For communication between projects and for DG RTD

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**.

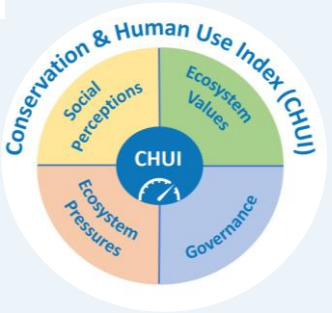
Examples of PRO-COAST tools

Community Sustainability Platform (CUSP)



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

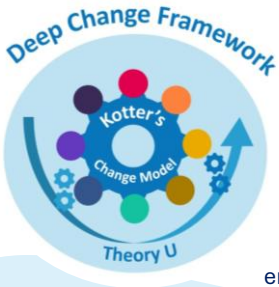
Particularly in PRO-COAST

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