

STRATEGY FOR COASTAL PROTECTION OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS CONSIDERING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Mission, Vision and Strategic Objectives

The development of the Strategy for Coastal Protection of the Balearic Islands Considering the Effects of Climate Change is an initiative funded by the European Union's Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP), at the request of the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge's (MITECO) Directorate General for the Coast and the Sea (DGCM)

The preparation of the Strategies began in December 2019 and, along 24 months of work, has been organized into the following 3 successive phases: 1) Diagnosis, to improve the understanding of coastal protection issues, as well as to understand the perception of coastal problems by relevant actors and to analyse the governance framework; 2) Proposal of measures, with the objective of identifying the actions to be carried out by the DGCM, within the framework of its competences; and 3) Final reporting, whose objective is to rank and guide decision-making steps regarding the implementation of these actions.

⇒ MISSION

The mission of the Strategies is to support the decision-making and management of the actions to be carried out by DGCM in the Balearic Islands during the current management cycle, from the present (reference year 2020) until 2045, within the framework of its competences for the management of coastal erosion risk (protection of the coast), maximizing synergies with flood risk management and incorporating adaptation to climate change.

⇒ VISION

The Directorate-General of the Coast and the Sea (DGCM) aims to return to a more natural state in the Balearic Islands and thus favour the natural resilience of the coastal physical environment as the fundamental means for the prevention of the coastal erosion risk and for the adaptation to climate change. This way, the protective function of coastal ecosystems over permitted assets and uses is enhanced while increasing the biodiversity and wealth of the natural environment.

⇒ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Thus, the Strategy aspires to be a fundamental tool to guarantee the good state of the coastline of the Balearic Islands, through a joint approach that contemplates the importance of the coast from the environmental, human and also socioeconomic point of view, based on the best scientific-technical knowledge and social consensus.. To do so, the Strategy brings forward **eight strategic objectives**:

1	Review of the Maritime-Terrestrial Public Domain (DPMT)	Contributing in an essential way to rational management of exposure to coastal erosion, in order to promote coastal resilience through greater naturalness in the coastal strip, in harmony with that land use compatible with existing coastal threats. This should occur in accordance with the current legislation and through a managed retreat process of the coastline.
2	Recovery and environmental rehabilitation of the beaches and their dunes	Contributing to preventing erosion and favouring the conservation of beaches and their dune systems, restoring or replicating the natural mechanisms of recovery after an episode of erosion, by maintaining or restoring the sediment eroded on the beaches by artificial means
3	Restoration of salt marshes	Contributing to restoring ecological processes and functions as well as biotic and abiotic interactions of salt marshes, for the maintenance of a self-sufficient ecosystem, recovering the degraded elements of the ecosystem or even building new habitats.
4	Cliff defence	Monitoring and maintenance of the pre-existent structures in order to stop or slow down the process of cliff erosion.
5	Maintenance of the coastal defence lines ('hold the line')	Maintaining existing defence structures that offer protection to highly vulnerable populations, being their application limited to cases where the coast is already anthropized.
6	Managed realignment	In contrast to the previous one, aiming to remove, in an orderly manner, the defence structures that do not offer protection to highly vulnerable populations.
7	Strengthening the capacity to understand and plan along with improvement of public awareness	Seeking, firstly, to improve the understanding of the features and functioning of the coastal system as a whole, consequently improving the capacity to rationalize the interventions on the coastal system and align them with the functions and permitted uses of the coast. Secondly, contributing to increasing the public's perception on the complexity of the coastal system, as well as its threats and risks, while encouraging a greater appreciation and valorisation of the natural elements of the coastal system
8	Post-event recovery and review	With the purpose of analysing the consequences of erosive events, when they occur, to stabilize or improve the affected elements, and to avoid the same damage in future occurrences.

For more information: <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-costa/estrategias-proteccion-costa/>
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