

# An inter-agency, national committee for implementing ICZM - RO

## 1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products

## 2. Key Approaches

- Integration

## 3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The Romanian Government understands the urgency for ICZM and has given a high priority to integrated actions to reach a balanced development of the coastal zone by:

- developing the legal framework to support an ICZM process in Romania
- setting up an ICZM coordination mechanism (National Committee for the Coastal Zone) led by a governmental agency (Romanian Ministry of Environment), responsible for the implementation of the ICZM process.

## 4. Overview of the case

Since 2002, Romania has started the ICZM planning process by setting a legal and institutional framework. The efforts were done towards ICZM policy and strategy development. In the last years, special attention was given to strengthening the ICZM institutional arrangements for making the structure properly functional. Meantime, priority was given to finalize the National ICZM Strategy and its Action Plan developments and implementation as well as to the reviewing process of the existing Coastal Law.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

The Government of Romania has put high value on the development and implementation of ICZM. This has not only been done to meet the EU requirements but is also based on the high economic importance that the coastal area represents. Furthermore the Romanian Government has realised the threats and stresses to which the coastal area is exposed now, and moreover, in the future. Creating the legal basis for ICZM was the first step to address the challenges of unsustainable use of the coastal resources, the increase in population in the coastal zone area and the envisaged long term impacts of global climate change. Nevertheless, the need for progress in coastal management in Romania has also increased due to human pressure on the natural resources and its rich and diverse but vulnerable terrestrial and marine ecosystem. Therefore, Romania has recognized that ICZM is a valuable instrument and created the structure and legal framework to promote its implementation and to ensure that the Romanian coastal zone is environmentally and economically sustainable.

### b) Objectives

The specific objectives to achieve sustainable development of the Romanian Black Sea Coastal zone have been:

- To develop the legal framework for ICZM including the National Strategy
- To develop the co-ordination mechanism and its structure
- To strengthen the institutional coordination to implement the ICZM process

The ICZM institutional arrangements adopted by the Romanian government also aimed to strengthen interagency collaboration and co-ordination and to facilitate harmonisation in the development of integrated policies and plans. This forms the framework to enlarge the vertical and horizontal integration, to integrate results of applied science into policy preparation, to disseminate knowledge on natural and socio-economic coastal processes, and to increase co-operation between the national, provincial and local levels. All of these will contribute towards improving the quality of decision-making on coastal measures protecting population and environment, and sustainably develop the economy of the Romanian coastal zone.

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

### **a) Project Management**

The Ministry of Environment is the governmental authority responsible for implementing ICZM in Romania.

### **b) ICZM tools**

In 2003, as an initial response to the EU ICZM Recommendation, the Romanian Government through its institutions has initiated and put into practice the ICZM Law which among other issues stipulates the tasks and responsibilities of the relevant central and local authorities and institutions as well as clarifying the aims of and needs for the required process. Additional amendments were developed (e.g. incorporating integrated spatial planning of the terrestrial and marine parts of the coastal zone as a legally binding mechanism, regulations on improving exchanges of coastal and marine data and dissemination of information to coastal stakeholders as well as financial arrangements for the proper functioning of the high level National ICZM Committee). As a consequence of the ICZM Law a National ICZM Committee was established in June 2004 by Government Decree. As prescribed by the law, about 50 institutions and organisations from the national and local level are represented in the ICZM National Committee. This high level National Committee is chaired by the Secretary of State for Water of the Ministry of Environment. Under the National Committee, working groups have been formed, consisting of key experts from relevant authorities and research institutes who can provide expert advice and guidance on specific topics. Currently, six working groups have been formed viz. coastal spatial planning, coastal erosion and delineation of the coastal zone, ICZM legislation and rules, an action plan and strategy development, monitoring and control of the coastal environment, and information and communication. Both the National Committee and the working groups will support the Permanent Technical Secretariat of the ICZM Committee

The development of the National ICZM Strategy was based on an assessment of the current state of the Romanian coastal zone (socio-economic and ecological aspects) as well as of the legal, political and administrative structures and institutions that have an influence on the conditional framework for taking actions in the coastal region. The ICZM Strategy is considering as a multi-sector, long-term policy document which functions as a "policy agenda", a reference framework providing directions for the desired developments in the most important economic sectors of the coastal zone, taking into account the need to protect the environment.

## **7. Cost and resources**

No information is available.

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

The ICZM institutional arrangements adopted by Romania aimed to strengthen inter-agency collaboration and co-ordination and to facilitate harmonisation in the development of integrated policies and plans. Although the ICZM institutional framework was set up and put in place, however, there are still some issues to be solved, both in the field of legislation and in the operation of the ICZM-structures in order to be properly effective. In order to increase their effectiveness, the ICZM co-ordinating mechanism and its structure need financial resources and adequate staffing. Also the National ICZM Strategy

provides the initial mechanisms to ensure full and co-ordinated implementation and application of national and EU legislation and policies that have an impact on coastal areas. It is the first step towards guiding Romanian coastal stakeholders on a local and national level to better integration and sustainable development along the coast. The Romanian Government has also recognised the importance of international support through multi- and bi-lateral technical and funding assistance in order to improve the Romanian ICZM process, management and implementation. At the moment, the Romanian ICZM Law needs more enforcement and improvements in many aspects. Also the boundaries of the coastal zone should be re-defined, in particular the inland boundary, in order to apply the ICZM law in the correct manner. Unfortunately, the amendments which modify the Romanian ICZM law were not approved by the Parliament.

## 9. Success and Fail factors

The National Committee for the Coastal Zone and its structure, brings together the most important agencies and institutions that have an influence in the coastal zone. It is considered a successful factor of inter-sectoral and inter-governmental integration in the ICZM process. Also, the existing ICZM legal framework supports Romania to fulfil the requirements of the national and EU legislation in order to achieve sustainable development of the Romanian coastal zone. Issues which could be improved are strengthening of the legal basis for ICZM, the functioning of the high level ICZM Committee, activating the ICZM Working groups, achieving political accordance of the Action Plan belonging to the ICZM Strategy, and increasing the commitment for implementing the Action Plan. There was stakeholder consultation through the main document being placed on the Ministry of Environment website for the time of the consultation.

## 10. Unforeseen outcomes

None.

## 11. Prepared by

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## 13. Sources

- Implementation of the WFD and ICZM Recommendation in Romania (2005-2007)
- Institutional strengthening for implementation WFD & ICZM Recommendations along Romanian Black Sea Coast - 2007-2008
- National ICZM Strategy 2008, Romania



Romanian ICZM Strategy - draft document (583.09 KB) 