

Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

1. Key data

Project title:	Information, Concertation, requirements for the sustainable development of Magnesia's coastal zone
Country:	Greece
Project phase:	completion
Launch:	1997
National funding:	506,316.24 euros
EC-funding:	446,156.52, euros
EC project references:	LIFE-Environment 96/GR/580/PAZ
Lead partner:	Prefecture of Magnesia
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Project website:	www.anem.gr
Project area:	The project concerns the Prefecture of Magnesia, which has a multiform, sensitive coastline combining both an excellent natural environment as well as a man-made one. It also includes the northern Sporades, an archipelago a large part of which is designated as a marine National Park.
Area size (land):	the Prefecture of Magnesia covers 2 636 km ²
Population size:	According to the provisional results of the 2001 census, the total population of the prefecture was 207.000 inhabitants with upward trend.
Policy background:	The coastal zone is subject to pressure from tourism, urbanization, agriculture and transport. No integrated coastal zone management project had been implemented until the beginning of the Life project (1997).
Important sectors in the project set-up:	Geographical Information System, Tourism, Transport, Landscapes & Cultural heritage, Second homes, Habitats & Biodiversity and Water management, Arbitrary constructions, Water pollution issues.
Main aim:	The main aim of the project, which was to integrate the concept of sustainability into the management of the coastal zone of Magnesia, was analysed in three basic objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The creation of an information tool (Database) that will help in forming a policy and supporting the decision-making process on issues related to coastal zone management.▪ The creation of a frame of reference for assessing problems, setting priorities and developing strategies for coastal zone management.▪ The involvement of those community members ("actors") that influence the formation of the coastal area in procedures of both communication and concertation, and their familiarization with the concept of sustainable development.

Results: A strategic vision for the whole Department;
An integrated approach to the exercise of the Prefecture's responsibilities;
Adequate information (organized in a GIS Data Base)
A consistent approach to physical planning and economic development projects;
Operational co-operation mechanisms;
Sharing of experience at European level.

2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

Active involvement of the administration in the management of critical issues of Magnesia's coastal zone.

Ministries formally involved*: none

Regions (county, province) formally involved*:

The Prefecture of Magnesia, the Region of Thessaly

Municipalities (towns) formally involved*:

All coastal municipalities of Magnesia, (15 in total)

Problems encountered:

Main achievements:

Linkages with relevant agencies have been established by the project secretariat as part of a more directed process perhaps initially involving consultation, or collaboration on specific issues.

The project team worked with departmental directors in the Prefecture to identify a number of small pilot project of interest and which could generate visible products. Work teams were brought together to address these relatively simple problems which were designed primarily to motivate the staff and demonstrate a more proactive approach to planning and environmental management issues in the area.

3. Participation

Objectives re participation:

Enhance political will

Involving the public

Consultation as a mechanism for collaboration as a part of the participation process

Environment stakeholders formally involved*: yes

Economic development stakeholders formally involved*: yes

Public hearings: 13 in total

Public access to project data: yes

Main achievements:

To involve the public, the following mechanisms have been used: Press releases, exhibitions, mapping, priority search, Workshops and Public meetings.

Good practice of Consultation

Capacity building within the Prefecture by working with over 25 staff members identified by their directors.

Problems encountered:

Magnesia has deliberately delayed the awareness-raising efforts until after the local elections of 1997 because new public officials would be appointed.

4. Information

Objectives re information: The improvement of the decision-making environment on issues related to coastal zone management. This implies the existence of accurate, sufficient and targeted information.

Main achievements: Geographical Information System Data Base, Educational material, press releases, topic groups and establishment of a forum

Problems encountered:

5. Policy aspects, relevance and success:

Environment and Biodiversity conservation:

Project objectives: Improvement of the decision-making environment. The beginning of dialogue and concertation procedures on basic environmental issues

Main achievements: Collection and organization of scattered environmental data. Enhancing sensitization of administrative offices and local authorities

Problems encountered:

Economic development and Spatial planning & zoning:

Project objectives: The creation of a frame of reference for assessing problems, setting priorities and developing strategies for coastal zone management and development.

Main achievements: The frame – studies:

- Spatial planning of tourism development in Magnesia.
- Transportation network of the region.
- Use of the coastline, the seashore and public coastal land.

Problems encountered: there has been inconsistency between economic and physical planning strategies

6. Progress & Continuity

Follow-up: The Prefecture of Magnesia is in preparatory phase of establishing a dialog environment around the GIS regarding critical coastal management issues.

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: www.magnesia.gr for the GIS and www.anem.gr for the project

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

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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

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