



Review

Monitoring the strategic environmental assessment for plans and programmes

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Abstract

The monitoring of the implementation of the plans or programmes, from the environmental point of view develops according to a programme elaborated as consequence of development of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA). Usually, the monitoring object is constituted from positive, adverse, expected or not expected, direct, indirect, synergic and cumulative effects. The authority which is responsible of the P/P implementation (P/P owner) has to report the results of monitoring to the authority which emitted the environmental approval as monitoring report. It will allow the authority for the environmental protection to assess the real impact of the plan or programme. The periodical report has an essential role in achieving the SEA aim, meaning the sustainable development from environmental point of view.

Keywords: strategic environmental assessment, monitoring, environmental problems

1. Introduction

The effects of implementation of the plans and/or programmes (P/P) must be monitored according to a programme proposed by the system of strategic environmental assessment (SEA). The P/P owner is responsible of the necessary measures for monitoring implementation [1, 2, 3, 4]. A series of principles must be taken into consideration when monitoring system is developed:

- The monitoring nature is different for different types of P/P from different areas, considering that they could have very different effects on the environment.
- Considering the large area of the P/P compared to a project, a relationship motivation - effect at P/P level is often difficult to establish.
- When P/P revision begins, the monitoring results must be taken into consideration.

The extension of the functioning monitoring mechanisms for different environmental components (air, water, soil, etc.) are suitable for the environmental monitoring must be assessed.

The data from the current monitoring must be used for performing the P/P monitoring

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report, but collecting supplementary data that usually are not collected may be necessary.

2. Essential aspects concerning the P/P monitoring

Preparation and implementing the monitoring programmes involves several aspects (fig. 1).

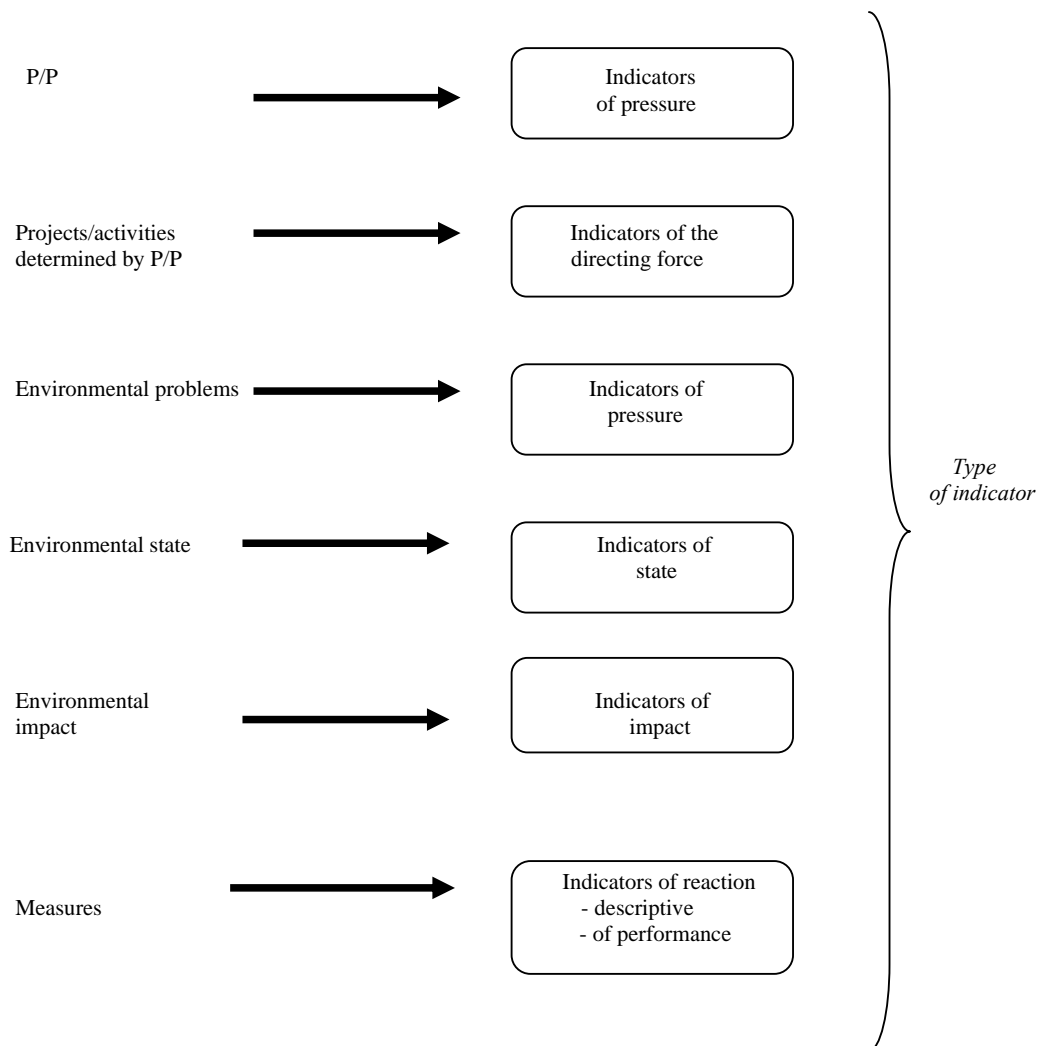


Figure 1. Model of monitoring

The object of monitoring

The monitoring must refer to the significant effects on the environment, in all types of effects, positive, adverse, predictable or not predictable, respectively. Not only direct effects, but also indirect, synergic and cumulative effects must be monitored.

The possible effects are described by the Environmentally Report, and monitoring must focus these.

In some situations (e.g. the effects were not predicted when P/P were elaborated) the monitoring of other effects may be amenable.

The monitoring period

The frequency of monitoring depends on the specific problem that must be solved. Even in some situations, one measurement is enough, in others, concerning dynamic processes, respectively, a long time, steady measurement is necessary.

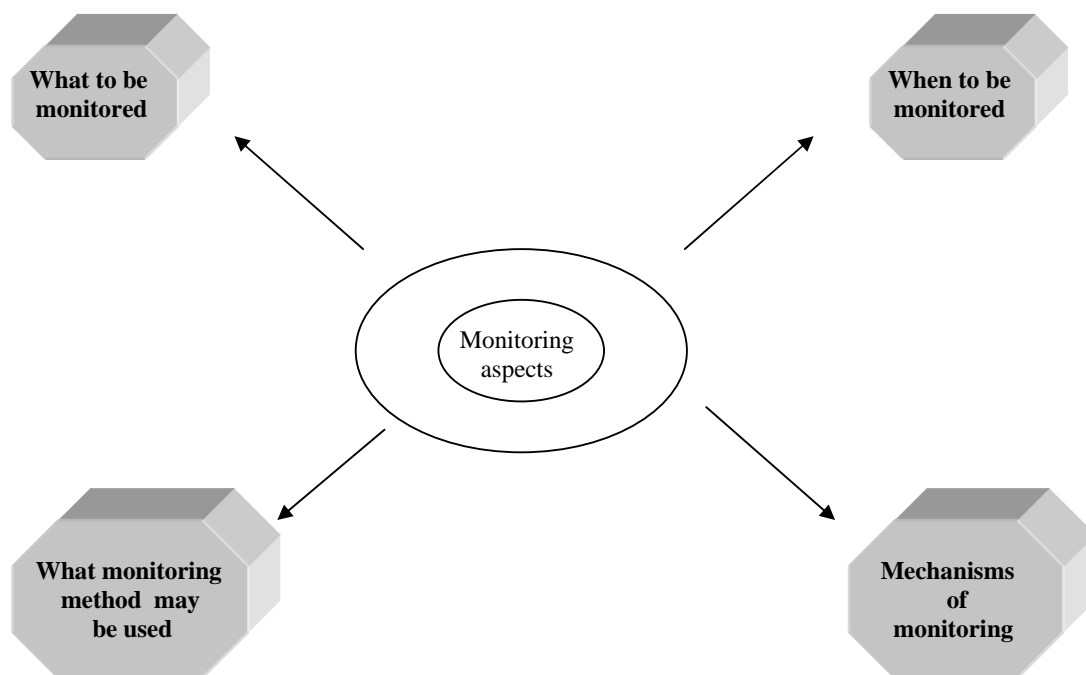


Figure 2. General and specific aspects concerning the use of the indicators

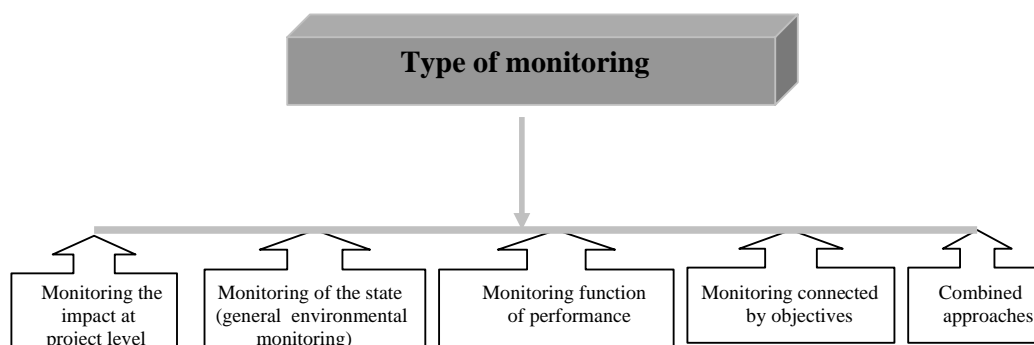


Figure 3. Categories of monitoring

The monitoring report

The results of the monitoring must be reported by the authority which is responsible of the P/P (P/P owner) implementation, and issuing authority of the environmental notification (MMDD or ARPM, respectively). The monitoring report will allow the environmental protection authorities to assess the real impact of the P/P.

The P/P owner must annually present the monitoring report, before the end of the first trimester of the year to be included in the monitoring report.

Even in HG 1076/2004 [5] more specific information is not stipulated, the monitoring programme may contain details concerning practice mechanisms, as:

- The department from MMDD and ARPM to whom the report must be sent.

- What department must analyze the report and give the official answer.

The results of the monitoring must be delivered to other interested authorities and public, based on the usually used methods and means for allowing the public to accede to the environmental information.

The recurrent reports play an essential role in achieving the SEA aim, to supply a sustainable development from the environmental point of view.

In this way, a better understanding of the relationship between development and environmental effects is possible and helps to the identification of the possible necessary new changes of the P/P, for addressing environmental assessment forms, not stipulated, initially.

4. Conclusions

The system of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has as essential role the establishment of a monitoring programme of the effects of the plans and/or programmes (P/P) implementation.

The monitoring object is constituted of significant environmental effects, including all types of effects, positive, adverse, predictable or not predictable, direct and indirect, synergic and cumulative.

The authority responsible of P/P (P/P owner) implementation must report the monitoring results to the authority that emitted the environmental notification as monitoring report. It will allow the authority for the environmental protection to assess the real impact of the plan or programme. The recurrent report has an essential role in achieving the SEA aim, of supplying a sustainable development from the environmental point of view.

References

- [1] ***, 1979, Directiva Consiliului 79/409/EEC
- [2] ***, 1992, Directiva Consiliului 92/43/EEC
- [3] ***, 2000, OUG nr. 236/2000
- [4] ***, 2001, SEA Directive, 2001/42/EC
- [5] ***, 2004, HG nr. 1076/2004

