

directed toward the empirical assessment of risks, so the truth or falsity of a greater proportion than in Lawless's era should be able to be resolved empirically. Moreover, if researchers were to refine Mazur's study of hallmarks of truth and falsity among those risks where these assessments can be made, we might be able to anticipate truth or falsity without having to wait 30–50 years to find out if we are right. This, after all, was the objective of Mazur's study, an objective which he, much more than other recent work has been able to realize and, in so doing, shows us how to realize.

The critique offered here of Mazur's study is in no way meant to diminish or limit the relevance of Mazur's achievement. The critique is possible only because of the systematic, transparent way Mazur has studied the problem. *True Warnings and False Alarms* is an exemplar of applied social science, and, until we have evidence otherwise, Mazur's hallmarks of true and false alarms should be our guides when deciding whether or not to believe the alarms of our time.

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**Leontine E. Visser (Ed.), *Challenging Coasts: Transdisciplinary Excursions into Integrated Coastal Zone Development*, Amsterdam University Press, 2004, 248 pp., paperback, €30,40.**

This book provides a refreshing contribution to the coastal literature by attempting to focus on integrated coastal development (ICD) rather than integrated coastal management (ICM), which has dominated the post-Rio debate on

sustainable approaches to coastal resource use. The book is the product of a number of papers from both the natural and human sciences, which were originally presented at an international conference in 2001 dealing with people and the sea. Professor Visser states that she wants to improve transdisciplinary ways of examining coastal development as an interface between people and the sea rather than using the policy instrument of management.

The book is ambitious because it recognizes the different methodological approaches taken by the authors of Chapters 3–9 in the book and attempts to take what the editor describes as 'an excursion into transdisciplinarity'. I found the first two chapters by Visser a very useful contribution to the coastal resource use debate although I comment below on a number of the assumptions made in these chapters.

It is claimed on the back cover of the book that the first chapter manages to tie the whole volume together. While I agree with Visser's argument on the need for a transdisciplinary response spanning both the natural and social sciences, I don't believe that the introductory chapter achieves the cohesion that is claimed. The first two chapters, written by Visser, discuss the notions of boundaries and transdisciplinarity and argue the need to examine coastal problems from the standpoint of development rather than management. The following seven chapters do provide a range of natural and social science perspectives, but these take a mostly 'management' approach rather than attempting to embrace the coastal development perspective proposed by Visser in the introductory chapter.

The book has a distinctively marine focus and although it has 'integrated' in its title there is no balance provided across the land–ocean interface. Visser refers to the importance of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Rio conference (1992) in promoting the notion of integrated management, but says that there is now a challenge to take a marine as well as a land-oriented perspective to integration. This marine perspective is not new and was clearly stated over 10 years ago in the Rio conference, which Visser refers to: 'coastal states should commit themselves to integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas and the marine environment under their national jurisdiction' (UNCED, 1992: Agenda 21: 17.5).

I will now comment on the first two chapters by Visser, which provide a thought-provoking introduction to the book. Visser claims that integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) is a key word in the discourse on coasts and seas, but does not appear to be aware that there has been a shift in emphasis away from coastal 'zone' or 'area' management towards 'integrated' coastal management or ICM (Cicin-Sain and Knecht, 1998; Burbridge, 1999). Similarly Sorenson (1997) distinguishes between ICM as a concept or field of study and ICZM as a program, which has the task of defining the boundaries of the coastal 'zone'. This is an important point because the notion of boundaries and zones is one of the very problems discussed by Visser. It appears that while the use of the term 'zone' was originally intended

to be flexible it has also been used prescriptively so that the identification of boundary conditions has mitigated against the need to integrate across them. For this reason, the use of ICM rather than ICZM is becoming more acceptable and common in the literature.

Visser suggests that governments need the coastal 'zone' to be fixed, but the *Commonwealth of Australia (1995)* defines it as 'extending as far inland and as far seaward as necessary to achieve the Coastal Policy objectives'. Similarly, Visser's interpretation of ICM in the early 1990s as a 'technological and governance framework' to protect land and people from the risk of sea-level rise is a very narrow interpretation, but probably true from a Dutch perspective with early attempts to develop a globally applicable 'common methodology' for dealing with the problem. However, this approach was criticized as inappropriate and modern ICM has moved away from attempting such a common approach.

Perhaps one of the most important contributions in this book is the debate on the concept of coastal management and the need to consider different perspectives. Visser, challenges the notion that coastal management should be seen as a tool for sustainable development 'by linking a social, economic and political agenda to the sustainable use of coastal resources'. She defines the coastal development objective as 'directed at poverty alleviation through alternative social and economic development of particular segments of society' living on the coast. According to Visser, this conflict between her definitions of management and development make it difficult to create an integrated approach to coastal development by researchers from the natural, social and technical sciences, particularly for developing countries.

Visser argues against the use of multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary approaches, which merely use social science data as a background or context to natural scientific research. She suggests there is a need for a transdisciplinary approach, which challenges single disciplinary assumptions and produces cutting-edge questions. Visser argues that a truly integrative approach requires an examination of the theories, methodologies, concepts and assumptions, which are being used by the various disciplines involved. She also comments from her own experience in Indonesia that it is important in project development for the social sciences to 'be treated on an equal footing' with the natural sciences.

Chapters 3–9 provide an interesting mixture of disciplinary approaches. For example, the first three of these chapters relate to the management of marine parks in different countries. Chapter 3, which immediately follows Visser's argument for moving away from an integrated management approach, concludes on the need for integrated coastal management using an Indo-West Pacific case study. Chapter 4 provides a slightly different perspective by changing the management objectives of a marine protected area in Mauritania from wildlife conservation to coastal development. Chapter 5 uses a case study from Papua New

Guinea to illustrate the need to incorporate both nature-oriented and people-oriented management approaches. Chapter 6 examines the development of fisheries management frameworks from various Pacific countries and supports the argument for a transdisciplinary approach.

Overall, the case studies presented in Chapters 3–9 provide a range of disciplinary perspectives, across different scales. The integration of these relies on the commentary in the introductory chapter. Visser discussed the option of asking authors to reframe their papers, but decided that the 'overt exposure of epistemological differences' was a useful approach. This has perhaps been done at the expense of a more cohesive volume.

On balance, I believe that this book provides a valuable alternative approach relative to the mainstream ICM literature. Much of its value lies in the debate on the different perspectives of natural and social scientists in integrated coastal research and the need for a transdisciplinary approach.

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**Randall Lutter, Jason F. Shogren (Eds.), *Painting the White House Green: Rationalizing Environmental Policy Inside the Executive Office of the President. Resources for the Future, 2004, Hardcover: US\$ 55.00, ISBN 1-891853-73-2; Paperback: US\$ 25.95, ISBN 1-891853-72-4.***

*Painting the White House Green* is a book of essays edited by Randall Lutter and Jason F. Shogren which gives a