



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN PROSTOR



MEDITERRANEAN COAST DAY 2010

REPORT

OF THE 2010 REGIONAL COAST DAY CELEBRATION (Portorož, 25 September 2010)

COAST DAY/2010/ENG
Priority Actions Programme
Regional Activity Centre
Split, October 2010

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OF THE 2010 REGIONAL COAST DAY CELEBRATION
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Introduction

1. Coastal areas are the Mediterranean's greatest asset. However, these areas are under a continuous pressure from urban development, tourism, fishing, land-based pollution and aquaculture. Construction currently covers 40% of the coastal surface. The Mediterranean countries have recognised that the strategies to mitigate the coastal vulnerability require the involvement of the full range of stakeholders who benefit from and enjoy the services of marine and coastal ecosystems, with a view to promoting a more sustainable coastal zone management.

The Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) proposed a series of public awareness-raising activities on the quality of our coasts to be carried out during the week 18-25 September, and culminating with the celebration of the Coast Day on 25 September. Coast day is celebrated annually on 25 September to honour Slovenia as the first country that ratified the ICZM Protocol on 25 September 2009.

The activities organised in Slovenia for the 2010 regional Coast Day celebration focused on the issue of public participation, in particular the participatory approach to ICZM and institutional co-ordination, linked specifically to the two major articles of the Protocol. Three main segments constituted the heart of the Coast Day celebrations in Slovenia: a high-level political panel, a "good practices" workshop and the awareness-raising activities.

Objectives of the Workshop

2. The focus of the 2010 regional Coast Day celebration was on what we can do as a community through the planning and institutional co-ordination. This includes individual responsibility and changing citizens' attitude and behaviour, as well as the role of local authorities and stakeholders in the process of responsible coastal planning and management. In order to tackle these issues, three central events were organised in Slovenia: a high-level political panel, a "good practices" workshop and the awareness-raising activities.

Participation

3. The high-level political panel was attended by 22 participants, including the participants from Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the EU, France, Georgia, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey, as well as the representatives of PAP/RAC and UNEP-MAP. In addition, a number of awareness-raising activities were organised in Portorož (Slovenia) with participation of hundreds of visitors. A full List of participants is attached as Annex I. The Coast Day agenda is attached as Annex II to this report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Event (welcome addresses)

4. Mr Roko Žarnič, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, gave an opening speech, followed by speeches of: Mr Pavel Gantar, guest of honour and President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia; Mr Abdelaâli Benghoura, representative of the

Algerian Ministry of Environment; Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Deputy Co-ordinator and Officer-in-Charge of UNEP/MAP; and Mr Marko Prem, Director a.i. of PAP/RAC.

Agenda item 2: Round Table

5. The first speech at the Round Table was given by Mr Žarnič who presented a roadmap for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol. According to Mr Žarnič, the first step in the process of Protocol implementation is to define the vision, with its aims and goals. The proposed aims could be: the enhancement of a multilevel sub-regional co-operation to achieve a better efficiency of the regional MSSD implementation; the development of the Mediterranean Strategy for sub-regional development; and the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management. In line with the presented aims, the proposed goals could include: the adaptation to coastal risks (risk management plans); sustainable use of coastal resources (protected areas); and sustainable economic growth.

6. Mr Benghoura gave a brief insight into the coastal management mechanism that was established in Algeria, based on a successful experience of *Conservatoire du Littoral* from France. Even though this institution is still young and needs a significant capacity building, it could be concluded that with the introduction of instruments for the control and monitoring of coastal zones, including the establishment of CNL, the Algerian authorities have in place the legal and technical means that will ensure equilibrium of coastal development and protection.

7. Ms Mejias gave an overview of the political, economic and technical situation in the Mediterranean, in particular in relation to coastal zone management. She stressed the role of MAP in the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, explaining the first steps that MEDU and PAP/RAC, as the regional centre of excellence for ICZM, are undertaking in that direction. These steps include the provision of technical support to the countries in the process of ratification of the Protocol, including the development of analyses, studies, demo projects and alike, assessing the Protocol impacts on the national legislative and institutional framework. She said that with five ratifications already in place, MAP was expecting the Protocol to enter into force by the end of the year or by the beginning of the next year. Upon its entry into force, she added, PAP/RAC would provide technical assistance to the Parties in defining the Mediterranean ICZM Strategy as a common framework for managing the Mediterranean coastal zones. Finally, Ms Mejias concluded that in line with the regional strategy, the Parties would formulate their national strategies, plans and programmes.

8. Ms Birgit Snoeren, EU Policy Officer – ICZM Officer, stressed the importance of the Protocol as a significant legal document, but also as a document bringing in important commitments and presenting a way forward, especially in terms of the expected behaviour change. She said that with the development of the Lisbon strategy, the Sustainable development strategy, as well as the EU ICZM recommendations, the Maritime Policy and the newly ratified ICZM Protocol, the EU policy context had changed a lot and provided a good basis and opportunities for the achievement of a sustainable coastal development. Ms Snoeren concluded that the new policy context for ICZM was important as it brings a common vision for the Mediterranean ready to be implemented in the years to come.

Agenda item 3: Round Table discussion

9. A representative from Turkey, Mr Mustafa Aydin, Expert at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Turkey), had three questions: i) to the Slovenian Minister, Mr Žarnič, on what would be the effects of the Protocol implementation in Slovenia; ii) to the representative of the EU, Ms Snoeren, if the new legislation regarding the ICZM was planned within the EU (such as a Directive); and to the MAP Deputy Co-ordinator and Officer-in-Charge, Ms Mejias, on how the PAP budget could be increased in order to allow the efficient assistance to CPs on the implementation of the Protocol, as well as on why the marine spatial planning (MSP) had always been greatly emphasised when it could clearly be considered as a part of ICZM.

10. In his reply to Mr Aydin's question, Mr Žarnič explained that the Northern Adriatic was the marine/coastal area shared by three countries: Croatia, Italy and Slovenia. It is the shallow sea area with conflicting interests, different economies and a number of protected areas. Therefore, it is important to share knowledge and experience among these countries. In line with the Protocol requirements, he concluded, one option could be to develop a sub-regional strategy that would enable a sustainable coastal development of the (Northern) Adriatic region.

11. Ms Snoeren stressed the importance of the existing ICZM legal documents in the EU, explaining how lots of efforts are being placed on the following up of these documents, in particular the EU Recommendations on ICZM. Not to remind, she added, that the EU has just ratified the ICZM Protocol that will be an important legal document obliged to the EU countries, once it enters into force. Ms Snoeren concluded that so far no new EU legislation was envisaged.

12. Ms Mejias agreed with Mr Aydin that there was a great responsibility and lots of tasks envisaged within the PAP workplan in order to assist the countries in the Protocol implementation. In line with that, she added, it could be reasonable to ask for the PAP budget increase; however, the CPs should ask for that. She also stressed that the budget increase for one Centre could mean the reduction of budgets for the others. At request of Ms Mejias, Mr Prem replied to the question related to MSP saying that MSP should always be considered as one of the ICZM tools. However, in the light of the EU Marine Framework Directive and marine policy in general, a greater emphasis is being put on the importance of managing the marine part and not just the terrestrial one. Still, he concluded, MSP should always be considered as a part of a wider – coastal framework.

13. Ms Ana Correa Peña, General Co-ordinator of the CAMP Levante de Almeria, commented, reflecting on the situation within the CAMP Spain, that there were lots of competences distributed among the decision makers at the national, sub-regional and local level. Therefore, supporting a better co-ordination and dialogue among all these administrative levels is a key factor for the proper application of the ICZM Protocol..

Agenda item 4: Presentation of the public-awareness projects in Slovenia

14. Ms Polona Kotnjek, representative of the Marine Mammal Research and Conservation Society "Morigenos", gave an overview of the Society's activities, including their projects in the field of scientific research, education, public awareness and conservation. Her presentation focused on the project including the studying and conservation of bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the Slovenian and adjacent waters of the northern Adriatic Sea. "Morigenos" has been studying and following these dolphins since 2002 and was the first to document a resident local population of bottlenose dolphins in

the area. Ms Kotnjek concluded that hardly anything had been known about dolphins off Slovenia prior to that.

15. Ms Gordana Beltram, President of the Škocjan Caves (Škocjanske jame) Regional Park Agency, gave a brief overview of the Park. She explained that the Škocjan Caves were one of UNESCO's sites, being on UNESCO's list of the world heritage sites since 1986. The Škocjan Caves entered the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance in 1999. Together with the underground stream of the Reka River, they represent one of the longest karst underground wetlands in Europe. Finally, in 2004, the Škocjan Caves Park was included in the UNESCO – MAB World Network of Biosphere Reserves under the name of the Karst Biosphere Reserve. The area reveals the interdependence of man and nature and the importance of education to maintain the existing level of welfare. Above all, the Škocjan Caves are the largest known underground canyon in the world, a natural phenomenon of global significance.

Agenda item 6: An overview of the good practices ICZM programmes. Sharing an experience.

16. Mr Fabrice Bernard, member of *Conservatoire du littoral* (France), presented the experiences of *Conservatoire du littoral* in public participation. In 35 years of experience, he said, the Agency's credo was "for the public...with the public". Their planning procedures are organised around the national and local committees, including the coastal councils and national administration councils, and management committees, including the local consultation forums and the committee on financial transparency. The Agency's national dialogue includes: a dialogue with five main stakeholder groups (the state, NGOs, local groups, syndicates and enterprises); 600 proposals and 138 commitments; development of the national marine and coastal strategy; biodiversity network; development of a marine component within the regional planning documents; exchange of international good practices; and alike.

17. Ms Nataša Kačić Bartulović, Head of the Department for International Legal Affairs (Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, Croatia), gave a detailed overview of institutional co-ordination and public participation within the procedure of adoption of physical plans in the Republic of Croatia. She also gave a historic overview of spatial planning legal documents. She stressed that, according to the existing legal framework, the spatial planning in Croatia was implemented in an integrated manner, based on the principles of horizontal and vertical integration as well as on the principle of public participation and access to information. In addition, the legal framework for the public hearing procedures within spatial planning was presented.

18. Following Ms Kačić Bartulović's presentation, Ms Snoeren gave some examples of the EU ICZM good practices. She presented the OURCOAST project dedicated to providing support to ICZM. The key themes of the project include: adaptation to coastal risks and climate change; planning and land management instruments; institutional co-ordination mechanisms; and information and communication. Other examples include the Dorset Coast Forum dedicated to the integrated management strategy for an open coast and developed under the EU ICZM Demonstration programme, and the Coastal Centre Belgium.

19. Mr Mohamed Farouk, Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit (Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency), presented the process of development of the ICZM Strategy in Egypt. Mr Farouk said that the main steps taken towards the development of the Strategy included the analysis of the current situation, organisation of a series of workshops, obtaining of relevant approvals and the final adoption of the Strategy. An important point that needs to be stressed for the ICZM Strategy is that it is not a coastal development strategy, but a tool for enhancing the co-ordination in the inter-institutional strategic planning.

20. Mr Gideon Bresler, Environmental Planner at the Ministry of Environmental Protection (Israel), presented the example of the Palmachim Beach in Israel - an exciting story on how public voice can make a change. The Palmachim Beach is one of the few open spaces left in the centre of Israel, which integrates nature, landscape and heritage values adjacent to the seacoast. In 2000, a plan for the construction of a 350-room holiday resort on the Palmachim Beach was approved, which was to be built on a 7-hectare area, only 100 meters from the coast. In 2004, the land was sold to developers who started the project. But, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of a single girl, Adi, who mobilised the entire public and raised their awareness of the importance of that sight, the project was finally cancelled.

21. Ms Aleksandra Ivanović, Head of the Sustainable Development Department at the Public Enterprise for the Coastal Zone Management of Montenegro, presented the coastal management practice in Montenegro, including the jurisdiction in the coastal zone, the role of the Public enterprise for the coastal zone management and its key activities. The Public enterprise was established in 1992 and its main activities include: managing the coastal zone and building the coastal infrastructure for the public use; renting parts of the coastal zone for commercial use; and controlling the realisation of contracts. The Enterprise is under the competence of the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection and it is the Montenegrin focal institution for UNEP/MAP - PAP/RAC. In addition, the Enterprise participates in international projects, implements the activities jointly with local communities and NGO sector. One of the most important planned ICZM projects is the CAMP Montenegro the important component of which includes the strengthening of the ICZM institutional co-ordination.

22. Mr Mohammed Chaoui, Head of the Water Department (Secretariat of State for Water and Environment, Morocco), presented the pilot action implemented within the CAMP Morocco in Souani in the province of Al Hoceïma. Mr Chaoui introduced to the participants the CAMP project, including the CAMP location, objectives, processes and alike. In the case of Souani, he concluded, the main ICZM approach had been tested by using a participatory approach in order to facilitate the planning process for the concrete investment and make it integrated and sustainable.

23. Ms Correa presented the CAMP Spain, including its area, process, main goals, objectives and activities. She stressed that one of the important objectives of this CAMP included the improvement of institutional co-ordination and stimulating mechanisms for social participation in decision-making. In order to achieve these goals, three main institutional mechanisms are established: the coastal council, the coastal commission and the coastal forum. The aim of these bodies is to contribute to the improvement of the inter-institutional co-ordination, stimulation of stakeholders, implementation of interactive participation instruments, as well as to the promotion of a social participation through the creation of an integrated vision of the region.

24. Mr Aydin presented a new project of the Ministry of Public Works and Settlements and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry on Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy and Action Plan. The aim of this project is the preparation of a national ICZM strategy document and a national action plan including the legal, institutional and administrative structuring, the short-, medium- and long-term priorities, targets and implementation programme. After this presentation, Mr Aydin reminded the participants of the 2009 regional Coast Day celebration, which took place in Datca, Turkey. One of its most important achievements was the involvement of local municipalities in the celebration. This can be perceived as an indicator of the importance given to management of coastal and marine areas by the municipalities. In addition, he mentioned a proposal for including Coast Day as an official national celebration day in Turkey.

25. Mr Mitja Bricelj, Secretary at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, concluded the Coast Day panel with the presentation on the implementation of ICZM principles in

Slovenia, including some of the key ICZM activities that had already taken place in Slovenia, such as the CAMP Slovenia. Also, some of the next steps to be undertaken were highlighted. One of these steps is to define the priority areas and projects at the transboundary level for the Adriatic sub-region but also to make synergies with MSSD, in particular for enhancing the prosperity, making the Adriatic accessible and attractive and increasing its safety and security. Finally, Mr Bricelj reminded the participants of the roadmap for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol, presented by Mr. Žarnič.

26. Mr Prem thanked all the participants for their contribution to the success of the meeting. He declared the meeting closed at 17:15.

ANNEX I
ANNEXE I
List of Participants
Liste des participants

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**Annex II
Agenda**

9:00 – 9:30	Registration of participants
9:30 – 10:30	<p>Welcome addresses and opening</p> <p>Round table speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pavel GANTAR - President of the National Assembly, Slovenia – Roko ŽARNIČ - Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia – Maria Luisa Silva MEJIAS, UNEP/MAP Deputy Co-ordinator and Officer-in-Charge – Abdelaâli BENGHOURA – General Director of the Commissariat National au Littoral (Algeria) – Birgit SNOEREN, EU DG Environment, Policy Officer – ICZM Officer
11:00 – 12:00	Round table discussion and Q&A session focusing on the exchange of know-how, presenting national experiences and practices
12:00 – 13:00	Public-awareness event organised by local NGOs with panel members attendance
15:00 – 17:15	<p>A “good practices” workshop, with participation of local actors to exchange ideas on good practices for participatory planning and institutional co-ordination, including the latest achievements and future activities relevant to the Protocol</p> <p>Presentations on Mediterranean countries’ examples</p>
17:15	Closure of the meeting