



Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Lebanon

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ICZM IN LEBANON

Progress and Future Prospects

DESCRIPTION AND CHALLENGES

- Represents ~8% of the total area of the country.
- Hosts up to ~ 33% of the total built-up area & ~ 55% of the total population.
- Average density: ~ 1600 persons/km² compared to ~ 400 persons/km² on national scale.
- More than 70% of industrial zones located on the coast.
- Sea filling with urban waste and quarry products.
- Destruction of habitats, displacement of species, non-indigenous invasions.
- Successive political and financial crises.
- Chronic corruption.
- Lack of local, regional & national land use plans.
- Poorly defined national planning authorities.
- Overlapping & uncoordinated environmental management responsibilities.
- Outdated & inconsistent environmental legislation coupled with severe lack of enforcement of laws.

MAIN CONTRIBUTORS TO ICZM

2002 – 2004

Coastal Area Management Program (CAMP)

- ICAM National Strategy.
- CZ management plans for target municipalities.
- First ICAM Law for Lebanon.

2006-2009

Integrated Management of East Mediterranean Coastlines (IMAC)

- Status Report & Stakeholder Analysis.
- Economic Valuation.
- Institutional and Legal Setting Assessment.
- Strategic action plan for North Lebanon CZ.

2011-2012

Environmental Resources Monitoring In Lebanon (ERML)

- Status of Coastal Sensitive Areas.
- Review of national legislation and policies.
- Land use / land cover change.

2014-2015

Updated Draft Law and Updated Draft Strategy on ICZM

- Updated draft law on ICZM submitted to MoE.
- Updated Draft National Strategy on ICZM submitted to MoE.

2015-2016

GreatMed Project

- Handbook on Progress of the implementation of ICZM protocol for the Mediterranean.
- Toolkit for assessing biodiversity at plant species and their vulnerability.



The 2015 Draft Law on ICZM

Main highlights

DRIVERS

- Major occupation (legal and illegal) of the Maritime Public Domain (MPD).
- Increased limitation of public access to the MPD.
- Ratification of the Protocol on ICZM in the Mediterranean on 18 September 2014.
- Necessity of activation of the Protocol on ICZM in the Mediterranean under national law.
- Necessity of creation of a “National Council for ICZM”.



OBJECTIVES

- Ensure integrated and sustainable management of the CZ.
- Preserve the MPD and secure the wellbeing of coastal communities.
- Protect the marine environment, coastal areas and associated biological and physical resource and land and marine landscapes.
- Ensure coordination between ministries, competent authorities, stakeholders and the civil society.
- Develop principles and mechanisms in favor of the achievement of the ICZM Protocol objectives.



ICZM DRAFT LAW DEVELOPMENT

- The Marine and Coastal Resources Program at the Institute Of the Environment – University Of Balamand partnered with the Law offices of A. Abboud and Associates.
- Extensive review of national legislation and policies.
- Extensive review of legislations related to ICZM at international level.
- Expert meetings.
- Drafting and finalization of the law in collaboration with the MOE Legal Department.



THE DRAFT LAW AT A GLANCE

- Clear definitions of CZ, Coastal waters and Coastal lands.
- 26 articles spread over seven sections:
 - Objectives of the law
 - National Council for ICZM
 - Duties of the Council
 - Reports of the Council
 - Setting the ICZM strategy and master planning
 - Divisions and plans by the Council
 - Sanctions
- Most important is the creation of the National Council for ICZM.
 - Independent Council headed by the Prime Minister.
 - Composed of related ministries, specialized NGOs, representative of the private sector related to the CZ, scientific and research community.
 - Other institutions invited depending on subject.



THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ICZM: MAIN TASKS

- Develop a strategy for ICZM, a Master Plan for all coastal areas and propose the gathering and amendments of laws and regulations.
- Coordinate between all competent authorities and stakeholders.
- Ensure the sustainable use of CZ natural resources.
- Safeguard the integrity of ecosystems, landscapes and all unique natural sites in CZ and water basins.
- Prevent and / or reduce the effects of natural hazards.
- Support the evaluation of EIAs and SEAs in its field of expertise.
- Require public institutions and related authorities to provide the Council with all information affecting the ICZM in any project presented to it.
- Mediate or conciliate, in case of any dispute/conflict over mandates between different authorities concerned with CZ.



The 2015 Draft Strategy on ICZM

Main highlights

WHAT IS AN INTEGRATED COASTAL STRATEGY

- **Purpose:** to organize an integrative, holistic system for ensuring sustainability of coastal resources, the perpetuation of biodiversity, socio-economic improvement and security from natural hazards.
- **Main objective:** to overcome the consequences of an uncoordinated sequence of coastal development projects.
- An integrated strategy succeeds under an officially recognized “National Council for ICZM”.
- ICZM strategy must remain flexible through periodic reviews.



INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

- Preliminary investigation, data collection.
- Stakeholder consultation.
- Draft writing to enable the Government to define the issues, to understand its options and to take appropriate decisions for the sustainable use of resources.



VISION

“The responsible development of the coastal zone of Lebanon to realize opportunities for its thriving coastal communities while making wise use of the rich natural resources of the area without foreclosing the prospects of future generations. **The joint efforts of all stakeholders working together** will result in a well-managed coastal zone with protected natural and cultural sites, free access to beaches, well integrated transportation, vibrant and diverse local economies without conflicting use and depletion of natural resources.”

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- The ICZM Protocol and the “Draft Law” emphasize the inclusion of all economic, social and environmental sectors, both at private and public levels, in the preparation, approval and subsequent implementation of the currently proposed ICZM Strategic objectives.
 1. Community well-being (16 opportunities).
 2. Environmental quality and nature conservation (31 opportunities).
 3. Economic products and services (13 opportunities).
 4. Land use management (20 opportunities).
 5. Public participation and access to information (14 opportunities).

WHO IMPLEMENTS THE STRATEGY?

Support and participation of a wide range of stakeholders:

- The community
- Agricultural sector
- Fisheries sector
- Tourism sector
- Industrial sector
- Municipalities
- Environmental organizations and research centers
- National government agencies



HOW CAN THE STRATEGY BE IMPLEMENTED?

- Should be supported by passing the current draft ICZM Law.
- Should be governed by the “National Council for ICZM”.
- “Strategic objectives” need action planning through a participatory process.
- Create a Coastal Forum as a space for all stakeholders at all level to contribute to sustainable ICZM (**already established**).
 - Engage different sectors and concerned organizations.
 - Discuss and promote related issues or concerns.
 - Main portal for raising awareness.
 - Essential source and sink of information to and from the “National Council for ICZM”.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Update the draft 2015 Strategy on ICZM based on the results of CP2.1 and CP2.2 projects (Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems WEFE).
- Advocate the passing of the draft ICZM law and strategy.

THANK YOU

