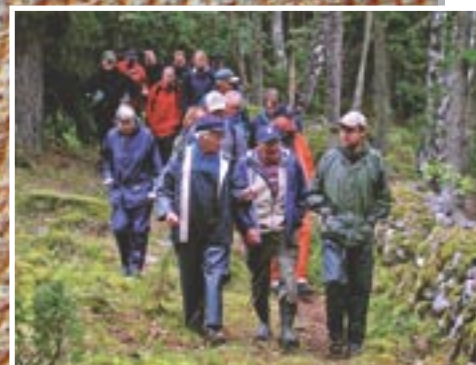


# Costal Woodlands



## Public Report

LIFE02 ENV/S/000355





# Project scope and objectives

**The overall objective of this project has been to demonstrate ways and draft guidelines on how to include woodlands by the Baltic Sea in Integrated Coastal Zone Management.**

The coast of the Baltic Sea represents great varieties in geology, climate, vegetation, wildlife, human population and exploitation. Coastal woodlands are important parts of the social environment, for permanent living and for tourists from all Europe.

Baltic Sea coastal woodlands have since thousands of years been integrated with the life of coastal people. Also today, the forest sector represents both an essential source of income for coastal inhabitants, as well as areas with very rich biodiversity and cultural values that need different types of protection and management.

As forestry is one of the major land use activities in a many of the Baltic Sea region countries, it easily can create severe environmental problems in certain coastal areas if carried out carelessly. Some of the largest forest industry concentrations in northern Europe are situated on the Baltic Sea coast or along rivers that end up in the Baltic Sea.

These facts motivated the partners to develop this project with several demonstrations and guidelines for management and protection of coastal woodlands, in the spirit of the eight EU principles for Integrated Coastal Zone Management.

The main actions were organised in the coastal zone of southeast Sweden, from Norrköping to Kalmar. In addition, some activities were carried out in, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Germany and Denmark.

## Working methods

**The focus has been on the following working areas and methods, under the umbrella of the general objectives of the project.**

- Development of recommendations for coastal zone management guidelines with focus on the coastal woodlands.
- Practical testing and demonstrations of innovative land management solutions and extended communication with stakeholders along the coasts, in cooperation between national and regional authorities, NGO:s and municipalities.
- Surveys of nature and cultural values in coastal zones.
- Actions for legal protection of more woodland in the coastal zones.
- Training and extension for staff from the partners, forest managers, contractors, forest owners and other groups, by organising workshops, seminars, field tours and study tours in the project areas as well as to neighbouring countries.
- Communication and dissemination of “the coastal zone environment message” by distribution of information and communication through exhibitions, newsletters, stakeholder meetings, grants to NGO actions, CD and DVD based information, web site information, extension actions, as well as establishing contacts with a wide range of authorities and NGO:s.
- The project management and planning has been a responsibility for both the beneficiary and the partners. The storms 2005 and 2007 caused difficulties for the planning, as staff from many of the partners had to focus on solving the problems with damaged forest instead of dealing with the project.

# Expert Advisory Group

## Expert advisory group for an ICZM strategy and the project demonstrations.

The project management group invited a couple of persons to become members of the Expert Advisory Group for the international part of this project. In January 2003, the project manager formally invited them. The project organised the first State-of-the-Art workshop and field tour with the group and some other specialists in Sweden late April 2004.

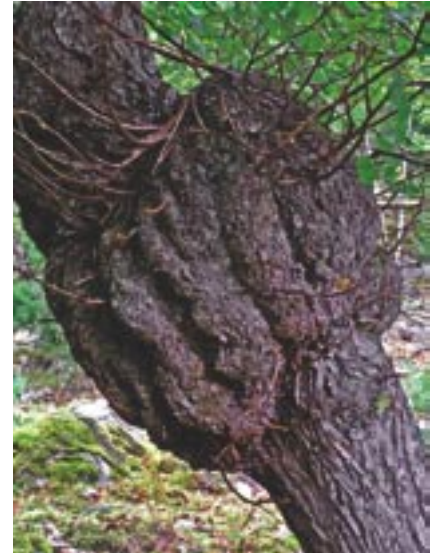
During the summer 2004, the Group participated in study tours to Estonia and Latvia. The third international study tour brought the group to the Finnish archipelago in Aaboland. One group from the partner Norrkoeping made a study tour to Poland in 2005, to create better understanding on forest dynamics from a nature conservation point of view.

Finally, some of the group members visited the German and Danish coasts in September 2006, together with other persons from the staff of the partners. Special attention was paid to investments in new information centres.

During 2004-2006, the group by and by developed proposed recommendations for an ICZM strategy in forests by the Baltic Sea.

The Swedish government is currently discussing ICZM. It is emphasised that ICZM solutions must be adapted to the regional and local conditions. The project has delivered comments to the government that we hope that they will regard when planning new steps towards a better integration of the management of the coastal zones.

In January 2007, the working group for development of the Central Baltic Programme 2007-2013 invited to a public consultation. All stakeholders were invited to deliver comments and proposals. "Coastal Woodlands" has delivered proposals for future forest related projects in the programme area.



## Integrated Inventories

### Integrated surveys

When planning the project, the partners stated that we needed to strengthen the knowledge about the nature- and culture values of the coastal zone. Surveys should be the tools. In this project, we created a real practical cooperation between the partners when carrying out the surveys.

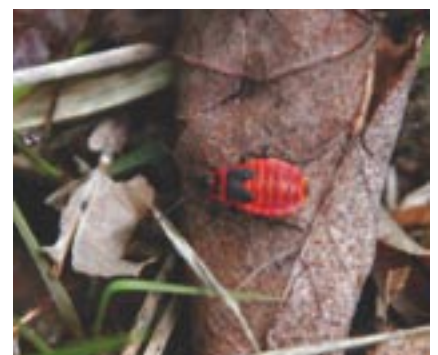
**Woodland key habitats and meadows:** The Forest Agency and the Swedish Board of Agriculture carried out two parallel surveys in the archipelago. The surveys identified woodland key habitats and valuable meadows on the islands of the archipelago. 2350 new objects were found.

**Giant trees:** There was another initiative taken by the partner **RG E**, with focus on mapping of biologically valuable forest by the coast. Old and hollowed trees are important for the biodiversity. 30 700 trees were identified. In addition to the giant tree survey, the staff also registered the rate over overgrowing of the giant trees. Over 500 trees have now been cleared from the overgrowing vegetation in the project area.

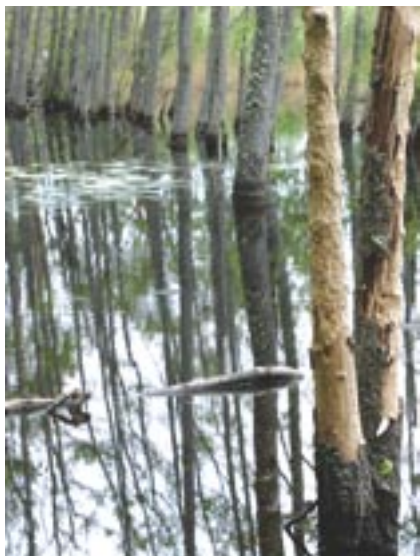
**Old growth coastal forests:** The partner Norrkoeping has made a survey to identify biologically valuable coastal coniferous forests; privately owned, state owned and with other owners. They found over 400 new objects.

**Surveys of capercaillie population:** The capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) population in Sweden has been declining during the last decades (70% from 1940-1990). Norrkoeping municipality has since 1993 followed the local situation for this bird.

**Survey of insects on pine:** The aim of this survey was to estimate how and where conservation resources will have the largest effect in preserving viable







insect populations. The presence of dead wood in ***Pinus sylvestris*** forests is vital for conserving the flora and fauna connected to this type of ecosystem. Insects dependent on logs of *P. sylvestris* are a group that contains many red-listed species.

## Mapping of culturally valuable sites

There are certain cultural values in the coastal zones that need extra attention when carrying out land management. The surveys carried out are now the basis for conservation initiatives and will serve as information for contractors and forest owners when planning logging and other forestry operations. 220 new objects were found.

## Conservation actions in Norrkoeping

In the year 2002, Norrkoeping formally approved the current nature conservation programme for the municipality. Within the frames of the Life project, as demonstrations of practical ICZM, the municipality has shown how a programme can come into real actions. These are some of the actions carried out by Norrkoeping.

### Survey of old growth coniferous forests

This action is linked to the above-mentioned integrated inventories. Old growth coniferous forests in the coastal woodlands were quite low represented in previous surveys and there were indications on that many valuable pine forests had been undiscovered. 500 km<sup>2</sup> and over 439 sites, totally 794 hectares, were classified as forests with high nature values.

### Nature conservation and fire in the forest

Historically, the forests in the Baltic Sea region were burning. To improve the regeneration of fire depending species, an area of 8 hectares was burnt. Inventories of species are going to be carried out.

### Attractive nature in the Norrkoeping city and its surroundings

Several nature areas in the city were made accessible through bush cleaning and thinning among trees, widening of gaps e.g. Some new trails (totally 15 km) were built with new information boards. 75 new hectares of "city nature" are now more attractive for recreation and nature studies to the public.

### School forests

This initiative is another way to stimulate outdoor activities, by offering schools an area "of their own". There they can arrange a fireplace, shelters e.g. Also, the municipality organised training for teachers in outdoor pedagogic. 50 teachers took part.

### Nature conservation information

The municipality staff worked hard with a wide range of dissemination actions. Norrkoeping has two main reasons for the ongoing improvement of the nature information.

- Sustainable nature conservation and biodiversity protection is depending on that the public has an interest in and knowledge about nature.
- It is positive for the public health with outdoor and nature activities.

People frequently visit the nature close to where they live. More than 40 such areas have been described in folders and distributed to all households in Norrkoeping. More than 900 persons took part in 42 guided tours during 2006: Among them, the "Seal safari" and "Bat expedition" were quite popular. The staff organised 20 seminars on nature and nature conservation with in total 1000 participants.

### Surveys of capercaillie populations

The staff from Norrkoeping has surveyed and monitored the capercaillie populations in forests to the northeast of the city during the period 1993-2006. When the "Coastal Woodlands" was initiated, the survey was linked to the project activities. The populations are declining.



# Effective Legislation

## Models for more effective use of existing methods and legislation for nature conservation

The Baltic Sea region countries have all some different, nationally decided, legal instruments for protection and environmentally directed land management actions. In addition, there are initiatives from the European Union that during the last decade had wide impact on the nature protection in the region.

Within this project, the aim has been to increase the pace of forest nature conservation in coastal zones of southeast Sweden. Existing legal tools were used more systematically and in ways that are more flexible. The two partners RG E and RG H have, within the frames of this project, developed the way to produce management plans for nature reserves. The management is formally a responsibility for the Regional Government. However, as the practical management normally is carried out by some local owner, farmer or contractor, the best result of the management plan is achieved when these persons are involved from the beginning.

The partners RG E and RG H also carried out substantial actions to complete ten management plans for the northern part of the project area and four plans for the southern area. In addition, the RG E staff has compiled a Conservation plan Natura 2000 for the northern part of the project area, covering 830 hectares of the coastal landscape.

## What do threatened species need and do we protect the right areas?

To try to find answers on these questions, the University of Linköping has been involved in the project. Summarized, the report indicates that we need to protect larger areas of oak wooded grasslands systematically, as being of key interest for biodiversity protection in the coastal region. Old and hollowed oaks and other species (veteran trees) are hosting a huge number of rare species. You also need to support and release rather young and semi-old oaks, to create a basis for additional veteran trees for coming centuries. To protect larger areas with pine forests is also crucial.

# Local Participation

## Models for local participation and influence

Major parts of the coastal woodlands are owned by private persons. 9.380 persons are coastal forest owners in the project area. 30 % of these persons are living somewhere else and not on their properties. The total forest area involved in the coastal zone is 169.000 hectares. This means that a huge number of persons are involved in the land management. However, the levels of involvement are strongly fluctuating. Some persons spend all possible time on forestry activities. Other use the property as a weekend place or for a few excursions every year.

As an important ingredient in ICZM, the responsible authorities have a core task to try to get as many as possible of all these persons involved and participating. Without their involvement, there will be little integration and less good actions.

After finalising the project surveys, several meetings were organised to show what had been found and how the new knowledge may be used. The surveying organisations made common meetings. In this way, they could avoid to give digressing information. Several field tours brought many hundreds of interested persons to the forest. The biggest was a tour to the island Vinoekalv, where more than 200 persons took part. The partners organised several workshops and coastal meetings during the project. 23 meetings were outlined in the project proposal and 25 were delivered.

As one of the actions to create local participation and understanding when striving to support the improvement of the environmental situation, the project offered grants for seven local actions.







# Integrated Forest Methods

## Integrated forestry methods

*New policy for coastal zone forestry.* During the autumn 2003, the Project Management Group decided about a work plan for development of “*Guidelines for coastal zone forestry*”. An extended participatory process was carried out, with field tours and seminars for discussions. The new guidelines have now been printed. The project has also produced a DVD film with extended information about the coastal forestry and the guidelines.

## Multifunction forestry methods

For successful coastal forestry, it is important to be able to know and apply adapted methods when carrying out operations. The problem is highlighted in the booklet with guidelines and is further developed in a report.

As one separate and important part of these forestry methods, the partners have developed a booklet about the problem *Forest management and protection of sea eagle*.

## Coastal transports

For the permanent archipelago population, the transports are the overriding problem. Not only the forestry suffers, but also every activity where you need contact with the main land is a problem, especially during the winter. Children need transports to and from the school, the families need access to shops, health care and all other society facilities. Craftsmen and farmers need to transport machinery, equipment and materials. Compared to the main land situation, the island inhabitants are lacking more and more behind as regards transport service from the society. If there is a serious ambition from the society to support what we call “a living archipelago”, these issues must be given priority on the authorities’ agenda.

In the project area, the partners carried out a few tests of different logging operations to try to find out the most effective and environmentally friendly timber transports methods. Especially the transport of tops and branches (wood chip material) is problematic. The collection and transport to heating centrals is very hard to get profitable. Two projects that Sodra has been responsible for showed this. On the other hand, if you carry out well-planned logging operations, the timber and pulp transports on larger ferries or carriers shows good economy, especially if you can bring the wood directly to coastal-based industries.



# Environmental Attitudes

## Mass media information

To get in touch with the target groups of the project we used both the local newspapers and more specialised journals with focus on forest owners and environmentally interested people.

## Newsletters from the project

During the project period the project distributed in total nine newsletters. We sent out the letters to listed interested persons by both e-mail and ordinary mail.

## The opinion polls

- A deep interview project with coastal forest owners.
- A local opinion poll in Norrkoeping among the users of local forests.

## The project website

The website has been activated during 227 weeks, with a medium sum of 26 visitors per week. The top figure for one week is 80. More than 5800 visitors were registered totally.

## Project calendar 2007

One of the last dissemination actions was to produce a Life Coastal Woodlands



calendar for 2007. It was printed in 50 copies and distributed to key persons in the project area, including a thank-you letter from the beneficiary.

### **CD picture collections and DVD films**

We have produced a set of CD:s with pictures from the project area. Seven DVD films were produced. The report films were distributed to partners and the Commission.

### **Workshops and coastal meetings**

During 25 meetings and workshops, the messages from the project were delivered to more than 700 persons.

### **Booklets about Bjoerkoe**

The island Bjorkoe is one of the few island with a permanent population. They are partly earning their living from eco-tourism. To demonstrate how such activities can be cost efficiently supported, we produced a booklet about the island.

### **Field tours for immigrants**

To show the archipelago to a group of female immigrants from Norrkoeping, we organised a field tour by boat to the island Vaensoe in the northern part of the archipelago.

### **Information to foreign visitors**

- Information boards in the archipelago have now information also in English and German languages.
- The Bjoerkoe booklet is translated into English, including a printed version in English.
- French and Serbian versions of the booklet about Bjoerkoe are also available on CD to be printed on demand.
- The website information has been published in English and French.

## **Project Mangement**

### **Project management and reporting**

The formal organisation of the project structure has been organised in the following way:

The Project Supervisory Board (PSB), where the heads of the respective organisations have represented the partners. Meetings were organised twice a year. The Project Working Group (PWG), where the partners have been represented by persons directly involved and responsible for the practical project actions. Meetings were organised every 3-4 months.

## **Dissemination**

### **Dissemination of the project results**

In the project proposal 2002, there was a dissemination plan presented. In this plan, we presented the main objectives for the dissemination.

1. Transfer new knowledge concerning the EU perspective on ICZM
2. To obtain local participation in planning processes
3. To contribute to the change of attitudes to land use in a more environmentally conscious direction
4. To contribute to a deeper understanding of the principles for sustainability





# Partners



The Swedish Forest Agency was the beneficiary of this project. The agency is a state authority; responsible for the supervision of the Swedish Forestry Act.



The County administrations of Östergötland and Kalmar Counties are versatile authorities on regional levels in the Swedish governmental system. Some of the assignments and tasks are regional planning and environmental protection.



The municipality of Norrköping is the seventh largest municipality in Sweden, situated at the Baltic Sea, with a unique archipelago.



The forest owners association Soedra Skog is an economic association owned by 34,000 members in southern Sweden.



The NGO Swedish Society for Nature Conservation is the biggest nature conservation and environmental organisation in Sweden, with over 140,000 members and 274 local branches.



Oestsam Regional Development Council works towards the achievement of an enduring economic, social and cultural development of Östergötland.



The World Wildlife Foundation WWF is an independent and non-political nature organisation. The goal is to carry out nature protection actions all over the world.

## Contact:

Bo Thor

## The Swedish Forest Agency

International Division

Datalinjen 1, S-583 30 Linköping, Sweden

Tfn: +04613-329732, Fax: +04613-213503

Mail: bo.thor@skogsstyrelsen.se



# What to do now?

**We propose the following actions for a sustainable development in coastal zones to communicate the Life results from this project:**

1. Continued guideline development for coastal forestry and habitat protection by creating multi-specialized cooperation between authorities and other bodies around the Baltic Sea.
2. Information about and testing of adapted forestry operations in the coastal zones to keep the forestry profitable and sustainable.
3. Analysing and testing of effective and environmentally friendly timber transports in the archipelago. Finland is now investigating the logistics for timber transports. Extended floating of timber is one of the options for the future.
4. Municipality actions within the frames of conservation programmes, to achieve understanding and involvement from the local inhabitants, to test innovative solutions, to use the forest for improving of the public health situation.
5. Continued information actions, discussions on workshops and coastal meetings for better understanding of ICZM and development of the ICZM spirit in authorities with responsibilities for coastal zone planning and management.
6. ICZM Network building on all levels, with involvement from the forestry sector, from international cooperation to local NGOs and village organisations, forest owners associations and municipalities.
7. Continued studies and development of how to organise to local influence and participation, related to both planning and practical management situations.
8. Continued testing of grants to local environmental actions, to enhance the involvement and environmental understanding and the interest to participate in the process of ICZM.
9. Continued advisory and extension service, probably with more focus on key persons in the forestry sector, to use resources in the most effective way.
10. Development of how forest management plans are produced for protected nature and culture areas, in cooperation with land owners and other local stakeholders.
11. Forestry sector participation in local and regional participatory groups, for consultations with other interests in the coastal zones.
12. Learn from opinion polls and improve the communication with new types of forest owners and the public forest users. There is material from this project to study and to develop.
13. Continued information on the web, with good visibility and active management of the website. Survey results must be much easier to find on some of the web pages.
14. Last but not most important, continued dissemination and up-dating of materials and other results from the project.