

Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

1. Key data

Project title:	Programme of integrated management for the Ria de Aveiro
Country:	Portugal
Project phase:	prep. / study / planning / implementation / no progress
Launch:	1997
National funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC-funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC project references:	LIFE-Environment 96/P/601/LBL (Maria-Life)
Lead partner:	University de Aveiro, Department of Environment and Planning
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Project website:	www.ua.pt/dao/maria (portugees)
Project area:	Ria de Aveiro
Area size (land):	The project area, covering 600 km ² , stretches around the Aveiro lagoon (110 km ²)
(water):	[in hectare, or yes/no]
Population size:	The population is 400,000.
Policy background:	The main threats to the ecosystem are the construction of dams, harbour extension work and tourist developments. The need for an integrated approach that can reconcile socioeconomic development with the conservation of the lagoon and its functional characteristics is widely recognised.
Important sectors in the project set-up:	Aquaculture, Tourism, Public Health, Ports, Landscapes, Public Access, Pollution, Habitats & Biodiversity, Natural Catastrophes, Coastal Erosion and Water management.
Main aim:	
Expected results:	Better information for the users of the lagoon and the groups involved in its development. Improve co-operation between and efficiency of the groups concerned. Improved spatial consistency of the relevant plans and programmes for the lagoon. Definition of an integrated management structure for the sustainable development of the area. Sharing of experience under the European demonstration programme.

2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

Ministries (national level) formally involved*:

the Ministry of the Environment, the Institute for Nature Conservation, the Institute of Agricultural Structures and Rural

Development. Agriculture ministry is now working with local administrations.

University involved: University Department of Environment and Planning (information role)

Regions (county, province) formally involved*:

Agencies formally involved: The Ria Municipalities Association, the Aveiro District Industrial Association, the Planning Office of the Centre Region

Municipalities (towns) formally involved*:
the Autonomous Port of Aveiro and the ten municipalities of the area.

Problems encountered:

3. Participation

Objectives re participation: A smaller group of key players have carried out a preliminary issue analysis and basic identification of needs in order to serve as a catalytic function and to improve focus. This group maintains a neutral stance, and has developed a compelling message in order to broaden the coastal management constituency

Environment stakeholders formally involved*: yes / no

Economic development stakeholders formally involved*: yes / no

Public hearings: [number]

Public access to project data: yes

Main achievements: Ria de Aveiro has proposed a **management structure** to oversee the next phases of the coastal management initiative. This will comprise a General Council of agency and local authority appointees responsible for setting policy and overseeing the management process, and a Liaison Group – a broader discussion forum, which would also include representatives of local interests. The policy groups will be supported by an Executive Committee, Technical group and Working groups.

Problems encountered: The support of the Assembly of Municipalities was critical in getting the project started

Some partners have perceived the university, which was the main center for data collection and collation, as distant academics.

The Ria de Aveiro project invested a substantial amount of time and effort into developing and refining the case for a more integrated approach to management.

4. Information

Objectives re environment:

Main achievements: GIS

Newsletters: Boletim Informativo do Projecto MARIA

Problems encountered: Maps have been unavailable because of copyrights or military considerations.

5. Policy aspects, relevance and success:

Legal Jurisdictional issues:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Environment:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Biodiversity conservation:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Economic development:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Spatial planning & zoning:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered: Poor spatial consistency in decisions in the Land use planning system.

Coastal defence:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered: The Structural Funds has part-financed coastal protection works, which have contributed to beach and dune erosion further along the coast, necessitating further expenditure on yet more coastal protection. The impact of the proposed regional development plan has not been discussed with environmental authorities.

Construction of the new fisheries port has reduced transportation of sand to downstream beaches. This, combined with historical building on unstable lands fronting the lagoon, has necessitated further expenditure on a sea wall to protect investment.

6. Progress & Continuity

Follow-up:

the current phase of the project concluded with local politicians signing up to a **Bill of principles** concerning future development of the areas coast. This commitment has been widely publicised through local media.

A new support framework has been proposed for the next phase of the initiative and the University Department of Environment and Planning's role will be reduced.

No progress since:

[month, year]

Main reason for lack of progress:

7. Sources

Project Report online: [attached in MS word or PDF]

*) formally involved means: as a project partner or represented in a project committee.

Bibliography:

Project Web site, if available

European Commission, *Better management of coastal resources, A European programme for integrated coastal zone management*, 1997

European Commission, *Lessons from the European Commission's demonstration programme on integrated coastal zone management*, 1999

European Commission, *Towards a European Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy: General Principles and Policy Options*, 1999

Thematic Study A, *Legal and Regulatory Bodies: Appropriateness to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study B, *Participation in the ICZM Processes: Mechanisms and Procedures Needed*, 1999

Thematic Study C, *Role and use of Technology in Relation to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study D, *Planning and Management Processes: Sectoral and Territorial Co-operation*, 1999

Thematic Study F, *Information required for Integrated Coastal Zone Management*, 1999