

EU Recommendation n° 2002/413/EC concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe

STOCKTAKING WORKING GROUP

Final: June 2003

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NATIONAL STOCKTAKING FOR ICZM - GUIDANCE

Background

1. On 30 May 2002, the European Parliament and Council Recommendation on integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) in Europe was adopted by the fifteen Member States of the European Union.
2. The European Commission has established an Expert Group made up of officials from each Member State and the Accession Countries to support the process of implementing of the Recommendation. At the first meeting in October 2002, it was agreed that a working group should be established to provide some suggested guidelines for Member States and others in developing the first initiative requested by the Recommendation: the national stocktaking.
3. This paper has been prepared by the Stocktaking Working Group for consideration at the next Expert Group meeting in June 2003. It discusses some of the key issues that Member States and other countries could consider in developing a national stocktaking and provides some examples on possible ways forward.

Aims and Objectives

4. The European Commission's ICZM Demonstration Programme showed that ICZM at any level requires some form of stocktaking to identify the key issues that need to be resolved if ICZM is to be delivered. The process of stocktaking should provide a better understanding of how the coastal zone is currently managed.
5. Chapter III of the ICZM Recommendation says: "Member States [*should*] conduct or update an overall stocktaking to analyse which major actors, laws, and institutions influence the management of their coastal zone" (the full text of Chapter III is included in annex A to this paper). In other words: who does what, where, how and why.
6. The national stocktaking should provide a Member State with good quality, objective information that can inform the development of national strategies for implementing ICZM. Therefore, it is important that the development of the Stocktaking is based on the needs of these strategies (as set out in Chapter IV of the Recommendation).
7. The objectives for the stocktaking should be to:
 - Describe the environmental, social and economic characteristics and natural resources of the coastal zone;

- Identify the key laws and institutions that influence the management of the coastal zone across different sectors and different levels (international, national, regional and local);
- Identify the key stakeholders and assess their interests, roles and concerns;
- Analyse how these laws, institutions and stakeholders interact vertically, horizontally, spatially and temporally.
- Produce a final report, which describes the framework for management of the coastal zone and presents the conclusions of the analysis.

Case study: United Kingdom

The UK stocktaking is focussing on analysing the **institutional arrangements** and **decision-making processes** in the management of the coastal zone.

The UK Government has awarded the contract for undertaking stocktaking to a multi-disciplinary team of consultants. The aim is to analyse the level of integration within the existing framework for coastal management and identify the obstacles to integration. This approach is particularly relevant in the UK where there are many separate institutions operating in England and each of the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The team have started work on a Scoping Report to set out their approach to the project, (including questionnaires, telephone interviews, case studies and workshops) and a communications plan for ensuring all stakeholders are kept informed of progress. This initial report, plus regular updates produced by the team, should be available throughout the project on the Defra website (see Annex B). The Government intends to publish the project's findings in spring 2004.

Method and Scope

8. Each National Stocktaking will need to be tailored to the specific issues and conditions in each Member State. In considering the scope and focus of the Stocktaking it is important to remember that the aim is to provide the information needed to develop the national strategies for ICZM.
9. As a minimum, the sectors set out in Chapter III of the Recommendation should be covered. These include: fisheries and aquaculture, transport, energy, resource management, species and habitat protection, cultural heritage, employment, rural and urban development, tourism, recreation, industry, mining, waste management, agriculture and education.
10. In some cases the relevant legal powers and duties may already be fully documented and this information only needs to be pulled together from existing literature (for example: policy statements, official guidance, independent research, etc).

11. The stocktaking should describe the different environmental, social and economic characteristics and natural resources of the coastal zone and consider any future changes (such as through climate change).
12. There may need to be detailed dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders. A variety of consultation methods (interviews, workshops, questionnaires, etc) are available to ensure the full range of stakeholders can be engaged in the stocktaking.
13. Contact with the major stakeholders involved in managing all coastal activities and particularly those involved with existing ICZM initiatives (national, regional and local) will be important. There should also be some assessment of the key concerns of the general public. The partnerships established through the EU Demonstration Programme could provide a useful mechanism for this.
14. Some useful sources of reference are included in Annex B.

Case study: Spain

Spain's Stocktaking will be organised in **regional inventories**, which will, in turn, provide an overall, integrated national picture.

Within each regional inventory, a range of **local level data** on the physical coastal environment and socio-economic characteristics is being collected in order to describe and evaluate the natural resources, coastal problems and the environment's carrying capacity. This evaluation is being carried out in a set of so called **management units** that have been defined by the national and regional coastal administrations along each Spanish region. Interests and concerns of citizens and non-governmental organizations on each "management unit" will be introduced into the evaluation process by means of a questionnaire.

The identification of the key laws, the institutions that influence the management of the coastal zone, the stakeholders roles, and how these laws, institutions and stakeholders interact with each other is being analysed by means of the so called **set of coastal actions**. This set of coastal actions has also been defined by the national and regional coastal administrations and compiles all the different activities that are usually carried out along the coast. For each "coastal action" the present economic, administrative and legal framework is analysed. To accomplish this goal, data for the main coastal actions carried out during the last 15 years are being collected (since the Spanish Legislation on Coast was passed). The aim of this inventory is to assess the level of integration of the different actors, laws and institutions.

Final Report

15. The final Stocktaking report should be submitted to the European Commission for review as set out in Chapter VI of the Recommendation. The report could also be made available to key stakeholders involved in the management of the coastal zone.
16. It may be possible for the report to be written in language suitable for both experts and general citizens using helpful maps, diagrams and tables. The

report might also include an executive summary, which could be distributed to the key stakeholders who contributed to the preparation of the stocktaking.

17. The format of the report could be structured so that future revisions and updates can be easily added as ICZM develops. This might be achieved through an internet version of the report so that amendments (including links to appropriate websites, etc) could be made on-line.

Case study: Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Government published a national stocktaking report on ICZM in 1995. Key elements included: a description of the institutional arrangements; a description of the status of the coastal environment; general trends in social and economic factors (eg urbanisation); a description of the main coastal issues and problems; identification of the key stakeholders and their role; and a glossary of ICZM terms.

The final report had the following format:

- Executive Summary
- Introduction (background to project, objectives and methodology)
- Political and Administrative Boundaries (local, regional, national)
- Geographic Description (natural characteristics of coastal zone)
- Demographic and Economic Characteristics (population, coastal activities, etc)
- Socio–Economic Issues (employment, land ownership, etc)
- Environment (environmental protection measures and issues)
- State Agencies, Laws and Regulations for ICZM (institutional structures)
- Information System
- International and Governmental ICZM Related Programs

Project Management

18. It may be that for some Member States, the stocktaking will require some new research activity and a multi-disciplinary team might be needed to produce meaningful results. For other Member State the stocktaking may be more about collecting and updating existing information.
19. An experienced project manager should be appointed to act as the principal point of contact for the stocktaking. A work programme should be produced including a detailed timetable and identifying the key milestones.
20. A steering group should be established to oversee the stocktaking. The group should contribute to the management of the project, provide advice and guidance on objectives, outputs, information needs and technical matters and monitor progress through regular meetings during the course of the stocktaking.
21. It might be helpful to produce a communications plan so that stakeholders understand the aims and objectives of the stocktaking, how it will be undertaken, and how and when they will be involved.

Conclusion

22. This paper has outlined some of the issues that need to be considered in developing a national stocktaking. However, each stocktaking will need to be tailored to the specific issues, traditions and culture of that nation if it is to provide meaningful results, which can assist the development of national strategies for ICZM.
 23. The ICZM Expert Group endorsed this paper at its meeting of 18 June 2003.
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ANNEX A

EU RECOMMENDATION ON ICZM

Chapter III: National Stocktaking

“Member States [*should*] conduct or update an overall stocktaking to analyse which major actors, laws, and institutions influence the management of their coastal zone.

This stocktaking should:

- (a) consider (but not be limited to) the following sectors and areas: fisheries and aquaculture, transport, energy, resource management, species and habitat protection, cultural heritage, employment, regional development in both rural and urban areas, tourism and recreation, industry and mining, waste management, agriculture and education;
- (b) cover all administrative levels;
- (c) analyse the interests, role and concerns of citizens, non-governmental organisations, and the business sector;
- (d) identify relevant inter-regional organisations and cooperation structures, and
- (e) take stock of the applicable policy and legislative measures.”

ANNEX B

Useful Sources of Reference:

- European Parliament and Council Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe (www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/home.htm)
- Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on "Integrated Coastal Zone Management: A Strategy for Europe" (www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/home.htm)
- Thematic Reports from the Commission demonstration programme on integrated coastal zone management 1996–1999 (www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/demopgm.htm)
- First European High Level Forum on Community Strategies for ICZM, La Vila Joiosa (www.gizc.com)
- UK Stocktaking: project scoping report, questionnaire and newsletters (www.defra.gov.uk/environment/marine/iczm)