

Assessment criteria for projects of constructing golf courses

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Responsible for twelve completed research projects, mainly associated with regional studies, environmental and development issues. Author of forty two studies and publications and approximately of seventy articles and professional papers. Selected recent major publications (originally in Czech): Amenity Migration into Countryside Regions of Czech Republic, 2011, 114 p. ; Introduction to Spatial Economics; 2008, 119 p.; Problems of Developing Countries, Its Causes and Roads to Solution; 2006, 447 p. ; Economic Aspects of the Usage of Cultural Historical Localities; 2004, 122 p. Participation in several international research programmes, among them: Membership in Czech National MaB Committee - Coordination of Czech activities in the project 11 - Urban Systems; The European Economic Commission Research Programme - project No 1492 "Local Development in Regard to Environment" - completed.

Abstract

In the past, not too distant, the network of golf courses and similar space- requiring areas and activities was in a long-term way stabilized, as well as the demand for the services that such facilities provide. Not only as a result of growing consumption standards, but also due to new trends in terms of perception of social status and needs, this situation has substantially changed. The pressures to establish new golf serving areas is rapidly rising, both on the part of users and investors.

In Czechland, the number of golf players registered increased nearly 25 times in the period 1990-2010 and the number of golf courses rose 10 times (from 8 to 82) in the same period. This development represents a great challenge for environmental assessment systems, also because the project proposed include areas located into pure forest territories and similar environment.

The paper presented has been conceived and intended to contribute to the elaboration upon the assessment approach in the respective domain. The methodology is based on the identification of major possible impacts brought about by the emergence of golf courses in the territory and following evaluation - in the sense of scoping - as for the relevance of pertinent criteria, with regard to the concept of sustainability. In terms of a synthesis, selection of sustainability aspects, which the proposals concerning golf courses have to observe and comply with, is presented. The content and outcome of the paper is connected primarily with the Conference topic "Public participation and stakeholder engagement in decision-making processes to improve forest governance" and also with the theme "Issues of forest resources exploitation towards sustainability".

Impacts of the localization of golf courses and similar sort of facilities can be regarded on national, macro- and micro-regional as well as local levels. When focusing on the local level, one has, on the one hand, to pay attention to possible benefits, often represented by improved infrastructure, extended demand for market goods and the like, on the other hand has to consider issues associated with land use, nature protection, water management and many other complex areas. Invariably, assessment of the mentioned type of projects has been found to be very demanding task and progress concerning procedures and skills in this regard is desirable.