## Sustainable Development Of A Former U. S. Base In Greece

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The Former U.S. Base of Gournes (FUSBG) is located in the northeastern coast of the island of Crete, under the regional authority of the Hersonissos Municipality with a coastline of 38 km and a population of more than 27,000 inhabitants. During summer there is a massive flow of tourists accommodated in a large number of hotels, Hersonissos being one of the most important tourist destinations in Greece, representing 15% of its tourism resources. The total surface of the FUSBG is 738 acres with only 38% in use and providing a range of facilities. In some cases, FUSBG facilities either malfunction or do not function at all, partly because of the financial and economic crisis Greece has been facing since 2007. In 2011, the Greek parliament voted a law (Gazette: 152/1-7-2011), which allows the "fast track" procedure for utilization or selling of public enterprises and public property, in order to meet national financial obligations towards the European Union, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund. FUSBG is included in this list of properties suitable for this procedure. To combat the very real risk of uncontrolled future growth of this coastal area fueled by the private sector irrespective of the common good and the protection of the environment, we put forward a proposal that depends on a strategy of rapid actions, based on an analysis of the existing legislative and institutional framework, together with an exploration of the most important environmental components focusing on the development of the FUSBG. Tools, such as Geographical Information Systems and a Beach Vulnerability Index (BVI) to anticipated sea-level rise, applied in the analysis, are proposed as important means for setting up the overall framework for a successful ICZM implementation in the study area. Additionally, the establishment of a management board, consisting of representatives of the local society, end-users and other stakeholders (public and private sector) as well as

practitioners, is strongly recommended, ensuring local interests and enhancing public awareness concerning issues relevant to the FUSBG future development. New cycles of consultations between different sides are urgently needed for building up basic elements of integration. Current loss of trust in government decisions may be faced with drawing up agreements between local and other agencies that will be built on trust and transparent procedures, to ensure benefits for the civil society, respect for cultural heritage issues and co-management of the area. Keywords: ICZM process, GIS, data management tools, financial crisis, Greece