

CoPraNet Newsletter

Issue 3, Spring 2005

Coastal Practice Networking over country borders

During the passed six months the interaction between CoPraNet's coastal practitioners has been vibrant.

The topics discussed cover all from "Sustainable destinations and tourist certifications: new future tool for islands and coastal zones" to "Dune and beach management Warnemünde". Adding to that the challenges and opportunities of integrated coastal management in different areas have been demonstrated to the partners through field visits along the Fuerteventura, Zandvoort and Algarve coastline.

CoPraNet meetings and conferences have made it possible, not only for academics, municipal practitioners and politicians to meet, but also for other interested parties to meet. This has resulted in a strengthened coastal practice networking especially in the regions that have participated in organizing the workshops. A good example of that is a prospective CoPraNet Ireland.

Developing further and further...

The CoPraNet website, www.coastalpractice.net, has developed significantly since the last CoPraNet Newsletter. The website is CoPraNet's tool to share information amongst project partners

and others interested in ICZM issues. It is therefore a site that still will get further extensive. However, it can already be used for various purposes. Except for finding out what CoPraNet is, what our objectives are and information of coming CoPraNet workshops, the site visitor can use an ICZM glossary.

The glossary is still under development but does already have an extensive content. In the ICZM database several case-studies

on erosion can be found. This database and the Coastal Practice database will get further extensive during the coming year, case studies covering several ICZM matters will be available. To

QualityCoast Label:
"the willingness of a municipality, country or region to highlight nature and landscape, carrying capacity, cultural heritage and aspects of sustainable development of tourism in its marketing programme targeting domestic (non-local) or international visitors."

begin with most of the case studies will be in English. Due to CoPraNet's aim, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge as far as possible, there will also be case studies available in the languages currently spoken within the partnership, for example French, Polish, Spanish and Greek.

Exchanging experiences through case studies is good but a even better alternative is to attend the CoPraNet workshops. Find out more about the workshops at the following pages.

A quality label for tourism destinations

The development of a transparent international quality label for sustainable tourism destinations is in progress. The quality label consists of several Tourism Destination Quality Milestones (TQM:s). The network partners representing tourism destinations have agreed to validate and test a preliminary set of TQM:s. The selection of the TQM:s has been based on the following criteria:

- High efficiency in achieving sustainable development
- High impact on consumer perception
- Data availability
- Comparability

The first pilot testing will occur in Down County District, by Down County Council. They have established a working group that includes members from central government, local government and voluntary agencies. The intention is to also involve tourism operators. Their next step will be to undertake a survey among visitors, develop operational definitions for the milestones at the level of coastal destinations, collect information for dissemination and develop an appropriate method of communicating results (for example via internet).

Approach to Quality Label

CoPraNets approach to the Quality Label is that it should be developed with a bottom up approach by coastal councils and be on a voluntary basis. It should focus on coastal

towns as a whole and provide

- additional information to that provided by Blue Flag status
- meaningful information to visitors
- information and support to policy makers

The provisional QualityCoast milestones can be divided into five categories as follows:

A. Nature

Information on nature experience (for example bird watching)

Biodiversity

Balance between built versus unbuilt environment & conservation

Accessibility of natural areas (for example rich and extensive hiking networks)

B. Carrying Capacity

Availability of quiet areas and towns

Ratio overnight to day visitors

C. Water and Environmental Quality

Health risks

Water quality



A Blue Flag accredited beach in Fuerteventura.
Photo: Heidi Pintamo

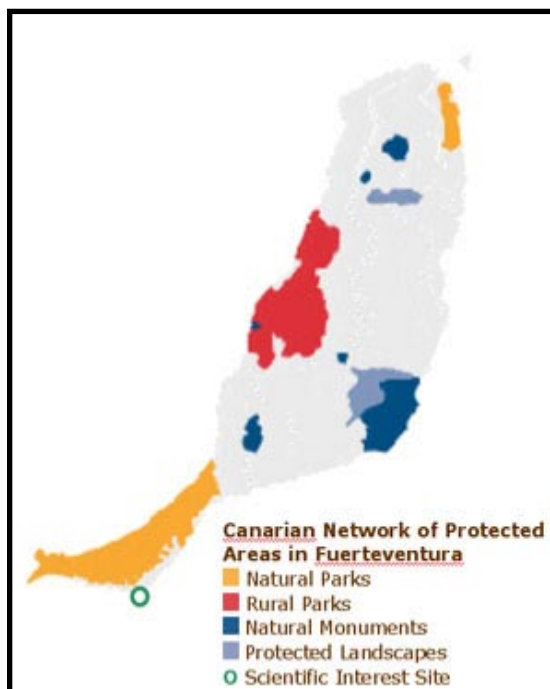
D.Socio-Economic

Use of traditional accommodation and local food
Safety, security
Cultural authenticity, local identity
Contact with local people & culture
Local participation, ownership, training, education
Good waste collection, management and recycling

E.Others

High quality and access of information on:
Leisure and recreational activities
Eco-label accommodation
Public transport

For further information regarding the Quality Label and the TQM:s please contact Margaret Quinn at Margaret.Quinn@downdc.gov.uk or Albert Salman at a.salman@eucc.net.



Sustainable tourism and beach management

Sustainable Tourism and Marine Protected Areas

One of the CoPraNet workshops took place in February on one of the Canarian islands, Fuerteventura. As tourism is the base of Fuerteventura's economy and the tourism needs to coexist with the islands many protected areas the workshop theme could not

have been more adequate: Sustainable Tourism and Marine Protected Areas. Besides the CoPraNet partners, other attendants from for example the World Tourism Organization, Environment Department of Fuerteventura Island Government and the Arctic Institute of North America attended.



Salt-marshes in Tavira, Portugal.
Photo: Heidi Pintamo

The workshop was based on three discussion topics. Topic one was "Sustainable Development in Natura 2000 areas versus anthropic pressure". The following statement served as a starting point for the discussions "There is a need to ensure sustainable development is widely accepted today. However, negative impacts upon the environment because of anthropic pressure continue to be a great problem." Therefore, one of the aims of the discussions held, was to undertake

an approach to coastal management and planning with special emphasis on sustainable tourism and marine protected areas. As a result an analysis of ecotourism activities in areas and the way in Natura 2000 areas and the way in which marine natural resources coexist with human activity was undertaken.

The second topic of the workshop was "Information and Indicators for ICZM in Tourist Areas". During the last years, several efforts have been made to develop indicators for sustainable development in coastal management. In sustainable terms, a correct mana-



Fuerteventura scenery
Photo: Heidi Pintamo

gement and planning in tourism could be a substantive contribution to achieve the right balance between social, economic and environmental goals. A day was dedicated to sharing information and experiences in relation to the development of guidelines and indicators to promote quality and sustainability in coastal tourist destinations.

The third topic was "Quality Ecolabel for Tourism Destinations". One day was devoted to exchanging points of view and unifying approaches of network partners and attendees to develop a transparent, international quality label for tourism destinations. Special attention was paid to the promotion of ecotourism as a way of achieving sustainability in tourism areas.

An important component of the CoPraNet workshops are the study visits. During the Fuerteventura workshop study trips were made to various sites. The purpose of the study visits was to get familiar with the ecotourism activities along the Fuerteventura coastline and to get an insight in the existing cultural and natural heritage of the area.

Hereby follows a short description of the sites visited. Salinas del Carmen, Fuerteventura Island Government has worked on the restoration of the use and landscape of this natural area. The salt marshes are the oldest ones of the island and the only ones still in use. The salt marshes are small infrastructures of channels and pools where salt is extracted from seawater using sun and wind exclusively. Another study trip was to Saladar de Jandía, a unique saline ground in the Canarian Archipelago. This resource was declared as a Scientific Interest Site by the Canarian Law for Natural Areas in 1994 and as a RAMSAR area in 2001.

Also the city of Corralejo and the Lobos island were visited. The Lobos island has been designed Birds SPA within the Natura 2000 Network as well as Natural Park by the Canarian Network of Protected Areas since 1994. Distinctive geomorphology and endemic flora compose a unique landscape in this island where human development is not present. Another study visit site was La Lajita Oasis Park. It served as a good example of the kind of thematic parks that tourism demands as recreation services at a destination such as the Canary Islands. La Lajita also gives the opportunity for visitors to find out more about exotic species of flora and fauna. Added to that the beaches of Jandía and Sotavento, where the PWA world windsurfing speed and slalom event is held every August, were visited.

Sustainable beach management

Another workshop held this spring, in Zandvoort, the Netherlands, was focusing on sustainable beach management. Also this time there several interest groups present, such as political, academic, practitioner and commercial sector representatives.

The workshop was built around three themes

- Sustainable entrepreneurship on the beach: for example refuse on beaches, sustainable energy, joint purchase and innovation.
- Sustainable tourism: for example accessibility of the coast and behaviour of tourists.
- Innovative techniques in support of beach management: for example erosion of beaches and coastal safety.

A few examples of the themes discussed during the workshop were "The challenges faced with creating a nature reserve in the area of the beach, dunes and the hinterland.", "Sustainable beach management and the cooperation between various governments and other partners in the field",

"Security demands by creating structural pavilions on the beach" and "Sustainable beach management for a local beach pavilion".

Fieldvisits were made to the "Circuit Park Zandvoort" car racing track in the dunes of Zandvoort. During the visit the participants were introduced to the history of the race track course, its importance for tourism in Zandvoort and its region and the challenges of managing to respect the environment while having a race track in the dunes. The nature reserve "Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen" was also visited.



Fishermen by the Morro Jable marina, Fuerteventura.
Photo: Heidi Pintamo

The ICCCM'05

Recently the International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean (ICCCM'05) was held in Algarve, Portugal. It was a multi-disciplinary conference with the objective of promoting international exchange of knowledge between researchers, managers and technicians, as well as professionals working in coastal zones conservation and management.

Topics of lectures were for example "New Trends on Coastal zone Management and Conservation: An International Perspective"

by Prof. Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain, University of Delaware, USA, "Mediterranean Protocol on Integrated Coastal Management: Prospects and Challenges", by Dr. Ivica Trumbic, United Nations Environment Programme, Croatia, "Strategic Environmental Assessment of coastal planning and programme development in Europe", by Prof. Rosário Partidário, New University of Lisbon, Portugal and "Science-Based Management of Seaport Activities and Projects in Protected Areas: Findings from ECOPORTS EU Research Project", by Tim Stojanovic, Cardiff University, UK.

Coastal Practice Network Workshop at the ICCCM'05 – The Network Expansion

CoPraNet already is a network of coastal stakeholders exchanging information and best practice on coastal management. Currently the project network is formed by 21 partners in 11 countries. The challenges of the network are to establish an "open source" ICZM-platform and to integrate ICZM projects and networks so they can stimulate rather than compete, to make coastal practitioners the main drivers of ICZM community and to promote the exchange of experiences in several languages. However, CoPraNet also would like to greatly expand the current network with Associate Partners to realize the European Commissions aim to have a Coastal Practitioners Network that can be fully self-supporting by the end of the project in December 2006.

As the CoPraNet partnership are committed to share our views and discuss the needs and benefits of the network expansion the Coastal Practitioners Network invited coastal councils, planning agencies



The volcanic Fuerteventura.
Photo: Heidi Pintamo

and coastal networks to join the CoPraNet workshop held during the ICCCM'05. The workshop addressed topics such as: What are the needs for an extended network? What are the potential themes of it? Who would be interested to join CoPraNet as an Associate Partner? How would CoPraNet Associate Partners foresee their participation? Would the Associate Partners be willing to pay a fee for it?



On an excursion in Ria Formosa Nature Park, Algarve.
Photo: Heidi Pintamo

There are several benefits of being a CoPraNet Associate Partner

The Associate Partner will be able to:

- directly plug into a network of like-minded partners with similar aims
- draw on European expertise by exchanging and applying best practices in coastal planning
- participating in an European benchmarking programme for sustainable coastal tourism (QualityCoast)
- find partners for new projects, partnerships and exchanges
- access European best practice information through the CoPraNet newsletter, website and Helpdesk
- participating in testing the EU ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) Progress Indicator
- participate in the CoPraNet workshop programme 2005-2006, on a cost basis, including (UK: Sefton, Merseyside, Poland: Oder Delta, Greece: Sifnos)

Joining the expanding Coastal Practice Network will enable you to be involved in the equalisation of sustainable tourism management practices in Europe, the introduction of better coastal,

environmental, management practices, and the improvement of information flow to coastal stakeholders. In short, you will be in the forefront of the implementation of coastal management throughout Europe.

Growing bigger and growing smaller!

Down County has recognizes CoPraNet should not only be growing bigger but growing smaller as well. Meaning enhancing collaboration between coastal practitioners in microscale is as important as strengthening the collaboration in macroscale. This conclusion has led to discussions regarding a presumptive CoPraNet Ireland. The strategic context for Ireland is the same, the coast line is shared. There is a need for the separate political entities to come together to join the disparate views of management in a local government context. The Irish Beach Managers forum could for example use CoPraNet Ireland as a marketing tool. At a later stage maybe even a CoPraNet Irish sea could be developed, currently CoPraNet already consist of, besides Down County Council, for example Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, (England) and Coastal and Marine Resources Centre (CMRC), University College Cork, Ireland.

Workshops coming up soon

Would you like to get an in depth look, "from a practitioners point of view", into the backbone of every sustainable coastal planning process, i.e. on methods and tools used to incorporate public participation in decision-making? Then you are welcome to attend the next CoPraNet workshop, due 10-13 of June, "**Participatory planning tools and methods for sustainable management of marine, coastal and island resources**".

During the last decade there is a growing trend in favor of public participation in environmental decision-making, including management of coastal resources. State-of-the-art Coastal Zone Management research and development has shown that public participation is the backbone of such an adaptive process, which otherwise could be rendered unsuccessful. As early as 1992 the

Nature based tourism by submarine at 30 meters depth, Fuerteventura.
Photo: Heidi Pintamo



EU had already recognised Integrated Coastal Zone Management as a valuable participatory planning methodology and an integrated policy making tool for achieving sustainable development in the coastal zone. Even so, public participation in environmental decision-making includes various challenges. Therefore the workshop has the following objectives:

- To facilitate exchange of experiences and good practices on participatory approaches followed in the context of ICZM
- To present state-of-the-art participatory methods and tools for sustainable coastal zone management by involving coastal stakeholders in an integrated deliberative decision processes
- To transfer, from the European level to the local/ regional one, knowledge and expertise relevant to sustainable management of marine, coastal and island resources
- To contribute, through a structured deliberative process, with direct proposals for the promotion of sustainable development patterns for Sifnos island.

During this workshop CoPraNet is also going to be presented to Greek coastal practitioners and the Greek Coastal Practitioners Network will be inaugurated.

The partner organizing the workshop is MEDITERRANEAN SOS Network (MEDSOS). MEDSOS is an environmental NGO active since 1990 on the protection of the marine/coastal environment and cultural diversity, as well as the promotion of sustainable development in the Euro-Mediterranean region. Contact them as soon as possible if you are interested in participating at medsos@medsos.gr. Yet there might be room for additional coastal practitioners and other stakeholders such as academics, researchers, policy-makers and NGOs to attend.

Two other workshops coming up soon are **“Planning implementation and monitoring of coastal defenses”** (September) and **“Natura 2000 in practice”** (October). The first one will be organised by Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, United Kingdom. The second one by Stepnica Local Community, Poland, together with Coastal Management Research Centre, Sweden. Find out more about the workshops at www.coastalpractice.net



Collecting shellfish in River Gilão, Algarve.
Photo: Heidi Pintamo

The partners within CoPraNet are:

- AICSM, The University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom
Web: <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/aicsm/>
- CCDR-C, Portugal
Web: <http://www.dra-centro.pt>
- CMRC, Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, University College Cork, Ireland
Web: <http://www.ucc.ie/research/crc/>
- COMREC, Coastal Management Research Centre, Sweden
Web: <http://www.sh.se/comrec>
- Down District Council, Ireland
Web: <http://www.downdc.gov.uk>
- EUCC The Coastal Union, the Netherlands
Web: <http://www.eucc.nl>
- ICCM, Institute of Marine Sciences Canary Islands, Spain
Web: <http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/iccm>
- IHE Delft, the Netherlands
Web: <http://www.ihe.nl>
- IHRH, Hydraulics and Water Resources Institute, Portugal
Web: <http://www.fe.up.pt/ihrh>
- Mediterranean SOS Network, Greece
Web: <http://www.medsos.gr>
- Ministry of the Interior of the State of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany
Web: <http://www.landesplanung.schleswigholstein.de>
- Municipality of Calvia, Spain
Web: <http://www.calvia.net>
- Municipality of Samothraki, Greece
Web: <http://www.samothraki.gr>
- Municipality of Zandvoort, the Netherlands
Web: <http://www.zandvoort.nl>
- RIKZ, National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management, the Netherlands
Web: <http://www.rikz.nl>
- Rivages de France, France
Web: <http://www.rivagesdefrance.org>
- Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, United Kingdom
Web: <http://www.sefton.gov.uk>, <http://www.nwcoastalforum.co.uk>
- Storstrøm County, Denmark
Web: <http://www.stam.dk>
- Stepnica Local Community, Poland
Web: <http://www.stepnica.pl>
- WL Delft, the Netherlands
Web: <http://www.wldelft.nl>
- University of the Littoral-Côte d'Opale, France
Web: <http://mreid.univ-littoral.fr/geodal.html>

The CoPraNet Newsletter

The CoPraNet Newsletter has been produced by COMREC, Sweden, in cooperation with the other partners of the network. Please contact comrec@sh.se for further information.