

STRATEGIES FOR COASTAL PROTECTION FOR THE PROVINCES OF CÁDIZ, MÁLAGA AND ALMERÍA CONSIDERING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Mission, vision & strategic objectives

The development of Coastal Protection Strategies considering the climate change effects for the provinces of Cádiz, Málaga and Almería is an initiative financed by the EC's Structural Reform Support Programme upon request of the Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), Directorate General for the Coast and the Sea (DGCS).

The preparation of the Strategies began in March 2019 and, along 30 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 provinces of Cádiz, Málaga and Almería 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 General Directorate of the Coast and the Sea aims to return to a more natural state in the provinces of Cádiz, Málaga and Almería 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, so that the protective function of coastal ecosystems over permitted assets and uses is enhanced while increasing the biodiversity and wealth of the natural environment.

⇒ 10 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1	Review of Maritime-Terrestrial Public Domain (DPMT)	Contributing to a rational management of exposure to coastal erosion, in order to promote coastal resilience through the restoration of the natural environment in the coastal strip and in line with land uses that are compatible with existing coastal threats, all in accordance with current legislation and through a managed retreat process of the coast line.
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2	Restoration of sedimentary balance and reduction of sediment losses	Aiming to reduce as much as possible the imbalance between sediment inputs and losses in the coastal system, understanding sand as a non-renewable resource.
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	Restoration of beaches with dunes	Aiming to the conservation of the dune systems that remain on the coasts of Cádiz, Málaga and Almería.
5	Restoration of other beaches	Contributing either to preventing beach erosion through its stabilization, or to restoring or replicating the natural mechanisms of recovery after an episode of erosion on the beaches, by maintaining or replacing the eroded sediment by artificial means.
6	Cliff defence	With the purpose to stop or slow down the erosion process of those cliffs where this process is already evident and causes serious effects on the coastal system.
7	Maintenance of the coastal defence lines ('hold the line')	Intending to maintain existing defence structures that offer protection to highly vulnerable populations, only in those places where the coast is already anthropized.
8	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.
9	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 increase the public's perception on the complexity of the coastal system, its threats and risks, while encouraging a greater appreciation and valorisation of the natural elements of the coastal system.
10	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 further information: <https://www.miteco.gob.es/es/costas/temas/proteccion-costa/estrategias-proteccion-costa/>
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