

## **The Need for Beach Management A Case Study of Mamaia Beach, Romania**

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### **Abstract**

Economic changes on the Romanian Black Sea Coast have combined with natural dynamic factors to produce increasingly obvious negative impacts on the beach environment. These include visible pollution (e.g. litter) and inappropriate construction work undertaken to promote tourism. As a result, Mamaia Beach is now at a critical stage of degradation. Beach user perception studies focusing on environmental quality were carried out at the beach during summer 1998 (n = 100). Most visitors regarded the beach as fair or good overall (77%) and for bathing (79%). Main deficiencies were identified as lack of cleanliness (especially poor sewage treatment and the presence of litter), poor quality facilities and general environmental deterioration. Survey results implied an urgent need for effective beach management and suggested priorities for action. Finance is an obvious pre-requisite for beach quality improvement and the County Council of Constanta (CCC) will establish a littoral tax to be paid by each tourist arriving in Mamaia. Government authorities have designated the CCC as general manager for local tourist beaches (including Mamaia). However, conflict has recently arisen between the Local Council of Constanta (LCC) and the CCC concerning who will manage the tourist beaches. Legal action is currently (mid-1999) under way which is delaying the development of beach management.