

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate D – Water & Environmental programmes
ENV.D.3 – Cohesion policy & environmental impacts

Minutes Expert group ICZM Recommendation 4th Meeting, 24 November 2004, Rotterdam

Introduction

The meeting was chaired by DGEnvironment Mr Claude Rouam. Agenda and attendance list are in annex.

The meeting was hosted in Rotterdam by courtesy of the Dutch Presidency, to stimulate synergy with the 25 November Dutch Presideny coastal conference at the same location.

With only 10 coastal member states present at the meeting, the Chairman expressed his concerns about the attendance to the expert group and the need to attract a larger number of countries for the group's work to be worthwhile at European level.

State of play Recommendation implementation

A presentation on the state of play of the Recommendation's implementation was given by Germany (Marcus Ell), highlighting several projects¹ that are being carried out in Germany at state or federal level to form the foundation of ICZM implementation. ICZM and spatial planning – land and sea – is subject of a project by the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Housing, concluding in Febuary 2005. In its capacity as coordinator for ICZM in Germany, the Ministry of the Environment expects to launch a project soon leading to a stocktake report in 2005.

Belgium (<u>Laurence Vigin</u>) informed the meeting about a joint Belgian-Dutch action to identify and assess land-sea interactions, which should lead to an informal contribution to the expert group by mid-2005. <u>Kathy Belpaeme</u> added information on a meeting of the Interreg SAIL project that was devoted to the links between the Water Framework Directive and ICZM. A report and discussion notes will be disseminated to the expert group members. Other countries briefly presented progress in implementing the Recommendation in their respective countries.

The Chairman reminded Member States that during April's meeting, the expert group had agreed to the DG Environment initiative to compile a matrix on the state of implementation of the ICZM Recommendation. In the meantime, DG Environment has sent a questionnaire through the Permanent Representations of all coastal member States, with a direct electronic copy to the expert group members. The deadline to return the questionnaire is **10 December**.

Communicating ICZM and Agenda 21 on the coast

<u>Birgit Snoeren</u> (DGEnvironment) recalled that at the last meeting countries were asked to provide contributions towards a publication that should help communication the meaning and added-value of ICZM and alleviate barriers in engaging especially sectoral interests in ICZM. Despite a reminder and longer submission delay, insufficient contributions were received by DGEnvironment to prepare a first report. Without contributions from a broad range of

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¹ <u>www.ikzm-oder.de</u>; <u>www.coastal-futures.de</u>; <u>www.icbm.de/impulse</u>; <u>www.retro.uni-bremen.de</u>

countries, DGEnvironment is not favourable to continue the work. Therefore alternatives have been explored, especially with the COPRANET² project and EUCC its lead partner. Among the tasks of the project is a web-based clearing house, including a database with best-practice cases to be developed in 2005. The project would be willing to dedicate also a publication to best-practice across Europe and associate DGEnvironment and the expert group to the publication, in a form to be determined.

<u>Javier Cachón de Mesa</u> (Spain) stressed the importance of awareness raising material and said Spanish contributions would be available early in the new year.

<u>The Chairman</u> concluded that if Member States still had contributions to make available, they should provide them directly to COPRANET. DGEnvironment should liaise with COPRANET to follow-up the potential publication.

EEA state-of-the-coasts report

<u>Andrus Meiner</u> (EEA) presented a background paper, in which the EEA and its topic centre set out the intended approach for the coastal assessment report due to underpin the evaluation of the ICZM Recommendation by the Commission in 2006.

The EEA places the assessment in the context of its wider interest in analysing spatial change and sustainable spatial development of vulnerable areas in Europe. The background paper presents merely a snapshot at one stage of a longer process; consequently some aspects are at this stage less mature than others. The EEA envisages to build the assessment with consultation of experts and stakeholders at key stages of the process.

The assessment will examine the role of policies in inducing spatial change, including over the land-sea boundary, and in turn also provide recommendations to underpin further integration of policies. The core of the assessment will be centred around the indicator sets identified by the Working group on data and indicators (next agenda item). The EEA is therefore highly interested in the further testing and provision of indicator information by countries. Also, more work is needed on the correlation between progress of ICZM implementation on the one hand and sustainability in coastal areas on the other.

The LEAC land and ecosystem accounting methodology will be the main analysis tool for identification of spatial and temporal changes in the coastal zone. The methodology requires the definition of a spatial unit of analysis: the background paper proposes a unit based on dominant landscape type, but this is still an open issue to be further discussed. The paper further proposes to identify areas of vulnerability or opportunity for a subsequent deeper analysis. For these areas especially regional and local data would be used, to complement and add value to the European level data.

Responding to questions and concerns for additional reporting workload (ESP, UK), Mr Meiner (EEA) indicated that the assessment will be mostly based on using existing data/dataflows. However, even with existing datasets there are differences between countries which need effort to be sorted out. The Chairman invited EEA to consider using regional data and regional networks where data gaps exists. DGENV raised concerns on the emphasis of land-use and landcover in the background paper, which may not be sufficient to capture the full scope of policies and issues at stake. FR also stressed that the definition of a management unit cannot only depend on environmental criteria. Mr Meiner acknowledged that the background paper was limited to environmental information, but that the EEA tried to broaden the scope. At least the core of the integrated spatial platform would cover alongside landcover, also biodiversity and water. The analysis unit definition for the assessment is still an open question, but of prime importance as it helps to provide the much needed visibility of the coast.

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² http://www.coastalpractice.net/

<u>The Chairman</u> concluded that the background paper would be circulated to all countries who would have 1 month time to submit further observations, directly to the EEA/ETC (Mr Meiner, Mrs Breton).

Presentation/discussion results Working group "Indicators/data" (WG-ID)

Mr <u>Clive Gilbert</u> presented the report of the working group and the progress achieved since last April's meeting on the 2 sets of indicators (ICZM progress indicator and Sustainability indicators) and proposal for continuation of the work in 2005.

- The ICZM Progress indicator has been presented to different audiences and is more or less finalised. The main questions that arose are the need for more precision in language, this will be addressed through additional explanatory notes. The response options given are only YES/NO, where in practice degrees of achievement were felt to reflect the real situation better. The workshops have shown that it is most useful to fill in the indicator with a joint participation of the various governance levels (local, regional and national) as the levels were often found not to be aware of each other's activities.
- > The Working group recommends that Member States hold a half- or one day workshop to try out the indicator and feed the results back to the Working group. Through the Interreg project COREPOINT such workshops are already planned in 2005 in Germany, Finland, Ireland and Lithuania. Other countries are invited to hold similar workshops, for which the Working group offers its assistance as and where needed.
- The set of sustainability indicators covers 27 indicators with 42 measurements. Of these measurements 21 are already available. For 18 data is available but not in a coastal profile. For only 3 data is not available (for instance value of economic assests in risk zones). With inputs from the DEDUCE Interreg project and the EEA assessment at EU level, the Working group anticipates that 12 our of 27 indicators will be fully calculated for 12 Member States by the end of 2005.
- For 2005 the Working group proposes it will act as a "clearing house" to stimulate data, factsheets and information exchange. This function will also allow the Working group to deliver for the end of 2005 a map of data status for the coast and an analysis of the gaps, which can serve to express specific user-needs to initiatives such as GMES. As a first step the Working group will look into the comparability and harmony of data-sets, based on the INSPIRE initiative. Furthermore, based on preliminary returns from indicators expected in 2005, the Working group will need to guide the interpretation of results and in particular the assessment of correlation between ICZM progress and sustainability.

Finally, Mr Gilbert stressed that the Working group is available for assistance to Member States who wish to set up their ICZM progress and Sustainability indicator programme. The indicators choosen are a basic set, that countries will want to complement with other indicators to reflect their specific coastal situation.

Belgium (<u>Kathy Belpaeme</u>) expressed support for the work delivered by the Working group, stressing that the efforts put into the indicators for the Belgian coast have been more thatn useful especially also to support policies. Poland (<u>Andrzej Cieslak</u>) equally welcomed the Working groups results and suggested that the indicator sets should be proposed as the template for the national reports due in February 2006 further to the ICZM Recommendation. The Progress indicator will need to include strategic planning of the sea area as well, cinsidering the importance in ICZM of straddling the land-sea interface.

Ireland (<u>Dick McKeever</u>) welcomed the work and confirmed that Ireland will hold a workshop to test the ICZM progress indicator in 2005. Sweden (<u>Sten Jerdineus</u>) repeated its doubt about the relevance of the Sustainability indicators for its coast; but Sweden is trying to fill out the list and hopes to be able to send results.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked the Working group for its high-quality work and encouraged the group to continue its work in 2005 along the lines presented. The seadimension needs to be incoporated in the Progress indicator. He invited all Member States to feed the process with their experiences, especially also countries that have not joined the

Working group. Thought has to be given to using the indicator sets as a template for the national strategy reports in 2006.

Presentation of the Commission Communication on Flood risk management

Andriënne van der Sar (DGEnvironment) presented the Commission Communication³ on flood risk management. The Communication covers river but also coastal flooding. The Communication has been presented to the Council, who in its conclusions invite the Commission to develop a further proposal. On this basis, the Commission is preparing a directive to cover flood risk management. The main discussion point is the level of detail that will be required from Member States in mapping flood risks (both the likelyhood of floods occuring and the potential impacts). The presentation also highlighted the various funding instruments that aready contribute to flood risk management, or that are being proposed (such as existing and future Cohesion and Rural Development policies and the LIFE instrument).

<u>Javier Cachón</u> (Spain) stressed the similiarity of issues between river flooding and the coast. In both cases it is necessary to provide space to natural processes to operate. <u>Wino Aarnink</u> (Netherland) stressed the importance of the work on flooding in EU context.

<u>The Chairman</u> concluded that flooding and the Community's further proposals in this area are to be taken on board in the on-going work of Member States towards ICZM strategies.

Cohesion policy 2006+

<u>Birgit Snoeren</u> (DGEnvironment) briefly presented the proposals for the Cohesion policy for the period 2007-2013⁴. While the proposals are still being discussed in Council and Parliament, the preparations for the new strategic frameworks and programmes will start in 2005/6. The new Cohesion policy provides ample opportunity to support the implementation of ICZM strategies post-2006, be it at the level of the strategic documents, evaluation/selection criteria and/or direct funding. Similarly opportunities for ICZM are found under the proposed Rural Development and European Fisheries fund⁵ regulations. However, to benefit from the opportunities it is important that the needs for ICZM are expressed in the programming process at an early stage, hence to a certain extent in parallel to the still ongoing work towards the ICZM strategies due in 2006.

François Desrentes (Conference of Maritime Peripheral Regions) presented the initiative of the CMPR to develop a framework for projects relating to maritime safety under the future Co-operation objective of Cohesion policy. This objective is seen as the most relevant to support marine issues. But the experience with the current Interreg programme has shown that a bottom-up approach only, leads to a multiplication of smaller initiatives without coordination and a lack of connection to higher level strategies (at national, regional sea or EU level). Apart from a relatively small group of regions, at the regional level in general the understanding of and experience with ICZM is still weak. Hence also here a bottom-up approach only will not guarantee a widespread adoption of ICZM. The CMPR has developed a paper with the help of an expert group to provide a clearer structure for projects in the area of maritime safety, which is one of one of the co-operation themes listed in the proposed regulations like coastal zone management. The paper defines the objectives, the recommended institutional involvement, scope of policies to be considered, the relevant spatial areas for cooperation and criteria for projects. The paper encourages maritime safety to be placed in a broader policy context, including environmental policy and ICZM. Given the perceived lack of understanding of ICZM still at regional level, the CMPR is willing to stimulate a more coherent uptake of projects under the next Cohesion policy period by developping a similar

⁵ Rural development: http://europa.eu.int/europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/capreform/rurdevprop_en.pdf; Fisheries: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2004/com2004 0497en01.pdf

³ COM(2004)472 final, 12.07.2004 http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/index.html

⁴ Cohesion policy: http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/intronewregl0713_en.htm

paper for ICZM. The focuss is the transnational strand, i.e. projects in more or less regional sea context. A series of interregional meeting should be considered to promote better understanding of ICZM and encourage uptake of relevant projects.

<u>Christophe Le Visage</u> (France) considered that the CMPR should already have the right forums to launch this type of initiatives. <u>Kathy Belpaeme</u> (Belgium) recognised that regional involvement is important but that this should be taken on board through the national strategy work. Andrzej Cieslak (Poland) also stressed that ICZM without regions is not ICZM.

<u>The chairman</u> concluded that the necessity of regional involvement is recognised and must be part of national strategy work, including prospect for use of Cohesion policy funding. The CMPR is available to assist where necessary.

Research needs for ICZM in view of the $7^{\rm th}$ Frame Work Programme and funding opportunities under the Cohesion policy

To trigger reflections on research needs to implement ICZM, two presentations were invited to express, from a research perspective, where the need for further understanding still lie.

Wim Salomons (ELOISE project cluster⁶) presented research needs as perceived through the experience with the ELOISE projects. By highlighting 2 cases of the EUROCAT project Mr Salomons illustrated the need to better understand how climate change and extreme whether events affect the river basin through to the coastal zone and the need to integrate natural and social sciences. In general research needs for ICZM would lie in the following areas: the coast's contribution to economic and employment creation; development and refinement of scenarios; coupled models linking up river basin and coastal zone, and including socioeconomic drivers; GIS development to enhance visualisation interdisciplenary research; new forms of governance.

Hartwig Kremer (LOICZ - Land Ocean Interaction in the Coastal Zone) presented the Science plan and implementation strategy which is in the course of being adopted and setting out the science orientations until 2012. The full river basin will certainly be the scale at which issues are to be examined. Among issues, urbanisation and nutrients input are prominent. For the latter, the time-lag until a system collapses is a key question. In the area of human interventions, in particular engineering, the implications to the system still need to be fully understood and especially the impact on larger scale change of coastal systems. Likewise the critical sediment load necessary to support the coastal system. In the area of climate change, research is to focus on return periods of extreme events, the data requirements for and visualisation of areas at risk. To support decision making, scenarios, target setting and participation need further investigation. And finally on how to actually reap benefits once enabling conditions for behaviour change have been put into place. The LOICZ science plan categorises its research for the next decade in 5 themes: 1) Vulnerability of coastal systems and hazards to human society, 2) Implications of global change for coastal eco-systems and sustainable development, 3) Anthropogenic influences on the river basin and coastal zone interactions, 4) Fate and transformation of materials in coastal and shelf waters, and a crosscutting 5th theme: Towards coastal system sustainability by managing land-ocean interactions. Mr Kremer suggested that LOICZ should seek to interact with the Working group on indicators and data and/or DEDUCE project, especially bringing in the knowlegde on catchment influences on the coastal zone. Eventually the national ICZM strategies are to inform the scientific agenda.

With the preparation of the 7th Research Framework Programme in mind, <u>the chairman</u> invited member states to communicate by the **end of January** the research needs that are identified in the process of establishing the national ICZM strategies.

Conclusions

The Chairman summarised the conclusions of the various agenda points:

⁶ http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/eloise/eloise-h.html

⁷ http://www.loicz.org/public/loicz/about_us/loiczspisfinaldraft.pdf

- Member States are reminded that the deadline for sending in the questionnaire on the implementation of the ICZM Recommendation is for 10 December.
- Best-practice examples or other contributions to stimulate communication on ICZM are to be provided directly to COPRANET.
- Reactions to the EEA background paper on the State-of-the-coasts report are to be provided to the EEA and ETC (Andrus Meiner, Françoise Breton) within one month.
- The Working group on data and indicators has achieved good progress and is encouraged to continue its work in 2005. The first steps being the launch of the supporting DEDUCE project and a meeting on 10 March in Barcelona. Thought has to be given to using the indicator sets as a template for the reports due under the ICZM Recommendation.
- Countries are encouraged to follow the EU Flooding initiative and take this into account in their national work towards ICZM strategies.
- Countries are encouraged to start preparing so as to benefit from Cohesion policy opportunities to support ICZM. Regional involvement in the ICZM process is essential.
- DG Environment invites countries to communicate any research needs for ICZM that have been identified in the strategy building processes. To be able to use the feed-back from countries in the preparations towards a 7th Research framework programme, DG Environment needs such reactions by the end of January 2005.
- As to a next meeting, this may be mid-2005, but DG Environment has to reflect on how the participation rate can be improved.



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Agenda

Expert group ICZM Recommendation

4th Meeting, 24 November 2004 World Trade Centre, Diamond Room, Rotterdam 9.30 hrs – 17 hrs

9-9.30 Arrival participants

9.30 Welcome

- State-of- play implementation of the ICZM Recommendation
 - presentations by Member States of national processes
- Contributions to communicating ICZM and LA21 on the coast

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break

- EEA State-of-the-coast report
- Working group "Indicators and Data" report / further work
 - presentation
 - discussion

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

- Commission Communication on flooding (incl. coastal flooding)
 - presentation
- Cohesion Policy 2006+
 - Presentation outlines of future Cohesion policy
 - Conference of Maritime Peripheral Regions proposal for a framework for projects under 'maritime cooperation' (Objective 3 of new Cohesion policy)
 - discussion

15.15 - 15.45 Coffee Break

- Research needs for ICZM in view of the 7th Framework programme / research networking opportunities under Cohesion Policy.
 - presentation ELOISE cluster, LOICZ perspectives
 - discussion

Conclusions

ATTENDANCE LIST

Fourth meeting Expert group - Integrated coastal zone management ICZM

24/11/2004 - Rotterdam

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