

The Pro-Archipelago Sea Programme - FI

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- 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

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Participation
- Knowledge-based
- Socio-economic

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The most important values have been cross-sectoral co-operation and raising environmental awareness. In 1999-2006 about 60 projects were executed under the umbrella of the programme. Many projects have been, and will be carried out, during the second term of 2007-2013, where the programme's working groups will have a central role in the regional implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

4. Overview of the case

The name of the programme is Pro-Archipelago (Pro Saaristomeri) and it was founded by the different parties concerned about the weak state of the Archipelago Sea. Within the programme, many measures have been taken covering all areas of society.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

In the Saaristomeri area (S.W. Finland), about 33,000 inhabitants have their permanent residence, in addition to which there are approximately 21,000 summer cottages. Innumerable number of travellers and sightseers also enjoy these beautiful surroundings. About 400,000 inhabitants are living on the river basin. Water quality in the area has considerably worsened. Because of excessive nutrient load, eutrophication has increased which has many adverse effects on nature and the social environment. Appropriate measures to improve water quality are necessary in all sub-regions of the area.

b) Objectives

The objective of the programme is to improve the state of the water and the coastal area of the Archipelago Sea and to reduce land use conflicts in the area. Another objective of the co-operation is to activate the ICZM actors who have the possibility to improve water quality in Saaristomeri and its catchment area.

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

a) Management

The steering group of the programme includes representatives from regional authorities, universities and municipalities as well as from the non-governmental organizations. The lead responsible coordinator of the Pro-Archipelago programme is the South-West Regional Environmental Centre. A management group has been nominated to the programme. It consists of representatives of three authorities and the Water Association of South-West Finland. The representatives of Water Basin Districts are members of the management group.

b) ICZM Tools

In the Pro-Archipelago programme, co-operation to improve coastal water quality and to develop social activities will be done in seven specific teams. In the teams, about 100 stakeholders from NGOs to large enterprises, are working together. All the functions of the teams are co-ordinated. Environmental consciousness is increased and citizens' possibilities to participate in water pollution control is encouraged.

The organisation of the programme is as follows:- a General Assembly gives wide-ranging policy definitions; a Management Group is responsible for planning of activities and the Working Committee for the execution of them. River Basin Groups take care of regional water management and prioritisation of water management measures. The responsibility of Theme Groups is to support regional based water management planning activities. Public participation is a crucial part of the Pro-Archipelago programme. The SATAVESI programme and national and international contacts are examples of more extensive co-operation. There will be slight changes in the organization at the beginning of 2010 due to the more pronounced role of the programme in the implementation of the WFD

In the area, several waste water management projects have been implemented. In 2002, a sub-project concerning sustainable waste water management on the ICZM archipelago started. The aim of this 5-year sub-project is to decrease water pollution and to improve water quality on the area. Innovative and cost-effective waste water management methods have been developed in the project.

Several instruments have been applied in promoting ICZM in the region: e.g. implementing the co-operative model on coastal regions of Finland and Baltic Sea; through Biosphere activities; implementing the programme 'Sustainable Islands'; development of citizen participation aiming to integrate more municipalities into the cooperation; cooperation with the SATAVESI programme.

Pro-Archipelago has also increased citizens' awareness of water monitoring by publishing an illustrative and handy booklet for everyday use. In the 'Clear Water' project, information has been gathered to improve water management on islands, to implement brown water management stations and to improve sludge management from small scale sewer systems.

7. Cost and resources

Until the end of 2006, about 60 different projects have been carried out with total budgets up to €5 m.

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

The main problem in the area is the eutrophication of the waters which is harmful for both nature and man. Nutrients from agriculture, waste waters and fish farming are the main sources of nutrient loads. In agriculture, development around more environmentally friendly cultivating methods is active, but the effects are not very quickly visible in the sea area. Waste waters of scattered settlements are being tackled with stricter regulations in operation. There are indications that the sea-bed is leaking stored nutrients back into the water; the magnitude of this process is not yet known but it may be considerable. Cross-sectoral co-operation based on the principles of ICZM has proven to be a good tool for addressing these problems but it is a challenge in itself to keep up a long term co-operation when the fruits of it may be picked no sooner than after a few decades time.

9. Success and Fail factors

The Pro-Archipelago coastal forum and cross- sectoral co-operation, as well as planning on a sub-regional scale, have been crucial success factors for this ICZM – planning procedure. Fish farming is the only sector to have already achieved the goals set for the reduction of nutrients. Pro-Archipelago co-operation has initiated many regional projects around agricultural issues that have had good results. These projects are important steps forward in improving the state of the Archipelago Sea and especially the waters of its catchment area. As a result of the theme year Saaristomeri 2006, the Fund for the Protection of the Archipelago Sea has been founded with other stakeholders. Long-term commitment is needed for long term activities: successful implementation may take up to ten or twenty years. Great success factors are also extensive participation of all relevant stakeholders and widely available information.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

The ICZM initiative Pro-Archipelago is a long term strategy the benefits and costs of which will be realized after decades. Unforeseen outcomes thus depend on development of environment legislation and other regulation, technology development and possibilities to get funding for such large environmental strategies.

11. Prepared by

Marja-Leena Kosola, SYKE, Finland

12. Verified by

Samu Numminen, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland.

13. Sources

- Numminen, Samu. Coastal management and regional cooperation in saving the Baltic Sea. Expert article 174. Baltic Rim Economies, 20.2.2008. Available at
- http://www.tse.fi/FI/yksikot/erillislaitokset/pei/Documents/bre2008/expert_article174_12008.pdf
- Numminen, Samu 2004. Coastal co-operation in SW Finland: Problems and challenges. Regional Council of Southwest Finland. G. Schernewski & N. Löser (eds.): Managing the Baltic Sea. Coastline Reports 2 (2004). s. 91 - 95. Available at
- http://www.eucc-d.de/plugins/coastline_reports/pdf/cr2/Numminen.pdf