Leac A Participatory Iczm Tool

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The Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) protocol sets a common framework for ICZM for all countries in the Mediterranean basin, yet a wide variety of approaches and techniques are implemented. This study presents the approach implemented from a pilot site in the People for Ecosystem-based Governance in Assessing Sustainable development of Ocean and coast (PEGASO) project; building on existing capacities to develop a common novel approach to support integrated coastal zone management in the south of France (Bouches du Rhone Department). Using a participatory approach, local stakeholders were interviewed to identify potential tools to facilitate ICZM in the Department. The in-depth interviews highlighted a multitude of conflicting land uses (urbanization, farming, natural areas, etc.) resulting from a prolongation of sectorial management put in place during the 1960. In response, the project implemented a Land and Ecosystem Accounting technique (LEAC). This tool aimed to identify how conflicting land use issues have evolved over the years and the consequences that this has on the site. Ecosystem accounts recorded the state of natural resources and ecosystem components in terms of quality (e.g. land-cover); quantity (e.g. volume of biomass, area of certain land-cover, number of species etc.) and changes in quality and quantity in time and space. The first results were presented to the stakeholders in the form of maps during a participative workshop, opening discussion for possible improvements. The tool was then modified by incorporating additional data including status of protected areas in order to take into account the difference on land use change rates between natural protected and non-protected areas. This pilot test demonstrates the importance of implicating local stakeholders in the development process in order to provide tools that have a better acceptation rate and can be sustained after the projects are completed. Keywords: France, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Land and Ecosystem Accounting, Participatory Methodolgies, PEGASO Project