



National Integrated Coastal Zone Management Planning

Inter-American Development Bank, The Bahamas

The Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) developed an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) plan for The Bahamas. Under contract to the Inter-American Development Bank, HW worked in coordination with the Government of The Bahamas, through site visits and local meetings, to identify and assess the key coastal management issues facing The Bahamas. These issues included:

- land/water use and resource allocation conflicts;
- degradation of coastal ecosystems;
- depletion of commercial fisheries stocks;
- declining water quality, erosion and shore instability;
- coastal hazards;
- sea level rise;
- impoverishment of coastal communities;
- interagency coordination;
- intergovernmental coordination (national/local);
- public involvement/participation; and
- public education.

HW then presented a diverse list of potentially suitable and effective management tools, including national and local planning coordination, zoning ordinances, health regulations, stormwater regulations, wetland mitigation, marine protected areas, conflict management, environmental monitoring, public participation and outreach, hazard mitigation planning and transfer of development rights. The management approach recommended by HW was grounded in three initial steps: (1) characterization and mapping of critical resource areas, (2) development of standards and policies to protect those areas, and (3) identification of the most appropriate tools and techniques to implement the Plan. The Government of The Bahamas will use the results of this project to continue the important process of developing its national Integrated Coastal Zone Management plan.

Client Contact: Veljko Sikirica
Inter-American Development Bank
242-393-7159

HW Contact:
Scott Horsley, LEED AP

www.horsleywitten.com

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Sandwich, MA
90 Route 6A
Sandwich, MA 02563
tel: 508-833-6600

Newburyport, MA
30 Green Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
tel: 978-499-0601

Providence, RI
370 Ives Street
Providence, RI 02906
tel: 401-272-1717