

PEER REVIEW OF CASE STUDIES -2

Peer review of available methods for the SEA of the development projects and ICZM in TW areas dedicated to the 1st Policy Objective – Adaptation to risk

Themes:

- [Managing impacts of climate change and safeguarding resilience of coasts/coastal systems](#)
- [Preventing and managing natural hazards and technological \(human-made\) hazards](#)
- [Integrating coherent strategies covering the risk-dimension \(prevention to response\) into planning and investment](#)

1. [Integration](#). How the [different layers of governance and sectors](#) have been organized and [integrated](#) within the ICZM approach.

2. [Participation](#). How the general public and stakeholders have been involved in the ICZM implementation.

3. [Knowledge-based](#). Types of knowledge that were used by decision-makers and planners, and how they have been integrated in the ICZM approach.

4. [Ecosystems based approach](#). Integrated and science-based approaches aiming to sustain the health, resilience and diversity of whole ecosystem while allowing for sustainable use of the goods and services it might provide.

5. [Socio-economic](#). Approaches to socio-economic activities that result in benefits for the society and to its economic growth and are based in a sustainable use of resources.

6. [Technical](#). Aspects at the operational and technical levels of ICZM approaches.

- How to manage marine environments on a cross-border basis for both conservation and development interests on an ecosystems-basis despite conflicting jurisdictions and political uncertainty. This is achieved through [a dedicated management agency with specified legal responsibilities](#).
- The Loughs Agency established within the North-South Governmental Agreement aims to provide sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits through the effective conservation, management, promotion and development of the fisheries and marine resources of the Foyle and Carlingford Areas on a cross-border basis.
- In order to achieve sustainable development in the regions surrounding both Loughs it is necessary not only to [engage with direct users](#) but also essential to raise awareness of the loughs, their associated rivers and catchments and “to highlight vulnerability of the impacts.
- The resources that the Agency manage require conservation, protection, management and development and these objectives are achieved through [forming working partnerships and involvement with direct users](#) of the Loughs [along with other stakeholders](#).
- [Involvement with direct users](#) of the transitional waters [is usually achievable](#) as these areas are comparatively [sparsely inhabited](#).
- The success of the management regime undoubtedly results from the fact that there is a [dedicated agency tasked with very specific management objectives](#). This Agency has a formal [legal mandate with dedicated resources, both financial and personnel](#).
- The Agency operates in [four separate business areas: aquaculture, conservation and protection, corporate and development](#).

- **A PARAMOUNT GOAL:** Agency's Strategy for the Development of Marine Tourism and Leisure represents a unique opportunity and challenge to plan the development of the two water bodies and their catchment areas as complete entities for marine tourism, without political boundaries.
- Focus Groups meet approximately six times per year and work on ,hot issues', e.g., regulation of catches etc.
- Regular meetings ensure sufficiently flexible approaches to adapt to changing environmental conditions and in this way take the precautionary approach into account. This is particularly pertinent in relation to management of the fisheries resource. **IMPORTANT NOTE: PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE STRONG CREDENTIALS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS.**
- A greater focus on information and communication has been addressed by two innovative elements. Firstly, the newly formed Foyle and Carlingford Area Advisory Forum and secondly, an educational outreach programme known as 'Riverwatch'.
- The Loughs Agency organises an annual Angling Fair.
- The activity of the Agency is also supported by dedicated joint research projects.
- Coastal zones in the vicinity of large rivers cannot be managed independently from the rivers and their catchments. Spatially integrative management approaches are needed.
- The WFD has accelerated cross-border cooperation and, due to clear implementation time schedules, asks for concrete plans and actions within a given deadline.
- However, the focus of the present approaches is in practice very much on the river basin; coastal and marine issues are lacking.
- Furthermore, the thematic scope of the WFD is too limited to serve as a general management concept.
- Experiences concerning the implementation of the WFD in other river basins revealed that a small coastal community usually faces many representatives from the river basin.
- Therefore, the challenge for the coastal communities and communities adjacent to the transitional water body is to become capable to attract attention for their issues and problems.
- Another challenge is to overcome the cultural, economic and social differences between two countries and two legal systems and to find a common ground for cross-border cooperation.
- An umbrella high-level agreement particularly supported by a dedicated project funding can facilitate the co-operation between the actors and increase the motivation of regional authorities and administrations. It can facilitate the cross-border co-operation and the search for financial support.
- In general, the lack of a joint language reduces the efficiency of cross-border activities.
- **Critically important questions: How the outreaching towards the target groups comprising national networks should be managed? What specific trans-boundary cooperation tools should be applied to ensure smooth trans-boundary cooperation on various levels – regional, sub-regional, local?**
- **The main focus should be on the assessment of the key tools to ensure the effectiveness of the cross-border cooperation in the management of the system river basin – transitional water body – foreshore sea**
- Sharing and exchange of knowledge across the border facilitates establishing and fosters maintenance of a new partnership and the possibility to take into account the issues of sustainable development.
- The approach relies simultaneously on a collective, theme-based action, a study of environmental issues and GIS.

- As the first step of integrated cross-border management of the river basin and transitional water body, sharing and exchange of knowledge across the border allows the increased awareness on sustainable development issues and strengthen the commitment for cross-border cooperation among the local stakeholders, especially the elected representatives.
- A steering committee, which is formed with all the institutional and elected representatives and a technical group, has to follow up the study on environmental issues.
- In this framework, the consultation of the local population is also important.
- The GIS, ideally, should cover at least the lower-stream basin, the transitional water body and the marine nearshore where the impact of the discharged river water creates salinity, siltation and ecosystem gradients.
- Increased awareness of the importance of managing land and sea in a consistent and integrated way has led to the production of the joint management of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a trans-boundary European Marine Site by English and Scottish authorities.
- A joint management plan has been drawn up that will integrate the management of two, adjacent conservation areas which had previously been managed separately.
- A two step process: First, the close ecological relationship between the two areas has called for an equally close working (informal) relationship in their management.
- Second, the success of this collaboration in recent years has led to a vision of a more formalised collaboration.
- With AONB and EMS management documents due for review, the opportunity has been taken to realise this ambition with the production of an integrated management plan following consultation with the AONB Partnership, the EMS Management Group and wider stakeholders.
- The integrated plan was informed by the previous plans and the success of their implementation.
- A concurrent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as required under the SEA Directive, and an Appropriate Assessment, under the Habitats Regulations, have also been undertaken. The results of these assessments will be incorporated into the final plan which will be signed off by the competent and relevant authorities and partners.
- This plan incorporates policies that are intended to direct and influence the subsequent formulation of policy by local authorities (and other public bodies) in all relevant areas of activity that impact on the AONB, including development management, local transport and conservation.
- There are four broad management policies that apply to all themes and the entire plan across land and sea viz. ICZM including the ecosystem approach and constructive observation for cultural heritage, partnership working, climate change mitigation and sustainable development.
- Consideration has also been given to issues such as biodiversity, economic development, land and sea planning and tourism.
- An Action plan will guide implementation and form the basis of an annual work programme which will identify the necessary level of resources, the various organisations responsible for implementation and the role of the AONB and EMS staff teams. It will also set annual targets.
- Full, public consultation will be undertaken throughout the review and development of the plan.
- Monitoring is required in order to identify whether or not the plan is achieving the purposes of the respective designations. This monitoring will take two forms: monitoring performance to establish how well the partnership is progressing in delivering the plan's policies and actions; and monitoring condition to establish whether the special features of the AONB and qualifying features of the EMS are improving or deteriorating.
- The effects of "coastal squeeze" on land use as a result of climate change are managed effectively and equitably. Ecosystems are allowed to function freely and adapt to climate change.

- Community members are involved in projects to conserve, enhance, understand and enjoy the AONB and EMS.
- The Technical Scheldt Commission (TSC), directed by a Flemish and Dutch chairman, has as its primary task to implement various treaties between the Netherlands and Flanders relating to shipping, pilotage and the deepening of the waterway and to advise Flemish and Dutch politicians on technical issues such as water infrastructure and general management.
- A special project organisation, ProSes, was created in order to draw up a 2010 Development Outline which aims at a more sustainable trans-boundary management of the Scheldt estuary.
- The aim of the 2010 Development Outline was to define those projects and measures which, in a first stage, must be started up no later than 2010 to ensure the realisation of the long term vision for 2030.
- SEA, a social cost-benefit analysis and measures for developing the natural environment were carried out. In December 2004 the official version was presented to the government representatives, after intensive communication with the stakeholders and a consultation into the general public's views on the outline.
- This is being done in close consultation with all stakeholders and under the supervision of TSC.
- In order to compensate for loss of habitat due to losses caused by the widening of the shipping channel, mud-flats and salt-marshes are being created in flood control areas along the river.
- Both countries will jointly monitor the evolution of the estuary and the effects of the implemented projects in order to extend the knowledge of the estuary and to facilitate possible corrections.
- "From conflict to cooperation, towards common policy and management".
- The Development Outline resulted in a higher knowledge and understanding of the estuary of the Scheldt, bilateral networks on all levels, a legal framework for future cooperation and growing awareness of the public.
- Strengthening of the trans-boundary cooperation.
- Developing of the new modeling tool.
- Providing the lagoon current condition and the assessment of nutrient load reduction consequences.
- Providing a list of practical management recommendations.
- Sometimes a limited access to the relevant data.
- Sometimes data quality is poor e.g. due to the lack of inter-calibration between different monitoring agencies.
- Limited information on the local management strategies.
- Compiling data in terms of the historical and current lagoon quality as well as management plans of investments in reduction of point and defused nutrient sources made possible construction and validation of the MIKE 21 eutrophication model for the whole lagoon enabling analyses and visualization of the load reduction consequences.
- Project provided a current status description of the Vistula Lagoon and a list of concrete recommendations.
 - The International Commissions for the Protection of the Meuse (ICPM) and the Scheldt (ICPS) play an important role in drawing up international agreements.
 - One of the first steps that need to be taken in the making of a trans-boundary management is to reach an agreement on the present state of the river system.
 - A common knowledge base is important both because it offers a basis for further cooperation and provides a more thorough understanding of why the negotiating positions of the participating countries differ.
 - The countries involved are often not aware of these differences.

- Insight into these differences will result in an improved understanding between the countries that can serve as a starting point for further harmonisation of the policy.
- Similar practical problems and common concerns offer the most fruitful elements for co-operation through a step-by-step approach.
- The ultimate objective is to establish a cooperation platform for the common concerns taking into account the differences in national policy, legal aspects and regulations.
- Good knowledge of neighbors' language and management principles.
- Long-term traditions and experience in joint efforts.
- Agencies in both countries possess modern international experience and capacities.
- Excessively bureaucratic and top-down decision-taking system
- Complicated border crossing regulations impedes the effectiveness of joint actions: In emergency cases, actions of both agencies are confined to the national territories and require additional trans-boundary coordination efforts.
- Absence of the comprehensive trans-boundary hazard simulation and forecast system.
- Professionalism and commitment of cooperating agencies because the threat of natural hazards and routine rescue needs require close trans-boundary cooperation.
- The availability of a joint trans-boundary action plan to prevent extreme situations and emergency relief on the national and regional level.
- The established and well-functioning system for the effective and operative information.
- Harmonization of national legislation for the regulation of management of dredged material is crucial for the trans-boundary co-operation.
- Previous measures aimed at improving the environmental conditions of the Lagoon basin (environmental investments) and a strong interest of the units responsible for planning, advice on and execution of dredging works is crucial as well.
- Modification of the rules inconsistent with the HELCOM Recommendations is necessary.
- Similar actions simultaneously run by other party, with little publicity, but more advanced in the legislation process, may be a potential threat to the project.
- The potential failure may also be related to the reluctance of state services responsible for the state of affairs, who insist on the validity of current solutions.
- **What exactly was done by the responsible authorities of both jurisdictions to ensure the trans-boundary coherence of the dredging policy and meeting HELCOM requirements?**
- **How various stakeholders (including port authorities) were involved into the process of cross-border cooperation?**
- A legal framework (Kiev Protocol on SEA to the Convention on EIA) obliging the eventual hazard source state to involve the affected state into the trans-boundary SEA is the must.
- An integrated trans-boundary management plan must cover the whole area of a TW body and its direct drainage basin. It should cover all key themes.
- The most effective action in defending the interests is combination of lobbying, information and legal action, whilst securing sufficient human and financial resources, establishing social networks and mobilizing powerful allies.
- The conflict did get decided in the halls of bureaucracy.
- Concerted trans-boundary efforts of non-governmental stakeholders and governmental regulatory bodies.
- The navigation passage lies within the jurisdiction of Canada, which, being the potentially affected state, could decide.

- When the interests of the large business are at stake, other interests are played down by a potential hazard source state, which tends to apply the minimal possible environmental impact assessment procedures.
- Wadden Sea Plan expresses a shared vision of the aspired ecological state of the Wadden Sea as a unique tidal transitional water body and its ecosystems. A very clear-cut vision is the biggest positive experience of the Management Plan for Wadden Sea that can be exchanged internationally.
- An informed, involved and committed community.
- All three participating countries are the 'old' members of the European Union that have a long record of harmonizing the national environmental regulations with the EU requirements.
- The professional Common Wadden Sea Secretariat is established, which ensures sharing of information, joint monitoring and evaluation of the progress in management, as well as timely elimination of any bottlenecks and conflict resolution.
- There is a common Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program (TMAP) for the Wadden Sea carried out by the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark in the framework of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation.
- The coast control program initiated by a municipality in co-operation with the counterparts in the neighboring country, has shown that knowledge about the local environment is essential to evaluate how the environment is affected by local polluters and also which mitigation measures would be adequate.
- The program has created a baseline with data from which comparisons could be made with future test results.
- The discovery of two points of emissions of pollution resulted in additional clean-up measures.
- Helsingborg and Helsingör for a long time had a close cooperation. The program was extended to a larger area.
- The environmental awareness and the early start of the environmental investigations (5-6 years prior to the start of the construction).
- aseline studies were made between 1992-1995 collecting data to set up criteria and threshold values for maximum acceptable impacts.
- The hydrodynamic modeling using two independent 3 dimensional model systems simulated water flow conditions.