

# Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

## 1. Key data

Project title:	Integrated management of the coast of Down
Country:	Northern Ireland- UK
Project phase:	prep. / study / planning / implementation / no progress
Launch:	1997
National funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC-funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC project references:	TERRA network No. 13 Coastlink
Lead partner:	Down District Council
Project contact:	Mr Paul Kelly Down District Council 74 Market Street Downpatrick, County Down BT30 6LZ Northern Ireland - UK Tel.: +44-1396-612233 Fax: +44-1396-612350 Email: econdev@downdc.gov.uk
Project website:	[URL]
Project area:	Down District is the seventh largest of Northern Ireland's 26 District Councils. The economy is dependent on agriculture and especially tourism, although pockets of unemployment commonly reach 50%. The Down coast is renowned for its rugged beauty. Most tourism infrastructure and thus tourist revenue is concentrated in the seaside holiday resort of Newcastle with its traditional beach-side attractions, championship golf course and easy access to the scenic Mountains of Mourne.
Area size (land):	[in hectare]
(water):	[in hectare, or yes/no]
Population size:	population of nearly 60 000
Policy background:	The District Council is seeking to capitalise on the opportunities likely to follow the developing peace process in Northern Ireland but there are potential difficulties which a coastal zone strategy expects to help resolve. First, there is tension between the residents of Newcastle and the District Council following publication of a development plan perceived to be designed primarily for tourists. Second, there is the need to encourage private investment to upgrade Newcastle's dated infrastructure. And third, it is essential to combat serious beach erosion in Dundrum Bay that is threatening to destroy the sandy beach, which is Newcastle's prime attraction.
Important sectors in the project set-up:	tourism, landscapes & cultural heritage, habitats & biodiversity, coastal erosion
Main aim:	
Expected results:	

## 2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

Local community is expected to take an increasing role in decision-making. The district council is helping the local

community with developing their capacities to make decisions in local planning

Ministries formally involved\*:

Regions (county, province) formally involved\*: Down county

Municipalities (towns) formally involved\*: Newcastle,

Problems encountered: The projects mode of working may have been different had the government made a greater commitment towards transfer of planning and environmental management powers to local authorities. For the foreseeable future, the role of the local regeneration group will be limited to influencing planning and development decisions made by Down district Council.

Down District Council had drawn up a plan for the future of Newcastle, a typical family-based holiday resort. When the proposal was put before the townspeople it was rejected out of hand because it was seen as a plan for tourists and not for those who lived there, which is a typical example of bad consultation between national and local level authorities.

Main achievements: The local authority is designing a Local Agenda 21 Strategy with a local Regeneration Group which has its origins in a group established in 1993 in protest against a local authority plan. Since then, the group has become more representative of the range of local interests, and has adopted working principles of sustainability and integration.

### **3. Participation**

Objectives re participation:

Environment stakeholders formally involved\*: yes / no

Economic development stakeholders formally involved\*: yes / no

Public hearings: [number]

Public access to project data: yes / no

Main achievements: Down together with Ipirus, Storstrøm, Devon, Cornwall, Kent and ANAS are involved in the TERRA COASTLINK network. The 7 projects emphasise the significant advantage of networking to learn from the experience from other ICZM projects (Capacity Building).

Problems encountered: Down noted the tendency to insularity amongst local communities in Northern Ireland, while at the same time recognising the need for collaboration to bring about economic regeneration. A first step is information sharing between communities.

### **4. Information**

Objectives re environment:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

### **5. Policy aspects, relevance and success:**

#### **Legal Jurisdictional issues**

Project objectives

Main achievements:

Problems encountered: The 1997 Irish document, coastal zone management: a draft policy for Ireland, accepts that the legislative framework for the coastal zone is very complex and intricate, and that a fundamental restructuring of legislation is very difficult to achieve. It concludes that a more realistic and desirable approach is to build on the existing systems, but argues that any model for ICZM in Ireland must include amendments to legislation.

**Environment:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

**Biodiversity conservation:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

**Economic development:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

**Spatial planning & zoning:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

**Coastal defence:**

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

**6. Progress & Continuity**

Follow-up:

No progress since: [month, year]

Main reason for lack of progress:

**7. Sources**

Project Report online: [attached in MS word or PDF]

\*) formally involved means: as a project partner or represented in a project committee.

Bibliography:

Project Web site, if available

European Commission, *Better management of coastal resources, A European programme for integrated coastal zone management*, 1997

European Commission, *Lessons from the European Commission's demonstration programme on integrated coastal zone management*, 1999

European Commission, *Towards a European Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy: General Principles and Policy Options*, 1999

Thematic Study A, *Legal and Regulatory Bodies: Appropriateness to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study B, *Participation in the ICZM Processes: Mechanisms and Procedures Needed*, 1999

Thematic Study C, *Role and use of Technology in Relation to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study D, *Planning and Management Processes: Sectoral and Territorial Cooperation*, 1999

Thematic Study F, *Information required for Integrated Coastal Zone Management*, 1999