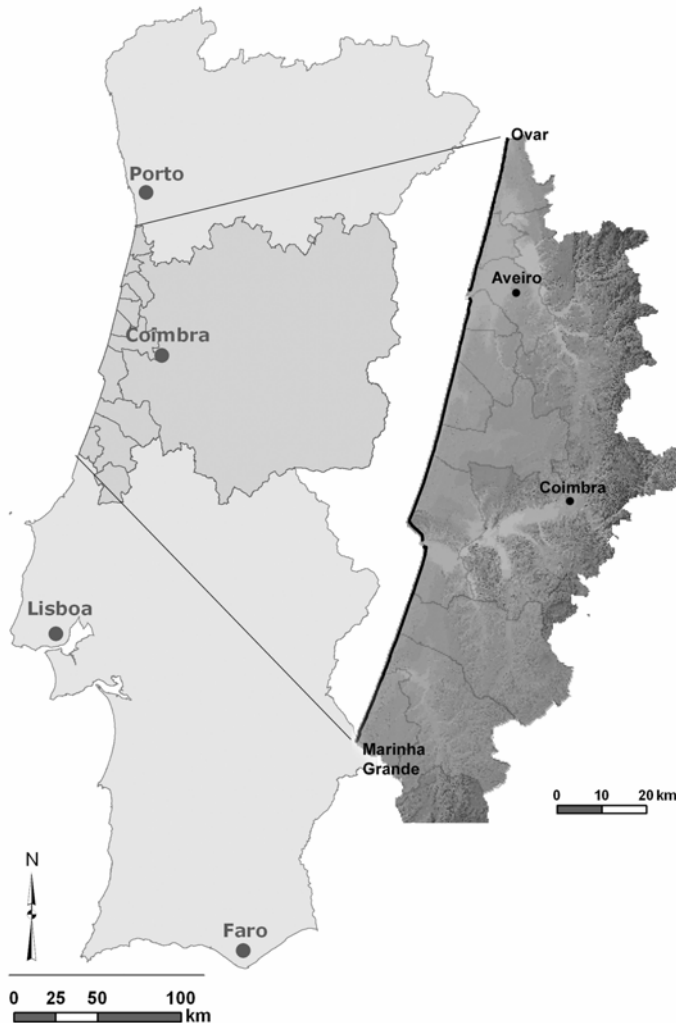


MANAGING THE COASTAL ZONE OF THE CENTRAL REGION OF PORTUGAL

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The coastal zone of the Central Region of Portugal, to the similarity of other coastal stretches of the country, was subject to a Coastal Zone Management Plan: the POOC Ovar-Marinha Grande, approved in 2000 through the Resolution of the Ministries Council n° 142/2000 of 20 of October. The POOC comprises an area that extends for 140 km, throughout 11 municipalities, from the Beach of Esmoriz to the Beach of S. Pedro de Muel. It has a maximum width, in the terrestrial zone, of 500 m counted from the line that limits the edge of waters of the sea, and a maritime band of protection that is limited by the 30 batimétric (Fig. 1)

The Coastal Zone Management Plan Ovar-Marinha Grande is the main policy instrument that regulates the management of the coastal zone. Although, it can be eventually criticized, it allowed already some changes, mainly in what concerns beach qualification, with visible consequences in terms of the improvement of the environmental quality, the protection of the biophysical integrity of some sensitive systems, the environmental education and attitude of the populations.

Fig.1 The narrow black line shows the Coastal Zone managed by the POOC

This poster examines the major goals of the POOC, presenting some of the CCDR's (Commission of Coordination and Regional Development of the Center) interventions that have been implemented in the coastal zone.

Indeed, the Action Plan of the POOC foresees a set of actions/measures/projects/studies for the coastal area that aims to prosecute the goals and objectives defined in the Plan. Besides CCDRC, some other entities are responsible for the implementation of the action plan, such as the Institute of the Water (the governmental entity responsible for the elaboration of the POOC), General Directorate of Fishes, the Institute of Nature Conservation, the Municipalities, Tourism Board, etc. Each project is identified by a data sheet, that contains information on: description of the intervention, the leader's entity (responsible of the implementation process), other involved entities in the execution, foreseen costs, the timings of the investment, etc.

Some examples of the interventions committed to other intervening entities in the POOC are: heavy coastal defences (groins and seawalls), intervention plans for flooding risk urban settlements (committed to the Water Institute); the elaboration of Master Plans for the urban settlements, the promotion of equipments for recreative fishing activities, the promotion of the installation of tourist lodging (committed to the municipalities); protection and

management of the natural areas with interest for the conservation, control of forest exotic species and restriction to the introduction of new species, etc (committed to the Institute of Nature Conservation); promotion of equipments for the fishing activities, the artificial reef creation (committed to the General Directorate of Fishes); renewal and qualification of existing lodging units, the tourist promotion of the region, the conception and tourist implementation of signalling and circuits (of the responsibility of the Tourism Board), etc.

Of the responsibility of the CCDRC are the management of maritime beaches and the protection of the biophysical integrity of the coastal ecosystems, as well as all the licensing of the uses in Maritime Public Domain and the approval of the beach bars.

Before the publication of the POOC, CCDRC developed some interventions concerning the protection of the dunes and cliffs. With the approval of the POOC strong efforts were developed in order to protect these coastal systems, restricting and managing the accesses to the shoreline, that had also a significant and positive impact in the image of the coastal zone, and in the comfort and security of the users.



Fig. 2 Accessibility requalification and dune protection

In addition, it was promoted a set of public announcements aiming the installation of new beach bars and also the requalification of the old structures in beaches, according to the new rules of the POOC (in terms of the areas, the materials of construction, the aesthetic quality, and accessibilities for handicap people).



Fig. 3 The new beach's bars aims to fulfil some quality criteria in terms of public services and environmental patterns