



# Long-lasting collaboration between the stakeholders of the river Roya basin - FR

## 1. Policy Objective & Theme

- ADAPTATION TO RISK: Preventing and managing natural hazards and technological (human-made) hazards
- SUSTAINABLE USE OF RESOURCES: Preserving coastal environment (its functioning and integrity) to share space
- SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH: Balancing economic, social, cultural development whilst enhancing environment

## 2. Key Approaches

- Participation
- Knowledge-based

## 3. Experiences that can be exchanged

In a region which is located close to the Italian border and poorly accustomed to environmental cooperation, the approach based on sharing and exchange of knowledge has allowed a new partnership and the possibility to take into account the issues of sustainable development.

## 4. Overview of the case

Accidental pollution of a highly touristic coast has highlighted the weakness of this coastal area and the need for international co-operation. The approach relies simultaneously on a collective, theme-based action, a study of environmental issues and GIS. It allowed the initiation of an integrated approach of the Roya river basin and made the local stakeholders, especially the elected representatives, aware of sustainable-development issues.

## 5. Context and Objectives

### a) Context

The French Riviera between Monaco and Italy is characterised by a strongly urbanised coast with a long tourist history. Because a great proportion of inhabitants are retired persons, this territory was, up to now, little interested in environmental issues and problems. The relationship between coast and inland (a mountainous and rural country) is limited. However, the newly settled scheme of strategic territorial planning (SCOT) obliges the creation of new partnerships. The integrated approach is more complex here as the main river is trans-boundary, the river Roya originates in France but flows into the sea in Italy.

### b) Objectives

The objective of this French Riviera initiative was to promote three environmental themes:

- Implementation of a warning sequence in regard to marine pollution;
- Realisation of a study on environmental issues; and
- Realisation of a GIS taking into account the border-crossing context to start a long-lasting co-operation between France, Monaco and Italy.

## **6. Implementation of the ICZM Approach (i.e. management, tools, resources)**

### **a) Management**

The project was supported both by the “Communauté d’agglomération” of the French Riviera (CARF) and the “syndicat mixte” in charge of the SCOT. It was steered by the CARF. During the process a steering committee, which was formed with all the institutional and elected representatives and a technical group, had to follow up the study on environmental issues. In this framework, the consultation of the local population was also important.

### **b) ICZM Tools**

The SCOT (planning tool) was the favoured framework to start the process using classical tools like GIS.

## **7. Cost and resources**

The implementation of the three actions benefited from €310,000 funding, including a grant of €60000 from the DIACT programme. The fund allowed the appointment of two official representatives: one was bilingual for the cross-border marine pollution aspect and the other acted as overall co-ordinator. It should be noticed that the budget evolved as the work was proceeding and approved by the stakeholders (e.g. the initial budget perceived was only €75000).

## **8. Effectiveness (i.e. were the foreseen goals/objectives of the work reached?)**

For the first part on « marine pollution », a cross-border warning sequence was formalised and followed by tests and education. An operational agreement was written. The second part (“study of environmental issues”) was entrusted to a research consultancy. It found practical consequences in the SCOT: a Plan of management and sustainable development (PADD) was approved in 2009. For the third part (GIS), the process was launched with technical meetings with the stakeholders (also from Italy) to make an inventory of the available data and formalise update procedures. The process is still under way but yet not finalised. All these initiatives led the CARF to elaborate a cross-border project to continue and fund the co-operation. Thanks to the three actions, the different stakeholders became aware of sustainable development issues and policy integration. It allowed the CARF to organise, in December 2007, an exchange workshop on ICZM showing its determination to continue to invest in this theme.

## **9. Success and Fail factors**

As it was proposed by the French Riviera, the initial initiative was conventional, sector-based and poorly integrated. It is important to highlight the impulse given by the ICZM call for proposals of the DIACT. It contributed to take into account coastal environmental problems in a region which was poorly inclined to issues of sustainable development. The project was also integrated into a network of other DIACT projects so that it could develop and improve. The result was the will to organise a workshop in December 2007

## **10. Unforeseen outcomes**

None.

## **11. Prepared by**

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## **12. Verified by**

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## 13. Sources

- Application file for the project call for proposal - Communauté d'agglomération of the French Riviera and Syndicat Mixte of the French Riviera and Roya SCOT
- ICZM newsletter - December 2007 - CARF
- Integrated management of coastal zones in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur - « Éléments de compte rendu et perspectives »- SGAR- 2007
- Questionnaires and interviews to follow through the call for proposal «Pour un développement équilibré des territoires littoraux par une GIZC» of the DIACT/SGmer - CETMEF/IFREMER- Luce Goudedranche/ Jean-Louis Gaignon

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## 14. Relevance for cross-border management of transitional waters

Roya/Roia river discharges into the Ventimiglia bight of the Ligurian Sea forming a semi-enclosed transitional nearshore with strong salinity and ecosystem gradients. The Roya river basin comprises three countries: France, Monaco and Italy. Hence a bilingual GIS should be seen as the key tool facilitating trans-boundary information exchange.