



Rabat Vision and Call for Action

Common Vision and elements for the Action Plan for Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Rabat-Sale-Kenitra Region (RSK)

Rabat, Morocco, September 18, 2018

In the framework of the SWIM-Horizon 2020 SM a consultation was launched by the Secretariat of State for Sustainable Development and the SWIM- Horizon 2020 SM in view of the Development of an Integrated Management Plan for the Coastal Zones of Rabat-Salé-Kenitra (RSK) Region, as a contribution to the drafting of the National Plan for the Coastal Areas and the Moroccan National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

The participants representing major stakeholders gathered on the 17th and 18th September 2018 in Rabat, Morocco:

- informed on the outcomes of the diagnostic analysis which highlighted the major aspects of the coastal zone in terms of assets, opportunities, weaknesses and threats which must be adequately addressed in order to be contained and allow the sustainable development of the region, realized that the RSK coastal region is undoubtedly very dynamic with significant untapped growth potential and vital human and natural forces that need to be fully developed,
- informed on the progress made by adopting the Charter for Environment and Sustainable Development and the Law 81.12 for the Littoral,
- informed about the new tendencies in managing similar coastal systems in the Mediterranean region and beyond, recognized the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) as the most appropriate instrument for ensuring the sustainability of goods and services provided by the coastal areas,
- informed as well about ICZM applied in synergy with other "integrated" international and regional approaches such as the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), the Regional Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change for Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas, the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD), etc.

This approach offers an excellent opportunity to apply the Integrative Methodological Framework (CMI), whose guidelines aim to:

- Identify opportunities and solutions for converging management of coastal areas, watersheds, aquifers and groundwater;



- Integrate climate change considerations as cross-cutting issues throughout the planning and implementation process in coastal areas;
- Support active involvement of stakeholders and civil society in coastal zone planning and management;
- Effectively address and remove unsustainable practices like the ones identified herewith:
 - discharge of untreated wastewaters of domestic, agricultural and industrial origins leading to acute pollution of surface and groundwater;
 - generation and inappropriate collection and disposal of huge quantities of urban and industrial solid waste;
 - uncontrolled and inappropriate urbanisation along the coast including in high risk and vulnerable areas exerting increasing pressure on natural resources and fragile ecosystems;
 - insufficient protection of valuable natural ecosystems;
 - inadequate preparation in addressing climate change induced and other extreme natural events such as floods;
 - overexploitation of natural resources including groundwater, dune sand and fluvial gravels, fishery resources, forest wood, etc.) with significant socio-economic consequences;
 - mass seaside tourism which does not respect the carrying capacity of the coast, leading to degradation of ecosystems and creating serious disparities between the coastal area and its hinterland;
 - poor governance leading to lack of coordination among the different departments and sectors and insufficient participatory processes that do not allow a comprehensive and integrated management of the coastal area.

To this end, we propose that:

The region needs a strategic **Common Vision** that is concerted and shared by all stakeholders to be implemented through a well-articulated Action Plan. This **Common Vision** must address inconsistencies and transform, to the extent possible, today's challenges into opportunities for tomorrow.

Made of aspirations involving all actors, the **Common Vision** aims to improve the advanced regionalization and good governance of the coastal areas and allow for a management which capitalizes on all existing opportunities and good practices applied in other regions.

The desired **Common Vision** can be inspired by a series of widely accepted directions/guidelines and proposed actions (MAP, MSSD, SDG ...) suitable for the RSK Region.



Our overall vision is for

The R.RSK to be a Region with Consolidated territorial and social cohesion, productive and biologically diverse coastal and marine ecosystems, with thriving communities contributing to sustainable development for the well-being of the present and future generations. This is achieved through shared values: cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance.

Our **Common vision** and **Call for Action** include elements to guide an Action Plan that:

- ▶ Provides decent housing for the entire population of the coastal area;
- ▶ Reduces territorial disparities by adopting and applying appropriate projects and sustainable spatial planning, ensuring access to basic services: sanitation, health care, education, etc., between the coastal zone and its hinterland. Development of the latter will reduce pressures to the coast;
- ▶ Designates and restores historical sites and promotes tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the region;
- ▶ Promotes human capital especially young professionals so that they become protagonists for the future development of the region;
- ▶ Encourages public-private partnerships to promote sustainable innovative economic model targeting job creation, quality and added value including blue economy;
- ▶ Promotes efficient waste management to ensure that:
 - all wastewater in the area is treated, reused to the maximum possible degree and sanitized before being discharged to the sea so that pollution of surface water and groundwater is effectively addressed;
 - the use of fertilizers and pesticides is considerably reduced;
 - domestic dwellings are connected to the public supply and sewage network;
 - all industries in the region have a wastewater treatment system applying BATs;
 - all solid waste produced in the region is managed in a sustainable and integrated manner following the Reduce-Reuse-Recycle approach and circular economy;
- ▶ Restores valuable natural sites of Biological and Ecological Interest (SIBEs) and protect ecosystems, with emphasis on coastal wetlands and preserve their biodiversity and ecosystem services they may provide;
- ▶ Protects dunes from unregulated sand extraction and stabilizes them with natural means if necessary;
- ▶ Protects beaches against erosion and if necessary refills them artificially;
- ▶ Frees the public maritime domain and the beaches from any unauthorized occupation;
- ▶ Rationalizes the use of water resources including the non-conventional ones;
- ▶ Protects and restores Coastal aquifers from over-exploitation and when possible recharges them to limit their salinization.
- ▶ Ensures that the ICZM and its Action Plan, to be effective, should be based on:



- the involvement of all levels of governance and different entities of the region (municipalities, provinces, prefectures and region);
 - coordination and convergence of sectoral policies and strategies;
 - appropriate governance system with active participation of all stakeholders including elected representatives;
 - mobilization of adequate human and financial resources;
 - capacity building of all stakeholders (national, regional and local administrations, civil society, academics, private sector, etc.) to integrate the ICZM approach in the planning processes;
 - eventual establishment of an inter-sectoral Committee to function as an active participatory mechanism.
- ▶ Ensures full enforcement of existing and emerging legal provisions (eg. 100 m non-buildable withdrawal zone, prohibition of any unauthorized construction on the coastline and uncontrolled sand and gravel extraction);
 - ▶ Ensures that the role and capacities of the control agents (environmental police and water police) are enhanced by providing adequate means for its mission;
 - ▶ Establishes and maintains a reliable monitoring system supported by a set of indicators to evaluate the implementation and results of the ICZM Action Plan in the RSK region;
 - ▶ Involves and reinforces the role of the Regional Observatory for Environment and Sustainable Development;
 - ▶ Installs an early warning system for floods and tsunamis;
 - ▶ Develops and strengthens capacities of the stakeholders in the technical fields related to the management of the coastal zones to ensure ownership and efficiency;
 - ▶ Develops and implements public awareness and formal, non-formal and informal education for sustainable development programs to address coastal issues;
 - ▶ Promotes participation through communication and awareness initiatives for targeted groups such as farmers, fishermen, women and the community at large;
 - ▶ Promote scientific research (in themes such as biodiversity, dynamic water circulation, quality of water, sedimentary processes as well as economic evaluation of the ecosystem services, etc.) and innovation in the field of ICZM by taking advantage of the presence of universities and research centers in the Region;

We, the stakeholders present in this consultation, commit to continue working together in a participatory way in order to contribute to the elaboration of the **Action Plan** that reflects our **Common Vision** and through which we will make reality our aspiration through concrete action;

We encourage local and national authorities, international donors and organizations to support the implementation of the **Action Plan** and all necessary infrastructures and initiatives related to that.

Rabat, 18 September 2018