening the contribution of theory to SEA practice in her article [18]. Jackson and Illsley (2007) gave an approach adopted in Scotland, in which SEA forms part of an agenda for environmental justice and they analyzed the theoretical rationale for using SEA to deliver environmental justice in their article [19]. Rydevik and Bjarnadottir (2007) aimed to attempt to give substance to the concept of context in relation to the implementation of SEA and to discuss the relevance of context consciousness and sensitivity in relation to one of the main aims given to SEA implementation i.e. to contribute to the "integration" of environmental perspectives in planning processes [20]. Jiricka and Pröbstl (2007) gave information about application of SEA in local land use planning using Alpine States experience as a case [21]. Geneletti *et al.* (2007), Partidario (2007) and João (2007) investigated the answer of question of scale and data needs in SEA [22]-[23]-[24]. Marull *et al.* (2007) gave information about the Land Suitability Index (LSI), a transparent, modular hierarchical system of cartographic indices aimed at delivering SEA of developmental land uses for regional planning (European Directive 2001/42/EC) using Barcelona experience as a case [25]. Zhu and Ru (2007) examined how SEA has been practiced at the national level in China through 2005 and why it has been practiced in the manner observed [26]. Salhofer *et al.* (2007) aimed to show how SEA can be applied in a waste management context. For this purpose a case study is described where a SEA process was undertaken to develop a regional waste management plan. The approach from this case study is compared to other methods [27]. Tao *et al.* (2007) investigated why and how SEA is enacted as an effective tool to integrate the environment into land-use planning during the construction process of an environmentally friendly society in China, and identify factors that influence the integration. It presented characteristics of the land-use planning system, and reviewed the progress and current state of SEA in China [28].

Donnelly *et al.* (2007) described environmental indicators for use in SEA as a tool for providing a high level of environmental protection and integration between environmental consideration and the planning process [29]. Perdicoulisa *et al.* (2007) underlined the importance of causality for impact assessments and turned to SEA to examine the causality context of eleven guidance documents. Their findings showed that the handling of causality with regards to instruction, obligation and theoretical support was weak [30]. Mörtberg *et al.* (2007) described biodiversity issues and SEA in planning of an urbanizing environment in their article and they gave a methodology for integrating biodiversity issues in SEA and planning within the context of landscape ecological assessment [31]. Therivel and Walsh (2006) analyzed the status of SEA in the United Kingdom 1 year after the implementation of the European Directive on SEA and they summarized the regulatory basis for SEA in the UK, and lists relevant guidance documents in their article [32]. Kuo and Chiu (2006) gave information about a method for the assessment of agritourism policy based on SEA and HIA combination in their article [33]. Stoeglehner and Wegerer (2006) compared the SEA-Directive to the SEA-Protocol and shows which changes will be necessary in the EU-Member States due to the Protocol on the example of spatial planning in Austria and they described the similarities and differences between these two documents [34]. Noble (2004) outlined a number of principles, based on the lessons learned from strategic and project level impact assessment practices, concerning the use of assessment panels in SEA decision-making, and attempts to provide some guidance for SEA practitioners [8]. Cun-kuan *et al.* (2004) introduced the research achievements and practice of SEA in China, discusses the relationship of SEA and "integrating of environment and development in decision-making (IEDD)", and relevant political and legal basis of SEA and the presented the framework and operational procedures of SEA administration and enforcement using nine cases [6]. Say and Yücel (2006) explained the legal framework and operational procedure of strategic environmental assessment and national development plans in Turkey [35].

### III. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The main material of the study contains spatially manageable natural, cultural, social, economic and physical (urban) data of Eskisehir. Table 1 illustrates the mentioned primary spatial data groups. When transferring into the GIS environment, all non-graphical data were processed on neighborhood basis.

Basically, the method of the study is based on the map overlay technique, which was first introduced by McHarg [36]. Figure 1 and Figure 2 explain overlay and weighted method with hypothetical examples. Figure 3 illustrates the method of the study. ArcInfo 9.0 was used for data production, storage, analysis and management. Weighted overlay operations were made with ArcGIS 9.0 Model Builder. Urban open and green areas were extracted from the multispectral Landsat images of Eskisehir. Existing green

areas in the city were ignored and only the lands with the potential to be designed as green areas were detected.

Table 1 Spatial Data Groups Used In the Study

DATA TYPE	DATA NAME
Non-graphical data	Population data
	Open and Green areas data
	Air pollution data
Graphical data	Neighbourhood borders
	Topographical data
	Soil data
	Geological data
	Land use data
	Transportation data and streets
Raster data	1/25.000 scale base maps
	Satellite images

The next stage of the study was to determine the priority classes and influence factors for the weighted overlay operation. When factors are examined to determine the suitable lands, it is not always possible to talk about standards. This is because standards may change depending on the local features, priorities and requirements. Consequently, in this study, priority classes were determined depending on the local features of the study area as well.

Weighted overlay is a technique where different input values are evaluated in the same environment. In weighted overlay technique; the first step is to classify all the attributes in a layer from the most suitable to the least. The next step is to determine points for each class, where the most suitable class should be given the highest point of the scale. The points of the classes will decrease accordingly with the decrease in the suitability. Areas, which are not suitable should be defined restricted and given the lowest point in the scale. In weighted overlay, only the integer raster data can be used. Hence, floating point raster data has to be reclassified to form integer raster values before the operation.

In this study, the data groups to be used within the same weighted overlay operation were determined. However, within the context of this study, weighted overlay was not utilized to define land suitability, but priorities for open green areas. After weighted overlaying the priority class points of each primary data group, primary priority maps were produced. In this study, two main data groups were used for weighted overlay, namely primary data groups such as geology, topography, noise and secondary data groups such as slope, aspect, great soil types etc. The values under secondary data groups are referred as attributes (for example andesite, basalt, gabbro). The linear data such as fault line were evaluated with buffer analysis. In the last step of the overlay, primary priority maps were weighted overlaid and priority result maps were produced. Figure 2 illustrates the data groups used in the weighted overlay.

In the study, the attributes under the secondary data groups were classified in accordance with the priority to form open green areas and every priority class was given points. In case

of buffer analysis, the priority classes were determined according to the buffer zones or proximity degrees. In this study, four priority classes were determined as follows:

- 1st degree priority / 4 points
- 2nd degree priority / 3 points
- 3rd degree priority / 2 points
- 4th degree priority / 1 point

As mentioned before, integer raster data was used for weighted overlay. Therefore, in the first place, all vector data were transformed into raster data with ArcInfo 9.0 Spatial Analyst. Afterwards, each raster data attribute in the layers was reclassified according to its priority class. Table 2 illustrates an example for the mentioned reclassification.

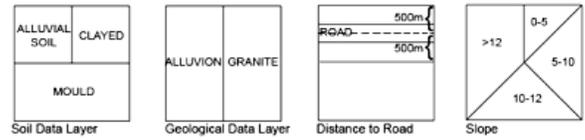
Table 2 Reclassification of Slope Attribute Values According To Priority Classes

Secondary data group	Attributes	Reclassification attributes	Priority class
Slope	0-10%	4	4th degree priority
	10-20%	3	2nd degree priority
	20-25%	2	3rd degree priority
	> 25%	1	1st degree priority

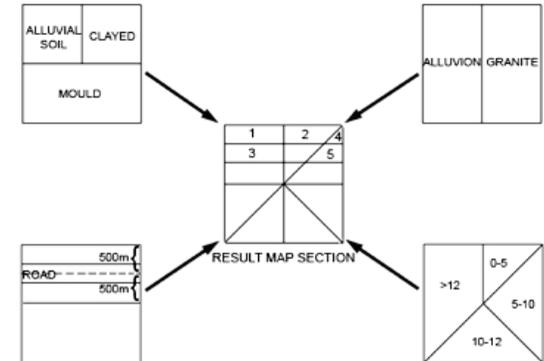
Each secondary data group was also appointed influence factors (percentages) where the sum of all influence percentages of secondary data groups under the same primary data group is 100. In defining the influence factors, seven strategies (Figure 4) were determined in this study as follows:

1. Constructing open green areas primarily in highly populated settlement areas,
2. Increasing agricultural capacity by protecting the agricultural lands; decreasing the erosion and protecting the soil,
3. Constructing a settlement area with high air quality and less noise problems,
4. Reserving earthquake risk areas for open green areas instead of housing and industry,
5. Selecting easily accessible lands (public transportation opportunities, road networks),
6. Preferring open spaces, security zones and protection zones as priority lands for open green areas,
7. Preferring lands with high population and less green area percentage per capita as priority lands for open green areas.

In any planning or site selection study, more than one data should be examined at the same time. However, in his book Design with Nature Ian McHarg stated that if the number of data is more than five, it is impossible to examine them by using human sense. The raster data is divided into grids in order to combine and express multiple data elements. Each individual grid may have a different value. If this process is done by hand, once the grids are made larger, the loss of information would be high. If the grids are made smaller, the total number of grids to be examined would be very high and therefore it would be impossible to achieve a correct result. Geographic information systems emerged to assist the planning and site selection work. Let's consider a hypothetical example where an overlaying method is used for industrial plant site selection. In this example assume that we have the following data; 1st data layer: Soil data, 2nd data layer: Geologic data, 3rd data layer: Distance to road, 4th data layer: Slope.



Before performing this study, a basic strategy must be established, and site selection criteria should be assigned based on this strategy. For example, this strategy will be followed for this hypothetical example could be "The selection of a site which is outside the agricultural areas and contains less risk in terms of soil properties". The criteria related to this are determined as: Soil data layer=Clayed, Geologic data layer=Granit, Distance to road=<250m, Slope=5-10



FID	SOIL	GEOLOGY	DISTANCE TO ROAD	SLOPE
1	Alluvial soil	Alluvion	>250	>12
2	Clayed	Granite	>250	0-5
3	Alluvial soil	Alluvion	<250	>12
4	Clayed	Granite	>250	05-10
5	Clayed	Granite	<250	05-10

According to the strategy criterion we determined before, Soil data layer=Clayed, Geologic data layer=Granite, Distance to road=<250m, Slope=5-10 equation corresponds to area 5.

Fig.1. A hypothetical example for explaining overlay method

Some of the data layers may have larger impact factors than those of others. In this case, weighted overlaying method is used.

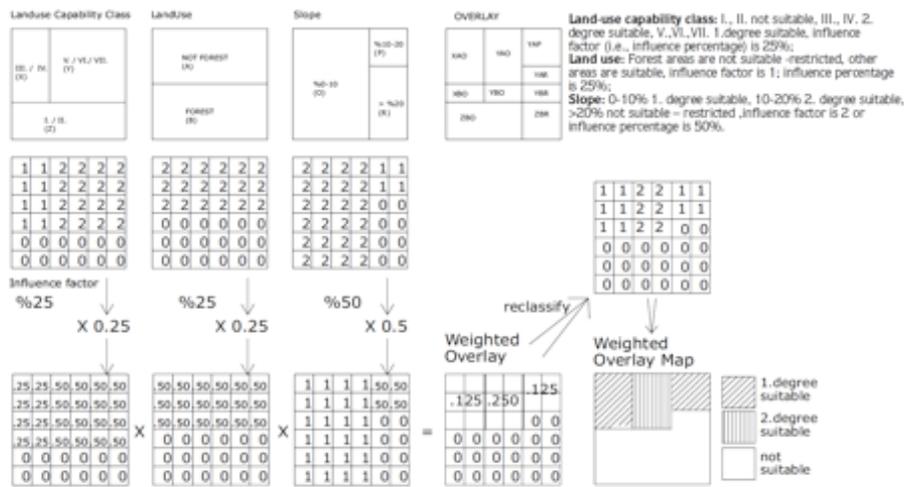


Fig.2. A hypothetical example for explaining weighted overlay method

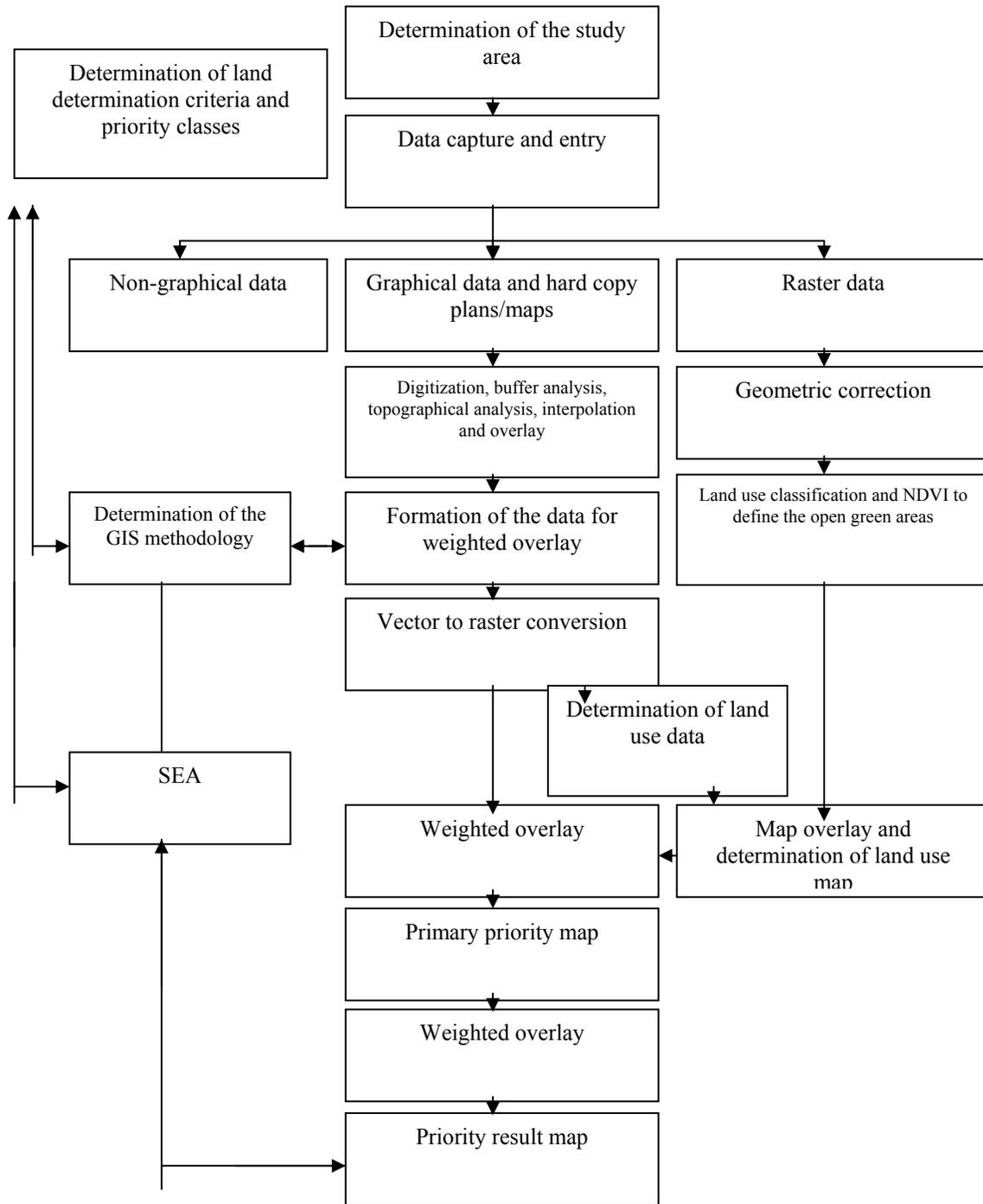


Fig.3. Method flow scheme

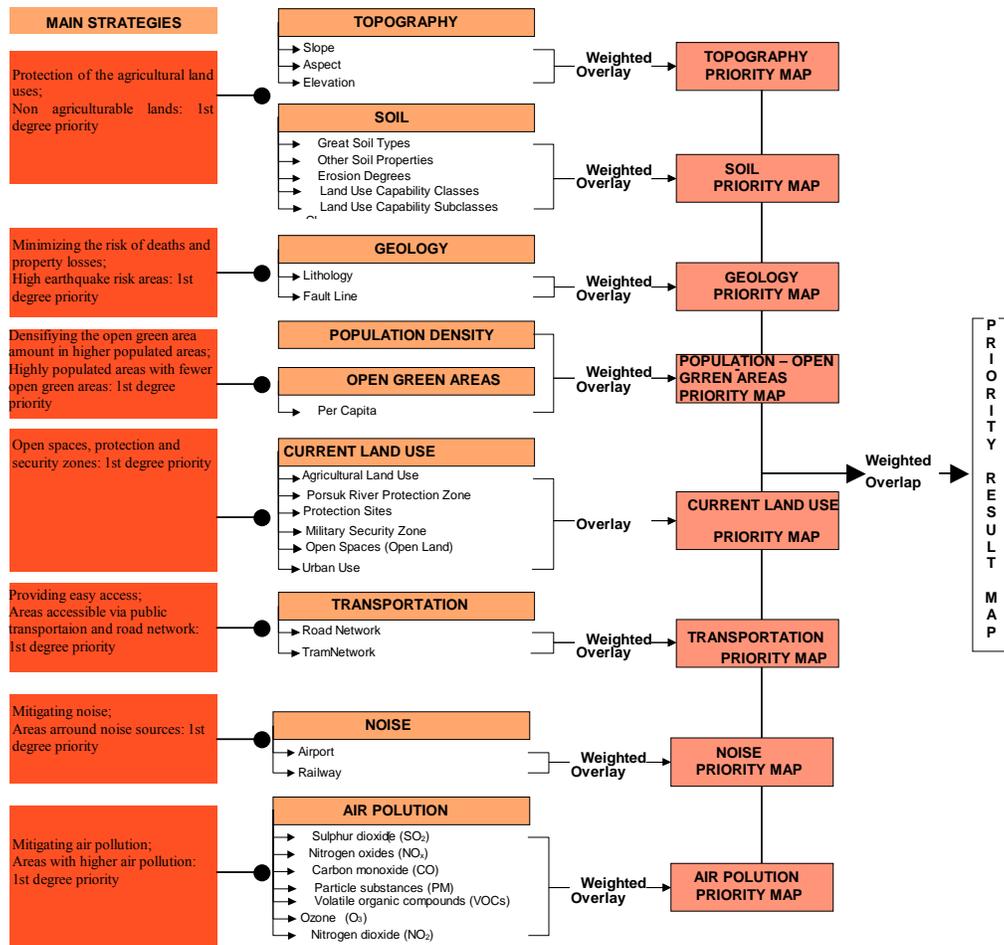


Fig. 4. Weighted overlay data

In the weighted overlay, each cell in a single layer was given a point value, which was calculated with the multiplication of the priority class point of the cell with the influence factor of the related secondary data group. The influence factors of the secondary data groups and the new values of the cells in each secondary data layer under the same primary data group were then again multiplied to get primary priority maps. Primary priority maps were also weighted overlaid with the same method to obtain priority result map (Figure 2). Table 3 summarizes the data groups, priority classes, points and influence values used for weighted overlay.

Besides the weighted overlay technique, other methods were also used during this study. For example, some data were generated as the result of the GIS analysis techniques. Moreover, hard copy plans and maps were digitized and some data were generated by overlaying. For the detection of open green areas from Landsat images within the study area, land use classifications and NDVI analysis were utilized. Land use data were generated by overlaying some raster data from different sources.

#### IV.RESULTS

Today, GIS and RS techniques have become inevitable for all phases of EIA and SEA. Especially, impact assessment methods require GIS and RS support in a large extent. The reason of this requirement is the necessity of handling many complicated and different variants and incidents, which are changing in accordance with time and place [7].

GIS utilization for environmental practices is considerably old. The spatial dimension of the environmental information is one of the main reasons of GIS use in environmental practices. Ian McHarg first explained the necessity of overlay techniques for environmental sensitive planning in his "Design with Nature" in 1969. Afterwards, this technique became one of the most important analysis techniques. In 1970s, a computerized overlay technique was developed. Then, GIS based modeling was introduced in 1980s. GIS became a tool for environment modeling. In 1990s, GIS was accepted by almost everyone as the most proper method of working with environmental data [7].

The strong spatial dimension of the environmental effects gives GIS an important role in GIS and SEA studies. The developments in GIS technologies increase the application of these systems in also economical impact assessment.

Today GIS is used in all stages of the preparation of environmental assessments, due to its capacities for spatial data integration. GIS has the ability to store, integrate, analyze and display data, so it can be employed for data preparation, spatial analysis and presentation of results. Practitioners who prepare impact assessments generally use spatial data to perform the following tasks: screening and scoping, description of the project, establishment of the environmental baseline, impact mitigation and control, public consultation and participation, and monitoring and auditing. The advantages of employing GIS include the power of managing and organizing spatial data, the good visual capabilities and the ease of changing and updating the information [7].

The advantages of GIS support for EIA can be summarized as follows:

- Spatial analysis and modeling capabilities for better impact assessment and evaluation,
- Easy project area determination and alternative comparisons,
- Easy storage, arrangement and updating capabilities for both graphical and non-graphical data.
- Making the project apparent for all groups including the public who participate the impact assessment process with the technique of effective presentation.
- Most accurate and correct results in a short time.

RS techniques can be used for the following steps of EIA and SEA:

- Determination of existing land use, determination of vegetation type and density
- Production of digital terrain model and maps
- Tracing the environmental effects with the change detection algorithms before, during and after the activity. The visualization techniques in RS software and three-dimensional modeling tools ease the job of decision makers. RS provides efficient monitoring and controlling activities.

## V.DISCUSSION

It is not possible to use the traditional methods effectively, when the number of data used in the overlay is more than five [37]. GIS enables us to make correct and fast analysis by using a good number of data sets. In this study, approximately 100 maps and 2000 different files were produced, updated and associated with each other in ArcInfo 9.0. The total file size was 25 GB. This means that in case of using traditional methods, more than three million grids (5x5 meters in size) should have been evaluated. It is impossible to say that this manual overlay method would provide the same accuracy, precision and speed. Besides, RS applications provide opportunities to better evaluate the impacts and monitor the site during and after the activity.

The priority result diestock that appears as the result of the analysis that are done in Eskisehir related to the results of the weighted overlay, which is practiced in this study, will be valuable for the introduce of the open-space areas and the practice of these areas within the extent of SEA studies. Making similar studies for all area usages that will be

introduced within the context of similar planning studies will provide the decisions that are related to the area to be defined in accordance with the most proper places and priorities.

The application of GIS and RS in SEA and EIA studies helps researcher in decision making process. These applications are very useful for producing, achieving, storing analyzing and managing the data. Mostly environmental and ecological planning studies are performed by analyzing and overlaying hundreds of different data sources. For this reason; the RS and GIS based methodology described in this manuscript is very useful for environmental and ecological planning studies compared with traditional assessment methodology.

Data conversion from different sources can be easily done with GIS tools. Weighted overlay methodology can also be customized due to purpose or the subject. Reclassification and map algebra techniques expand the ability of spatial analyzing.

In this study, Landsat imagery was used to determine existing landuse, vegetation type and density. The accuracy of the study can be enhanced by using high resolution satellite imagery. Additionally, change detection analysis can be done more accurately with high resolution satellite imagery. High resolution imagery usage is planned for future studies.

On the other hand, not only the green area priorities, but also the other subjects important for ecological and environmental impacts such as air, water, noise pollution limitations can also determined using RS and GIS integration. Due to for this purpose, specialists from appropriate disciplines should also support this project for Future Strategic Environmental Plans for Eskisehir.

Intercalarly, disaster mitigation plans, especially for the earthquakes which is extremely important for Eskisehir, should be prepared for future strategies. GIS and RS integration also provide powerful tools for this purpose. Lithological units, fault zones, liquefiable regions population density and the interactions among all, can be analyzed for earthquake risks using GIS. Risk maps are also data layers for city and regional planners.

Finally to gather together, integration of GIS and RS techniques provide planners the ability of seeing the whole picture. GIS and RS integration is a decision support system and the usage of this tool is said to be of the essence for SEA and EIA studies.

Table 3. Data Groups and Values Used For Weighted Overlay

Influence Factor of Primary Priority Map	Primary Data Group	Secondary Data Group	Attributes	Reclassification Attributes	Priority Class	Priority Point	Influence Factor	
PRIORITY RESULT MAP	%5	Topography	Slope	% 0-10	4	4th degree priority	1	%60
				% 10-20	3	3rd degree priority	2	
				% 20-25	2	2nd degree priority	3	
				> % 25	1	1st degree priority	4	
		Aspect	South	2	2nd degree priority	2	%40	
			North	4	4th degree priority	1		
			West	2	2nd degree priority	3		
			East	2	2nd degree priority	3		
			Southeast	1	1st degree priority	4		
			Southwest	1	1st degree priority	4		
	Soil	Great Soil Types	Brown Forest Soil	2	2nd degree priority	3	%20	
			Non-calcareous brown forest soil	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Brown Soil	2	2nd degree priority	3		
			Non-calcareous brown soil	3	3rd degree priority	2		
	Alluvial Soil		4	4th degree priority	1			
	Colluvial Soil		4	4th degree priority	1			
	Other Soil Properties		Alkali-insufficient drainage	2	2nd degree priority	3		%15
			Slightly salted-insufficient drainage	2	2nd degree priority	3		
		Slightly salted-alkali-insufficient drainage	2	2nd degree priority	3			
		Salted-alkali-insufficient drainage	1	1st degree priority	4			
Erosion Degrees	Rocky	2	2nd degree priority	3	%15			
	Insufficient drainage	3	3rd degree priority	2				
	Slight	4	4th degree priority	1				
	Moderate	3	3rd degree priority	2				
Land Use Capability Classes	High	2	2nd degree priority	3	%35			
	Very high	1	1st degree priority	4				
	I-II	4	4th degree priority	1				
	III-IV	3	3rd degree priority	2				
Land Use Capability Subclasses	V-VI	2	2nd degree priority	3	%15			
	VII-VIII	1	1st degree priority	4				
	Slope and erosion degradations	1	1st degree priority	4				
	Soil incapability	2	2nd degree priority	3				
%20	Geology	Lithology	Alluvion	1	1st degree priority	4	%50	
			Andesite	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Basalt	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Gabbro	4	4th degree priority	1		
			Granite	4	4th degree priority	1		
			Clay+marl	2	2nd degree priority	3		
			Clay+marl+tuff	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Limestone with clay + tuff	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Limestone	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Conglomerate	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Conglomerate+sandstone	2	2nd degree priority	3		
			Conglomerate+marl	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Sandstone	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Marl+claystone+limestone	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Melange	2	2nd degree priority	3		
			Marble	4	4th degree priority	1		
			Metadetrilic	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			Peridotite	2	2nd degree priority	3		
	Serpentine	2	2nd degree priority	3				
	Schist	3	3rd degree priority	2				
Tuff+tuffite	3	3rd degree priority	2					
Fault Line	Zone 1: 0-50 meter	1	1st degree priority	4	%50			
	Zone 2: 50-500 meter	2	2nd degree priority	3				
	Zone 3: 500-1000 meter	3	3rd degree priority	2				
	Zone 4: > 1000 meter	4	4th degree priority	1				
%15	Population Density and Open Green Areas	Population Density	0-100 person/ha	4	4th degree priority	1	%25	
			100-200 person /ha	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			200-250 person /ha	2	2nd degree priority	3		
			>250 person /ha	1	1st degree priority	4		
	Open Green Areas per capita	< 5 m2/ person	1	1st degree priority	4	%75		
		5-10 m2/ person	2	2nd degree priority	3			
		10-12 m2/ person	3	3rd degree priority	2			
		> 12 m2/ person	4	4th degree priority	1			

Table 3. (continued) Data Groups and Values Used For Weighed Overlay

Influence Factor of Primary Priority Map	Primary Data Group	Secondary Data Group	Attributes	Reclassification Attributes	Priority Class	Priority Point	Influence Factor	
PRIORITY RESULT MAP	%5	Current Land Use	Agricultural Land Use	Wet-farming	4	4th degree priority	1	No weighted overlay process.
				Wet-farming (insufficient)	3	3rd degree priority	2	
				Dry-farming (fallowed)	4	4th degree priority	1	
				Vineyard	4	4th degree priority	1	
				Grassland	3	3rd degree priority	2	
				Meadow	2	2nd degree priority	3	
			Schrubbery	2	2nd degree priority	3		
			Porsuk River Protection Zone	0-100 m	1	1st degree priority	4	
			Protection Sites	Protection Sites	1	1st degree priority	4	
			Military Security Zone	Military Security Zone	1	1st degree priority	4	
	Airport	Open Spaces (Open Land)	1	1st degree priority	4			
	%10	Transportation	Road Network	Access-easy	1	1st degree priority	3	%65
				Access-difficult	2	2nd degree priority	2	
				Access-very difficult	3	3rd degree priority	1	
			Tram Network	Access to stations-easy	1	1st degree priority	3	%35
				Access to stations-difficult	2	2nd degree priority	2	
				Access to stations-very difficult	3	3rd degree priority	1	
	%10	Noise	Airport	0-500 m	1	1st degree priority	4	%50
				500-1000 m	2	2nd degree priority	3	
				1000-1500 m	3	3rd degree priority	2	
				>1500 m	4	4th degree priority	1	
			Railway	0-100 m	1	1st degree priority	4	%50
				100-200 m	2	2nd degree priority	3	
				200-300 m	3	3rd degree priority	2	
				>300 m	4	4th degree priority	1	
	%15	Air-pollution	SO <sub>2</sub>	0-75 ton/year-km2	4	4th degree priority	1	%15
				75-150 ton/ year -km2	3	3rd degree priority	2	
				150-300 ton/ year -km2	2	2nd degree priority	3	
>300 ton/ year -km2				1	1st degree priority	4		
CO			0-250 ton/ year -km2	4	4th degree priority	1	%20	
			250-500 ton/ year -km2	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			500-750 ton/ year -km2	2	2nd degree priority	3		
			> 750 ton/ year -km2	1	1st degree priority	4		
PM			0-25 ton/ year -km2	4	4th degree priority	1	%20	
			25-50 ton/ year -km2	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			50-75 ton/ year -km2	2	2nd degree priority	3		
NO <sub>x</sub>			>75 ton/ year -km2	1	1st degree priority	4	%20	
			0-75 ton/ year -km2	4	4th degree priority	1		
			75-150 ton/ year -km2	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			150-300 ton/ year -km2	2	2nd degree priority	3		
VOCs			>300 ton/ year -km2	1	1st degree priority	4	%10	
			0-15 ton/ year -km2	4	4th degree priority	1		
			15-30 ton/ year -km2	3	3rd degree priority	2		
			30-70 ton/ year -km2	2	2nd degree priority	3		
O <sub>3</sub>			>70 ton/ year -km2	1	1st degree priority	4	%5	
	0-20 microgram/m3	4	4th degree priority	1				
	20-60 microgram /m3	3	3rd degree priority	2				
	60-100 microgram /m3	2	2nd degree priority	3				
NO <sub>2</sub>	>100 microgram /m3	1	1st degree priority	4	%10			
	0-20 microgram /m3	4	4th degree priority	1				
	20-60 microgram /m3	3	3rd degree priority	2				
	60-100 microgram /m3	2	2nd degree priority	3				
			>100 microgram /m3	1	1st degree priority	4		

## REFERENCES

- [1] S. N. Çabuk, "Site Selection Process for Mass Housing Projects using GIS techniques in the context of SEA," MSc thesis, Dept. of Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System, Anadolu University, Eskisehir, Turkey, 2006.
- [2] N.W. Kuo, T.Y. Hsiao, Y.H. Yu, "A delphi-matrix approach to SEA and its application within the tourism sector in Taiwan," In: Johnson E (ed), *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 25, pp. 259-280, 2005.
- [3] C. Briffett, J.P. Obbard, J. Mackee, "Towards SEA for the developing nations of Asia," In: Johnson E (ed), *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 23, pp. 171-196, 2003.
- [4] T. Fischer, "Strategic environmental assessment in post-modern times," In: Johnson E (ed), *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol.23, pp. 155-170, 2003.
- [5] A. McLauchan and E. João, "An independent body to oversee strategic environmental assessment in Scotland: bureaucratic burden or efficient accountable administration?," Graduate School of Environmental Studies, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Preliminary Report, 2005.
- [6] B. Cun-kuan, L. Yong-sena, S. Jin-Chengb, "Framework and operational procedure for implementing Strategic Environmental Assessment in China," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 24 (1), pp. 27-46, 2004.
- [7] M. Vanderhaegen and E. Muro, "Contribution of European spatial data infrastructure to the effectiveness of EIA and SEA studies," In: Johnson E (ed), *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 25, pp. 123-142, 2005.
- [8] B. Noble, "Strategic environmental assessment quality assurance: evaluating and improving the consistency of judgments in assessment panels," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 24 (1), pp. 3-25, 2004.
- [9] G. Finnveden, M. Nilsson, J. Johansson, A. Persson, A. Moberg, T. Carlsson, "Strategic environmental assessment methodologies - applications within the energy sector," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 23 (1), pp. 91-123, 2003.
- [10] G. Stoeglehner and M. Narodoslowsky, "Implementing ecological footprinting in decision-making processes," *Land Use Policy*, vol. 25 (3), pp. 421-431, 2008.
- [11] M. Höjer, S. Ahlroth, K.H. Dreborg, T. Ekvall, G. Finnveden, O. Hjelm, E. Hochschorner, M. Nilsson, V. Palm, "Scenarios in selected tools for environmental systems analysis," *Journal of Cleaner Production*, vol. 16 (18), pp.1958-1970, 2008.
- [12] M. Hanusch and J. Glasson, "Much ado about SEA/SA monitoring: The performance of English Regional Spatial Strategies, and some German comparisons," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 28 (8), pp.601-617, 2008.
- [13] J. Burns and A. Bond, "The consideration of health in land use planning: barriers and opportunities," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 28 (2-3), pp. 184-197, 2008.
- [14] J. Sinclair, A. Diduck, P. Fitzpatrick, "Conceptualizing learning for sustainability through environmental assessment: critical reflections on 15 years of research," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 28 (7), pp.415-428, 2008.
- [15] J. Koornneef, A. Faaij, W. Turkenburg, "The screening and scoping of Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment of Carbon Capture and Storage in the Netherlands," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol.28 (6), pp.392-414 2007.
- [16] F. Retief, "A performance evaluation of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) processes within the South African context," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 27 (1), pp. 84-100, 2007.
- [17] L. Garcia-Montero, I. Otero Pastor, S.M. Quintana, M.A. Casermeiro, "An environmental screening tool for assessment of land use plans covering large geographic areas," *Environmental Science and Policy*, vol.11 (4), pp.285-293, 2007.
- [18] O. Bina, "A critical review of the dominant lines of argumentation on the need for strategic environmental assessment," Special issue on SEA Theory, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 27 (7), pp. 585-606, 2007.
- [19] T. Jackson and B. Illsley, "An analysis of the theoretical rationale for using strategic environmental assessment to deliver environmental justice in the light of the Scottish Environmental Assessment Act," Special issue on SEA Theory, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 27 (7), pp. 607-623, 2007.
- [20] T.H. Rydevik and H. Bjarnadottir, "Context awareness and sensitivity in SEA implementation," Special issue on SEA Theory, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 27 (7), pp. 666-684, 2007.
- [21] A. Jiricka and U. Pröbstl, "SEA in local land use planning – first experience in the Alpine States," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol.28 (4-5), pp.328-337 2007.
- [22] D. Geneletti, S. Baglib, P. Napolitanoc, A. Pistocchib, "Spatial decision support for strategic environmental assessment of land use plans. A case study in southern Italy," In: João E (ed), Special Issue on Data and Scale Issues for SEA, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 27 (5), pp. 408-423, 2007.
- [23] M.R. Partidario, "Scales and associated data – What is enough for SEA needs?," In: João E (ed), Special Issue on Data and Scale Issues for SEA, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 27 (5), pp. 460-478, 2007.
- [24] E. João, "A research agenda for data and scale issues in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)," In: João E (ed), Special Issue on Data and Scale Issues for SEA, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 27 (5), pp. 479-49, 2007.
- [25] J. Marull, J. Pino, J.M. Mallarach, M.J. Cordobilla, "A land suitability index for Strategic Environmental Assessment in metropolitan areas," *Landscape and Urban Planning*, vol.81 (3), pp.200-212, 2007.
- [26] D. Zhu and J. Ru, "Strategic environmental assessment in China: Motivations, politics, and effectiveness," *Journal of Environmental Management*, vol.88 (4), pp.615-626, 2008.
- [27] S. Salhofer, G. Wassermann, E. Binnera, "Strategic environmental assessment as an approach to assess waste management systems: Experiences from an Austrian case study," *The Second Biannual Meeting of the International Environmental Modeling and Software Society - The Implications of Complexity for Integrated Resources, Environmental Modeling and Software*, vol. 22 (5), pp. 610-618, 2007.
- [28] T. Tao, Z. Tan, X. He, "Integrating environment into land-use planning through strategic environmental assessment in China: Towards legal frameworks and operational procedures," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 27 (3), pp. 243-26, 2007.
- [29] A. Donnelly, M. Jones, T. O'Mahony, G. Byrne, "Selecting environmental indicator for use in strategic environmental assessment," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 27 (2), pp. 161-175, 2007.
- [30] A. Perdicoulisa, M. Hanuschb, H.D. Kasperidusb, U. Weilandb, "The handling of causality in SEA guidance," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 27 (2), pp. 176-187, 2007.
- [31] U.M. Mörtberg, B. Balforsa, W.C. Knolb, "Landscape ecological assessment: A tool for integrating biodiversity issues in strategic environmental assessment and planning," *Journal of Environmental Management*, vol. 82 (4), pp. 457-470, 2006.
- [32] R. Therivel and F. Walsh, "The strategic environmental assessment directive in the UK: One year onwards," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 26 (7), pp. 663-675, 2006.
- [33] N.W. Kuo and Y.T. Chiu, "The assessment of agritourism policy based on SEA combination with HIA," *Land Use Policy*, vol. 23 (4), pp. 560-570, 2006.
- [34] G. Stoeglehner and G. Wegerer, "The SEA-Directive and the SEA-Protocol adopted to spatial planning—similarities and differences," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 26 (6), pp. 586-599, 2006.
- [35] N.P. Say and M. Yücel, "Strategic environmental assessment and national development plans in Turkey: Towards legal framework and operational procedure," *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, vol. 26 (3), pp. 301-316, 2006.
- [36] I. McHarg, *Design with Nature*. Natural History Press, Garden City, New York, USA, 1969.
- [37] Ş. Şahin and A. Çabuk, "GIS use in environmental assessment studies," in *Proc. Accessible GIS Conference*, Ankara, 1998.



**S. N. Çabuk** was born in Ankara, Turkey, in 1975. She studied landscape architecture between 1993-1997 at the Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey. She received her first MSc. degree on landscape architecture in 2000 from Ankara University and she completed her second master on remote sensing and geographical information system in 2006, Anadolu University, Eskisehir. She is continuing her doctorate education on landscape architecture at the Dept. of Landscape Architecture, in Ankara University, Ankara.

She worked as a GIS expert between 2001-2003 at American Geomatics Group Inc., in Ankara and then started her career as a landscape architecture at the department of planning in Tepebasi Municipality, Eskisehir, in 2003. Since 2005, she has been working as a landscape architect at the department of planning in Odunpazari Municipality, Eskisehir.

Mrs. Çabuk is a member of Chamber of Landscape Architects and Turkish Quality Organization.



**M. Inceoglu** was born in 1972 in Karacasu, Turkey. He received his BSc. on architecture in 1995 from Karadeniz Technical University. In 1999, he completed his M.Sc. on architecture from Karadeniz Technical University, Institute of Science, and Department of Architecture. He has completed his Ph.D. in 2007 in Yildiz Technical University on architecture.

He worked between 1999-2003 in Anadolu University, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, and between 2003-2008, in Yildiz Technical University, as a research assistant. He has been working as lecturer in Anadolu University, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture since 2008.



**H.Uyguçgil** was born in Eskisehir, Turkey, in 1966. He graduated from Mining Engineering Department of Anadolu University in 1991. He received his MSc. on GIS from Osmangazi University in 1994. He completed his PhD. on geostatistics from Osmangazi University in 2007.

He worked as research assistant in Anadolu University Satellite and Space Sci. Res. Inst. between 1992-1998. Later he worked as GIS Department Manager in Greater Eskisehir Municipality between 1999-2009. He has been working as Assistant Professor in Anadolu University Satellite and Space Sci. Res. Inst. since July, 2009.



**A.Çabuk** was born in Hatay, Turkey, in 1971. He completed his BSc. on Landscape Architecture in Ankara University. He received his first MSc. on Environmental Management from International Technological University and his second master degree on Environmental Economics from Ankara University.

He worked as researcher in different universities, Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council and some international companies. He has been working as academician in Anadolu University since 2002. Currently he is Director of Satellite and Space Sci. Res. Inst. of Anadolu University.