

Local Agenda 21 activities and coastal management in Warnemünde-Kühlungsborn – 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

Existing local and regional Agenda 21 are a suitable basis for ICZM-related activities. Because of personal, temporal and financial instabilities of Agenda 21 initiatives, these activities have to be supported and hosted by major authorities.

4. Overview of the case

The initiative Warnemünde - Kühlungsborn utilised existing local and regional Agenda 21 activities to improve ICZM.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The 30 km long coastal strip between the seaside resorts Warnemünde and Kühlungsborn can be regarded as a typical and representative region for the eastern German Baltic coast. The strip belongs to the spatial planning region 'Central Mecklenburg Rostock' where nature conservation has a high priority. The entire coastal area is under landscape protection which includes a nature protection area as well. Since the coast is subject to intensive erosion, large amounts of money have been and will be spent for coastal protection measures such as broadening of dunes, mending of concrete coast walls, and the enlargement of groyne rows. Sandy beaches in the region can only be preserved with a series of groynes. Tourists appreciate the landscape and sandy beaches and tourism is the most important economic factor. Nowadays, the spatial planning region has over 1 million. holiday guests with about 3 million overnight stays. In 2001, Kühlungsborn exceeded 1 million overnight stays and strengthened its position as Mecklenburg's largest resort.

In Europe, activities on ICZM are closely linked to the Agenda 21 process (Rio de Janeiro declaration signed in 1992). The follow up regional Agenda 21, like the Baltic 21 for the Baltic region, always mentions ICZM in their action programme.

b) Objectives

The initiative Warnemünde - Kühlungsborn had the aim to evaluate the possibility of utilising existing local and regional Agenda 21 activities to improve public participation, the acceptance of planning processes and to improve ICZM. The medium-term objective was the foundation of a permanent ICZM forum. For this purpose, a close co-operation with the regional spatial planning agency was established and, in discussions with existing local and regional Agenda 21, activities

took place. The thematic focus was on tourism and beach management and the interactions with coastal and nature protection on the one hand and new challenges like sport boat harbours and the dumping of harbour sediment in coastal waters on the other hand.

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

a) Management

Most important actors like the spatial planning authority, the city of Rostock and the state authority for the environment and coastal protection were permanently involved. Representatives of the Agenda 21 groups and other stakeholders took part in workshops. Obstacles and shortcomings for a successful ICZM were analysed and the main issues and research tasks were defined in close interaction with major stakeholders. For this purpose, all relevant data, facts and maps about the region were collected and prepared. Furthermore, an overview of all uses, competences and legislative aspects were compiled and possible other stakeholders identified and contacted.

b) ICZM tools

It turned out that sufficient knowledge and data is available for a sustainable management of the region. The awareness about data, the knowledge where to get data as well as information exchange were insufficient and hampered progress. This led e.g. to the foundation of a public association, which released a regular newsletter and promoted ICZM in the region. Further, an internet-based regional information system was established.

7. Cost and resources

The Deutsch Bundesstiftung Umwelt funded this initiative with about €110.000 during the first year (2002).

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

The first year objectives were reached within the given time-frame.

9. Success and Fail factors

Spatial planning already covers most parts of ICZM and regional planners are the key player in ICZM in Germany. It does not seem to be possible to create and maintain a new regional coastal management discussion forum with regular moderated meetings. Existing structures, co-operations and synergies have to be utilised. Furthermore, a lack of data and information was hardly conceived as a problem, but lacking data availability hampers the decision-making processes. Information has to be prepared and linked for major coastal issues. Interactions with other uses and issues have to be shown.

During the pilot initiative, several general, well known aspects again became obvious: the pattern of regulations and competences are very complex and largely non-transparent; many activities, projects and planning are aiming in the same direction, but are isolated, not well co-ordinated and often unknown to many stakeholders. A reliable basis for decision processes is often lacking and there is an urgent need for an integrated approach. On the other hand, we became aware that our approach was partly too abstract and academic, and did not always meet the needs of regional practitioners. In the pilot study we neither had, nor will have, the financial and personnel resources to create and maintain a comprehensive coastal zone management initiative. We have to deal with an unexpected large number of relevant stakeholders, authorities and political bodies with a wide range of interests and expectations. Regional stakeholders saw the need of an integrated management only as long as their major interests were concerned and as long as their own responsibilities were not touched. The information flow between authorities, political bodies and stakeholders is insufficient and not well structured. Personal contacts and preferences determine the information dissemination. The same is true concerning the knowledge about data, projects and activities. Finally, decisions are often made by single persons or authorities. Their decisions reflect their preferences and seemed to be influenced by several elusive factors. Due to unexpected financial problems, the initiative was not able to intensify the activities after the first year and to develop a perspective for several years.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

None.

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