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)
- Data management: GIS > Online (application driven)

‘Weighted scores’ versus ‘assets per grid cell’

- Transparency
- Sensitivity to changes in data
- Potential for data manipulation
- Need for a consensus approach
- Need for ‘anchor’ points
- Integration with other factors
- Subjectivity
- Flexibility

BIG QUESTION: Are these good or bad characteristics?
Relevance of Applications

- High … SEA-related
- 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 non-technical/non-GIS users seeking contextual information
- GIS version most useful to planners and GIS experts seeking detailed information and bespoke outputs