

Spanish Strategy for Coastal Sustainability - 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 ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Participation
- Knowledge-based
- Ecosystems based approach
- Socio-economic
- Technical

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The integrated diagnosis of the coastal zone carried out has permitted us to gain further knowledge of the state of the entire coast studied and to propose measures dealing with 4 main challenges: stopping the massive development of the coastal zone, recovering the physical and ecological functionality of the littoral, mitigation/adaptation to Climate Change effects, and changing the current coastal management model.

4. Overview of the case

The Strategy is, together with the National Stocktaking of Actors Laws and Institutions, the response of Spain to the European Commission Recommendation 413/2002/CE on the implementation of ICZM in Europe. It is based on the principles of sustainable development and integrated management, and is organized in ten specific objectives to be fulfilled through the following instruments: Master Plan for Coastal Sustainability, Observatory for Coastal Sustainability, Institutional agreements, National Coastal Council, Land acquisition, Research & Development, Education and Training, Capacity Building.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The geographical scopes of this initiative are the Mediterranean and South Atlantic coast of Spain including the Canary and Balearic Islands. The Spanish coast has high ecological and landscape values. Nowadays, 32% of total population is living in coastal areas with the consequently enormous pressure of the different socio-economic activities. Besides that, competences on the coastal zone are shared between different sectoral administrations at the national, regional and local level. The problems and issues, for which this Strategy has been developed, are related to massive, unplanned and unsustainable development of the coastal zone, deterioration of coastal ecosystems, coastal erosion, climate change effects, lack of technical knowledge about the coastal zones, unco-ordinated decision-making, and lack of public participation in the decision-making. This initiative has been implemented at the national scale. Other relevant aspects to be considered are that coastal management is characterised by overlapping of competences among the different administrations and lack of administrative

coordination, integrated information and public involvement.

b) Objectives

The specific objectives to be achieved with the ICZM approach were: (1) sustainable management of the interaction between natural physical processes and human occupation of coastal zones, including urbanism and land planning tools; (2) protection and recovery of coastal ecosystems, (3) optimisation of natural resources respecting the carrying capacity of the coastal system; (4) safety when encountering environmental risks (natural hazards and human mistakes); (5) improvement of resources for the public use and access to the coast, following sustainable criteria; (6) recovery and promotion of coastal cultural heritage; (7) decision-making based on integrated information and knowledge about the coastal system; (8) coordination between the different administrative levels and sectors to enforce the coherence and the territorial cohesion; (9) transparency of the management process and public participation in the planning process; and (10) financial consolidation to assure the availability of technical and economic resources.

Other relevant issues being considered were: broad overall perspective, knowledge based approach, local specificity, working with natural processes.

The timescale associated with implementation and goals achievement was 8 years, divided in the following phases: Diagnosis (2002-2005), Planning (2006-2007), Implementation and monitoring (2008-2010)

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

a) Project Management

The authority promoting the initiative is the Spanish Ministry of Environment, General Directorate for the Coast (DGC). All the DGC Regional departments have been involved. National, regional and local entities have been involved.

b) ICZM tools

The category of this ICZM initiative is a planning, technical tool. The specific tools applied are: Integrated coastal diagnosis and an integrated management plan including several measures like coastal protection, control of coastal erosion through nourishment, Public Domain and Influence Zone management, cultural heritage recovery, accessibility and common use of the coastal zone. Institutional meetings between the Ministry of Environment and the Regional Governments have been held in order to sign institutional agreements to ensure vertical integration: 6 out of 10 agreements have been signed.

7. Cost and resources

The budget for the Diagnosis and Planning Phases of this initiative was €6,000,000. The manpower used for the implementation of the tool was approximately 100 people.

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

The ten specific objectives are to be fulfilled through the previously defined instruments, which have different levels of fulfilment:

- Completely developed: Master Plan for Coastal Sustainability (obj. 1- 6)
- Initiated: Institutional agreements, Land acquisition, Research & Development, Education and Training (obj. 1- 10)
- Planned: Observatory for Coastal Sustainability, National Coastal Council (1-10)

Therefore, the objectives associated to the Diagnosis and Planning phases have been successfully completed and in the timescale defined.

9. Success and Fail factors

The Institutional agreements signed between the Ministry of Environment and the different coastal regions (Autonomous Communities) to ensure co-operation can be mentioned amongst the main factors that were helpful in achieving the objective. Also the presence of coastal legislation, coastal administration, and European legislation pushing ICZM forward.

Regarding the aspects and circumstances that hindered the achievement of goals, changes in Government (included the Ministry of Environment), translated into political willingness, have delayed the implementation phase of the plan. Also, the overlapping of competences in coastal management, as the proposed planning measures can cover only the competences of the Ministry of Environment.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

Through the integrated diagnosis of the coastal zone developed, Spanish society is more aware of the human impacts on the Spanish coast and is starting to demand a more sustainable coastal management. The coastal sectors involved in the bad coastal management examples identified could not agree with the ICZM initiatives as they would be affected by the decisions.

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13. Sources

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