

A Collaboration Agreement Between The University Of Cadiz and the Directorate General for Coastal And Marine Sustainability - ES

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- 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

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Participation
- Knowledge-based

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

This initiative encourages the collaboration between two institutions with high responsibility over the Cadiz coastline to promote a space for meeting and understanding among the different stakeholders and institutions affecting Cadiz's coastal development. It promoted the meeting between science and practice for a better knowledge-based coastal administration, as well as the transparency in the public management of a complex zone.

4. Overview of the case

The agreement between the University of Cadiz (UCA) and the Directorate General for Coastal and Marine Sustainability (DGC) promotes the meeting and interaction between all coastal stakeholders which participate in the coastal development of Cadiz. Based on social learning and knowledge-based management, a debate has started on the following topics: preservation of public heritage (marine and terrestrial, natural and cultural) and promotion of sustainable development.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The coastal zone of Cadiz, in the South of Spain, is very important in terms of natural, cultural and socio-economic richness and diversity. It is, over time, becoming more and more degraded and threatened by human pressures. The current state of the coast, the mentioned threats and degradation, and the overlapping of competences and socio-economic interests are the reasons for the promotion of this initiative which will create a new policy of alliances to change the current management strategies in order to achieve a more consensus-based, mature and responsible coastal management. The initiative has been implemented at the local level in the province of Cadiz (Andalusia, Spain).

b) Objectives

The main objective of the agreement is the collaboration between the University of Cadiz and the DGC to implement an ICZM model. Processes to preserve the marine-terrestrial and natural-cultural public heritage and to move towards a more sustainable development have been introduced.

The specific objectives to be achieved with the ICZM approach are the following:

- to achieve a more mature and responsible coastal management; and
- to promote a consensus-based management through effective public participation.

Other relevant issues being considered in this approach are the use of knowledge, information and social learning as basic tools to help reach a more integrated and sustainable coastal management model.

The timescale associated with implementation and goal achievement was 2 years: 2008-09 (02/07/2007 a 02/07/2009).

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

a) Project Management

The two entities signing the collaboration agreement and managing this ICZM initiative are the Directorate General for Coastal and Marine Sustainability (DGC), affiliated with the Ministry of Environment and represented by the Andalucía-Atlántico Coastal Demarcation of Cadiz, and the University of Cadiz, represented by its ICZM Research Group. The initiative, aiming to achieve a participative coastal management, involves all the coastal stakeholders at the local and regional level in the different activities.

b) ICZM tools

This information, participation and integration tool includes 4 working programmes:

- “Looking at our coast”: oriented to the generation and dissemination of information about the coast of Cadiz. It is based on a webpage on coastal management, a quarterly coastal bulletin and an annual Coastal Management Report.
- “Let’s talk about the coast”: to facilitate the meeting conditions which help promote the opinions, discussions and collaborations for a better coastal management. It is based on the creation of a stocktaking of coastal stakeholders and institutions, the celebration of seminars, conferences, round tables and debates on coastal issues in the University Hall for Coastal Management.
- “Good advice”: a programme which aims to facilitate the advice from the knowledge base (science) to the coastal practitioners (Public Administration). It is based on the elaboration of short, easy and straightforward studies and reports focusing on the state of the coast to assist the decision-making, and on Technical Commissions Sessions for the participation of experts in Coastal Forums.
- “Responsible science”: to bridge the gap between University and Public Administration in order to improve and re-orient the efforts on science and management helping to ensure collaboration. It is based on a Scientific-Technical Commission to advise the DGC, and the elaboration of Summary reports of the Commission sessions.

7. Cost and resources

The budget for this initiative was €130.000. The manpower used for the implementation of the tool was 5 people (2 technicians, 2 PhD of the UCA and 1 project manager). The co-ordination meetings and the Technical Commissions Sessions also involved Institutions, University and Research Groups representatives.

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

In 2007-09, the specific objectives have been achieved as follows:

1. To achieve a more mature and responsible coastal management: a stocktaking of coastal actors (900 identified) has been developed, 8 University Hall for Coastal Management seminars have been organized with a high attendance and participation level (“Let’s talk about the coast”). 6 studies on management problems and several Technical Commissions Sessions have been carried out (“Good advice”). To ensure the collaboration between the University and Public Administrations 4 Scientific-Technical Commission meetings with their 4 Summary reports have been carried out (“Responsible science”).

2. To promote a consensus-based management through an effective public participation: 2 WebPages, 8 coastal bulletins and 2 annual Coastal management Reports have been carried out ("Looking at our coast").

These objectives were usually achieved in the timescale defined.

9. Success and Fail factors

Factors that were helpful in achieving the objectives were: (1) the specific education on coastal management that the Administration's technical staff already had facilitated the understanding and the synergies to carry out the defined activities; (2) the use of university facilities resulted in a neutral and reliable location that assisted the participation of the coastal actors to offer their different interests; (3) the creation of attendance certificates helped the attendees justify their absence from their place of work, and (4) The new Information and Communications Technologies aided the dissemination of results and the participation of the coastal actors; (5) the social awareness about coastal issues promoted participation and a constructive debate.

Factors that were unhelpful in achieving the objective were: (1) the traditional coastal management strong habits in the DGC (central entity), lack of experience with multi-disciplinary and integrated models hindered the development of innovative initiatives proposed by the regional DGC services; (2) an excessive centralism which slowed the decision-making process; and (3) the political changes with the subsequent changes in the regional coastal Administration services (in structure, functioning and decision-making personnel), required an extra work of introducing the project and objectives redefinition as well as delaying some tasks;

10. Unforeseen outcomes

(1) closing the gap between society and a traditionally unknown administration (DGC); (2) the DGC has understood the problems and worries of the administered population; (3) an improved image for the DGC and dialogue and communication channels have been established; (4) the DGC has improved its knowledge about the research groups of the UCA, the available scientific material and the projects which are underway; (5) the UCA has realized that there is a need to transfer knowledge to the administration and the specific gaps to cover them.

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13. Sources

<http://www.gestioncostera.es/demarcacioncostascadiz/>