

The 2nd MENAPAR Conference - 2015

Tunis - TUNISIA

6-9 October

Role of Citizens and Organisations in Co-constructing Public Action
in the MENA Region

Submissions

English

Nathalie BOUTIN

Contribution Details

Conference Track / Type of Submission: **MENAPAR Pre-conference Consortium**

To dump or not to dump in the Mediterranean Sea? A dispute over the wastes of an alumina plant (Alteo, Gardanne, France) in the National Park of the Calanques (Marseille, France)

BOUTIN, Nathalie

Organization(s): CERGAM, France

Submitted by: **Ms. Nathalie BOUTIN (CERGAM, FR)**

Presenting Author: BOUTIN, Nathalie boutin@eccorev.fr

Keywords: wastes, Mediterranean, dump

Abstract

Abstract:

Man-nature relationships are often considered through two perspectives. The first one envisages a new era in the planet history, the shifting point of which is still disputed, marked by the overwhelming human domination and consequently increasingly irremediable damages to natural environments. The promoters of this view tend to be pessimistic and call for radical changes in the human activity to thwart the evolution towards doom. The second one, more optimistic, recognizes the services that nature and ecosystems provide to human wellbeing and consequently call for research identifying and valuing them to organize a rational sustainable use of those services. We claim that depending on which perspective they adhere, the positions of the stakeholders in usual conflicts bearing on the use of space and resources are quite different and that the solutions to those conflicts have to take this discrepancy into consideration to find proper solutions. We illustrate this proposition through the case of the Alumina Plant Alteo (Gardanne, France) bearing with the conflict about the stopping or rejection of industrial wastes in the marine area recently classified "National Park of the Calanques" (Marseille, France), leading to an improvement of marine biodiversity. This resolution to stop the dumping of industrial wastes is the translation of local implementation of the Action Plan for the Mediterranean, integrated to the Barcelona Process (1976) for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean (1995). The company has committed itself since 1995 to gradually reduce its discharges of solid bauxite residues and stop them as of 01/01/2016 as imposed by the *Prefecture*. However the wastes have to be transferred on a land space creating new threats for terrestrial biodiversity and human health. Alternatively a solution is to shut the plant that provides many jobs to the local population, distant from the sea. The conflict involves several types of stakeholders, workers, residents in the plant vicinity, users of the Park, fishermen, the industrialist, and the public authority, which has to define a method for reaching a solution. Preliminary results from a stakeholder analysis, performed through secondary collected data will illustrate environmental management of biodiversity at the local scale in the French system, where weaknesses of environmental governance are observed and biodiversity concerns are still stammering. The presentation will be based first on a historical retrospective of institutional responses to environmental concerns related to the industrial activity.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Conference Partners:



Other Key Organizers:

