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**ECOLOGICAL PROFILES: A NEW APPROACH TO INCORPORATE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING AND DECISION-MAKING**

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Abstract:

This Thesis describes and evaluates the Ecological Methodology, an innovative approach to integrate ecological and environmental considerations in development planning and decision-making at the local level. The methodology includes a procedure for comprehensively describing the environment of the planning area (using Cavite Province as a case study area) based on an evaluation of its resources quality. The results of the evaluation are translated into decision maps (eco-profiles) which describe the spatial significance of the environmental sectors (air quality, water quality, ecologically significant area, natural hazards risks areas and others). The Ecological Profiles as a whole aim to guide development decisions so that they are environmentally acceptable. Included in this study is an analysis of the applicability of the methodology and a framework to integrate ecological considerations in local planning and decision-making.