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Development of scenarios applied to Strategic Environmental Assessment: A State of the Art

Lidibert Gonzalez-Gonzalez and Javier Rodrigo-Ilarri

Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Institute of Water and Environmental Engineering (IIAMA), Dominican Republic (lidibert_g@hotmail.com)

ragon@doctor.upv.es / jrodrigo@upv.es

Nowadays, it is widely accepted that Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) must be as integrated as possible with the decision-making process and with the other types of knowledge used in this process. This means that scenarios considered in the SEA process are often be based on studies of either existing or feasible scenarios (Höjer et al 2008). The decision-making process is therefore connected and based on the development of scenarios as a necessary applicable tool.

In the current work, a state of the art on the development of scenarios from its beginnings in the decade of the 50's is presented. The work done shows the main responsible for the creation of the different currents of knowledge, the most relevant characteristics during the scenarios building phase, the most common errors and the categorization or typologies of the development of scenarios. Result show the lack of consensus among researchers a well as defining the techniques used by each school or line of thought.

This literature review seeks to provide a summary of the wide diversity of approaches and mechanisms that exist and to provide researchers with possible lines which are still required or missing for the definition of reliable alternatives in the decision-making process under SEA.