

Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

1. Key data

Project title:	Integrated management of the Kent coast
Country:	United Kingdom
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:	Kent County Council
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Project website:	[URL]
Project area:	Stretching from industrialised Thames-side, the gateway to London, to the unique cusped shingle foreland of Dungeness on the English Channel, Kent has the longest and probably the most varied coastline of any county in England. It includes wide stretches of saltmarsh and grazing marsh of international significance for wildfowl and wading birds, tiny fishing harbours and international passenger ferry and cargo ports, major industries, including paper-making, oil refining and chemical production, traditional seaside resorts, sites of national importance for maritime archaeology, and the White Cliffs, symbolic of both Kent and England.
Area size (land):	[in hectare]
(water):	[in hectare, or yes/no]
Population size:	The population is concentrated in two conurbations: the Medway Towns - population 240 000 - situated astride the estuary of the Medway and including Chatham, once home to the Royal Navy, and Thanet - population 120 000 - the birthplace of the English popular holiday.
Policy background:	With a range of varied interests, there is considerable potential for conflict along the Kent coasts, and hence a paramount need for an integrated strategy.
Important sectors in the project set-up:	Aquaculture, Tourism, Public health, Ports & Marine industry, Landscapes & Heritage, Coastal fishing, Dredging & Aggregate extraction, Pollution, Habitats & Biodiversity, Natural Catastrophes & Climate change
Main aim:	
Expected results:	

2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

The project would like to see an extension of the land-use planning powers of local authorities into the sea.

Ministries formally involved*:

Regions (county, province) formally involved*: [names]

Municipalities (towns) formally involved*:

The Medway Towns, Chatham, Thanet, Folkestone (adjacent to the entrance to the Channel Tunnel) Dover, (the traditional but now declining gateway to France) and Whitstable (centre of oyster production since Roman times)

Problems encountered: Kent notes that there are simply too many plans and strategies, and is looking at how these can be harmonised. National housing policy, which is determined sectorally by national or regional agencies without local involvement, is a problem in Kent. The public (and local politicians) suffer from loss of motivation in trying to implement ICZM where they feel powerless to have an impact on significant decisions.

One of the triggers for the Kent project was the cumulative impact of small decisions taken without impact assessment

Main achievements:

3. Participation

Objectives re participation: Secure political support for actions. An investment in awareness raising may return as future funding. Kent notes in this respect that politicians are most responsive to projects that:
Have a clear sense of direction;
Do not suggest an open-ended commitment by the authority;
Are stronger on taking action than talking about it.

Environment stakeholders formally involved*: yes

Economic development stakeholders formally involved*: yes

Public hearings: [number]

Public access to project data: yes / no

Main achievements: In Kent, a conference has brought together for the first time fishermen, fish processors and retailers, academics, regulatory authorities and NGOs to discuss the future of inshore fishing in the same sector.

To ensure the durability of ICZM initiatives, it is important to establish a long-term structure or network. Kent has a Coastal observatory in this respect.

Kent together with Ipirus, Storstrøm, Devon, Cornwall, Down 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: In Kent political sensitivity increases at lower levels of administration. At local government level, conflicting views are brought sharply into focus, not least because votes are at stake. The paradox is that multi-sectoral initiatives must obtain local political support if they are to be successful yet it is at the operational level that sectoral pressures on local politicians are greatest.

4. Information

Objectives re environment:

Main achievements: Kent has set up coastal and marine 'observatories' as foci for raising awareness about the coast, providing information and

advice to decision-makers and acting as catalysts in promoting ICZM within their regions.

Using questionnaires and focus groups, Kent has drawn up a number of sustainability indicators for its coast and sea. Involving local authorities, interest groups, governmental agencies and universities from an early stage has facilitated access to data.

Problems encountered: Each focus group participating in the process feels that its favourite issue is worthy of being monitored. The result is that some of the indicators measure issues that are relatively unimportant to the region

5. Policy aspects, relevance and success:

Legal Jurisdictional issues:

Project objectives:

Main achievements: The Kent project is using by-laws to overcome the legal constraints to an integrated land-sea approach.

Problems encountered: Kent notes that conflict often arises because of the competing objectives of statutory bodies

Environment:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Biodiversity conservation:

Project objectives:

Main achievements: The Kent Biodiversity Action Plan has identified over thirty actions necessary to prevent further habitat loss and arrest species decline on the Kent coast. An early success has been the reappearance of breeding pairs of peregrine falcons on the famous White Cliffs after an absence of nearly thirty years.

Problems encountered:

Economic development:

Project objectives:

Main achievements: Kent and the Nord-Pas de Calais have joined together in a transport study evaluating the potential for offshore wind generation in the Transmanche region.

Problems encountered: Kent is facing the decline of the traditional English 'bucket and spade' holiday, which once brought hundreds of thousands of Londoners to Kent each summer. The Kentish towns cannot compete with more sophisticated resorts or with holidays abroad and are trying to promote themselves as conference centers and 'short break' destinations.

Spatial planning & zoning:

Project objectives:

Main achievements: The impact of the Channel Tunnel was used as a means of promoting a wider debate about other issues around the coast.

Problems encountered: Major transport-infrastructure developments such as the Channel Tunnel linking Kent and Côte d'Opale have had major impacts on the economy and environment, both negative and positive, in ways that were not foreseen prior to its construction.

Coastal defence:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered: On the North Kent coast, large areas of saltmarsh are being rapidly eroded as sea levels rise and storm surges become more frequent. The impact is felt by hundreds of thousands of wildfowl and waders who use the marshes for overwintering or breeding. Saltmarsh also acts to dissipate the power of the incoming tide – as it erodes, the sea rushes with greater force towards the land, causing problems of coastal defense.

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 Co-operation*, 1999

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