

Tourism and environment in protected coastal and island areas - FR

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

2. Key Approaches

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

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The observation and monitoring system and its indicators that were developed in regard to the measurement of the pressure from human activities on fragile environments like semi-closed bays and islands.

4. Overview of the case

Managers of coastal areas are asking for tools that will allow them to measure tourism activities and their evolution and to reconcile economic development with the site's conservation. The "Bountfiles" observatory is an anticipatory and management tool addressing protected areas with a high tourist frequentation.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The increasing tourism pressure on protected areas and small islands generate multiple environmental impacts and lead to questions about the way the natural environment may be conserved and how conflicts between users (walking, sport or leisure activities) may be managed. Today, managers are interested in new principles for the management of vulnerable tourist areas using anticipatory tools to avoid situations of conflict and damage to the environment. Most of the time, tourist fluxes in a specific protected area remain poorly-known and assessment methods remain too costly for small management structures.

b) Objectives

The main objective is to develop methodologies for assessment tools to determine tourism frequency, specifically:

- field application in partnership with managers: Port-Cros National Park and Porquerolles island, Chausey archipelago, Finistère coast and islands, Yeu island and the Iroise Sea Marine Park;
- monitoring methods for observatories including data gathering, archiving, data retrieval and stakeholders' involvement in the whole process;
- reducing costs to gather the information.

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

a) Project Management

The management of the different sites has been in close partnership with the stakeholders such that they feel they 'own' the system. In each area, the construction work was started on the demand of the managers and local decision-makers.

b) ICZM tools

The main techniques used are related to information systems: as an example, in the Chausey archipelago (English Channel), a system of 7 criteria and 18 indicators were developed. Since then and out of the local observatory, status sheets for each of these indicators are regularly published and distributed to the local population.

7. Cost and resources

The initiative was funded by the LITEAU national programme for a cost of €140,000 and had a duration of 3 years (2005-2008).

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

This ICM initiative is considered as one of the most successful ones of all those funded under the programme. The objectives were fully achieved and went beyond that foreseen.

9. Success and Fail factors

The high demand and very close relationship with local managers.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

The product "Bountiles" has been requested and adopted in many places, much more than anticipated at the beginning because of a high demand on the side of managers and decision-makers.

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12. Verified by

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13. Sources

- MEDD LITEAU 2 Final report. 2007– Louis Bigand , University of Western Brittany, Brest, France



Litteau 2 - Tourism and Environm in coastal protected areas 2006 (133.88 KB)

