

EUCC Coastal News

No 10 October 2004

EUCC Coastal News is a monthly newsletter published by EUCC - The Coastal Union for its members. Readers and Network members (only entitled to newsletters) are encouraged to join the EUCC as a Private or Professional member. Members are entitled to a variety of services and discounts: check in www.eucc.net/en/members. For free subscriptions, comments or contributions to this newsletter, please contact news@coastalguide.org.

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1. The growing problem of global warming

Russia's State Duma voted 334 to 73 in favour of ratifying the Kyoto Protocol to curb climate change by cutting global greenhouse gas emissions. The international treaty now requires ratification by the Upper House and a signature from president Vladimir Putin, which is expected within the coming days. The decision will mean that the beleaguered international treaty will come into force around the world 90 days after Russia's ratification is received by the UN. The Kyoto Protocol is a step in the right direction to fight global warming, but needs to be followed up and made fully effective by all countries including the US.

Today, concentrations of CO₂ are 30 per cent higher than before the industrial revolution. While many greenhouse gases occur naturally, this rate of increase is far from natural. Higher-than-normal global temperatures began being noticed in the 1990s and realization grew that global warming could speed up the melting of the polar ice, leading to rise in sea levels, storm frequencies, floods, and resulting devastations. An indication that these consequences can already be felt today are the recent storms in Japan. As the death toll rises from Japan's deadliest typhoon in two decades, experts have warned that this will not be the exception. A powerful typhoon that swept through the country earlier this week killed

at least 69 people, police said, and hopes were fading for 19 missing in floods and landslides. Typhoon Tokage - "lizard" in Japanese - was the record 10th to hit Japan this year. Normally, about three make landfall during the typhoon season that usually ends in late October. Japan has suffered from an unusual number of storms this year due to warmer than usual sea water and weaker than normal Pacific high pressure areas, which some people blame on global warming. There have been so many typhoons that mud has accumulated on the bottom of rivers, making them much shallower. So far this year about 170 people have been killed or are missing as a result of typhoons.

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Since the industrial revolution we have massively increased the burning of fossil fuels - oil, coal and gas - to power our factories, heat our homes and drive our cars. When fossil fuels are burned, they release carbon dioxide (CO₂) - the main human-made greenhouse gas. CO₂ and other greenhouse gases create an artificial greenhouse effect, thickening the natural canopy of gases in the atmosphere and causing more heat to become trapped. As a result, the global temperature is increasing, throwing the world's climate out of its natural balance. Some industrial chemicals have the potential to damage the atmosphere thousands of times more than CO₂, such as hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) used mainly in refrigeration.

http://worldnews.orb6.com/stories/nm/20041022/weather_typhoon_japan_dc.php

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/comment/2004/October/comment_October2_2.xml§ion=comment

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/contentlookup.cfm?ucidparam=20011030144903&CFID=1370423&CFTOKEN=82723952>

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/comment/2004/October/comment_October2_2.xml§ion=comment

<http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99996569>

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- EU news and initiatives -

2. EU subsidises overfishing in waters of Mauritania

European taxpayers are subsidizing European fishers to fish off the coast of West-Africa in waters that are already seriously overfished. That is the opinion of scientists supervising the observance of the European fisheries treaty with Mauritania.

Mauritania receives over 70 million euro annually from the EU in exchange for admittance of European ships on her fishing grounds. Especially the fisheries on octopus, mostly by Spanish and Portuguese vessels, forms a problem. The scientific commission that controls these catches advises to lower them by 30 to 40 percent. If this does not happen, the octopus population near Mauritania threatens to collapse according to the biologists. This has happened before off the coast of Morocco.

Source: Dutch Paper De Volkskrant, 16 October 2004

3. European Commission welcomes new draft Directive to prevent mining pollution

The European Commission welcomes the political agreement reached by the Environment Council on a proposed Directive to minimise negative environmental effects of waste from the extractive industries (mining and quarrying). This waste can constitute a serious and long-lasting threat to the environment and human health if not properly managed. EU-wide rules shall aim to prevent water and soil pollution from the deposition of waste into heaps or ponds, the two common storage methods. Particular emphasis is put on the long-term stability of such waste facilities so that consequences from possible accidents are minimised. Together with the revised Seveso II Directive on the control of major industrial accidents, and a reference document on Best Available Techniques, the future Directive will ensure sound management of extractive waste throughout the EU.

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/waste/mining/index.htm>

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/04/1229&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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4. LIFE 2004-2005 approved and call for proposals open

The third phase of the Financial Instrument for the Environment of the European Commission, LIFE III (2002-2004) has been officially extended for a period of 2 years as decided by the European Parliament and the Council on 15 September 2004. Following from this, a formal call for proposals for LIFE 2004-2005 has been published on 12 October 2004. LIFE projects should contribute to the implementation, development and enhancement of the Community environmental policy and legislation as well as the

integration of the environment into other EU policies. The European Commission has now approved the allocation of EUR 317 million for the period from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2006, for LIFE-Nature and LIFE-Environment Demonstration Projects.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/funding/index.htm>

5. Birds Directive recognised by European Hunters Federation

BirdLife International and the Hunters Federation in the EU (FACE) have signed an agreement on the Birds Directive in the presence of Commissioner Margot Wallström, at DG Environment. This Agreement is the result of the Sustainable Hunting Initiative started by the European Commission three and half years ago, to which BirdLife and FACE are invited to be the main stakeholders. This agreement can be seen as a recognition of the importance of the Birds Directive as an appropriate instrument for the conservation of birds at EU level.

<http://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/regional/europe/partnership.html>

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6. Ongoing loss of biodiversity in EU

The ongoing exploitation of land and water is reducing biodiversity in the EU. It seems unlikely that the target to halt further loss of biodiversity by 2010 will be met, as environmental pressures such as the growth of infrastructure, intensive agriculture and serious overexploitation of fish stocks remain.

The recent reform of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) has improved conditions for agricultural production within ecological constraints. Now Member States have to make it a priority to seize the opportunities created by the CAP reform. This can speed up the fairly slow progress towards the targets for a number of EU directives such as the Nitrates and Water Framework Directives.

www.rivm.nl/en/persberichten/need_investments.jsp

www.rivm.nl/bibliotheek/digitaaldepot/OutstandingEnvironmentalIssues.pdf

– International news in brief –

7. Large-scale forces shape local ocean life, global study shows

In a research project spanning 14 years and seven continents, a research team based at Brown University, USA has photographed and catalogued nearly 3,000 species of sponges, corals and other shallow water ocean invertebrates from Antarctica to Australia. The key finding: Large-scale forces play a pivotal role in local species diversity.

The richness of species diversity in a small patch of ocean is powerfully shaped by far-away forces, which include currents that disperse larvae across hundreds of miles or the creation of new species caused by geological upheaval and biotic isolation millions of years ago. Global warming and pollution are other regional forces that can impact local diversity.

Results from the project, published in the current early online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, have implications for conservation efforts.

Governments or non-profits interested in maintaining biodiversity in the ocean – or on land – should not simply create single reserves or parks. Instead, they should create as many as possible across a broad area. Of particular importance, is safeguarding “source areas” for high biodiversity that act as wellsprings of eggs, seeds or vital nutrients or that provide important habitat for critical species.

http://www.innovations-report.com/html/reports/environment_sciences/report-35136.html

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8. Combined Functions in Coastal Defence Zones (ComCoast) project launched

The major innovative concept of COMCOAST is to cope in a sustainable way with the increase of loads on the present flood defences in the North Sea area that should be accounted for at present, while in the future a further increase can be expected due increasing wave loads, raising water levels, lowering of hinterland ground levels and increasing rainfall. ComCoast aims at maintaining and increasing future safety by allowing increased wave overtopping and overflow over strengthened sea defences and, at the same time, creating added value by the realisation of the multifunctional hinterland areas that can cope with the temporary storage of excess flood waters. COMCOAST thus will provide a safe flood retaining zone instead of a flood retaining line-element (present embankments and dune rows). The COMCOAST project deals with the identification and understanding of the social, economical and technical opportunities and constraints in innovative coastal risk management to deliver a more sustainable environment for all.

Ten partners in five European countries (England, Germany, Belgium, Denmark and The Netherlands) work together for the success of ComCoast.

More information can be obtained through project manager Frans Hamer of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management in The Netherlands, f.c.hamer@dww.rws.minvenw.nl.

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9. Romanians warn of Danube Delta ecological disaster

Romania increasing the pressure on its eastern neighbour, Ukraine, over plans to build a canal through its section of the Danube Delta, which Romania says poses a serious threat to the wildlife and ecosystem of this unique natural habitat. Ukraine started to work on the first part of the construction of the Bystroe canal. The project involves dredging an existing channel and turning it into a 160 kilometer waterway linking the Black Sea with the Danube. In so doing, Ukraine is defying a chorus of condemnations and expressions of concern from international environmental bodies, foreign governments and Romania itself. All are worried by the potential damage the new expanded canal will inflict on the nesting sites of some of Europe's rarest birds.

The Danube Delta is world famous for richness and variety of its wildlife. It is home to more than 300 species of birds, 160 kinds of fish, including caviar bearing sturgeon, and 800 types of plants, many of them found nowhere else on the European Continent. It is said that casualties of the project will be many, starting with the largest colony of pelicans in Europe. The first results of construction activity are already visible. Ornithologists have noted that hundreds of birds abandoned their nests this summer, almost certainly because of the noise of construction. Ecologists from around the world have repeatedly warned that the biosphere in the delta faces a calamity. The canal will change the hydrological balance of the delta. The water table will lower and evaporation will intensify. Real damage will be done to the habitat of the majority of fish species and birds will lose nesting areas.

<http://www.aquamedia.at/>

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10. Scientists call for cod fishing ban

Cod stocks in Europe's northern waters are on the verge of extinction, scientists said, calling for a blanket ban on fishing in 2005. In an annual report, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) said hefty cuts in cod catches were not enough to stop overfishing and that fishing grounds should be shut in certain areas. There is still no clear sign that cod stocks in the North Sea, Irish Sea and west of Scotland are making a recovery, ICES said in a statement. A further problem that scientists face is substantial under-reporting of catches of cod which makes it difficult to get a true picture of the state of these stocks. For the third year running, the Copenhagen-based body has called for a ban on cod fishing. The EU has always rejected this idea on the grounds that this would devastate remote coastal areas that depend on fishing for their community livelihood. Instead, EU fisheries ministers have restricted the number of days trawlers may go out to sea, in tandem with tough cuts in the amount of cod - a dinner staple - that may be caught. The European Commission uses ICES advice as the basis for its proposed cuts in annual fishing quotas, usually watered down by EU ministers at a marathon meeting every December. ICES is also calling for a ban on hake fishing in the Bay of Biscay, an area of particular interest for Spanish trawlermen.

<http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/27742/story.htm>

-Publications -

Coastline Report 2004-3

The new volume of EUCC-Coastline Reports, published by EUCC-Germany, is available online: Schuchardt, B. et al. (2004): Retrospektive Analyse größerer Planverfahren in der Küstenzone unter der Perspektive "IKZM-Tauglichkeit" Retrospective analysis of large scale planning procedures under the perspective of their ICZM-compatibility.

Coastline Reports 3 (2004); 1-118

<http://www.eucc-d.de/ikzmdokument.php?inford=285>

http://www.eucc-d.de/infos/RETRO_online.pdf

The printed version (with an English abstract) is free available for our member organisations and can be requested per email: b.overdevest@eucc.net

Up in smoke?

Report published by several organisations joint in the Working Group on Climate Change and Development.

The report says that global warming threatens human progress, and make the international targets on halving global poverty by 2015, know as the Millennium Development Goals, unattainable.

This report can be downloaded at:

http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/z_sys_publicationdetail.aspx?pid=196

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CoCoNet report

The final report of the Coastal Communities Network (CoCoNet) project is now available. Researchers from the Coastal & Marine Resources Centre (CMRC), University College Cork and the Marine & Coastal Environment Group (MACE), Cardiff University implemented the INTERREG IIIA funded project. The report examines the role of local communities in promoting Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the

Southern Irish Sea, a region bordered by the coastlines of Ireland and Wales. The project led to the development of the Wexford Declaration, which urges governments to support the empowerment of local communities, including local government, to secure local sustainability of the coastal and marine environment. For further information please contact Cathal O'Mahony (c.omahony@ucc.ie) or Wendy Dodds (DoddsW1@Cardiff.ac.uk).

To view and download the report visit <http://coconet.ucc.ie>.

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The Living Planet Report 2004

This Living Planet Report 2004 by WWF is the fifth in a series of Living Planet publications, which explore the impact of human on the planet. It is based on two indicators – the Living Planet Index and the Ecological Footprint. It examines the state of nature and resource use in 149 of the world's major countries. The Living Planet Index measures overall trends in populations of wild species around the world. It includes 555 terrestrial species, 323 freshwater species and 267 marine species. The Ecological Footprint is a measure of environmental sustainability.

The report can be downloaded at:

http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/news.cfm?uNewsID=15976

– Newsletters and new websites –

A new "environmental democracy" clearing house.

This website aims to highlight and promote awareness of issues covered by the Aarhus Convention. Aarhus is the Danish city where the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters was signed in 1998.

<http://www.aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org>

Gestão Costeira Integrada

The first magazine about Integrated Coastal Zone Management for Portuguese language countries. To know more access:

<http://www.gci.cttmar.univali.br>

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– Events and training –

November 10, 2004

Integrating Land-use and Water in Practice, Conference
Linking Surface and Groundwaters: Developing Priorities and Long-term vision
SOAS, London

For more information please visit: www.coastms.co.uk

November 15-18, 2004

ELOISE (European Land Ocean Interaction Studies), European Conference on Coastal Zone Research. Portoroz, Slovenia.

For all registrations and enquiries concerning the Conference, please contact the Conference Secretariat at: Mrs. Berit Modalen, phone: +47 63898071, e-mail: berit.modalen@nilu.no or eloise@nilo.no

November 17-25, 2005

The 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress - "People and Nature - only one world"
Bangkok, Thailand

Contact: IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Ursula Hiltbrunner, tel: +41 (0) 22 999 02 32 (direct)

www.iucn.org/about/wcc/wcc.pdf

November 29-December 1, 2004

Offshore Arabia 2004, conference and exhibition of coastal protection
International Exhibition Centre, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

For exhibition details please contact: Basil Nader at +44 1702322000 or email him at basil.nader@timesgroup.co.uk

For conference details please contact Hana Holy or Susan Thomas at 00971 42651585 or email them at info@index.ae / marketing@index.ae

General information can be found at www.offshorearabia.ae

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November 29 - December 1, 2004,

Ocean Biodiversity Informatics - International Conference on Marine Biodiversity Data Management, Hamburg, Germany

Discussion of new technologies and linking between networks. Conference topics will be restricted to marine biological data management (taxon-based), and environmental, non-taxon based data management.

<http://www.vliz.be/obi/>

January 6-7, 2005

UK Young Coastal Scientists' and Engineers' Conference

University of Nottingham, UK

Please register by 1st December by sending e-mail to John Lawrence: admin@cozone.org.uk

Other enquiries should be made to the meeting organisers, Nick Dodd (Nick.Dodd@Nottingham.ac.uk)

and Suzana Ilic (s.ilic@lancaster.ac.uk)

January 19 - 20, 2005

Coastal Futures 2005, Call for Topics and Sponsors

For more information please email bob.earll@coastms.co.uk or ring Bob Earll, +44-01531 890415

January 19 - 20, 2005

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For more information please email bob.earll@coastms.co.uk or ring Bob Earll, +44-01531 890415

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January 24-27, 2005

Remediation of Contaminated Sediments, international conference

Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

For further information: www.battelle.org/sedimentscom

April 11-15, 2005

Coastal Dynamics 2005, international conference about multi-scale dynamics of the coastal system.

Barcelona, Spain

Organization: LIM/UPC <http://www.coastaldynamics.org>

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April 13-15, 2005

COASTAL ENGINEERING 2005: Seventh International Conference on Modelling, Measurements, Engineering and Management of Seas and Coastal Regions.

Algarve, Portugal

For further information: <http://www.wessex.ac.uk/conferences/2005/coastal2005/1.html>

April 17 - 20, 2005

International Conference on Coastal Conservation and Management in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, Vilamoura, Algarve, Portugal.

Info: ICCCM2005 Secretariat, Tel: 351 966055637, E-mail: icccm2005_as@aeiou.pt.

<http://icccm2005.tripod.com>

April 18-20, 2005

COMRISK 2005 - International Conference on Coastal Risk Management, Kiel, Germany.

More information can be obtained at www.comrisk.org and via the project secretariat by Daniel Witzki, tel: + 49 4319885158 or email: daniel.witzki@im.landsh.de

June 27-29, 2005

Advances in Marine Ecosystem Modelling Research, international conference

Plymouth, UK

For more information: www.amemr.info

July 3-7, 2005

WAVES 2005: Fifth International Conference on Ocean Wave Measurement and Analysis

Palacio de Congresos, Madrid, Spain

Closing date for abstracts and reports: 31 October 2004.

For further information: www.cedex.es/waves2005

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July 21-23, 2005

CoastGIS 2005 - Defining and Building a Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Infrastructure, conference
AECC - Aberdeen, Scotland, UK
<http://www.coastgis2005.org.uk>

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September 12-18, 2005

The World Conference on Ecological Restoration, "Ecological Restoration: A Global Challenge"
Zaragoza, Spain

For more information: secretariat@ecologicalrestoration.net or <http://www.ecologicalrestoration.net>

September 19 - 23, 2005

Dunes & Estuaries 2005, international conference.
Casino Koksijde, Belgium.

Ministry of the Flemish Community (AMINAL-Nature Division).

Organised by: Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), EUCC - The Coastal Union and Municipality of Koksijde, with support from the LIFE-nature project 'FEYDRA'.

www.vliz.be/de2005/

October 13-16, 2005

12th Hellenic Ichthyologists Congress
Drama, Greece

For more information: www.ichthyologists.gr

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- Colophon -

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**Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Coastal News No 11 2004:
24 November 2004.**

Established in 1989, EUCC - the Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 2500 members and member organisations in 40 countries. For more information please contact EUCC International Secretariat, POB 11232, NL-2301 EE Leiden, the Netherlands, tel.: +31-71-5122900, internet: <http://www.eucc.net>



The European
Commission

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