

For communication between projects and for DG R&I

- 7 **Improve the information on CORDIS** and the ease of searching on the platform.
- 8 **Encourage the exchange of tools, frameworks, and methods.**
- 9 Consider the provision of a **publication budget** that is available after a project finishes.
- 10 Consider providing **improved incentives for clustering** and actions that continue project liaisons.
- 11 Consider carefully the **duration of interdisciplinary projects** with case studies.
- 12 Envisage a **two-stage process for all long duration projects** and a higher proportion of all calls.
- 13 **Encourage innovation** beyond that anticipated in calls for research projects.
- 14 **Encourage participation of volunteer-based organizations** in demonstrator projects for new technology

For European Commission & National Governments

- 15 We recommend that tools for monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem services should also provide **decision support for local environmental managers.**
- 16 We recommend that governments **promote multilingual** environmental support systems.
- 17 We recommend that governments **support environmental science** potential in the **voluntary sector.**

Examples of PRO-COAST tools

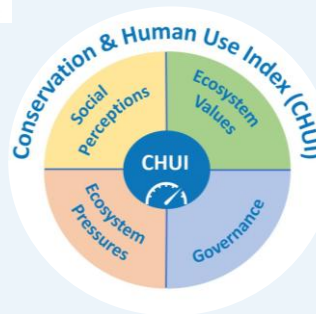
Community Sustainability Platform (CUSP)



What sort of Earth will our children inherit?
Less pollution? Less plastic? Less overfishing? Less warming? More nature?
We need to change how we treat the planet and we need to do it together.
ProCoast is part of a network of projects to rebuild nature.
It joins up many projects to help you make changes where you live.
Information and advice on this site are entirely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect opinion of the European Commission.
Creative and Social Media

The **CUSP** is a new multilingual hub designed to **share tools, best practices, and decision-support resources.** It will continue to support coastal communities after the PRO-COAST project ends.

The **CHUI** is a tool designed to **assess the balance between biodiversity conservation and human use** in coastal areas. The index highlights strengths, pressures, and opportunities for action in a clear and practical way.



Policy Guidelines PRO-COAST

PROactive approach for
Communities to enable
Societal Transformation

SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS



WWW.PRO-COAST.EU



Funded by
the European Union



UK Research
and Innovation

PRO-COAST in brief

Introduction

PRO-COAST is an interdisciplinary Horizon Europe project bringing together research, community engagement and practical tools for transformative change in coastal social-ecological systems.

PRO-COAST Policy Guidelines rest on a sequence of four related Science Framework projects (FP5 AEMBAC, FP6 GEMCONBIO, FP7 TESS, and PRO-COAST itself).

Thus, the 17 Recommendations that follow emerge from all these, supported by PRO-COAST deliverables as well as publications outside the project.



20 partners
bringing together
interdisciplinary
expertise
across 14
European countries

Particularly in PRO-COAST

1

A strong interdisciplinary nature. Its ten coastal community cases conducted ecology-based studies, guided and interrogated by social scientists, and informed software engineering.

2

Work across multiple social levels: *fide* IUCN and IPBES, top-down policymaking must work with engagement at local levels, for the sake of equity and practicality; such local work can also inform that policy and support it electorally (Policy Guidelines Section 2).

3

Social science not only considered needs of national and international governments and NGOs (macro-level) and attitudes in organisations (meso-level) that represent local stakeholders (including councillors, farmers, fishers, hunters, gatherers, gardeners) but **also worked on behaviour of individuals** (micro-level), for example on pluralistic ignorance (PG Section 4).

4

Engineering to develop and disseminate tools that are simple for citizens at local level and provide multilingual socio-environmental Decision Support. PRO-COAST tools: a Deep Change approach helping community transition, a Conservation Human-Use Index (CHUI) to assess it and REDS (Reciprocal Environmental Decision Support) - are provided on a Community Sustainability Platform (CUSP).

5

Uniquely combines coastal case studies, social sciences and multilingual activities: comparing results from a 10-project conference on Transitional Change in 2026, PRO-COAST was more focused than others at local level, with tools in local languages (PG Section 3).

6

Longevity. The coordinator, European Sustainable Use Group, will maintain the CUSP until 2033; this will test whether our socio environmental prototypes for knowledge transfer can be incubated and blossom on a civic e-network, free of pressures for commercial profit and from factional politics.

Recommendations

For engendering and supporting change in local communities

1

Enable community transformation through **supportive multi-level governance**.

2

Educate communities about the **diversity of environmental opinion** within them [because community members typically underestimate existing community pro-environmental sentiment].

3

Co-create change with communities rather than imposing it.

4

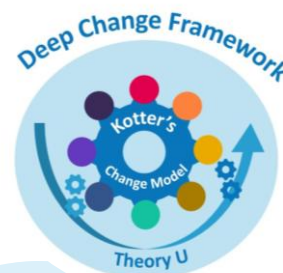
Involve all relevant stakeholders in co-creating the change.

5

Measure, communicate, and reflect on socio-environmental progress.

6

Provide accessible and engaging tools that enable and sustain community action.



The Deep Change Framework, developed during the project uses co-development, iterative feedback loops, and stakeholder engagement to **support adaptive decision-making** and drive meaningful transformation in complex environments