

National ICZM strategies in Germany: Challenges to the spatial planning approach

Kira Gee, Social Science Research
Center, Berlin (Germany)



TM; Landsat 7, bearbeitet von GKSS.IfK

Project brief

Aim: To develop suggestions for a national ICZM strategy from the point of view of spatial planning

Funding: Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR), Federal Ministry of transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW)

Steps:

- a comprehensive stocktake including ecosystems, key institutions and the regulatory framework,
- assessment of trends and compatibilities,
- definition of national priority issues,
- development of suggestions for implementing ICZM nationally and regionally (North Sea and Baltic Sea coasts)



Cornerstones of a German ICZM strategy

Aims:

- To help maintain the **integrity and functionality of coastal and marine ecosystems**,
- To facilitate the **sustainable development** of coastal and marine areas, with equal consideration of economic, ecological and social needs;

Objectives:

- To implement a **systems approach to management** based on definite sub-units of the coast,
- To facilitate the development of a **polyculture of use** based on compatibility of uses, societal preferences and prioritisation,
- To provide a **flexible framework**, in which management can be adapted to local and regional needs (acknowledging differences in ecological, economic and social systems).



Spatial planning as a magic solution?

- recognises compatibilities, balances use, incorporates environmental assessment and public hearing
- sets national framework, refined by series of regional plans.

But:

- national priorities may be incompatible with regional and local priorities
- unclear how marine and coastal planning will be linked
- insufficient link between formal planning process and informal ICZM processes

**Main concern: Planning priorities must be based on vision.
What future for the coast?**



What future for the coast?

Conceivable priorities for the coast:

nature conservation
economic growth
tourism and recreation
marine transport
energy production

Which forms of use should dominate? Who decides and how?



The ICZM cycle:

stocktake
developing visions
setting objectives,
priorities, challenges
implementation
evaluation

Shaping the future of the coast is a societal task. As such, it requires an inclusive system that:

- a) allows the development of visions and then facilitates the continuation of the ICZM cycle
- b) links formal and informal processes

Essential elements for an effective ICZM cycle:

- a) information on likely costs and benefits of developments
(role for impact assessments)
- b) appropriate structures for a fair, inclusive and transparent visioning and decision-making,
(role for existing informal structures)
- c) mediation, where appropriate
- d) means of implementing decisions
(role for formal planning system),
- e) monitoring system based on appropriate indicators
(role for science – including monitoring of processes)
- f) ‘learning system’: adaptability and flexibility
(role for policy-oriented, transdisciplinary research)

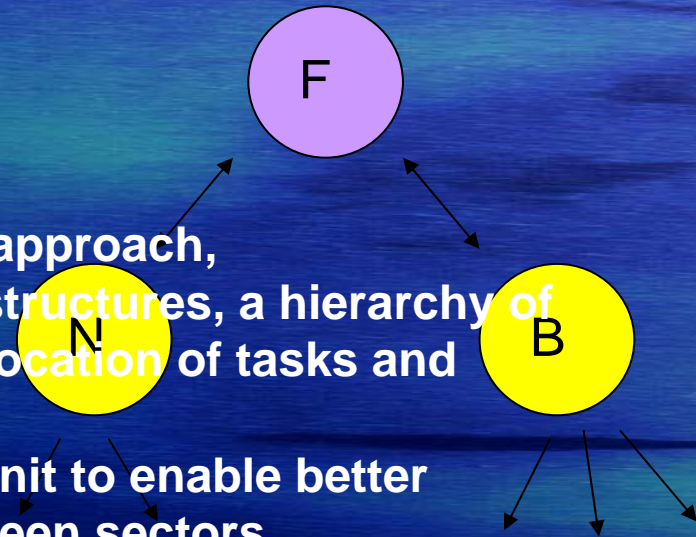


Suggestions for Germany:

- Cycle must take place at the same time at a national, Länder and local government level,
- Cycle must be transparent, provide for easy information flow and communication,
- Cycle must include administration, science, civil society and investors as equal partners.

Cycle must be based on:

- stronger focus on a problem-oriented approach,
- Establishing, on the basis of existing structures, a hierarchy of informal structures (fora) with clear allocation of tasks and responsibilities,
- establishing a national co-ordination unit to enable better coordination and communication between sectors.



Role for science:

Go-between in that it analyses societal factors, informs the development of dialogue and enables capacity-building for good governance

Thank you!

