Green Horizons Environmental Consultants Limited

Review and Critique of Environmental Sensitivity Mapping

An Environmental Consultant's Perspective

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Analysis

- Strengths and weaknesses of the online version relative to the GIS version
- Weighted scores' versus 'assets per grid cell'
- Relevant applications for a 'typical' environmental consultant
- ♣ Conclusions

Strengths and weaknesses



- Resolution GIS > Online (1 Ha vs 100 Ha)
- Functionality GIS > Online (interactive vs fixed)
- Usability GIS < Online (generalist vs expert)
- ♣ Accessibility GIS < Online (non-technical vs technical)</p>
- Data management GIS > Online (application driven)

'Weighted scores' versus 'assets per grid cell'

- ♣ Transparency
 ♣ Sensitivity to changes in data

 BIG QUESTION
 Are these good or
- **♣** Potential for data manipulation
- Need for a consensus approach
- Need for 'anchor' points

- Flexibility

Relevance of Applications

- Medium ... Early warning of issues
- Medium ... Context for EIAs
- ↓ Low ... EIAs
- ♣ Low ... Predicting impacts
- ↓ Low ... Establishing good practice

Conclusions

- Online version most useful to general stakeholders and nontechnical/non-GIS users seeking contextual information
- GIS version most useful to planners and GIS experts seeking detailed information and bespoke outputs



