

Coastal Guide ICZM Information System

1. Key data

Project title:	Forth Estuary Forum: A demonstration of effective integrated coastal zone management
Country:	United Kingdom
Project phase:	complete
Launch:	1996
National funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC-funding:	[periods, in euros]
EC project references:	LIFE-Environment 96/UK/406/PAZ
Lead partner:	The Forth Estuary Forum
Project contact:	Mr Stephen Midgley The Forth Estuary Forum Exmouth Building Port of Rosyth Rosyth, Fife KY11 2XP UK Tel.: +44-1383-420104 Fax: +44-1383-418468 Email: secretary@forthestuaryforum.co.uk
Project website:	www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk
Project area:	The area supports five bird populations of European importance for nature conservation. Its environs are home to over a quarter of Scotland's population and a diverse range of habitats and wildlife. It is also a major focus for industry, commerce, transport, housing and recreation, resulting in an interesting, complex and continually changing regional economy, which reflects an important international trading community.
Area size (land):	From the tidal water limit at Stirling to the Isle of May at its North Sea entrance, the Forth is 96km long and covers an area of 1,670km ² . A hundred kilometres long, the Forth estuary has a catchment of 4 500 km ²
(water):	[in hectare, or yes/no]
Population size:	1.25 million people
Policy background:	
Important sectors in the project set-up:	Tourism, Public health, Ports & Marine industry, Landscapes & Cultural heritage, Coastal fishing, Dredging & Aggregate Extraction, Pollution, Habitats & Biodiversity, Natural catastrophes & Climate change, Coastal erosion
Main aim:	
Expected results:	Assessment of the effectiveness of a non-statutory voluntary partnership approach in developing integrated management of a large estuarine area. Increased co-operation between all interests concerned and their commitment to sustainable development. Improvement of environmental protection. Preparation of an integrated management strategy for the Estuary and Firth of Forth, and the corresponding action plans

2. Collaboration & integration

Objectives re collaboration & integration:

To provide a network for communicating between various stakeholders

Ministries formally involved*:

Organisations at national level involved:

Scottish Coastal Forum, Focus on Firths initiative, (project officers meetings)

Regions (county, province) formally involved*:

East Lothian Council, City of Edinburgh Council, West Lothian Council, Falkirk District Council, Stirling Council, Clackmannashire Council, Fife Council.

Municipalities (towns) formally involved*:

Problems encountered:

Main achievements: continuation of networking events, via local seminars.

3. Participation

Objectives re participation: Currently, the demonstration projects allocate between 10-30% of their resources on participation. For resource reasons, the Forth Estuary Project has decided not to undertake extensive community participation, relying instead on involvement of local authorities and their representatives.

Securing long term funding, for the employment of permanent staff to facilitate the ICZM initiative is particularly necessary in the case of voluntary approaches such as the Forth Estuary Forum.

Environment stakeholders formally involved*: yes

To encourage partnership management that takes as much account as possible of the interests involved, the Forth Estuary Forum was established in 1993. It functions on a voluntary and informal basis and it comprised of over 200 representatives of local authorities, statutory agencies, commerce, industry, NGOs, etc. The activities of the Forum have been directed by a management group initially comprising the founder organisations of the Forum, and now elected by the Forum members. Members have also been involved in ten thematic working groups.

The Forth Estuary Forum is a company limited by guarantee under the *Companies Act*. The company status provides the necessary legal basis for fundraising and generating income from a variety of sources.

The Forum have clearly defined the scope of their activities and made sure that their role is not to usurp the roles of existing authorities. The Forum has focused on cross-cutting issues such as environmental quality or research co-ordination which do not fit within the mandate of any one agency or organisation. The Forum has also avoided addressing issues such as transportation co-ordination, which may be so contentious as to break up the forum.

Forth Estuary has benefited from the networking skills and support of well informed, known and respected local figures who are willing to represent and chair the forum.

Economic development stakeholders formally involved*: yes Some local enterprise companies

Public hearings: 3 events a year ,one of which is the AGM

Public access to project data: yes,

Forthsight' is a biannual publication on all matters concerned with the work of the Forth Estuary Forum and the sustainable development of the Firth of Forth.

The Forth Estuary Modeling System at <http://www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk/research.htm>
 GIS at <http://www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk/intermap.htm>

Main achievements: In The Forth Estuary project, the Chambers of Commerce and retail trade representatives are used as public specialists to help find solutions to specific problems. In this way the private sector has been efficiently involved in the ICZM initiative.

Problems encountered: The project consulted its partners on every decision relating to the project, it has now developed accepted procedures to streamline decision making.

4. Information

Objectives re environment:

Main achievements: Through participation the cost of data acquisition has been greatly reduced as data will be freely shared between the partners. If this can be achieved then money to obtain new data to fill real gaps in coverage may be more easily found.
 Distribution of summary reports for the general public and for participative groups

Problems encountered: maintenance of database is time consuming and costly – very easily becomes out of date.

5. Policy aspects, relevance and success:

Legal Jurisdictional issues:

Project objectives: The Forth Estuary project is developing an implementation action plan, which invites various agencies and organisations to voluntarily implement relevant aspects of their strategy. The emphasis of the Forum's work is on building ownership, in hopes that the various actors will adopt the strategy and work towards its implementation. *However, the Project leader commented that it remains to be seen whether or not the partners will implement the results, as they are under no legal obligation.* The Forth Integrated Management Strategy has now been published and is available for free from the FEF Office.

Main achievements: Implementing projects – litter campaign is underway and we have another coastal corridor project in the pipeline. Through the Scottish coastal forum the views of local initiatives are channelled to the Scottish executive

Problems encountered: Difficult to create ownership of the strategy, with such diverse groups across the estuary it is difficult to co-ordinate policy and decision makers

Environment:

Project objectives:

Main achievements: Untreated sewage sludge from Edinburgh has traditionally been dumped in the Forth Estuary, but the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive has required the abandonment of this practice by the end of 1998. A new sewage sludge incinerator has been constructed in the Seafield area on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Improved water quality in the Forth is likely to encourage more coastal tourism and improve sales of locally caught fish.

Forth Estuary is an area where old industrial areas have been 'recycled'.

Problems encountered:

Biodiversity conservation:

Project objectives: Provide co-ordination between various groups across the estuary

Main achievements: Been involved with all the LBAP's around the Estuary. Assisting in creating co-operation between the groups

Problems encountered: The Forth Estuary project is concerned that industrial fishing for sandeels by Danish fishers on the Wee Bankie sandbanks just outside UK territorial waters may have contributed to decline in bird numbers in the Forth Estuary, e.g. puffins in the East Forth and Isle of May SPAs designated under the Birds Directive.

Economic development:

Project objectives: To create sustainable economic development

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Spatial planning & zoning:

Project objectives: More financial support for short sea shipping and associated port development could be particularly beneficial in the Forth Estuary project in the UK.

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

Coastal defence:

Project objectives:

Main achievements:

Problems encountered:

6. Progress & Continuity

Follow-up: Will aim to review the process this year – two years since the strategy launch

No progress since:

Main reason for lack of progress:

Forum has seen a change in funding strategy since Life project ended – slow to develop funds of a comparable amount to Life funding. The process becomes a lot slower with fewer staff.

7. Sources

Project Report online: Most information is on the website – this is being updated and will hopefully contain all the reports.

*) formally involved means: as a project partner or represented in a project committee.

Bibliography:

Project Web site, www.forthestuaryforum.co.uk

European Commission, *Better management of coastal resources, A European programme for integrated coastal zone management*, 1997

European Commission, *Lessons from the European Commission's demonstration programme on integrated coastal zone management*, 1999

European Commission, *Towards a European Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy: General Principles and Policy Options*, 1999

Thematic Study A, *Legal and Regulatory Bodies: Appropriateness to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study B, *Participation in the ICZM Processes: Mechanisms and Procedures Needed*, 1999

Thematic Study C, *Role and use of Technology in Relation to ICZM*, 1999

Thematic Study D, *Planning and Management Processes: Sectoral and Territorial Co-operation*, 1999

Thematic Study F, *Information required for Integrated Coastal Zone Management*, 1999