

# Examples of ICZM practices in Europe from a NGO point of view

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## Contents

1. Introduction
2. ICZM contributions in the EU
3. Management and development in the Baltic
4. Conclusions
5. References, PDF reports & Websites

## Summary

The role of NGOs, such as Coastal & Marine Union - EUCC, in the process of ICZM is manifold: stimulating and initiating ICZM programming at different levels, ensuring stakeholder participation, disseminating experiences in sustainable coastal development and daily management of coastal areas. These efforts have helped implementation of successful ICZM programmes in many parts of Europe. Some examples are highlighted below.



***Hoisting the QualityCoast flags: a recognition for sustainable development. (photo: Carlo della Libera)***

## 1. Introduction

The Coastal & Marine Union – EUCC specialises in promoting ICZM theory and putting it into practice in many parts of Europe. As mentioned in the CCC Statements, the EUCC has been particularly successful in delivering studies, promoting integrated approaches in planning, implementing ICZM-focused projects and developing information and communication tools.

As a truly international NGO, the EUCC mobilises the expertise of its 2700 members and member organisations from all European coastal states. With its 13 active National Branches and seven offices the organisation tries to bridge the gap between research, planning and policy. It promotes integrated approaches to conservation, planning and sustainable development of coastal resources.

The EUCC became one of the key advisory bodies to the European Union and several regional seas programmes in the field of Integrated Marine and Coastal Management (IMCAM).

The EUCC has also been directly involved in the implementation of projects involved with integrated approaches to coastal planning and management, mostly in Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine, but also in the Netherlands. This chapter illustrates some examples of ICZM efforts in practice.

## 2. ICZM contributions in the EU

In 2002 the European Union and its member states agreed that ICZM would provide an important policy framework to improve the effectiveness of existing legislation, financial and planning tools and better management of the diverse pressures on the coastal zone and sustainably develop its resources (see [CCC I-2-1](#)). ICZM, when operational should lead to sustainability of human uses at the coast. Several EU countries have issued an ICZM strategy for the future. They are developing tools to measure the progress of ICZM implementation using an ICZM Indicator Set together with other indicators to measure the state of the coast and evaluate the ICZM efforts.

### ICZM indicators

EUCC has been instrumental in the development of the “ICZM Indicator Set” to show the progress that is being made in the implementation of ICZM in EU Member States (Pickaver *et al* 2004 and Pickaver 2008). This set analyses the complex, ICZM management cycle using a simplified comparative evaluation based on qualitative and semi-quantitative criteria. Thus, it recognises that the ICZM cycle can be broken down into a series of discrete, ranked actions. These actions, now 31 in total, are not completely exhaustive but are comprehensive enough to allow measurement of the progress in ICZM.

Extensive testing in Europe has made it even more user friendly, especially to those who do not have English as their first language. It has been accepted by the EU ICZM Group of Experts, formally introduced as a policy instrument and is now being implemented: at the time of writing, eight EU Member States are measuring the success of their national ICZM implementation using the Progress Indicator. Table 1 shows part of a typical response from the government of Greece (Greek Ministry of The Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works, 2006) which demonstrates the conclusions that can be drawn, underlining the added value of the methodology. Against each action a simple ‘yes’ (Y) or ‘no’ (N) or ‘don’t know’ (DK) has been entered for three governance levels: national, regional and local. However, because it is important to identify a trend through time, an extra layer of complexity can be added at each level asking respondents to consider the action in two periods, for the year 2000 and the year 2006. The table should be looked at both vertically and horizontally. Vertical use shows how far along the ICZM cycle implementation has taken place. The horizontal dimension reveals the degree of integration between the three governance levels. Used alongside sustainability indicators for the coast, it should also determine just how good ICZM is as a management tool.

### QualityCoast

What has been lacking for many years, to ensure measurable sustainability, is a linking programme that can target specific elements for sustainability and set targets for improving the sustainability effort. QualityCoast (QC) has become such an over-arching programme for coastal towns, cities and small islands (see QC website). Since sectoral approaches to coastal development are no longer a sustainable option, coastal regions and local authorities are making efforts to use ICZM planning approaches to achieve sustainable economic development.

In the framework of the EU Interreg IIIC project, CoPraNet, led by EUCC (2004-'07), successful QualityCoast pilot projects have been implemented for southern Fuerteventura and Los Lobos island (Canary Isles, Spain), Calvià (Mallorca, Spain), Aveiro (Portugal), Cork Harbour (Ireland), Newcastle, Co Down (Northern Ireland), Sefton Coast (Merseyside, England), Zandvoort and Noordwijk (The Netherlands), Stockholm Ekoparken (Sweden), Usedom (Germany), and Stepnica (Poland).



**QualityCoast programme:** linking a growing number of coastal towns, regions and islands in improving their performance of sustainability and tourism quality. ([www.qualitycoast.info](http://www.qualitycoast.info))

This was the start of a successful follow-up in 2008 -'09, which resulted in the presentation of twelve new awards to coastal towns in May 2009 ([www.qualitycoast.info](http://www.qualitycoast.info)).

It is imperative that actions along the coast by responsible government authorities are required to improve their sustainability. However, in order to develop any successful plan of action, it is important to know in which field improvements are needed. The QualityCoast criteria that were developed in the CoPraNet project provide the management issues, which need to be addressed.

During 2009-2011, the partnership is planning to take the QualityCoast methodology a step further and improve the measurability of the criteria. In so doing the partners hope to collaborate with coastal communities all over the world.

Coastal towns and islands, which perform well in addressing the 20 QualityCoast criteria, in preparing and implementing improvement schemes and in producing appropriate information for the general public are eligible to apply for a QualityCoast Award. Only councils making a real contribution to sustainability receive these awards.

Table 1: *An Indicator for Measuring Progress in the Implementation of ICZM in Greece* (Extract; Greek Min. of E, PP&PW 2006)

Phase	Action #	Description	National		Regional		Local	
			2000	2006	2000	2006	2000	2006
Aspects of coastal planning and management are in place	1	Decisions about planning and managing the coast are governed by general legal instruments.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
A framework exists for taking ICZM forward	6	Existing instruments are being adapted and combined to deal with coastal planning and management issues.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	DK	DK
Most aspects of an ICZM approach to planning and managing the coast are in place and functioning reasonably well	13	All relevant parties concerned in the ICZM decision-making process have been identified and are involved.	No	Yes	DK	DK	No	No
An efficient, adaptive and integrative process is embedded at all levels of governance and is delivering greater sustainable use of the coast	25	There is strong, constant and effective political support for the ICZM process.	Yes	Yes	DK	DK	DK	DK

Legend: 'yes' (Y), 'no' (N) and 'don't know' (DK)

### 3. Management & development in the Baltic States and Russia

The Nemunas delta (24,000 ha) is situated on the Russian-Lithuanian border (Figure: 1).



The delta is of a particular importance for breeding birds. Several species are internationally important e.g. White-tailed Eagle, Barnacle Goose, Aquatic Warbler, Dunlin and cranes. For migratory birds, the Nemunas delta is one of the most important stop-over areas in the northern part of the Western-Palaeartic migration route. Rusne Island, five square kilometres of grassland, fishponds, reed beds, and swampy areas, lies in the centre of the Nemunas delta. After the break-up of the USSR in 1989, the agricultural and social system collapsed and the protection and management of the natural values of the entire delta were at stake.

In 1993, EUCC became involved in a cooperative effort with Lithuanian ecologists (Lithuanian Fund for Nature), scientific experts and farmers in the Nemunas river delta.

Figure 1: *Oder Delta (Poland) and Nemunas Delta (Russian-Lithuanian border).*



One of the aims was to achieve a sustainable development of Rusne Island, especially in the field of agriculture and agrotourism, in combination with nature conservation. For this purpose farmers were encouraged to cooperate more closely, Dutch agricultural and management expertise was mobilised, training courses and stakeholder consultations organised and transfer of nature and agricultural management techniques introduced.

In this way, the EUCC helped to secure long-term support for an integrated approach (see also website of Eeconet). The cooperation also resulted in the establishment of an EUCC Baltic Office in Klaipeda (Lithuania) to further ecological advancements in the area.

### **Oder Delta Nature Park, NW Poland**

A particularly interesting approach was taken in the Polish Oder Delta. The Stettin lagoon, straddling the border between Poland and Germany, forms an important part of the delta (Figure 1 and photos).



*Aerial view of part of the Oder Delta: wetlands surrounded by the water of Stettin Lagoon. (photo: EUCC Poland)*

Like the Nemunas Delta, it is an important resting and feeding area on the Western-Palaeartic migration route and a crucial link for migratory birds between Russia and NW-Europe.

The Polish side of the Oder Delta holds the highest density of White-tailed Eagle (see photo) in Europe. 150 breeding pairs nest in the Oder Delta, which is 25 percent of the total Polish population. In 1994, the difficult agricultural, social and management situations threatened the natural values as well as sustainable economic development. After ten years of Dutch-Polish cooperation, EUCC and EUCC Poland, with the help of Natuurmonumenten (NL), succeeded in establishing an Oder Delta Nature Park in October 2005 (see websites Oder Delta Nature Park).

The partners have been working for the last eight years in several strategic locations in the Delta, purchasing more than 1,000 hectares of the most important land and concluding management agreements for 4,000 hectares of land and water. The partners have furthermore incorporated the development of a management plan and vision for the entire Oder Delta, promoting sustainable agriculture and ecotourism. The entire Nature Park area has become an EU Natura 2000 site.

The involvement of local and regional stakeholders throughout this process has been vital to its success. One of the aims has always been to show to both government and local population that sound economic development and nature conservation can go hand in hand.



*White-tailed Eagle fishing in a lagoon of the Oder Delta. (photo: Reint Jakob Schut)*

Aspects of both sustainable tourism and ecological farming have demonstrated that biodiversity conservation can also result in a sustainable rural development.

#### 4. Conclusions

NGOs are important players on the international stage. They can both influence public opinion and provide reliable information and material for rational action. They are also in a position to initiate concrete actions which still have to be taken in order to achieve sustainable development and avoid destruction or degradation of natural resources. The role of NGOs, such as EUCC, in the process of ICZM are manifold: stimulating and initiating ICZM programming at different levels, ensuring stakeholder participation, disseminating experiences in sustainable coastal development and the daily management of coastal areas. Implementation and execution of coastal measures gives substance to the ICZM process.

#### 5. References

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#### PDF-reports:

- **European Environmental Agency 2006:** *ICZM Evaluation- report on the use of ICZM indicators:*  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/pdf/report\\_wgid.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/pdf/report_wgid.pdf)
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[www.minenv.gr/4/42/00/094%20GR%20Report%20CZM-full%20version-4-final.pdf](http://www.minenv.gr/4/42/00/094%20GR%20Report%20CZM-full%20version-4-final.pdf)
- **Implementation of ICZM in Europe:** *Results of the EU Progress Indicator:*  
[http://eu-comet2.rshu.ru/outputs/coastudy/implementation-of-iczm/Casestudy-NDIC\\_EUCC.pdf](http://eu-comet2.rshu.ru/outputs/coastudy/implementation-of-iczm/Casestudy-NDIC_EUCC.pdf)

#### Websites:

- **QC - Quality Coast:**  
[www.qualitycoast.info](http://www.qualitycoast.info) (public information)  
[www.qualitycoast.net](http://www.qualitycoast.net) (information for network partners)
- **EUCC :**  
[www.eucc.net](http://www.eucc.net)
- **Oder Delta Nature park:**  
<http://www.eeconet.org/eaf/oder/index.html>  
[http://www.natura.org/natura2000management/pl\\_oder\\_delta\\_nature\\_park.html](http://www.natura.org/natura2000management/pl_oder_delta_nature_park.html)  
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- **EECONET Action Fund:**  
[www.eeconet.org/eaf/projects](http://www.eeconet.org/eaf/projects)