

Bridging post-dictatorship environmental movements and ecological distribution conflicts in Portugal

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This paper will present the methodology and some of the results of the Portuguese environmental conflicts for the Environmental Justice atlas of EJOLT project. The work was organized in 4 phases. During the first phase, we facilitated the identification of environmental conflicts in the country. Several people: activists, NGOs members, researchers, civil servants, technicians, journalists, politicians that were consulted with the open question: “What, in your opinion, are the main environmental conflicts in Portugal?”. In second phase, the information collected through the first survey was cross-checked with that available through online sources (more than 2 thousand references catalogued). After the analysis and systematization of all the information, a list of approximately 150 conflicts was compiled and we made the consolidation of a list of 25 conflicts more intense. In phase 3, the list was send to more a less a hundred people, who were asked to choose the 15 cases they considered to be most relevant. The last phase had the objective to get feedback and to promote interaction between researchers, movements, platforms, NGOS, and citizens affected by the problems (continuing the process of knowledge co construction) and do the dissemination of the work. The selection of Portuguese cases for the EJatlas gives a general view of the socio-economic and environmental change that have occurred in Portugal during the past five decades, as well as the consequent changes in environmental mobilisation patterns and also the reaction of society to these transformations.