



Compendium for Coast and Sea

A blueprint for an integrated information document on social, economic, ecological and institutional aspects of the Coast and the Sea in Flanders and in Belgium

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Figures and Policy

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1. Introduction

In the marine and maritime field, there is a growing demand for scientifically underpinned and up-to-date information in response to societal issues and problems. These questions often arise from the increasing need for an integrated approach which does not only take into account the results of physical, chemical, biological, ecological and geological research of the marine system, but also socio-cultural, economic and institutional aspects. Although such information is partially available, it is generally highly fragmented, sector bound and 'hidden' in reports with a wider geographical scope. This is a direct consequence of the dispersed nature of the marine research institutions (*sensu lato*) and the fragmentation of authorities with regard to the coast and sea in Flanders and Belgium.

This new initiative of the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) responds to the latter problem by making existing information and data from dispersed and sector-bound sources accessible, and by aggregating and integrating, if possible, beyond the boundaries of sectors and responsibilities. In this way, the present project pursues the European efforts towards a Sustainable and Integrated Maritime Policy that highlights the development of three instruments ([COM \(2007\) 575](#), [SEC \(2007\) 1278](#)):

- Maritime Surveillance (crucial for the safety of the maritime environment)
- Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (crucial instruments for sustainable policy making)
- A comprehensive and accessible source of data and information.

The Compendium¹ for Coast and Sea aims to realize this last instrument for Flanders and Belgium. For the first time, the Compendium tries to offer an integrated and scientifically underpinned overview that bridges the gap between the various disciplines in the marine and maritime scientific community and a broad group of civil servants, politicians and experts which are, at different levels, professionally involved in the marine / maritime environment. In addition, the Compendium plays a communicative role by contributing to the defragmentation of the Flemish marine scientific landscape and stakeholders. This instrument will therefore primarily focus on the professional user, at a European, national and local level.

This blueprint is a first step towards the delineation of the objectives, target groups, range, products, procedures and timetable of the Compendium for Coast and Sea. Hence, the blueprint is a preliminary document which aims at building a network and initiating discussion around this instrument. The roadmap for the production of the Compendium will take into account the suggestions and recommendations of the Board of Directors (VLIZ), the VLIZ Scientific Board, the competent institutions and a network of key persons.

2. Geographical delineation

The Compendium will focus on the Belgian Part of the North Sea (BPNS), the adjacent estuaries and the coastal area (Figure 1). For the delimitation of the "coastal area" on the land side, the definition of the Coordination

¹ The definition of 'compendium'

Compendium

'A concise but comprehensive summary of a larger work'
Latin for "that which is weighed together"

Source: <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/>

Centre for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (CDK)² is followed which includes the 10 coastal municipalities and 9 communities of the hinterland (Figure 1).

The Scheldt Estuary plays a crucial role in the use and management of marine areas and is essential for the flow of goods and services from the marine areas towards the hinterland. In the framework of the Flemish-Dutch cooperation, a joint Long Term Vision (LTV) for the Scheldt Estuary was commissioned by the Technical Scheldt Commission (2001). The present Flemish-Dutch Scheldt Commission (VNSC) aims to coordinate and harmonize research projects and programs, monitoring and data and information management (cf. The working group Research and Monitoring of the VNSC, ProSes 2010, MONEOS, the ScheldeMonitor and the Scheldt data portal). Hence, in this context the Scheldt Estuary will constitute a separate chapter in this Compendium. In the case of the Scheldt Estuary, the upstream boundary of the study area is defined at the locks of Ghent and the estuaries of the tributaries. Downstream the Scheldt Estuary includes 'de Vlake van de Raan' and other shallow areas.



Figure 1. The geographical delineation of the study area of the Compendium for Coast and Sea. The study area includes the Belgian Part of the North Sea, the adjacent estuaries and the coastal zone.

Within this geographical delineation the air, the water surface, the water column, the seabed and the subsurface with both their living and non-living resources are taken into account.

The latter boundaries are not considered as a rigid demarcation. Depending on the subject, it may be desirable to use a transboundary approach. Moreover, Europe and the concept of the 'regional seas' act as an important

² The CDK is the focal point for ICZM in Belgium.

geographical framework, especially in the context of the Integrated Maritime Policy. Furthermore, Europe is used as a benchmark to compare the situation in Belgium and Flanders.

3. Principles and preconditions

- The Compendium is an objective document based on facts and figures.
- The Compendium is primarily intended as an instrument for the disclosure, compilation and provision of information and data. In this regard, a more integrated vision for the coast and sea is envisaged, following the principles of the European Integrated Maritime Policy.
- The Compendium includes economic, socio-cultural, institutional and ecological themes and is therefore NOT an environmental, nature or 'agriculture and fisheries' reporting, although the environment, nature and sea fisheries are part of the thematic and geographic scope of the Compendium.
- In the framework of an integrated and sustainable development, the Compendium aims to bridge the gap between the various disciplines of marine scientific research and between research and policy with regard to the sea, the coastal zone and adjacent estuaries.
- The Compendium promotes the principles of an [open access](#) policy (social movement in academia that promotes the accessibility of data, information and knowledge) and the principles of open government. Hence, the availability of information and data produced with public funds is a consequence of this policy.
- The Compendium builds upon the published and / or the publicly available results of existing marine and maritime research in Flanders and Belgium. This is achieved in cooperation with the relevant agencies and academic and other accredited institutions whose official responsibilities involve a formal report (see 5.3.). The collective character of this initiative will be reflected in the layout of the product (see communication strategy).
- The document will also include the results of relevant research of Belgian / Flemish scientists in support of a sustainable use of the coast, the sea and estuaries, which was conducted outside the study area. Furthermore, figures from European institutions can be used to put the Flemish / Belgian situation in a broader context.
- The Compendium is not a final goal in support of an integrated approach of the marine and maritime policy, but will be used as an instrument in an ongoing communication strategy.
- The Compendium reflects the specific demand for information from the various target groups. A survey among these target groups is therefore decisive for the further delineation of the outline and content (themes) of the document. In addition, information is also included on own initiative.
- The Compendium will be updated with a fixed frequency in order to respond to changing questions and issues.

4. Goals and Target Groups

4.1. Strategic goals

In the Compendium, the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) intends to provide objective and scientifically underpinned information and data from the marine and maritime research. The Compendium will thus serve as an instrument in the quest for a Sustainable and Integrated Marine / Maritime policy and Coastal Zone Management.

The integrated and transboundary nature (including land-sea border) of the Compendium will contribute to an enhanced communication within and from the fragmented marine scientific landscape in Flanders and Belgium (a 'business card' of the Flemish marine science community, see communication strategy). Furthermore, the Compendium tries to make stakeholders aware of the challenges and opportunities in the marine and maritime field.

4.2. Objectives

1. Developing a structure for cooperation in the (re)production of scientifically based data and information that underpin the Compendium.
2. Producing a document that appears every 5 years and creating a website which serves as a data portal for data and information.
3. Providing scientific data and information which are traditionally fragmented and dispersed, thus contributing to a greater interdisciplinarity and in support of an Integrated Marine/Maritime Policy, including Coastal Zone Management.
4. Actively providing information and scientific data as a basis for an ongoing communication about and within the marine and maritime field. In addition, the Compendium serves as a base for the 'translation' of information to other levels.
5. Identifying gaps in the knowledge and opportunities for future research.

4.3. Target groups

The Compendium primarily focuses on:

- **Scientists** from all disciplines,
- **A broad group of experts** who are actively involved with the coast and sea in their professional life (at international, European, national, regional and local level),
- **Representatives from business and innovating forces** (e.g. Flanders Maritime Cluster).

The Compendium does NOT focus on:

- **The general public.** The Compendium provides an overview and summary which can be subsequently 'translated' to other target groups (e.g. teachers, guides and press).

5. Structure and Products

5.1. Embedding in existing structures

The Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) acts as the initiator and coordinator of the Compendium (see below 'process'). VLIZ is the coordination and information platform for marine sciences in Flanders. The marine scientific landscape in which VLIZ operates, is characterized by a broad range of expertise. Over 100 groups - with more than 1,000 specialized staff members - are dedicated to studying various aspects of the coast and sea. It concerns around 80 groups in Flanders or at the federal level, the remaining 20 are located in the French-speaking part of Belgium. The universities are represented by 57 research groups in Flanders and 26 groups located in the French-speaking part of Belgium (with an academic staff of respectively 600 and 130 persons). In addition, over 300 employees are associated with the 25 research groups in the Flemish (13) and federal (12) scientific institutions.

The strategic objectives of VLIZ:

1. Promoting Flemish marine scientific research.
2. Serving as an international contact point in the marine scientific field.
3. Promoting the international impact of Flemish marine scientific research.
4. Promoting the visibility of Flemish marine scientific research to the public at large by means of popularisation and sensitisation.
5. Providing scientific information on the sea to policy makers, whether or not upon request, so that they can use this information to underpin policy development with regard to marine affairs.

The development of a Compendium with an integrative and communicative function perfectly fits within the strategic objectives of VLIZ, particularly as defined in Article 3.4. of the statutes of VLIZ (28/12/2005)³. These strategic objectives are also included in the covenant between the Flemish Government and the Flanders Marine Institute, as established by decree in Article 42 of the BS 28.07.2010. Furthermore, the development of this Compendium is also in line with the conclusions of the institutional evaluation of VLIZ (IDEA Consult 2009), the recommendations of an international expert panel and the self-evaluation of VLIZ (department Figures & Policy) in preparation of the third management agreement (period 2011-2015).

In order to achieve the latter strategic objectives, VLIZ is supported by the Scientific Committee of VLIZ and the Board of Directors. The Scientific Committee of VLIZ advises the Board of Directors on all scientific and support activities of VLIZ and supports the Flanders Marine Institute in the formulation of qualitative and scientifically underpinned advice. Since October 2010, the Scientific Committee has a new structure consisting of three interrelated and mutually reinforcing components: the VLIZ Scientific Board, the Guidance Committee and Expert Groups.

During the meeting on December 2, 2010, the VLIZ Scientific Board took note of the draft proposal "Compendium for Coast and Sea" (blue print, version November 17, 2010), and formulated recommendations. On December 8, 2010, the Board of Directors took note of the draft proposal and the recommendations of the VLIZ Scientific Board. The modifications of the blueprint, based on the recommendations of the VLIZ Scientific Board and based on a bilateral survey were taken into account and submitted for approval in the subsequent meeting of the VLIZ Scientific Board (March 17, 2011). Advice was given from the VLIZ Scientific Board to the Board of Directors of VLIZ, to validate the final version of the blueprint (meeting of 27 April, 2011). Subsequently, a roadmap, terms of reference for the co-authors and a communication strategy (including the creation of a website) were developed. The latter documents are submitted for approval to the Guidance Committee of June 16, 2011 and the Board of Directors of June 22, 2011.

5.2. Building Blocks

The Flanders Marine Institute acts as the initiator and coordinator of the Compendium, and provides part of the content based on their own data. On the other hand the Compendium is also supported by published and publicly available data and time series that 1) are not specifically reported for the coast and sea (e.g. due to aggregation at a higher spatial scale) or 2) do not traditionally find their way into the reports or information in the marine/maritime field (e.g., technical scientific publications and the contribution of marine-related employment or gross domestic product).

³ Article 3.4 of the statutes of VLIZ (28/12/2005), states that one of the core tasks of VLIZ is "Providing scientific information on the sea to policy makers, whether or not upon request, so that they can use this information to develop their policy with regard to marine affairs".

During the production of the Compendium, the following building blocks will be used:

- Scientific publications and reports (including reported time series)
- Policy documents
- Indicators and time series in sector-bound reporting
- Derived communications products
- Non-conventional sources (companies, civil society organisations, hobby groups, amateurs, passionate individuals, ...)

The end product 'Compendium' will consist of several components (see below) and will be issued both in English (*lingua franca* of science) and Dutch (cf. guardianship VLIZ).

- An extensive background document (digital)
- A focus document (max. 30-40 pages, in print)
- An executive summary (max. 3 pages, in print)
- An aggregation of time series (digital)
- Communication products within existing VLIZ services (Information sheets, Seastats, 'De Grote Rede', ... see communication strategy)
- New derivative communication products both at the request of end-users and on own initiative (presentations, brochures, learning material, translations, ...).

5.2.1. Scientific reports as building blocks

Published scientific reports are the foundations of the Compendium. The relevant scientific information which is extracted from these reports is cited as the source and made digitally available (in the module 'Literature' of [the Integrated Marine Information System](#), IMIS, and the related Open Marine Archive, OMA). The Compendium does not aim at providing an exhaustive overview of the research which is/was conducted. It primarily focuses on research relevant for policy and attempts to explain the results and use them as a building block. In this regard it is assumed that each of these publications internally refers to the research which constitutes the basis of the cited work. The Compendium seeks to give an overview of the current situation and indicate opportunities for the future, based on scientific publications. The provided information gives - when available - the limits within which the system can evolve. Furthermore, information is aggregated which indicates the potential effects of certain choices and interventions in the system.

5.2.2. Policy documents as guidance

Besides the scientific reports, relevant information from policy documents is provided in the Compendium:

- Societal issues and policy issues.
- Societal and policy choices (An indication of the way these choices are tackled).
- Targets and / or cost-benefit analyses.

The Compendium does not intend to interfere with societal and policy choices. The provided information demarcates the boundary conditions and indicates the objectives of the policy choices, serving in this way as guidance for the Compendium.

The selection includes amongst others: the strategic development plans for the Flemish ports, the National Operational Plan (NOP) for fisheries, development strategies for energy production at sea, strategic objectives for sand extraction at sea, the 'Kustactieplan', the 'MINA3 plan', the Long-Term Vision for the Scheldt Estuary, the 'Masterplan Noordzee', the objectives endorsed in coalition agreements, the European (framework) directives and international conventions signed by Belgium, recommendations and marine scientific challenges and priorities as outlined in the 'Ostend Declaration',...

The chapter 'Interface Science and Policy' (see below) in the Compendium will contain an overview and description of the authorities competent for the coast and sea and explain the degree of implementation of research into strategic policy documents in the context of current issues.

5.3. Consistency with other indicator reports

The Compendium indicates (in the background document) the relationship with other reports on local and European level. Examples of these reports are:

- Reports at European and international level (non-exhaustive list): International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and MARPOL Conventions, OSPAR State of the Coast reports (Oslo-Paris Convention), Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas (ASCOBANS), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), reports and figures from the Directorate-General MARE (shipping, maritime transport, fisheries, employment, other ...), the European Environment Agency ('European State of the Coast'), information systems for the Water Framework Directive ('WISE' and 'Navy WISE'), EUROSTAT, European reporting on Natura 2000 areas, the Floods Directive, the Bathing Water Directive, The Air Quality Framework Directive, the Nitrates Directive, non-endemic species, etc.
- General Directorate for Statistics and Economic Information (ADSEI), Belgium (population, employment, ...)
- Social and Economic Council of Flanders and annual reports of the Port Commission
- 'Westtoer' and Tourism Flanders (tourism and recreation)
- The Flemish environment agency: MIRA, environmental reporting
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: Sea Fisheries: landings, total gross revenues and outcome of the fisheries
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: LARA (fisheries), agriculture (and fisheries) reporting
- The Scheldt evaluation report of the Working Group Research and Monitoring, the Flemish-Dutch Scheldt Commission
- Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO): NARA, nature reporting
- The Coordination Centre for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (CDK): 'Kustkompas' (sustainability indicators for the coast) and the Coastal Atlas (interactive cartographic applications)
- Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models (MUMM / RBINS) (Federal Environmental Report 2004-2008)
- National Bank of Belgium (NBB): Working Paper Series 'Economic importance of the Belgian ports'.
- ...

6. Organisation and Planning

6.1. Organisation

The development of the Compendium requires a continuous interaction between the co-authors, the lecturers, the Expert team and the VLIZ team and secretariat. The Scientific Committee of VLIZ will provide guidance in terms of content (figure 2). The result will be presented as a cooperative product in which the contribution of each of the authors, lecturers and their institutional affiliations will be explicitly acknowledged. In each of the communication actions related to the Compendium, the cooperative character of the process will be brought to the attention (see communication strategy).

Expert group

The terms of reference and the composition of the Compendium Expert Group are submitted for approval to the Scientific Committee of VLIZ, and are to be validated and approved by the Board of Directors of VLIZ. The experts are professionals that are prepared to share their views and expertise. The expert team consists of a balanced representation of persons from the science and policy domains, a number of committed co-authors, the VLIZ team and possibly a representation from the Scientific Committee. The experts have an advisory role in the development of the Compendium. The expert group will convene according to a planned schedule of (4) meetings in order to assess progress, steer the (communication) strategy and report back to the Scientific Committee.

Co-authors

The authors contribute to the content of the integrated information document and (where appropriate) to the texts, based on scientific publications or provide guidance on the texts (to the VLIZ team in charge of compiling the document). The structure and composition of the subjects/themes of the document is agreed by the Expert Group. Co-authors can be member of the Expert Group.

The co-authors will not be remunerated for their contribution. The suggestions and comments of the lecturers and the VLIZ team will be taken into account in the final editing of the texts.

Lecturers

Lecturers are invited to critically review the text and the interpretation of the content in the final draft document. Lecturers are typically from the society organisations (in Dutch commonly referred to as 'middenveld'), the private sector and government. The lecturer review is intended to provide a wide support to the Compendium and to increase its usefulness for the target group.

VLIZ team

The VLIZ team is responsible for the final editing of the text and content and will be in charge of the daily follow-up of the following activities in the process:

- Identifying and contacting co-authors
- Coordinating the contributions of the co-authors
- Nurturing project communication between the co-authors and the Expert Group
- Preparing progress reporting from the Expert Group to the Scientific Committee

- Final editing of the Compendium and the indicator-based assessment and related information systems and products

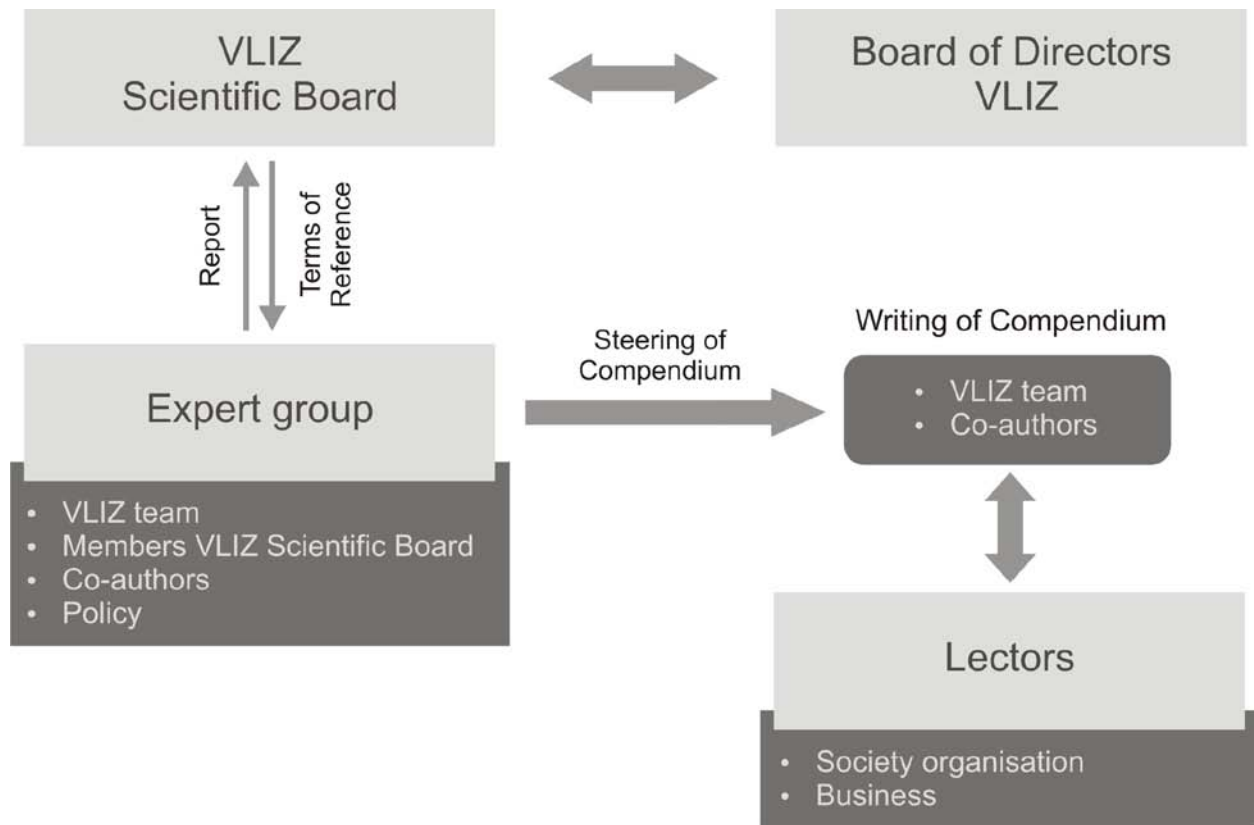


Figure 2. Schematic view of the production process and organisation of the Compendium.

6.2. Planning

The most important steps in the Compendium production process are represented in the overview below. The planning schedule is elaborated in more detail in the roadmap and the gantt chart (see attachment). The publication of the first version of the Compendium is scheduled in November 2013. A first actualisation is planned by the end of 2015. From then on, the Compendium will follow a 5-yearly update (2015, 2020,...).

Phase 1: Preparing the concept (Oct-May 2011)

- Drafting a blueprint for internal review and discussion, consultation within the scientific committee, consultation with key scientists and key persons/intermediaries.
- Revised blueprint for approval by the Scientific Committee and the Board of Directors of VLIZ

Phase 2: Planning for the Compendium (May 2011-Dec 2011)

- Drafting the roadmap (see attachment)
- Terms of Reference and membership of the Expert Group (see attachment)
- Draft Communication strategy (see attachment)
- Proposal to organise input from VLIZ information- and datasystems for the Compendium

Phase 3: Realisation (May 2011-Oct 2013)

- Internal and external communication strategy (entire project lifetime)

- Streamlining input from VLIZ information- and datasystems for the Compendium and realization of feedback from the bibliometric review
- Drafting the Concept: objectives, structure and content with feedback to the Expert Group (meeting 1 and 2) and for internal review
- Drafting final texts with co-authors, feedback to the expert group meetings 3 and 4, and review (lectors)
- Final editing, translation and printing

Phase 4: Launch, dissemination and evaluation (Nov 2013-...)

7. Proposal of Content of the Compendium

The Compendium for Coast and Sea is a Dutch-English publication. From the first actualisation (2015) onwards, the document will follow a 5-year cycle of publication (2013, 2015, 2020,...). The indicator-based assessment (website) will follow - if feasible - an annual updating.

Content of the Compendium (figure 3)

Chapter 1: AN OVERVIEW OF THE MARINE SCIENTIFIC LANDSCAPE

- A description of the marine sciences landscape (including brief history) in Flanders and in Belgium. This section provides a descriptive overview of the extent, organisation and evolution of the marine sciences and 'marine expertise' in the different research areas in Flanders and Belgium. The funding and resources, trends in sources of funding (international and European financial instruments, federal and Flemish government, ...). Besides organisation and resources, it will also include a description of data flows and networks.
- An interactive diagram with an overview of the current marine landscape serves as an introduction to the chapter, and refers to the updated [Integrated Marine Information System](#), IMIS.
- Analysis of the publications (Belgian Marine Bibliography and the Open Marine Archive, bibliometrics), datasets, projects and events in the marine and maritime research.
- A description and analysis of existing scientific knowledge (research and monitoring). This analysis is organised in coherence with the 10 main themes of the document 'EurOcean 2010: Grand Challenges for Marine Research in the Next Decade', further developed in the publication 'Navigating the Future IV' by the Marine Board - European Science Foundation (Publication expected end 2011). These documents will include the following themes:
 - o Climate Change
 - o Marine Ecosystem Functioning
 - o Blue energy
 - o Food from Marine Resources
 - o Maritime Transport
 - o Marine Spatial Planning
 - o Oceans and Human Health
 - o Emerging Challenges and Opportunities
 - o Marine Observations and Information
 - o Marine Research Infrastructures
 - o Education and Outreach

Besides the local translation of the future challenges for the marine and maritime research in the themes mentioned above, other relevant research in Flanders will be covered (e.g. Maritime Heritage, Socio-economic research,...)

- Mapping gaps in information and knowledge, obstacles, challenges and opportunities for future research.

Chapter 2: (SUSTAINABLE) USE

Chapters 1 and 3 mainly build on data and information that will be produced by VLIZ. Chapter 2, on the other hand, is mainly focused on gathering and integrating thematic and sector-bound information and data. The production of this chapter relies on the existing memoranda of understanding and cooperation agreements with the experts and authorities, both within and outside the network of VLIZ. Chapter 2 is closely connected to the indicator sets on the website, and fulfils an online portal function for making existing information, data and time series available and accessible.

- The use of the coastal and marine areas and the adjacent estuaries, by sector. The organisation of this chapter is linked to the themes and structure of the Belgian Coastal Atlas.
 - o Fisheries, Agriculture and Aquaculture
 - o Energy, Industry and the Private Sector (incl. transportation infrastructure such as pipelines and cables)
 - o Maritime Transport, Shipping and Ports
 - o Sand- and Gravel Extraction, Dredging and disposal
 - o Heritage and Culture
 - o Social and Living Environment
 - o Nature and Environment
 - o Safety against Flooding and Climate Changes
 - o Tourism, Recreation and Sports
 - o Military Use
 - o Education, Research and Innovation
 - o Scheldt Estuary
 - o Integrated Coastal Zone Management
- The themes above are reported following a similar pattern:
 1. An introduction on the importance of each theme, including a benchmarking in a European / international context.
 2. Policy context and use of space: A review of the relevant legal documents, authorities, processes (e.g. procedures of permit (concession) requests, environmental impact assessments and reporting) ... and the related use of space in the study area (maps).
 3. Societal interest: A survey of the socio-economic importance of the various themes and sectors (production, added value, employment, ...).
 4. Current status (if applicable)
 5. Impact: an enumeration of relevant impacts both at the ecological and socio-economic level.
 6. Sustainable use: An overview of measures that are established to monitor, mitigate or avoid negative impacts of use.
- The integration of the various uses of the coastal and marine environment is partly accomplished by the use of cross-references. On the other hand, the relationship between different users and their use of space, is covered in the themes 'marine spatial planning' and 'integrated coastal zone management'.
- A (schematic) overview of ecosystems and ecosystem services and products and a reference to the "state of the environment" (Federal Environmental Assessment, for the Belgian part of the North Sea, RBINS-BMM).

Chapter 3: SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE

This chapter aims to present the issues in the marine and maritime field, on the basis of scientific knowledge and an integrative approach between science and policy.

- An introductory overview of responsibilities and major players (interactive diagrams that refer to [the Integrated Marine Information System, IMIS](#)) at the multilateral, European, Belgian and Flemish level.
- An introductory overview of existing relevant policy documents that strive for and seek to support an integrated approach in maritime / marine policies
- An assessment of the degree of implementation / uptake of research to support an integrated approach in the marine / maritime policies.
- Relevant issues for the Flemish / Belgian marine policies in the coastal and marine zones and estuaries (selection of a number of themes which are known as current issues and / or important issues for the future).
- Scope to the Future: an overview of existing research and future scenarios for policy (referring e.g. to IPCC scenarios, Flemish environmental reporting, other vision documents and documents in the scope of "Navigating the Future").

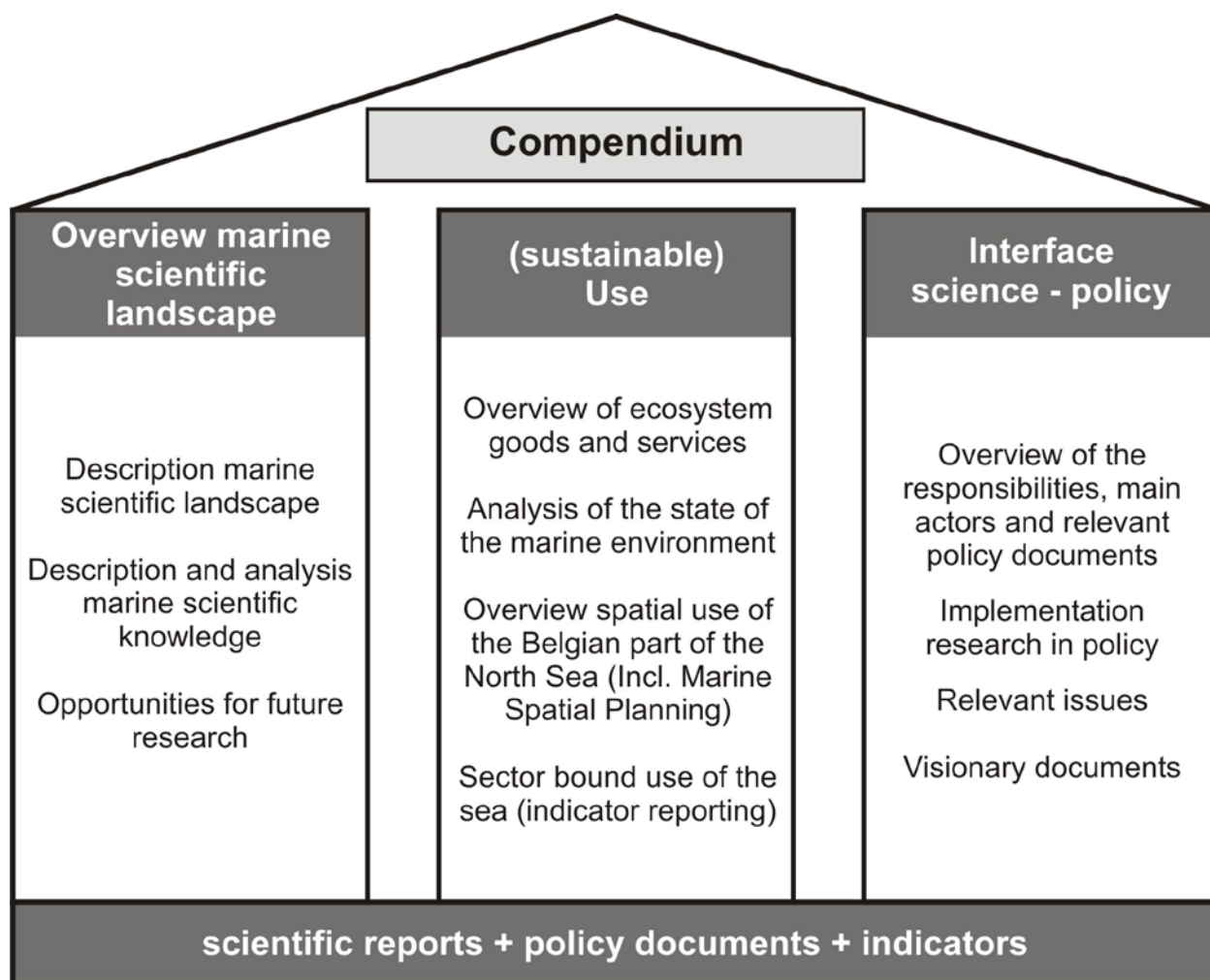


Figure 3: Schematic view of the content of the Compendium.

8. Proposal for the indicator-based assessment

a. Structure:

Description: the indicator-based assessment is considered as a stand-alone information product in the communication strategy. With this information product, the Compendium addresses the request of certain users to have online and 'direct' access to statistics and data (including time series). The indicator products will provide a portal to existing – mostly thematic/sector-bound – indicators and sets of indicators that are relevant for the Coast and Sea. Primary sources and authors (institutions and experts) of the indicators and indicator-based products are acknowledged.

The indicator-based assessment follows a thematic structure within a logical framework that consists of a number of governance and performance indicators (figure 4 vertical boxes above) and specific issue indicators (figure 4 horizontal boxes below).

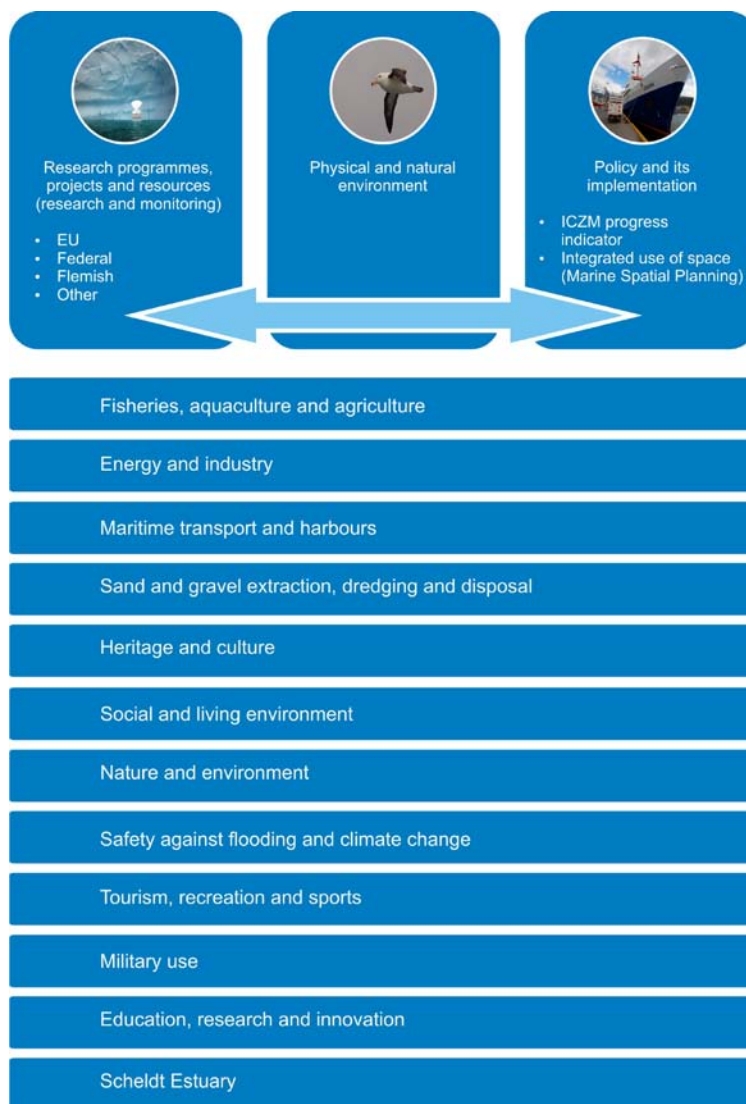


Figure 4. Proposal for the thematic issues of the indicator-based assessment: above the general governance and performance indicators (3 vertical boxes) and below the specific thematic indicators (12 horizontal boxes).

b. Content:

It is proposed to offer digital 'factsheets' to the user (content driven by database) in which the following aspects are included and developed:

- Name of the indicator
- Key message
- Target (value), Reference Value
- Graphs (time series and visualisation of the target value)
- Sources
- Metadata
- Other Figures
- Legal Framework and Policy Context
- Threats and Opportunities, including linkages to other indicators and time series in the list
- Technical Factsheet, including an evaluation of the indicator and the data.

