



**WG ICZM**

**Third Meeting**

**Hamburg, 24 April 2007**

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**Agenda Item:** 5

**Subject:** Green Paper

**Document Nr.** ICZM

**Date:** 3 April 2007

**Submitted by:** Secretariat

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Attached is the final draft version of the WG ICZM comments to the EU Green Paper

**Proposal:** **The meeting is invited to adopt the document for submission to WSF-10**

**GREEN PAPER. STATEMENT BY WG-ICZM. FINAL DRAFT VERSION APRIL 2007****2.7. THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.**

The Wadden Sea Forum has identified several cases of substantial differences in the implementation of rules and regulations within the Wadden Sea Region (e.g. with regard to the EU EIA Directive). In order to facilitate sustainable development, rules and regulations should be harmonised and, where possible, simplified. Moreover, some rules and regulations could be superfluous, redundant and neither contribute to the protection of nature nor the improvement of social and economic conditions. There is also a lack of coordination between those rules and that there are many different terms for the individual protected sites.

**There is a need to approach the management of the coastal area in a more uniform and simple way that takes account and integrates economic, social and environmental dimensions.**

**Integrated management must also address the multifunctional use of marine areas by optimising the combination of uses.**

**The instrument of ICZM and the Regional Seas Approach are considered promising for achieving these objectives.**

**3.1 ATTRACTION OF COASTAL AREAS.**

The Wadden Sea Region has a strong identity, which is rooted in the cultural heritage, the typical Wadden Sea landscape features and the unique, from a world wide perspective, Wadden Sea nature area. The WSF has adopted a common vision for this Region, aiming at achieving a natural biodiversity, decreasing concentrations of polluting substances, dynamic urban centres and a vital rural community with a balanced population structure and good public facilities. Furthermore, the Wadden Sea Region offers room for entrepreneurship and economic activities make optimal (i.e. sustainable) use of the specific advantages of the Region, in particular the location by the sea, the nature potentials (agriculture, tourism) and the positive population development.

**ICZM and stakeholder involvement are considered prerequisites for maintaining the quality of life in the Wadden Sea Region and for realising the common vision.**

**The availability of region-specific, region comparable statistical data is of high importance for monitoring sustainable development indicators. It should also be possible to distinguish between maritime and terrestrial components of statistical data.**

**In promoting a regional-seas perspective (see 5.4), the EU must also pay due attention to improving the regional data situation (availability, cross-border comparability).**

**3.4 MANAGING LAND-SEA INTERFACE.**

The Wadden Sea Forum emphasises that there are many interactions between the Wadden Sea and the adjacent mainland and that a sustainable development strategy for the Wadden Sea Region must integrate policies for the Wadden Sea proper and the adjacent mainland. ICZM is a promising instrument for managing the land-sea interface.

**WSF is not in favour of introducing an EU ICZM Directive. ICZM should be promoted by raising awareness among all parties about its advantages. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that activities and institutions promoting ICZM, such as the WSF, are being supported, either directly by the Commission and/or through the member states.**

**Also stimulating ICZM courses in higher education is very relevant for the future of this management instrument.**

#### 4.2 SPATIAL PLANNING

The experiences with the Wadden Sea Forum have made clear how important it is to upgrade the classical instrument of spatial planning into integrated coastal zone planning, taking account of social, economic and ecological dimensions of development and involving all stakeholders. This can only be done by developing a long-term vision supported by all parties involved. Such an integrated long-term vision is a prerequisite for integrated coastal zone management because most developments in the coastal zone have planning dimensions of 10 years or more. Furthermore, a long-term vision is the basis for long-term planning which in itself is a necessary condition for economic investments and nature management

**Spatial planning must become a core element of ICZM, taking a multifunctional approach and showing all different interests. For the compatibility of marine and spatial planning, the use of common indicators is necessary. Activities for which both marine and terrestrial planning is needed, must be handled by one authority.**

#### 5.1 POLICY MAKING WITHIN THE EU. 5.4 GEOGRAPHICAL REALITIES

There are substantial differences in the way EU states implement EU framework Directives. In cross-border ecosystems this leads to differences in conservation and environment management in different parts of the same ecosystem and, generally, in unequal playing fields for commercial sectors.

In order to take account of regional specificities of EU marine waters, the following should be taken into due consideration:

- **Cross-border ecosystems should be managed according to a Regional Seas Approach, applying the instruments proposed in the above comments;**
- **Regional Seas should be designated on the basis of distinct ecosystem and geographical features, rather than administrative considerations** (Examples of cross-border regional seas are the Wadden Sea, the Skagerrak-Kattegat, the Gulf of Bothnia, the Irish Sea, the Adriatic Sea);
- **A central element of the further development of the EU maritime policy should be the promotion, support and specification of the Regional Seas Approach.**