Conservation and sustainable development of Sardinia natural and historical coastal heritage – IT

1. Policy Objective & Theme

- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Preserving coastal environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

2. Key Approaches

- Knowledge-based
- Socio-economic

3. Experiences that can be exchanged

The approach adopted aims to recognize, protect and increase the value of the elements which characterise the identity of the landscape, the history and the culture of a territory. The project of coastal towers conservation, will define a series of standard measures for the protection and restoration of coastal fortifications.

4. Overview of the case

The Sardinia Region through the Regional Agency of Coastal Conservation (Conservatoria delle Coste) is carrying out an overall strategy of ICZM which includes the conservation of the coastal towers, built during the Spanish age. In particular the activities concern the structural consolidation of 9 defensive towers, built in the XVI century. The interventions are meant to enhance the traditions, the history and the culture of the island, increasing the value of the landscape. The project is also promoting a sustainable economic growth of coastal areas enhancing new opportunities of coastal fruition such as cultural and ecotourism.

5. Context and Objectives

a) Context

Sardinia is the second largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, with a surface of 24,090 km² and a population of 1.6 million. The coasts of Sardinia (1,849 km) are generally steep and rocky. Between the XIII and the XVII century, a system of 103 defensive coastal towers has been built on the island. These watchtowers are the unique form of military architecture developed to protect the island against incursions. 92 of these towers still exist in different states of architectural conservation. The towers are a significant expression of the history of the island and they represent an important element which characterises the identity of the coastal landscape.

In September 2008, 13 towers have been entrusted into the care of the Conservatoria delle Coste of Sardinia, and a project of structural consolidation has been enhanced in order to restore 9 of these towers: “Torre del Poeto” and “Torre del Prezzemolo” in the Municipality of Cagliari, “Torre di Capo Malfatano”, “Torre del Budello” and “Torre di Porto Scudo” in the Municipality of Teulada (Province of Cagliari), “Torre di Sa Mora”, “Torre di Scala e Sali” and “Torre di Capo Mannu” in the Municipality of San Vero Milis (Province of Oristano), and finally “Torre della Pegna” in the Municipality of Alghero (Province of Sassari).

b) Objectives

The objective is to promote the recognition of the value of this historical military architecture and to plan proper interventions for the conservation of the coastal towers. In addition, the opportunity to enhance landscape and environment characteristics, improving the accessibility and supporting also new opportunities of those areas. In this perspective, the work provided a rationalisation of accessibility through a system of walkways.

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

The initiative has been carried out by the Conservatoria delle Coste of Sardinia, in close cooperation with the local authorities. The Conservatoria delle Coste of Sardinia is a regional agency based on the model of the English National Trust and the French Conservatoire du Littoral. It was created in 2007 with a regional law. The Conservatoria delle Coste is a new and operational agency framed in the governmental polices related to territorial planning, with the aim to link the protection of the coastal zones with existing tools of planning, programming and regulation.

The work has been financed by the Fund for Under-utilized Areas (FAS), within the Framework Programme Agreement (APQ) for the environmental sustainability, executed between the central administration and the regions. In particular, it has been developed within the strategic issue of ICZM, which aims to proceed to the re-characterisation of the coastal areas, and to the preparation of a management plan for conservation and local sustainable development.

b) ICZM tools

The interventions consisted of two different types of projects:

- the realisation of a series of information panels in three languages - Italian, English and French. The panels include the following information: the defensive system of the island, the history of the Region and the characteristics of the single tower. During the first phase of work, October 2009- May 2010, the information panels will be realized for 40 towers, located within the municipalities.
- The structural consolidation of 9 towers of the XVI century. The first step was to draft the preliminary project and the publication of the regulation for the definitive and executive planning of the works. The preliminary project consists in 9 sub-projects, one for each tower, representing a wide range of different scenarios with reference to the different physical conditions of towers.

An Invitation to tender for this project was published in August 2009. The first phase ended on December 2009 with the selection of the winner. The project has been evaluated according to: the quality of materials, the consistency and compatibility with the existing architectural structure, the respect of the environment and the use of alternative energy sources for the illumination of towers.

7. Cost and resources

According to the tender, the total budget of the project is € 2.5 million.

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

The work of coastal towers conservation will be completed by the end of 2011. The primary purpose of the proposal is to give this important monument back to the citizens and to protect it from irreversible deterioration, improving the accessibility, enhancing many opportunities such as the creation of new variety of cultural tourism concerning region’s history and culture.

9. Success and Fail factors

The approach which favoured the participation of different level of local administrations as well as organisations and individuals, increasing the awareness of the importance of the interventions and building the consensus.

10. Unforeseen outcomes

None so far.

11. Prepared by

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12. Verified by
13. Sources

- [http://www.sardegnaambiente.it/index.php?xsl=622&tipodoc=1_3&esito=0&scaduti=0&catrif=4976&s=23&v=0&c1=5699&c1=5699&id=15896](http://www.sardegnaambiente.it/index.php?xsl=622&tipodoc=1_3&esito=0&scaduti=0&catrif=4976&s=23&v=0&c1=5699&c1=5699&id=15896)