

Second announcement
and preliminary programme



DUNES & ESTUARIES 2005

International conference on:
**Nature Restoration
Practices in European
Coastal Habitats**

CasinoKoksijde cultural centre
Koksijde, Belgium
19-23 September, 2005

Organized by:
Ministry of the Flemish Community
(AMINAL-Nature Division)
Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)
The Coastal Union (EUCC)
Municipality of Koksijde

*with support from
the LIFE-nature project 'FEYDRA'*

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The Organizing Committee is pleased to invite you to attend 'Dunes & Estuaries 2005', the first international conference on nature restoration practices in European coastal habitats.

This conference is an initiative of the Flemish Nature Division, the Coastal Union, the Flanders Marine Institute and the municipality of Koksijde, and is supported by the EU LIFE-nature project 'FEYDRA'. The four-day conference (19-23 September 2005) will be held at the Belgian coast and will focus on experience with small- and large-scale nature restoration and development initiatives in European coastal dunes, estuaries and beaches.

This second announcement contains a description of the conference and related information. It includes the preliminary programme, which maximizes the exchange of specific know-how and expertise among all those dealing with nature restoration in Atlantic, soft-substrate, coastal habitats, and explains how to register and find accommodation.

Preliminary programme

The conference programme runs over four days and consists of invited papers, plenary oral presentations, a series of parallel thematic workshops, excursions and a poster session. In order to maximize contact between participants and the exchange of practical information, the conference includes two half-day excursions and two blocks of three (parallel) thematic workshops, while avoiding parallel oral sessions.



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Monday 19 September 2005

Registration – poster set-up: 16.00-18.00

Welcome reception: 18.00

Tuesday 20 September 2005

Registration – poster set-up – coffee: 08.30-09.30

Welcome and Introduction

09.30-10.00

Welcome by:

- the mayor of Koksijde, Marc Vanden Bussche
- the governor of the province of West Flanders, Paul Breyne
- the Flemish minister for the Environment, Kris Peeters

10.00-10.10

Practical information (*organizing committee*)

10.10-10.20

Thematic overview (*scientific committee*)

10.20-10.50

LIFE-projects along European coasts (*Frank Vassen, DG Environment*)

10.50-11.20

LIFE nature projects at the Flemish coast (*Jean-Louis Herrier*)

- *Coffee*: 11.20-11.50

Coastal Conservation Policies

Plenary session 1 - chair: Roland Paskoff

11.50-12.10

The conservation of sand dunes in the Atlantic Biogeographical Region: the contribution of the LIFE programme (*John Houston*)

12.10-12.30

Sand dune inventory of Europe (*Pat Doody*)

12.30-12.50

Purchase of dunes: the first step towards nature restoration along the Flemish coast (*Ilse Killemaes et al.*)

12.50-13.10

The French policy experience of purchasing coastal areas (*Etienne Dubaille*)

- *Lunch*: 13.10-14.20 (+ *press conference* 13.40-14.20)



Technical aspects of nature restoration activities and management planning

Plenary session 2 - chair: Fred van der Vegte

- 14.20-14.40 Sledgehammers, cranes and bulldozers: restoring dunes and marshland by removing buildings and soil (*Jean-Louis Herrier et al.*)
- 14.40-15.00 Eelgrass (*Zostera marina* L.) in the western Wadden Sea. Monitoring, potential habitats, transplantations and communication (*Arthur Bos et al.*)
- 15.00-15.20 A detailed overview of the large-scale removals of invasive scrubs and exotic tree-species in the Flemish coastal dunes since 1996 (*Marc Leten et al.*)
- 15.20-15.40 Restoration of dune mobility in the Netherlands (*Bas Arens et al.*)
- 15.40-16.00 Remote sensing of coastal vegetation in the Netherlands and Belgium (*Sam Provoost et al.*)

• *Coffee*: 16.00-16.30



Role of scientific research in the planning and the monitoring phase

Plenary session 3 - chair: Maurice Hoffmann

- 16.30-16.50 Airborne hyperspectral remote sensing of the dynamic dunes along the Belgian coastline (*Luc Bertels et al.*)
- 16.50-17.10 Are coastal dune management actions for biodiversity restoration and conservation underpinned by internationally published scientific research? (*Dries Bonte and Maurice Hoffmann*)
- 17.10-17.30 Release from native root herbivores and biotic resistance by soil pathogens in a new habitat both affect the alien *Ammophila arenaria* in South Africa (*Irma Knevel et al.*)
- 17.30-17.50 Colonisation patterns in relation to seed dynamics in a reconstructed brackish marsh along the River Schelde (Belgium) (*David Nijssen and Patrick Meire*)
- 17.50-18.10 Towards integrated monitoring along ecological gradients: the example of the IJzermonding (*Maurice Hoffmann et al.*)

Wednesday
21 September 2005

Registration & information – coffee: 8.30-9.00

Parallel thematic workshop sessions

9.00-12.30 (coffee: 11.00-11.30)

Workshop 'Technical aspects'

– chair: Jean-Louis Herrier

Introductory statements:

- ▶ Dynamic dune management in practice - Remobilization of coastal dunes in the National Park Zuid-Kennemerland in the Netherlands (*Leon Terlouw and Rienk Slings*)
- ▶ Multi-technique surveys of fine sediment transport and deposition in a managed estuary: the Authie Estuary, northern France (*Claire Marion et al.*)
- ▶ Development of a decision support tool: from trial and error to restoration based on whole ecosystem functioning (*Hans Esselink et al.*)
- ▶ Managing the Flemish dunes: from eco-gardening to mechanical disturbances created by bulldozers (*Guillaume Lemoine and Laurent Faucon*)

Workshop 'Role of scientific research'

– chair: Patrick Meire

Introductory statements:

- ▶ Large herbivores in coastal dunes: are they good nature managers or not? (*Maurice Hoffmann et al.*)
- ▶ Donkeys as mobile links for plant seed dispersal in coastal dune ecosystems (*Martine Couvreur et al.*)
- ▶ Monitoring Bryophytes and lichens dynamics in sand dunes (*Françoise Rozé and Raphaël Jun*)

Workshop 'Hydrology and management of dunes and estuaries'

– chair: Theo Bakker

Introductory statements:

- ▶ The role of hydrogeological research in the realization of a combined pumping and deep infiltration system at the excavation 'Duinenabdij' (*Andy Louwyck et al.*)
- ▶ Sustainable groundwater management of a dune aquifer by re-use of wastewater effluent in Flanders, Belgium (*Emmanuel Van Houtte et al.*)
- ▶ The importance of groundwater and other ecohydrological impacts in the management of salt marsh plant communities (*Laurence Boorman and John Hazelden*)
- ▶ Supporting dune management by quantitative estimation of evapotranspiration (*Roeland Samson et al.*)

- Excursion (with packed lunch): 13.00-18.00
- Poster session + Snacks bar: 18.00-19.30

Thursday 22 September 2005

Registration & information – coffee: 8.30-9.00

Reporting Thematic Workshops 21 September: 9.00-9.20

Tourism/recreation & nature development/restoration

Plenary session 4 - chair: Kazimierz Rabski

- 09.20-09.40 Investments as a lever for sustainable equilibrium between ecology and recreation at the Belgian coast (*Bart Slabbinck*)
- 09.40-10.00 Preserving the beach deposits (high-water driftlines) and the embryo dunes on the coastline of the North Department (*Guillaume Lemoine and Laurent Faucon*)

Nature restoration/development in harbours

Plenary session 5 - chair: Frank Neumann

- 10.00-10.20 Harboursing nature: harbour development and dynamic birds provide clues for conservation (*Eric Stienen et al.*)
- 10.20-10.40 International legal possibilities and obligations for nature conservation in harbours (*An Cliquet*)

- Coffee: 10.40-11.10

Shoreline management

Plenary session 6 - chair: Pat Doody

- 11.10-11.30 Shoreline management – conservation, management or restoration? (*Pat Doody*)
- 11.30-11.50 EUROSION - Coastal erosion measures, knowledge and results acquired through 60 studies (*Hugo Niesing*)
- 11.50-12.10 Windows in the dunes - the creation of sea inlets in the nature reserve de Westhoek in De Panne (*Toon Verwaest et al.*)
- 12.10-12.30 Coastal dune evolution on a shoreline subject to strong human pressure: the Dunkirk area, northern France (*Marie-Hélène Ruz et al.*)
- 12.30-12.50 The UK LIFE project on shoreline management: 'Living with the Sea' (*Stephen Worrall*)

- Excursion (with packed lunch): 13.00-18.00
- Conference dinner (Bruges): 20.00



Friday 23 September 2005

Registration & information – coffee: 8.30-9.00

Parallel thematic workshop sessions: 09.00-12.30

(coffee: 11.30-12.10)

Workshop ‘Tourism/recreation and nature restoration’

– chair: Haim Tsoar and Albert Salman

Introductory statements:

- ▶ The Abbey of the Dunes (Koksijde) and Noordduinen: the environmental link restored (*Siska Van de Steene et al.*)
- ▶ The opening to the French public of ‘natural’ sites of coastal dunes: the choice between ‘over-visiting’ and ‘over-protection’ of the French shared natural heritage (*Catherine Meur-Férec and Jean Favennec*)
- ▶ Dunes regeneration in a natural site with high tourism pressure (*Javier Romo Jiménez and Antonio Vizcaino Matarredona*)
- ▶ Ecological aspects of vegetation removal from the coastal sand dunes of Israel (*Haim Tsoar et al.*)

Workshop ‘Nature restoration/development in harbours’

– chair: Jaap Graveland

Introductory statements:

- ▶ Habitats restoration and species protection – a dilemma? (*Frank Neumann*)
- ▶ Maintenance of the favourable conservation status in the Special Protection Areas ‘Schorren en polders van de Beneden-Schelde’ and ‘Schelde- en Durme estuarium van de Nederlandse grens tot Gent’ in co-habitation with development of the Antwerp harbour (*Geert Spanoghe et al.*)
- ▶ Tidal wetland restoration at Ketenisse polder (Schelde Estuary, Belgium): developments in the first year (*Erika Van den Bergh et al.*)

Workshop ‘Shoreline management’

– chair: Helena Granja

Introductory statements:

- ▶ Morphological evolution and management proposals in the Authie Estuary, northern France (*Christine Dobroniak*)
- ▶ Coastal dunes and their management (*Algimantas M. Olsauskas and R. Urboniene*)
- ▶ Restoration of intertidal habitats by the managed realignment of coastal defences, UK (*Angus Garbutt*)
- ▶ How may beach nourishment affect the biological value of beaches (Flanders, Belgium)? (*Jeroen Speybroeck et al.*)
- ▶ Sustainable estuary management for the 21st century (*Roger K.A. Morris*)

- Plenary reporting workshops 23 September: 12.10-12.30
- Final conclusions: 12.30-12.40

Posters

A poster session with authors present will be programmed. To encourage quality submissions, two awards will be granted to poster contributions: one for the best overall poster presentation and one for the best poster presentation submitted by a student.

In order to allow as many papers as possible into the programme, poster presentations will be accepted until 1 March 2005.

Excursions

Belgium has a short (65 km) coastline with a wide variety of rather small natural habitat fragments scattered amid the infrastructure of four harbours, ten coastal villages or towns and an important tourism industry.

As such it provides ample opportunities to visit various nature restoration and management projects at close range. Two technical excursions will be organized during the event:

Wednesday, 21 September

Half-day visit of the IJzer Estuary and guided tour of the achievements of the LIFE 'FEYDRA' project ('Fossil Estuary of the IJzer Dunes Restoration Action'), including the Hannecart woodland dunes and the waterworks station of the local water company IWVA.

Thursday, 22 September

Half-day visit of the 'green beach' project at the Baai van Heist, Europe's most important tern breeding site in the harbour of Zeebrugge, and neighbouring nature restoration activities.

Post-conference tours

Two optional post-conference excursions are planned, provided there is sufficient interest:

Friday, 23 September (14.00-18.00)

We will visit the LIFE-Nature project in the historical polder landscape of Uitkerke. In the polders of Uitkerke, hundreds of hectares of historical grassland have been purchased and several nature restoration measures have been implemented.

Saturday, 24 September (09.30-18.00)

Daytrip to the dune areas of De Panne (Belgian west coast) and Ghyvelde (northern France), with a focus on various nature restoration activities in dunes of different structure, historical background and ecological characteristics.

Social Programme

A social programme for participants is planned. It offers opportunities to enjoy the fascinating coastal landscapes, to meet colleagues or to be thrilled by the Burgundian conference dinner in the prestigious 'Provincial Court' on the market of Bruges.

Monday, 19 September

Welcome reception hosted by the Municipality of Koksijde (18:00)

Tuesday, 20 September

Since Flanders coastal landscapes are best viewed on two wheels, participants will be offered free rental bikes on Tuesday evening.

Wednesday, 21 September

Poster session followed by hot buffet of traditional regional dishes (19.00)

Thursday, 22 September

Conference dinner (Bruges) (20:00)

Abstracts and Proceedings

The Abstracts and Proceedings of the oral (plenary sessions and thematic workshops) and poster contributions will be published and distributed to participants at the start of the symposium. The conference proceedings will consist of refereed papers.







Important deadlines

Submission of poster abstracts and extended abstract:	1 March 2005
Hotel bookings before	1 June 2005
Registration for conference before	30 June 2005

Hotel accommodation

A number of centrally located hotels are recommended (*cf.* hotel reservation form). Accommodation is available in all price categories, but early booking is very highly recommended as it will be extremely busy at that time of year.

The final deadline for reservation is 1 June 2005.

Hotel bookings are handled by:

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<http://www2.koksijde.be/Engels/>

Registration

The registration form (*cf.* conference registration form) should be completed and sent to the conference secretariat prior to 30 June 2005. Registration will be effective upon receipt of the registration form and payment. Written confirmation will be sent to each participant.

Registration fees include:

- conference documents and proceedings
- welcome reception
- admission to the conference and poster session
- coffee/tea served during breaks
- lunches

Cancellation and refunds

Full refunds less 20% will be made on written request received prior to 1 May 2005. Full refunds less 30% will be made on written request received between 1 May and 15 August 2005. After this date refunds will not be possible.

All refunds will be processed after the conference. Only cancellations received in writing at the conference secretariat will be considered.

Organizing Committee

Jan Seys (VLIZ, Belgium), Albert Salman (EUCC International), Jean-Louis Herrier (AMINAL-Nature Division, Belgium), Joeri Stekelorum (Koksijde, Belgium), Jan Mees (VLIZ), Hannah Van Nieuwenhuyse (AMINAL-Nature Division), Ingrid Dobbelaere (VLIZ)

Scientific Committee

Theo Bakker (EUCC, the Netherlands), Dries Bonte (Ghent University, Belgium), Steven Degraer (Ghent University, Belgium), Pat Doody (EUCC, United Kingdom), Helena Granja (EUCC, Portugal), Jean-Louis Herrier (AMINAL-Nature Division, Belgium), Maurice Hoffmann (Institute of Nature Conservation, Belgium), Frede Jensen (EUCC, Denmark), Jan Mees (Flanders Marine Institute), Patrick Meire (Antwerp University, Belgium), Frank Neumann (Institute for Infrastructure, Environment and Innovation, Belgium), Roland Paskoff (EUCC, France), Sam Provoost (Institute of Nature Conservation, Belgium), Kazimierz Rabski (EUCC, Poland), Albert Salman (EUCC International), Jan Seys (Flanders Marine Institute), Fred van der Vegte (EUCC, the Netherlands)

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Conference venue

CasinoKoksijde cultural centre
Casinoplein 10
B-8670 Koksijde, Belgium

Conference secretariat and registration

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