

ENCORA - Theme 5

Long term coastal geo-morphological change

initiative for a **Coordination Action** within the European coastal research **and** practitioners community

WHY ?

Effective management of coastal systems is crucial to the protection and preservation of all coastal communities. All coastal authorities are faced with the need to make predictions concerning the behaviour of the coastline over a timescale of order 50 years in order to fulfil integrated coastal zone management planning requirements. The main challenge addressed by this theme, therefore, is to promote the development and demonstration of emerging and new methodologies for the prediction of long-term geo-morphological changes to coastal and estuarial behaviour systems including the effects of climate change and to disseminate this new knowledge across Europe.

It is important to both develop calibrated modelling tools and the framework in which they are used, and also to demonstrate the implementation of this methodology using a standard of data quality and coverage that can be reasonably achieved by European coastal authorities.

Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) were introduced in the UK in the 1990's. The new criteria for the preparation of the next generation of SMPs now require each local coastal authority to consider coastal management strategies that must address a time-scale of 70 years into the future. Emphasis is placed on the need to make predictions of coastal changes and quantitative risk assessments over this timeframe. To address this need the UK Futurecoast project provided a major step forward in conceptualising the factors affecting coastal change. A 'behavioural systems' approach was adopted, which involves the identification of the different elements that make up the coastal structure and developing an understanding of how these elements interact on a range of both temporal and spatial scales. The UK government is also currently mid-way through an ambitious 10 year research programme concerning the prediction of morphological change within estuary environments. The initiative is known as the Estuary Research Programme (ERP). This work is investigating the tools which are available at present and is also developing new approaches, which cover a range of spatial and temporal

scales, including large scale long term change. Some of this work is transposing the behavioural systems' approach, used in the Futurecoast project, to estuarine environments. One of the key outputs from the ERP will be an integrated estuary management system (EMS) which allows the impacts of developments within estuarine areas to be assessed using a range of techniques that have been developed during the 10 year programme.

Hybrid models for long term morphological changes are also under development in DK. In this context, hybrid models are models in which limited coastal area process modelling is combined with empirical knowledge of morphological behaviour.

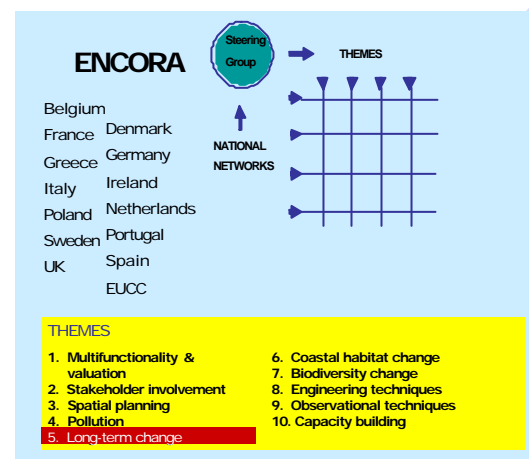
It is envisaged that this pioneering work will inform further developments at the European level.

WHAT ?

The primary objective of this theme is:

Promoting the development, demonstration and dissemination of new and emerging models and methodologies for the prediction of long-term geo-morphological changes to coastal and estuarial behaviour systems including the effects of climate change

Considerable progress can be made at the European level by networking activities to spread existing examples of good practice and research amongst European partners.



The theme integrates research and disseminates knowledge on long-term coastal geo-morphological change across the European countries.

HOW ?

Proposed major co-ordinating activities

- Establishment of a Community of Practice:
 - to further the development and application of emerging models and methodologies for coastal and estuarial geo-morphological change;
 - to identify, enhance and provide access to historic data sets;
 - to identify key demonstration sites for future collaborative research projects;
 - to promote the application of the new methodologies to a range of demonstration field sites across Europe;
 - to promote the dissemination of good practice guidelines across Europe e.g. FUTURECOAST, ERP, case studies of ICZM stocktake; case studies from Thames Estuary Partnership
 - establishment of a core group for launching an IP proposal on ICZM in FP7, focusing on Geo-morphological change.

- Intertwining of existing research and development projects to promote the development of new methodologies for the prediction of long-term geo-morphological changes to coastal and estuarial behaviour systems.

examples:

- *A risk based framework for predicting long-term beach evolution (University of Plymouth, UK)*
- *COASTVIEW project (EU project Lead by University of Plymouth, UK)*
- *BAR project (EU project lead by University of Sussex, UK)*
- *Integrated morphological modelling of rivers, estuaries and coastal zone (The overall project Coasts and Tidal inlets is financed by The Danish Technical Research Council and led by Danish Technical University).*
- *Longterm morphological modelling of coastal areas. (DHI Water & Environment, Denmark).*
- *ERP Uptake Project - dissemination of practical use of ERP 1 estuary morphology methods (Posford Haskoning)*
- *A co-ordinated and strategic approach to coastal monitoring for the Welsh Assembly (Posford Haskoning)*

- *Long-term & large-scale modelling of cliff/platform/beach evolution in North Norfolk (Bristol/Newcastle University)*

- To promote exchange visits of young researchers and practitioners across Europe with interests in geo-morphological change.

Examples of partners willing to contribute:

*University of Plymouth
Posford Haskoning
Halcrow
HR Wallingford
UK Environment Agency
Thames Estuary Partnership
RIKZ
Danish Technical University
DHI
Polish Academy of Sciences*

- Promotion of interdisciplinary training and education in the techniques of coastal geo-morphological change.

Examples of partners willing to contribute:

*Summerschool for young researchers (COZONE, UK)
Thames Estuary Research Forum
Posford Haskoning*

WHO ?

Theme lead

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