

# Participatory approach in the Mont Saint-Michel bay - FR

## 1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Preserving coastal environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space
- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products

## 2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Participation

## 3. Experiences that can be exchanged

Practical experiences to include all the partners and especially the residents to define together the future of the whole Bay: land and sea, Breton and Norman.

## 4. Overview of the case

The initiative was driven by an inter-departmental association. It proposed different options for the Bay to inhabitants and stakeholders during visits, meetings and discussions, exchanges in newspapers etc. in order to think about the threats and issues existing in the Mont Saint-Michel Bay initiative order to establish a new mode of governance in a coherent territory widened from traditional approaches.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

The Mont Saint-Michel Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site has been, for a long time the subject of numerous approaches, studies and scientific researches. It is a rural area strongly divided by administrative and historical borders

### b) Objectives

In the context of the restoration of the Mont's maritime nature, led by the central state and where technical aspects were essential, local stakeholders (technicians, elected representatives) have wished to find a more integrated approach taking into account the whole Bay: not only the maritime part but also the coastal area and landward region (it has 5 sedimentary basins) and giving the local people a say initiative what happens. After a mutual diagnosis, the approach based on this dialogue on the future of the bay should lead to the installation of a sustainable development charter and a programme of actions

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

### a) Management

The approach was led by an association created to bring this initiative into play. A running committee which gathered together the institutional partners was established in order to supervise the work. It, however, seldom met. A scientific committee was

also constituted which gathered research teams that worked on the bay. It was created to validate the different methodological consultation steps.

## **b) ICZM Tools**

The main tool for the stakeholders consultation was a Forum. These 30 public meetings were held in 2006, on thematic or geographical subjects. Two other fora, "days of the bay", took place at the beginning and at the end of this consultation time. The first one allowed citizens to meet together and to exchange with the scientists during conferences or visits. The second one enabled a debate and to give explanation about the approach. Finally, questionnaires were widely spread, polling local people about the issues of the bay. Another team also collected the opinions of those who didn't attend the meetings.

## **7. Cost and resources**

The interdepartmental association was granted for €60 000 from the DIACT programme. This amount allowed a team of representatives to be gathered which had previously been scattered in different departmental structures.

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

Through meetings and the fora, consultation an during 18 month period was especially rich and focussed. However, those thoughts were not shaped into a strategic orientation document. Therefore, drawing up a development charter was rapidly abandoned and the cross-cutting action plan was only partly achieved.

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

The strong mobilisation and the will of some stakeholders (technicians, elected representatives) allowed the setting up of the participatory approach and the creation of the association. However, because of the lack of a strong institutional positioning, the approach that got under way by the association could not notably change the traditional functioning of the bay. Moreover, in the French context where involvement/dialogue in a forum form is not much used, institutional partners and especially those from the State and the Region remained in the margins of this approach. At the end, the lack of concrete objectives recognised and validated by all the partners restricted the impact of the work.

## **10. Unforeseen outcomes**

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## **13. Sources**

- «Vue sur Baie », newsletter of the Baie du Mont-Saint Michel - N°7-8-9-10
- Application file for the project call for proposal - association inter-départementale Manche -Ile et Vilaine
- Questionnaires and interviews to follow through the call for proposal «Pour un développement équilibré des territoires littoraux par une GIZC» de la DAIAC/SGmer - CETMEF/IFREMER- Luce Goudedranche/ Jean-Louis Gaignon




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