

Training coastal managers from cross-border regions - ES

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Managing impacts of climate change and safeguarding resilience of coasts/coastal systems
- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Preventing and managing natural hazards and technological (human-made) hazards
- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Integrating coherent strategies covering the risk-dimension (prevention to response) into planning and investment
- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Preserving coastal environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space
- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Developing Europe's regional seas sustainably
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

2. Key Approaches

- Participation
- Knowledge-based

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

Training coastal managers from neighbouring countries together makes them understand the common problems they face and the opportunities in taking a common approach to solve them, based on the coordination, integration and knowledge and information sharing. Making them live, think and discuss the topics together, a common understanding and empathy is achieved and future collaborations are promoted.

4. Overview of the case

The Advanced Seminars of the Azahar Programme focus on three major Mediterranean sub-regions, the Maghreb, the Middle East and south-eastern Europe. The seminars are oriented to technical coastal experts and managers, representatives from the different administrations of the Azahar Mediterranean countries. The attendees must have a major technical degree related to engineering, oceanography or geology, or else they must be co-ordinating coastline management teams incorporating personnel with the aforesaid qualifications. Different topics of ICZM have been covered through technical presentations including theory, Spanish cases studies and practical sessions. Three seminars have been carried out on Tools, Plans & Programmes, and Case Studies.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The Mediterranean is a perfect illustration of the global challenge of sustainable development. It is a complex region that possesses many different ecosystems and landscapes characterised by a very high level of biodiversity. It is the crossroad between three continents, Asia, Africa and Europe with very different cultural backgrounds, forms of governments and levels of development. The human population of the Mediterranean is distributed along the coast and concentrated in coastal cities and this trend is increasing. It is one of the most important tourism destinations worldwide and it has a strategic importance for the transportation of goods and for energy supply. Finally, the development of many different civilizations along its coast has left an important cultural heritage that requires special attention for its conservation. The socio-cultural, economic and territorial disparities, the persistence of conflicts and the increases in pressure on the environment, show that the Mediterranean region

is not achieving sustainable development.

There is a need, both at the national level of each state and at the Mediterranean regional level, for a coordinated and integrated effort of the different coastal stakeholders to achieve a sustainable development of the coastal areas, especially concerning tourism development. ICZM is a chance and a challenge for the Mediterranean countries to reach a balanced and sustainable management of the coastal system and its resources.

b) Objectives

The goal of these seminars is to improve the south-eastern Mediterranean coastal management by transferring to their coastal managers some Spanish and European experiences, knowledge, tools, techniques and technologies for the development and implementation of Mediterranean ICZM. Coastal managers were trained in different topics within ICZM, including practical exercises, case studies and field visits. Some case studies at the national, European and international level, were presented. On the European level, the DEDUCE project for the Sustainable Development of European Coastal Zones and the SMAP III Coastal Action Plan for Nador (CAP Nador), among others, were thoroughly explained. The timescale associated with these seminars and the achievement of their goals is 3 weeks, divided in 3 years (2005-07).

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

a) Project Management

These Advanced seminars of the Azahar Programme were promoted and funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and organised by the University of Cantabria.

b) ICZM tools

The category of this ICZM initiative is: training and capacity building. The seminars focus on three major Mediterranean sub-regions; the countries involved in these seminars being the Maghreb, the Middle East and south-eastern Europe, being Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Egypt, Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania and Turkey. Coastal managers from all these countries, at the national, regional and local level, attended the seminars. The Mediterranean coastal managers were trained in the following topics and tools:

- Integrated characterisation of the coastal areas: ecological, physical, socio-economic, legal and administrative aspects.
- Tools and technologies for ICZM: indicators, GIS, carrying capacity assessment and numerical modelling of coastal processes.
- Techniques for stakeholders stock-taking and public participation processes.
- Implementation of coastal plans and programmes
- Risk (natural and human) assessment and coastal processes: vulnerability in coastal areas, interaction between ports and coasts, natural and anthropogenic erosion processes, extraction of sand and dredging, destruction of sand-dunes, silting-up of marshes and estuaries, marine pollution and water quality.

7. Cost and resources

The budget to organise and implement this initiative was: €43,121 (2005), €38,032 (2006) and €40,000 (2007). The programme included the training seminar and its materials, transportation of attendees and speakers from the country of origin, travel insurance, accommodation and maintenance during the entire period of the seminar, transportation during field visits and simultaneous translation of the conferences to both English and French. The manpower used for the organization and implementation of the initiative was 7-10 people for each seminar (3 technical staff, 1 organization staff, 3-6 external speakers).

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

The attending coastal managers were trained in the above-mentioned topics. The objective was achieved in the timescale defined.

9. Success and Fail factors

The main factors that were helpful in achieving the objective were the support and availability of funds from AECID, the technical and organization staff and the willingness of the Mediterranean coastal managers to come, learn and share experiences. The main factors beyond the control of the process that could or did negatively affect the achievement of the objectives were that some countries do not have a specific agency dealing with coastal issues so other technical managers attended (water, urban planning, etc.) and the difficult situation that the Mediterranean coastal managers face to get out of their countries to attend the seminars (e.g. Palestinian territories). The course was planned to be a continuous training course (3 weeks divided in 3 years), but some of the attendees had to cancel their attendance due to these problems.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

Making coastal managers from different neighbouring countries live, think and discuss the topics together, a better understanding of the common problems and the common opportunities that ICZM offers is achieved. The differences between countries and authority levels, as well as those related to gender issues, are smoothed out. Empathy and better understanding is promoted.

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13. Sources

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