

Review for “Simple principles for engineering reproducible solutions to environmental management challenges”

The paper provides a conceptual approach to an important, yet delicate issue: How to enable “environmental managers” to make informed decision that is how to make up-to-date scientific knowledge accessible and applicable.

After a brief introduction the authors develop 10 principles for “engineering reproducible solutions”.

While the principles itself are interesting and suitable for starting important debates the underlying conceptualization of the “science-practice” connection is rather simplistic. The authors seem to follow a straightforward *transfer model* which assumes the production of scientific knowledge at one place and is mainly concerned with defining “challenges” (p.2) to make it applicable. However, the examples given by the authors themselves (e.g. human wildlife conflict) themselves imply, processes of knowledge production and distribution are changing. The very fact that scientists know about of “anti-carnivore sentiments” (p.2, line 92-93) implies that “others” (laypeople, citizens) are not only recipients of scientific knowledge but relevant stakeholders in the knowledge production /dissemination processes.

Especially the “implications” section (p.3) would gain from including the literature on “socially accountable” or “mode 2” knowledge production and considering “co-production” approaches. Moreover, in the present form the paper offers a functionalist perspective that fits in a very narrow understanding of “environmental management”. Social consequences (harvest losses, need for compensation etc to stay within the given example), are often of paramount importance for managers dependent on local support. In consequence, environmental managers might seek to involve local stakeholders in finding solutions and debating *alternatives*.

Given the importance of evidence-based decision making in environmental issues I’d encourage the authors to widen the scope of their paper and include recent debates on scientific knowledge production, dissemination and management.