

## *Handout*

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# Integrated Coastal Zone Management

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**Block 2 - Understanding Biodiversity: News, Concepts and  
New Methods**

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**14 – 26 April 2013**

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## Contents

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Introduction.....                                 | 2 |
| 2 | Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe..... | 3 |
| 3 | ICZM and Tourism .....                            | 4 |
| 4 | References.....                                   | 6 |

### 1 Introduction

The stimulus of an integrated management approach for coastlines emerged due to the fear that inappropriate natural development will have disadvantageous effects. As a consequence, for the San Francisco Bay a first coastal management plan has been developed. It could be seen as a starting point for a comprehensive and coordinated coastal management approach. In 1972 the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) got into force, because the US congress recognised the importance of meeting the challenges of continued growth in coastal zones (Archer & Knecht 1987). The four basics in the CZMA were as follows:

- To preserve, protect, develop and where possible, to restore or enhance the **resources** of the coastal zone
- To encourage and assist the states to develop and to implement CZM programmes meeting **specified national standards**
- To encourage the preparation of „special area management plans“ to **protect** nationally **significant natural resources**, to ensure „**reasonable coastal-dependent economic growth**“ and to provide improved **protection of the life and property in hazardous areas** and improved predictability in governmental decision-making
- To encourage the **participation** and the **cooperation** of public, state and local governments, interstate and other regional agencies, and federal agencies in achieving the purpose of the CZMA

Also in other places around the world management of coastal zones became more and more important. On the other hand, developed countries exported their knowledge to developing countries on Integrated Coastal Zone Manage-

ment (ICZM). In 1985 a five day workshop took place in the U.S. where the first definition of the term “Integrated Coastal Zone Management” was developed:

*A dynamic process in which a coordinated strategy is developed and implemented for the allocation of environmental, socio-cultural, and institutional resources to achieve the conservation and sustainable multiple use of the coastal zone.*

With the increasing perception of environmental degradation and the severe impacts on ecosystems and habitats, a new thinking arose which appeared in terms of sustainable development: trying to balance economic, ecologic and social demands. In 1992 sustainable development popped up on the world’s political agenda as on the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The final report of this conference includes in chapter 17 the issue of Integrated Coastal Zone Management as an important process to tackle the problems and challenges which are accompanied by e.g. climate change.

## **2 Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe**

Several years after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro the European Union launched a demonstration programme on ICZM. Within this research programme several aspects of ICZM have been investigated to gain knowledge on the status-quo and the necessary steps and boundary conditions for the implementation of ICZM strategies. At the end of this demonstration programme the results, experiences and outcomes were compiled and condensed as the EU recommendations on ICZM. These EU recommendations consist of fundamental principles which have to be taken into account when preparing and implementing an ICZM strategy. At this time there was no ambition to establish an ICZM directive which would have been legally binding and valid for all Member States. Nevertheless, it was mandatory for each Member State to develop a national ICZM strategy. The process of developing and implementing ICZM strategies in the EU is an on-going process which is reviewed every four years. In parallel, on EU level the integrated approach for the management of the EU water bodies was brought forward and culminated as Water Framework Directive (WFD). Within the WFD some principles of the ICZM recommendation have been considered such as the principle of involving the public in water management issues. Several other important directives have been published, e.g. the participation directive in 1990 (90/313/EEC, see e.g. Ahlhorn & Klenke 2006).

Before the idea of ICZM in Europe came up all different types of land uses in the coastal zone prepared their own and specific plans and programmes. The tradition of sectoral planning was mirrored in the administration and government. Today, after more than 10 years after the publication of the ICZM principles and in combination with the establishment of further integrated directives a more coordinated approach in the coastal zone is applied. Nevertheless, integration does not start from the first step on in planning processes or projects concerning coastal development (see e.g. Ahlhorn 2009). For example, in Germany different sectors such as coastal protection or water management (i.e. drainage and watering of low lying coastal areas) and nature conservation are more or less trying to achieve a closer cooperation. On the other hand, dealing with climate change, climate protection or demographic change which are lying across all sectors is still difficult.

### 3 ICZM and Tourism

Based on the sparse experiences from out different projects and a short-time literature review the integration of the sector tourism in integrated coastal zone management strategies or plans is marginal. On European level the initiative of EDEN (European Destinations of Excellence) has been started which tries to advertise special regional areas or special destination of Europe. This initiative is subsumed under the Enterprise and Industry part of the European Commission. Thus, tourism is not yet fully recognised as a cross-cutting issue. In 2007 the European Commission published an agenda on sustainable and competitive tourism in Europe which contains nine important principles for the development of tourism in Europe (COM (2007) 621 final):

- Take a holistic and integrated approach
- Plan for the long-term
- Achieve an appropriate pace and rhythm of development
- Involve all stakeholders
- Use best available knowledge
- Minimise and manage risk
- Reflect impacts in costs
- Set and respect limits, where appropriate
- Undertake continuous monitoring

These principles are very similar to the principles of the EU recommendations on ICZM. Nevertheless, the application of integrated approaches is slowly emerging. In 2010 the European Commission published the communication on Europe, the world's No 1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe where more than 20 actions have been identified to promote and to initialise integrated development within the tourism sector in Europe (COM (2010) 352 final).

In specific European regions, unique regions such as the Wadden Sea, the designation as World Heritage has initiated a process of developing an integrated sustainable strategy for tourism. Within the European funding programme called European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for example some cross-border offers have been developed and implemented, e.g. the North Sea Cycle route ([www.northsea-cycle.com](http://www.northsea-cycle.com)). In former times, the development of strategies for tourism was done solely based on regional or local initiatives. In the north-western part of Germany a county took the initiative to prepare a Master Plan for tourism 2015. But, these initiatives are rather sparse and tourism is often ignored by developing plans or projects in the coastal area. One of the reasons for less incorporation of tourism in the process of developing plans and projects might be that the responsibility is fragmented and widely scattered over associations and administrative bodies. Furthermore, developing tourism strategies depends on several different other sectors such as planning and environment.

Although, the tools and instruments are on the table such as participation and evaluation schemes, there exists a kind of reluctance of jointly develop visions or strategies in the coastal zone incorporating tourism.

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