

# Concerted management of Etel Ria - 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 tool and method which were put in place to manage anchorages and beaconing in Etel Ria.

## 4. Overview of the case

After a successful process of consultation between farmers and shellfish farmers in the area of Etel Ria, the local stakeholders wished to broaden the approach to other uses. An inventory of activities has been completed with consultation of the users. A GIS on this theme was worked out as well as a new organisation of anchorages and beaconing. At the same time an awareness campaign was carried out thanks to “cafés des sciences” and a pedagogic guide on best practices.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

The river Etel is a “ria” bordering two “pays”, with two territorial plans or SCOTs and three communities of communes. Located on the south coast of Brittany, this river basin suffers severe constraints e.g. summer tourism, outlying urban extension linked with the development of Greater Lorient and Greater Vannes. Nevertheless the Etel Ria remains a relatively unspoilt area where, living closely together, is active agriculture and important oyster farming. Aware of this fragile context, the agricultural and shellfish farmers have committed, in recent years, an innovative approach based on consultation which has so far helped maintain the balance between the various uses of this territory.

### b) Objectives

Thanks to the joint experience of farmers and shellfish farmers to keep a high level of water quality, various local stakeholders wished to launch a sharing process as regards all the uses and more especially: the wetlands, urbanisation and real-estate development and development of recreational uses. This initiative had to rely on a diagnosis of the territory and a knowledge transfer of data on the various uses. The approach should lead to recommendations to better manage all the ria.

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

### a) Management

Because the Etel Ria river basin does not coincide with a single administrative structure, the initiative was initially driven by the Community of communes of Etel, leader of a previous sharing approach. An ad-hoc “syndicat mixte” was created later.

## b) ICZM Tools

The approach relied primarily on meetings and interviews of the different users of the river, divers, fishermen etc. The meetings allowed an inventory of space occupancy and problems which should lead to a single GIS for all the communes. Public awareness of the issues of sustainable development was done through two tools: a « café des sciences » and pedagogic leaflets on good practices in the ria: fishing, walking, hunting etc. Very quickly, there was a re-focus to the recreational activities in the ria with a special emphasis on the yachting issues: anchorage, which was reorganised with local authorities and beaconing of the channel with bamboo to prevent users' disputes.

## 7. Cost and resources

A specific coordinator was appointed to follow the project thanks to the grant of € 60 000 from the DIACT.

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

Data collection and sharing were difficult for the implementation of a GIS. The cartographic information was limited to space occupancy and the location of different uses (among them farming and shellfish farming). In parallel, the syndicate has developed pedagogic and awareness tools intended for school-children, ria users and shellfish farmers.

## 9. Success and Fail factors

Despite an apparently favourable context (a successful participatory approach), progress in favour of a sustainable development of the Etel Ria remains limited. The following reasons could explain this situation:

- The previous approach was directly issued from involved users (farmers, oystermen), while the ICZM initiative was set up by only some of the stakeholders (environmental associations).
- The objective of the first consultation was precise and clearly shared: to keep good water quality in the ria for it to be classified as A status. The objective of the ICZM initiative was less operative i.e. drawing up a diagnosis of territory and uses, and the issues were less consensual e.g. regulation / limitation of urban extension and uses.
- The leader (first the community of communes) did not feel truly legitimate to tackle some problems, particularly those concerning real-estate property and urbanisation. In fact other current proceedings, such as the Lorient SCOT, were already in charge of these questions. Moreover the elected representatives did not wish to hold a debate on the awkward question of urbanisation especially in the informal way of the previous approach.
- The official representative focused his work on a GIS and data collection without showing the way to practically use the tool.

## 10. Unforeseen outcomes

Despite its relatively limited impact, it has still allowed the setting up of a syndicate at river basin scale which might, in future, be the legitimate leader and initiator of actions as regards coastal integrated management.

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## 13. Sources

- Application file for the project call for proposal - Community of communes of Etel Ria
- 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
- Report of the ICZM project - « Syndicat Mixte du bassin-versant de la Ria d'Etel » - 2007
- Web site - « Communauté de Commune de la Ria d'Etel »



Appel a projets Ria d Etel version 3 (75.2 KB) 



DIZC (220.22 KB) 



FICE SIGNALETIQUE DU BV DE LA RIA D (43.75 KB) 