



EUROSION Project

A European Project for Sustainable Coastal Erosion Management

2002 - 2004



*Project Partner: Isle of Wight Centre for the Coastal Environment,
Isle of Wight Council, UK*

Background

A considerable amount of the European Union's coast is currently eroding despite the development of a wide range of measures to protect shorelines from eroding and flooding. The prospect of further sea level rise due to climate change and the heritage of mismanagement in the past imply that coastal erosion will be a growing concern in the future.

EUROSION is based on the assumption that coastal erosion is a phenomenon that can never be completely controlled but can be managed in an economically and ecologically sustainable fashion.

Objectives of the project

The overall objective of EUROSION was to provide the European Commission with a package of recommendations for policy-making and information management practices to address coastal erosion in Europe, after thorough assessment of knowledge gained from past experiences and of the current status and trends of European coasts. However the project also aims at producing results of immediate value for policy makers and managers on other administrative levels.

Partners

The EUROSION project was implemented by a European consortium under the lead of the National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management (RIKZ) of the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.

Lead Partner: RIKZ - National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management (The Netherlands)
EUCC - The Coastal Union
IGN France International
Autonomous University of Barcelona
European Information Technology EADS SD&E
Institut Français de l'Environnement
Institute for Geological and Mining Research

The Isle of Wight participated as a Study Area under the component led by the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Funding Stream

EUROSION is a project directly commissioned by the General Directorate Environment of the European Commission:-

Total Budget = € 6 million

IWC Budget = € 120,000

Outcomes

The major outcome from EUROSION is an analysis of where erosion management is focused today and where it should be focused in the future - at what administrative levels and with what types of measures - in order to determine where more action needs to be taken.

Based on a scoping and a user requirement study, the consortium established a comprehensive European-level data repository at scale 1:100,000. This digital geographical database provides a consistent framework for integrating existing multidisciplinary data-sets produced at local, national and regional levels into a seamless European database, and for reporting to European policy-makers the status and trends of relevant features such as elevation and bathymetry, infrastructure, hydrographical features, littoral geo-morphological aspects, sea level rise, driving forces, pressures and coastal reporting.



Another task was the analysis of the state-of-the-art of current practices in coastal erosion prevention and management at various levels. This state of the art was based on a Europe wide review of successful and unsuccessful strategies, measures and experiments to prevent or manage erosion for different types of coast.

Finally, policy recommendations have been formulated, backed up by figures derived from the data base and based on results from the pilot case studies and the state-of-the-art report.

Supporting the Isle of Wight

The EUROSION project was a high profile European project, with project results leading to a number of further studies and influencing policy decisions at the European level. The Isle of Wight has benefited more directly by securing additional European funding for subsequent projects. At the local level, the project contributes to the Corporate Plan objective of 'protecting the Island's natural environment'.



www.euroSION.org

