

Integrated management of coastal and inland areas, Salaca river basin - LV

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Managing impacts of climate change and safeguarding resilience of coasts/coastal systems
- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Preventing and managing natural hazards and technological (human-made) hazards
- 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
- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Sound use of resources and promotion of less resource intensive processes/products
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Developing Europe's regional seas sustainably
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Improving competitiveness

2. Key Approaches

- Integration
- Participation
- Knowledge-based
- Ecosystems based approach
- Socio-economic
- Technical

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The coastal biosphere reserve (UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme approach) as an ICZM instrument being implemented in practice. It is national legislation-based with certain prescribed institutional and human resource capacities and aims to balance both the nature and culture protection of a particular coastal territory with socio-economic development as well as using participatory integration and governance mechanisms.

4. Overview of the case

The North Vidzeme biosphere reserve (NVBR) was realised with the involvement of the main stakeholders and established by National law in 1997. The NVBR administration staff, who can be regarded as intermediary actors, are everyday professionals and dedicatedly engaged in sustainable coastal development (SCD) work. NVBR participatory SCD governance experience differs very positively from other coastal nature management practice examples with respect to legally designation and staffing of the nature protection territories.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

In the NVBR coastal region, there are 46 local municipalities, located in three administrative districts (before 2009), with a territory covering 457,600 ha. in NE Latvia at the Estonia border and including around 50 km coastline of the three coastal municipalities (population less as 10, 000 inhabitants) at the Gulf of Riga. Since 1997, the NVBR has worked with the

University of Latvia in partnership with Salacgriva and Ainazhi coastal municipalities located within NVBR and also with Kolka and Lapmezhiems coastal municipalities located outside NVBR. This partnership work was conducted during 2007-2008 to analyze and compare nature protection governance systems in the several, traditional coastal national parks and the only Biosphere reserve in Latvia, particularly evaluating environmental collaboration aspects and perspectives in order to prepare proposals for participatory coastal management development. Although considerably successful in their main duty, they still lack public participation and a wider collaboration among other, different stakeholders. Apart from traditional nature protection, a number of investigation and/or infrastructure development projects, plans and feasibility studies have been conducted in the NVBR area involving local/regional stakeholders and using integrated and systemic approaches.

b) Objectives

To plan and implement actions within a Biosphere Reserve reconciling the demands for a 'bottom-up' process with that of a "top-down" approach which requires collaborative communication (coastal sustainability and environmental communication) with complementary education and training and public participation.

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

a) Management

Overall public management in the Biosphere Reserve territory is the responsibility of the municipality. Nature environment protection and management and its interaction with public management sectors is the competence of the NVBR according to the special governmental law. Everyday performance is realised by the NVBR administration. This is supported by a Consultation council having representation of the main stakeholders in the region.

b) ICZM tools

The main instruments used are legal and economic instruments, infrastructure and technical instruments, planning and institutional instruments, communication and integration instruments. Some activities of NVBR using these instruments are:

- to integrate different sectors as well as the interests of all target groups and general public;
- communication, starting from individual information and problem solving discussions, NGO Forums, public hearings and planning seminars etc activities up to NVBR Consultation council level;
- various formal and non-formal initiatives and innovations which are very characteristic for NVBR but could be regarded top-down (e.g. design of NVBR Environmental communication action programme in 2005 and an Environmental education strategy in 2007 etc).
- communication through information materials and education and training sessions, courses, seminars etc. This includes participation in the proposal and planning preparations and design, implementation of coastal friendly activities in the field etc;
- project design and management are important to give not only a solid financial background for SCD and real planning and practice development, but also collaboration and partnerships including. bottom-up proposals either from individuals or initiative groups and NGO's etc.

7. Cost and resources

No information is available.

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

Participatory coastal governance approaches and practice elements especially in the combination with collaborative communication are effective in the eventual development of ICZM.

9. Success and Fail factors

Long term planning and step wise implementation of ICZM could be done as project-based effort by local/regional municipalities and other main actors in the field. However, governmental ICZM support programmes and/or legal/planning arrangements are needed.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

Various spin-off developments and also formation of particular initiative groups and project design and implementation.

11. Prepared by

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13. Sources

- Law on NVBR (Likums „Par Ziemeļvidzemes biosferas rezervātu” LR Saeima), 11.12.1997., http://www.vidm.gov.lv/lat/likumdosana/normativie_akti/files/text/ZBR_lik.doc
- NVBRhomepage http://www.daba.gov.lv/public/lat/ipasi_aizsargajamas_dabas_teritorijas/biosferas_rezervati/
- NVBR Administration Regulation, LR Cabinet of Ministers, 6.10.1998., Riga, <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=50056>
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