

# Methodological guidelines for the elaboration of a Regional ICZM Diagnosis - 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
- 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

A common approach for analysing coastal management provides extremely valuable information about the performance at the regional level. This allows comparison of different regions, highlighting strengths, weakness and lessons learned, as well as proposing specific improvements. This information also encourages co-operation between regions and the exchange of information and knowledge, with the consequent improvement of coastal management at the national level.

## 4. Overview of the case

The ICZM Spanish Network (REGIAL) aims to preserve the natural and cultural values of the Spanish coastal zones and improve their management, through the creation of a common framework to share experiences. The Methodological guidelines on the elaboration of ICZM Regional Diagnosis, a specific task within the REGIAL work schedule, has established a common approach to analyse each Spanish coastal Autonomous Community in terms of coastal management. The proposed ICZM Diagnosis is based on the analysis of 10 topics.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

The Spanish coast has high ecological, landscape and cultural values. Nowadays, 32% of the total population is living in coastal areas with the consequently enormous pressure of the different socio-economic activities. Besides that, coastal management is characterised by an overlapping of competences among the different sectoral Administrations at the national, regional and local level, and by the lack of information exchange between Administrations. The REGIAL has been created to promote co-ordination, collaboration and sharing of experience and information, in order to implement a more sustainable coastal management in Spain. Within the framework of the REGIAL work schedule, the Methodological guidelines on the elaboration of ICZM Regional Diagnosis correspond to Activity A1.2. These Methodological Guidelines have been developed and are being applied at the national scale.

## b) Objectives

The Methodological guidelines on the elaboration of ICZM Regional Diagnosis aim to establish a common approach to analyse the performance of the Spanish coastal Autonomous Communities (regional level) in terms of coastal management. The proposed ICZM Regional Diagnosis analyses the status of: (1) policies and strategies, (2) regulations, (3) competences, (4) institutions, (5) tools and instruments, (6) training and capacity building, (7) economic resources, (8) knowledge and information, (9) education and awareness, and (10) public participation. The obtained diagnoses will provide a set of proposals/suggestions to improve the ICZM in Spain. These, at the same time, will represent the fundamental reason for the creation of REGIAL and will inspire its statutes. The REGIAL timescale is one year (2010), the Methodological guidelines on the elaboration of ICZM Regional Diagnosis were prepared between January-February and their implementation in the entire Spanish coast (expert identification, initiatives and experiences revision, interviews, analysis of the gathered information) is foreseen for June 2010.

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

### a) Management

Both the ICZM Spanish Network (REGIAL) and its task Methodological guidelines on the elaboration of ICZM Regional Diagnosis are funded by the Biodiversity Foundation (public foundation attached to the Ministry of Environment, Marine and Rural Affairs) and the University of Cadiz. The methodology has been developed and is implemented by the University of Cadiz (ICZM Research Group). Its implementation is based on the identification of key ICZM experts in each Spanish coastal region as preliminary REGIAL components, which will help identify others. Some relevant experts from each region are interviewed regarding key issues affecting ICZM. Therefore, authorities (DG Coasts national and regional departments, hydrographical confederations, environmental departments, etc.), ICZM experts, academia and NGOs, among others, are involved through the REGIAL network and the interviews.

### b) ICZM tools

The Decalogue is the methodological guideline proposed to analyse the regional coastal management. This technical tool is based on 10 key issues which must be considered in order to understand the current coastal management in the Spanish coastal regions. It is focused on legal and administrative-based issues because the relations between the socio-economic and physical-natural sub-systems are considered to be regulated through the legal-administrative one. Therefore, this Decalogue does not analyse the state of the coast but the state of coastal management through the ten objective topics.

The Networking tool established by the REGIAL is a mechanism to preserve the coastal natural and cultural values and improve their management by means of the co-ordination, collaboration and sharing of experience and information between regional coastal managers, ICZM experts and stakeholders. It is based on (1) expert identification, interviews and co-ordination, (2) working groups, (3) knowledge dissemination, through a distribution network and an electronic sheet for the exchange of information and experiences, and the participation in several related workshops, and (4) establishment of the REGIAL Association.

## 7. Cost and resources

The budget for the implementation of this tool was €115.836. The manpower used for the implementation of the tool was 3 people approximately (2 technical staff and 1 team director).

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

The objective of establishing a common approach to analyse its performance in terms of coastal management is being achieved as the proposed diagnosis is being applied to the different coastal Autonomous Communities (regional level). It was achieved in the timescale defined.

## 9. Success and Fail factors

The main helpful factor was the vast experience that the research group in charge has on ICZM in Spain. This fact facilitates the leadership, the initial confidence to start the project, and the knowledge of the main topics to deal with at the ICZM regional level. Also, ICZM conferences and workshops in Spain have allowed the different REGIAL members to come together several times. These events have promoted the dialogue between them and the willingness to exchange ICZM experiences and joint efforts towards a common challenge. Besides that, several ICZM experts exist in Spain (divided among the different regions) with willingness and capacities to lead the REGIAL towards a more sustainable development model.

Unhelpful factors were the limitations of time and budget that condition the scope of the project. The limitation of time hindered the possibility to develop a detailed ICZM analysis in each coastal region carrying out only a global analysis to achieve the defined objectives. The limitation of budget affects the time the technical staff stays in each region and, therefore, the number of stakeholders interviewed (a list of selected 6 stakeholders is prepared for each region). Also, the political cycles often make difficult the development of links between the REGIAL and the competent regional coastal management and consequently the interviews; the competent managers usually are still not experienced enough to provide an adequate answer to the define questions; competent managers may see this project as an evaluation of their performance so they are usually distrustful to share information and experiences; and sometimes the higher responsible staff in coastal management have a political profile which can be counterproductive if they do not control the required information.

## 10. Unforeseen outcomes

Although the project is still ongoing there are positive unforeseen outcomes already, such as the increase of communication among regional coastal stakeholders and the willingness of future collaborations.

No unforeseen negative outcomes have been detected. However, the team in charge is aware of the importance of being careful when interviewing coastal managers, fussing over the REGIAL members and avoiding discussions about how to manage the coast, especially when speaking with policy-makers and those people without a management profile.

## 11. Prepared by

Raúl Medina / Pino González-Riancho, Environmental Hydraulics Institute IH Cantabria, Spain.

## 12. Verified by

Juan Manuel Barragán Muñoz / Javier García Onetti / Javier García Sanabria, University of Cadiz. Spain

## 13. Sources

- Proyecto REGIAL
- <http://www.uca.es/grupos-inv/HUM117/grupogial/paginas/proyectos/REGIAL/proyectorregial>