



Minutes
Expert group
ICZM Recommendation
3rd Meeting, 22 April 2004, Brussels

Introduction

The meeting was chaired by DGEnvironment Mr Anastasios Nychas (morning) and Mr Claude Rouam (afternoon).

Agenda and attendance list are in annex.

Mr Bart de Jong (Netherlands) informed the expert group of the intention of the Dutch presidency to hold a “coastal event” in November 2004. The programme for the event is still under development and the members of the expert group will be kept informed.

State of play Recommendation implementation

Presentations on the state of play of the Recommendation's implementation were given by Ireland (Dave O'Donoghue) and Malta (Michelle Borg). Other countries submitted informal discussion notes.

The discussion showed consensus around the need for an organisation to take clear ‘leadership’ in order to kick-off and maintain ICZM implementation. The linkage and importance of the WFD and Habitats directive were also underscored. In this context Mr Barth (DGResearch) presented the ELOISE cluster “Eurocat” project. While often the concern is cited of adverse impacts of regional development plans and projects, examples were given of incorporation of sustainability criteria in the programmes’ design and project selection.

Birgit Snoeren (DGENV) presented the initiative of DGENV to compose a matrix on the implementation of the ICZM Recommendation. The aim is to draw up by the end of 2004 a concise overview of what countries envisage as implementation of the Recommendation and how far they are in the implementation process. The overview would be posted on the dedicated webpage of DGEnvironment. The matrix should be useful to provide visibility to the Recommendation’s implementation, as well as for exchanges of views amongs countries.

To compile the matrix, DGEnvironment proposed a short questionnaire to Member States.

The discussion revealed general support for the initiative. Concerns however were raised to the detailed section of the draft questionnaire on the prospective contents of the national strategy. Mostly it was felt that the processes were to little advanced to provide meaningful information in such detailed format.

The Chairman invited countries to submit any further comments to the draft questionnaire by 31 May. DGENV will take the comments into account and submit a finalised version of the questionnaire after the Summer break through the permanent representations of each country.

Communicating ICZM and Agenda 21 on the coast

Birgit Snoeren presented the conclusions from the December 2003 workshop on Communicating ICZM and Agenda 21 on the coast. The workshop was called for following the 2nd ICZM expert group meeting that had identified that most countries experienced barriers in communicating the meaning and added-value of ICZM. The difficulties in engaging ICZM processes was felt to lie with a generally perceived difficulty to convince partners to participate and commit to ICZM, rather than the absence of practical examples or models. On basis of the workshop findings, DG Environment proposes in a working document an outline of the structure that a publication could take. However this is associated with the request to Member States to provide contributions, which should be the raw material upon which DG Environment could work.

In discussion points it was clarified that the target public of the intended publication was not the general public but rather policy and decision makers. The issues and sectors to be addressed should also include more on information management, marine and local communities. The key messages should also convey that ICZM is not concerned with withdrawing competences from participating bodies or partners. The need for ICZM could also be spelled out by pointing to the price if ICZM is not implemented.

The Chairman concluded that Member States are invited to submit their contributions to the publication by 30 June using the suggested structure for such contributions provided with the meeting documents. On basis of the response received DG Environment would see whether and when the publication can be compiled, also involving networks of coastal organisations.

Presentation COPRANET, Interreg IIC project coastal practitioners' network

Alan Pickaver (EUCC, lead partner) presented the Interreg IIC project "COPRANET" (<http://www.coastalpractice.net/>). Under the overall umbrella of ICZM, it will work more in particular on exchanges of experience in the areas of coastal erosion and coastal tourism. Among outputs there will be a multi-lingual clearing house, a series of workshops, a quality label for sustainable tourism. The direct partners of the project are limited due to the practical requirements of the Interreg programme management. However Mr Pickaver indicated that the project was exploring how interested parties can be associated to the project so as to widen its partnership scope. A practical proposal with various forms of association was being worked out, but not yet complete. Relevant experiences from previous and on-going projects should also be broad on board in COPRANET.

The Chairman concluded that the platform for exchange of experiences offered by the project was most welcomed. Once the project management has finalised the association proposals, interested Member States and organisations are invited to take up contact directly with COPRANET.

Presentation/discussion results Working group "Indicators/data"

As requested at the 2nd meeting of the ICZM expert group, the working group on data and indicators further refined the 2 sets of indicators and looked more in detail into the methodology of constructing the indicators. Françoise Breton (EEA/ETC-TE) presented the progress report of the group, as well as the proposal for an Interreg project (DEDUCE) which some members of the group and regions are planning to submit in Autumn so as to create a financial basis to support the practical testing of the indicators.

Mr Ronan Uhel (EEA) introduced the Shared Information Platform of the EEA (in association with ESA). The platform is to be seen as a first step in the gradual implementation of INSPIRE/GMES. It will bring together integrated services over biodiversity, water, land and combined with in-situ and space-borne monitoring information. The EEA is committed to set-up such a platform. But as a test-case it has chosen coastal zones, to be a pilot for the exercise over 2004 and 2005. The indicator and data working group's results, as well as EUrosion products, will be incorporated in this pilot exercise.

Mr Sébastien Colas (FR) illustrated how France has already been able to use the indicator work in various reports and projects. Within the French environment agency IFEN, a special observatory has been created for coastal zones. Objectives are to strengthen the knowledge

base, standardise data, datacollection and stimulate information flow and provide support tools for decision making.

Discussion points were mostly on the sustainability indicators, with concerns over their representativity and views on practicality.

The chairman concluded that, while recognising the coastal diversity in Europe, there was overall broad support for the work delivered by the working group and that generally Member States felt it was a good basis to build on in the frame of the national ICZM strategies. On the basis of the methodology developed, the EEA/ETC and the working group are requested to provide a report for the end of 2004, putting the indicators into practice. Orientations for this further work are looking again at possible simplification of the indicators lists and acknowledgement of the diversity of Europe's coast.

All countries are invited to indicate which indicators they will construct and/or test so as to assist in this task.

For those willing to join the supporting Interreg proposal, contacts should be established directly with Françoise Breton EEA/ETC.

Planning and managing the Land-Sea interaction

Mr Olle Hagstrom (DG Environment) presented the state-of play in developing the EU Marine Thematic Strategy. The Strategy is requested under the 6th Environment Action Programme, with a view to promoting sustainable use of the seas and conservation of marine ecosystems. The Strategy will encompass marine and coastal waters and will have a structure of 'nested' objectives, from EU to regional level, to be implemented through an ecosystem approach for which guidelines will be provided. The Strategies objectives will detail the strategic objectives at EU level for the marine environment in probably 4 categories (good ecological status, good chemical status, use of the sea, governance). The implementation at regional level will have to set operational objectives, targets/limits and indicators, using the eco-system approach. The process of developing the Strategy is supported by several working groups and progress is regularly report to the Water Directors (implementing mechanism of the Water Framework Directive).

On 11 to 13 November the Dutch Presidency and Commission hold a stakeholder conference on the Marine Thematic Strategy. A "non-paper" reflecting the possible contents of the future strategy will be produced for, and discussed at, this event. This paper should be ready by Autumn.

The Chairman invited the participants to liaise as appropriate with colleagues in their respective administrations. For its part DG Environment will keep the group informed of further developments in the Marine Strategy.

Conclusions

- Countries are invited to submit further comments to the questionnaire for the ICZM implementation matrix by 31 May. DG Environment will compile the final questionnaire for submission to the Member States after the Summer.
- Countries are asked to send in by 30 June their contributions to the publication on ICZM and local agenda 21 practices and benefits, on basis on the outlines provided.
- The working group indicators/data is asked to put the defined methodology to a practical test in a report at EU level for the end of 2004. In parallel, practical testing of the indicators should take place in countries; to that effect Member States are invited to indicate which indicators they are willing to construct and test.

- The members of the expert group agreed that a next meeting towards the end of 2004 would be useful. A date is to be proposed by DG Environment, taking into account a possible “coastal event” of the Dutch presidency also in that period.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate G – Sustainable development & Integration
ENV.G.4 – Sustainable territorial Development

Draft Agenda

Expert group ICZM Recommendation

**3rd Meeting, 22 April 2004
Conference Centre Borschette, Brussels
10 hrs – 17 hrs**

- State-of- play implementation of the ICZM Recommendation
 - presentations by Member States/Candidate Countries of national processes
 - presentation DGEnvironment action for an EU ICZM Recommendation implementation progress matrix by end 2004
- Communicating ICZM and Agenda 21 on the coast
 - conclusions of the workshop held in December by DGEnvironment
 - proposals to structure a publication by DGEnvironment to support engagement of sectoral stakeholders into ICZM processes
 - discussion on how countries (regions, networks) can provide contributions
- Presentation COPRANET, Interreg IIIC project coastal practitioners' network
 - discussion on linkages with possible networks/sharing of best-practice actions that countries may envisage as part of their national ICZM Strategies
- Report from the Working group "Indicators and Data"
 - presentation of the revised version of the ICZM progress and sustainable coastal development indicators; proposals to take the work forward
 - discussion
- Planning and managing the Land-Sea interaction
 - presentation Marine Thematic Strategy
 - discussion on actions envisaged by countries to respond to Chapter I (h) and Chapter IV.3.(c) of the ICZM Recommendation and to improve integration over the land-sea boundary
- Conclusion

ATTENDANCE LIST

Third meeting Expert group - Integrated coastal zone management ICZM

22/04/2004 – BRUSSELS

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