

The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)

The Strategic Action Programme (SAP)

Progress in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Model Activity in Aden – Yemen

Introduction

ICZM is a management framework which has proven to be effective at enhancing the sustainable development of coastal resources and the marine environment at the local government level. It provides local government units with a mechanism and process to harmonize both the economic development and environmental management of marine and coastal resources.

ICZM ensures that the coastal decisions of all sectors and all levels of government are harmonized with and consistent with the coastal policies of the nation in question.

ICZM focus on environmentally sound integrated planning and management and serves as a blue-print for sustainable coastal development. A current consensus is that economic sustainability constitutes institutional and structural economic changes that allow for current improvement of societal welfare without foreclosing options for similar development for future generations.

ICZM in most countries in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region is adversely affected by weak co-ordination between ministries, overlapping jurisdictions, conflicting objectives, and weak execution of land use plans. The effective use of ICZM is especially important in supporting the co-operating countries to meet challenges related to long-term development of coastal settlements and development zones, further expansion of international and domestic tourism, and maintenance of the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of the coastal zone.

Therefore, PERSGA will support the preparation and assist in implementation of ICZM model activities for selected sites in the four southern countries—Djibouti, Sudan, the northern coast of Somalia and Yemen. The development of ICZM in these countries is less advanced than in the northern ones and measures need to be taken to transfer of knowledge from northern countries, improve their knowledge of the ICZM planning and management process in order to achieve regional goals for conservation of the coastal and marine environment.

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Objectives

The general objectives of the ICZM model activity are:

- To protect and rationally utilize the coastal resources over a relatively long period of time;
- To determine and recommend the management measures with a view to resolving the existing environmental conflicts and setting up the optimum paths of the future dynamic development;
- To propose a development concept of the selected coastal area of the model activity, harmonized with the receptive capacity of the environment

Strategy

The strategy is based on the principles of Sustainable development and integrated management of the coastal resources, the basic elements of which are:

- Increase and concentration of population;
- Development of economic activities which would respect the natural resources of the area;
- Cessation/halting of degradation of natural systems;
- Prevention of negative environmental processes in the future.

For the successful implementation of the model activity an active involvement of the national and local authorities is probably the most important factor. Additionally, the knowledge of the local conditions and the precise allocation of the environmental problems in the area can only be secured by the relevant national and local institutions. All activities should lead to the preparation of environmental management plans integrating all knowledge gained by individual actions.

Institutional framework

In the development of the ICZM MA the following actors should participate:

- PERSGA:
PERSGA is participating through the headquarters in Jeddah; PERSGA regional focal point agencies; SAP components and the national programme coordinator.
- Government authorities and organizations;
- National institution;
- Private sector and NGO's.

PERSGA national focal point agency, the Environment Protection Agency, is acting as a general national co-ordinator for the pilot activity in Aden;

A national ICZM working group representing all relevant stakeholders has been established. The working group major task is to participate in the formulation, preparation and implementation of the integrated management plans as well as agree on the detailed work plan, review progress and consider future plans;

Scope of Work

The work in the MA in Aden, has been divided into the following stages:

First Stage - Preparatory

Activity 1-1

Formulation of the national ICZM working group:

A multidisciplinary national team representing all relevant stakeholders in Aden was established by the EPA (see annex). A Preparatory meeting was held in Aden with the team in September 2001 at the Aden Governorate HQ. Objectives of the meeting was to discuss objectives of the activity, site selection and workplan.

Activity 1-2

Selected coastal sites:

The national ICZM working group reached a consensus and selected the coastal line of Aden Governorate to implement the MA activity. This area is appropriate for the comprehensive analysis of several issues of ICZM concern such as the urban development, ecosystems, tourism and industries development and free zone. The site is also rich in biodiversity and has several environmental sensitive areas as well.

The site is located between 12° 5' – 12° 7' N and 45° 32' – 45° 00' E. The total Area is 35846 Hectar. The length of the coastal line is -----.

The governorate is consisting of eight Districts. A local elected council including 16 members representing the 8 districts

The Environment Protection Agency has a well established branch in Aden as well

Activity 1-3

Establishment of the national experts group:

An announcement has been made in the local newspapers seeking for qualified national experts in ICZM. 12 applicants received and all of them were interviewed. A team of two national experts was appointed to perform the first assignment which is to conduct the ICZM preassessment survey (Coast Profile) for the selected site.

Second Stage - Prospective Analysis

This stage, which can be identified as the initiating stage, elaborates frameworks that show interactive relationship between development activities and environment.

Activity 2-1

Development of environmental scenarios through which the impact on the environment of various options of development is analysed.

In initiating, the development of the ICZM model activity, it is essential to have a clear profile of socio-economic, cultural, political and ecological characteristics of the site. Such information is needed in determining the types and level of policy and management interventions. Through environmental profiling and consultation with stakeholders, it is possible to prioritise the environmental concerns requiring immediate attention.

In this regard an ICZM preassessment survey (Coast Profile) in Aden was conducted through the period of Jun-August 2001.

The survey covered the following issues;

1. General information, socio economic, cultural, etc;
2. Land-Use planning, land use changes and development activities;
3. Environmental characteristics;
4. The impacts of the development activities on the coastal area;
5. The organizational structure and relationship with stakeholders;
6. Recommendations

The detailed report on the survey findings was produced in Arabic, the data was analyzed using GIS-Arc-View maps.

Activity 2-2: National ICZM workshop

The **national ICZM working group** was invited to four day workshop to discuss the report, train on basic concepts of ICZM, present other case studies from the region and identify the major environmental concerns in Aden. Almost 28 concerns were identified. The group, then, was divided into teams according to the environmental concerns to analyze each of the concerns in terms of existing regulations and bylaws, organizational structure and suggest the working mechanism deal with the concerns.

Stage 3 - Integrated planning and management programme:

The Integrated plan and management programme (IPMP) shall provide a general framework and long-term action program within which more detailed issue-specific and area-specific action plans can be developed

Activity 3-1

Development of Integrated Planning and management study

The objective of this activity is to establish the basis of the process of integrated planning and management of the resources of the coastal area of the model activity and to develop an outlook of the area based on the capacity of the environment to sustain the proposed development among other benefits.

Based on the results achieved from the National ICZM workshop (Activity 2-2), the Integrated Planning and management first draft was prepared by the Lead Specialist. The plan covered the following aspects:

Chapter one:

- Objectives;
- Fundamental concepts of ICZM;
- List of related Regulations and by laws

Chapter two:

- Management mechanism of the plan;
- Implementation plan;
- Organizational and legal arrangements;
- Environmental Impact Assessment.

Chapter three:

- Monitoring and inspection mechanism;
- Consequences and penalties.

Chapter four:

- Contingency plans.

Chapter five:

- Building local capacity to plan and manage coastal and marine areas;
- Data gathering;
- Training plan of local people from the public and private sector to manage and implement ICZM programs and related supporting activities; and
- Establish partnerships and building awareness and capabilities among full range of stakeholders including relevant Government agencies, academic institutions, community leaders, private sector interests and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) to fully participate in ICZM.

Chapter six:

- Guidelines for planning un-developed coastal areas;
- Guidelines for construction activities;
- Guidelines for sea entrances;
- Identification for buffering coastal and reef zones.

Chapter seven:

- Guidelines for public beaches;

- Guidelines for offshore activities;
- Guidelines for the construction of harbours and jetties;
- Soil erosion sediments;
- SPORTS
- Ancr ridge

Chapter eight:

- A strategic environment plan for sustainable development of the coastal and marine resources.

Chapter nine:

- Environmental investments by both the public and private sectors such as tourism and industries;
- Environmental monitoring program

Chapter ten:

- Short-term action plans covering critical environmental management issues, such as waste management and eco-tourism;

Activity 3-2

In January 2002, the Integrated Planning and management first draft was presented by the ICZM LS and the national consultants in a one day seminar to all members of the local council in Aden and in several individual meetings with government officials.

As a result of these meetings the first draft of the plan was approved and adopted with slight changes and comments;

However the following aspects was missing/needs more ellaboration from the plan:

- 1- Regulations and by laws;
- 2- Monitoring and inspection mechanism;
- 3- Consequences and penalties;
- 4- The bylaws of the free zone area (in this field the local council requested and insisted to exchange experience with SA);
- 5- Integration the content of Chapter six with existing system implement by the Ministry of Public Work and Urban development;
- 6- Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines;

Hence, it was recommended the national team who conducted the preassessment survey and the regulation expert assigned by PERSGA for the “Regional regulations component to be assigned to work with Lead Specialist to fill in the missing points and produce the

second draft of the Plan. The second draft should be finalized in the first half of April 2002;

The plan will be cleared by PERSGA and then will be sent to stakeholders for comments. The second national workshop will be conducted in late April to

- present the plan, discuss the comments;
- adopt the Plan;
- identify priorities for implementation.

Senior officials will participate in this workshop as well.

This workshop will coincide the second ICZM Working Group Meeting.

Future Activities:

To continue the process, PERSGA through the ICZM component will provide assistance to implement the first priorities identified during the workshop and prepare a MOU between PERSGA and stakeholders in this regard.

PERSGA will provide assistant in the following areas:

Developing Institutional Arrangements

As a result there has often been little opportunity for input from outside interests whether public or private, particularly at the local government level. On top of this, no specific criteria has been established for involving public participation into the planning process. In the absence of an effective and appropriate institutional mechanism, ICM cannot be carried out. A study was conducted to determine the most appropriate institutional mechanism that would address resource use conflicts and ensure the sustainable development of the bay area. The formulation of a multisectoral organization which takes the form of a council was recommended.

Developing Data Gathering

The environmental profile of the model activity area acknowledges the inadequacy of information base for a more specific assessment of environmental issues and in determining the most appropriate management regimes for the area. Although the Strategic Environmental Management Plan will be developed within the purview of available data, the generation of addition information is expected to enhance the present strategies and programs set forth for the model activity area's management. Institutional networking will be established as a basic strategy in the pursuit of activities under this component.

Developing Environmental Monitoring

A monitoring program was designed to provide information on the state of marine environment to policy makers/managers and the general public in order that appropriate

strategies and actions can be taken for the sustained use of the marine environment. Participation in the monitoring program included local and national government agencies, private companies operating around the bay, and academic institutions. Appropriate institutional arrangements requiring multi-sectoral involvement was developed to ensure that the process of environmental monitoring and assessment could be sustained

Developing Financial Options

Generally, most local governments in the region do not have the expertise or funds to develop, construct, and operate efficient and effective environmental facilities and services such as a municipal solid waste management system although they are mandated to do so.

Recognizing that the governments has very limited funds to finance all the environmental programs of the ICZM model activity areas, innovative financing mechanisms will be proposed in the Strategic Environmental Management Plan to help sustain its implementation

Adopting

The ADOPTING phase of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) cycle comes after the necessary elements of the DEVELOPING stage have been completed. Getting the Strategic Environmental Management Plan and other action plans adopted by the local government authority is a crucial exercise at this stage. To facilitate this, the general public should be informed of the environmental problems, the risks associated with public health, ecosystem health, and the well being of the society especially in terms of food and employment security.

Adoption by the local government brings the developed plans and organizational mechanisms into a heightened level of legitimacy. This solidifies the ICM initiative in terms of its sustainability due to a higher degree of political will from stakeholders.

Implementing

Program implementation begins by setting up an interagency and or multi-sectoral coordinating mechanism including the operating office. The project management arrangements at this stage can be transformed and become the essential part of the local governments' institutional structure through appropriate legislative procedures. External financing resources should be used to operationalize the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) program.