

ICZM and Large-scale Planning Procedures in the German Coastal Zone: A Retrospective Analysis

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Background

It has become increasingly apparent that coastal zones all over the world need to be managed as complete systems in which the many complex relations and interdependencies among the different environments and the local communities are properly taken into account. Growing concerns about the state of the European coast has prompted the European Commission and Member States to introduce Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as a measure that will hopefully lead to a sustainable development of the coast (ICZM Demonstration Programme (1999); Recommendation (2002) and Strategy (2002) for the implementation of ICZM).

This is the background for the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) to settle the focal point "Research for sustainable coastal zone management". The interdisciplinary research project RETRO is supported as the first project within this framework.

Project Objectives

Construction and Operation of large-scale infrastructure projects may have strong impact on the coastal environment, may touch different economic and social interests and may lead to strong conflicts. Thus a complex legal framework and a practice based on it has been established in Germany as in the other European States. We assume that ICZM should be based on this legal framework as far as possible. In RETRO, which runs for one year, we thus are examining the completed planning procedures of 10 large-scale infrastructure projects in German coastal regions (North Sea and Baltic Sea; see figure 1). The projects are checked in terms of their "ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) suitability" through a retrospective analysis of the legal framework and the practice based on it.

We assume that a number of the requirements formulated for ICZM at the national and international level are already met through existing legislation and/or established practice, at least to a basic extent. However, we presume that there are still numerous deficits as regards content and methodology.

The analysis is conducted systematically according to a checklist that has been developed in

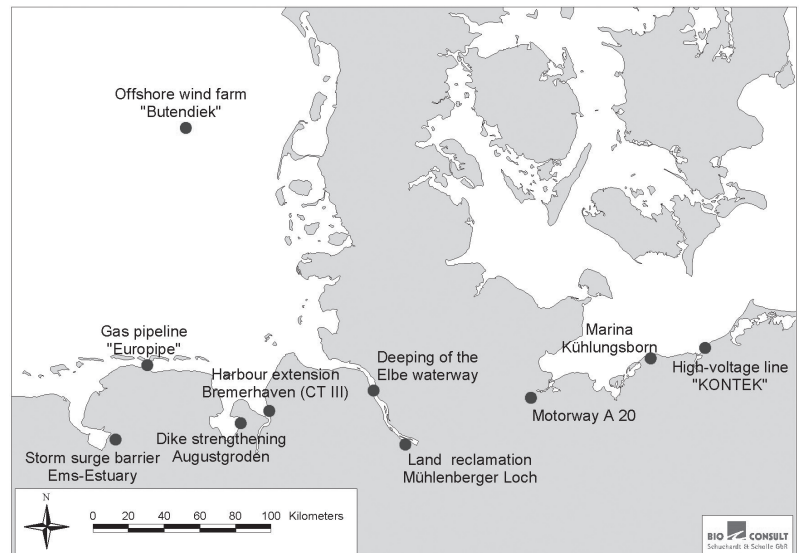


Figure 1:
Location of infrastructure projects examined within the RETRO project.

the project primarily on the basis of the ICZM strategy of the EU and which includes legal, social, economic, planning-related and ecological aspects. This checklist is used in identifying the aspects that currently already meet the requirements of ICZM as well as those in which deficits still exist.

Based on the analysis, specific instructions and recommendations will be worked out for the establishment of ICZM in Germany.

Participants

The project is carried out by an interdisciplinary team composed of sociologists, legal experts, geographers, ecologists and planners (coordination: M. Schirmer):

- University of Bremen; Institute for Ecology and Evolutionary Biology: M. Schirmer
- University of Bremen; Institute for Sustainability: H. Lange
- University of Bremen; Law Department: G. Winter
- BioConsult Schuchardt & Scholle GbR, Bremen and Gnarrenburg: B. Schuchardt

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