

IMPROVING COASTAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER BETWEEN SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS

Mafalda Marques Carapuço¹; Rui Taborda¹; César Andrade²; Maria Conceição Freitas²

¹Instituto Dom Luiz, University of Lisbon; ²Centro de Geologia da Universidade de Lisboa and Departamento de Geologia, Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon

Abstract

It's well recognized that the scientific knowledge on coastal dynamics should contribute to coastal zone management. However, so far, generation of data on coastal processes have been conducted almost exclusively by the research community; the data sets and results are made available in ways that suit that community, but frequently preclude direct application in coastal management. Moreover, there is a plethora of site-specific information that is frequently detained by manager, which is often overlooked by the research community. A study was conducted in order to assesses both managers and researchers perspective on this subject. Results show the importance of fostering the existing mechanisms to improve coastal knowledge transfer, such as the use of coastal indicators, the existence of linkage agents, the development of qualitative into quantitative data tools and the development of managers-oriented tools to support self-data acquisition. Additionally, further meetings and seminars involving researchers and managers - "get together" mechanics - are also suggested by both parties. Since amongst the same group, either researchers or managers, the obstacles identified in knowledge transfer were very dissimilar is not possible to adopt or recommend a universal approach. However, the perception of coastal researchers and managers concerning gaps in knowledge transfer reflects an unexpected general agreement; this proximity can constitute a major opportunity in bridging these communities together and in the implementation of a two-way route communication approach, increasing and improving the role of managers in the coastal knowledge transfer processes.