

**SUMMARY OF REPORT ON THE ICZM**  
(There is only a part of the Report)

**Coastal Protective Measures for the Lithuanian Coastal Strip of the Baltic Sea**

*(a) The results of the national stocktaking exercise*

*a) How are competences in relation to coastal management and planning divided among national and regional authorities?*

The Nature Protection Department of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania is responsible for the assessment of the current status and nature processes of the Lithuanian coast of the Baltic Sea and the formulation of policy recommendations in order to make the coastal protection measures more effective.

Lithuania has the coastline only 90,6 km long. According to its genesis and peculiarity, our coast belongs to two different swathes, i.e. continental and the Curonian Spit coasts. The continental coast has the biggest part of hydro-technical equipment.

During the last decade the Lithuanian Baltic Sea coast suffered intensive erosion due to anthropogenic activities and natural process.

The Lithuanian coastal strip is a part of the Lithuanian Coastal Zone and administratively is a rather complicated territorial unit. The territory is governed by Klaipėda County Head Administration and several municipalities.

In 1999 following the principles of selective coastal management, the priority was given to environmental protection and the natural processes of the coast – the Target Programme for the development of the Curonian Spit management was drafted and approved by the Resolution of the Council of Neringa City Municipality. The Programme determined a set of the long-term measures for coastal management.

In 2000 the Curonian Spit was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The priority in this area is given to the measures for coast management substantiated by the principles of the imitation of natural analogues. As an alternative to the “ferro-concrete” coast protection measures, methods of coast strengthening based on the imitation of natural analogues have been successfully applied to the Curonian Spit coasts for some time already. This involves strengthening dunes by branches, fences, with grass and shrub planting, etc.

In 2001 in order to ensure sustainable coastal zone development and to solve the problems caused by a strong degradation process, the Strategic Guidelines for the Lithuanian Baltic Sea Coast were drafted and approved by the Order of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania . The object of the Strategic Guidelines - the Lithuanian Baltic Sea Coastal Strip - is the protected part of the Coastal Strip embracing inland territory of up to 300 metres wide, as well as the sea aquatory of up to 20 metres deep isobats.

The following principles are defined in the Strategic Guidelines:

- 1) the priority principle is a saving the natural landscape and the natural processes of coast formation;

- 2) the complex principle of coast protection and use;
- 3) the coast management measures have to be coordinated among one another. The implementation of coastal management measures in one coastal section should not harm the state of the coastline of the neighboring section;
- 4) the differentiated application of coast protection depends on the functions of the coast;
- 5) natural and legal entities are responsible for the direct or indirect impact of their activities on the coast, depending on the scale of the impact.

In 2002 the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Coastal Strip was adopted. Article 8 covers coastal management and extraordinary ecological situations. According to the article, the main coastal protection measures - to conserve or regenerate main and characteristic features of the coast - must be scheduled in the Programme for the Lithuanian Coastal Strip Management.

In 2003 the Programme for the Lithuanian Coastal Strip Management (the Lithuanian continental coast of the Baltic Sea) coastal strip saving natural complexes of the coastline and creating conditions for the sustainable use of natural resources.

The most problematic section is alongside Palanga bridge. One of the main reasons from the intensive erosion in this section is the elimination of stones and a part of poles, which were under the old bridge. In total 120 m<sup>3</sup> of deposits were washed away from one coastal metre in Palanga bridge region during 1995 – 1999.

In 2005 an old bridge was reconstructed, and very intensive erosion processes in this area were partly stopped.

Klaipėda County Head Administration is directly responsible for the status of the Lithuanian Baltic Sea coast and the implementation of the Programme for the Lithuanian Coastal Strip Management.

After the Programme for the Lithuanian Coastal Strip Management had been approved, the Steering Committee was established by the Order of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania. The main aim of the Steering Committee is together with the officials from Klaipėda County Head Administration to ensure the systematic implementation of the Programme for the Lithuanian Coastal Strip Management.

In 2005, according to the Programme for the Lithuanian Coastal Strip Management, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania in cooperation with Klaipėda County Head Administration started to implement a project „The Lithuanian Coastal Strip of the Baltic Sea Regeneration and Maintenance“. The activities of the Project have been carried out on the Lithuanian continental coast of the Baltic Sea and the Lithuanian Curonian Spit Coast of the Baltic Sea – in Palanga Municipality, Klaipėda District Municipality, Klaipėda Municipality, Neringa City Municipality, including Pajūris (the Seashore) Regional Park and Curonian Spit National Park administrative area.

Implementing the Project the sandy beaches along the Palanga bridge, which suffered the most, have been fed with 40 000 m<sup>3</sup> deposits brought from Kunigiškiai sand quarry – the most suitable for this purpose. It is the most rational and the most natural way to recover the disturbed dynamic balance in the underwater slope and sandy beaches of Palanga coast by feeding the coast with the brought deposits.

The project „The Lithuanian Coastal Strip of the Baltic Sea Regeneration and Maintenance“ encompasses the preparation of the study „The Evaluation of Possibility and Expediency to Use Sand Sediments and Hydro-technical Equipment as a Coastal Protection Measures“ (*Smėlio panaudojimo galimybių ir hidrotechninių įrenginių taikymo tikslingumo krantotvarkoje įvertinimas*).

In 2005 the Modified Programme for the Lithuanian Coastal Strip Management (The Lithuanian Baltic Sea continental coast and the Lithuanian Baltic Sea Curonian Spit Coast) was developed. This Programme focused on new economic trends and recent nature processes and evaluated coastal protection measures, which had been implemented since 2003. Also due to the current situation, the Programme modified coastal protection measures and the finances needed to implement those measures.

In 2005 the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on Coastal Management was adopted. It was designated, that the sand deposits taken during Klaipėda State Seaport reconstruction work must be used to continue feeding the coastal shallow waters in Giruliai – Melnragė area or to feed the most damaged places of the protective foredune ridge. Klaipėda County Head Administration has been committed to coordinate all those activities.

In the future it is planned to continue with for the stabilization of coastal (shallow) waters, beach and the protective foredune ridge.