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Case Study 1

Principle 1- Broad overall perspective

This presentation was compiled by **Dr Rhoda Ballinger & Dr Tim Stojanovic** from Cardiff University, UK as a contribution to the INTERREG IIB project Coastal Research and Policy Integration (COREPOINT).


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Case Study: Chichester Harbour Conservancy

- **22 sq. mile semi enclosed harbour**
- **Sedimentary Coast**
- **Rural Coast, but high visitor pressure Southern England.**







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The Purpose of this Case Study is to provide an example of the application of an broad overall perspective – often referred to as a Holistic Approach - to Integrated Coastal Zone Management using a local example from the Chichester Harbour Conservancy (<http://www.conservancy.co.uk/>). Should trainers wish to use any of the materials from this case study site should familiarise themselves with the context of the case study by reviewing information on the Conservancy website.

The Presenter should provide a basic introduction to the location and geographical characteristics of the case study area, and seek to contrast and compare this with any setting that is explicitly being considered within the training school. In the case of Chichester Harbour, it is a 22 sq. mile natural harbour, on a sedimentary coast with a rural setting but in the context of the major conurbations of South East England.



Pressures and Issues

- **Mutually Incompatible Uses (Agriculture/Recreation)**
- **High demand for Recreational and Leisure Use (12 000 moorings in Harbour)**
- **National Government Targets for Local Councils to provide new housing stock**
- **Changes in morphology of Harbour due to long term natural processes**

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A variety of pressures have been drivers for improved planning and management within the Harbour, including:

1. Perceived conflict between different water/land-use (Links between eutrophication and agricultural run-off, and potential water quality issues for recreational users);
2. The pressures of high recreational and leisure use of the harbour on the environment and infrastructure (Maintaining moorings, access and landscape character);
3. Macro-economic pressures for development (Housing/Development Demands); and
4. Changes in natural processes (morphology of East Head Spit at the entrance to the Harbour).



Tools/Approaches Used

- **Tools and Instruments**
 - Site Management Plan, Biodiversity Plan, Monitoring Strategy
 - Moorings Database, Maintenance of Navigation
 - Interpretation Strategy, Education Programme, Maintenance of Footpaths
 - Distributed GIS

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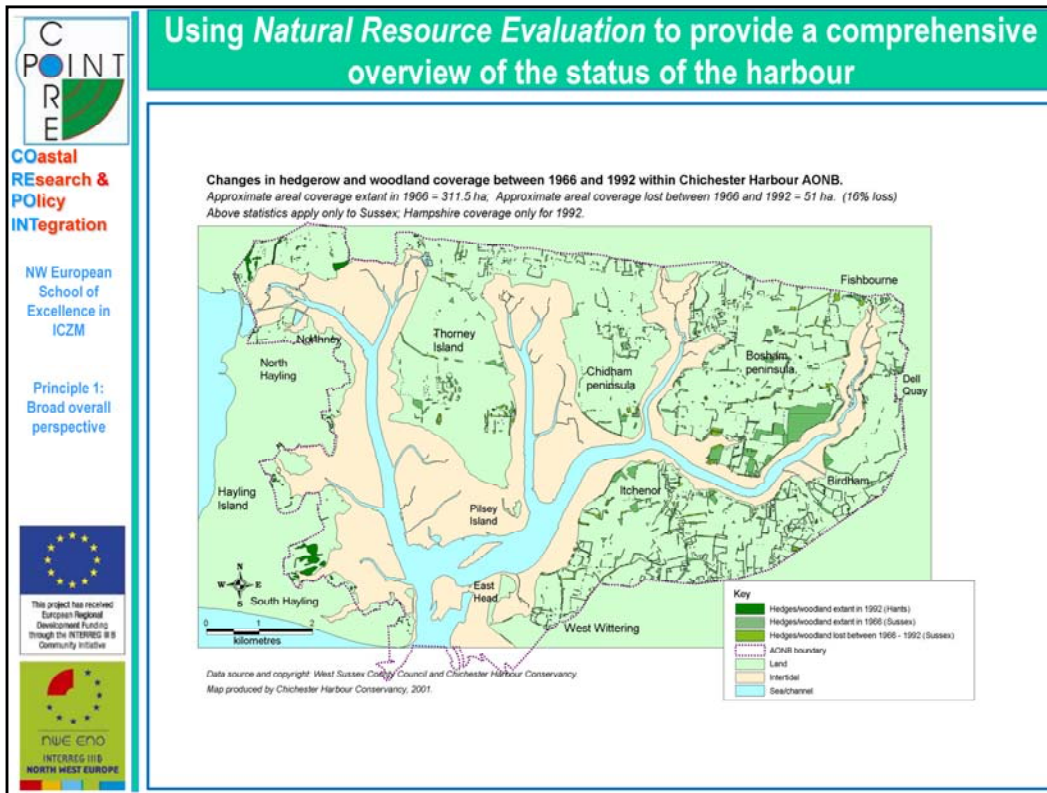
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A variety of tools and techniques are used by the Conservancy to take a holistic approach, including a suite of plans, integrated databases, an education and interpretation programme and a Geographical Information System (GIS).



The Geographical Information System is available as a distributed system to all the staff within the Conservancy, and allows them to have an holistic understanding of changes in the land/sea components of the harbour. For example, a consideration of the losses of Hedgerow landscapes can inform planning decision on a basis of a full understanding of the extent of the natural resource.

A Holistic Approach

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- **Strong Local Interests for Environmental Sustainability**
 - 80 Planning Applications per annum
- **Weak National/Regional Interests for Economic/Social Sustainability**
 - Affordable housing

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Whilst the approach demonstrates much good practice, it does not provide a panacea for resolving all coastal issues- e.g. reconciling national interests for housing demand with local interests for landscape preservation and maintenance of marine recreation.



Conclusions: EU ICZM Principle

Adopt a Holistic Approach:

- **Maintain a balance between interests:**
 - Recreation, Agriculture, Development, Nature Conservation
- **Understand Natural Processes**
- **Treat Harbour as one System for Management**
 - West Sussex and Hampshire County Councils
- **Housing Development Plans in context of Understanding Value of the Harbour**

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The approach of the Conservancy can be contrasted with the requirements for an holistic approach outlined in the EC Communication on ICZM.



Questions?

- **Is this approach happening effectively anywhere on the coast that you are concerned with?**
- **Is this approach possible on the that coast?**
- **How could the current approach be improved to treat the coast as one system?**

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The Trainer should use this slide to pose questions which enable the Trainees to relate the case study to their own context and draw lessons for application in other areas.