

# COAST LINE

## Coastal & Marine Challenges



• **Restoring marshlands on Tiengemeten**

• **EUCC's Activities Special Issue**

• **Novel approaches to capacity building, a matter of COREPOINT**

# Editorial

An important part of EUCC's work is to assist the various inter-governmental organisations that have been set up to discuss marine and coastal sustainability, conservation and ICZM issues. We are either invited to provide particular expertise or as a formal observer. This allows us to influence policy development at a regional and European level. Over the last years, we have assisted the EU's ICZM Group of Experts, the EU ICZM Working Group on Information and Data, the OSPAR-MASH and HELCOM-Habitat groups and the Black Sea Advisory Group on ICZM. To this list can now be added the ICES Working Group on ICZM where we have also participated by invitation.

We can only do all this work – and a lot more – because we are supported by many members and national branches as well as by DG Environment. In various ways we assist the European Commission in the preparation, implementation and dissemination of EU environmental policies. EUCC is very grateful for the annual grants that we are receiving for our work programme since 2003.

This special issue of Coastline provides a summary of some of the efforts we are involved in and of some of the challenges for the future.

We hope this publication is an inspiration to all readers. We hope you will all be encouraged to continue your support and to become active in one of the project topics.

On behalf of the EUCC International Team



*Albert Salman, Director General; Maria Ferreira, Head of Information & Communication Unit; Alan Pickaver, Head of Policy Unit; Robert Steenbergen, Head of General Affairs (from left to right).*

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## Colophon

Volume 2008-1  
ISSN 0928-2734

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**Chief editors:** Alan Pickaver and Maria Ferreira

**Design & Layout:** Erik Devilee

**Printed by:** Drukkerij All-in, Katwijk, The Netherlands  
Printed on FSC paper (Reviva Silk)

Opinions expressed in EUCC Coastline do not necessarily reflect the official views of EUCC.

**Photo front:** Restoring marshlands on Tiengemeten, photo Rein Geleijnse

**Insets:** Pays Basque, France, photo Marie Claire Prat; Corepoint meeting, Sherkin Island, Cork, photo Maria Ferreira; Common Shelduck, photo Gediminas Grazulevicius

**Back page:** Restoration issues in Dutch dunes, EUCC-poster presented at the International Dune Conference, Liverpool, 1-3 April 2008

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**Thanks for support are expressed to EUCC – International (Leiden, NL):** Tim van Beers, Ben Spaans, Nico den Hollander, Piet Lansbergen, Ben Overdevest, Iris Pasman, Colinda Vergeer, Jakus van der Salm, Ben Spaans, Robert Steenbergen, Peter de Villeneuve, Cécile Zoetemelk, René Beckerschmidt.

**Funding acknowledgements are given to** the EU Action Programme promoting European NGOs, The Dutch Government Service for Land and Water Management DGL (Tiengemeten), INTERREG IIIB North (COREPOINT), 6th Framework Programme (ENCORA, CONSCIENCE & SPI-COSA), SMAP III (Cap Nador & ALAMIM), The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality (EAF), BBI programme (Black Sea MPAs), INTERREG IIIB NP CADSES (PlanCoas) and the EuropeAid project Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea (ECBS).



# Tiengemeten, an island of wistfulness, wealth and wilderness

By Marion de Boo

Translation Sara van Otterloo-Butler



**The Dutch are famous for their dyke building, but this winter they broke through one, an event that caused widespread public interest. In October 2007, a large digger created a 50 metre-wide gap in the dyke on the south side of the island of Tiengemeten in the province of South Holland. This undertaking is the last part of a large nature development project funded by the European Union. The break in the island's defences gives tidal water a free run over a large area of the island. A wilderness is now developing, with areas of reed, brushwood and tidal forest with shallows and mudflats. The area will become home again to once common birds and plants, and an ideal spawning ground for fish.**

Tiengemeten lies in the estuary of the Haringvliet, just south of Rotterdam. The island is less than half an hour's drive from the Rijnmond area, one of the most densely populated parts of the Netherlands with over 2 million inhabitants. About 40,000 people visit Tiengemeten each year. A 15-minute ferry ride from the mainland takes you to a green oasis where you're immediately aware of being on an island. There's a visitors' centre in one of the old barns on the waterfront in the harbour and another old farm has been converted into a bed & breakfast with a small 'green' campsite. New footpaths have been laid out, bird hides and observation posts have been built, and soon there will be a special area where children can play.

## Three identities

Although nature development is the priority, there is more to the project. The landscape has been developed and divided into areas with three distinct characters: wistfulness, wealth and wilderness. With over 600 hectares, the 'Wilderness' (*Wildernis*) area covers the largest part of the island. Here a natural tidal landscape has emerged, governed by water and wind. 'Wealth' (*Weelde*) is the name of the rich, fertile area in the middle of the island. Covering over 300 hectares, part of it is inundated in the winter, drying up slowly in the course of the summer: a haven for waders. It will be a semi-natural landscape with grass, reed and swamp vegetation,

mud flats that dry out and shallows. 'Wistfulness' (*Weemoed*) is the name of the oldest most easterly part of the island, which derives its character from the restoration of the cultural heritage in the landscape. This area, called the *Oude Polder* (Old Polder), was the first to be enclosed by a dyke, in 1750. Soon visitors will be able to enjoy fields of herbs and flowers, orchards with old fruit tree varieties, an alder grove and rows of pollarded trees. Smaller dykes that have disappeared are being restored and the small fields will be cultivated as they used to be with a plough pulled by the Zeeuwse carthorse. The wistfulness area covers 125 hectares including the grasslands outside the dyke.

## European subsidies

For the nature development on the island a subsidy was obtained from the European LIFE fund, and the cultural heritage conservation work has made use of the European Interreg fund through the ISLA project. The purchase and redevelopment of Tiengemeten is budgeted at 37 million euros. The work was commissioned by the Government Service for Land and Water Management (DLG) of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture. The island was acquired in 1997 by Vereniging Natuurmonumenten, a large Dutch nature conservation organisation. The major partners are Rijkswaterstaat (Directorate General for Public Works and Water Management), the municipality of Korendijk and the Province of South Holland.

Before Natuurmonumenten took over the management of the island there were still six tenant farmers working on Tiengemeten. All have been offered alternative farms on the mainland. About three-quarters of a million tons of earth have been moved for the redevelopment, eighty buildings have been demolished and new inlets dug out. Around the three settlement areas new quays have been constructed to protect them against flooding. The outside dyke has been strengthened, and others have been lowered or removed. Eleven kilometres of road have been removed and replaced by three kilometres of new roads. While 980 poplars have been felled, twice as many trees, mainly ash, have been planted. Natuurmonumenten is assisted in its management by a herd of Scottish Highlanders, which will graze on a large part of the grassland on the island all year round.

### Freshwater tidal nature

The restoration of the freshwater tidal flora and fauna is of great importance, also at European level. After the disastrous floods of 1953, the Netherlands embarked on the construction of the Delta Works. Dykes were strengthened and storm barriers were built to keep the sea out. The land is now well protected against the threat of floods, but the tidal nature that was common in the south-west part of the Netherlands has almost disappeared. The same is true along the Haringvliet estuary. Before the Haringvliet was closed off from the open sea, there was a two-metre difference between high and low tide and the environment was saline. Since the closure the tidal range has shrunk to 30 centimetres and there is now a freshwater environment. The number of types of fish in the Haringvliet has halved, from 95 to 49 species. Numbers of estuarine and marine species have declined dramatically. Migratory fish, such as shad, have all but disappeared. The Haringvliet floodgates will be opened up gradually, allowing the tidal range to increase and more exchange of salt and fresh water. When the gates open up even further after 2010, the tidal range will go up to 60 cm and the ratio of salt to fresh water will increase. Fish such as allis shad, twaite shad, sea lamprey, salmon and sturgeon are expected to benefit from this.

A point worth mentioning is the presence of a root vole (*Microtus oeconomus*) sub-species found only in the Netherlands. A relict from the last ice age, the vole has a thick furry coat and is an excellent swimmer. It thrives in inaccessible reed areas and is the only Dutch mammal that is a priority species in the European Habitats Directive.

The Haringvliet is a birds directive area. Tiengemeten has always had a rich bird population and numbers are expected to increase further. The play of wind and water in the wilderness area will lead to a rugged pattern of creeks along the shore and you will see many types of ducks and waders along the extended mudflats. In the Blanken Slikken nature reserve outside the dyke, large numbers of songbirds are already nesting, including the bluethroat. These existing ecological features have been preserved during the redevelopment of the island and spoonbills and little egrets are also expected to start breeding here. Although the island receives many human visitors, most of them walk along the northern dyke or climb the Vliedberg, an old refuge mound in the middle of the island. Much of the island is impassable for walkers so birds will be able to forage and breed in peace.

### Change of use

Historical buildings will be put to new uses. Most of the eight farms along the northern dyke will be restored. A ninth farm and a workers' cottage are right in the middle of the wilderness area, and they will be left to become ruins that will house owls and bats. Some houses on Tiengemeten will remain privately occupied and several houses and farms will also be converted into holiday accommodation. Two museums and premises for Natuurmonumenten are also planned. One of the farms will offer care services where residents, mainly people with mental health problems, can spend time helping with nature conservation activities and working in the heritage fields. In addition to houses and farms, the historical sluices are also being restored. Altogether, Tiengemeten has become a safe haven for plants, animals and people.





Goldrood - photo Remko van Rosmalen



Photo Rein Geleijnse



Visitor centre, photo Rein Geleijnse



## ISLA

Islands have their own particular problems and challenges, and that is why Tiengemeten is part of the European ISLA network. In the search for a balance between nature development, tourism and cultural heritage conservation, the Dutch, French, Scottish and Irish partners exchange expertise and experience. ISLA is part of Interreg, a European subsidy fund for spatial development. The idea of cooperation arose in 2003 at a European partners workshop in Bonn.

The Dutch Government Service for Land and Water Management (DLG) is the 'lead partner' in ISLA, which was launched on Tiengemeten. The other partners are Conservatoire du Littoral (France), Shetland Amenity Trust (Shetland Islands, UK), Argyll & Bute Council (UK) en Bere Island Project Group (Ireland). ISLA runs for five years, and the final conference will be held in March 2008 on the island of Bute in Scotland.

Until recently, all the islands were largely dependent on agriculture, but farmers find life difficult and are leaving. New functions are now being sought. ISLA seeks answers to three questions: How can tourism be developed on these islands without damaging the nature there? How should one go about conserving the cultural heritage and original landscapes on the islands? What role should the government play? Tiengemeten is interesting as the farmers were awarded a 'relocation' arrangement. Other islands are pursuing a less radical approach.

On Tiengemeten some of the ISLA money is being invested in the Oude Polder, where *Zeeuwse* wheat cultivation is being reintroduced, an old small-scale form of mixed farming. Small fields of less than half an acre are being laid out and *Zeeuwse* carthorses used for ploughing. A care farm is being established, which will be an economic carrier on the island and the residents will work in the Oude Polder. ISLA subsidies are also being used to restore the Oude Haven (old harbour) and make it more suitable for recreational craft. The creation of the 'demonstration site' will cost 1.4 million euros, of which 48 percent will be contributed by ISLA.

See: [www.isla-europe.com](http://www.isla-europe.com)



Photo Peter Valkema

## Eurosite twinning stimulates wetlands restoration on Tiengemeten and Île Nouvelle

An interesting twinning partner has been found for the nature development on Tiengemeten. Within Eurosite, the European network of nature conservation organisations, the Dutch nature conservation organisation Vereniging Natuurmonumenten works together with its French colleagues of the Conseil General de la Gironde. Personnel exchange experiences on the restoration of tidal nature on Tiengemeten and Île Nouvelle.

Île Nouvelle is an island in the Gironde estuary, north of Bordeaux in France. There is a tidal range of over 4.5 metres and Île Nouvelle lies one to two metres under the high tide mark. The island is similar to Tiengemeten, but is smaller, has salt water and a fast flowing tide with a dynamic open coastal environment. The island was formed from two wandering sandbanks and was strengthened with dykes in the 18th century. In 1880 about 170 hectares were farmed, as vineyards, cropland and meadow. By the end of the 19th century about 100 people lived in two settlements, and most buildings on the island date from that time. The most northerly village was abandoned in the fifties. In 1998 farming ceased. After a heavy storm in 1999, in which the island was almost washed away, a new function as nature reserve was chosen, with hunting being continued. The island functions as an overflow polder for the nearby town of Bordeaux when there are spring tides, and now a harbour with mooring for recreational boats and a visitors' centre are planned. In spring 2008 the first monitoring campaign will start.

Nature development and the processes by which the landscape is formed are interesting. Both parties can learn a lot from each other on how to deal carefully with existing ecological features and develop new functions at the same time, and they meet at least once a year. Although they have been in contact with each other for more than ten years, the official twinning started in 2006 and will last for five years.

See: [www.eurosite.org](http://www.eurosite.org)



Photo Rein Celejijusc

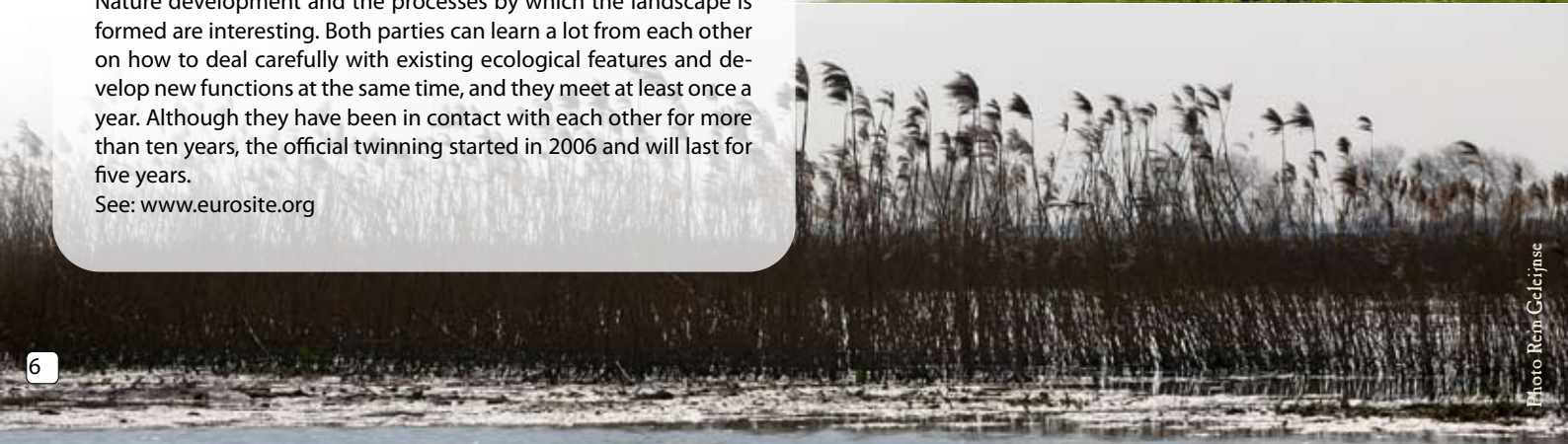


Photo Rein Celejijusc

# **EUCC's Activities**

## ***Special Issue***



**Networking in a changing  
coastal & marine world**

# Practising sustainable coastal & marine management

## Newly discovered oyster reefs in the Black Sea

**How likely is it, that in the 21st century an unknown and spectacular marine habitat will be discovered in Europe?**

As part of a project led by EUCC – International, to identify potential Marine Protected Areas in Bulgaria and Romania, a series of diving expeditions were conducted throughout the summer of 2007. Huge, previously unreported, bio-genic reefs built by the native flat oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) were revealed. Extant oyster reefs (built by *Crassostrea virginica*) were previously only known from the eastern US.

The reefs occur in clear marine waters at 2-23m depth. Individual reefs are massive, erect structures attaining 7m in height, 10m wide and 30-50m in length. Discussion with fishermen who avoid the area because the “rocks” damage their nets have indicated that there may be other reefs elsewhere along the coast. Unlike other

European biogenic reefs, dominated by tube-building polychaetes or mussels, the ostrak is composed almost exclusively of flat oysters. The US reefs are much smaller and associated with freshwater input. Fresh oyster shells were visible on the reefs but no live oysters have been found associated with them. However, only a few years ago local people collected live oysters from these reefs. Living oysters may be present at sites where diving was not done during the expeditions.

The discovery, inevitably, poses many questions. Are the reefs still living, if not, what has caused the demise of the oysters and is restoration possible? These reefs will, at any rate, be included in indicative lists of MPAs now being drawn up.

*By Dragos Micu (NIMRD, Romania) and Valentina Todorova (IO-BAS, Bulgaria)*

## Biodiversity

## The SEENET programme

**The implementation of the South-East European Ecological NETWORK programme, has been facilitated by the SEENET programme which ended in November 2007 ([www.seenet.info](http://www.seenet.info)). It ran for two years and was coordinated by ECNC-European Centre for Nature Conservation, Eurosite and EUCC- International.**

The programme's main achievements included the development of an extensive network of experts with knowledge of their ongoing activities in the field of ecological networks in the region; the establishment of a clearing-house mechanism to distribute information and serve as a doorway to the world of ecological networks and the provision of opportunities for stakeholder groups to participate in national or international fora, events, training and seminars in the region or in EU bodies and institutions where experts were able to represent their region. Furthermore, communication materials on the Pan-European Ecological Network, and stakeholder involvement in ecological networks, and sectoral brochures on ecological networks in forestry, freshwater ecosystems, agriculture, transport, and fisheries were developed. All these outputs are available online.

*By Ana Nieto, ECNC*



### The new information source Coastal Wiki

The Coastal Wiki is a web-based information resource providing up-to-date high quality information to coastal professionals ([www.encora.eu](http://www.encora.eu)). At the same time, it also serves as a platform to disseminate knowledge to coastal and marine scientists, policymakers, practitioners, and the interested public.

Just like the Wikipedia, the Coastal Wiki links existing sources, makes expert knowledge readable and accessible for (educated) non-experts, can be used free of charge, and relies on users to improve and update the content. However, there are also differences between the Coastal Wiki and the Wikipedia in that, only known professionals in the field have editing access, although anyone can read the information in the coastal wiki; the coastal wiki is focused on the coastal and marine environment; it has a glossary; and it provides user support.

The Coastal Wiki aims at becoming the main dissemination point for all European coastal and marine projects. Some European research projects, such as MARBEF, SPICOSA and CONSCIENCE, have already expressed the intention to disseminate results through the Coastal Wiki.

EUCC is currently leading Theme 2 "ICZM Participation and Implementation" of the Coastal Wiki. This is one of ten themes through which the content development of the wiki is being managed.

The Coastal Wiki is just one of the activities of the ENCORA project, which aims at bridging the gap between coastal science, policy, and practice. Other ENCORA services include the young professionals exchange program, the establishment of national networks and a contact database containing the contact details of some 2000 colleagues throughout Europe, information on some 400 projects and links to some 800 institute websites. All these activities are obviously very well in line with EUCC's mission and action. Therefore, EUCC has invited the ENCORA network and also CoastNET, another partner in the project, to collaborate in the establishment of a European Coastal Council.

*By Wouter Kreiken and Irene Lucius, EUCC International*

### Linking information, science and policy-making

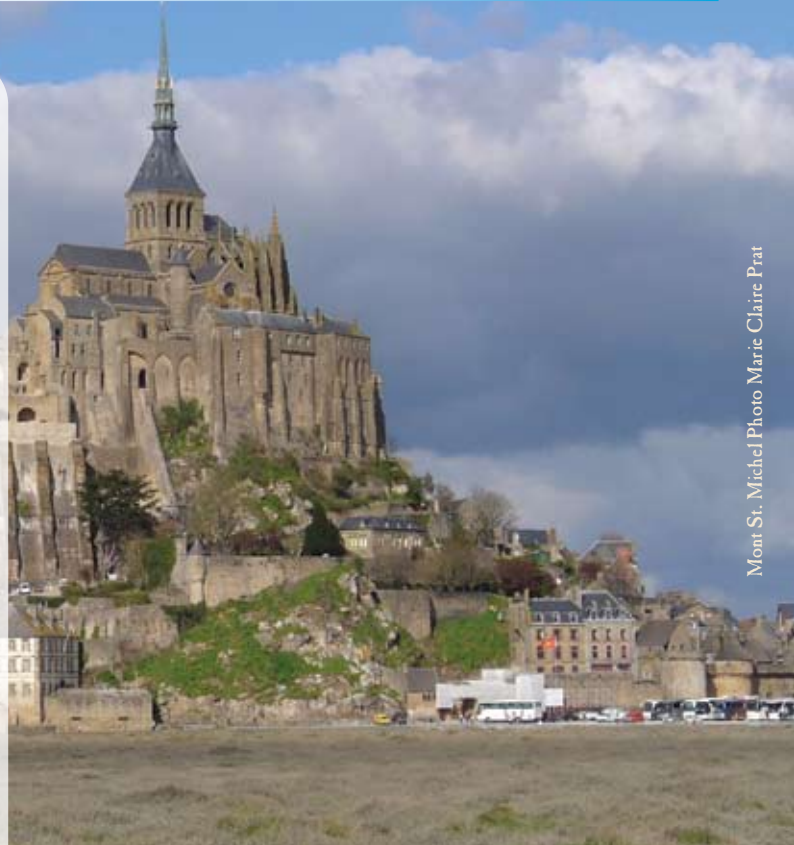
SPICOSA - Science and Policy Integration for COastal Systems Assessment is the largest Integrated project with over 50 participating institutes ([www.spicosa.eu](http://www.spicosa.eu)). SPICOSA aims to break down traditional approaches to coastal science and policy development through the promotion of a multidisciplinary 'systems approach'. The project is developing a Systems-Approach Framework (SAF) that generates decision-support tools for the integrated ecological, social, economic assessments needed for policy options in supporting sustainability for coastal zone Systems. The SAF is based on existing knowledge, to be validated and refined by application to a set of diverse study site application areas throughout Europe.

The CONSCIENCE - Concepts and Science for Coastal Erosion Management project aims to develop and test scientifically justified guidelines, concepts and methods designed for the sustainable

management of coastal erosion on European coasts ([www.conscience-eu.net](http://www.conscience-eu.net)). The project aims to define coastal erosional behaviour in quantifiable terms and to produce guidelines and tools to enable an effective uptake of these concepts in European coastal management.

EUCC Mediterranean Centre is responsible for promoting and disseminating interim and final results of both projects which have recently reached 1 year lifetime. EUCC Med Centre is also providing expertise in SPICOSA work packages related to coastal policy responses and training & capacity building issues. The next phases will provide significant results and outputs that will be progressively made available in both project websites..

*By Carolina Perez and Maria Ferreira, EUCC Mediterranean Centre*



Mont St. Michel Photo Marie Claire Prat



Workshop EUCC France Photo Marie Claire Prat

# Integrated Coastal Zone Management

## ICZM plans of action in the Mediterranean

EUCC is leading the project CAP Nador (Coastal Action Plan for Nador). The partnership includes three Moroccan organisations, the *École Nationale Forestière d'Ingénieurs* (ENFI), the *Commune of Boudinar*, and the NGO *Forum d'Urbanisme, d'Environnement et de Développement* (FUED). The study area of the project is the coastal zone of the Province of Nador, in the Mediterranean coast of Morocco, which holds the largest lagoon of the southern Mediterranean, four sites of biological and ecological importance and three main urban centres Nador, Beni Nsar and Melilla. The area suffers from a number of environmental and socioeconomic problems that hamper the development of the area and is leading to a loss of natural resources. Therefore, the overall goal is to promote sustainable development in the coastal area of this Province through the establishment of ICZM Plans of Action in three selected pilot sites, namely the Nador Lagoon,

the Rural Commune of Boudinar and the *Cap des Trois Fourches*. To this end, efforts are being devoted to facilitate participation in the development of the action plans through interviews with key stakeholders and focus group meetings. Currently, the action plans are being prepared and will be discussed with stakeholders to seek their opinion, approval and commitment. Project deliverables and regular updates are available at [www.eucc.net/en/capnador/](http://www.eucc.net/en/capnador/)

In Egypt, EUCC is partner of ALAMIM project lead by MedCities, which aims to establish an integrated management system for Lake Maryut in Alexandria. Strategic participatory planning and capacity building is the core of this project, which has a 3 year duration, as does Cap Nador.

*By Pedro Fernandez and Carolina Perez, EUCC Mediterranean Centre*

## Supporting the ICZM process in the Black Sea Region

EUCC is promoting the integrated coastal zone management approach in the Black Sea Region. Since 2007, EUCC has been advising the Romanian partner of PlanCoast ([www.plancoast.eu](http://www.plancoast.eu)), the National Institute for Marine Research and Development, "Grigore Antipa", on integrated planning methodologies in coastal zones and maritime areas, in particular stakeholder involvement and institutional issues.

For the Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea (ECBS) and its Lead Contractor Euroconsult Mott MacDonald, EUCC is active in Ukraine and Georgia ([www.ecbsea.org](http://www.ecbsea.org)). In Ukraine, the main task is to support the Ministry of Environment in developing further a Draft Law on sustainable management of the coastal zone. To that aim, a group of experts has been formed that will compare the present Draft Law with the ICZM Model Law of the Council of Europe and with experience of coastal EU countries and make recommendations on how to make the Law more effective. The Group will also deal with the issue of ICZM indicators, including the ICZM Process Marker developed under the lead of the EUCC.

Development of an ICZM Strategy is the main goal of activities in Georgia. A high level ICZM Working Group is driving the process forward and a pilot project is testing the ICZM methodology in a small community on the coast. A workshop that kick-started these activities in autumn of 2007 revealed the high relevance and topicality of this project. In particular beach tourism is developing very quickly and without integrated, forward looking management, coastal resources will soon be depleted. Activities will conclude in March 2009.

*By Irene Lucius, EUCC International*



Photo: Jeanne Dietz

## ICZM in Europe is starting to show some progress

**The indicator to measure how well Member States are implementing ICZM has continued to be used in test situations and the first results by Member States themselves are now being published (as an example see the results of the Report of Greece on Coastal Zone Management at [www.minenv.gr](http://www.minenv.gr)).**

The indicator set, largely developed by EUCC, has divided ICZM implementation into four phases with a total of 31 different Action Levels. Throughout 2007, EUCC tested the indicator in NE and NW England, Ireland, France and Belgium and fed the results into the EU ICZM Group of Experts meeting and the Working Group on Information and Data. Taken together with results conducted by others, a clear trend towards good evolution of ICZM was shown in Phase 1. This phase of aspects of coastal planning and management being in place is completed in practically all the countries, even though a sectoral approach is still pre-dominant. In phase 2 where a framework for ICZM is in existence, Actions 7 and 11 (adequate funding and the development of a strategy) present the greatest problems. However, in general other actions are being implemented which, although still largely sectoral, now have a greater tendency towards integration. It is this phase which has shown most progress in the last few years. Some countries have even begun clearly to work in the direction of integration e.g. France and Belgium. But the trend is positive for all countries. With respect to Phases 3 and 4, relating to having an ICZM planning and management approach in place and functioning well as well as having an efficient, adaptive and integrative process embedded in all levels of governance, little progress has been made and it is largely *ad hoc* i.e. no trends are present in the EU. Any improvements have been largely determined by priorities set by each country. Although these results will come as no surprise to those working in ICZM in the EU, the Progress Indicator now provides the means by which such conclusions can be drawn and a methodology for determining whether progress in implementation really is being achieved.

### Current and future developments

In the framework of the project ENCORA, EUCC set out to determine how easy it would be to refine the Progress Indicator further. One of the cornerstones of ICZM is considered to be public participation whereby all relevant

stakeholders, including the general public, have a say in coastal management decisions. Based upon a classical sociology paper of 1969, a participation ladder of 7 steps was devised starting from no participation at all (the government edict or law) through to "total democracy", the stakeholders filling in a blank sheet of paper) (see [www.encora.eu](http://www.encora.eu)). The perceived level of Public Participation in a number of EU Member States was as follows:

Country	Perceived level
Sweden	4 - 6
Netherlands	4 - 5
Portugal	4 - 5
Italy	4
Germany	3 - 5
United Kingdom	3 - 5
Poland	3 - 4
Cyprus	2 - 4
Belgium	2 - 4
Ireland	2 - 4
Spain	2 - 3
France	1 - 4
Greece	1 - 2

These results do show that it is possible to differentiate between different levels of participation. The full range of the results covers six of the seven levels. Also, for the most part, the range of responses within any given country are not wildly dissimilar. That differences of opinion exist is to be expected since there is no absolute type of participation in any country and different persons will have different interpretations of what constitutes the different levels of participation. It is also likely that within an ICZM initiative or programme different levels of participation will be used at different stages in the process. Nonetheless, when grouped as above it is clear that there is a real difference in the participatory approach within these countries with Greece perceived to have a very different type of stakeholder participation that, say, Sweden.

It is now hoped to develop the other Actions Levels in a similar way.

*By Alan Pickaver, EUCC International*



## ACCMA: Adaptation to Climate Change in Morocco

The project *Adaptation aux Changements Climatiques au Maroc* (ACCMA), aims at increasing the knowledge and awareness about climate change and improve the capacity to assess climate change vulnerability in different sectors in Morocco (the coastal zones of the provinces of Berkane and Nador). The project is run by an international consortium lead by the *École Nationale Forestière d'Ingénieurs* (ENFI), where EUCC plays a role in communication, education and capacity building.

Initial research on climate scenarios has been completed and indicates severe effects in north-east Morocco, viz. increase of tempera-

tures (2 - 5 °C), reduction of precipitation (20-30%) and increase of sea level rise. Estimations have also been calculated up to the year 2100. Furthermore, the vulnerability of the coastal zone is being investigated in order to better understand the future impacts. ACCMA's approach consists of enabling stakeholders to cope with these changes and therefore a series of workshops are planned. Finally, there will be pedagogical interventions in two high schools.

*By Pedro Fernandez and Carolina Perez, EUCC Mediterranean Centre*

## EUCC adapts to climate change

EUCC recognises that climate change is already happening, that it is largely driven by human activities and that it is not too late to influence the process in a positive fashion. In its daily business, therefore, we will take measures within its own compass which will help to reduce its carbon burden on the environment. The following are some of the measures being conducted by the organisation:

### Travel:

- each year, staff will collectively travel less than 5% than the previous year.
- the use of public transport to and from work is rewarded by reimbursement of the costs.
- petrol, and other car-related costs, is not reimbursed for regular travel to and from work.
- there is a company bicycle available for the use of short journeys in the town of Leiden.
- tele-conferencing is being actively promoted in our project work to reduce the amount of air travel.

### Energy use:

- all PCs are switched off at night and no equipment is left in stand-by mode.
- all lights are switched off at night.
- long life bulbs are replacing the TL tubes as they reach the end of their life.
- green energy is being used for all our needs.
- rooms are not heated more than necessary (i.e. 18-20°C and doors are kept closed).
- a Corporate Charter is being drawn up for company land purchase carbon compensation schemes and will be the subject of a special project.
- waste e.g. paper and glass is separated for re-cycling purposes.

Whilst we recognise that lifestyle is a personal choice, staff members are all encouraged to implement the above measures at home in their daily lives. This is what we are doing and we hope this may serve as an example of how individuals and organisations can meaningfully help to slow down the global warming process.

*By EUCC International Team*

## Climate change



# Making the Year of the Dolphin work: Towards a Dolphin Fund partnership



## Year of the Dolphin

The survival of dolphins is becoming increasingly difficult. More than a quarter of a million dolphins die every year through by-catch from fisheries, pollution or underwater noise like marine sonar. This is why the United Nations Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP-CMS) has declared 2007 the UN Year of the Dolphin. Due to the broad positive response, the Year of the Dolphin is prolonged to 2008.

## Fund raising and partnerships

Throughout 2007 EUCC has been very active to promote the UN Year of the Dolphin (YoD). As a YoD Official Supporter, EUCC launched an international awareness campaign; EUCC-NL (Kustvereniging) and our member organisations Natuurpunt and MedSOS organised national campaigns in the Netherlands, Belgium and Greece. We have reached more than 10 million people with our campaigns and a fund raising campaign in the Netherlands and Belgium resulted in 110,000 euros. This money will be used for dolphin conservation projects, mainly in these countries.

EUCC has made many efforts to establish partnerships to take the Year of the Dolphin objectives further, after 2008. We work with numerous organisations in the national campaigns. Together with TUI-NL, a large tour operator, a programme was undertaken to promote responsible whale and dolphin tourism, world wide, and a pilot was undertaken on the Azores Islands, Portugal.

## Dolphin Fund

Under agreement with UNEP-CMS, EUCC established a Dolphin Fund Partnership to bring together organisations that support the objectives of the UN Year of the Dolphin after 2008. Its aim is to contribute to a rich, healthy, clean and productive marine environment, and especially to the conservation of marine mammal populations and their habitats. Its mission is to facilitate in project financing for top priority research projects and actions for marine mammal conservation. To this end, EUCC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Cetacean Society (ECS). The Dolphin Fund concept has been recognised by UNEP-CMS as a valuable permanent legacy of the UN Year of the Dolphin.

The Dolphin Fund is a partnership of local, national and international organisations and industry. It is **not a new international organisation, but a fund raising mechanism**. In each country an existing NGO can represent the Dolphin Fund in its country as a partner and join a common fund raising campaign.

With the Dolphin Fund we hope to bring UNEP CMS, governments, non-governmental NGOs and the business community together to commonly identify top priorities for dolphin conservation research and projects.

*By Albert Salman, EUCC International*

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# EUCC's Challenges

## QualityCoast – the future face of integrated management for coastal sustainability

**The increasing intensity of human activities along our coastline (viz. the development of ports and harbours, coastal protection, pollution (including eutrophication) land reclamation, tourism, and sand/gravel extraction) has a severe impact on coastal communities and natural habitats. Future, new, problems relate to the development of wind and wave power installations and, of course, the unknown effects of climate change are ever-present. Today, coastal degradation is still occurring apace.**

The EC has adopted a cross sectoral Strategy and Recommendation on integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). The aim is to improve the effectiveness of existing legislation, financial and planning tools in the coastal zone and the management of the diverse pressures on the coastal zone and its resources. ICZM when fully operational should lead to sustainability of human actions at the coast. It has resulted in Member States producing an ICZM stocktake and, in some countries, an ICZM strategy for the future. An Indicator Set to measure the progress of ICZM has been introduced and other indicators to measure the state of the coast are being formulated. However, what is lacking is a programme to link these aspects of ICZM; a programme that can target specific elements for sustainability and set targets for improving the sustainability effort. Only when such a programme is in place, will sustainability be ensured and measurable. QualityCoast is this programme.

Since sectoral approaches to coastal development are now no longer regarded as a sustainable option, throughout Europe, coastal regions and local authorities are making efforts to use ICZM planning approaches to lead to a sustainable economic development. It is imperative that a number of actions be implemented along the coast by responsible government authorities to improve their sustainability. However, in order to develop any plan of action, it is important to know in which field improvements are needed. The 18 QualityCoast milestones developed in the INTERREG IIIC project Coastal Practice Network (CoPraNet) provide the management issues which need to be addressed.

The QualityCoast programme has been submitted to INTERREG IVC Programme for funding. Councils which are adequately addressing the milestones and producing information for the general public will be eligible for a QualityCoast Award. QualityCoast Pilot destinations were awarded in CoPraNet but from 2009 onwards it is hoped that full awards can be given to councils making a positive contribution to sustainability. The INTERREG IVC project will develop a full evaluation scheme, guidelines for councils to better implement sustainable policies and a jury to adjudicate the awards.

*By Alan Pickaver, EUCC International*



Photo Robert Steenbergen



## CoastLearn: a tool that facilitates distance professional training

CoastLearn is a distance vocational training programme on ICZM, which is openly and free of charge available on CD-ROMs and the internet ([www.coastlearn.org](http://www.coastlearn.org)). It has been developed over the past 7 years by EUCC – International and EUCC Mediterranean Centre in cooperation with a large international partnership, and targets primarily coastal managers and planners working at local, sub-national, and national levels along the coast. The secondary target groups are university students and NGOs. CoastLearn has been tailored to the training and technical needs of countries in transition, but has proven to be of value for non-target countries (e.g. EU, Asia, Northern Africa) as well. CoastLearn exists presently in eleven European languages, and features nine modules (Principles of ICZM, Policy Analysis, GIS, Planning, Environmental Risk Assessment, Sustainable Tourism, Public participation, Biodiversity and CoMPAS/ The CoastLearn Simulation Game). The Sustainable Tourism module has recently been translated to Arabic.

All nine CoastLearn modules present a standardised structure, with intended learning outcomes explicitly presented. All the modules are enriched with formative self-assessment exercises and questions to provide a motivating and stimulating learning tool to the user. The questions are related to the training materials of the package and are included within the text. The answers for the questions are given with explanations. Modules are further illustrated with figures, tables and practice examples in order to take the user as close to the practice as possible. The practice examples can be accessed either via each module they relate to or via a separate entry where all examples are available together. Links to other websites, original tests, tools and information sources encourage the user to go deeper into the subject.

CoastLearn further provides printing versions of some modules so the needs of those professionals who have no continuous access to a computer or internet can also be covered.

CoastLearn's main sponsor so far has been the European Commission through its Leonardo da Vinci and TACIS programmes. The English version of CoastLearn has at the moment 800 visitors (and many more hits) monthly with a clear upward tendency; a conservative estimate for all languages is 2000 visitors/month.

CoastLearn has also been quite innovative to develop training material in an interdisciplinary fashion. Usually, such type of teaching material is being developed by one expert or group of experts who work under the guidance of an editor. In the case of CoastLearn, a multi-discipline and multi-national partnership has developed new modules and this development process in itself was a learning experience and strengthened network development. EUCC hopes to continue developing, updating and creating new modules while establishing and strengthening network partnerships with CoastLearn.

*By Carolina Perez, EUCC Mediterranean Centre*



[www.coastlearn.org](http://www.coastlearn.org)

# EUCC TOUR D'EUROPE

**EUCC-UK** continues to produce an E-Newsletter twice yearly. It is now circulated as an email attachment which can be downloaded at [www.eucc-uk.org.uk](http://www.eucc-uk.org.uk). This year the EUCC-UK website has also been updated. David R. Green continues to attend various meetings, seminars and conferences eg. the annual Keep Scotland Beautiful meeting. Together with the Blue Flag organisation, EUCC-UK is also involved in researching the improvement of the quality of beach and marina maps for information communication. Other activities include a final report for Climate Change Research in the European Regional Seas, participation in a North Sea Commission Sustainable Development Conference, representation at the ECO-IMAGINE Training Workshop on the use of GIS for ICZM. Involvement from EUCC-UK members is also highlighted through membership of the Editorial Board of the new Journal of Coastal Conservation Planning and Management (Springer) launched in September 2007.

Sea buckthorn Photo Marijke Kooijman



**EUCC's Dutch and Belgian branches** operate under the name **Kustvereniging**. Together with the NGO Natuurpunt and quite a few other member organisations we have been very active for the UN Year of the Dolphin. Special YoD websites were set up and several events were organised including a Dolphin Day Dinner, raising 100.000 euros for dolphin conservation. Furthermore EUCC-NL prepared several publications in Dutch, such as a brochure about whales and dolphins and the YoD (circulation: 130,000); our magazine *Kust&Zee Gids* (circulation: 100,000) and a number of educational flyers describing coastal hiking and biking routes. In the former Dutch estuary Grevelingen an integrated coastal management process is continuing that has been initiated by *i.a.* EUCC-NL, in 2005.

Sherkin island - West Cork Photo Maria Ferreira



Twice a year, **EUCC-France** organises two field workshops in French coastal areas of special interest with regard to integrated management. These workshops are an opportunity for exchange of ideas and dialogue between scientists, experts, managers and elected representatives. In 2007, the themes of the workshops were: re-creation of marine environment of the Mont St. Michel and the flooding and coastal erosion problems in the Rhone delta. Each year, EUCC-France and the Procter & Gamble Foundation for Coastal Conservation award a PhD thesis prize - the "Prix Roland Paskoff". In 2007, this prize was attributed to Nick Marriner for his work about "Geoarcheology of Phoenicia's buried harbours: Beirut, Sidon and Tyre, 5 000 years of human-environment interactions". An abstract in French and English is available on [www.eucc.net/fr/](http://www.eucc.net/fr/)

The second International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management (ICCCM) was organized by **EUCC Portugal** and took place at Hammamet - Tunisia, (March 22- 26<sup>th</sup> 2007). Professionals and coastal managers discussed issues of ICZM, sustainability of coastal destinations and erosion. Implementation strategies, management case studies and good practices were presented. Selected papers will be published in a special issue on Planning and Management of the Journal of Coastal Conservation.

CAP NADOR meeting Photo Maria Ferreira





**EUCC-Germany** has increasingly taken the role of a major service provider for coastal and marine issues as well as for ICZM in Germany. To this end, a number of media and tools has been developed and established, including coastal databases (documents, pictures, projects&case studies, training), the German language Küsten Newsletter and the online training environment IKZM-D Lernen. Also, EUCC-Germany first published the magazine Meer & Küste in analogy to EUCC's Kust & Zee, which passed on insight knowledge about and perspectives on current coastal issues from renowned German coastal practitioners and scientists to about 30.000 tourists throughout the summer. With respect to supporting the international EUCC community, EUCC-Germany set up a new portal for a common presentation of all national branches of the Baltic Region (<http://baltic.eucc-d.de>). This portal as well as the EUCC's Coastal Guide make use of the coastal databases (<http://databases.eucc-d.de>) thus demonstrating the value of an individually administered but commonly maintained information resource. Owing to a growing cooperation between the EUCC offices in Leiden and Warnemünde, several issues of Coastline Reports could be published. All of these activities are accessible and documented at [www.eucc-d.de](http://www.eucc-d.de), which celebrated to have more than 100,000 visitors for the first time in 2007.

In 2007, **EUCC Baltic Office** staff have been actively involved in several activities pertinent to the coastal management in the south-east Baltic Sea Region. We were a project partner responsible for the implementation of the S-MAN (2000) project in the Nemunas delta, Lithuania. This "Sustainable Management of Angling Tourism of NATURA 2000 and other sensitive areas" project had as its central objectives the development of sustainable management strategies of angling tourism in NATURA 2000 and other sensitive areas in the Baltic Sea Region to create compatible tourist offers and business development concepts in the countryside, and integrating this in spatial planning and regional development processes. Efficient management of coastal nature and wildlife, fish and bird protection areas (NATURA 2000 habitats) by focusing on the biological prerequisites and ecological sustainability was also addressed. Furthermore, the project sought to increase the number of eco-tourists and developed the sustainable tourist business in rural areas without compromising the resources and values of the environment and offer the organizations which deal with angling and water management the opportunity to market their areas.

**EUCC-Poland** continuously works on the consolidation and improvement of the management of the Oder Delta Nature Park area inaugurated in 2005, consisting of 4000 hectares of land and water, and of the other EUCC properties.

**EUCC Mediterranean Centre**, under the leadership of University of Cadiz, is involved in the TEMPUS TACIS project "EU-COMET2" which is adapting the current ICZM education at the Russian State Hydrometeorological University (St. Petersburg) to the two-level (bachelor/master) system common in the European Union. Coming from this cooperation, the Centre is also delivering one module at the ERASMUS MUNDUS Master of Water and Coastal Management at University of Cadiz. In terms of raising public awareness on coastal values and problems, the Centre has published in 2007 "Discover Natura 2000 from the sea", which explains the importance of the coastal and marine Natura 2000 network and describes the values of these sites in the Catalan region. The publication addresses inhabitants and local visitors of these protected areas. Funding has been ensured for a similar publication focused on the Balearic Islands. The Centre continues to be involved in an international campaign to clean-up the Mediterranean by raising awareness on pollution problems and encouraging people to abate this problem. An action took place on Barcelona beach where about 100 schoolchildren collected, separated and disposed of all kinds of waste before which they attended a presentation about the problem of solid waste on Mediterranean beaches. The EUCC EuroMediterranean Newsletter continues to increase the number of its readers and gain positive feedback. EUCC Italy and EUCC Greece are translating it and disseminating it further.



# EUCC – The Organisation

## 10 Reasons to be an EUCC Member

**Are you a scientist or practitioner, student or politician with an interest in coastal issues? Then please give us a chance to convince you to join the largest European coastal & marine organisation!**

**1) Care.** EUCC membership is the best way to express your commitment to the identity and integrity of our coasts, their landscapes, biodiversity, social and cultural values. EUCC has a broad awareness raising programme and we help prepare and implement EU policies.

**2) Integration.** EUCC has been championing innovative and integrated approaches to coastal management since 1991!

**3) Involvement.** Member participation is our rule, for every EUCC-project. Since EUCC is the largest European coastal & marine network, as to membership, number of projects and projects volume, so EUCC offers the best opportunities for involvement.

**4) Wide Network.** Members can profit from EUCC's close collaboration with many other coastal, marine, maritime, and nature networks. We have also taken the initiative to establish a joint platform of coastal organisations and networks.

**5) Member services.** EUCC provides excellent member services: Coastline magazine; free online access to the Journal of Coastal Conservation, Planning and Management; inclusion of your news in e-mail newsletters; and participation in our activities and projects.

**6) Bottom-up.** EUCC is a society, governed by its members. Your opinion makes a difference. Besides, in various countries you can be involved in activities of an EUCC national branch.

**7) Free to all.** EUCC is the oldest European coastal network. We have always tried to join forces with others, because fragmentation is in contradiction to the spirit of ICZM. That is why EUCC provides many information services free to all in the coastal community: distance training, websites, databases, and newsletters.

**8) Multilingual.** EUCC communicates with all coastal practitioners and politicians in Europe by issuing websites, magazines and newsletters in 15 languages. Your ideas will reach a large audience.

**9) Expansion.** EUCC is establishing partnerships and cooperation efforts beyond Europe and is looking for the most prominent coastal and marine institutions world wide who are interested to become EUCC's core network

**10) Value for money.** Please compare the membership rates at [www.eucc.net](http://www.eucc.net). Members will be offered a reduced registration fee for Littoral 2008.

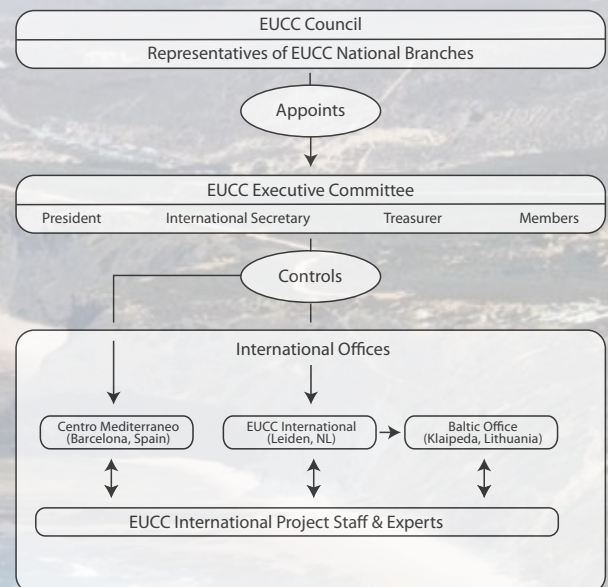
## EUCC's Mission

**EUCC - The Coastal Union is dedicated to conserving and maintaining healthy seas and attractive coasts for both people and nature.**

To this end, EUCC seeks to:

- \* promote integrated marine and coastal management, combining development with the protection of biodiversity, social, historical and cultural values;
- \* work to limit the impacts of climate change;
- \* provide advice, information, communication and policy instruments;
- \* partake in coastal and marine research projects;
- \* raise awareness of environmental issues;
- \* develop partnerships with stakeholders.

## EUCC's Structure



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## Join us!

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**Thanks for support are expressed to EUCC – International (Leiden, NL):** Tim van Beers, Ben Spaans, Nico den Hollander, Piet Lansbergen, Ben Overvest, Iris Pasman, Colinda Vergeer, Jakkus van der Salm, Ben Spaans, Robert Steenbergen, Peter de Villeneuve, Cécile Zoetemelk, René Beckerschmidt.

**Funding acknowledgements are given to** the EU Action Programme promoting European NGOs, The Dutch Government Service for Land and Water Management DGL (Tiengemeten), INTERREG IIIB North (COREPOINT), 6th Framework Programme (ENCORA, CONSCIENCE & SPICOSA), SMAP III (Cap Nador & ALAMIM), The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food Quality (EAF), BBI programme (Black Sea MPAs), INTERREG IIIB NP CADSES (PlanCoas) and the EuropeAid project Environmental Collaboration for the Black Sea (ECBS).

**EUCC's Activities Special Issue cover photo:** Heiligendamm, photo: Catherine Mocquard, insets: Costa Vicentina, Portugal, photo Sebastião Bráz Teixeira, CCDR-Algarve; Workshop Camargue, EUCC France, photo Marie Claire Prat; Coral reef, Romania, photo Dragos Micu.

# Novel approaches to capacity building, a matter of COREPOINT

New ways of building capacity as a key mechanism to address barriers to the successful implementation of ICZM within planning strategies for coastal zones in NW Europe have been developed and tested. ICZM Expert Couplet Nodes have built capacity for coastal research and policy integration whilst Training Courses in Excellence in ICZM have addressed lack of sustained capacity and expertise within local authorities. They can serve as a model of good practice for use around the European coastline. These new methodologies have been developed in the Interreg IIB project Corepoint which recognised that i.a. better links between researchers and policy makers and increased sustained capacity and expertise within local authorities were two primary areas for delivering improved integrated planning and management in NW Europe.

## Expert Couplet Nodes

Expert Couplet Nodes (ECN) were established in the COREPOINT project to address the issue of sustaining ICZM, by building capacity for knowledge transfer between research centres and local authorities involved in coastal research and management. In other words, the ECN model equates to the implementation of local level collaborative enquiry targeted towards capacity building in ICZM. In some cases, for example for Cork Harbour, Sefton Coast, both the research group and the local government group were full partners of the COREPOINT project. In other cases, only one part of the couplet was an official partner. The lack of official partner status in some cases, however, had no impact on the regularity of contact or the operation of the couplet.

**The Expert Couplet way of working helps deliver sustainability through a closer relationship between science, policy and practice. It is a mutually beneficial approach.**

The majority of the ECNs benefited from close physical proximity between research and local government offices which enabled regular face-to-face meetings between the research and local government partners. The couplets generally met at least every quarter, if not more frequently, to discuss their shared research agenda and project progress. Communication was via email but telephone contact also occurred regularly.

Key areas addressed by the ECNs included: climate change, coastal flooding and defence, education and research, economic development, heritage, planning, tourism and recreation, community engagement, marine policy and technological aids to ICZM.

Four of the couplets were in existence to some degree prior to the COREPOINT project (Donegal Beaches, Severn Estuary, Flanders Coast and Golfe Du Morbihan). The remaining five ECNs were established by the COREPOINT project. Three of the four couplets that were operational prior to COREPOINT, stated that their participation in the COREPOINT project changed the nature of the relationship between the research group and the local authority. The nature of change was associated with a closer and more defined relationship and an opportunity for more strategic pursuit of ICZM.



Photo Vicki O'Donnell



Photo Vicki O'Donnell

## Examples of outcomes

### **Flanders Coast:**

The Belgian ECN was closely involved with the National Advisory Body for ICZM, the government 'think tank' on the subject.

### **Cork Harbour**

The Cork Harbour ECN worked together to facilitate the development of an Integrated Management Strategy for the Harbour; and specific outcomes from the collaborative enquiry process between the researchers and planners led to the implementation of a carrying capacity study of the recreation carrying capacity, a landscape character assessment and a GIS tool for Harbour management.

### **Donegal Beaches**

The Donegal ECN facilitated the use of soft engineering approaches to coastal erosion, addressing both regional and local scale coastal erosion, sea defence and effects of sea level rise.

### **Golfe du Morbihan**

The kayaking activity model (GIS) produced by the Golfe du Morbihan ECN supported the local tourism economy, dealt with regional cumulative impacts relating to tourism, mediated use cohabitation and supported local wildlife conservation.

### **Severn Estuary**

The Severn Estuary ECN has facilitated the establishment of a Severn Estuary Research Advisory Group which is focusing on climate change issues around the Estuary and worked together to produce a Maritime Heritage Educational resource for the Severn Estuary targeted and distributed to local secondary schools

A SWOT analysis revealed that the main strength was a win-win scenario for the participants. For example, benefits accrued for the research partners through enhanced research profiles while local government participants enjoyed benefits such as access to scientific expertise. A key weakness flagged by a number of ECNs was the difficulty of finding time to engage in participatory research, which is a much more time consuming process than a traditional consultancy based approach. Despite this, numerous opportunities were identified as arising from the process, including the ability to build on the track record of the partnership and to influence policy development. The long term sustainability of the ECNs can be threatened by insecure funding arrangements, and progress can be jeopardised by staff turnover, among other things.

The top three outcomes of the ECNs were their ability to facilitate:

1. Greater understanding of the needs of local authorities
2. Improved coastal management
3. Better understanding of the Principles of ICZM in local authorities

The ECN approach cannot be deemed as a panacea for integrating research and policy. However, the model is simple and flexible enough to deal with diversity among the couplets; including different priorities in terms of local issues and different origins in terms of operational timelines. It is important to assess the value of the process as well as the actual outcomes of such partnerships. The ECNs in the project all agreed that the approach adds value to existing research and management operations. They have helped to initiate or consolidate a shift in attitude and behaviour towards traditional science and management practices in situations where new relationships between scholars and practitioners have been formed and where a foundation for collaboration previously existed. In some cases, new ECNs have already begun to emerge e.g. between Sefton Council and Edge Hill University; and between Aberdeen University and the Fal Estuary.

## NW Europe Course in Excellence in Integrated Coastal Zone Management

One activity of the COREPOINT project, was to hold ICZM courses targeted towards politicians, local authority employees and coastal practitioners to increase their knowledge of ICZM and the benefits associated with its implementation. Because ICZM is often considered as a non-core or luxury activity within local authorities, it is dealt with on a project basis. Experts are temporarily recruited to oversee and implement specific projects. On completion of the project, this expertise is lost to the authority. There is a need to ensure the long-term integration of ICZM within local authorities by strengthening the capability of permanent staff directly involved in the coastal management process (e.g. planners, engineers, conservation officers); and by achieving the support of local and regional politicians for the development and implementation of ICZM initiatives.

**Professional training is an important part of ICZM. The COREPOINT project has developed a tried and tested, transferable and highly interactive training module based around engaging case studies.**

The purpose of the ICZM courses were to provide training to coastal management practitioners including local authority staff and councillors, delivered by a team of trans-national experts, with a focus on teaching the ICZM Principles of Best Practice. The aim of the training was to increase awareness and expertise within local authorities towards ICZM. The intent of this approach was to promote the COREPOINT objective of sustainable management of coastal areas and to harmonise understanding of the Principles of Best Practice for common implementation in NW Europe.

The overall design and implementation of the courses was organised through a series of lectures and case study presentations that drew on the wealth of experience from other project partners. This integrated, trans-national approach to partnership working pooled expertise in NW Europe to deliver a state of the art course with maximum relevance and case study content for practitioners whose job role includes elements of ICZM.

During the project lifetime, six events were held: Cork (March, 2005), Clevedon (June, 2005), Gent (February, 2006), Ulster (June 2006), Newcastle (June, 2007) and Pembrokeshire (October, 2007). There was a continuous evaluation of the events which led to evolution of the course structure and content:-

1. To a progressive reduction in formal lecture-style content of the course and an increase in opportunity for discussion and delegate participation, and
2. Towards a more uniform and systematic style and structure to presentations – in particular the case studies illustrating the 8 EC ICZM Principles of best practice.
3. To embedding the ICZM Principles and European perspectives of coastal management within the context of the work environment.

Attendees found the case studies, illustrating real examples of coastal issues, a useful experience, and the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences from across Europe beneficial. Another interesting outcome was a realisation that the Principles and practices of ICZM can be used for other planning processes and methodologies. The responses provide a clear indication that the approach to professional training provision adopted within the COREPOINT project has had a distinct influence on attendees in three linked areas:

1. Personal understanding of ICZM in a work context – Attendees gained an insight and have taken back to their workplace ideas of how Principles and practices of ICZM can:
  - a. Help in finding workable solutions to coastal issues, as an ICZM approach is relevant to many existing management processes
  - b. Demonstrate the need to work with natural processes and inculcate strong connections and links between marine- and land-based spatial planning, as well as the need to recognise the intricate and interconnected relationship between human and natural dimensions to coastal issues and activities; and
  - c. Provide an awareness for the need of a policy framework that explicitly includes combined marine and land spatial planning in the context of ICZM with inclusion vertically and horizontally of all actors.
2. Influencing approaches to work practices – Attendees found that the Courses in Excellence in ICZM had given them a better understanding of the obstacles, conflicts and consequences of a lack of integration within management efforts to address coastal issues. In addition, attendees found that they were attempting to work in a more inclusive manner across sectors and departments, and build new and more inclusive local networks.
3. Understanding the opportunity presented by ICZM Principles and practices – Discussion structured around the Principles and practices of ICZM provides:
  - a. A strong mechanism for promoting a more open and clear need to widen involvement of all actors in activities.
  - b. A framework for providing advice and informing others.
  - c. A strong drive for adopting a longer term perspective for planning.

All the participants found that the Course would be relevant to other colleagues and would be keen to participate in further training opportunities in ICZM. This demonstrates that there is a strong desire to learn more about ICZM and that the ICZM approach has been recognised as worthwhile by practitioners.

*By Valerie Cummins (CMRC, Ireland) and Rhoda Ballinger (Cardiff University, UK) on behalf of COREPOINT project partners*

# Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource – IM-CORE

After 3.5 years and some notable successes, the COREPOINT (Coastal Research & Policy Integration) project will end on April 30<sup>th</sup> 2008. However, the partnership, augmented with six new members, has successfully submitted an exciting new project - Innovative Management for Europe's Changing Coastal Resource (IM-CORE). IM-CORE will run for 42 months starting in May 2008 and was approved a total budget of some €5.9m under the first call of the new INTER-REG IVB Programme.

The aim is to promote a transnational, innovative and sustainable approach to reducing the Ecological Social and Economic impacts of climate change on the coastal resources of NWE. This will be done by a demonstration of how the innovative expert couplet approach, (i.e. collaboration between coastal practitioners and scientists using the principles of sustainability science), can help with the effective implementation of adaptive management strategies for coastal resources. The identification of impacts of a range of specified climate change scenarios on coastal sectors and the development of a response in the form of strategies for adaptive management will also be addressed.

The main actions will be as follows:

- to implement nine Expert Couplet nodes across NW Europe to demonstrate innovative approaches to coastal resource management based on principles of sustainability science;
- identify and characterise the key natural and anthropogenic processes which can lead to socio-economic impacts from climate change in the coastal zone of NW Europe;
- utilise scenario building as a tool for envisioning coastal futures;
- mentor and assist coastal managers in the development of adaptive management strategies in response to climate change scenarios; and
- promote the adoption of sustainability science for coastal management among coastal practitioners, policy makers and scientists in NW Europe.



In addition to the numerous outcomes from the project including reports, workshops, guidelines, indicators and prototypes the key tangible outputs of the project will be:

- **Coastal Management Comparator Computer Data Base Tool** - will be developed to improve the capacity of decision makers concerned with coastal issues to quickly and easily compare and contrast their situations with respect to other management approaches in the NWE region.
- **Training Material on the Identification of Coastal Climate Change Drivers and Issues** will be packaged to build capacity for developing adaptive management strategies by illustrating the historical context, drivers, issues arising from climate change in the coastal zone of NW Europe, including case study material from each of the ECN locations.
- **Demonstration Technologies for the Visualisation of Coastal Futures** covering three technological approaches Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Web Based Virtual Reality, and a Customised Simulator Suite will be developed to demonstrate potential aids to decision making in adaptive management in response to climate change impacts in the coastal zone.
- **Nine Local Adaptive Management Strategies** will be developed to outline climate change scenarios and optional responses for each coastal location. At the Local Level they will enhance the robustness of long-term investments, to improve societal awareness of and preparedness for responding to climate change in the coastal zone, and to increase the adaptability of vulnerable coastal activities. At the NW Europe level they will provide examples of best practice in adaptive management to coastal managers and decision makers.
- **Multimedia Distance Learning Tool (DLT)** will be developed to fill an information gap that currently exists in Europe by providing a comprehensive resource to help coastal managers to plan for climate change impacts in their coastal areas. This key, final project output will integrate and promote the products developed (e.g. coastal comparator database) and the lessons learned (e.g. in adaptive management and expert couplet working) from IMCORE.

The development of the tools and adaptive management strategies will be undertaken in consultation with end-users at all of the nine pilot sites. The initial concepts will be developed by the Partners before field-testing by local end-users facilitated by the Expert Couplet Nodes. Outputs will be revised in response to end-user feedback before further testing and subsequent partner review prior to final production. This exchange of experience, technical know-how and research ideas should ensure that the strategies and tools will be successfully incorporated into future routine coastal management practice.

*By Jeremy Gault (CMRC, Ireland), IM-CORE project coordinator*

# Events & Announcements



## LITTORAL 2008 - International Conference



are pleased to invite you to the  
**9<sup>th</sup> International Conference**

## LITTORAL 2008

**A CHANGING COAST:  
CHALLENGE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL  
POLICIES**

**November 25-28 2008 Venice Italy**

**[www.littoral2008.corila.it](http://www.littoral2008.corila.it)**

## Biomarine 2008 Forum

**[www.biomarine.org](http://www.biomarine.org)**

**The first edition of the Biomarine Forum will take place in Toulon & Marseille, France – October 20-24, 2008.**

BioMarine is a worldwide initiative that helps nurturing innovative solutions to advance ocean sustainability, bringing together business, science, government, civil society and the media.

The Biomarine 2008 Forum is the official marine event of the French Presidency of the European Union and will welcome over 2000 participants throughout the 5 days of the forum.

Tony Haymet, Director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Philippe Louis-Dreyfus, President of the European Community of Shipowners Association and Amir Dossal, Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships are co-chairing the 2008 forum.

BioMarine will be a world-class international conference with up to 50 sessions and 200 speakers, a partnering convention for outstanding networking opportunities, a 3000 m<sup>2</sup> exhibition area and will be organised in close partnership with the media to raise global awareness on oceans and seas.



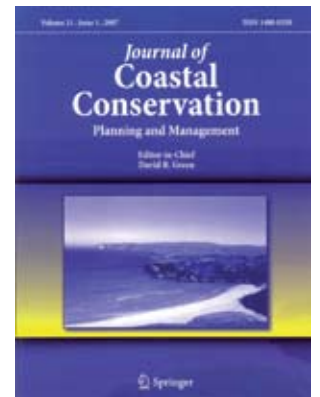
**BioMarine**  
THE EUROPE MARITIME INITIATIVE  
IN THE WORLD *Dive into change* **2008**

***EUCC - The Coastal Union is proud to be an official Partner of BioMarine!***

## Journal of Coastal Conservation Planning and Management

The Journal of Coastal Conservation is a scientific journal for the dissemination of both theoretical and applied research on integrated and sustainable management of the terrestrial, coastal and marine environmental interface.

A thorough understanding of both the physical and the human sciences is important to the study of the spatial patterns and processes observed in terrestrial, coastal and marine systems set in the context of past, present and future social and economic developments. This includes multidisciplinary and integrated knowledge and understanding of: physical geography, coastal geomorphology, sediment dynamics, hydrodynamics, soil science, hydrology, plant and animal ecology, vegetation science, biogeography, landscape ecology, recreation and tourism studies, urban and human ecology, coastal engineering and spatial planning, coastal zone management, and marine resource management.



Research that promotes the role of education and training to integrated and sustainable management of the terrestrial, coastal and marine conservation and management is also considered important to the coastal practitioner and manager.

For more information visit the journal's homepage at [www.springer.com/environment/journal/11852](http://www.springer.com/environment/journal/11852)

***The official journal of the EUCC – The Coastal Union***

**Conferences and meetings are listed on [www.coastalguide.org/meetings](http://www.coastalguide.org/meetings)**

# Restoration issues in Dutch dunes

Albert Salman, Marijke Kooijman (EUCC - The Coastal Union), Quirinus Slings (NV PWN, drinking water company, North Holland);  
 Luc Geelen (WaterNet, Research & Development), Harrie van der Hagen (DZH, dune water company, South Holland),  
 Mike Mannaart (Dutch Society for Dune Conservation, Stichting Duinbehoud)

Dune managers in the Dutch dunes are involved in a major effort to restore natural landscapes and to promote natural processes in dune systems. Dunes that have been intensively used for drinking water production, agriculture or logging are restored and managed in order to establish a good ecological status in accordance with the European Flora, Fauna and Habitats Directive.

## Vegetation stabilisation processes

This is not an easy task, since dune mobility and natural rejuvenation of dune vegetation is strongly hindered by vegetation stabilisation processes. Under the influence of high natural water levels, a high precipitation level, a temperate summer and winter climate (long growing season), an overload of nutrients (incl. from atmospheric deposition) and sheltered situation due to an artificial high frontal dune ridge (sea defence).



## Dense vegetation: restoration measures

Part of the nutrient excess has been removed, especially in de Zilk (AWD) and at a large scale in Meijndel and Berkheide (DZH). The development of dense, competitive grass and scrub vegetation as a result of air pollution, rabbit diseases, marram planting and spread of alien species, is now counteracted by low-density grazing, mowing and removal of alien trees and scrub.

## Restoration of wet dune slacks

During the last 15 years, the impacts of the drinking water production that made wet dune environments disappear 100 years ago have been mitigated whilst the function of the dunes for drinking water supply and sea defence is ensured. Groundwater levels and wet dune slacks have been restored on a large scale. The Van Limburg Stirum channel for water abstraction has been filled with the same sand that was once dug out here.



## Restoration of mobile dunes

Thus, the situation is very different from those in many Southern European and Atlantic dune ecosystems that are facing more dynamic conditions due to extreme heat, drought or storms. Therefore, in the Netherlands dune mobility is not a threat, but a management objective.

The drinking water companies PWN, WaterNet and DZH are now among the leading dune management bodies with regard to restoration and management. The poster presents some actual examples of the dune restoration efforts implemented by the three drinking water companies, from north to south:

- Kennemerduinen: grazing experiments with European bison.*
- Amsterdam Watersupply Dunes: developments at Van Limburg Stirum.*
- Meijndel and Berkheide: restoration of humid dune slacks with the perspective of dune mobility.*



## Mobile dunes, dream or nightmare?



Dune mobility has been a nightmare in many centuries, also in the Netherlands until 1900. With stabilisation processes prevailing for a 100 years now, mobile dunes are still like a sweet dream for dune managers. The reintroduction of large scale mobile dunes might best start in the foredunes, as long as sea defence is not at stake. Here a spontaneous scarp in the foredunes of Heemskerk, North Holland.

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## Bison in the Dutch coastal dunes: Why?



By studying European bison ecology, its reaction to the public and practical management issues we hope to be able to contribute to the current discussion on the reintroduction of this species in the wild in the Netherlands. [www.wisenten.nl/wisenten-uk/](http://www.wisenten.nl/wisenten-uk/)

[rienk.slings@pwn.nl](mailto:rienk.slings@pwn.nl)

## Fast developments



Since 1995 rehabilitation projects of dune landscape and dune habitats are carried out in the Amsterdam Watersupply Dunes. The restoration in 1995 in the Van Limburg Stirum project led to a new development of dynamic dune landscape over 30 ha. The monitoring results show a relatively fast development.

After a prominent study with intensive public participation, project "De Zilk" restored another 15 ha dune landscape and 30 ha dune slacks in 2007.

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## A special touch



In Meijndel and Berkheide about 250 hectares of dune slacks existed before 1850. Until recently only a few remained. Since 1997 restoration of dune slacks was carried out in four areas of 50 hectares each.

The restoration in 2002 in Berkheide had a special touch to it. A cycling route was diverted in order to give as much space as possible to the wind dynamics. The footpath remained. Now, visitors can enjoy the newly developing dune slacks and experience the wind shaping the landscape.

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