

# INTEGRATED SPATIAL PLANNING

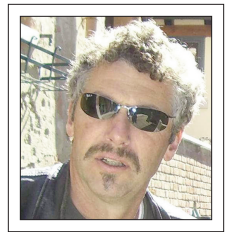
Beat Huser, Waikato Regional Council, Hamilton, New Zealand

*More than ever our planet requires new approaches, effective policies and innovative tools to better manage and protect our natural resources and the services they provide. The challenge we face is to create a future where the economy interacts sustainably with the environment and where people's welfare and well being is considered along economic, environmental, social and cultural aspects. Today's complex and inter-connected issues greatly benefit from integrating information and knowledge from different disciplines to achieve enduring outcomes. Integrated spatial planning is a concept that makes use of enhanced knowledge and vastly improved technologies to explore development scenarios in a world of finite resources and to visualise trade-offs along the way.*

*This paper discusses three key elements of spatial planning and illustrates their practical application using examples from New Zealand. A recently developed Integrated Spatial Decision Support System (WISE) is described and its potential use for place-based planning and decision-making discussed. The paper concludes with some lessons learnt and ideas for a 'way forward'.*

*Plus que jamais, notre planète a besoin de nouvelles approches, de politiques efficaces et d'outils novateurs pour mieux gérer et protéger nos ressources naturelles et les services qu'ils fournissent. Le défi que nous devons relever est de créer un avenir où l'économie interagira de façon durable avec l'environnement et où on évaluera le bien-être et le mieux-être des humains en tenant compte des facteurs économiques, environnementaux, sociaux et culturels. Les questions complexes et interreliées d'aujourd'hui profitent grandement de l'intégration de l'information et des connaissances des différentes disciplines dans le but d'obtenir des résultats durables. La planification spatiale intégrée est un concept qui utilise des connaissances enrichies et des technologies grandement améliorées pour évaluer les scénarios de développement dans un monde de ressources limitées et pour visualiser les solutions de remplacement en cours de processus.*

*Le présent article se penche sur trois éléments clés de la planification spatiale et illustre leur application pratique à l'aide d'exemples tirés de la Nouvelle-Zélande. Il décrit un nouveau système spatial intégré d'aide à la décision (WISE) et présente une discussion sur son utilisation possible pour la planification et le processus décisionnel axés sur l'endroit. L'article se termine sur des leçons apprises et des idées pour la « voie de l'avenir ».*



**Beat Huser**  
Beat.Huser@  
waikatoregion.govt.nz

## Spatial Planning Concepts

Three concepts are considered fundamental for integrated spatial planning towards a sustainable future. While discussed separately, they are all interlinked:

1. Long-term focus
2. Place-based approach
3. Integrated management

### Long-term Focus

The industrial revolution and technological age have shifted our emphasis from long term cycles based on natural processes and conservation of resources to meeting short term needs using consumptive practices and exploiting our natural

resources. The developed world has embraced short sighted consumerism as the lifestyle of choice and developing countries enthusiastically follow the example. We are living a lifestyle of unconstrained consumption in a world of limited resources. Recent concerns about climate change, peak oil, water scarcity and food shortages have helped to re-focus our interests to the longer term ecological cycles, recognising that we need to live within the limits of nature. The rapid evolution of international, national and local initiatives towards a green economy and embracing clean technologies is a sign of that adjustment. However, critical voices maintain that a more radical re-building of our economy is needed.