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A Strategic Environmental Management Model: Salt Lake Case

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Abstract

Strategic Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) is the most important tool used to determine how to protect, to use, to develop and to manage regions. SEMP is prepared for the identification of natural and cultural resources, identifying threats to those resources, and the long term protection of the region and it also provides development of strategies and implementation plans. Within SEMP is based on the current state of the region and it shows the most efficient and equitable way to be achieved in the future.

The article aims to correctly analyse Salt Lake's unique environmental conditions and protect its biological endogenous and exogenous factors that may arise in the future. In this paper, it is also developed creative and innovative approaches to use and to protect existing stocks by establishing a major paradigm to carry these approaches into future. The model includes four dimensions. First the problems of Salt Lake is determined in consideration of four dimensions such as environment, agriculture and livestock, business world and management issues then a scale is developed according to results obtained from focus group meetings. Stakeholders of Salt Lake evaluate each component of the region –economic condition, biological, ecological and social values, protection of environment, and regional management issues -. Finally, a strategic environmental management model is developed special to Salt Lake.

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1. Introduction

Salt Lake located in Konya Closed Basin covers an area approximately 260.000 hectares and in this respect it is the second largest lake in Turkey. Salt Lake and its surroundings, have been identified as the Special Environmental Protection Area (SEPA) by Council of Ministers Decision dated 14.09.2000 and numbered 2000/1381. Within Council of Minister Decision dated 07.04.2002 and numbered 2002/ 4512, the region's boundaries were changed. Salt Lake SEPA has a dry climate structure and it locates within the borders of Ankara, Konya and Aksaray. It covers an area of 7.414 km². In this respect, Salt Lake, the most largest SEPA in Turkey, hosts 3 cities, 5 counties, 26 towns and 61 villages. Because of the value of biological diversity, Salt Lake SEPA has gained an important bird area, important plant area and key biodiversity area status. Among the cultural values of the area, Ivris Relief, Silk Road Route, 51 mounds (each of them is a first degree Archaeological Site), 13 historical place (each of them is a first degree Archaeological Site), 2 mosques, 2 castles, 1 hostel, 1 water channel, 1 open air site, 2 ancient cities (one of them is a stack and th other is underground). As an economic value, around the lake, approximately \$ 130 million from the irrigated agriculture activities, \$ 25 million from dry land farming activities, \$ 182 million from livestock operations and \$ 17 million from the production of salt and sodium sulfate are obtained. The vision of the Salt Lake is to be a world known SEPA where environment conscious and happy people live while using the resources of the region by maintaining its potential. In the first part of the study, a comprehensive literature review were made about the environmental management models and land use methods in environmental management plans. In addition, case studies for Environmental Management Planning Models were given to create a base for model and benchmarking. In the second part of the study, methodology was explained and analysis results were discussed. Finally, at the conclusion part, the ideal strategies of the Salt Lake were given and strategic operational model of the Salt Lake SEPA was generated.

2. Literature Review

Environmental Management Plans are very extensive studies which include not only many areas such as lake, watershed, forest area collectively but also is created for each field in a separate way. Many approaches is seen for the preparation of environmental management plans in the world and these approaches are named General Approaches to Environmental Management Plan in the literature.

2.1. Environmental Management Approaches

Takeuchi and Lee (1989) discussed Environmental Management Plans with the ecosystem approach. Armitage (1995), criticized the ecosystem approach because the approach is an ethical approach rather than empirical evidence and methodologically and it is inadequate to analyze complex systems. Instead of ecosystem approach, Armitage (1995) developed an integrative methodological framework for sustainable environmental planning and management by combining Basin Planning Model of Hufschmidt and ABC Resource Survey Method. Besides, Linkov et al (2006) developed a Traditional Environmental Management Model. In contrast to this model, adaptive management approach provided a systematical tool for linking a dynamic relationship between environmental management and information on the performance of ecosystem or social and economic priorities. Whereas Stroup and Finewood (2011) criticized this approach, they presented an alternative approach by combining this approach with political and ecological approaches. One of the studies of management plans for protected areas and basins such as Gunes (2011), Participation Management Approach was emphasized and case studies carried out in Turkey to show how the participation management planning process should be handled. Muñoz-Erickson et al. (1999) used ecological and socio-economic factors of Integrated Ecosystem Health Indicators Management Models for evaluation of Collaboration Based Management Model in the case study of Diablo Trust Land. Bentrap (2001) criticized traditional participatory management processes in basin planning, because these processes restricted information sharing, public participation and sample promotion during public announcements and interpretation period. This approach was also inadequate for environmental planning because it supported win-lose strategy. The study of Selin ve Chavez (1995) revealed fundamental differences between Collaboration Based Management Planning and participatory planning. Another approach for Environmental Management Plan was Environmental Impact Evaluation. Canter (1998) gave brief descriptions of methods used in this approach and classified them in a table by at what stage of the methodology applied in works, usage areas, frequency of use, the degree of importance according to periods. One of the important approaches for EMP is Integrated EMP. Margerum (1999) evaluated the literature and examined twenty three case

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