

INDICATORS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN SUPPORT OF INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT IN BELGIUM, THE SOUTHERN NORTH SEA AND EUROPE

Lescrauwaet Ann-Katrien¹, Kathy Belpaeme², Hannelore Maelfait², An Vanhoorne¹, Francisco Hernández¹, Edward Vanden Berghe¹ and Jan Mees¹

¹ Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)
Wandelaarkaai 7, B-8400 Oostende, Belgium
E-mail: annkatrien.lesrauwaet@vliz.be

² Co-ordination Centre for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Wandelaarkaai 7, 8400 Oostende, Belgium

High-quality information and scientifically underpinned data is needed in support of decision taking and good governance in coastal zones. Good governance does not only pursue effective policies and efficient administration. It also aims at building capacity and commitment within society, by supporting a flow of objective and reliable information towards the stakeholders and the wider public, and in a format that is useful and relevant for its purpose. A set of sustainability indicators (SI) addressing the complexity of ecological, environmental and socio-economic issues involved in achieving an integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) can provide an answer in a format that is useful for policymakers and is an effective communication tool towards a wider range of stakeholders.

In a demonstration session, the sustainability indicators (SI) for coastal zones are presented and interactive tools to search, visualize and download data, are displayed. The SI form part of a wider information system for Belgium, as developed by the Co-ordination Centre for ICZM (www.kustbeheer.be); the SAIL partnership in the southern North Sea (www.vliz.be/projects/SAIL) and European DEDUCE project (INTERREG III C South – www.deduce.eu). The initiatives are developed within the framework of the objectives as set forward in the EU Recommendation concerning the implementation of ICZM.

References

- Anon. 2005. EU Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe. Report on Implementation in The Netherlands. RWS/RIKZ. 28p.
- Belpaeme K. and H. Maelfait. 2005. The coastal compass, indicators as guides for integrated coastal zone management. Coordination Centre for Integrated Coastal Zone Management: Oostende, Belgium. 80p.
- Belpaeme K. and P. Konings (Eds). 2004. The coastal atlas Flanders-Belgium. 99p.
- Lescrauwaet A.K. *et al.* 2006. State of the coast of the southern North Sea. Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee (VLIZ). Oostende, Belgium.
- Paredis E., T. Block and J. Van Assche. 2001. Moving towards sustainability indicators for the coastal area. Universiteit Gent. Centrum voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling. Gent, Belgium. 64p.