

Fingal County Council
Comhairle Contae Fhine Gaeil

The Role of Local Communities in Protecting Natural Heritage

Hans Visser
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Fingal County Council

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Community and our coast

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Nature along our coast

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The Role of Local Communities in Protecting Natural Heritage

- Habitats & Species that can be found on your doorstep
- Collect Local Ecological Data
- Provide Local Information to Local Community

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Nature along our coast

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The Role of Local Communities in Protecting Natural Heritage

- Local Residents
- Primary & Secondary Schools
- Clubs; scouts, sailing, walking
- NGO's
- Fishermen
- Councillors
- County Council

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The Role of Local Communities in Protecting Natural Heritage

1. Carry out ecological survey
2. Prepare plan of action – planning & decision making
3. Implement actions
4. Monitor results

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Example: Ecological Study Fingal Coast

Seashore Survey

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	Survey	Planning	Action	Monitor
Local residents	x	X	X	x
Schools	x	X	X	X
Clubs	x	X	X	x
Fishermen	X	X	X	X
Local NGO's	X	X		X
Councillors		X	X	
County Co.	X	X	X	X

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The Role of Local Communities in Protecting Natural Heritage

	Survey	Planning	Action	Monitor
Local residents	x	X	X	x
Schools	x	X	X	X
Clubs	x	X	X	x
Fishermen	X	X	X	X
Local NGO's	X	X		X
Councillors		X	X	
County Co.	X	X	X	X

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Example: Ecological Study Fingal Coast

- Habitats, flora & invertebrates – DNFC/FCC
- Birds – Fingal Branch Birdwatch Ireland
- Bats – Bat Conservation Group
- Estuarine Fish – CFB & ERFB
- Tidal Habitats – Ecoserve Consultants
- Marine Fish - Fishermen

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Example 1 Planning: Beach Management Plan Portrane

Consultation First!

- Meetings with key Council Personnel
- Meetings with key stakeholders
- Opinion survey beach users
- Public Consultation evening

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Example 1 Planning: Beach Management Plan Portrane

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The Role of Local Communities in Protecting Natural Heritage

	Survey	Planning	Action	Monitor
Local residents	x	X	X	x
Schools	x	X	X	X
Clubs	x	X	X	x
Fishermen	X	X	X	X
Local NGO's	X	X		X
Councillors		X	X	
County Co.	X	X	X	X

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Example 1 Planning: Beach Management Plan Portrane

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Example 1 Action: Clean – up Fingal Coast

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Example 2 Planning: Turvey Masterplan

Consultation

- Primary Schools
- Parents & Local Residents
- Clubs; scouts, walking club, Tidy Towns
- NGO's; Birdwatch, CVI

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Example 2 Action: Dune Protection Works

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The Role of Local Communities in Protecting Natural Heritage

	Survey	Planning	Action	Monitor
Local residents	x	X	X	x
Schools	x	X	X	X
Clubs	x	X	X	x
Fishermen	X	X	X	X
Local NGO's	X	X		X
Councillors		X	X	
County Co.	X	X	X	X

- Recommendations**
- Give Community Involvement a try
 - SAC management plans to be prepared with local community and County Councils
 - Prepare national ICZM strategy to provide basic ICZM principles for County Councils.

- Role of the County Council**
- Coordinate and fund ecological studies
 - Establish links with local community
 - Facilitate community input into plans and projects from the start
 - Prepare Biodiversity Action Plan, Beach Management Plan, Dune Protection Plan or one ICZM Plan
 - Organise practical conservation work together with local community

Contact Details

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- Designated Sites**
- Key sites for Nature Conservation
 - NPWS is responsible for protection
 - Limited County Council and Community input in SAC management plans

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