

# ICZM in the Gulf of Finland - FI

## 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 ECONOMIC GROWTH: Developing Europe's regional seas sustainably
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

## 2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Participation
- Knowledge-based
- Ecosystems based approach

## 3. Experiences that can be exchanged

Experiences of integrated land use planning for coastal areas, including EIA and participatory planning. Discussions of the goals and realising the plans have been important. Also a draft of a Coastal Guide ICZM Information System has been made.

4) Overview of the case

Legal frameworks for spatial planning have been changed so that building permission can be granted in local master planning if an inventory has been made of the parent property and if the plan fulfils the pre-conditions of granting of the permit.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

Pressures on the coastal zone have considerably increased over the last decades in Finland, mainly as a result of holiday homes. Three coastal regions, Uusimaa, Itä-Uusimaa and Kymenlaakso cover 15000 km<sup>2</sup> of land areas and 1000 km<sup>2</sup> of water areas. The coastline of these regions is 9075 km long. One and half million people live in the coastal regions, nearly a third of the Finnish population. Human activities put a high pressure on land use development. Detailed land use plans for coastal areas are needed covering, in particular, the protection of natural resources of national and European interest. One characteristic of the Finnish work is that it is also a response to the promulgation in 1997 of the law on nature conservation which requires land use plans for the coastal strip.

### b) Objectives

The project was part of the EU ICZM Demonstration programme. Its main goal was to promote master planning in the coastal zone of the Gulf of Finland as an innovative exercise representing a joint planning process between local and regional administrations.

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

### a) Management

The seven municipalities involved in the project were: Tammissaari, Inkoo., Porvoo, Pernaja, Ruotsinpyhtää, Pyhtää and Virolahti. The lead was taken by Uusimaa Regional Environmental Centre and the Ministry of the Environment.

### b) ICZM tools

Finland's land use planning system, as defined in the Land use and Building Act, gives municipalities a high degree of autonomy in local land use planning. Municipal planning is guided by national land use guidelines from the national government, and by regional land use plans by Regional Councils. In a coastal strip of 100 – 200 m land zone there is an obligation for the preparation of spatial planning through which restrictions can be put to building. In addition, all natural ecosystems in the coastal zone are protected by law. The initiative was expected to integrate new methodologies and tools in the planning procedure: environmental impact assessment (EIA), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and participatory planning. It also had the task to develop co-operation networks with other Baltic Sea nations and promote joint management of coastal areas. Basic ICZM tools are the preparation of general land use plans for the management of coastal areas; implementation of existing regional plans; contribution of the setting up of the Natura 2000 network; EIA as a part of the planning process; and participatory planning. The Gulf of Finland work recommended that integrated planning should be undertaken at the regional and local level during the preliminary phase of ICZM. Land use planning is one means for realising development goals and could considerably extend master planning on the southern coast and the islands.

## 7. Cost and resources

Synergy was gained from the joint co-operation, which makes this approach recommendable for use in other areas. However, more resources are needed, including state support for drawing up plans for the most valuable coastal zones. To maintain the biodiversity of coastal zones and to develop coasts in a sustainable way, more discussion is needed to reconcile the development goals of various sectors.

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

The project was funded by EU Life Environment. Total costs were approximately €600,000.

## 9. Success and Fail factors

Responsibilities for designation and management of protected areas often rests at a regional level while land use planning is more typically a local function. The Gulf of Finland has facilitated exchange of ideas and information between the seven municipalities working in parallel to develop local coastal management plans in an informal way. The building act requires plans for shorefront development; the problem is that 'everyman's right' (free access to the coast for all) inevitably leads to multiple recreational activities in natural areas which can produce certain land use conflicts. The planning system is proving adequate to address the two major concerns in the area (conservation, summerhouses) but will not be sufficient alone to deal with socio-economic issues arising from the relative isolation of the area and heavy seasonality of its usage. However, extensive change of knowledge and intensive co-operation between stakeholders were some important success factors. Especially the contribution of school children, who got an opportunity to participate in a drawing competition, succeeded well and is applicable also to other projects.

## 10. Unforeseen outcomes

In the project, no really new methods were developed.

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## 13. Sources

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