

Concerted actions for natural hazard management, sustainable management of aquatic resources and control of tourist numbers, Camargue - FR

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Managing impacts of climate change and safeguarding resilience of coasts/coastal systems
- 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

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Knowledge-based

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The dialogue approaches that were used to implement this programme of actions

4. Overview of the case

The Camargue Regional Nature Park (PNR) started, in 2000, to elaborate a Delta Contract. Within this framework, this case has been concerned with coastal and marine aspects focusing on three themes: natural hazard management, sustainable management of aquatic resources and control of tourist numbers. Concerted actions were planned through numerous dialogue structures linked with the park and on public meetings which were devoted to the revision of the charter in every village. Simultaneously some studies were launched on the same three themes to improve and share the knowledge to complete the programme of actions in the best conditions.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

The Camargue is the Rhône delta in the south of France. It is a wetland of international importance. Wholly surrounded by dykes, water output and input is artificially controlled according to the water needs of the various activities (especially rice-growing). Nature conservation plays a major role in the management of this territory using numerous conservation tools: 55% is designated for Nature. There are just 7,500 inhabitants but high numbers of visitors. Nonetheless, traditional activities also need to be kept as they contribute to the local heritage. However, natural hazards (marine flooding) are an important characteristic of this territory. For the last 15 years the Rhône delta has suffered many flood events, which had never occurred in nearly hundred years prior to this. Such disasters caused stakeholders to rally for better water management which might be conducted by the park although the possible solutions today to protect the coast against the sea are limited, a fact that obliges the different stakeholders to think together for new answers.

b) Objectives

Within the framework of the delta contract, the initiative aims to develop a coastal and marine programme of actions which favours wide consultation and relies on the shared knowledge as regards the three chosen themes.

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

a) Management

The initiative was implemented by the “syndicat mixte” which manages the PNR. The steering process works through different governance structures which contribute to the park’s functioning and includes all the relevant stakeholders (park council and thematic commissions, “Commission exécutive de l’eau”, working groups of the Delta Contract).

b) ICZM Tools

The Delta Contract is a contractual document between partners which was used to initiate the approach. The work then relied on three tools:

- exchange and working meetings with institutional stakeholders (services of the local and State authorities),
- public meetings in the villages of the Camargue, and
- studies and expert’s reports concerning the themes to forward the discussion and improve the knowledge needed for a diagnosis.

The three proposed themes were addressed in the following way:

- As regards the management of natural hazards, a strategic study was carried out to define the status of the sand coast conservation. Following definition of the management principles and cartography of the situation, the study gives scenarios of intervention in each sector.
- As regards the aquatic resources, the work focused on the management of shellfish fishing. An overall study was conducted to better know the volume and state of the resource. From this study a partnership was possible (e.g. representatives of professions, the civil service, IFREMER) allowing propositions of management and development. The Park published a technical document on these different points.
- As regards the tourist numbers, the project focused on the Piémenson Beach where unauthorized camping has developed for several years. To put an end to this illegal activity, the French Government gave the Park a mandate of mediation. Several meetings occurred and a synthesis of previous studies and the legal situation was carried on to develop a management strategy.

7. Cost and resources

The Park received funding of €60 000 which contributed to the different studies. Additionally, it was driven with the ordinary means of the Park (a representative in charge of the littoral”.

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

Despite consultation, the scenario of hazard management which was agreed by all the partners in the Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer sector was not finally applied by the State Services. With respect to controlling tourism, the work is at a standstill because of problems of land purchase even though illegal occupancy continues.

9. Success and Fail factors

Thanks to its background history and missions, the Park was accepted in a mediating role. It is also used to this sort of consultation. The strong involvement of the maritime prefecture certainly contributed to the success of the “fishing” part of the project. However, the lack of well identified representatives of the State services for the other themes (erosion, tourism) and poor co-ordination of these services contributed to some blockages. Concerning some complex points with long-standing issues, if the process of consultation/mediation, which was conducted by the PNR, has allowed some progress, it was

insufficient when the main institutional and political stakeholders were not strongly involved. The approach was certainly positive to put in place and develop some partnerships for the future park charter as regards the themes “management of aquatic resource” and management of tourist numbers”. Nonetheless, it failed for the coastal erosion theme because the programme of actions, which was settled by the shoreline manager (i.e. the French State), did not finally correspond that agreed by the stakeholders.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

None.

11. Prepared by














Luce Goudedranche – CETMEF- France

12. Verified by

Yvonne Battiau-Queney – EUCC-France

13. Sources

- Application file for the project call for proposal – PNR Camargue
- Integrated management of coastal zones in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur – « Éléments de compte rendu et perspectives »- SGAR- 2007
- Questionnaires and interviews to follow through the call for proposal «Pour un développement équilibré des territoires littoraux par une GIZC» of the DIACT/SGmer – CETMEF/IFREMER- Luce Goudedranche/ Jean-Louis Gaignon

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	Dossier de candidature PNRCamargue (364.02 KB)	
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