ICZM

INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

factsheet

Bite-sized introductions to Sustainable Development themes

SMAP III Technical Assistance
www.smap.eu

This project is funded by the European Union

Environment & Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region

ERM

WHAT ?

ICZM is a strategic spatial planning instrument for development of sustainable practices of multiple types of activity in the coastal zone. It is not a "recipe" type tool where a set of predetermined steps are followed to arrive at a solution to a problem. Instead it is a process or framework which builds upon and incorporates a wide range of resource management initiatives (e.g. sustainable agriculture, tourism, conservation, economic development) using a variety of tools depending upon the problem to be addressed (e.g. demonstration projects, zoning for multiple use and marine protected areas). The goal of ICZM is ultimately to facilitate resource use patterns that improve and protect the livelihoods of coastal resource users and dwellers by conserving the natural processes and system functions of the environment. The more natural processes and functions can be maintained the less need there is for interventions (e.g. hard sea defences *versus* sand dunes) that are often expensive to build and maintain.

WHY ?

Coastal areas and their resources are important to the security and stability of coastal people and nations. Almost half the world's population lives in coastal areas and depends directly on coastal resources not just for agriculture and fishing but also space to live and work. People also depend indirectly on the services provided by coastal natural systems, such as protection against climate change-induced sea level rise, storm damage and water quality. Wise management of coastal systems is therefore vital to meet the needs of humans who live and work in the coastal zone and protect their livelihoods, prosperity, health and happiness (wellbeing). It will also protect economic investments in coastal areas, encouraging a positive contribution to local development while minimising adverse environmental impacts. Because they represent the point of interaction between diverse ecosystems and multiple resource systems, coastal areas are inherently dynamic and complex. ICZM responds to these characteristics through management approaches that analyse the whole coastal system aiming to:

- Improve and diversify the livelihoods of coastal resource users and dwellers;
- improve the efficiency of investment in coastal areas through the conservation of underlying environmental processes and ecosystem functions (e.g. through set-back lines to protect against coastal erosion, and the conservation of groundwater levels to protect against subsidence);
- respond to the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise, extreme events); and
- resolve conflicts between various user groups (including local and remote users, poorer and more wealthy groups).

The outcome of ICZM should provide the basis for effective integration of coastal industries into local economies (e.g. encouraging local employment and procurement strategies) and ensure that incentives offered to users of coastal resources are consistent with the objectives of the ICZM programme (incentives – and disincentives – are shaped by, for example, resource tenure and use right systems, subsidies, pollution taxes, etc.).

WHEN ?

ICZM is used when other forms of resource management either have not worked or will not work. This is often because they overly promote the interests of one sector group over others (e.g. access to a resource, i.e. artisanal versus commercial fishers) and/or lead to environmental degradation to the detriment of other coastal users (i.e. port development leading to up-current coastal erosion). Such failures are ultimately because only part of the coastal system (its physical, biological as well as human characteristics) has been considered without a strategic long-term view that includes all coastal users and their activities. As long as the participation and contribution of interested and affected parties are secured from the earliest stages of planning, ICZM approaches can be applied across various physical scales and institutional forms.

ICZM can be viewed as a "higher" level management tool that gathers and integrates the outputs from other resource and planning tools to provide an overarching view of available options. ICZM is most likely to succeed when a number of criteria can be achieved:

- There is a genuine acceptance for the need for action that generates wide public and political support to finding a solution;
- approaches to resolve issues are bound within available human and financial resources; and
- there is a strong desire to create solutions that lead to net gains to most parties with opportunities to mitigate the effects on parties that do not benefit, or benefit less than others.

WHO ?

ICZM approaches should be both flexible and inclusive, identifying and harnessing relevant skills and resources from both the public and the private sector. In particular, the academic/research sector is required to provide the information and knowledge that can underpin and inform a decision making process. Policy, legislative and regulatory bodies should also be involved as their activity is ultimately needed to either promote and/or enforce compliance with management decisions. As the outcomes of management decisions will affect and perhaps constrain the activities of coastal users, it is important that civil society is involved in the process from the outset facilitated by a communication strategy to disseminate and acquire information. Overseers of the ICZM process/project should have a vision of coastal area use which is consistent with the capacity of underlying natural processes (i.e. industrial use should be consistent with industries' ability to manage and minimise pollution, fisheries should be regulated to take account of stock regeneration capacity, etc.) and a holistic and coordinated approach to planning in coastal areas.

HOW ?

Since ICZM is problem-driven, appropriate management boundaries should be defined for any given issue. For example, watershed boundaries may be best suited to addressing sedimentation and flooding issues while administrative boundaries may be more appropriate for treating urban pollution problems. A starting point for addressing all problems is to understand current use patterns and indigenous management systems. Subsequent questions include:

- Does the scope of definition incorporate core physical interactions and provide the basis for the resolution of conflicts between major user groups?
- Which groups/institutions should be involved? Do weaker groups require support or external representation in order for their voices to be heard?
- Do existing management systems provide the basis for effective resource management? (ICZM is strengthened by building on existing systems, where these are still appropriate.)
- What type of facilitation/mediation/negotiation process is appropriate?

WHERE ?

The Short and Medium-Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP) (http://www.smap.eu) is the most recent suite of projects to attempt to implement ICZM within the Mediterranean region. The Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) of PAP/RAC (http://pap-thecoastcentre.org/) is oriented at applying Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as a major tool in selected Mediterranean coastal areas.

SD LINKS

ICZM should incorporate virtually all other resource management and planning tools used to manage resources and human activity and uses in the coastal zone (e.g. EIAs, SEAs, policy development, stakeholder participation etc.).

SUGGESTED READING

http://www.planbleu.org/indexUK.html

http://www.beachmed.it/Beachmede/SousProjets/ICZM-MED/tabid/97/Default.aspx