

Integrated development of a coastal zone: Robert bay, Martinique - FR

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Preserving coastal environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space

2. Key Approaches

- Participation
- Knowledge-based

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The diagnostic phase in the preparation of an ICZM initiative.

4. Overview of the case

In the French West Indies, an integrated approach to coastal management was a totally new one. It was mainly a local initiative, at the size of a highly populated bay, including several local research teams with a contribution from a local consultancy company and the university.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The Robert bay is a semi-closed bay with a water basin mainly covered by agriculture and urban areas impacting it under heavy rainfalls. The generated turbidity is highly significant since there is only one channel that links the bay to the open sea. There are signs of eutrophication associated with hyper-sedimentation with a shifting in traditional activities like small-scale fishing to tourism activities including leisure boats.

b) Objectives

The aim was to initiate an integrated process in a coastal area highly impacted by agricultural runoff and urban sprawl.

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

a) Management

The diagnostic analysis was carried out by scientific partners associated with the Robert municipality technical services interested in the development of a wastewater treatment facility within its new Land-Use Management Plan.

b) ICZM tools

The main tools concern the mapping of the bay and the modelling of water circulation within the bay.

7. Cost and resources

The project was funded by the LITEAU national programme for a cost of €100,000 and had a duration of 3 years (2005-2008).

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

This project was a starter in regard to an integrated approach which was completely new to the island managers. A comprehensive inventory with environmental indicators was developed as specified in the objectives. The local decision-makers' ownership was generated and the town council integrated the results into their own management plan. There was a good synergy between this project and another one initiated into the framework of the national ICZM programme started in 2005. The objectives were achieved although with much delay in the sociological survey of the local interest groups.

9. Success and Fail factors

The lack of ICZM-related experience in the core team.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

Good interest and ownership by the local decision-makers.

11. Prepared by

Y. Henocque, IFREMER, France

12. Verified by

X. Lafon, LITEAU programme Officer, Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development

13. Sources

- MEDD LITEAU 2 Final report 2006 – J.C. Dao, Coordinator, IFREMER, Martinique, France



LITEAU 2-Etude préalable à l'aménagement intégré de la zone côtière_ Baie du Robert (1.11 MB)

