

3rd International Conference on the Management of Coastal Recreational Resources

Beaches, Yachting, Eco-tourism & Conservation, Coastal hazards

Grosseto, Southern Tuscany, Italy, 27th - 30th October 2010

Scope

The conference is the third in the biennial series on **Management of Coastal Recreational Resources (MCRR)** organized by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICoD) within the International Environment Institute at the University of Malta. This international event is characterised by its focus on selected coastal management issues relating to beaches, yacht marinas, ecotourism & conservation, and the impact of coastal hazards on such resources.

Increasing human settlement of the coastal zones and the exploitation of their natural resources for livelihood, sustenance, trade and recreational purposes have led to their deterioration and in some cases, loss. Although the ecological, economic and social importance of natural coastal resources have long been acknowledged, anthropogenic activities continue to be the major culprit for the negative pressures on the coast. Coastal urbanisation & tourism, construction of ports, harbours and yacht marinas and their associated activities have resulted among other, in coastal erosion, beach sediment loss, air and seawater pollution and loss of coastal aesthetic beauty.

Such problems are now being compounded by the impacts of climate change such as sea level rise and increasing frequency, intensity and erratic nature of storms. Other coastal hazards such as tsunamis, rip currents and beach erosion also threaten the coastal environment and those who live there. At the same time, the ongoing growth in tourism and coastal urbanization, particularly in places such as the Mediterranean region, will result in further human pressures on the coastal zones.

In addressing these issues, sustainable management practices need to be identified and implemented. Innovative beach management schemes and quality evaluation systems, beach nourishment and dune management potentially represent effective management practices to reverse negative trends. If developed and managed in an environmentally sensitive manner, yacht marinas may offer an acceptable alternative form of coastal recreation. Marina and yachting-related activities such as repair and maintenance need to be compliant with international regulations not only on paper but also in practice so as to minimize the impact on water quality. Eco-tourism and conservation are often misused terms, either intentionally, as a marketing ploy, or unintentionally due to a lack of understanding. Yet, when applied to coastal recreation, they both hold to heart noble concepts of environmental sustainability, indigenous cultural sustainability, educational or learning opportunity components and the promotion of natural tourism attractions rather than their man-made counterparts. However, given the current climate of awareness, such strategies are unlikely to appeal to the masses who presently still seek sand, sea, sun vacations within a wide variety of areas that may or may not also be areas of outstanding natural beauty. The challenge therefore, is to manage and synergise the strengths of all these actors and elements while striking an acceptable balance between competing needs.

Conference Location

The conference will be held in the historic city of Grosseto situated in the region of Tuscany in Central Italy. Grosseto lies in a green plain traced by the flow of the Ombrone River and its origins go back to the powerful Etruscan and Roman city of Roselle. There is a good train connection between Rome (Fiumicino) and Grosseto on an hourly basis and the trip takes 2.5 to 3 hours. A taxi from Grosseto train station to any of a number of hotels in the city costs around 12 Euros. Grosseto's proximity to a number of attractive historic locations in Tuscany also offers an excellent incentive for extending your stay in this region. The city is 60 km away from Siena – one of Italy's best preserved medieval towns, 130 km away from Florence and 155km away from Pisa.

Target Audience

The conference is aimed at academics in the natural and social sciences, researchers dealing with coastal hazards reflected by ongoing climate change, project managers, tourism professionals, infrastructure investors and staff from the private sector and government agencies whose work involves integrated coastal area management practices and the development and management of coast-related recreational amenities. The conference will also be of interest to managers of natural resources and environmental

agencies, urban and coastal planners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), environmental economists and coastal municipalities.

Conference Topics

All abstracts received by the deadline will be considered for placement. Presentation topics include the following but the organisers are open to new suggestions by prospective authors:

Theme 1: Beach Management

Innovations in beach management schemes and rating systems, beach nourishment, beach sediment modelling, conservation issues, beach ecology, dune management, health and safety issues, bathing water quality issues, policy and guidelines, socio-economic aspects, cost benefit analysis, feasibility studies, environmental economics, shoreline management and erosion control, utilization of rocky shores for bathing purposes.

Theme 2: Yacht Marinas and Yachting-Related Activities

Facility siting, environmentally sensitive development, water quality issues, safety aspects, marketing issues, award systems for marinas and ratings, overwintering facilities, yachting tourism, specialized aspects – super yachts, ancillary services – yacht repair and maintenance, ship chandler and other speciality trades, economics of yachting activities.

Theme 3: Coastal Ecotourism

Coastal footpaths, diving holidays, cultural ecotourism and preserving the social fabric, heritage coast concept, issues of sustainability and carrying capacity, coastal nature reserves – management of environmentally sensitive areas, economic evaluation of ecotourism, other coastal leisure activities

Theme 4: Coastal Hazards

Types of coastal hazards (tsunamis, sea level rise, storm surges, erosion, rip currents, drowning, oil/chemical spills) and their generation, climate change issues related to coastal hazards, impacts of coastal hazards on society, environment and economy, impacts on marine and terrestrial ecosystems, mitigation & adaptation, assessment of vulnerability, early warning systems, mapping, law enforcement and protection.

Call for Abstracts

Prospective authors are requested to submit their abstract by filling and submitting the online abstract submission form available on the conference website <http://www.um.edu.mt/iei/mcrr3-2010>. The abstracts should be received by the conference secretariat **by the 15th March 2010**. All abstracts will be reviewed for content, scientific value and compliance with the conference objectives and aims. Acceptance of submitted abstracts will be announced **by the 15th April 2010**. The abstract guidelines and a full authors' manual are also available online and prospective authors are encouraged to follow the instructions provided in these documents prior to writing the abstract and the paper. The paper must be sent by e-mail by **14th June 2010** on mcrr3-2010@um.edu.mt as a word document as specified in the manual and accompanied by a Copyright Transfer Agreement which the author can download from the conference website.

Conference Deadlines at a Glance

Submission of Abstract	15th March 2010
Acceptance Notification	15th April 2010
Early Registration	14th June 2010
Submission of Camera Ready Final Paper.....	14th June 2010
(Ensures publication in Conference Proceedings)	
Late Registration	30th September 2010

Registration

A registration form will be made available on the conference website after the abstract evaluation process on the 15th April 2010. Registration entitles delegates to the full conference package *which excludes accommodation*. Conference registration includes:

- A full set of Conference Proceedings
- Daily lunch and coffee breaks at the hotel for the duration of the conference
- Internet access at the conference hotel
- Welcome Reception
- Farewell Dinner
- Conference Excursion

Early Registration - before 14th June 2010

Delegates	€375
Students*	€275
Accompanying Persons**	€150

Late Registration - up to 16th July 2010

This deadline ensures inclusion of the delegate's paper in the Conference Proceedings and Programme.

Delegates	€475
Students*	€375
Accompanying Persons**	€150

* Farewell dinner not included

** Includes welcome reception, farewell dinner and excursion

Registration after 16th July 2010

Delegates not submitting papers for publication may register to attend the Conference up until the **end of September 2010**, and will be charged €475.

Conference venue – Hotel Information and nearby accommodation

The conference will be held in the historic city of Grosseto situated in the magnificent region of Tuscany in Central Italy. There is a good train connection between Rome (Fiumicino) and Grosseto on an hourly basis and the trip takes 2.5 to 3 hours. There is also the possibility of landing at Pisa Airport Galileo Galilei where a frequent train connection to Grosseto is also available. A taxi from Grosseto train station to any of a number of hotels in the city costs around 12 Euros.

Hotel Airone

The conference will take place in Hotel Airone – a modern four star hotel situated near Grosseto centre. Conference participants choosing to reside in this hotel during the course of this four-day international conference will benefit from special accommodation rates. Conference delegates are kindly requested to present a letter confirming their participation at the conference which will guarantee their entitlement for the special rates being offered by this hotel.

Special rates:

Rate for Bed & Breakfast basis: Euro 70 per person

Suite supplement: Euro 30 per person

Conference delegates staying at the hotel would also benefit from the following:

- Free internet connection in each room
- Fitness centre: free of charge
- Free indoor parking
- A hotel mini-bus will also be made available for transporting conference participants staying at

Hotel Airone from Grosseto train station to the hotel and back. This facility will be provided on a "first come first served" basis.

For more information about the conference venue, please visit <http://www.hotelairone.eu/index.php>.

Alternative accommodation options close to the conference venue

The hotel rates provided below reflect those indicated by the hotels. However, participants may wish to identify prices directly with the hotel.

Grand Hotel Bastiani

Grand Hotel Bastiani is an elegant and classic four-star hotel. The hotel stands within the 16th century Medici Walls, the ideal location for an original holiday in the city of **Grosseto**, discovering the charm of the **Maremma district**. For more information about Grand Hotel Bastiani, please follow the link <http://www.grand-hotel-bastiani.com/>. Grand Hotel Bastiani is approximately 15 minutes walking distance to conference venue.

Rates as indicated by the hotel:

Single Room	- Euro 90
Double (Single Use)	- Euro 104
Double Classic	- Euro 127
Double Superior	- Euro 155
Junior suite	- Euro 178

Hotel Maremma – Grosseto

It is a three-star hotel and is situated in the traffic-free area of Grosseto's historical centre, but can also be reached by car. Only a few metres from the Etruscan museum, it is an ideal place for excursion in the surrounding areas as different Etruscan towns, the park "Parco dell'Uccellina" and the beaches only a few kilometres from the hotel. For more information about Hotel Maremma, please follow the link http://www.hotelmaremma.it/home_ita.htm. Hotel Maremma is approximately 10 minutes walking distance to conference venue.

Rates as indicated by the hotel:

Single Room - Euro 90

Double (Single Use) - Euro 104

If there is an added bed, the price will increase by 35%.

Potential participants are of course free to opt for other accommodation facilities other than those suggested above.

Conference Organisers

The Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics, (ICoD) at the International Environment Institute (IEI), University of Malta

In collaboration with:

The Institute of Ecosystem Study within the National Council for Research (CNR-ISE)

The European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement of the Council of Europe (EUR-OPA)

The International Ocean Institute (IOI)

Gruppo Nazionale per la Ricerca sull'Ambiente (GNRAC)

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For further information about the 3rd International Conference on the Management of Coastal Recreational Resources (MCRR3), kindly contact the conference secretariat at mcr3-2010@um.edu.mt or visit our website at <http://www.um.edu.mt/iei/mcrr3-2010>.

Programme Changes

The Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICoD) reserves the right to effect changes to the Conference Programme.