

Conference Abstracts & Biographies

1E – Conservation and Engagement I

Chair: Kira Gee, Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht

Stakeholders' engagement in the integrated management of urban coastal parks and MPAs: Assessment and lessons learned from the experience of the National Park of Gouraya (Algeria)

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Abstract:

The National Park of Gouraya is classified as the smallest coastal park in term of surface in Algeria. Nevertheless, it consists of three outstanding ecosystems: terrestrial, marine and lacustrine and has national and regional importance owing to its exceptional biodiversity, aesthetic and historical richness. The Gouraya Park is entirely located in the heart of the city of Bejaïa (Eastern Algeria) which has witnessed a significant growth in urbanization, industrialization and tourism over last decades causing strong damages to different ecosystems.

Besides its terrestrial area protected since 1984 and classified as a MAB reserve since 2004, the park managers proposed its extension to the marine area by classifying it as a marine protected area (MPA). This occurred after a study that highlighted the presence of several endemic, rare and endangered species with a Mediterranean status as well as the presence of remarkable landscapes of international importance.

The conflicts of interests and the lack of awareness of the multiple stakeholders and users of the marine area on the protection and the preservation of this area are among other, factors that may impede the classification process and the effective management of the future MPA. This paper addresses the issue of stakeholder involvement in the governance of coastal urban protected areas highly coveted and exposed to the constraints related to the multiplicity of actors. The work done has allowed the actors' analysis; one major conclusion was that the current method of stakeholder involvement has not been successful as expected since the marine area is still not protected and natural heritage is in a constant deterioration. The purpose of this paper is to present the stakeholders' integration analysis as well as the methodology to be followed for an effective involvement and contribution of stakeholders before and during the classification process and in the area management.

Keywords:

Integrated coastal management, stakeholder's engagement, MPA, coastal parks.

Transforming the social-ecological systems framework into a participatory management and deliberation tool

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Abstract:

The social-ecological system framework (SESF) can be useful for applied research and management practice beyond its traditional academic applications. In this article we transform the SESF into a practical tool to facilitate participatory management and deliberation processes within collaborative environmental governance settings. We develop a transdisciplinary methodology to transform the SESF into simple and context relevant images that are understandable by non-specialists, yet the image-based framework still conveys its

core tenets of systems thinking, a checklist for system complexity and conceptualizing social-ecological interactions. We then demonstrate a mixed-method approach for testing the usefulness of the image-based framework for enhancing deliberation and participatory management processes. We show how the academic uses of the SESF, its core tenets, can serve the same purpose for non-academic actors. When transformed, the SESF has potential to be a tool that can enhance communication and knowledge exchange between actors in governance settings. We demonstrate our methodology, i.e., how to transform and test the usefulness of the image-based framework, with small-scale fishers involved with co-management in the Gulf of Nicoya, Costa Rica. In the example, we show how scientists must learn from fishers, to understand how they view their system, in order to make a communication and knowledge exchange tool useful in context co-design an effective tool. We then test its usefulness by exploring the hypothesis that the image-based framework can help fishers discuss with more depth and complexity because it provides a simple conceptual base for systems thinking and a core set of variables to consider as interacting. Using such a tool may be able to convey known academic knowledge about the complexity of environmental governance in a way that potentially mediates conflicts resulting from perceived or actual hierarchies existing among authorities, scientists, and other actors. Furthermore we explore how using the framework during deliberation may be able to alter the social-psychological outcomes of participants using field experimental methods. We discuss our methodology and potential future applications, intending to provide a new concept and way of thinking about how the SESF can be useful for applied research and practice.

Keywords: Deliberation, collective action, participation, social-ecological systems, governance Conservation and engagement

Socio-Cultural Values and MSP

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Abstract:

Immaterial socio-cultural values associated with the sea, in particular locally held values, represent an important consideration in working towards the sustainable and equitable use of the sea. There is a persistent evidence gap with respect to socio-cultural values, which makes it difficult for MSP to include them in relevant assessments, although concepts such as Culturally Significant Areas (CSA) link socio-cultural values to specific places and thereby enable an area-based approach to their management. This paper argues that identifying socio-cultural values and related places is just a first step. In order to give these values appropriate weight, a risk assessment is required of areas that have been identified as culturally significant. Identifying risks can provide important added information to the planning process, potentially helping to avoid developments that would negatively affect CSAs or detract from their essential qualities. This paper will present the conceptual framework for vulnerability and risk assessment of CSAs, drawing on intangible cultural values and tangible objects as main contributors to the essence of a CSA. A central aspect is what poses a risk to what type of CSA, and how the severity of such risks can be evaluated.

Keywords: immaterial values, marine spatial planning, sustainability, culturally significant areas, risk assessment

Biography:

Kira Gee is a researcher currently based at Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht, with long-standing interest in MSP and socio-cultural values.

Do mangroves really matter to local coastal communities? A stakeholder perspective from the Klang Islands, Malaysia

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Abstract:

Half of the world's mangroves disappeared in the 20th century, due largely to population growth in coastal areas and associated human activities. South-East Asia has seen 2% (100,000Ha) of its mangroves lost between 2000 and 2012. This trend is reflected at a local scale on the Klang Islands, a group of small islands 35 miles south-west of Kuala Lumpur, Peninsular Malaysia. These islands have experienced mangrove destruction arising from urban development, land clearance, reclamation, selective logging, aquaculture, and agriculture (particularly palm oil). The ecosystem services derived from mangroves are well documented (fisheries, coastal protection, wood resources, and carbon storage) but many coastal communities, including those on the Klang Islands, are so dependent on these systems for sustaining their traditional livelihoods that they are often undervalued. Much evidence on impacts of development on such communities is anecdotal. First-hand accounts are needed from local stakeholders regarding the significance of mangroves to them, their experiences of the threats affecting the habitats on which they depend, and their views of the impacts arising from rapid, large scale developments affecting traditional ways of life. A series of workshops have been scheduled over two years to bring together stakeholders with varying interests in the Klang mangroves to share knowledge and experience of working with, or living near, to these environments. Using participatory techniques to develop a shared vision of the future of the mangroves on the Klang Islands, the findings have so far revealed an understanding of the importance of mangroves whilst acknowledging the necessity of infrastructure development on the island. Ideas for integrating the two competing forces include creating new forest growth as well as introducing (eco) tourism activities associated with existing and new mangrove plantations. Such an outcome may offer genuine alternative livelihoods for some, while preserving traditional economies for others.

Keywords: mangroves; ecosystem services; Malaysia; stakeholder; livelihoods

Biography:

Andrew has recently joined the Plymouth Marine Laboratory as a Social Science Researcher. He is working with colleagues in the Sea and Society group on a number of interdisciplinary projects, including ODA research in support of local coastal communities dependent upon healthy and diverse marine ecosystems for food, livelihoods, health and well-being. Andrew is also involved in ADVENT, a UK Energy Research Centre Grand Challenge project, part of which requires an exploration of public perceptions of renewable tidal energy. Maritime perceptions and representations