

Europa Nostra Forum

Safeguarding Coastal Culture

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Proceedings

Safeguarding Coastal Culture

EUROPA NOSTRA

Pan-European Federation for Heritage
Lange Voorhout 35
NL-2514 EC The Hague
The Netherlands

Contact: Mark Snethlage
Forum Co-ordinator
+31 70 302 40 51
imo@europanostra.org
www.europanostra.org

Cover photo: Church of Our Lady on the Rocks and the Island of Saint George, Perast, Bay of Kotor, Serbia and Montenegro (Stevan Kordic)

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Safeguarding Coastal Culture

Introduction

HRH The Prince Consort of Denmark

President of Europa Nostra

Ladies and gentlemen,

I bid you all welcome here, in the Bryggen museum, where we will be addressing the issue of the protection of European coasts.

I would like to extend a particular welcome to the Director-General of the Norwegian environment ministry, Madame Elin Bratset, and to other distinguished speakers who will be addressing us shortly.

As long ago as 1992, Europa Nostra's General Assembly, at its meeting in Istanbul, adopted the Declaration on the protection of Europe's coastlines. This document drew attention to the many threats to which the coastline of Europe was then exposed. We are meeting here today, nearly thirteen years later, at the other extremity of Europe and in another city whose fame is also due to its position on one of Europe's most beautiful coasts. Five experts from different European countries will present specific aspects of the protection, conservation and enhancement of our coasts. During the final discussion you will be given the opportunity to propose modifications to the declaration prepared by the Council of Europa Nostra and approved yesterday by our General Assembly or to approve it *in toto*.

I will start with a geographical and historical aside providing us with a framework of reflection on the management and protection of our coastal heritage.

The morphology of the coastline is the result of a dynamic equilibrium between destructive and constructive forces: erosion and sedimentation. It constitutes a zone where terrestrial and marine influences join together and intermingle. Here, fresh water, rich in nutritive elements from rivers, mixes with marine currents. This shock, this transition gives rise to an expansion of life, a bio-diversity of incomparable richness.

The German Bight (Wadden Sea), which stretches from the north coast of Holland to the west of Denmark, is a striking example of this mixing of marine and terrestrial elements. It consists of a fairly shallow sea bounded by about thirty sandy islands, which were created partially by the advance of the glaciers of the quaternary era. At low tide, this basin empties almost totally, exposing the sea-bed. Millions of birds make a stop here during their journey from the shorelines of Africa to their nesting-grounds in Scandinavia and feast on a menu of arthropods, bivalves and crustaceans, rich in protein, which gives them the strength to undertake the second part of their long journey. During the summer they can be joined by a few stalwart tourists who venture out at

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low tide onto the slimy flats under the watchful eye of a guide. A tiring "ramble" allows them to reach the other side of the sea on foot. On a smaller scale, they are following the route of their ancestors who once populated the sea-bed of this part of the North Sea which was then habitable and which was joined by land to what are now the British Isles. These nomads left many traces and evidence of their passage, which today are embedded in the sandy bed of the North Sea, notably on the Dogger Bank, their last refuge during the rise of the sea-level. Just like their contemporaries in the Black Sea region, these nomads followed the successive advances and retreats of the beaches and estuaries, which were fine areas for both hunting and fishing. At the end of the last Ice Age the sudden rise of the sea-level, caused by the melting of the glaciers put an end to their transhumance. This tragic and violent event must have been entrenched in the collective memory of these peoples. Some historians consider these dramatic floods as a possible explanation of the story of the Great Flood, a recurrent element in all Western sagas.

At first the coastline was an obstacle, a clear delimitation of man's territory. It has, however, always attracted a concentration of human life, due to the number of archaeological sites which have been discovered there. Advances in navigational techniques gradually transformed the sea into a vector for change, exchange and unification, and thus gave the coasts a major role. One need only think of the history of the Mediterranean to understand how the sea, hostile to primitive man, was transformed into an element of unification, into a place for meeting and contact. Coastlines, islands and narrows acquired strategic significance, city-ports opened up the hinterland to new horizons and were the first to welcome foreign cultures and are the first to welcome foreign influences.

To the expansion of this biological richness of the shoreline there corresponded a cultural development, a creative richness of the first order. How many architectural jewels, centres of thought and discovery, places of important historical significance do not owe their magnificence to their situation on one of the coastlines of our continent? Venice and Amsterdam, Marseille and Dubrovnik, Copenhagen and Lisbon, Rome and Bergen, a city resonant of the Hanseatic League, where we are today... all of these illustrious places of European civilisation owe their grandeur to their marriage with the sea!

The European coastline is remarkable for its landscape and biological diversity, but also for its cultural and historic diversity. It extends from the rocky Arctic coasts of Norway, buffeted by icy storms, where for a long time those that lived there survived by hunting whales, to the gentle sub-tropical climate of Andalusia

and Greece where one should not be surprised to see banana trees and other exotic plantations.

The coastal environment is narrow and it varies according to geology, geophysics and climate. The land behind rocky coastlines and cliffs appears to effortlessly hurl itself into the sea, while in alluvial plains, the sandy coasts or the swampy deltas, the marine and terrestrial influences intermingle in such an intimate fashion that it becomes difficult to discern where the sea begins and the land ends.

The deeply incised coastline of the European continent allows the sea to penetrate deeply into the land. The many islands, capes, bays, and isthmuses give rise to a severely broken and discontinuous coastal morphology.

These coastlines form ragged capes due the penetration of the sea allow easy access to the land. This has led to an immense historic and natural richness associated with strategic and economic interests.

Over the last few decades, our societies have witnessed unparalleled economic development. The problems of mass tourism, water pollution and of the urban and industrial development of large coastal cities have only very recently received the attention they deserve. This is why Europa Nostra, in its role as spokesman for heritage NGOs, launched its appeal in 1992, as I mentioned earlier.

Over these last few years, the efforts of regional, national and international co-operation in the management of coastlines have increased. Time does not allow me to give you more than a summary of the great diversity of projects and programmes which have seen the light of day since the 1990s. But as an introduction to your deliberations I would like to share some thoughts with you.

A large number of institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, local national and international, often participate in the framework of inter-regional and inter-institutional co-operation - in the management and protection of our coastlines. In this context, what could be the added value of Europa Nostra? Well, Europa Nostra should play its role of bringing together people and as a mediator, allowing the exchange of ideas and good practice between the many private and public players. We should also highlight the specificities of this protection and its heritage dimension. At the close of this Forum we shall distribute the outcome and conclusions *urbi et orbi* and shall give it the same public exposure as was given to the recent Declaration on the impact of wind turbines on the landscape.

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The fate of our coastlines seems to be of concern to a wide public. The evidence for this assertion is the enormous success which is enjoyed by programmes about the protection of the coastline. This appears to confirm that all of us experience a strong attraction towards the sea, the shoreline and the feelings of freedom and adventure which they evoke. For example, the National Trust's "Neptune" programme which is forty years old this year and which has enabled the purchase by a non-governmental association of 700 km of English coastline at risk. It has benefited from funding of £40 million (nearly 60 million euros) - the largest donation by this association to any single project. The Neptune project will be the subject of David Thackray's talk later.

The management of our coastal areas requires cross-sector cooperation between public authorities and NGOs. The site of Butrint in Albania, which figures on the World Heritage List, is under surveillance by organisations such as the Butrint Foundation but also by the Ramsar Convention Bureau for the protection of wetlands. The Bureau has recently given attention to the cultural dimension of wetlands (including coastal wetlands) and the challenges of their conservation in view of a sustainable development strategy. This observation highlights that conservation associations such as ours should establish cooperation with partners that at first sight do not seem to have common interests. The identification of common interests would allow the establishment strategic alliances with new partners and would give a greater weight to the requests of our association.

I am convinced that our speakers will give us an idea of the diversity of coastal management practices. An NGO such as ours wishes to contribute to the conservation of Europe's landscapes and cultural riches, since it concentrates its efforts on the coasts. I am speaking of the Coastal Union (EUCC) that works for the integrated and sustainable management of our coasts and its biological and cultural treasures. Mr Foppe Seekles, Chairman of the Dutch branch of this association, and in charge of the sustainable development portfolio, will be today's first speaker.

As far as the contribution of the European Union to coastal management is concerned, the DG for the Environment launched a programme in 1996 for Integrated Coastal Zone management (ICZM). A large number of institutions participated in this programme, including the Coastal Union. Moreover, in the 90s, the European Commission greatly advanced in matters of environmental legislation. This progress has also been beneficial to coastal protection. Examples include the Habitat Directive (1992), the Water Framework

Directive (2000), and the Directive on the Impact of certain plans and programmes on the Environment (2001). The Commission has also financially supported coastal heritage conservation and enhancement projects as part of the INTERREG programme a strand of the Structural Funds. Finally, as an example of regional cooperation, I would like to mention the Euro-Mediterranean partnership launched in Barcelona in 1995 which includes heritage conservation and coastal management projects.

Europa Nostra's 1992 Declaration called upon the Council of Europe to elaborate a Convention for the protection of Europe's coasts. In the meantime, the Council of Europe has adopted the European Landscape Convention which came into force in March 2004. This Convention is short and clear and it requires cross-sectoral approach for its implementation. Amongst other things, it specifically refers to coastal and marine environments as areas of special attention. Sadly, five years after its adoption, many countries have not yet signed or ratified it.

I appeal to all our member organisations and international partners to collaborate with Europa Nostra to encourage the Member States of the Council of Europe to sign and ratify the European Landscape Convention. It will provide the Governments with an additional instrument for a concerted and integrated action for the protection and management of the cultural landscapes including our shores. Still at the level of the Council of Europe, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities has recently adopted a declaration on ICZM, encouraging local and regional authorities to cooperate with voluntary organizations, research and expertise institutes and with national and international public authorities.

Let us return to our ancestors who rambled across the seas. These people left traces of their presence all over the sea floor that allow us to reconstruct their lifestyles and to imagine their history. In later centuries many shipwrecks joined these archaeological artifacts. Today, the sea floor thus constitutes a rich hunting ground for underwater exploration. High profits in underwater exploration have given rise to regrettable acts of vandalism and have led to the disappearance of valuable archaeological evidence.

In order to halt these degradations and to coordinate the exploration of sub aquatic riches, UNESCO adopted the Convention on the protection of underwater cultural heritage in 2001. Today the Convention has only been ratified by Panama (2003), Bulgaria (2003) and Croatia (2004). But according to article 27, this Convention shall only come into force three months after the

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twentieth country has accepted it. The Convention's uncertain future pushes me to encourage its entry into force.

This brief overview of international efforts to protect the coastal and marine environment, encourages me to suggest that Europa Nostra's message should concentrate particularly on the encouragement of trans-sector and inter-institutional co-operation at both national and European levels. In view of the considerable number of conventions, treaties, laws and accords which already exist and which regulate the use, management, protection and sustainable development of our coastlines, I would like to make a plea for better co-operation between all concerned parties for the sustainable development of the natural and cultural riches of our coastlines. We should all put more effort into those things which aim to make use of the tools at our disposal without for all that neglecting their potential.

Taking into account the important changes which have occurred in the protection of coastlines since the Istanbul Declaration of 1992, the General Assembly of Europa Nostra at its Annual Meeting yesterday, decided to approve a new declaration on the protection of the cultural heritage of coastal areas. Our Executive President, Mr Otto von der Gablentz, has been given the task of amending the Declaration in the light of today's discussions. Copies of the Declaration were distributed at the entrance. I wish you all a productive debate under the chairmanship of Mr Thomas Willoch, member of our Council, who is also the instigator and chief organiser of this Forum. I would like to congratulate him on his excellent initiative.

Finally I would like to express our warmest thanks for the financial support of this Forum and the whole of our congress from the European Commission, as well as from some of Europa Nostra's corporate members: Hydro, KBL European Private Bankers and Volvo.

Mrs Elin Bratset, Director-General of the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment will now take the floor.

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Introduction

Your Royal Highness,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mrs Ann Elin Bratset
Director General

Norwegian Ministry of Environment

It is a great honour for me to take part in the opening of the Forum Safeguarding Coastal Culture today. Especially because today's subject, the coastal culture is a central part of the Norwegian Government's policy on environment and cultural heritage. And because the talks we shall hear here today will raise problems of current interest connected to preserving the coastline and the coastal culture. The rich coast has provided food and the ocean has always been the most important transport artery. The population had to master the finely tuned interaction between industry, culture and nature. When you travel along the Norwegian coastline today, you will see that the history is still alive in many places. You will find an abundance of cultural heritage, the physical traces of people whose lives and activities have always been related to the ocean and the coast. You will always find a diversity of enterprises whose history is founded on activities along the coast. You may for instance meet coastal organisations preserving traditional boats and at the same time preserving the craftsmen's knowledge connected to the boats. You may also visit museums and collections and watch a great number of historical places along the coast during summer. Through times the ocean has been the basis for cultural exchange between countries. As a result, coastal culture is characterized by international influences. The system of lighthouses along the coast is a good example of our culture being an integrated part of an international system. An additional example is provided by the area where we are now, the Bryggen, as Mr Willoch pointed out yesterday. This gives us very good evidence of the economic, cultural and architectural influence of the Hanseatic League. Some hundred years ago, this influence was juxtaposed to what we see today. As I mentioned, the coastal culture is an important political issue in Norway today. One reason, of course, being that the ocean still supplies considerable resources vital to our industrial and economic development, but also because there is an increased attention for the cultural importance of the coastline. Bryggen is a good example of the Norwegian coastline holding qualities that draw international attention. 26 years ago, Bryggen was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List. And last year the Vega islands and archipelago in the North of Norway consisting of some 6,000 islands were also inscribed on the list. It might be a bit provocative that the Norwegian cultural heritage right up to this day has focused mainly on the inland with its rustic culture and not on the coast. This is true, in spite of the fact that 80% of our population lives along the coast, that exciting events have always taken place here and that the coast is a great source of recreation and of outdoor

Mrs Ann Elin Bratset
Director General
The Ministry of the Environment
Department for Cultural Heritage Management
P.O. Box 8013 Dep
(Myntgaten 2)
N-0030 Oslo
NORWAY
Tel +47 22 24 58 00
Ann.Elin.Bratset@md.dep.no

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life. The policy is now changing and the Government recently submitted a white paper on cultural heritage management called "Living with the cultural heritage". In a quite different manner it recognizes coastal heritage as an important part of cultural heritage. The life along the coast has always been dynamic and dramatic. This part of the country is extremely exposed to all kinds of weather: winter storms destroyed both boat houses and piers and many lives were lost. Today, we see a different kind of dynamics, not only the result of natural forces. Changes happen fast and fishery, industry, transport are based upon a rapid technological development. The consequences of these changes point in two different directions: in areas with an increasing population, and high pressure on the natural resources the consequences are similar to those we see in many other European countries. Traditional buildings are torn down to make room for new urban development, and public access to the shore is reduced due to the building of cottages and spare time houses. In the areas with a population decrease, old buildings are decaying fast when they are no longer being used. In both type of areas the care of the cultural heritage is associated to great challenges. In the urban areas the challenge is to plan the land use in a way not to threaten the coastal landscape with its national values and its cultural heritage. And in the areas of decreasing population the challenge is to fill the buildings with new activities. In the recently submitted white paper, the Government addresses its wish for preserving a living coastal area. The strategy for reaching that goal is to create an interaction between nature, the cultural heritage and commercial development. The Government wants to establish a programme for creating new values based on the cultural heritage with ten pilot projects developed over a period of 4 years. A substantial part of these projects shall focus on coastal culture. Creating new values through these projects means that cultural, social and economic values are created and developed through both a sustainable protection and a sustainable use of the cultural heritage and the cultural environment. We will see to that the participants in the pilot projects represent all three levels of administration: the national, the regional and the local level. And it is also important that many non governmental organisations participate. The *dugnad* people as I have heard you were told about yesterday are an important part of this. There are quite a number of these in Norway and they are very active also in the field of cultural heritage in the coastal area. The Norwegian Government stresses the need to secure the diversity of our coastal culture while also maintaining a sustainable trade along the coast. The purpose of this is to ensure that our coastline will continue to be the base of the creation of new values, new development and growth while at the same time preserving a sustainable cultural history, a sustainable ecology and a sustainable

economy. The coastline shall also continue to be a source for recreation and outdoor life where you can experience both our nature and our cultural heritage. I am aware that Europa Nostra is an organisation with strong ties to other important international organisations with which the Norwegian authorities also collaborate. And I am really happy that such an influential organisation emphasises the importance of the coastal culture as this will draw increased attention to the subject and underline the fact that this is an important part of cultural heritage. Against this background I look forward to an interesting and exciting day listening to all the talks. I wish that the conference will give more inspiration to the important work that Europa Nostra is doing in all different parts of Europe.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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Aphrodite's coast

Foppe J. Seekles
Chairman for the Netherlands
Portfolio Sustainable Development

The Coastal Union (EUCC)
The Netherlands / Greece

Your Royal Highness,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by introducing myself and my position in the EUCC. I started my career as an urban and regional planner in The Netherlands, and later in Brussels. During the last 15 years I have been working in the field of crisis development and investment management at an international level. I was one of the four experts who debated and drafted the EU Charter on Sustainable Tourism. As far as my involvement in EUCC/The Coastal Union is concerned I have been involved since its foundation in 1989 as a Strategic Advisor to the Board, and as the Strategic Advisor of the Director General. In 2003, I was elected Chair of the Netherlands Section of EUCC, and as a member of the International Board. It is a voluntary job.

EUCC started as a European organisation, an organisation that worked within European Union member states. Later, it became a pan-European organisation working together with other organisations, such as the Council of Europe. Today, we are an international organisation, with expertise and working experience in Integrated Coastal Zone Management that I will come back to later on. [If somebody had told me last year that I would be giving a presentation in the city of Bergen in June of this year, I would not have believed it. Bergen has a special meaning for me because my family's roots are in this region. Last time I visited Bergen was more than 35 years ago to pick up a yacht here together with my uncle and to sail it to The Netherlands. Both a coastal, sea and heritage experience, I think you'll understand that. But, I have to admit, also very exciting, challenging, and adventurous, as is the sea.]

Aphrodite's coast, the title of my presentation, has been chosen during a visit to Cyprus, a special new Member State of the European Union. For me personally, Aphrodite is a symbol of the re-unification of Cyprus. The coast is, in my opinion, the skin of the land. Obviously, if you are not taking good care of your skin, you will not feel very comfortable. Aphrodite as a mythological symbol of beauty born out of the sea made her first steps on the Cyprus coast, and it is said that her skin was as smooth as the sea, as soft as if it had been breezed with olive oil and donkey's milk. Her eyes had the colour of the Mediterranean sea because, of course she was born on the coast of Cyprus

Coastal heritage is becoming ever more important to us, to our heritage and to our quality of life. We are increasingly aware of the importance of the ocean especially, for instance, when a tsunami takes so many

Mr Foppe Seekles
The Coastal Union
P.O. Box 11232
NL-2301 EE Leiden
The Netherlands

Tel +31 6 549 50227
f.seekles@eucc.net

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lives. The threats to the coastal area are numerous, but so are the opportunities for development, in a sustainable, socially responsible way. In the European Spatial Development Plan, ESDP, special attention has been given to the coast, the threats and the opportunities. The vulnerability of coastal landscape types is more or less determined by hydrological conditions, of riverine, wetland and marine potential for refreshment, of these water systems as indicated by the tidal regime but also currents and the geomorphological character of the coastal type, for instance rocky coasts and the coastal plains.

Generally speaking it can be said that coastal plains are more vulnerable than rocky coasts. In addition, coasts in micro-tidal regions such as the Baltic and the Mediterranean are considered to be more vulnerable than macro-tidal coasts, which are more able to adapt to hydrological changes and accelerated sea level rise. The Mediterranean is generally more vulnerable than the Baltic because of its drier climate, lower precipitation and longer dry periods. These effects are likely to become more pronounced as a result of climate change and make the Mediterranean region particularly vulnerable to impacts related to water quantity and water quality. The threats to coastal landscape types and habitats are determined by comparing their vulnerability with the impacts of economic sectors. Activities resulting in habitat destruction through direct occupation have equal impact on all coastal types and habitats: the habitat area disappears. The most damaging sectors include urbanisation and agriculture and to a lesser extent industry and energy, tourism and recreation, transport and coastal defence. The recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council of May 2002 concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), mentions the principles of ICZM for member states. Within the recommendations, cultural heritage is scarcely mentioned: "in formulating national strategies, and measures based on these strategies, Member States should follow principles of ICZM, to ensure good coastal zone management taking into account the practices identified. In the Commission's demonstration programme on ICZM, in particular, coastal zone management should be based on:

a. a broad overall perspective, thematic and geographic, which will take into account the interdependence and disparity of natural systems and human activities, with an impact on coastal areas.

b. a long term perspective which will take into account the precautionary principle and the needs of present and future generations;

c. the adapted management during a gradual process which will facilitate adjustments as problems and develop knowledge. This implies the need for a sound scientific basis concerning the evolution of coastal zones. (According to the EC, the coastal zone extends inland over a distance of 50 km)

d. local specificity and the great diversity of the European coastal zones which will make it possible to respond to the practical needs with specific solutions and flexible measures.

e. working with natural processes is respecting the carrying capacity of ecosystems which will make human activities more environmentally friendly, socially responsible and economically sound in the long run.

f. involving all the parties concerned: economic and social partners; organisations representing the coastal zone residents, and non-governmental organisations and the business sector in the management process, for example by means of agreements and based on shared responsibility.

g. offer support and involvement of relevant administrative bodies at national, regional and local level, between which appropriate links should be established or maintained with the aim of improved coordination of the various existing policies.

h. partnership with and between regional and local authorities should apply where appropriate.

Use of a combination of instruments designed to facilitate coherence between the sectoral policy objectives and coherence between planning and management.

That's about the chapter on the principles of the Recommendation.

The EUCC was founded in 1989 as a European initiative following the increased awareness of the importance of the coast. At that moment, biologists and ecologists were the initiators together with some politicians. Now, sixteen years later, the EUCC is the largest coastal organisation in the world. It has a creative, innovative image working with a multi-sectoral staff, taking initiative to and implementing of projects financed by the European Union, the World Bank, commercial banks and companies, with the help scientific and governmental institutions. Local, regional and national governments are partners or members of EUCC projects not only in Europe but also on other continents. The EUCC Assembly of 2004 was very important as it reconsidered the long and medium term objectives. Because of the results of our work and based on recent

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developments like climate change and economic decline, but also political change, a fresh view on our work and potential partners was deemed necessary. We integrated our experience of the last 15 years in a new corporate strategy and translated it into objectives and projects to share with our partners. And it was absolutely necessary to look for combinations and cooperation to strengthen mutual forces and to use changing financial resources. An important step was the agreement signed in October 2004 to start an alliance with as a start two other important organisations: the ECONET Alliance was born, with ECNC, the European Centre for Nature Conservation and Eurosite, the largest organisation in Europe for nature management as partners and Euronature as a linked partner to the alliance. With this alliance the first step had been made to incorporate management and sustainable development. Tourism was already for many years a key subject in the EUCC projects. There are so much other elements in tourism other than coastal tourism, that we were very pleased by the contact made by Europa Nostra in early 2005. Cultural heritage is an important subject in ICZM but people should be more aware of its importance. The alliance chose “ambassador” animal species to use in a campaign designed and implemented by EUCC. This campaign has been built on the experience obtained with the “Friends of the Coast” campaign. The campaign now runs for about 8 years. And that campaign was very successful in raising awareness, fund raising and in combination with EUCC projects in education.

I think it's about time to inform you more in depth about EUCC's activities.

1. Influencing policy. EUCC is directly involved in formulating innovative European coastal policy aimed at a sustainable use of the coastline, protecting areas of high natural value. The main thrust of our policy work is:

- the development of a European coastal and marine ecological network, where EUCC promotes the implementation of initiatives and legislation that contribute to the protection of European coastal and marine ecological networks, and;
- the protection of the European coastal and marine ecological network, through the application of a combination of legal conservation instruments, integrated approaches, sectoral measures and nature restoration.

2. Sustainable development. The other thing, ICZM and sustainable development in coastal areas and waters by:

- contributing to the development and implementation of integrated planning and management, as mechanisms for

sustainable development in marine and coastal and riverine areas.

- the dissemination and implementation of best practices on sustainable coastal and marine management,
- the knowledge base and availability of information for coastal and marine management and conservation and;
- sustainable coastal and marine tourism, through helping to develop initiatives for information provision for visitors.

3. Coast and climate is also an element of our policy work we are lobbying for. By encouraging safe effective but environmentally sound coastal erosion management strategies and their implementation.

4. Network building. EUCC is one of the largest network organisations dealing with ICZM. Europa Nostra is a very large network organisation in the cultural heritage field. So the development of a network of coastal practitioners purely for EUCC and research fund is necessary. Its policy work is conducted through a large number of projects supported by the EU, the Dutch Government and other funding agencies and governments. Different aspects of science, education, nature conservation and sustainable development issues and practices are combined in close collaboration with local and regional authorities, NGOs and local groups.

Besides the policy programme we have a communication programme with its own projects. The integrated approach of coastal zone management relies on an efficient flow of information both vertically and horizontally, as well as an informed public. The key to effective biodiversity conservation measures along the coast includes providing information. Public awareness (especially of the youth) needs to be raised on the value and fragility of coastal systems. This is why the EUCC is increasingly joining and initiating communication projects. I already mentioned the “Friends of the Coast”. It relies on the work of many volunteers. We had an increasing success in fund raising over the last few years. And of course we had many reactions especially from Central and Eastern European countries.

The annual “Week of the Sea” is very successful, but I'll come to that later. We are now finalising the annual guide to coastal visitors in various languages. The first version will have a print run of 15.000. The annual “Week of the Sea” is a very successful communication project, which gets media exposure in three countries. More than 150 organisations are working together at over 100 locations. The “National Sea Dinner” is an annual event that started in London in early 2004, with

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HRH the Prince of Wales acting as a host. In the Netherlands the National Sea Dinner is organised at the end of May, with one of the Queen's Commissioners as a host. A special theme is presented and discussed during the dinner, sometimes with the help of actors, and with a certain culinary quality that depends on the budget. In 2004, the theme was fishery and fish farming, ocean farming. Our Treasurer is the Queen's Commissioner in the Province of Zeeland and he is the President of the Ocean Farming Committee. We organise it together with commercial banks, Unilever and Nutreco, scientific institutions, NGOs and Government officials. This year the theme was "Sand and Vision on the Coast", with special attention for climate change.

The "Coast of Aphrodite" is the EUCC proposal to Europa Nostra focused on the love for both culture and nature. Each of our organisations has its own expertise; each organisation has its own responsibility in the preparations and the key values. Using our key values we have to join our mutual experience in the preparation and implementation. The management of the key values is an important subject because the result will be seen and be noticed by the public. Everybody is a tourist at least once a year. So tourism is an important subject too. Then we will have to visualise what and who we want as investors, both species and people. Communication is of course the key to success. We have to consider that very carefully and discuss the steps and the context. Publication in our own magazines, both magazines of our organisations EUCC and Europa Nostra and the linked organizations will be essential. We made a list of the important coastal types. This is just an example of our way of thinking at the moment, followed by the list of possible example areas. Albania was mentioned. I reacted already in the meeting of Europa Nostra on the Balkan States. In Albania, EUCC was active right from the beginning of the democratization process. We even managed to start an investment fund, the Econet Action Fund and to buy some vulnerable areas that are now used in a very positive way in integrated coastal zone management and sustainable tourism, together with nature conservation. So there is a possibility of working with Albania too. We would very much like to develop this further together with Europa Nostra. We also thought on where to begin and to which organisations could be our potential partners. This we would also like to discuss with European representatives of your secretariat. We think that the three countries already organizing the annual "National Week of the Sea" might be a good choice to start with, because of course, they are already existing initiatives, the experience on local and national level there, and the fact that we have offices available in both The Netherlands and Spain.

Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen I hope that I gave you an idea on the potential of cooperation between our two organisations and our contact networks.

As EUCC we see the added value of a common approach. Well I rest my case. I thank you for your attention.

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Nordvegen Project

The Bergen - Nordhordland Inner Shipping Passage

**Mr Ole Jacob Aarland
Secretary**

Nordvegen Project
Norway

Your Royal Highness,

Members of the Europa Nostra Forum,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of our project, I would like to express my appreciation for being invited to this event concerning Safeguarding Coastal Heritage, and for being given the possibility to present our project - NORDVEGEN The Bergen – Nordhordland Inner Passage.

Introduction

We are now in Bergen, and it is here that the passage starts, or alternatively, ends. NORDVEGR was the name of the ancient northern shipping passage, along the coast of Norway. During the Viking era its name was changed to NOREGR. Our project will deal with a small, but still very important part of this seaway. The Inner Passage has been used for some thousands of years, and has a prominent place in Norwegian coastal culture. The passage has also helped to strengthen Bergen's international trading position.

The overall goal of our project is to promote an awareness of the history of local marine transport and the development of a coastal culture. We also want to facilitate marine leisure and tourist activities. An important element in realising this goal is to establish management principles to be followed in all local government plans. Before we focus on the project, let's firstly have a look at the Inner Passage itself.

Geology of the Inner Passage

With the help of a lecture given by Professor Jan Mangerud of the University of Bergen's Department of Earth Science, I'll open this talk by showing how "the inner passage" was created and how ice shaped the landscape. 20,000 years ago, in the coldest period of the last ice age, Europe looked like this. As you can see, the whole of Norway and Scandinavia was covered by inland ice. The North Atlantic was a polar sea, filled with drift ice in the winter and ice flows in the summer. In the southern parts of Europe there were tundra landscapes. There was dry land between England and France, which were separated by a river rather than the sea.

The inner passage is a footmark of the ice age, created by the inland ice that extended and retreated from the mountains to the west coast some 50 times. Only glaciers can carve deep fjords. As a result, safe sea

Mr Ole Jacob Aarland
Lindas Municipality
Kvernhusmyrane 41
N-5914 Isdalstø
NORWAY

Tel +47 56 37 50 00
Fax +47 56 35 65 01
oja@lindas.kommune.no
www.lindas.kommune.no

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routes such as our own inner passage, are only to be found where the great glaciers of the Ice Age have encroached upon mountainous coasts. Such geographical features are found in only a few regions, such as the west coast of Canada, southern Chile and the coast of Greenland.

Let's go back to the period before the Ice Age, some 3 million years ago. A bird's eye view of southern Norway would have looked something like this. From the Hardanger plateau the land sloped eastwards and westwards. The river valleys were probably much deeper than they appear in this reconstruction. The most interesting feature is that there was an unbroken coast, without fjords, sounds or islands. There was nothing resembling an inner passage.

In the highest parts of the glacier, there were massive amounts of snow, which were buried deeper and deeper. The ice moved along the bottom of the glacier, tearing away huge stones and rocks, and grinding against the bedrock. Ultimately, after thousands of years, this process created our fjords.

The same bird's eye view, but of today's landscape. The ice has carved out deep valleys and fjords, and broken up the coast into islands and skerries. However, there are many safe sailing passages along sheltered fjords and bays.

It is not only ice that forms the landscape. The rocks have varying degrees of hardness, and the action of the glaciers is greatest where the bedrock is most easily broken up. In the Bergen area the rock types lie in folds, the Bergen folds. They can be found in valleys, fjords and mountain ridges. The harder parts of the Bergen folds are visible, while the softer have been ground away. In addition there are fissures in different directions. The course of the inner passage follows the depressions made by these weaker rock types and fissures.

First human occupation

As the ice retreated, the area became rich in animal and bird life. Herds of reindeer migrated from Northern Europe. The warmer climate meant that pine forests spread north, as well as other tree species such as ash, lime, elm and oak. A richer, and more varied vegetation provided food for a richer and more varied fauna. The reindeer moved into the mountains, and were replaced by deer, moose, bears and wild boar. Ever since the ice finally melted, the land around the inner passage has been populated by humans. We have traces dating back to the Stone Age. Evidence of their activity came to light when land was excavated in order to construct a

bridge at Fosnstraumen. On each side of the water, archaeological excavations have uncovered over 60 finds. Although some of the sites appear to have been inhabited for shorter periods, the area has been settled for almost 5,000 years.

The Bronze and Iron Ages, the Viking Age and the Middle Ages

From 1,880 BC to 500 BC we see growing human settlement. Clan societies based on extended family units developed. Power elites became established. It is probable that many of the farms we find in today's Nordhordland date back to the Bronze Age. In the Iron Age deforestation began. Recent research shows that in the period between 300 BC and 500 AD forests were burned in order to allow year-round heathland grazing. However, the earliest traces of heathland in Nordhordland date back to over 2,000 years BC. Extensive burial mounds and rich grave finds of bronze kettles, gold and glass indicate where the power centres in northern and central Hordaland were located. Harald Hårfagre united Norway and put an end to the power of regional chiefs. After the Battle of Hafrsfjord, sometime in the 880s, he gained control of the whole of the country. It is likely that some of the royal estates (for example at Lygra and Seim) that we read about in the Sagas and in early medieval texts were established in this period. During the Viking period (800 - 1,030 AD), sea passages were used for navigation. We find a number of well known local cultural artefacts from this period. In the middle of the 10th century the king established assemblies and an army. Towards the end of the 11th century the Gulating law forced farmers to establish a system of marine defence – the so-called Leidangen. Coastal communities were required to keep a boathouse, a longship, equipment and crews. A system of beacons was set up so to give warning of approaching enemy ships.

The Middle Ages

At first the King's power was centred around his estates, such as the ones he owned in Nordhordland. By the beginning of the 12th century Bergen (the Alrekstad royal estate) had become a small town. The Norwegian kings came to spend more and more of their time here. During the reign of King Håkon Håkonsson (1217-1263), Bergen became the national capital. It became an important European city during the period of greatest Norwegian power. It was during this era that the Maria Church (1143) and Håkonshallen (1261) were built. In the 11th century Bergen replaced Nidaros (Trondheim) as the most important trading centre for stockfish and other goods from the north of Norway. Much of the shipping trade between Bergen and the north passed

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through the Inner Passage. Bergen had become a lively market centre for the region's farmers. Here they could exchange butter and fish for wheat. Thus, it became possible to establish settlements in places where it was not possible to grow sufficient wheat. Agricultural surpluses were collected or taxed by the King, the Church and others in positions of power. This regional prosperity made it possible for the King to build Norway's greatest medieval city.

Bergen

The growth of Bergen meant that there was a lot of traffic along land and sea routes and many guesthouses had to be built. It is probable that a number of guesthouses were built along the Inner Passage as well. In the course of time, Bergen's dominant national position was weakened and when King Håkon V Magnus came to the throne, he chose to live in the newly built Akershus Castle in Oslo.

Hanseatic traders took advantage of Bergen's weakened position. It didn't take long before the harbour area and both domestic and international trade routes fell into the hands of the Hanseatic League. After 1330, there was no longer a royal residence in Bergen. From 1349, the Black Death claimed the lives of some 60% of Hordaland's population. Most of the farms were left deserted, with only the best land remaining under cultivation. The west coast aristocracy, who had previously played an important role in trading with the rest of Europe, became much less powerful. By the early 1600s, the population of Bergen had reached the same level as before the great plague. Over all of Europe, there was a rise in population and an increase in trade. Cheap sea transportation led to increased contact between Norway and Europe. The Hanseatic League's well-developed trading infrastructure secured Norway's fish exports. As time went by domestic trade increased and the timber and herring trade, via Bergen, linked the surrounding rural districts to European markets. Once again, the Inner Passage was full of ships. Interrupted by brief recessions, there was a growth in prosperity. In 1795, over 90 million kilos of stockfish were exported. During the 19th century Bergen was the trading centre that served the whole of the Norwegian west coast, as well as the northern Finnmark coast.

Because of its proximity to Bergen, Nordhordland entered the cash economy at a relatively early stage. The farmers who managed to exploit the opportunities presented by a market economy became richer. The sons and daughters of well-off families would often marry, and so the gap between poor and rich widened. However, when they encountered the urban culture that had developed in Bergen, the farmers chose to retain their

own customs and forms of cultural expression. The rural population developed its own sense of community and social solidarity.

The Inner Passage was vital to the life of the community. Population growth and settlement in Nordhordland were dependant on the fact that Bergen was easily reached by way of this relatively sheltered and secure sea route. The Inner Passage played a vital role - locally, regionally and nationally:

Local:

- Fishing grounds.
- Internal communication between communities.
- Local church communications

Regional:

- Transportation of goods to and from Bergen and its hinterland.
- Transportation of fees and taxes, in the form of goods, to the Royal and Church authorities in Bergen.
- Transportation of goods between inner and coastal areas.
- Transportation of state employees; senior government officials, priests, bailiffs, sheriffs and soldiers.

National:

- Transportation of mainly fish produce from the districts of Sogn & Fjordane, Møre and Northern Norway to Bergen.
- Returning ships would carry merchandise back to the above districts.
- In areas where there were no overland postal roads, the post would be carried (from 1647).

Steamers

In the last part of the 19th century there was something of a social and cultural revolution. Homogeneous and traditional societies experienced radical changes in all aspects of life – communications, production, educational and religious institutions. In many ways, a new society emerged. The developments in communications along the Inner Passage played an important part in this process. By the early 19th century, the technological improvements made to the steam engine had come so far that it could be used to power ships. Norway's first steam ship was the paddle steamer Constitution, which in 1826 started to operate the route between Oslo and Bergen. An additional route from Bergen to Lærdal was opened in 1839. In the beginning there was a great deal of scepticism towards steam power. Many claimed that the noise produced from the engines drove the fish away. The invention of the

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propeller, in 1841, was a milestone in the development of the steamer. Towards the end of the 19th century steamer traffic became more and more popular. Nowhere else in the country so many local steamship companies were established as in Nordhordland. The steady demand for new steamer stops created an intricate network of routes. The local population would often construct quays or landing stages. Many of the companies resembled co-operative societies rather than purely business ventures, stressing community values rather than the mere pursuit of profit.

A lot of effort has been put into restoring and preserving aspects of our industrial heritage. We are now looking at Lyseknappen – where a company was established in 1880 to produce fishing equipment. Some 20 workers were employed. The company's products were awarded a silver medal in the 1889 Paris World Exhibition. Production continued until 1975. The building was erected on this site after having been transported from Bergen. It dates back to the early 1700's. During World War 1 there was a cannon battery installed here.

Landscapes

The most important features of the landscape adjoining the Inner Passage are its open, treeless heathlands, the preserved cultural artefacts dating back to the Stone Age, and the grave mounds from the Bronze and Iron Ages. Along Radsundet, at Lygra and Sletten we find the agricultural landscape. Bergen and Sandviken are characterised by trading and shipping communities. Along the passage, guesthouse sites, steamer landing stages, lights, navigation marks and mooring rings are common as are boathouses, warehouses, tanneries, mills, dairies and other industrial buildings. 'Long houses', stone buildings and other examples of local building traditions from the 19th century

Throughout history there have been varying levels of activity in the Inner Passage. In the Ice Age, it was frozen over. When the ice finally retreated, the first migrating humans came and, in the course of time, human settlement based on fishing and agriculture became established. At a much later date, it became the main route to Bergen, with the noise of various forms of industrial production sounding from its shores. Today it is a much gentler backwater. However, the peace and quiet can be interrupted by the sound of modern high-speed passenger boats and the rumble of construction machines clearing sites for new buildings and homes.

Nowadays the outermost stops on the Inner Passage are the busiest. Bergen, with its many attractions and strong international ties, and Mongstad, with its oil refinery, North Sea supply base and northern Europe's largest

harbour. All marine traffic is controlled from the Traffic Control Centre at Fedje. The decrease in activity in the Inner Passage has had both positive and negative consequences. It is good that the scenery and the cultural landscape have been left undisturbed. However, a disadvantage is that the authorities have neglected this heritage and let parts of it fall into disrepair. The Nordvegen Project aims to do something about this.

The Nordvegen Project

The story of the Norwegian inner shipping lanes is a fascinating one. Our focus is on the passage between Bergen and Sogn, through the Alverstraumen and the sea locks at Lindås. The story of this sea lane is an important part of a wider narrative. We would like to feel that our Inner Passage Project can encourage colleagues from other parts of the coast to carry out similar projects.

Organisation

The project started when Lindås Council decided to do something about the Lindås sea locks, which had fallen into a state of disrepair. After some time we saw the potential of a larger project and together with the Norwegian Coastal Administration, Hordaland County Council and the Port of Bergen we drew up the framework of NORDVEGEN The Bergen – Nordhordland Inner Passage.

The project has three parts:

- 1. Facts pertaining to the historical use of the passage** through Nordhordland will be registered and made public. In this work, we will focus on important cultural artefacts that can and should be restored.
- 2. The 100 year old sea locks at Lindås**, between the Lygre fjord and the Lindås marine lakes, will be restored for future use.
- 3. Books, educational material and brochures about the passage will be produced.**

Ad 1. The history of the Inner Passage can be divided into three distinct eras: the sailboat period, the steamer period and the period of the high-speed passenger boat. For each of these eras we will do the following:

- Register the navigation markers of the Inner Passage.
- Register the social developments linked to the history of the passage.
- Restore and inform the public about the navigation marking systems

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- Encourage the restoration of cultural artefacts that can be of interest for marine leisure activities and tourism.

Ad. 2 The Lindås sea locks

These are the only sea locks in Norway that can be restored. The locks, with eight gates that tame the strong tidal currents, connect two of the three marine lakes in the area. The gates themselves cannot be seen in the pictures. Following a plan approved by the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, they have been placed in a mechanical workshop, awaiting restoration. Project activities on the locks include the following:

- Restore the locks for future use.
- Enable the locks to be reached from land.
- Demonstrate how the locks are used and show their importance for local communication
- Raise awareness of the role of locks in the development of marine transport in the region and their role in the development of the Inner Passage.

Ad. 3. The following Information will be produced:

- A book about the passage, a passage guide and a simple brochure.
- Together with educational institutions, we will produce teaching material.

We will work out common guidelines for the management of the areas adjoining the passage. Many of the above plans have been implemented.

We wanted to revitalize the Inner Passage. However, it was important that we did not in any way damage cultural artefacts or intrude on the area's natural resources. This meant that good management was essential. Through producing information about our aims and our work, we hope to involve landowners, visitors and the administrative and business sectors.

We have been fortunate to have had so many good and knowledgeable co-workers.

Joint Management Plan

The joint restoration, development and management plan will be the coordinating and guiding document for the development of the Inner Passage project. This plan will also be used as a guiding document in the shaping of all relevant municipal plans.

In order to secure the necessary support, it was of vital importance that all of the participating municipalities were actively involved in the formulation of goals and the drawing up of plans. Local mayors have governed

these processes and many co-workers from local government administrations have been involved. Thus, we are well prepared to meet any future challenges.

The management plan for the Bergen-Nordhordland Inner Passage was produced for the following reasons:

1. to describe the important landscape features that surround the passage (natural resources, land use and settlement).
2. to describe the cultural artefacts of the Inner Passage (Bergen-Mongstad, including the Lindås sea locks).
3. to outline the possibilities for developing the Inner Passage in order to generate nature/culture tourism and leisure activity
4. to outline the necessary measures that will ensure sustainable culture-based commercial development.
5. to formulate a vision for the inner passage.
6. to ensure that all planning material is presented in such a way that it is easily accessible for future use.

The plan is in the process of being approved by all of the involved municipalities.

In addition to the project team, we have a large network of experts who can contribute with their energy, knowledge, planning skills and quality control. We hope that present and future business partners as well as landowners and organizations will utilise this resource group and benefit from the work that is going into our project.

We will continue working on this project until Autumn 2006. However, we see our work as a starting point for continuous future activity carried on by landowners, businesses, organizations and the public sector.

- We will attain our goals. Thanks to co-operation with the Municipality, and the vital support of the University of Bergen and other partners, the quality of our activities is controlled. The Nordic Council of Ministers has written about us in their publication "Historic coastal cultures – a contemporary resource". This made us very happy. It has been a great honour for us to have been able to present our project to Europa Nostra.

I hope that all of you will one day have the opportunity to experience a journey through time and space - a journey through Bergen and Nordhordland – a journey through the Inner Passage.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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Safeguarding Coastal Culture in the UK

The Role of the National Trust for England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Dr David Thackray
Head of Archaeology

&

Rob Woodside
Senior Archaeologist

The National Trust
United Kingdom

The coast is possibly the most dramatic and dynamic of all landscapes. With the sound of the wind in your ears and the spray of the sea in your face, it is easy to believe that these are entirely natural places, but they are, in fact, some of the most significant of cultural landscapes. The coastlines of England, Wales and Northern Ireland have been settled on, fought for, fished off and sailed from as well as ploughed, grazed, quarried, mined and visited for thousands of years. Almost every length of coastline bears complex historic meaning and value, revealing evidence for the cultural, political and economic activities of people from prehistory to the present day. Britain's culture has been defined by being an island and the iconic status of our coastline has as much resonance today as it did in the past.

But the nature of the coast is change. It is constantly evolving, eroding in some places and advancing in others, slowly shifting its shape over time. People have lived with and tried to master this change for hundreds of years, but now these natural processes are being accelerated by climate change. Sea levels are rising, storm-surges are increasing and the levels of erosion and flooding are escalating. Society now faces the choice between hardening up its coasts with more defences, or finding ways of working with nature to find sustainable solutions that can balance economic, environmental, social and cultural needs. But what impact will this have on the character and significance of our coastal cultural landscapes? Can we use this opportunity to learn more about life on the coast, or would we still be losing more than we gain? What implications will changing coastlines have on the cultures of those people who still live by or off the sea?

The National Trust is the largest non-government landowner in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Founded in 1895, it is one of the oldest and largest conservation organisations in Europe, with almost 3.5 million members. Although best known for its care of country houses, we also own over 700 miles of open coastline, including 40% of the Devon and Cornwall coast. Indeed, the Trust's very first property was Dinas Oleu near Barmouth on the Welsh coast, acquired in 1895. An estimated 25% of NT land holding is within the coastal zone and will be affected by natural and man-made changes.

This year we are celebrating 40 years of Enterprise Neptune, our fundraising campaign launched in 1965 to raise money to acquire land at risk from development around the coast. Since then we have raised £45m, making it one of the most successful environmental fundraising campaigns ever.

Dr David Thackray, PhD, FSA, MIFA
Head of Archaeology
The National Trust
Heelis
Kemble Drive
Swindon SN2 2NA
david.thackray@nationaltrust.org.uk
Tel +44 1793 81 77 96
Fax: +44 1793 81 74 01
www.nationaltrust.org

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It started in response to the alarming increase in the amount of unspoilt coastline that was being damaged or destroyed by inappropriate development. In 1963 the National Trust commissioned Reading University to undertake a survey of the 3,200 mile coastline of England, Wales and Northern Ireland to identify the length of coast that remained undeveloped or unaltered and to highlight lengths of coast that were unspoilt and worthy of protection by the NT; some 900 miles.

During the next 30 years it became apparent to the Trust that the original 900-mile target was neither achievable nor philosophically advisable. Added to this, the Trust had turned its attention to some of the coastal land originally termed “spoilt beyond normal redemption” and had demonstrated that some of this was capable of significant restoration, for example the Durham coal coast.

These two factors led to a decision to reassess and revise the formula that graded the coastline according to its significance and the level of threat to its well being.

Although the Neptune Coastal Campaign has been enormously successful, there is a need for greater public knowledge of and debate about coastal impacts. Indeed, it is surprising that given our long maritime history the coast has never been a major focus for the national government activity and is not considered an important one now.

For example, at St David’s Head in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park in South Wales the Trust owns a significant part of the coastline. This is an example of the strategic approach to acquisition that the Trust has developed in order to link areas of coast together and to enable strategic management over wide areas. On the south coast of England in Sussex, the Trust owns coastal land on either side of the chalk cliffs of the Seven Sisters Country Park, and is able to work in partnership with other agencies and organisations to manage a considerable portion of the unspoilt coast of chalk cliffs and river valleys.

Over the last twenty years, the Trust has undertaken archaeological and historic landscape surveys and ecological surveys of many – although not all - of its 200 coastal properties. Notable coastal cultural landscapes in the Trust’s care include the West Penwith coast (Cornwall), Lundy Island (Devon), Gower Peninsula (Wales), Orford Ness and Sutton Hoo (Suffolk), Strangford Lough and the Antrim coast (Northern Ireland).

Frenchman’s Creek in the Helford Estuary in Cornwall is illustrative of the inspiration, provided by the coast

and the sea for all, including writers, artists and others. It is the subject of the well-loved eponymous historical novel by Daphne du Maurier, later made into a film drawing on the wild character of the coast and countryside of this region.

Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel is managed by the Landmark Trust on behalf of the National Trust. A benefactor, Jack Hayward gave the Island to the Trust, in 1969. It is highly significant archaeologically, with a complex and intriguing social history. Lundy was the subject of a very detailed archaeological survey with thousands of sites and structures recorded, including the three Light Houses, two of which are still retained by Trinity House, the Light House Authority. The redundant Old Light although architecturally very distinguished never functioned effectively as it was very high up and its head was often in the clouds. Soon after it was built it was replaced by an audible warning battery, comprising two cannons which fire blank shot, positioned at the foot of the cliffs to warn ships that they were near to the island. It was later replaced by two lighthouses at the North and South of the island. Indeed, lighthouses feature very much in the Trust’s coastal portfolio, and are a conservation priority nationally as historic structures are replaced by automated, unmanned beacons.

Cornish Mining, much of it coastal, is the UK’s latest nomination for World Heritage Site status. Acquisition of the Cornish Mining landscape close to St Just in Penwith, in West Cornwall was the focus for a programme of coastal acquisition at the time of the Trust’s centenary. This was enormously successful and is now at the heart of the proposed Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. Indeed, the Trust has an involvement with two other coastal World Heritage Sites, the Giant’s Causeway in County Antrim, Northern Ireland and the Dorset and Devon Coast, both natural sites although with strong cultural associations.

On the Durham coast the Trust has acquired extensive areas of a former coal mining landscape. Before the closure of the mines in the 1980s, the area was highly polluted, with colliery waste material deposited on the beaches. The closure and immediate dismantling of the mines left the communities without livelihood and a severely blighted landscape. The Trust was able to acquire much of this coastal landscape between 1987 and 1990, and has subsequently been able to realise a vision of cleaning up the beaches and the immediate coastal hinterland, which has contributed towards major social and economic regeneration in the area.

But these coasts are never static. The natural processes of sea-level rise, erosion, accretion and deposition are

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responsible for shaping the coast over millennia. It is the reason why Britain is an island in the first place. However, these processes are being accelerated now by climate change, which means much of our historical coastal defences will soon be redundant and efforts to replace them futile. Over the last decade we have seen the highest summer temperatures since records began (in 1998, 1999 and 2003). The annual growing season for plants has lengthened by 10 days since 1960. Summer rainfall is 20% less than in 1900, and the 1990s had the 4 wettest winters ever recorded. Predictions for the impact of climate change on coastal areas are startling; by 2080 if we are not able to meet the Kyoto Agreement for emissions of CO₂ we could be looking at sea-level rises of between 600mm and 900mm above current levels around the UK. Rises in sea-level matter because they increase the impact of erosion and the likelihood of flooding. Coupled with the increased frequency of storm events, they place land, homes, businesses and lives at risk. They will also increase the rate at which cultural landscapes change.

In 2004 the Trust commissioned Halcrow Consultants to undertake an assessment of the potential impact of increased erosion and flooding on its properties around the coast. Based on data produced by the UK Government's 'Future Coast' project, the Trust is now able to assess the degree of risk to heritage, wildlife, farmland, buildings, businesses and infrastructure such as car parks, which are faced by its properties. It is predicted that with no changes to current emission levels, that by 2100 up to 60% of the coastline in Trust ownership will have retreated, in some places by as much as 200m. For the first time, we now know that some 500 archaeological monuments; buildings and historic structures are at risk from erosion over the next 50 to 80 years, changing the character and significance of our cultural landscapes forever.

One of the greatest areas of risk to cultural landscapes is the Isle of Wight, which lies just off the south coast of England. The predominantly hardest substrate found on the Isle of Wight coast is chalk, but the rest of the coastline is made of soft material, which is being constantly eroded through the actions of the sea and the effects of landslips where porous substrate slip over underlying clays lubricated by ground water. This means that land is being lost daily to the sea and during wet and stormy winters. Whilst this is an entirely natural process, it is now being accelerated by climate change.

On the south coast of the Isle of Wight, St Catherine's Light House is under threat from erosion that is already biting into its structure. The farms and communities there are constantly changing their landscape, their landform and their patterns of working in order to

accommodate these changes, caused by continuous slips. Land is being lost daily to the sea during wet and stormy winters. And whilst this is an entirely natural process it is being accelerated by climate change.

Cliff falls and coastal attrition are increasingly at work, revealing a number of new sites and recovered artefacts. Among them, for example, three, fine Bronze Age beakers (cremation urns) were spotted eroding from the cliff at Hanover Point, and the mysterious ancient skeleton of a young girl, was discovered lying face down, near the cliff edge at St Catherine's Point. The most recent discovery here has been a piece of prehistoric hurdle that had fallen to the beach from a peat layer whose pollen and plant analysis suggests that it is some 7,000 to 5,000 years old. Further east along the coast, at Bembridge and Culver Downs, the soft, eroding undercliff has recently exposed an assemblage of Bronze Age tools and weapons.

The coastal risk assessment highlighted the Isle of Wight as the area with the greatest threat of loss of archaeological sites, some 180 known sites over the next 100 years. The Trust has produced an Isle-of-Wight coastal strategy, but even so, it would be physically impossible and financially ruinous to try to defend them, so the Trust is working with the Local Authority to record and if necessary excavate those at most risk before they are lost. Such a dynamic environment requires vigilance, and the cliffs are regularly monitored by local volunteers to spot exposed deposits following falls.

On the north side of the Island, rising sea levels push creek systems inland. Newtown Harbour is another archaeologically very important landscape including the medieval planned town of Newtown and underwater records of prehistoric and Roman submerged landscapes.

Managed realignment – or planned coastline retreat – is another viable option. At Cuckmere Haven, in West Sussex, the Trust is working with English Nature and the Environment Agency to enable a breach through the 19th century river embankments to create a new salt marsh habitat and reduce flooding up-stream. But what this means in effect is the 'un-doing' of an earlier cultural landscape; evidence shows that much of the land was reclaimed at an earlier period – indeed medieval court rolls describe some of the embankments as being 'ancient' in the 13th century. The area has been very well researched and recorded to inform the realignment process. The question we must ask is should our appreciation of the historic environment mean we now cannot create a new landscape that meets the needs of people and wildlife in the 21st century?

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Periglacial outwash fans reached out to the much lower shoreline in the past. Changing sea levels redistributed this material to create a gravel barrier, enclosing periodically fresh, brackish and salt marsh habitats. That barrier itself has been dynamic; it has progressively rolled landward, stretched and thinned, breached and reformed. However, deliberate, unsustainable, intervention to check this process in order to protect the farmland lying behind it, has included the construction of groynes and the deliberate movement of gravel from one of the shingle ridge to the other as the sea has unceasingly moved it back. A decision was made there to allow managed coastal realignment and the shingle ridge was breached. We have changed the landscape from reed-beds and grazing marshes to one of salt marshes, tidal creeks, and dynamic gravel and silt banks; a landscape, which has enormous value in its own right.

Understanding which monuments could or should be protected is therefore dependent on an assessment of their significance and values. At Mullion Cove in Cornwall, the Trust is examining the sustainability of retaining the harbour walls. Built in the late 19th century to support the declining pilchard fishing industry, they now have no direct economic use and are frequently over-topped and damaged by winter storms. The Trust has already spent well over £1m over the last ten years in repairs, but the economic and environmental sustainability of doing so in the face of ever increasingly frequent storm events and rising sea levels has to bring their continued protection into question. A recent survey revealed the harbour walls themselves were not of great archaeological significance, but their contribution to the overall historic character of the cove was high. In a sense, the harbour walls represent cultural value, which attracts tourism and lends a sense of pride to local people and which the Trust would normally want to sustain. Although no decision has yet been made, it is highly likely that environmental considerations will take precedence and in the long term the harbour walls could well be demolished, even if short term repairs are made in order to 'buy time' to negotiate change.

A very similar thing is happening at Porth Dinllaen in North Wales, where there is a real problem of sustainability facing the tiny community there as a result of rising sea levels. A policy of working with natural processes and allowing erosion and retreat may seem at odds with an organisation whose purpose is to conserve and enhance the historic and natural environment. However, the Trust is convinced of the need to find sustainable solutions to freeing up open coastline from the ingress of more concrete and hard defences. This requires a cultural shift in our beliefs. In the UK, we have a long tradition of trying to defend ourselves from

the sea, even deluding ourselves that we are its master. We have become accustomed to the Government being able and willing to build and invest in defences to protect us. Yet if you go to see the places where hard coastal defences have been imposed, the first impression is one of temporary alleviation of the problem, the next is of degradation to the place, and then the lasting impression is one of futility and a complete waste of resources. Cost alone is making these defences unsustainable, but their environmental and aesthetic impact is also more damaging than allowing natural processes to occur unhindered. We have to shift from a cultural landscape of defence, to one where we are better able to live and work with nature.

But how do we square the loss of cultural heritage with the needs of society and the economy? Whilst it is possible to mitigate against physical damage and loss, how will this change effect peoples' cultural relationship with the coast? The Trust is usually perceived as an organisation that exists to stop change, but here it is advocating erosion and loss. How do we manage our members, visitors, local residents and society's expectations as a whole? The first answer is that the Trust never set out to defend coasts indefinitely, rather to protect them from inappropriate development. A more sophisticated approach might be to engage people through their appreciation and value of the cultural landscapes in which they live, work or choose to visit. Coastal cultural landscapes can tell the continuing story of relentless change and human adaptation to loss of land and settlement or to land gain. In other words, whilst climate change may accelerate change, that change is nothing new, and that loss is as much a part of the dynamics of landscape evolution as growth. Understanding the past is therefore crucial to the Trust's contemporary message about living with change.

Time, however, is an uncertain and undependable factor within climate change. In August 2004, extreme rainfall led to a flash flood through the picturesque fishing harbour of Boscastle (Cornwall). With the usual storm drains unable to cope, the water was channelled through the valley until it tore through the village, destroying houses and carrying cars out to sea, and indeed it was a miracle that no one was killed. This was initially thought to be a freak event, occurring perhaps only 1 in 1000 years. However, it was later shown that climate change could bring the risk of this occurring again up to 1 in 50 years. And indeed, we should have predicted it. 50 years ago, a very similar event to this took place only a few miles away along the coast at Lynmouth and Lynton in North Devon, where there was serious loss of life and massive damage to property. So, it's not something new, it has been happening for at least 50

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years. In Boscastle, the Trust is negotiating with local people and authorities in order to persuade them not to rebuild in the same spot as before. There is also a need to 'undo' some of the unsustainable practices of the recent past, such as locating a hard surface car park within the flood plain and canalising the river where it passes through the village. It could also mean that some heritage assets, such as the harbour walls, bridges and buildings, might have to be removed to allow enough space for water to pass through and minimise damage in the event of future exceptional conditions.

The coast, however, is more than just landform and geomorphology. It is a place for enjoyment. And our enjoyment of the coast will never change. It colours our perceptions and it colours our values of coastal experiences throughout our lives. The illustration shows a lovely picture of a family of small children playing on the beach by Dame Laura Knight, (1909) an artist of the Newlyn School. Nothing changes and families and children continue to enjoy the coast, its beaches and shore-line. And the coast is an inspiration for artists, for writers, and others and continues to be. But art, literature and music are also part of the documentary record of the coast, and help us to understand both its history and people's perceptions to it. This is an ongoing form of expression, indeed it also features as part of the Trust's Neptune Coastal Campaign events this year, which is including a photographic competition to record the coast and activities which include art, music and literature festivals to engage people with the coast and to enable us to get our message across.

Art, literature and even music are part of the documentary record of our coastal landscapes. A reminder here that art can be a good source of reference for the understanding of the history of places.

This year, the Trust is actively campaigning to persuade the UK Government and other key decision makers that the best way of adapting to climate change and sea-level rise is not to build or repair defences along open coastline. The Trust is therefore advocating taking a comprehensive, long-term and strategic approach to managing the coast and has developed a framework for discussions and decisions to be made at a local level:

- Recognise and appreciate the value of economic, social, cultural, historic and environmental assets;
- Understand the natural processes that can affect those assets;
- Assess known risks (how great, how acceptable are those risks);
- Identify the options for dealing with change;

- Involve the local community and other stakeholders in making decisions;
- Find the best solution for the place in question;
- Ensure sufficient funds are available;
- Explain why the decision has been taken and why it is the best option;
- Carry through the decision;
- Record what has been done;
- Monitor, review and adjust.

The sandcastles in this final, concluding image are a symbol of the time, rate and inevitability of change and of the aesthetic, emotional and spiritual values that the coast holds for all of us.

**The Heathland centre and the
Atlantic cultural landscape of
Europe**

An exemplary trans-frontier project

Prof. Peter Emil Kaland

University of Bergen
Norway

The Atlantic heathlands are an important part of the common European heritage. Distributed from Portugal in the south to northern Norway in the north, they form a continuous belt of cultural landscapes throughout Western Europe. Within this vast area, the strategies for making a living from the landscape resources have been more or less the same over innumerable generations. The homogeneity of the heathland farming methods across Europe has produced a landscape in which the similarities in land-use history and management traditions far outnumber any differences due to variations in geographical setting and cultural background.

Today, the economy of heathland farming is rapidly decreasing due to the development of modern agriculture. On the other hand, heathlands are receiving increasing attention as valuable areas for leisure, recreation and artistic inspiration for modern people living in urbanized areas. They also contribute considerably to our common European cultural history, and they are easily understood examples of sustainable subsistence based on natural resources.

These heathlands are valuable for the maintenance of important aspects of European biological diversity. This is partly due to the occurrence of species which have become specialized over a long time span to live in this open landscape. In addition, some of the most interesting examples of ancient livestock breeds still surviving in Europe are found on the heathlands.

Despite the many values attached to heathland, it is today an endangered type of landscape. The relative importance of the different threats varies across Europe, but taken all together, about 80% of the European heathlands have disappeared over the last 150 years. Although these changes have been most rapid over the last 50 years, the development was foreseen much earlier, and the first conservation of heathlands took place in the early 20th century, e.g. in Germany. In other parts of Europe it is quite a new idea to establish protected areas of heathland.

It is important that heathlands are preserved in different parts of Europe. The variation in climate, geology and topography, imposes considerable variation in heathland biodiversity, and this cannot be safeguarded in one protected area alone. The many different cultural traditions, and diverse adaptations to local natural resources, are also impossible to preserve at any one location. To make sure that both the theoretical and practical knowledge behind this variety of land-use practices is passed on to future generations, it is important that suitable heathland areas are preserved in complementary regions throughout Europe.

Prof. Peter Emil Kaland
Institutt for biologi, Realfagbygget
Realfagbygget, Allegt. 41
N-5007 Bergen
Norway
Tel +47 55 58 33 26
Peter.Kaland@bot.uib.no
www.bio.uib.no

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Visions and Perspectives

Perspectives on the safeguarding of heathlands

The Calluna-dominated heathlands along the west-coast of Norway are today disappearing faster than any other habitat types of comparable distribution in this country. This is mainly due to the great changes in farming methods during the last 50 years. Strong reduction in the exploitation of the outfield production areas has subsequently caused dramatic changes in the landscape. This is today most readily seen by the rapid expansion of shrubs and forests into the former open areas.

If the present development continues at its current speed, there will be very little heathlands left in Norway within a few decades. As they are important to many different subjects, like cultural history, regional identity, biodiversity, low intensity food production, recreation and outdoor life, this will be a serious loss to Norwegian nature. In spite of this fact, there is no governmental decision or strategy to safeguard some areas of heathlands in Norway for the future.

The lack of organized protection plans can partly be explained by the widespread distribution and until recently common occurrences of heathlands all along the coast. In addition they were considered to be caused by the harsh coastal climate. The understanding of heathlands as man-made and dynamic cultural landscapes is relatively new. It has mainly developed from research during the last 30 years. The landscape changes of today are underlining the findings from this research. Heathlands can only be maintained by moderate land use or management.

Heathland conservation has also suffered from the general difficulties in implementation of a scientifically satisfactory policy for protection of valuable cultural landscapes in Norway. This has to be based upon interdisciplinary knowledge; it must involve cooperation between different heritage conservation authorities and include several governmental ministries. In addition it may be slightly more expensive in some cases than other types of nature conservation. After more than ten years of discussion, general agreement about how to organize this has not yet been achieved.

The vision of The Heathland Centre

The Heathland Centre has been established in order to meet some of these challenges. In cooperation with local farmers, an area of open heathlands is safeguarded for the future. The landscape is preserved as authentically as possible by using traditional land use methods. Old buildings and other visible constructions

related to the former subsistence have been restored in their original place. In this way it is possible to demonstrate and disseminate the knowledge about how earlier generations through thousands of years have utilized the resources of the coastal landscape.

The idea came from research groups at the University of Bergen, and it has been carried through in cooperation with regional and local authorities, and with the local farmers and landowners at Ytre Lygra. They have been involved in the process from the beginning, and without their interest and positive response, it would never have been possible to realize the centre at Lygra. The total area is privately owned, and it has no legal protection under the Norwegian nature or culture conservation laws. Preservation is therefore based on active farming, regulated by long-term legal agreements with the owners.

The heathlands at Lygra are not unique today. That will however be the case within short time, if the landscape changes in the surrounding areas continue at their present speed. The centre has been situated on Lygra, because the islands are representative for the traditional coastal landscape in this part of the country. Many of the qualities related to the heathlands are readily seen and easily understood here.

The intention of The Heathland Centre is not only conservational. It is also educational. It is important that the heritage of the coastal landscape is passed on to future generations. To develop a teaching program for all school levels has therefore been given the highest priority. Many of the lessons to be learned from the heathlands are based on living organisms and practical ecology. They are reflections of the natural conditions and the land use history of the coastal farmers. This is difficult to understand from theory alone. It has to be experienced in a living landscape.

In addition to the landscape conservation, it has been important to make The Heathland Centre as available as possible for the general public. The whole area is made accessible by walking paths and by boat. The processes and the qualities of the landscape can in this way be experienced directly by the visitors, in combination with outdoor life. Further knowledge can be achieved by participating on guided tours in the landscape or from the Information building with its exhibition, film and booklets.

The heathlands are the result of a long tradition of knowledge about how to survive from local resources on the coast. Therefore, one of the main visions behind The Heathland Centre is awareness raising. The landscape itself and the knowledge related to it have to

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be presented in such a way that it has a high degree of transfer value. The importance of history and former land use for the conditions of the present landscape is supposed to be obvious to most visitors. When they leave, they have got a new understanding of the dynamic character of this kind of cultural landscapes. Many people have also got a new perspective on the ecology of the coast and the importance of sustainable food production.

The most important message to the visitors at The Heathland Centre is that heathlands are essentially man-made landscapes and thus a part of our common cultural heritage, as well as a part of our general environmental concerns. During innumerable generations, people on the coast were dependent on them in order to survive. This is not the case any more, but for many they are still an important part of their identity. A majority of the Norwegians are however ignorant of this knowledge. Proper distribution of information about these questions is probably the most urgent challenge for The Heathland Centre, in order to ensure a democratic political treatment of the future of this cultural heritage.

The present situation for heathland conservation in Norway landscape conservation will always be a matter of politics. When it comes to cultural landscapes such as the heathlands, both agricultural politics and environmental politics are involved, including cultural heritage management. However, Norwegian environmental policy has until now mainly been concerned with the conservation of mountain wilderness and so-called 'undisturbed nature'. The initiatives from the late 1990s on cultural landscapes have not been properly followed up, as shown by the unsettled situation of the 104 areas on the list of DN. Many of the most endangered types of vegetation in Norway today are related to ancient cultural landscapes which have no economic value in modern farming (Fremstad & Moen 2000). With few exceptions, hardly any valuable vegetation types of this kind have legal protection for the future.

Along the west-coast of Norway, there are no national parks and only a limited number of protected areas. None of them have been preserved to safeguard the heathlands. From 2005 the coastal islands of Vega (north of Trondelag) will be included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, but they contain only smaller areas of heathlands. In some nature conservation areas (e.g. heath-covered peat bogs), traditional management has even been prohibited. The result has been that the vegetation which had to be preserved, has disappeared. The Heathland Centre is thus a true pioneering project, as it is the first time that heathlands per se have been conserved in Norway.

As heathland conservation is dependent on active management, conventional protection in accordance with the legislation on nature conservation has turned out not necessarily to be the best way of safeguarding them. An alternative is to use the section on cultural environmental protection in the legislation of cultural heritage conservation. At present this is applied to another group of islands north of Trondelag (not Vega). This includes a specific management plan for the heathlands.

In privately owned areas, the Lygra model, including legal long-term agreements with the owners, is an alternative. The good thing about this model is that the farmers are directly involved and responsible for the landscape conservation. This has worked out very well in practice. It is however important that this kind of agreements are given a firm economic basis.

Over the last 10 years, major economic contributions to safeguard cultural landscapes have come from special agricultural subsidies. From 2005 it is possible to apply for grants specifically for heathland management. Although this hopefully will prove beneficial for heathland conservation, agricultural budgets in general are not increasing at present.

Special agricultural subsidies encourage interested and active farmers to preserve heathlands where they are living. However, the areas supported in this way will not necessarily receive any legal conservation status for the future. Therefore these subsidies are not enough on their own to ensure the protection of a representative selection of heathland areas along the coast. This can only be achieved from making a scientifically based conservation plan, and by closer integration and cooperation between the environmental and agricultural policies.

In Norway today there is a running discussion on the magnitude of the agricultural subsidies and how they shall be spent. Whereas farmers' organizations want to use them on effective food production, a growing section of the general public want them to be used to provide pleasant and varied landscapes. There is an increasing demand for open landscapes with high aesthetic qualities, to use for leisure and recreational purposes. This is exactly what heathland conservation is providing. In particular, the tourist industry is interested in this. If these new trends are incorporated into the agricultural policy, it will be easier to drum up political support for maintaining the subsidies at a sufficient level for the small-scale farming found along the coast.

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Experiences from The Heathland Centre

The experiences from The Heathland Centre have demonstrated that it is possible to stop the present deterioration and reforestation of the coastal landscape. By combining ecological knowledge, traditional management methods and modern technology, the open heathlands can be restored. After more than ten years of practical fieldwork, it is also possible to conclude that the authentic farming methods based on all-year-round grazing and regularly, prescribed burning, are indispensable in order to manage the heathlands in a sustainable manner.

During the 15 years since the earliest start of the project, there has been a steadily increasing interest for the work, the ecological knowledge and the experiences from The Heathland Centre. In particular people from marginal areas for agriculture along the coast, where modern farming is not economically compatible, have started to see the potential of the heathlands and their traditional management methods. They want to maintain this landscape as a source of alternative and sustainable food production, local identity and tourist development.

The interest from schools and other educational institutions has been considerable. The heathlands have a great pedagogical potential within many different subjects, and the facilities at The Heathland Centre has shown to be useful at all levels. The history and processes of the heathlands are easy to understand, and they provide a good background for the understanding of other parts of the coastal culture or other types of cultural landscapes.

The Heathland Centre has turned out to be a very popular area for outdoor life, both for the local people from the area and for the urban population living in Bergen. The number of foreign tourists coming to the centre is increasing, but is still lower than other comparable attractions. This is partly because it is a new destination with limited resources for advertising, but it also reflects that this is a new type of tourism (geotourism) in Norway.

The kind of landscape conservation represented by the Heathland Centre has never been tried in Norway before. It maintains a high professional standard both at national and international levels. This was seen in 2001 when the Centre received the "Melina Mercouri prize for conserving cultural landscapes" from UNESCO. If this high standard is to continue in the future, the financial incitements for heathland conservation have to be improved. For the moment, the overall reduction in support of small-scale farming during the later years, has caused serious problems for the economy of the

farmers, both at Lygra and in many other coastal communities.

Recommendations

The major objective of heathland conservation in Norway comes from the breadth of their interdisciplinary values and the cross-sectoral interests related to these landscapes. It is also of vital importance that the practical landscape management is maintained in more than one place. People, who know how to handle these landscapes, are needed in several areas along the coast.

With the present agricultural development, only a tiny part of the remaining heathlands can realistically be preserved for the future, although much has already disappeared and most of the remaining areas are threatened. The question now is how to make sure that at least some heathland areas are secured for the future, and how this can be financed.

Because of the large variation of heathlands along the coast of Norway, different areas must be preserved if a representative selection of the variation of biodiversity and heritage present in these landscapes is to be secured for the future. The coast may be divided into four sections: the southwest Jaren area; the western area; the northwest area; and the northern area. To capture the large variation in landscapes, it will be necessary to preserve a minimum of 2-3 areas within each section.

The selection of areas has to be done in cooperation between the Directorate for Nature Management, the Directorate for Cultural Heritage, The Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment. The protection of any heathland area has to be accompanied by a management plan, including a system of responsible quality control. As most people are still unaware of the many qualities and the current situation for the coastal heathlands, there is a strong need for more and better distributed information about these questions, both among farmers, public authorities and in the schools. With small adjustments, the educational program for The Heathland Centre can be incorporated into the pedagogical plans for environmental teaching in the schools.

In particular among the coastal population, a stronger focus on awareness raising is important. For them this is not only a question of landscape conservation, but mainly about local cultural heritage and identity. If heathlands are going to be maintained outside a few protected sites, people living here must see a value and feel an ownership to this type of landscape.

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Another important targeting group for more information is the tourist interests and organizations. They have always had the advantage that their attractions have been surrounded by well managed cultural landscapes. This is about to change today. In order to avoid a further deterioration of the situation, it will be beneficial for the tourist industry to involve themselves in maintaining the landscape qualities. This is the main perspective of the new trend of geotourism. By giving these aspects more attention, and by focusing stronger on this in the marketing of destinations, tourism can provide important contributions to the safeguarding of traditional cultural landscapes like the heathlands. In addition, the tourist business is important for the promotion of local food products e.g. from the heathlands.

The Heathland Centre is based on research and documentation of traditional land use methods. It is also organized to facilitate research activity. In order to improve the possibility of responsible heathland safeguarding in the future, it is necessary to stimulate more research on the coastal landscape. The environment is probably changing faster here than anywhere else in this country. This opens ways both for monitoring as well as for more experimental work. One of the challenges in the future will be to make adjustments of the traditional management methods in accordance with the new environmental situations. This has to be done in a way that gives optimal yield both in terms of landscape management and farming economy. Some of these questions are addressed at The Heathland Centre at the moment, and similarly at the coast of Trondelag. However, it is important to open a much broader front of investigations all along the coast, in order to give the future safeguarding of the heathlands the knowledge platform which is needed.

Proper heathland management is dependent on extensive grazing. Through several millennia, this has been done by breeds of goat, sheep and cattle, which over time have been adapted to the coastal environment. Many of those are extinct today, but the breeds which still survive, constitute an irreplaceable living gene bank for the future development of sustainable coastal farming. It is therefore important to find means for stimulating farming production based on these breeds.

Heathland safeguarding will cost, but much can be achieved by a better coordination of available grants for cultural heritage, agriculture, landscape and environmental conservation. This is now partly tried out within the framework of a new type of regional environmental programs for the farmers. A better system for promotion of the products from heathlands and similar types of ancient cultural landscapes, could

also contribute to reduce the conservation costs. In addition, heathland farming would take greater advantage from smaller adjustments in existing agricultural regulations, which today are made for controlling modern and highly intensive food production.

The type of small-scale, low-intensity land use, which is needed to maintain heathlands, cannot compete directly with the demands of economical efficiency in modern farming. However, from other parts of Norway with marginal conditions for modern agriculture (e.g. in Valdres), farmers have shown good economic results from taking up again more extensive land use methods. Their production volume has become smaller, but they have increased their income without extra subsidies. This kind of farming strategy, in combination with a scientifically based conservation plan, is probably one of the best things to do in order to safeguard some of the Norwegian heathlands for the future.

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Small Pleasures

Preserving coastal communities

Mrs Merete Ahnfeldt Mollerup
Arkitekt MAA, Ph.d.

Denmark

All over the world, urbanization is gaining speed. People are leaving the peripheries to seek their fortunes in the big cities, and as a result, large rural areas and even entire industrial towns are being left empty.

As a consequence of this movement, both individual monuments and valuable environments are left to fall apart. With no use and no economic value, there is no money for maintenance, even in those communities which value their heritage.

This is a problem in rural areas, in several urban communities and in coastal towns and small harbour-settlements. Here, the focus is on the coastal communities, albeit the analysis as well as the prescription may be relevant in the other situations as well.

In late 2003, the Danish Council for the Arts asked a large group of younger architects to participate in a workshop on redundant harbours. In this context, part of us decided that it was perhaps more interesting to examine the areas far away from Copenhagen and Aarhus, our bigger cities, since there is an obvious interest from developers in these two cities, and thus a motivation for cleaning up the polluted sites and reusing wonderful old structures. In the provincial harbours, there might be grand schemes for development, but the economic realities are in general less favourable. What could we suggest for these harbours, some of which have many qualities both natural and cultural?

At the same time, we wanted to widen the concepts of heritage and beauty. Now, at the end of the industrial age, we are beginning to understand ship-yards and cranes as a valuable part of our history, and some even can see beauty in their vast forms. And at the other end of the scale: many Danes have spent childhood-summertime lying on their tummies, fishing for crabs from a pier. For us, a small fishing-village is maybe not exactly an example of beauty, but it is certainly an important part of our culture and identity. What will happen to these buildings and places as their economic foundation dissolves. A harbour with no income cannot afford the necessary digging out, and will be transformed into a beach. A building or a crane with no use will fall apart, and become dangerous.

In Germany, they have suggested that some towns are given back to nature. In the US, some people have suggested that Detroit should be given back to nature! But is that really the only solution?

A harbour, given back to nature, will not resemble a verdant paradise, but more the 'Zone' in Tarkovsky's film, 'Stalker'. Polluted grounds, concrete paving and

Merete Ahnfledt Mollerup
Nørrebrogade 76, 3. th.
DK-2200 Copenhagen K
DENMARK
Tel +45 24 94 02 87
em@hus.dk
<http://harbourshop.dk/group.php?name=Harbour+Qualities>
www.bondegaard.dk

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buildings, ruined steel structures will all contribute to a both frightening and fascinating landscape of destruction. Nice for films, but less appropriate for communities struggling to survive.

In Seattle, part of the harbour has been colonized by house-boats, which is a charming sight, but one that is difficult to create in the more regulated communities in Denmark. Deregulation is necessary, but it is not easily done, and solutions are needed that can be implemented rapidly.

The same occurs with the great Asian river-markets. They are picturesque, but can exist because they are filled with farmers and peddlers so poor we would never accept it in Europe.

What we have in Europe is Port Grimaud, and several other Potemkin-harbours throughout the continent. Some of these are new towns, others historical towns which have become *disneyfied* by over-exploitive tourism, presenting a clean image of history and culture, while the real coastal villages are depressingly lacking in everything but cars and hypermarkets.

Singapore is a really successful harbour, but is that what we want? The type of success that suffocates a city with tall buildings is very popular with politicians and planners today, but not every town can become Singapore. To the contrary. And a town that is the result of thoughtless speculation is a sorry sight.

Nakskov is a good example of a harbour undergoing dramatic changes. It has a long history, due to its excellent situation in a fjord, and it is filled with historical buildings. During the 19th century, it became an important fulcrum for the sugar industry, boats would arrive with the raw fruit and other boats would sail away with the refined sugar. There is also a famous, ancient shipyard, with up to a thousand employees in good times. Today, the shipyard is long-gone, and the sugar-industry is slowly ending. None of these will ever return, and the windmill-industry which replaced the ship-building is struggling, partly for political reasons.

Askø is a very special example, because here we find the beginnings of something new. It is a tiny ferry-port on a very small island. But the island (or rather it's twin, by which it is connected with a bridge), has an attraction: the three exquisite apple-yards, which have been bought, and are now branded vigorously by a famous chef. On the island, he is building an apple-conference centre, experimenting with apple-chutneys and brewing apple-vinegar and juice. From visiting Askø and Lilleø, we learnt something very significant. On these islands, there is an unexpected alliance between the traditional

farmers and the urban elite, creating new attractions, and new sources of revenue. And in this process, the local heritage is preserved and strengthened, rather than *disneyfied*. How can we strengthen that development?

Hesnæs is another special place. In this little harbour, there was originally a saw-mill, making butter-casks. The saw-mill was made redundant when we stopped shipping butter in casks. But the special architectural style is still there. A hundred years ago, an architect designed these very characteristic houses that have become a signature for the whole area. To keep the harbour and the little store open, Hesnæs needs both more permanent residents and tourists. How can we learn from Askø, and also go further. This was our goal.

Our solutions were a principle of small pleasures, or micro-interventions. Little changes, that grow gradually, and lets the harbour evolve at a natural pace, without being *disneyfied* or ruined. We have designed some for both Askø and Hesnæs to demonstrate the principle, but any small community in Europe could apply these principles.

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Threats and Challenges from Sea and Earth: Early warning systems with focus on the Mediterranean

Bente Lilja Bye
Director

European Sea Level Service (ESEAS)

Distinguished participants
Ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honor for me to have been invited by Europa Nostra to talk about the threats and challenges from sea and earth with a special emphasis on early warning systems and the Mediterranean. This will be a bit more dramatic than small pleasures.

I will give you a brief introduction about what I mean by threats and challenges, because there a number of them. I will also introduce you top the term early warning system so that you know more what I am talking about. Before I turn to the European Sea Level service. Even though I will cover most of the areas of the warning system, my presentation will be colored, by the fact that I represent the sea level element, of the warning system. So I will introduce you to this European service. And then I will update you about the international initiative taken in establishing early warning systems.

What threats and challenges am I going to talk about? The tsunami is an abnormal alteration in sea level that that causes damage to coastal environments and infrastructure. Moving as a wave across the ocean, a tsunami can bring a terrifying wall of sea that can wash away people, vehicles and buildings. A tsunami is formed of a series of ocean waves generated by a rapid large scale disturbance of the sea usually by an under-sea earthquake, also from large masses of rock that slip into the ocean (landslides), under sea debris slides and volcanic eruptions. The height of a tsunami (or the run up) and the strength of the flow of sea water are very dependent on the shape and contours of the coast and the nearby sea-floor. With the right data, scientists can calculate the risk at different locations and can produce maps of tsunami risk for use in planning. This is probably relevant for what you are concerned about. In the open ocean, the tsunami waves are less than a meter high and travel at about 750 km per hour over long distances, resulting in damage in distant continents. These are called tele-tsunamis or refill tsunamis as opposed to local tsunamis. Fortunately travel speeds of tele tsunamis are low enough for early warnings to be generated, and sent ahead of the arrival of the waves.

Compared to other natural hazards, tsunamis are a rare phenomenon. But the impacts can be immense. The Peruvian and Chilean coast, Japan and parts of Indonesia, are the most affected areas, but the European coastal region (Portugal and Sicily for instance) have suffered from tsunamis. Only the Pacific region has a tsunami early warning system today, although we have started working on an international early warning system years ago. Other regions such as the Atlantic,

Bente Lilja Bye, Director
European Sea Level Service (ESEAS)
c/o Norwegian Mapping Authority
Geodetic Institute
Kartverksveien 21
N-3511 Hønefoss
Tel +47 321 18100
bente-lilja.bye@statkart.no
www.e seas.org

Safeguarding Coastal Culture

Mediterranean and Caribbean are at risk, and new plans for implementing early warning systems are being implemented.

But there are other threats and challenges, such as storm surges, that are more frequent than tsunamis and cause more damage to the coastal zone. Unfortunate combination of strong storms or hurricanes, atmospheric pressure and tidal effects cause storm surges. And then you have the climate change. The sea level rise will have impact on low lying countries like the Netherlands, Denmark and places like Venice, where even changes at mm level can have large impacts.

So the warning system is more as you can understand more than the tsunami. This is an important issue. Both deep ocean gauges and tide gauges are instruments in an early warning system together with the seismic instrumentation. The tsunami early warning system depends on very rapid reaction to earthquakes and ocean disturbances. Earthquakes cause reverberations through the earth crust that are detected within minutes across the globe. With seismometers the location and strength of earthquakes can be determined. If the earthquake was under the sea and very strong a tsunami is likely. You have to determine whether or not it is "tsunami-genic". But sometimes a tsunami does not result. Some tsunamis occur for other reasons. The tide gauges provide a system with validation and regional or tele-tsunamis sea level data and local tide information is important for risk assessment and modelling of the tsunami. Storm surges, together with inundation together with bathymetric data. If the tsunami is local

An early warning system consists of three integral components. First, one has to detect a slight sea level change. Then one uses modern technology to assess the situation. There is the seismic network that provides information about the strength of the earthquake, the deep ocean gauges are used to verify if the earthquake generates a tsunami. The tide gauges are used to validate the assumption and to determine the amplitude and the direction of the tsunami.

The European Sea Level

What is sea level? Most of us think to know the answer to this question, namely the intersection of land and ocean. But sea level changes all the time. The waves, the tides, the weather (atmospheric pressures), storm surges and tsunamis, all influence the sea level. In relative terms, the sea level changes continuously. But there is also an absolute sea level change. Determining the change of absolute sea level needs also to take into consideration the rise or subsidence of the solid earth. Is it the sea level that rises or is it the earth that sinks?

Astronomical forces also cause tides effects on the solid earth. Earth also rises as a result of the post glacial rebound. In order to define and quantify sea level (change) scientists have divided the coasts in different areas and variables.

Why do we measure the sea level? Sea level data are used by many groups at local, regional, national levels. The geodetic reference frame (coordinates) is the base for all earth related measures is defined by many observation techniques. Sea level is one important parameter to define the vertical reference. In climate change, sea level is considered an essential climate variable by the global climate observation system. And the absolute sea level is interesting on local to global scales for natural and economic reasons (e.g. for civil and urban planning purposes). Harbour operators need to monitor the sea level closely both for security and economic reasons and for the preservation of the cultural heritage. Other sea level data users are the military for example. Real time sea level data are crucial for littoral warfare.

How is the sea level measured? There is a number of measuring techniques: Acoustic, pressure tight gate and radar tight gate. Another method is spatial altimetry by using satellites (e.g. Poseidon I). These are also used to monitor ocean circulation in the North Atlantic (e.g. the Gulf Stream). GPS, originally a military system is now also used for civilian, business and research purposes. GPS enables to locate the tide gauges.

The European Sea Level Service (EASEAS)

EASEAS represents 36 member organisations in 21 European countries and includes close to 200 tide gauges 30 of which are GPS co-located. Member organisations include national tide gauges operators, analysis operators, and research institutions. Some countries have more than one tide gauge operator. Institutes include mapping authorities, meteorological institutes and the military. Therefore, EASEAS is a truly interdisciplinary network of sea level experts. The central secretariat is in Norwegian mapping and cadastre authority.

The tide gauge network is not well distributed over the European seas. The North African coast of the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea, for instance, are almost devoid of tide gauges. Currently, EASEAS is working on closing these gaps.

EASEAS' objective is to provide standardised access to sea level data and information available in Europe by using national sea level databases, quality assured high-level products, right from the EASEAS tide gauges,

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GPS and satellite altimetry. The sea level system is a quite complex one and EASEAS tries to monitor and understand it. EASEAS thus manages an infrastructure that can be used for many purposes (e.g. tsunami warning, climate change monitoring etc). When developing into a pan European service, EASEAS chose to start with scientific and geodetic user requirements. In particular, research is now focus on decadal and inter decadal global sea level changes, relevant for the better understanding of our climate and climate models.

The sharing of data is extremely important for a well functioning early warning system. The fundamental principle behind EASEAS is the accessibility of data. In sharing the data, several factors come into play:

- Retrieving the data
- Understanding the data
- Usability (standards, quality control, format etc)

The first step taken was to make the historical data from across Europe electronically available through one website. ESEAS is an integral part of GLOSS (Global Sea Level Observing System). ESEAS has been asked by the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) to contribute to an international warning system. It has therefore drafted a white paper exploiting the ways of developing a real time data service to meet the need for real time data. ESEAS is also a participating organisation in the Global Earth Observation (GEO) and will thus contribute to the implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

The Early Warning System

The International Early warning programme was successfully launched in Kobe (Japan) and supported by WMO, UNESCO, and the World Food Programme etc. It will provide a framework for organisations to cooperate and develop shared and systematic approaches to early warning systems worldwide. The establishment of regional cooperation structures often encounter political difficulties as far as leadership and coordination are concerned. In order to remediate the complacency associated with low frequency events such as tsunamis (one tends to forget their devastating force), is to create multi-purpose systems that combine early warning with other purposes. The UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission will coordinate the setting up of this international system.

The Mediterranean is potential tsunami-prone area, due to the occurrence of natural trigger phenomena such as earthquakes, landslides and volcanic eruptions. The risk is lower than in areas such as the Pacific, but that still amounts to 30 events per century on average. A tsunami

warning system for the Mediterranean needs very tough requirements because of its shape (a very narrow basin). The sea level must be monitored with a 1 sec to 1 min frequency and these data must be transmitted within a 5 minute time window in order to be effective. Therefore the GLOSS / ESEAS network is going to be expanded and deep ocean gauges will also be placed. Also, vulnerability maps of coastal areas are in the making.

Continuity and maintenance are major issues in order to have well functioning and reliable system coordinated by an international organisation, such as UNESCO IOC. The network should also be enabled to serve as a storm surge warning system and a data source for climate related and other research.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Recommendations:

**THE EUROPA NOSTRA DECLARATION
ON SAFEGUARDING COASTAL CULTURE**

Europa Nostra, pan-European Federation for Heritage, meeting in Bergen on 2 June 2005, ahead of the Public Forum “Safeguarding Coastal Culture”, recalled the Europa Nostra Declaration on Safeguarding Europe’s Coastlines adopted by the General Assembly in Istanbul in 1992, and recognised that many of its recommendations had in the meantime, been realised. Europa Nostra then debated the cultural heritage implications for the changing coastlines of Europe brought about by changing environmental, social and economic conditions. It also recognised that its concern about cultural heritage should be seen in the context of a wider environmental debate and reached the following conclusions¹:

A. CONSIDERATIONS

EUROPA NOSTRA:

1. Acknowledged the intimate relationship between the cultures of Europe and the sea. The coastlines of Europe are a significant part of our cultural heritage, bearing complex historic meaning and value and revealing evidence for the social, political and economic activities of past millennia.
2. Recognised that the cultural heritage of the coastal zone, including the underwater coastal heritage, is at risk from human activity on land and sea and the pressure of natural coastal processes. In particular, Europa Nostra expressed concern about the impacts of major commercial development related particularly to tourism along many of Europe’s coasts.
3. Also recognised and shared international concern about the vulnerability of the coastal zone and the implications of climate change, rising sea levels and flooding with subsequent erosion of coastal heritage.
4. Acknowledged important European and National Governmental initiatives related to the careful, long-term, strategic management of the coast, in particular the development and implementation of the principles of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) by the European Union and its Member States², and by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe³.
5. Also acknowledged the role of NGOs in the protection of the coast.
6. Welcomed the entry into force on 1 March 2004 of the European Landscape Convention⁴ and recognised that its provisions also applied to the protection, conservation and enhancement of coastal and marine landscapes.

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B. RECOMMENDATIONS

EUROPA NOSTRA:

1. Calls on the Council of Europe, the European Union and all European Governments to promote and implement the principles of ICZM, and to use this to develop a greater understanding of the cultural and historic significance of the coast, and to improve understanding of and working with natural processes in coastal management.
2. Stresses that options for sustainable management of the coastal zone need also to include an understanding of the values that local communities and other stakeholders place on the cultural heritage of the coast and involve those communities in the decision making process.
3. Emphasises the importance of the provision of adequate resources for the understanding, conservation and sustainable management of the coast and the need to communicate and record decisions taken in the light of ICZM.
4. Recognises the importance of taking a long-term view in the management of the coast, and as a consequence working with natural processes of coastal erosion and accretion, the predicted rise in sea level and the realignment of the coast that will inevitably ensue. Europa Nostra agrees that mitigation to arrest or alter natural coastal processes should only be considered where there is an overriding value to society.
5. Advocates greater recognition of the serious threats to some of Europe's coasts as a result of the large-scale, inappropriate development including off-shore development and pollution, often in places of great beauty or sensitivity.

THEREFORE, EUROPA NOSTRA URGES:

6. That Environmental Impact Assessments are required as a matter of urgency in advance of new developments. In this context it drew particular attention to European Parliament and Council Directives 97/11/EC⁵ and 2001/42/EC⁶ and called for their use in the assessment of the effects of all plans and projects in the coastal zone;
7. That European States consider signing and ratifying the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage⁷;
8. That Member States of the Council of Europe sign and ratify the European Landscape Convention as an additional tool for promoting the protection and enhancement of coastal landscapes.

NOTES:

1 The Council acknowledged the input from the National Trust's Coastal policy 2005 in the drafting of this document

2 Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2002 concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe. These recommendations set out guidelines for the sustainable development in coastal areas, but do not give particular weight to cultural heritage.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/iczm/>

3 CLRAE Resolution 192 (2005) on "Coastal Management and Local and Regional Policy in Europe"

4 <http://www.coe.int/europeanlandscapeconvention/>

5 Council Directive 97/11/EC of 3 March 1997 amending Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment

6 Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

7 http://www.unesco.org/culture/laws/underwater/html_eng/convention.shtml

Annex: a brief historical overview of Europa Nostra coast-related activities

On several occasions and over the years Europa Nostra has paid attention to the problems and challenges of protecting, enhancing and managing the cultural heritage of Europe's coastlines. The most comprehensive response to the coastal issues was given during its 1992 Istanbul General Assembly, when Europa Nostra adopted a Declaration on Saving Europe's Coastlines. The text of this document was prepared during a Public Forum on the "Protection of the European Coastline" and is reprinted below.

The following chronological overview gives an idea of the wide range of coast-related Europa Nostra activities that have been carried out over the years. These activities include the granting of awards to coastal conservation projects such as the Ghadira Nature Reserve in Malta in 1988, or more recently, the Secovlje Salt Pans in Slovenia. After the Istanbul Declaration, several other policy interventions were directed toward the safeguarding of specific sites of European significance. The campaign that possibly had the widest resonance was the "Battle for Marathon", where Europa Nostra joined the international protests at plans to construct rowing and slalom facilities in view of the 2004 Olympic Games in Greece at the site of the historic site of the Marathon Battle in 490 BC. This campaign had a special significance since it brought together civil society movements battling for the preservation of archaeological and historical heritage, and environmental NGOs fighting for the preservation of the biological values of the Schinias marsh and the coastal pine forest.

Coastal sites often combine important cultural and historic values with a high natural and environmental significance. Europa Nostra has also paid attention to coastal issues during its public events, such as the Forum in Istanbul in 1992, but also in Naples in 1998, on the sustainable development and planning of coastal towns and harbours. Finally, in its publications, Europa Nostra has included articles on the protection and conservation of coastal heritage, most significantly the feature dossier on Venice published in its 2001 Review.

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A brief chronological overview of Europa Nostra's activities in the field of coastal heritage conservation

1974	Publication	European Heritage: articles on Venice, Dubrovnik and Edinburgh
1988	Award	Diploma for Ghadira Nature Reserve, Ghadira Bay (Malta)
1989	Award	Medal for Oyambre Natural Park, Cantabria (Spain)
	Award	Diploma for Lizard Peninsula Coastal Conservation Project, Cornwall (UK)
1992	Intervention	Istanbul Declaration: "Saving Europe's Coastline"
1993	Intervention	Saving the Coastline of Cyprus (Akamas) - letter to the President
	Publication	Europa Nostra Magazine : Article : Can Venice survive ?
1998	Event	Europa Nostra Forum in Naples: Landscape and Urban Development: <i>La récupération du front de mer dans les villes côtières en Europe</i>
	Intervention	the Declaration of Alghero : The Island of Sardinia (Italy)
2000	Intervention	the protection of Akamas Peninsula (Cyprus)
	Intervention	the protection of the Site of Marathon / Schinias (Greece)
	Publication	European Cultural Heritage Review, article on Asinara (Sardinia, Italy)
2001	Intervention	the protection of the Maddalena Archipelago, Sardinia (Italy)
	Intervention	the management of the Park of Portofino (Italy)
	Publication	European Cultural Heritage Review: Special Dossier: "Venice and its Defenders"; article: "The Battle for Marathon"
	Award	Diploma for the project "Turning the Tide" (UK)
2002	Award	Diploma for Whitby Abbey Headland (UK)
	Publication	European Cultural Heritage Review Special Issue: <i>The Hanseatic League</i>
	Publication	European Cultural Heritage Review: articles on Dubrovnik (Croatia); Trsteno's Gardens (Croatia); Kronborg Castle Fortifications (Denmark); Butrint (Albania)
2003	Intervention	the Preservation of Tyholmen, Arendal (Norway)
	Intervention	the preservation of Akamas and Karpas Peninsulae (Cyprus)
	Award	Diploma for the Secovlje Salt Pans (Slovenia)
2004	Intervention	The Declaration on Wind Power and the Countryside
2005	Intervention	The Declaration on Safeguarding Coastal Culture

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The Istanbul Declaration: Saving Europe's Coastline (1992)

The General Assembly of Europa Nostra united with the International Castles Institute, which consists of 220 non governmental organisations acting for conservation in 28 European countries, meeting in Istanbul on 14 September 1992, declaring its alarm and concern for the physical deterioration and pollution of the coastline of Europe;

Considering that the coastline of Europe is part of the natural and cultural heritage not only of the countries to which it belongs but also more widely of all Europe's citizens, who need to be better informed of the threat to their common heritage;

Considering that, at a time when economic development and social pressure in Europe has been proceeding for more than four decades at a rate which is unprecedented and inadequately co-ordinated, the associated threats to the conservation of the coastline have steadily and dramatically increased;

Considering that, whilst the reactions of public authorities have varied considerably from country to country, the urgent need at European level being for a broad strategy within which national, regional and local governments may act in concert:

1. Calls upon the Council of Europe, the European Community and all European Governments to consider urgently how best they can reverse the situation and ensure that the next generation may inherit and sustain a European coastal zone which reflects the historic, natural and cultural values of all its people.
2. Calls on the Council of Europe to consider the establishment of a European Coastline Convention, open for signature by all European Governments.
3. Calls more particularly on the Commission of the European community in view especially of the added importance attached to Community action in the environmental sector, as reflected by the addition to the EEC Treaty, in 1986, of a new Title on the Environment, to take the initiative within the Community Institutions, so that preventative action may be taken, environmental damage rectified at source, and the cost borne by those responsible.
4. Invites the Governments and authorities of European countries which are not yet members of the Council of Europe to reflect upon the points mentioned in this Resolution and to take all appropriate action.