

Regional Conference of Climate Change Adaption of the Coastal Regions in Northern Germany, Hamburg, March 30/31, 2011

Scenario-Workshop Coastal Tourism (March 31th, 2011) – Summary

The “Scenario-Workshop Coastal Tourism” was dedicated to the question to what extent coastal regions embody an area of tension between tourism, coastal- and nature conservancy in the context of climate change.

As a workshop opener, the 37 participants were asked to brainstorm about their visions of coastal tourism for the year 2050. Written down with a short explanation of their individual point of view, those visions were supposed to be picked up again in the course of the workshop and be discussed and probably altered.

The first part consisted of two presentations about scientific as well as socio-economical scenarios of the future and their impact on changes being of relevance for tourism.

Nardine Stybel (*EUCC – The Coastal Union Germany*) put the focus on coastal ecological changes especially on regional modelling of temperature- salt- and nutrient content and their meaning for bathing water and beach quality. Climate-induced changes can affect for example the visibility range, Cyanobacteria or the length of the swimming season. Following the presentation, the discussion included topics such as spatial use-conflicts, Cyanobacteria or information needs of tourism players as well as of tourists.

Jesko Hirschfeld (*Institute for Ecological Economic Research*) presented different economical, social and political factors in his speech about possible socioeconomic developments. These factors influence tourism development at the Baltic Sea. There are different examples for economic influences like the general economic growth, the amount of available income or the extent of investments in the touristic infrastructure. Social factors of influence are, among others, demographic change as well as the development of people’s travelling habits. Political factors can be governmental development plans in order to expand the infrastructure or the coastal management. The discussion that followed included the relevance of available income from seniors, the demographic factor in East German Regions and the meaning of political influences and decisions for further touristic development.

Based on the presentations, the initial vision of 2050 was now brought up again.

The presentations lead to a classification in neutral, positive and negative imaginations about the situation in the future. An example for positive developments was seen in the growing use of wind energy. Negative developments for the future were seen more, for example extreme weather events, sea-level rise or the closure of beaches due to algae blooms. Overall, the vision of 2050 showed a diverse compilation of different views, some hopeful and some rather provocative.



The second part included four contributions about coastal protection, geothermics, nature conservancy and -use as well as a glimpse to coastal tourism at the North Sea.

Knut Sommermeier (*Governmental Department for Agriculture and Environment, Middle Mecklenburg*) presented three scenarios of coastal protection that could represent the situation in 2050. He showed moderate, average and big changes of natural factors like flood, coastal erosion or storm tide for the given situation. For each scenario he also showed

adjustment strategies as well as examples for adjusted coastal- and storm tide protective measures and direct impacts on tourism.

Cindy Dengler (*GICOM*) presented her idea about integrating facilities for the use of geothermal energy (collectors, probes) in buildings for coastal protection such as dunes, dikes and moles. In such a combination, those facilities could then also provide geothermal energy for residents or touristic infrastructure.

Mandy Wenzel (Institute of Applied Ecology - *IfAÖ*) talked about the problem of competing use of coastal areas with an example of spatial use of Offshore-Wind energy. She also explained that it is questionable how Offshore-Wind energy facilities are accepted as there also is a request for clear views and spaces.

Edgar Kreilkamp (Leuphana *University of Lüneburg*) took a look at the Northern German Coast and its developments, based on experiences in past climate projects (e.g. KUNTIKUM). He made clear that coastal protection and the expansion of touristic infrastructure are often competitive. However, he explained that it will be important to find an agreement about arrangements with both sides and that co-operation can also bring competitive advantages. Knowledge of the expectations of tourists is also relevant. With reference to climate protection, different initiatives already exist in places at the North Sea.

The concluding discussion summed up the recommendations for action.

Besides the coordination of actions in different areas (coastal protection, tourism, traffic) and the dialogue between the involved players, the spread of information and knowledge was mentioned as an important method to adjust to possible scenarios in the future. Also important are the appreciation, preservation and the sustainable marketing of natural resources as well as concrete climate protection measures and new concepts for mobility. A dialogue to solve conflicts over aims and use was emphasised to be extremely necessary.



To round off the workshop, all participants were given a ready-to-buy postcard showing a regional scene with graphically included impacts of climate change. They were asked to write this postcard from a visionary vacation in 2050 and to take into consideration now altered initial vision of coastal tourism in 2050. A final questionnaire on the appraisal of possible adjustment strategies in the field of tourism should give ideas for workshops to come.

Moderation: Regine Schönenberg
Text: EUCC Germany

Findings of the workshop will be incorporated into the following projects:

