

# Recommendation on integrated coastal zone management

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<b>(Legal) coverage in the BNS</b>	Coastal zone, land-sea transition	
<b>European contact point</b>	Environment Directorate-General (DG ENV)	
<b>Contact point in Belgium</b>	Federal authorities; FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment; DG Environment; Agency Marine Environment in cooperation with the Province of West Flanders	

## // abstract:

This recommendation stipulates that the Member States have to take into account the sustainable development strategy and the Decision of the European Parliament and the Council laying down the sixth Community environment action programme (Decision No 1600/2002/EC). Member States have to take a strategic approach to the management of their coastal zones, based on (a) the ecosystem approach on the protection of the marine environment, (b) recognition of the threat to coastal zones posed by climate change, (c) appropriate and ecologically friendly measures for the protection of coastal areas, (d) sustainable economic opportunities and employment options, (e) an active social and cultural system in local communities, (f) sufficient areas of public access, (g) the maintenance or the promotion of cohesion in between coastal communities and (h) better coordination of the actions taken by all involved authorities.

The recommendation also describes the core principles for formulating national strategies and measures based on these strategies. The principles include a holistic and long-term perspective, adaptive management, local specificity and diversity, respecting the carrying capacity of ecosystems, the involvement of interested Parties, partnerships between authorities, and the facilitation of coherence between sectorial policy goals on the one hand and spatial planning on the other.

The Member States set up or update a national inventory to analyse which important actors, laws and institutions influence the management of the coastal zone. Based on the inventory's results, each involved Member State develops one or -where appropriate- several strategies to implement the core principles of integrated coastal zone management. The Member States also need to encourage the dialogue with the neighbouring countries (whether Member States or not) adjacent to the same regional sea. This should result in mechanisms for improved coordination of responses to cross-border issues.