

Interactive comment on “The support of multidimensional approaches in integrate monitoring for SEA: a case of study” by C. M. Torre and M. Selicato

B. Ferri

bferri@unich.it

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The paper is framed into the integrated assessment issue of the environmental impacts of public policies, with particular reference to the protection of coastal areas. It underlines the importance of determining - during the planning/programming process - the significant impacts which the actions planned can cause on the territory, considering wide aspects of checking so “to ensure environmental aspects but also social and economic”. The role of the SEA is described, as well as the reference to the recent contributions of various authors regarding the use of a variety of approaches, each characterized by specific purposes and techniques. However, the paper empha-

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sizes the importance to relate the effects of plan to specific objectives of sustainability at each stage of the planning process. The entire processing path of the analysis developed by the authors is well structured, with broad approach of the problems facing the analyst and decision-makers about monitoring of human pressures on costal habitats and settlements, where the attention on “the conflict between activities development and environmental protection” is very high. An integrated use of GIS and AHP is proposed to analyze “criticality” and “sensitivity” of the area investigated; an interesting study to develop a dynamic monitoring system is presented in order to control and evaluate changes of land use in coastal areas, taking into account “peculiarities and tendencies of development of the area”, so to obtain a knowledge framework to support the strategic assessment on the impacts of the plan initiatives. A consideration emerging by reading the paper is that the close relationship between environmental assessment and planning should determine an overall reminding of planning models of public action, considering the need to integrate sector policies, ensure coordination of development interventions and at the same time ensure the protection of local ecosystems. In this context, the link between integrated assessment and decision-making process appears to be essential. The methodology developed by the authors is particularly interesting and can be considered a useful tool in deepening and organization of spatial analysis for a more effective and coherent policy planning.

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