

EUCC COASTAL NEWS
No 5, 26 March, 2003

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Dear readers,

The Editorial Team of this newsletter would like to thank all readers that acted on our call for action in Coastal Guide News No 4, related to the intention of the 6th Framework Programme Committee to remove coastal zones from the research programme. Your efforts contributed to the decision of the committee to maintain coastal zones among the priorities (please see item 1). Furthermore the editors of the "EUCC Coastal Guide News" have decided to change the name of this newsletter into "EUCC Coastal News". A more drastic change is its frequency; from now on we can only ensure a monthly frequency. In fact this is a result of our financial situation. If more of our readers would join the EUCC as a member, we would be able to provide better services. Once more we call upon everybody to register as a member of the EUCC, preferably as a member organisation (see below).

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* INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF*

- 1) Commission maintains coastal zones in FP6

On the 25th of March 2003 there was a 6th Framework Programme (FP6) Committee Meeting on the revision of the Programme on Global Change and Ecosystems. A tough debate has taken place between the Commission and the national delegates about maintaining Coastal Zones among the priorities of the Framework Programme. The Dutch delegates who raised the Coastal Zone issue got very good support from the other countries. The main argument of the Commission against Coastal Zones was the lack of organisation within the coastal science community. The overwhelming majority of the delegates did not accept this argument and finally the Commission has agreed to maintain Coastal Zones as a priority and to maintain the original text, asking for a Network of Excellence based on national

platforms. The funding for a Coastal Zone Network of Excellence is planned for the Third call. A final decision on the content of this will be taken in February 2004 and the results of the Committee meeting indicate that the Commission proposal will include the Coastal Zones then. The Netherlands Centre for Coastal Research (NCK), the EUCC and other partners are preparing a proposal to the FP6 Programme for the funding of the ENCoRe network. The mobilisation (partly via the previous issue of Coastal Guide News) of national delegates and supporters of joint ENCoRe/COASTAL INFO initiatives in favour of Coastal Zones has been successful. Also the director of the Global Change Programme, Dr. Patermann, confirmed the reception of many letters in support of Coastal Zones.

2) CoastLearn partnership enlarged

Thanks to the support of the Leonardo da Vinci Agency for the Netherlands and the European Commission TACIS IBP Programme, the CoastLearn consortium has been enlarged. The aim of this enlargement is to develop a new module on Sustainable Tourism Management in the framework of ICZM as well as to take the interactive character of CoastLearn (a multimedia distance training package on Integrated Coastal Zone Management) one step further. Simulation and role games will be developed in order to facilitate the understanding of the coastal interactions and integrated decision making processes. The project will moreover see the development of new country versions of CoastLearn for the Baltic States (Leonardo da Vinci) and Russia (TACIS IBPP). A core task of the partnership will be to develop national networks of coastal practitioners that will then be linked trans-nationally via the Regional Seas Programmes. As much as 23 representatives representing 8 CEE partner organisations, 6 EU ones and experts, gathered in a Kick off meeting in Delft, the Netherlands, during 13th and 14th March. The outcome was the definition of a project work plan, module contents and the CoastLearn scenario for the simulation and role games. The new module should be on line by the end of the year. Meanwhile the Russian version of CoastLearn will be available soon.

More information: Irene Lucius ilucius@eucc.nl, www.coastlearn.org

3) EU strategy to protect and conserve the marine environment.

On the 4th of March 2003, the European council of ministers for the environment, adopted conclusions concerning a thematic strategy to protect and conserve the marine environment. Also in the context of the marine environment, the activities undertaken to combat the consequences of the marine pollution caused by the sinking of the single-hull oil tanker Prestige off the coast of Galicia on 19 November 2002 were discussed. The council requests the Commission to bring forward a thematic strategy to protect and conserve the marine environments as soon as possible, before May 2005. In this perspective, the Commission is invited to include further measures in relation to the safety of maritime transport in order to protect the marine environment. The council will also consider related issues of liability and, if appropriate, sanctions. Furthermore the development and implementation of the ecosystem approach within the marine strategy which integrates both the environment to be protected and the human activities which have an impact on the marine environment will be guided by the council.

More information: <http://ue.eu.int/pressData/en/envir/74763.pdf>
<http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/20075/story.htm>

4) WWF supports the hunt for seals in Canada

In a recently acquired internal document, the WWF states that they are not going to act against the killing almost a million seals in the next three years on the east coast of Canada. Despite years of international protest, the hunt for young seals has seen an increase. For a number of years now this quota has been fixed at 275000 seals. Since this year, the Canadian government has adopted a quota of 350000 seals. For not acting against this, the WWF has received a lot of

criticism from several animal rights organisations and environmental groups. On the website of WWF Canada they even state publicly: "We support the hunting and consumption of wild animals provided the harvesting does not threaten the long-term survival of wildlife populations. WWF has never opposed a sustainable seal hunt in northern or eastern Canada."

http://www.bontvoordieren.nl/img/WNF_postion_feb_2003.pdf

http://www.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,4057,6146272%255E1702,00.html

<http://www.pronature.on.ca/WWFseals.html>

<http://www.planetark.org/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/19697/story.htm>

http://wwf.ca/satellite/nunavut/page1_eng.html

5) Aznar's plans threaten Ebro delta

The Spanish government plans to transport water from the river Ebro, which has a water surplus, to dryer areas of the country. A large resistance movement of politicians, farmers, environmentalists and scientists has risen against this National Hydraulic Plan (PNH). Last week an international specialists group presented a report to the European Parliament that totally breaks down the PNH. It says that similar projects in the past turned out to be fiasco's, the plan is not based on a correct analysis of the water demand in the future and it is based on out of date technologies, while modern technologies, like desalinisation, are cheaper. The first area that will be harmed by the plan will be the Ebro delta, south of Barcelona. Because this area has been threatened by the upcoming civilisation of the last decades it has become a special concern for the Catalanian government. The surplus of fresh water has led to a special flora and fauna in the area. According to Spanish member of the European Parliament, Mendulice, the PNH will kill the Ebro delta. The deterioration of the ecosystem will also have economic consequences. Rice farmers fear that shortage of fresh water will harm their market position which is already uncertain. Shell and Crustacean fishers predict negative influences on their catches because the seawater will intrude further in the delta. Also the deteriorated landscape and flora and fauna will attract less eco-tourists. The critics say the government should put a stop to the huge spilling of drinkingwater in Spain and make serious plans for reuse. The agriculture uses 80 % of the fresh water in this driest country of the EU and the largest drinking water company (Isabel II) admits that 20 % of its drinking water disappears through leaks in its out of date piping system. Aznar won't listen to these critics. During the discussion of the plan in the national parliament 500 amendments were proposed by the opposition, but all were rejected by the majority of Aznar's Partido Popular. Left wing party IU says the PNH is a 'hydraulic fraude' meant to enrich building and electricity companies instead of solving water problems.

Source: Volkskrant 8 March 2003 (in Dutch)

6) EUCC leads development of Turkish Biodiversity Awareness Strategy

Since January of this year, EUCC The Coastal Union is leading the assignment "Preparing a Prioritized Strategy and Action Plan for Public Awareness Programs to Build Support for Biodiversity Conservation in Turkey, a component of the Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management Project, which is funded by the Global Environment Facility and implemented by the Ministries of Forestry and Environment of Turkey. Other members of the consortium are the Dutch company DHV and the Turkish consultancy firm AGRIN. The approach of the consortium emphasises stakeholder participation during all phases of strategy development and close cooperation of Turkish and international experts. During the inception phase, the consortium defined the list of key stakeholders that should be involved in drafting and implementing the Strategy and Action Plan, identified attitudes and information gaps among key stakeholder groups that lead to unsustainable management practices and consequently biodiversity decline, searched for efficient information channels to spread messages about biodiversity conservation and compiled a list of past and present initiatives

that can serve as a base for future awareness activities. Among the major preliminary findings are that

- rural stakeholders need better knowledge and good examples about alternative management practices and income generating activities that decrease the pressure on habitats;
- governmental institutions generally see a need for additional training of their (extension) staff on biodiversity issues;
- the media have to learn how to transport biodiversity issues in a more attractive manner;
- biodiversity education has to become more interactive and practical; and
- the general public have to develop a better knowledge about and pride in their protected areas network.

The next project phase from end of March to mid-June foresees a series of focus group meetings, a small public opinion poll, two workshops and a first draft Strategy and Action Plan. The project will end in December 2003 with the submission of the final Strategy and Action Plan.

More information: Irene Lucius ilucius@eucc.nl

7) International news survey

World - Ballast Water Convention on its way

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is developing a new Convention on Ballast Water. While it is essential to the safe operation of ships, ballast water also poses a serious environmental threat in carrying marine microbes, plants and animals around over the worlds oceans. When discharged into new environments these species may become invasive and severely disrupt the native ecology and have serious impacts on the economy and human health.

More information: <http://globallast.imo.org> (current guidelines and draft text of convention).

EU Cooperation with US in energy and climate change research

On the 6th of March, European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin met Mr Spencer Abraham, Secretary of State at the US Department of Energy. They discussed EU-US scientific co-operation in research on climate change and energy issues.

More information:

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/339|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

Europe - Commission meets fisheries stakeholders to discuss recovery plans for endangered cod and hake stocks.

The European Commission has organised a two-day workshop (10-11 March 2003) to discuss much-needed measures to help the recovery of endangered cod and hake stocks.

More information:

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/118|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/346|0|RAPID&lg=EN&display=

UK - Major clean-up operation and an investigation in Essex after oil spill.

More information:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/2809841.stm

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/2787157.stm

UK - No harmful effects expected of wind farm in the Liverpool Bay

SeaScape Energy is planning an offshore wind farm in Liverpool Bay. It has consulted organisations such as English Nature, Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, Marina and Coastguard Authority and the Royal Yachting Association and no harmful effects are expected.

More information: www.seascape-energy.com (Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary)

France - Oil threat to French tourism

Latest figures show that reservations for the summer season in south-western France are in sharp decline following the Prestige oil disaster and the ensuing pollution.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/2827889.stm>

* SITE MANAGEMENT *

8) Management of roe deer and fallow deer discussed in city board of Amsterdam.

On February 19th the management of roe deer and fallow deer in the Amsterdam Water Supply Dunes was discussed in a committee meeting of the city council. The Amsterdam Water Supply Dunes (AWD) are managed by the Amsterdam Water Supply. Roe deer and fallow deer live there already for many years. In 1997 the city council decided to end roe deer hunting in this dune area for a testing period of 5 years, and to study the effects. Fallow deer in the AWD have never been managed. The study shows that the roe deer population has stabilized, but that the population fallow deer is growing rapidly over the last few years. Therefore more often fallow deer are seen on roads around the dune area, which can lead to dangerous traffic situations. The committee discussed several management options, among other, higher fences, and hunting fallow deer. Some organisations have taken the formal opportunity during the meeting to give their opinion on this topic: against hunting. In April the city council will make the final decision.

More information: Amsterdam Water Supply, Antje Ehrenburg, a.ehrenburg@gwa.nl

* ANNOUNCEMENTS *

9) Events recently announced

June 3, 2003

Coastnet conference: event concerning key issues in relation to Marine Biodiversity Conversation. Held at SOAS University of London, UK. Info: <http://www.coastms.co.uk>

October 25-30, 2003

Pacem In Maribus (PIM), the annual conference organized by the International Ocean Institute. Held this year at the International Oceanographic Ukraine Operational Center. Info: Radalpin@ibss.inf.net Website: www.30pim.sevinfo.net

Sept 19 24, 2004

29th International Conference on Coastal Engineering, Lisbon, Portugal. Info: Email: icce2004@lnec.pt, fax: +351 21 844 3010, website: www.icce2004.org

Deadline for submitting contributions to EUCC Coastal News No 6, 2003:
11 April 2003

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Established in 1989, EUCC - the Coastal Union is an association involving the largest coastal network in Europe with 750 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.nl>
