

# Review of: "Airbase Compatibility with Spatial Planning: A Case Study of Airbase Waterkloof (South Africa)"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper is of particular interest presenting and discussing a recurring situation of conflict between infrastructural system and the environment; between transportation facilities and the goals of environmental protection; between the development of transport facilities and the surrounding territorial system.

It is often assumed that such conflicts can be avoided by regulation and planning. The essay shows how, on the contrary, even in the presence of rules and regulations, such conflicts recur and, above all, in many cases the rules are not fully respected. This is a well-known and debated assumption, which, although at the risk of not being particularly original, should nevertheless be reiterated: the case of the Waterkloof Airbase thus becomes an opportunity to emphasize once again the need to make the permanence of strategic infrastructures compatible with the urban context in which they are inserted.

The essay, therefore, although not entirely original and innovative, is interesting, complete in its presentation of the case study, and the various issues are treated in a careful, articulate and well-argued manner. It would be interesting in the Synthesis, however, if some issues were explored in more depth - within the limits of the space allowed: the role of the Environmental Committee (and also explain why this is not there or does not seem to have worked in this case), the role of the Municipal authorities, as well as the involvement of citizens, which seem to be provided for in the legislation but do not seem to have any effect in this case. Consequently, it is not clear what can be done for spatial planning to be really effective in building conditions of compatibility between the large airport equipment and the surrounding urban system.

The authors are thereby invited to expand on just a few aspects in the concluding part of the essay before publication