

User Guide

Atlantic Network for Coastal Risks Management



The following document includes instructions in order to customize the information provided in the General Guide to the particular risks of a given territory. A local authority, as well as an association or a school class, can add further content that is customized to its own local context, by filling in the additional template called “Coastal risks in my area” available on the Ancorim webpage with the help of this User guide.

The User Guide gives instructions and proposes additional paragraphs that could be completed to better illustrate how risks are manifested in a specific area. Thus, once completed, the document called “Coastal risks in my area” will constitute a complementary information document to the General guide which presents key concepts on coastal risks. Both documents can be used jointly as an enhanced awareness raising activity.



Cliffs of Moher (Ireland)

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
1 - THE EUROPEAN ATLANTIC COAST: A VERY SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT	4
2 - DEFINITION OF COASTAL RISK	4
3 - WICH HAZARDS ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST ?	5
4 - SENSIVITY OF OUR COASTAL AREAS	6
5 - EXPOSURE OF GOODS AND STAKES TO RISK	9
6 - NATURAL RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY CAPACITY	9
7 - POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE COASTAL RISK PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT	10
8 - BIBLIOGRAPHY	10



INTRODUCTION

In this section, it is possible to specify the organization in charge of customizing the content of the General guide by using the document “Coastal risks in my area” and the reason why this document has been developed.

- Indicate the area upon which the document is focused.
- Indicate the organisation in charge of adapting the contents of the general guide.
- List the main points to deal with in the guide.

1 - THE EUROPEAN ATLANTIC COAST: A VERY SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT

This chapter is an overview of the characteristics of the European Atlantic Coast, focused primarily on your local area.

Provide descriptions of the regional context which are specific to your area:

- Climate.
- Landscapes, identifying if there are cliffs, estuaries, beaches, bays, marshes, etc.
 - Collect pictures for illustration.
- Biodiversity (animal and plant species): which faunistic and floristic species are present in the interested area?
 - Collect pictures for illustration.
 - Are there any specially protected areas (i.e. Natura 2000)?
 - Are there any protected species?
- Human presence:
 - Is the coast populated and urbanized?
 - Is there pressure from tourism in the summer?
 - Are there any infrastructures and economic activities which put pressure on the shoreline and that may be threatened by coastal risks?
- Typology of coasts: read the classification of the General guide and describe the kinds of natural elements (cliffs, platforms, bays, beaches, dunes...)
 - Collect pictures for illustration.

2 - DEFINITION OF COASTAL RISK

No customization is necessary here

3 - WICH HAZARDS ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST ?

This chapter focuses on the main threats to your coast, both natural and human hazards; they are the causes of the risks or potential losses along your coastal area.

Description of the hazards occurring in the area of interest:

- Identify and compile a list of the hazards that affected your coast in the past from the list below and locate the specific areas where these hazards occurred:
 - Coastal erosion and mobility of coastline (including landslides). For example, beaches disappearing or being refilled; dunes disappearing; cliffs in danger or that represent a human threat; and stakes impacted by falling stones.
 - Coastal flooding: caused by strong tides or storms.
 - Variability of water quality: threatens from agriculture, aquaculture or human waste. New species appearing and native species disappearing due to changes in temperature or water quality, etc.
 - Losses and changes to beaches/dunes systems.
 - Change in river courses and river floods. Conservation of sea marshes.
 - Pollution of accidental origin. Industries or transport activities in the area.
 - Pollution of agricultural origin (e.g... negative consequences, for instance, green algae in Brittany)
 - Pollution related to industrial/port activities and urban waste. Analysis of the water waste treatment system.
 - Strong winds/storms: research of damage from past events.
 - Seismic activity/tsunami.
- Give information on the present situation: which are the areas most at risk from natural hazards, as well as from human activities?
- Refer to any scientific studies on hazards which may have been undertaken in the region.
- Refer to any studies on climate change concerning the area.
- Refer to strategies/plans which may have been adopted by regional or local authorities in the interested area to cope with climate change.



Bidart, St Jean-de-Luz (France)

4 - SENSIVITY OF OUR COASTAL AREAS

This chapter describes how your coastal area may react in the face of the hazards and how it is affected by these phenomena (resource loss, changes in the morphology of the coast, hazards to people and other living creatures...).

- Describe the sensitivity concerning the kind of coasts:
 - Sandy coasts.
 - Rocky coast.
 - Coastal marshes.
 - Estuaries.
 - Others.
- Consider direct and indirect effects. For example, with a storm, we can have damage (direct effect) and future erosive consequences (indirect effects).
- Refer to scientific studies about the sensitivity of your local coastal area that may be available.
- Consult experts or scientists about the sensitivity of the coast to obtain any further information that is required to adapt the contents of the guide to the local context.



Galicia (Spain)



5 - EXPOSURE OF GOODS AND STAKES TO RISK

This chapter focuses on human and natural stakes that are likely to be affected by hazards in your coastal area. These stakes will determine the measures and the plans that will be adopted to face the risks.

- Identify the different stakes in your coastal area threatened by hazards:
 - Natural systems: coastal shoreline (dunes, beaches, cliffs etc.), native species.
 - Economic activities: mention the important industrial areas, residential areas, infrastructures, tourism and leisure activities/areas and other human activities in the economic system of the region.
 - Human presence: are there residences threatened by hazards? What risks are there for pedestrians?
- Analyze trends for the coming years (urban planning, etc.) that may increase the risks:
 - Urbanization and littoralization.
 - Leisure and mass tourism activities.
 - Excessive exploitation of water resources: fishing, aquaculture and mineral resources.
 - Others.
- Refer to any scientific studies about these trends that may be of particular relevance to your local coastal area.



Costa de Ribadeo, Galicia (Spain)

6 - NATURAL RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY CAPACITY

This chapter analyses and describes the resilience of your coastal area to hazards, its capacity to absorb them, to adapt to them and to recover from their effects.

- Identify the natural protections and defenses in your coast (“natural coastal infrastructure”) - for instance, beaches, dunes, cliffs, etc. These elements central to the defense capacity of many coastal areas against erosion, flooding, storms.
- Identify examples of areas protected by natural infrastructures
- Refer to any scientific studies about these items of particular local relevance.



Pyla, Aquitaine (France)

7 - POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE COASTAL RISK PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

This chapter analyses potential solutions and measures to enhance the prevention and governance of coastal risks. It also presents some good practices and case studies that may be applicable to the local context or that may inspire new initiatives.

- Describe your governance system with special reference to the management of coastal risks. Make a brief overview of the situation, referring especially to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management approach.
- Describe good practices in your local area:
 - Governance practices: policies, laws, programmes, improvements to institutions...
 - Technical practices: training, coastal protection infrastructures, didactic tools, technical studies, operational tools (databases, GIS, observatories, early warning systems...), thematic networks, etc.
 - Identify examples of good practices and links to tools and collect pictures to illustrate.
- Present an overview of the main options to mitigate erosion and shoreline mobility issues in your local area. Follow the strategies identified in the General guide. Identify hard and soft solutions that may be appropriate.

8 - BIBLIOGRAPHY

Remember to add the bibliography consulted in adapting the guide to your area. Indicate the author, title, place and date.

general considerations for document preparation

- Introduce the contents in a didactic, simple and general manner.
- Collect schemes, examples and pictures to make a pleasant guide for the reader.
- Write a short document (no more than 10 pages). A short guide is more manageable for the reader and is generally more acceptable.





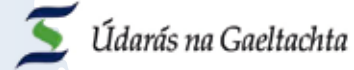
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