

Spatial planning and sustainable development of the western Gulf of Gdansk - PL

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Preserving coastal environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Ecosystems based approach

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

A coherent plan for integrated management is presented for one of the most economically vital and environmentally vulnerable basins in the Polish exclusive economic zone (EEZ), together with the adjacent coastal strip; the positive role of the Maritime Office, co-ordinating and approving all actions in the coastal zone and EEZ and conducting stakeholder consultations is demonstrated. It can serve as blueprint for ICZM of other coastal entities.

4. Overview of the case

A pilot plan of space management of the western part of the Gulf of Gdansk was elaborated by the Maritime Institute in Gdansk (IM-Gdansk) in co-operation with Maritime Office in Gdynia (UM-Gdynia). The plan determines primary and secondary uses of 30 sub-basins into which the study area was divided and introduces bans and limitations on future uses of each sub-basin, originating from environmental protection demands.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

Major Polish harbours are situated on the Gulf of Gdansk (Gdansk, Gdynia), simultaneously, it is one of the most precious environmental areas (particularly the shallow western part called the Bay of Puck, with habitats of many valuable species of flora and fauna, predominantly spawning areas of fish species, which play a vital role in the local economy). Conflicting uses and growing pressures from economy (tourism, shipping, growing population) call for an integrated management of this area: the presented plan is a major step in this direction. It determines: (1) locations of public investments, (2) trends of the development of transportation and technical infrastructure, (3) areas and conditions of environmental/cultural heritage protection.

b) Objectives

(1) sustainable and lasting development of coastal communities, (2) good condition of sea-land and marine ecosystems, (3) safe, sustainable and permanent sea uses, (4) careful use of space, leaving room for future, currently not-known sea uses, (5) protection and maintenance of cultural heritage, (6) where possible, determination of provisions regarding both space and time.

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

a) Project Management

The plan was commissioned by UM-Gdynia, a governmental agency with full administrative jurisdiction in the Polish EEZ and technical belt (10–1,000 m wide strip landward from shoreline, excluding harbours and wharfs) as well as important jurisdiction in the protection belt (100–2,500 m wide strip contiguous to technical belt, including harbours and wharfs) in the Pomorskie Province, where the study area is located. It was executed by IM-Gdansk – this Institute has a lot of experience in coastal/marine planning and monitoring.

b) ICZM tools

Top-down integrity of the plan originating from: (a) Natura 2000 – the whole study area is contained within a listed bird protection area and habitat area, (b) Water Framework Directive (WFD) requirements: being the coastal basin, the ecological condition of the study area must not worsen and the target ecological condition be met by 2015, (c) national, regional and local legislation: (i) Marine Areas and Administration Act of Parliament (ii) draft Instruction of the Minister of Infrastructure on the scope of spatial planning in internal waters, territorial sea and EEZ, (iii) draft National Spatial Management Plan Concept and Spatial Management Plan of the Pomorskie Province, (iv) local studies and plans on spatial management of communities surrounding the study area, (v) development plans of harbours and other important stakeholders, (vi) opinions and conclusions regarding the plan and delivered to UM-Gdynia –consultations/feedback between UM-Gdynia and stakeholders.

An eco-systems-based approach was used: the study area was divided into 30 sub-basins according to their primary function/use; 12 environment protection (43.3% of the total study area), 6 fishing, sport and recreation (37.4%), 4 communication (4.5%), 2 location of linear infrastructure (pipelines) (6%), 1 sand extraction (0.3%), 1-sediment deposition (1.5%), 2 enclosed areas (strict environmental and national heritage protection) (4%), 2 erection of submerged/emerged structures and artificial islands (3%). Moreover, secondary/complementary uses were defined in each sub-basin, basically they include environmental protection, fishing, sport and recreation. Also, a list of permitted uses was assigned for each of them: the most common are anti-storm infrastructure, beach protection, navigation along fairways, regular tourist communication/navigation, scuba-diving, fishing wharf, (treated!) wastewater discharge, etc. All uses/functions are contained in a 'basin charter', done for all 30 sub-basins. It contains the number (1 to 30), name, character code (originating from primary function(s)), sub-basin's map, and primary, secondary/complementary and permitted functions/uses. Each charter also contains a dedicated list of provisions on environmental protection (e.g. maximum permissible noise level), national heritage, navigation (e.g. maximum speed of vessels) and economy (e.g. fishing ban/permission). They originate from a particular combination of primary, secondary and permitted uses in a given sub-basin. The charters have annexes/appendices, where an in-depth description of all uses is given. To achieve that detailed maps of the sub-basins were elaborated with division into sub-sub-basins where given functions are permitted. Boundaries of sub-sub-basins are also provided by geographic co-ordinates of points, where azimuths of boundaries change.

The plan is currently being implemented. Waste water treatment plants (WWTP) in Gdansk, Gdynia and smaller towns and settlements, the precondition for the success of the whole plan, are being constructed and upgraded to meet the WFD water quality target values by 2015. Apart from WWTP-independent urban and harbour development, it should boost the tourist sector and produce a positive environment – economy feedback, where improvements in environmental conditions of the study area should create extra jobs.

7. Cost and resources

Not available

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

(1) Integration of European and national legislation, regional and local planning and plans of development of major stakeholders in economically intensive and environmentally vulnerable coastal region. (2) Stakeholder consultation concentrated by UM-Gdynia, so that views of stakeholders could be conceptualised and analysed by experienced coastal managers and then incorporated in the ultimate plan. (3) Consistency of the plan originating from long-term close collaboration of the contractor and customer. (4) Methodology developed during the preparation of the plan can be used for elaborating similar plans for other important coastal regions/cells in Poland. (5) Easy potential dissemination of project results among the remaining Maritime Offices (in Slupsk and Szczecin) to achieve a similar result (4). The management was based on tight,

online co-operation between the contractor (IM-Gdansk) and the customer (UM-Gdynia) that could be achieved due to previous, long-term tradition of their mutual collaboration.

9. Success and Fail factors

Pre-condition of success – (1) concentration of authority/jurisdiction in coastal zones, territorial waters and EEZ by UM-Gdynia, (2) long-term collaboration with IM-Gdansk – the contractor, who prepared the plan, (3) Consistent European legislation, particularly WFD, without which the improvement of seawater quality in Poland would not be possible in a relatively short time horizon – ca. 2015.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

None yet.

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13. Sources

- www.umgdy.gov.pl



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