

Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

1. Key data

Project title:	Concerted Actions for the Management of the Strymonikos Coastal Zone
Country:	Greece
Project phase:	prep. / study / planning / implementation / no progress
Launch/Duration:	1/1/1997, 40 months
National funding:	387,727.96
EC-funding:	370,928.75
EC project references:	LIFE-Environment 96/GR/564/PAZ
Lead partner:	FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE - Natural Agriculture Research Foundation (NAGREF)
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Project website:	-
Project area:	The Strymonikos Gulf and Gulf of Ierissos, rich in natural resources, landscapes and cultural features.
Area size (land): (water):	The project area covers 1076 km ² of which 262 km ² land The area covers 813 km ² sea. The coastline is 123 km long.
Population size:	The resident population is 15,360, but rises to over 150,000 in summer
Policy background:	Pollution and environmental damage have increased in recent years and tourism is expected to grow. Authorities are aware of the need for forward planning. However, the implementation of sustainable development is constrained by the complex jurisdictions of the various administrative bodies involved in the development of the area, the fragmented land-use planning and the insufficient environmental awareness at all levels of decision making.
Important sectors in the project set-up:	In addition to tourism, the area's activities are fisheries, aquaculture, forestry and mining.
Main aim:	The aim of the project is to demonstrate the benefits of coordinated action for the conservation of coastal zones, by promoting the concerted management of the Strymonikos coastal zone. The activities of the project include the description of the project area, regarding its abiotic, biotic, social, economic and administrative features, the planning and initiation of a monitoring programme for the zone's marine environment, the establishment of a Co-ordination Scheme, the evaluation of environmental problems, the preliminary selection of domains of intervention and management measures, the establishment of an Information Centre and environmental awareness activities.
Expected results:	Better planning of management strategies and programmes of environmental protection. The identification of sustainable practices.

Development of co-operative instruments and the promotion of social dialogue.

Raised awareness of the values of the zone.

Better regulation enforcement.

Sharing of experience in Greece and in the context of the demonstration programme.

2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

Ministries formally involved*: Ministry of Environment, Planning and Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture.

Regions (county, province) formally involved*:

East Macedonia & Thrace Region, Central Macedonia Region, Kavala Prefecture, Serres Prefecture, Thessaloniki Prefecture, Chalkidiki Prefecture

Agencies involved:

Fisheries Research Institute, The Greek Biotope Wetland Centre.

Municipalities (towns) formally involved*: Agios Georgios

Problems encountered:

Co-operation and co-ordination between local and sectoral administrations is an issue of multiple conflicts: extraction industries (gold mining)-tourism, urban development-nature conservation, tourism-nature conservation, agriculture-nature conservation, and coastal fishing- pelagic fishery.

Main achievements:

The Steering Committee, which is made up of those Authorities with jurisdiction over the coastal area, including sectorally oriented ministries.

3. Participation

Objectives re participation: Involve as many as possible people in the ICZM process

Environment stakeholders formally involved*: yes

Economic development stakeholders formally involved*: yes

Public hearings: 3

Public access to project data: yes

Main achievements:

A Co-ordination Scheme, involving bodies responsible for the project zone's management (ministries, regions, prefectures, agencies formally involved), is established, which sets protection and management aims, decides on priority measures and coordinates their implementation. This group consists of less than 15 members in order to ensure good co-operation. A broader group of stakeholders meets on an annual basis.

The project includes environmental awareness activities, such as publication and distribution of awareness material, organisation of conferences on concerted sustainable management of coastal zones, presentation of the project and of the EU policy regarding the sustainable use of coastal zone resources, media work etc.

Problems encountered:

Convincing decision makers for the need of a Co-ordination Scheme for the management of the project coastal zone

4. Information

Objectives re environment:

Collection, production and distribution of information at various administrative levels and to the end users.

Main achievements: Gathering of knowledge about available data for the project area. This stock-take provided a comprehensive description of the area and its environment, as well as an analysis of the issues to be addressed.
 GIS maps of the area were created
 An Information Centre has been established provides a focus for community involvement from the outset of the project. The center promotes an early emphasis on awareness-raising and information dissemination, which provide a foundation for future activities. The Information center will continue to operate under the auspices of the local authority upon termination of the project.
 The project has an exhibition housed in the Information Centre near the popular beach as a focus for the educational role and local awareness.
 Neutral information to the Steering Committee was provided by the Fisheries Research Institute and the Greek Biotope Wetlands Centre.

Problems encountered: Lack of scientific data

5. Policy aspects, relevance and success:

Legal Jurisdictional issues:

Project objectives: To collect the current legislation on environmental conservation and economic activities regarding the project area.

Main achievements: A document included in the final report

Problems encountered: Complex and overlapping or conflicting jurisdiction (roles and responsibilities) of management bodies has been a problem

Environment:

Project objectives: Establishing management objectives

Main achievements: The gathering of data regarding the environment which is a valuable tool for environmental conservation

Problems encountered: Organising multidisciplinary scientific teams
 Determine the effect of the mine activities in the marine environment
 River borne pollution derived from upstream Bulgaria affects the quality of coastal waters.

Biodiversity conservation:

Project objectives: Obtain knowledge on the biodiversity of the project area

Main achievements: The gathering of data regarding biodiversity which is a valuable tool for biodiversity conservation

Problems encountered: Organising multidisciplinary scientific teams

Economic development:

Project objectives: To promote the concept of economic development in accordance with environmental conservation

Main achievements: Convincing in some cases the local authorities that environmental impact studies are necessary in order to design expansion of economic activities (i.e. construction of a marina)

Problems encountered: The number of tourists from East European countries is expected to grow in the next five to ten years. Nature conservation will face major constraints because of the growth in tourism.

Spatial planning & zoning:

Project objectives: To record current situation and to create maps of the area using GIS

Main achievements: Project objectives were achieved
Problems encountered: Fragmented urban and land use planning
Coastal defence:
Project objectives: No coastal defense problems exist in the area
Main achievements:
Problems encountered:

6. Progress & Continuity

Follow-up: In order to have a follow-up of the project a legal framework for ICZM is needed, a Management Scheme legally binded and a complete management plan

The Information center continues to operate under the auspices of the local authority upon termination of the project.

No progress since: 1/5/2002
Main reason for lack of progress: Lack of legal framework.

7. Sources

Project Summary Report online: [attached in MS word]

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

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