



Minutes
Expert group
ICZM Recommendation
2nd Meeting, 18 June 2003, Brussels

Agenda and attendance list in annex.

Introduction

The Chairman, Claude Rouam, opened the meeting and welcomed new participants in several delegations.

Due to changes in the overall Commission reimbursement rules, the reimbursement to experts from candidate countries has changed. The terms of reference of the expert group are adapted accordingly.

Results Working group "Stocktake"

The first meeting set up a working group to deliver guidance for the national stocktaking, Chapter III of the Recommendation. Sam Rowbury (UK) presented the report of the group: in the context of a Recommendation and given the differences in national systems, the report can only provide 'guidance' for countries to take inspiration from. The report looks at the stocktake in 4 chapters, aims/objectives; method/scope; final report; project management. Case studies are given in each section for illustration.

The meeting was given detailed presentations of how the stocktake process is being managed in the UK (Sam Rowbury) and Spain (Maria J. Rodriguez de Sancho). The UK stocktake looks primarily at practical management and institutional issues; Spain set up an analytical framework covering environmental and socio-economic issues as well as actors and coastal activities.

Questions and discussion following the presentations concerned criteria for selection of pilot regions; practical involvement of local partnerships, the public and usage of (internet) questionnaires; definition of 'management units' as basic analytical unit; and how to identify gaps in integration.

The Chairman welcomed the working group's report and the methodological paper prepared by Spain. Both the report and the paper will be published on the Commission's ICZM webpage. The Chairman invited all countries to make active use of the material in their implementation of the Recommendation.

State of play Recommendation implementation

Presentations on the state of play of the Recommendation's implementation were given by France (Chrisophe Levisage), Finland (Tiina Tihlman) and the Netherlands (Bart de Jong).

Other countries submitted informal discussion notes.

Common elements emerging in the implementation processes of countries were summarised by Birgit Snoeren (DGENV):

- there is scope for better co-ordination of actors and integration of their actions, for which the correct mechanism must be found;
- in particular the area of land-sea interaction and planning of seabased activities is likely to be a priority issue in a majority of countries;
- there is a need for communication and awareness raising, explaining benefits and added-value of ICZM;
- funding and resources restrictions are an issue in relation to the stocktake process, data and information collection, the process of setting up and implementing the national strategies;
- most countries do not anticipate new regulations or major changes, rather enhanced co-ordination and implementation of existing instruments; issues are o.a. the balance between voluntary and regulatory approach, and the nature of a national strategy in an area of often important regional/local competencies.

Given the fact that many countries highlighted the need for communication of the practical benefits and added-value of ICZM, the Chairman proposed to a common work towards a publication on ICZM and local agenda 21 practices and benefits. Some delegations expressed support for such an action (UK, NL, ESP), but referring to the fact that practical experience and benefits is found at local/regional levels. Association of projects and organisation with experience at these level would be necessary.

All countries were asked to express their interest in the next two weeks. On basis of the interest DGEnvironment would reflect on how to give shape to the project and associate relevant other parties.

Evaluation Commission Communication COM(2000)547 final:

Birgit Snoeren (DGENV) presented the proposal of DGEnvironment to postpone the evaluation of COM(2000)547. As the Communication intended to present a coherent package of measures covering the EU and national levels, it is more appropriate and effective to conduct a combined evaluation in 2006, together with the review of the Recommendation.

While postponing the evaluation, DGEnvironment proposes to update in the meantime section B of the Communication "Making EU policies compatible with ICZM". This work should be relevant to the stocktake/strategy building by the Member States and Accession countries, and hence DG Environment wished to associate them to the work on section B.

The proposals did not call adverse observations from countries present.

The Chairman invited countries to submit by 1st October their motivated analyses of which EU legislation/policies help the implementation of ICZM and which ones hamper ICZM.

Presentation/discussion results Working group "Indicators/data"

Following the 1st expert group meeting a working group on data/indicators was formed and asked to report to this 2nd meeting.

(1) Françoise Breton (EEA/ETC-TE) introduced the interim report of the working group. The report proposes two indicator sets: the first one looking at progress of implementation of ICZM. The second one, a set of indicators that show progress in the sustainable development of the coastal zone. Alan Pickaver (EUCC/ETC-TE) and Clive Gilbert (UK) provided detailed presentations of the first and second set of indicators respectively.

Questions and discussion centred mostly on the 2nd set of indicators and concerned the need for more details and clarification on the individual indicator descriptions; the number of indicators, missing indicators and overall representativity; methodological concerns; linkage to existing indicator programmes, the Recommendation process and objectives.

The chairman concluded that the broad approach proposed by the working group and the aim to find a common set of core indicators is useful. However the detailed contents and descriptions of the 2 indicators proposed needs to be reviewed. The working group was asked to continue its work and report back to the expert group with a revised version of the 2 indicator sets. Before associating or consulting other parties on its work, the working group should first develop the indicator framework further. For information, DGEnvironment will place the working group's interim report on its website with the minutes.

(2) The ETC-TE tabled a proposal for future common work on GIS, to support the Recommendation implementation and the work on indicators as well as responding to the conclusions of the Villajoyosa Highlevel forum. The forthcoming INSPIRE legislation will help ensuring comparability and exchangeability of data; several coastal relevant layers are identified to be part of the core layers covered by the directive.

Hugo de Groof (DGENV) presented the progress towards the INSPIRE directive proposal due for October. The implementation plan for the directive is currently also under development and envisages 'geo-spatial interest groups' that should define for the relevant sectors their requirements and specifications for spatial data. Coasts could be one of these groups; for an appropriate expression of actual needs linkage to the policy level will be essential, for instance through the expert or working group. Arturo Fernandez Palacios (ETC-TE/Junta Andalusia) presented the details of the GIS proposal, highlighting the need for a homogeneous definition of the coastline, integration of reporting units and environmental units, spatial analysis techniques.

Questions concerned the timing of the proposed GIS work and the linkage to the Recommendation implementation processes in Member States.

The Chairman concluded that it is too early for a common project on GIS as proposed, but encouraged countries to follow developments of the INSPIRE initiative.

(3) Christophe de Dreuille (EADS) presented the COASTWatch project, which is part of the GMES initiative. The project aims to deliver information to fit the needs of coastal actors. The project proposes to host an information meeting with the data/indicator working group and is open to further working relationships to ensure that information services that will be delivered suit the policy and users needs.

The Chairman welcomed the opportunity of an information meeting with the data/indicators working group. The ETC-TE chairing the working group will ensure the appropriate coordination with COASTWatch.

State-of-play EUrosion project

Stéphane Lombardo presented the progress achieved in the EUrosion project. A demonstration version of the pan-European database is now ready (and was shown at the end of the meeting).

Conclusions

The Chairman, Claude Rouam, summed up the conclusions of the meeting as follows:

- The meeting endorsed the report of the Stock-take working group; the report will be published on the Commission's ICZM web page for usage by all countries.
- Countries are asked to express within 2 weeks their interest in common work towards a publication on ICZM and local agenda 21 practices and benefits, so as to assist communication and awareness raising for the Recommendation implementation.

- In the context of the updating of section B of Communication COM(2000)547, countries are invited to submit by 1st October their analyses on EU policies/legislation that help or harm ICZM implementation (contributions to birgit.snoeren@cec.eu.int).
- The working group indicators/data is asked to continue its work on the 2 sets of indicators proposed, reviewing and clarifying the individual indicators contained in the 2 sets and their descriptions. The proposal for common work on GIS is postponed. The chair of the working group is asked to liase with COASTWatch and to take up the opportunity of an information session between the project and the group.
- Next meeting will be held in February 2004. Delegations are invited to express their interest to host the next meeting, otherwise the meeting will be held in Brussels.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate G – Sustainable development & Integration
ENV.G.4 – Sustainable Territorial Development

Draft Agenda

Expert group ICZM Recommendation

2nd Meeting, 18 June 2003

**Conference Centre Borschette, Brussels
room 4A**

10 hrs – 17 hrs

Introduction

Presentation/discussion results Working group "Stocktake"

State of play Recommendation implementation
presentations/discussion

Evaluation Commission Communication COM(2000)547 final
information/discussion

Presentation/discussion results Working group "Indicators/data"
- draft framework for indicators
- INSPIRE State-of-play; proposal for future work on GIS
- opportunities offered by COASTWatch project

State-of-play EUrosion project
information

Conclusion

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Integrated coastal zone management ICZM

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