



CO-EVOLVE

Promoting the co-evolution of human activities and natural systems for the development of sustainable coastal and maritime tourism

FACTSHEET #3.8.3

Guidelines for coastal protection and management

SUMMARY:

Through this task, the Institute of Marine Sciences of the National Research Council (CNR-ISMAR, Italy) capitalised the review and the synthesis carried out in the framework of the Tasks 3.8.1 and 3.8.2 to provide some strategies for conjugating efficient protection measures and sustainable beach tourism in the perspective of a changing climate.

Coastal protections mainly aim to protect shoreline against beach erosion and sea flooding. Both objectives are strictly oriented firstly to the level of human safety and health, and then to the level of amenity of the beach that mainly interests touristic activities.

The Mediterranean basin has been identified by the International Panel on Climate Change as a “hot spot” area “at risk of marine ingression, coastal erosion and land deterioration”. At the same time, the Mediterranean is one of the most visited tourism areas in the world.

The disconnection among coastal defence plans, a widespread shortcoming until the final decades of the past century, usually results in a limitation of the positive results achieved from

Mediterranean tourism facts

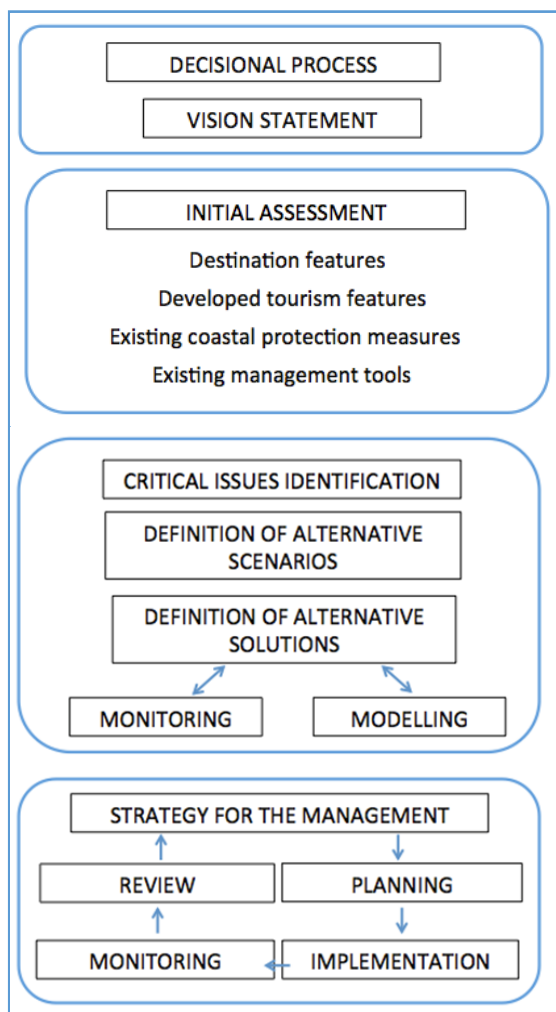
- 1/3 of international tourist arrivals worldwide
- 20% of the global cruise market
- 215 Million visitors in Mediterranean coastal zones in 2014
- 4% Average anual growth
- Annual growth peaks : 23% in Greece and 10% in Albania
- +2.9% expected annual arrival increase in the period 2010-2030

their implementation, if not in an actual local increase in the exposure to erosion and flooding and a consequent reduction in beach recreational values for tourism and economic activities.

Understanding all the physical and environmental features of the site involving hydrodynamics and morphodynamics, together with articulated monitoring activities and a coordinated decisional framework, is the advised good practice to plan and manage coastal protection measures as enabling factors for the development of sustainable tourism and avoid the diffusion of adverse effects connected to an incautious planning of the protection strategy.

In order to harmonise sustainable coastal tourism and coastal protection in national or regional contexts, the CNR-ISMAR proposed a 4-step approach to the definition of coastal protection strategies, to be evaluated and adjusted by means of articulated monitoring activities.

This requires the definition of a sound set of indicators to estimate the effects the implemented actions (also in terms of their relationship with tourism needs and impacts) and the integration of monitoring and modelling tools to characterise the ongoing processes and predict the possible response to different planning options.



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