

Synthesis - CCC Part I: EU, the Netherlands and Romania

ICZM progress and achievements

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*Dutch coast: Wide beach at low tide.
(photo: Simon Werner)*

In the last 20 years, **the European Union** has developed a leading role in ICZM, covering the full range of activities from problem recognition to evaluation, including both a top down and bottom up approach. The results of these efforts can be seen in a number of ways:

- By *triggering* ICZM in many EU countries with an increase in the general awareness of the drawbacks of unsustainable coastal development and the impacts of climate change on low lying coastal areas; the general adoption of ICZM principles; and the incorporation of ICZM in national and regional planning procedures;
- By *developing* ICZM knowledge and capabilities, and exchanging experiences between countries at different administrative levels and with local stakeholders.
- By *applying* ICZM principles, through the participation of coastal countries, at all levels (including regions and local communities) in the planning and implementation of coastal management strategies and activities.

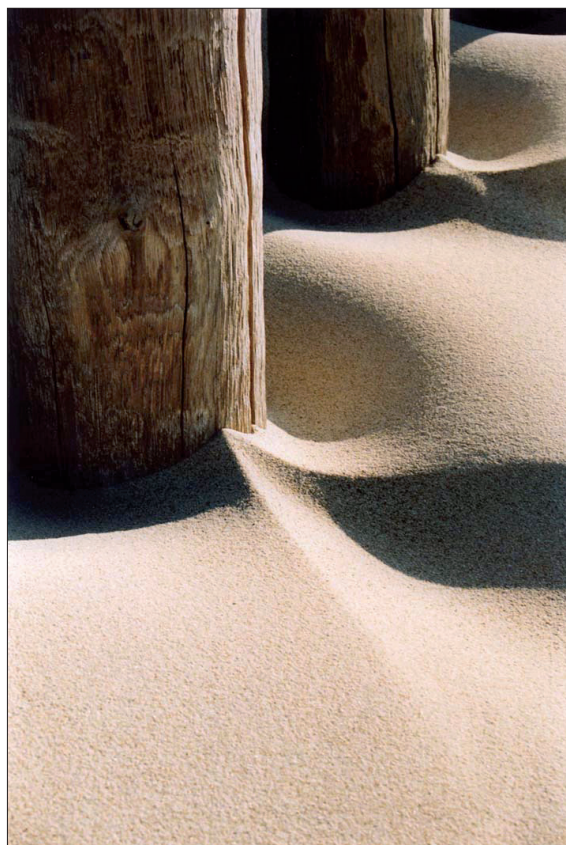
ICZM at the EU level, and in most European countries has become very important and includes active participation of NGOs. The latter play valuable roles ranging from dissemination of knowledge on coastal systems to daily management of coastal areas.

From historic perspective, **the Netherlands** has been very active in the field of coastal protection. In the last few decades, the development of the concept of ICZM has led to a large number of tangible results. These relate to a variety of complex problems, common to many coastal areas in the world. The examples in the Netherlands show that it is

possible to overcome serious and complex coastal problems using an ICZM approach, although this may require considerable, long-term efforts. Major innovative achievements improving the development of the delta include the execution of resilient, sand nourishment schemes; the sustainable development of the Greater Rotterdam harbour through integrated planning; the spectacular improvement of water and sediment quality through clean-up measures in the river basins; and the establishment and implementation of a zoned North Sea Management Plan. The recent adoption of a long term strategy and its institutional arrangements is an important step addressing the serious, anticipated impacts of climate change.

In **Romania**, the Danube Delta was the first area to be protected, because of the increasing awareness of its critical state in the early nineties. Although Romania has only recently joined the EU and still has a long way to go to increase its economy to the EU average level, ICZM was recognised as

an important mechanism, for managing socio-economic activities and addressing coastal problems such as erosion and impact of climate change in a holistic way. The process of becoming an EU member state resulted in a broadening and intensification of ICZM activities. During this period, a number of steps were taken towards establishing ICZM in Romania. International cooperation was a very important factor in the development and implementation of ICZM activities and projects. However, the ICZM process in Romania has only just begun and many potential obstacles, problems and challenges are still to be faced before it is fully implemented. In this respect, a number of other countries have already taken further steps in providing a wealth of knowledge and learning experiences. The further development of ICZM in Romania will look to the exchange of experience with other countries and cooperation through international projects and programmes.



(photo: Simon Warner)



Danube Delta coast: coastal retreat and salt water intrusion affecting coastal vegetation. (photo: Stefan Constantinescu)