

Regional coastal management co-ordination Uecker-Randow & Vorpommern - DE

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Participation

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

ICZM should not be understood as a concept that can be transferred and, as it is, be implemented in a region. ICZM has to be adjusted to the needs of a region. It should complement and support existing structures to ensure a sustainable development. The idea of an integrated approach should infiltrate all authorities, administrations and planning processes. A regional ICZM co-ordination or contact point should, if there is a need for it, be linked to one of the existing major actors.

4. Overview of the case

The two districts Uecker-Randow and Vorpommern at the German/Polish border have been chosen to implement a regional Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and to establish a contact office. The contact office had the task to serve as a regional focus point and to promote ICZM in this cross-border region. The approach was meant as a test case and to support the development of a national German ICZM strategy as well as its regional implementation.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The two districts Uecker-Randow and Vorpommern German are a peripheral region and known for their complex pattern of land and sea, attractive landscape and ecological value. The districts have a population of 180,000 inhabitants and cover an area of 3500 km². Large parts are under nature protection and agriculture and tourism are the major economic branches. A lack of industry, seasonality of tourism and development gradients between coastal and hinterland prohibited a stable sustainable economic development. The rate of unemployment is very high (>15 %), the districts lost up to 20 % of the population during the last two decades and projections assume a further decline until 2020. In 2004, this region was chosen for the exemplary implementation of a regional Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), as a national case study to support the development of a national German ICZM strategy and for the application of the EC Recommendations on Integrated Coastal Zone Management. For this purpose a ICZM contact office was established.

b) Objectives

The general objectives were: a) to raise awareness about coastal issues and to transfer major ideas of ICZM into the region b) to analyse existing management structures, to find out a possible role of ICZM and to test suitable infrastructures for regional

ICZM implementation, c) to carry out research to support a practical regional ICZM, d) to support the development of a national German ICZM strategy and e) to tackle the aspects “Strategic Approach”, “Principles”, “National Status Quo” as recommended by the EC Recommendations on ICZM (EC 413/2002).

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

a) Project Management

The establishment of the ICZM contact office took place with a national project. An interdisciplinary consortium of 10 institutes (scientific organizations, companies and NGO's) was involved and supported the regional work between 2004 and 2010. The project was guided by a board of local and regional authorities as well as district administrations, which met twice a year and were supported by the Environmental and Agricultural Ministry of the Federal State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The general co-ordination was the responsibility of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research and the University of Neubrandenburg. The ICZM office merged with the regional Agenda 21 contact office.

b) ICZM tools

A website and the online journal “IKZM-Oder Berichte” have been established to disseminate the reports, recommendations and guidelines on legal and social aspects, governance, planning and tourism in the region. Regional thematic networks, discussion groups and media were used to discuss issues and to transfer results. On a national (and international) level, EUCC – The Coastal Union Germany transferred results via their website, the German coastal newsletter, the journal “Coastline Reports”, flyer and booklets like “Meer und Küste”.

7. Cost and resources

Between 2004 and 2010, the German National Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) provided funding within the project ‘Research for an Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Oder Estuary Region’ (ICZM-Oder, phases I-III). The regional ICZM office received about €350,000 and regional research on legal and social aspects, governance, planning and tourism were supported with about €1.8 million. Additional regional resources were available for exemplary implementation of ICZM relevant measures.

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

The project had a clear timetable and the major objectives have been reached. Several evaluations on the effectiveness of the communication and co-operation as well as the projects regional impact have been carried out.

9. Success and Fail factors

The existing regional Agenda 21 was a suitable basis for a regional ICZM approach and provided the framework, contacts and networks.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

The Regional planning authority, responsible for the development of regional spatial plans and representing the planning association with over 100 communities of the district Uecker-Randow and Ostvorpommern turned out to be the major ICZM actor. Serious conflicts between different uses in the coastal zone did not occur. In fact, regional spatial planning already covers and implements many aspects of ICZM in the regions. This is especially true after the recent extension of the competences of the federal states towards coastal waters. Instead of developing new, partly competitive structures, the regional role of ICZM had been re-defined to complement spatial planning. The focus of regional ICZM was finally on information, education, communication, dissemination and awareness-rising.

The transfer of the complex and abstract ICZM concept into the region largely failed. It was not possible to make the benefits obvious and the regional ICZM office was not able to create a critical mass of funding and staff to become a real regional actor. It was not possible to raise funds or get the support for a permanent office beyond the project duration.

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13. Sources

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