

Developing ICZM in Baltic Sea woodlands - SE

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Preserving coastal environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space

2. Key Approaches

- Participation
- Ecosystems based approach
- Socio-economic

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The work described has laid the foundation for the wider implementation of ICZM in coastal woodland areas of the Baltic Sea.

4. Overview of the case

The actions undertaken, although undertaken in Sweden, have relevance for both Finland and Estonia.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

As forestry is one of the major land use activities in a many of the Baltic Sea region countries, it can easily create severe environmental problems in certain coastal areas if carried out carelessly. Some of the largest forest industry concentrations in northern Europe are situated on the Baltic Sea coast or along rivers that end up in the Baltic Sea. Furthermore, There is no EU policy for forestry: EU policies and actions relating to forestry refer to other policies, in particular regional, transport, environment and agriculture. However, in areas such as the Baltic coast, where woodland is such an important feature, forestry policies are extremely important to coastal management. Since 2002, the Swedish Forest Agency (Skogsstyrelsen) has been working to demonstrate how ICZM can be applied to formulate specific recommendations for ICZM in coastal, afforested areas. The initiative was undertaken in the area between Norrköping and Kalmar on the south east coast.

Amongst the problems facing this particular stretch of the coastline was the ongoing fragmentation of the forest landscape, a lack of semi-old oaks, the overgrowth of former grasslands and coastal meadows and of large trees due to a lack of grazing cattle and the planting of spruce trees in fallow fields in areas of oak landscape. To these forestry problems there were also declining fish populations and fish breeding rates as well as algal blooms in the coastal waters. Water quality was also being affected by the lack of facilities for emptying boats' toilets. There was also a lack of efficient transport facilities for the harvested timber and woodchip.

b) Objectives

The objective was to formulate recommendations for ICZM in forests by the Baltic Sea.

6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)

a) Management

The work was managed by the Swedish Forest Agency which coordinated eight partners representing a collection of national, regional and local authorities, municipalities and NGOs with strong interests in the coastal zone of southeast Sweden. An expert advisory group was additionally set up and incorporated into the management structure.

b) ICZM tools

A wide-ranging view on inter-related forest problems in the area was applied. The actions aimed to gather information and knowledge that can make it possible to base decisions and guidelines on good data and information. The focus was on the following working areas and methods:-

- Development of recommendations for coastal zone management guidelines with focus on coastal woodlands.
- Practical testing and demonstrations of innovative land management solutions and extended communication with stakeholders along the coasts, in cooperation between national and regional authorities, NGOs and municipalities.
- Surveys of nature and cultural values in coastal zones.
- Actions for legal protection of more woodland in the coastal zones.
- Training and extension for staff from the partners, forest managers, contractors, forest owners and other groups, by organising workshops, seminars, field tours and study tours in the project areas as well as to neighbouring countries.
- Communication and dissemination of "the coastal zone environment message" by distribution of information and communication through exhibitions, newsletters, stakeholder meetings, grants to NGO actions, CD and DVD based information, web site information, extension actions, as well as establishing contacts with a wide range of authorities and NGOs.

For the development of ICZM related to the forestry sector, it was concluded that the best management of coastal forests needs to be done in close consultation with local and regional stakeholders. The establishment of regional coastal forest councils, with support from the responsible authorities, will better ensure the development of ICZM in accordance with local traditions and the dissemination of coast-related information to the public and to stakeholders. Furthermore, there is a need to survey, map and classify the coastal woodlands to create a basis for planning of forest management, protection actions as well as other country side planning with priority given to woodlands dominated by pine and oak that have been identified as areas with high nature values.

Local promotion of environmentally conscious attitudes towards land use with compensation systems and grants for landowners to enable protection of certain nature areas, in combination with possibilities for compensation with other land areas, is also desirable.

7. Cost and resources

The total budget for the work was €2,432,000. It was part-funded by the LIFE programme.

8. Effectiveness (i.e. were the foreseen goals/objectives of the work reached?)

An on-going certification system of forestry led to the granting of more than 1,600 ha. of coastal woodland between 2002-07. The work showed that if different legal "tools", environment policies, promotion of good practices, are combined the outcomes of environmental actions can improve the situation dramatically.

9. Success and Fail factors

Local stakeholder involvement was an important element of the work. Meetings were held for the local populace who were also polled on their environmental attitudes. An international work group was also established, responsible for the elaboration of regional ICZM forest management recommendations. The work also demonstrated the need for a better use of legislation for nature protection and rural planning as well as good cooperation between the different authorities involved.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

The storms 2005 and 2007 caused difficulties for the planning, as staff from many of the partners had to focus on solving the problems with the damaged forest rather than the work in hand.

11. Prepared by

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12. Verified by

It has not been possible to verify this case.

13. Sources

- Recommendations for an ICZM Strategy in Forests by the Baltic Sea (2006) Swedish Forest Agency
- Coastal Woodlands: Public Report (2007) The Swedish Forest Agency
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Forests by the Baltic Sea (2007) Swedish Forest Agency
- <http://www.skogsstyrelsen.se>



Coastal Woodlands- Public report (824.44 KB) 



ICZM in forests by the Baltic sea. Technical Final Report (1.97 MB) 



Recommendations for an ICZM Strategy in Forests by the Blatic Sea (541.21 KB) 