

Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

1. Key data

Project title:	Integrated management of coastal zones: Isle of Wight
Country:	The United Kingdom
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/UK/425/PAZ
Lead partner:	Isle of Wight Council County Hall
Project contact:	Mr Robin G McInnes Isle of Wight Council County Hall Newport, Isle of Wight PO33 2QA U.K. Tel.: +44-1983-823770 Fax: +44-1983-823707 Email: hroberts@iwight.gov.uk or sjjewell@iwight.gov.uk
Project website:	[URL]
Project area:	Much of the island is designated as being of "outstanding natural beauty" and is subject to a large influx of holiday visitors in season. The coast of the Solent is urban and industrialised.
Area size (land):	The study area covers the Isle of Wight and the Solent, an area of 400 km ² , with coastlines of 300 km and 100 km respectively.
(water):	
Population size:	population of 130 000
Policy background:	The Isle of Wight and the neighbouring regions have been actively involved in coastal management for a decade. They plan to step up their work and co-operation under the European demonstration programme.
Important sectors in the project set-up:	Tourism, Public Health, Transport & Accessibility, Ports & Marine industry, Landscapes & Cultural Heritage, Public Access, Second Homes, Pollution, Habitats & Biodiversity, Natural Catastrophes, Coastal Erosion, Water management.
Main aim:	
Expected results:	Consistency of sectoral plans for the coastal zones. Improvement of information on the project area and on management techniques and practices. Development of model systems of administration and co-operation which allow for integration and subsidiarity. Proposal of all kinds of integrated management plans. Discussion of the results within the European demonstration programme.

2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

The Isle of Wight project is specifically looking at issues of co-ordination and integration of plans (both through the plan development process and during implementation) and lists nine types of strategies and plans which affect the project area.

Ministries formally involved*:

Co-operation on national level:

Departments with coastal responsibilities liaise through the Interdepartmental Group on Coastal Policy. An overview of policy for the coast is maintained by the unit responsible for servicing this Group.

National Coastal Fora

Regions (county, province) formally involved*:

Municipalities (towns) formally involved*: [names]

Main achievements:

The Isle of Wight together with Dorset, Devon and Cornwall have formed the Western Approaches Group in order to help achieve co-ordination along the south coast of England.

Problems encountered:

The nationally determined Natura 2000 network has the potential to conflict with other strategies, as it was imposed rather than developed through participation and consensus building.

Main achievements:

To legitimize an ICZM initiative, aspects of a plan can best be integrated into the statutory management framework. The Isle of Wight notes that in England, a planning guidance note on Coastal Planning issued by the Government suggests that non-statutory coastal plans should inform the statutory planning process. In this way, local plans serve to implement policies contained in a range of non-statutory plans including harbour plans, estuary management plans, shoreline management plans and coastal management plans.

3. Participation

Objectives re participation: Key issue: awareness raising

Environment stakeholders formally involved*: yes

Economic development stakeholders formally involved*: yes

Four County Councils, 16 District Councils, harbour authorities, the Environment Agency, the Solent Protection Society; SCOPAC (Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline), ARC Manche (a co-operation area composed of the French regions and British counties bordering the Channel), the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe) and representatives of the public.

Public hearings:

[number]

Public access to project data: yes / no

Main achievements:

The project Isle of Wight has established a management strategy to reflect changing needs and assure continuity of ICZM. On the Isle of Wight, liaison and steering committees were established for the development of an Estuary Management Strategy for the Western Yar. A project officer has now been appointed to implement the strategy. It was expected that without a project manager many good plans fail to be translated into action.

The Isle of Wight has The Centre for Coastal Environment as a long-term network to ensure durability of ICZM projects. Associated British ports has entered an active voluntary collaborative arrangement with the Solent Forum (in which the Isle of Wight project participates), to improve dialogue over port development proposals.

Problems encountered:

The Isle of Wight noted that it is necessary to sell to politicians and others the concept of ICZM in order to obtain funding for development and implementation and to sustain long-term

support. Topics of political importance in the Isle of Wight coastal zone include impact of aggregate dredging, coastal instability, climate change impacts, oil pollution and safety at sea.

4. Information

Objectives re environment:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

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:

Disagreement arose between the Isle of Wight Council and English Nature over the interpretation of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. English Nature proposed the designation of two marine special areas of conservation (SACs) around the coast of the Isle of Wight, but the Council was concerned that this would threaten the economic development of the island. Article 2(3) of the Habitats Directive states that “measures taken pursuant to this Directive shall take account of economic, social and cultural requirements and regional and local characteristics.” The Isle of Wight Council contends that this requires economic factors to be considered when SACs are identified. However, that is contrary to the interpretation of the Bird Directive 79/409/EEC by the European Court of Justice, which has ruled that only conservation should be taken into account when special protection areas (SPAs) for birds are designated.

Economic development:

Project objectives:

The Isle of Wight project notes the significance of transport costs in the local economy.

Main achievements:

The Isle of Wight successfully opposed a proposal by the Port of Southampton to extend its harbour limits, a move that might have restricted recreational opportunities for the public.

Problems encountered:

On the Isle of Wight, where the local economy is heavily reliant upon tourism, the need to promote sustainable tourism has been recognised. A sustainable tourism Group is feeding information into the local Agenda 21 Strategy. Transport is very expensive in the Isle of Wight, this has severely affected the GDP and unemployment levels on the island.

Spatial planning & zoning:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Coastal defence:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

On the south-west coast of the Isle of Wight, cliffs have receded by 400 meters over the last 150 years. Protection is inappropriate for environmental and physical reasons and a form of managed retreat has been practiced by local businesses and residents for many years.

The Isle of Wight is undertaking risk assessment for the parts of their coastline, which are particularly susceptible to landslides and cliff falls.

The Isle of White proposed that coastal defence strategies be developed on the basis of coastal cells- geomorphologic divisions based on physical processes. The boundaries of coastal cells are generally major headlands or estuaries. However, the coastal cells approach may conflict with other natural systems based approaches, for example, by diving estuaries.

6. Progress & Continuity

Follow-up:

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