

# **EVALUATION OF ROAD RUNOFF POLLUTANT LOADS. A CASE STUDY ON THE PORTUGUESE A3 HIGHWAY.**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Road runoff is a linear non-point source of pollution with a significant impact on water receiving bodies; witch can be responsible for both acute and chronicle effects. Despite the urgent need for control measures, due to the complex processes involved, the characterization and prediction of road runoff quality is still a subject with limited scientific knowledge. In Portugal, a research project (G-Terra) is evaluating, at a national level, road runoff pollution loads and distribution, in order to establish guidelines for road runoff assessment and management. The methodology, monitoring procedures and pollutants concentration and mass load, in a case study on the A3 highway, in the north of Portugal, are presented and analyzed. The comprehension of these phenomena can contribute to establish effective mitigations measures for the protection of water resources and, by this way, contribute for a good ecological status, as requested by the European Water Framework Directive.

**PALAVRA-CHAVE: Road Runoff, Diffuse Pollution**