

Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

1. Key data

Project title:	Coastal Planning on the Gulf of Finland
Country:	Finland
Project phase:	prep. / study / planning / implementation / no progress
Launch:	January 1997
National funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC-funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC project references:	LIFE-Environment 96/FIN/071/PAZ
Lead partner:	Uusimaa Regional Environment Centre
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Project area:	Three coastal regions; Uusimaa, Itä-Uusimaa and Kymenlaakso covers 15 000 km ² of land areas and 1 000 km ² of water areas spread to 49 municipalities.
Area size (land): (water):	The coastline of these three regions is 9075 km long
Population size:	One and half million people live in the coastal regions, nearly a third of the Finnish population.
Policy background:	Human activities put a high pressure on the land-use development. Detailed land-use plans for coastal areas are needed, covering in particular the protection of natural resources of national and European interest.
Important sectors in the project set-up:	Tourism & Recreation, Transport, Landscapes & Cultural Heritage, Coastal Fishing, Public Access, Second Homes & Urban Sprawl and Habitats & Biodiversity.
Main aim:	
Expected results:	Preparation of efficient general land-use plans for the management of coastal areas; Implementation of existing regional plans; Contribution to the setting-up of the NATURA 2000 network; Environmental impact assessment practice developed as a part of the planning process; Participational planning process developed; Broad discussions of the goals and realising the plans; Dissemination of results and exchange of experience in the Baltic Region and under the Demonstration Programme.

2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

Ministries formally involved*: the Ministry of Environment

Regions (county, province) formally involved*:

Regions: Uusimaa, Itä-Uusimaa and Kymenlaakso.

Municipalities (towns) formally involved*:

Tammisaari, Inkoo, Porvoo, Pernaja, Ruotsinpyhtää, Pyhtää and Virolahti.

Main achievements:

Responsibilities for designation and management of protected areas often rests at a regional level, while land-use planning is more typically a local function. The Gulf of Finland has facilitated exchange of ideas and information between the seven municipalities working in parallel to develop local coastal management plans in an informal/ voluntary way. Many municipalities employ consultants to assist with municipal planning, and in particular with the recent requirements for master planning for the coastal strip. Municipalities have been obliged to prepare **master plans** prior to authorising any further development, through the system of building permits, in coastal areas. Master plans must be approved by the regional environment centres.

Problems encountered:

The planning system is proving adequate to address the two major concerns in the area (conservation, summerhouses) but will not be sufficient to deal alone with socio-economic issues arising from the relative isolation of the area and heavy seasonality in usage. The project team is looking at strategic development issues.

Local politicians and administrators may be influenced in their decisions by their own economic interests or by considerations of revenue for the municipality. Local authorities in the Gulf of Finland are inclined to empathise "with land-owners". This is clearly a problem, given the local authorities' central role in control of development.

3. Participation

Objectives re participation:

Environment stakeholders formally involved*: yes

Economic development stakeholders formally involved*: yes

Public hearings: [number]

Public access to project data: yes

Press, Media, leaflets, News letters, exhibitions, Plan reports/ summaries, education material, public meetings, conferences and workshops

Main achievements:

The Association of Local Authorities represents municipalities' interests at national level and provides technical and networking support to the municipalities on initiatives such as Local Agenda 21. The regional authority is a non-elected tier of government essentially providing a focus for inter-municipality co-operation across the wide range of services for which they are responsible.

Experts working at the Regional Environment Centres giving advice to coastal municipalities.

Problems encountered:

4. Information

Objectives re environment:

Main achievements: Finland has facilitated exchange of ideas and information among the seven municipalities working in parallel to develop local coastal management plans, particularly those located close together

Problems encountered:

5. Policy aspects, relevance and success:

Legal Jurisdictional issues:

Project objectives: The Finnish way of living- having your own holiday house- has resulted in overdevelopment of summer cottages. In Finland, until 1997, landowners had a right to construct dispersed buildings on the shore with a building permit, if the land was still quite undeveloped.

Main achievements: The amended building act of 1997 requires plans for shorefront development.

Problems encountered: "Everyman's right" inevitably leads to multiple recreational activities in natural areas, which can produce conflicts of use.

Environment:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Biodiversity conservation:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Economic development:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered: High costs of the technology used to adopt offshore aquaculture techniques in the Finnish Archipelago. Problem was also the need to travel a lot from the main land for regular and also very simple operations. The possibility to have reduction of the cost of the fuel came quite late. Adoption of technical solutions to minimise the needs for maintenance and surveillance represents an important requirement.

Spatial planning & zoning:

Project objectives: support for the development of transport modes that support ICZM

Main achievements:

Problems encountered: insufficient emphasis in the TEN-T programme has been given to support for the development of transport modes that support ICZM. EU could be more sensitive to the development pressures thereby generated on the coast. An example is the routes of planned roads in Southern Finland. In recent decades, the limited accessibility of remote Coastal Areas and Small Islands has been a major factor in a decrease of year round inhabitants in areas such as the Finnish Archipelagos. Outside assistance may be required to reduce their isolation.

Coastal defence:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:
Problems encountered:

6. Progress & Continuity

Follow-up:
No progress since: [month, year]
Main reason for lack of progress:

7. Sources

Project Report online: [attached in MS word or PDF]

*) formally involved means: as a project partner or represented in a project committee.

Bibliography:

Project Web site, if available

European Commission, *Better management of coastal resources, A European programme for integrated coastal zone management*, 1997

European Commission, *Lessons from the European Commission's demonstration programme on integrated coastal zone management*, 1999

European Commission, *Towards a European Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy: General Principles and Policy Options*, 1999

Thematic Study A, *Legal and Regulatory Bodies: Appropriateness to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study B, *Participation in the ICZM Processes: Mechanisms and Procedures Needed*, 1999

Thematic Study C, *Role and use of Technology in Relation to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study D, *Planning and Management Processes: Sectoral and Territorial Co-operation*, 1999

Thematic Study F, *Information required for Integrated Coastal Zone Management*, 1999