

# How to get better conditions for common action regarding erosion, marine pollution and coastal land ownership, Côte d'Opale - 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

A process of partnership has been set up to define a joint programme of common actions and to co-ordinate interventions at different institutional levels (local, regional, national or even cross-border).

## 4. Overview of the case

Different thematic groups have been working together for 18 months to define an experimental programme of actions. Three themes have been determined which represent the main issues of the Côte d'Opale: coastal erosion, marine pollution, and coastal land ownership.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

The representatives of the Côte d'Opale, a coastal border area in the north of France participated in the ICZM demonstration programme (1996-99). In this Region, an inter-institutional partnership between State, region and territory has been established for a number of years. It is recognised as having some weaknesses e.g. it is mainly sector-based; there is a lack of co-ordination and difficult involvement of the various local levels; and there is a rapid turnover of the persons who are involved in the steps weakens the long-term partnership process. However, for many years now, this territory has been aware of the issues needed for sustainable development and has reached near-consensus about the future evolution of the area. Many tools of management are available: a management plan, a coastal monitoring body, and protection of wide coastal areas.

### b) Objectives

The objectives concern several levels in relationship to the variously involved partners. They concern more particularly the following themes:

- a better consideration being given to marine and coastal issues by the regional authorities;
- finalisation of an efficient programme of actions following several year-long studies which could find their place in the negotiation of the future CPER ("Contrat de Plan Etat-Région") which specifies the financing by both parties;

- developing a knowledge tool (atlas), co-constructed and interactive, assessing the impact of human actions on the sea-land interface;
- strengthening and evolution of the relationship between financing managers (especially the Regional Council) and scientists.

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

### **a) Management**

The project was driven by the « Syndicat Mixte de la Côte d'Opale » (SMCO), which is recognised as a discussion and co-ordination structure. It brings together coastal towns and district communities, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Chambers of Agriculture, county councils of the North and Pas-de-Calais. The Regional Council and university of "Littoral - Côte d'Opale" (ULCO) were also partners. The management was carried out by a running committee bringing together all the representatives of the local and State administrative services, as well as the technical and scientific institutions of the territory concerned.

### **b) ICZM tools**

The approach was based exclusively on thematic working groups. These groups were actually informal and brought together the traditional stakeholders: local government and services, as well as some representatives of scientific circles.

As regards to the theme erosion, a special organisation was chosen as the group was divided into two, on one side technicians of local and national authorities and on the other scientists from ULCO university (GEODAL laboratory). The team that had to run and deal with the initiative (one representative of SMCO + several "marine environment" representatives of the Regional Council) acted as a link and "translator" between both groups. The various groups have produced more or less successfully action-forms, concerning in particular, the gap in knowledge.

## **7. Cost and resources**

SMCO allocated specific means to run the project by recruiting a special representative. A sum of €60,000 from the DIACT programme was also granted.

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

Apart from the erosion group which was able to structure different action-forms, the other thematic groups could not reach their proposed objectives within the 18 months limit. Moreover the project Sea/Land atlas, which intended to structure the whole approach, was not supported by the requested partners in the suggested shape. It had to be re-oriented and failed to help the other groups as it was planned. At the same time, the structural evolution inside the Regional Council and orientation of the negotiation about the CPER failed to reach the objective to give a better place to coastal and marine management in current programmes.

## **9. Success and Fail factors**

The success of the erosion group can be explained in several ways but two reasons seem fundamental:

- the different partners recognised that SMCO was the correct body to examine this question, contrary to the other themes (especially the marine themes).
- the choice to divide the working group in two (scientists / technicians) avoided misunderstanding which was encountered by the other groups.

The problems to get funds especially for some flagship actions (within the scope of the previous CPER or during the

negotiated new one) had a negative effect. Finally because the project was carried out at the regional level it was not possible to associate the civil population to the process or to find bodies able to be in charge of the proposed actions at the interface sea / land.

## 10. Unforeseen outcomes

Although all the proposed objectives could not be reached within the allotted time, the project has allowed the institutional stakeholders and managers to better know one other, especially those from local authorities and the marine world. Through a common approach to various issues, the meetings have contributed to set up the creation of the future “three estuaries marine park”.

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## 13. Sources

- 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
- Application file for the project call for proposal - SMCO / Regional Council / ULCO
- «Lettre de la côte d'Opale» from 2006 to 2008 - SMCO



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pour un developpement equilibre des littoraux (36.27 MB) 