Geography, geology, geomorphology, sedimentology;

Coastal Scenic Evaluation, Nador Province, Morocco

Allan Williams [(1)], Ayşen Ergin [(2)], Kateryna Stepanova [(3)] and Abdellatif Khattabi [(4)]

(1) School of Built and Natural Environment. Swansea Metropolitan University, SA1 6ED Swansea, United Kingdom
Telephone: +44 (0)1792 481006 Email: allan.williams@virgin.net
(2) Civil Eng Dept. Middle East Technical University, 06800 Ankara, Turkey
Telephone: +90 312 210 5441 Email: email:ergin@metu.edu.tr
(3) International Humanitarian University, 65009 Odessa, Ukraine
Telephone: +380 67 481 71 69 Email: katstep2005@mail.ru
(4) Ecole Nationale Forestière d'Ingénieurs, 11020 Salé, Morocco
Telephone: +212 661 21 08 54 Email: ab_khattabi@yahoo.com

Twenty one sites in Nador Province, Morocco, were investigated and analysed for coastal scenic beauty. The technique involved checklist assessment of 26 parameters (natural and anthropogenic, which were rated on a five point attribute scale from bad - good. A parameter weighting index ranked the 26 parameters and fuzzy logic mathematics (used to overcome the difficulty of having a check mark in the wrong attribute box), were imputed into a computer programme. A scenic decision value 'D', was obtained that enabled sites to be classified as: CLASS 1: Extremely attractive natural site with a very high landscape value, having a D value >0.85; CLASS II: Attractive natural site with high landscape value, having a D value between 0.65 and 0.85. CLASS III: Many natural with little outstanding landscape features and a D value between 0.65 and 0.4; CLASS IV: Mainly unattractive urban, with a low landscape value, and a D value between 0.4 and 0); CLASS V: Very unattractive urban, intensive development with a low landscape value with a D value <0. Differentiation showed that there was one site in Class 1 (Kamkoum El Baz); three in Class II; seven in Class III; nine in Class IV, and none in Class V. The coastal scenic assessment methodology can be used for developing management measures (e.g. zonation policies identifying high quality landscapes, access regulation, diversification of activities etc). It helps foster leisure activities which rely on natural scenery and not on man-made activities. Management efforts to improve scenic scores should concentrate upon the anthropogenic parameters, especially litter as the state of the investigated beaches with respect to litter was extremely bad. A litter strewn beach is anathema for tourism purposes and it is an easy problem to solve.