

Documentation

B7 Environmental Conference

Baltic Exchange on Sustainable Tourism-
BEST - Project

Sustainable Water Supply - SUSWAT- Project
in the Seven Baltic Sea Islands

24 - 25 October 2000

Sellin/Ruegen,
Germany

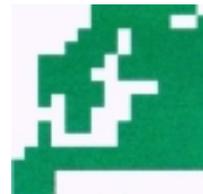


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1. Plenum Session – Tuesday, 24 October 2000

1.1 Welcome speech
Doctor Karin Timmel, county mayor of Rügen

Dear representatives of the Baltic Seven Islands,
Dear guests,
Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome on the island Rügen.

I am glad to welcome the guests of the official governments of Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

I also sincerely welcome all representatives of our partner islands Åland (Finland), Gotland and Öland (Sweden), Saaremaa and Hiiumaa (Estonia) and Bornholm (Denmark).

You have come to Rügen in order to discuss today and tomorrow quite concrete about sustainable developments on our Baltic islands in the sense of the agenda 21.

Especially results of the two common projects SUSWAT (sustainable water supply) and BEST (sustainable tourism), originating from our common strategy of B7, have to be introduced and discussed.

From this discussion we expect further impulses for managing the economical and social tasks today and in future.

Years ago the county of Rügen set themselves the goal to become a model region for a sustainable economical development.

After the reunification of Germany and the social changes in 1990 there was the necessity to demonstrate new economical perspectives which was also a chance to start with this in a new way without overexploitation of nature.

Our task and objective are to create environmental-friendly and also social-friendly tourism as the most important kind of business at our county.

Therefore our district parliament passed a tourism conception already in 1993 with the main objective to further develop and support tourism ecologically, economically and socially.

Many points of that conception have been implemented during the last seven years. But first there was the necessity to create the basics including infrastructure as well as touristic facilities and institutions.

Today we can refer to a good development in tourism and rising numbers of guests. About 65 000 beds in different sorts of accommodation are offered to the tourists on the island Rügen. During the last year about 5,8 million overnight-stays and 1 million arrivals could be registered. Piers, swimming pools, horse farms e.g. were formed. The completion of the network of long distance cycling routes is still under construction. Measures for extensions of the seasons should help to increase the visitor-numbers and ensure full capacities. Last year we could fill our capacities with an average of 35 percent.

Now the environmental quality is more important than ever and is focused by of a lot of measures in the sector of touristic infrastructure and in the tourism industry.

The growing participation of the seaside resorts in the European environmental competition “Blue Flag” - for cleaner beaches and harbours, the participation of companies in the competitions “Environmental-friendly Hotel” and “National Park-friendly Hotel” or in the Eco-Audit, are only some examples showing these developments.

To take into account the regional speciality purposefully, the aim is to create a more intensive identification of our citizens with their islands and underline the importance of our region compared with others.

As an example, two weeks ago an international conference about architecture of seaside resorts took place in Binz. There we could recognise that the special architectural features you can find in our traditional seaside resorts, represent attractions for tourism but also cause identification to a large extend.

Moreover I remember the competitions for supporting our native cuisine and products. We supported the foundation of an association for products from Rügen, which enriches the gastronomy and markets of Rügen by its members as well as by supporting the development of more enterprises.

An important prerequisite for a functioning tourism is a sufficient drinking water supply in good and very good quality. The B7 environmental working group came to a soon agreement about the great importance of water supply for the development of infrastructure. So the common project SUSWAT aimed to ensure a long-term water supply for the B7 islands by their own water. Quantity and quality of the water are facts which are also important for the reputation of a region in tourism competition.

Rügen is in the lucky position to be able to supply the inhabitants and tourists with high quality drinking water. High investments from the sewage association and municipalities could help to build and reconstruct new water supply constructions.

The status report which has been made in the first phase of the project, compiled facts and problems of water supply as well as protection of water resources and put these facts together on similar levels; such as the important water reserves for a future reflection.

Accordingly all islands have sufficient reserves for gaining drinking water, but one problem of nearly all islands are regional deficits in supply that only can be solved with expensive pipelines. Rügen has these problems too. A recent example is the island Hiddensee where the limit of ground water resources has been reached. As a consequence it is forbidden to give further construction permissions on the neighbour island of Rügen.

Dear guests,

We are proud of having two National Parks and one Biosphere Reserve in our county. The foundation of our National Parks and of the Biosphere Reserve also had the purpose to preserve such natural gems for the people in order to ensure recreation and experiences in and by nature.

However, in practice we are always in conflict with overexploitation and destroying the environment by usage, which has to be avoided in favour of environmental-friendly tourism usage.

Such problems like growing motorising and high individual mobility or a building boom at the expense of landscape and settlement-compatible buildings, set new tasks for us to search new ways.

Still at the beginning of the 90's an ecological traffic conception for the Biosphere Reserve in the south-east of Rügen has been created. By a moderation method together with municipalities, representatives of nature conservation and environmental protection as well as traffic experts, a concept of intelligent traffic management was created. Because of financial reasons this concept has not been realised yet.

With regard to environmental-friendly architecture, a working group of architects and building experts, created a handbook for building and architecture.

Also the Regional Tourist Board of Rügen as one representative of the tourism sector declared with a manual of visions, developed in the last year, the priority of protection of natural and cultural landscape as a basis in tourism.

So the points are defined. To put all objectives and programmes into action, an acceptance and participation of everybody is necessary.

We hope the co-operation of the Seven Islands and especially of the environmental conference will bring further impulses for implementation of the many good ideas and programmes. We can only reach sustainability if the ideas and programmes are practicable and feasible and accepted by the people living there when they recognised the benefit.

Now I wish you all a successful conference, stimulating and productive discussions as well as a pleasant stay on the island Rügen.

1.2 Welcome speech

Knud Andersen, chairman of B 7 and mayor of county Bornholm

Dr Timmel, dear guests and friends from B7 islands - ladies and gentlemen.

As chairman for year 2000 in the Baltic Sea Seven Islands Co-operation it is a great pleasure also for me to welcome you to this environmental conference.

For more than 10 years ago the 7 major islands in the Baltic Sea have formed a common interest group. Inspired by the name of the regular meetings between the major international economies – called G7 – we name our co-operation B7 – with a small glimpse of megalomania.

B7 represent 300.000 inhabitants in 5 different countries, with different culture and language. B7 is a good example of the growing international co-operation at local and regional level.

For hundreds of years we have been united by the sea. And we have shared a long and often dramatic history of the Baltic Sea Region.

We have done business, we have fought together in wars or against each other.

Our ancestors have loved or hated each other. In our lifetime we have been separated by the iron curtain and in the last century the land born and the air born transportation have taken over the former dominating role of sailing.

Now we are some islands inside and some islands outside the EU, but B7 is one of several initiatives aiming at better integration, common understanding and narrowing the former distances between our islands.

You could say as Nokia does in their commercials:

- B7 – connecting people !

The main issue of this conference is to present and discuss the results of some recent B7 projects regarding concrete subjects:

Sustainability in tourism and sustainability in water supply,

– but also to seek ideas for continued cooperation in the wide environmental field.

Therefore a number of external speakers are invited to contribute. I also want to give a warm welcome to these speakers and thank them for taking time to enlighten us islanders. I hope you can help to convince us that the world is bigger than just B7. You know – islanders tend to see the world with a horizon very close to their coastline.

B7 is based on a network of different bodies:

A yearly conference – as a general assembly,
a Steering Committee, a B7 group of top civil servants,
and 3 working groups.

Further more we have a representation in Brussels.

This organisation was set up a few years ago, based on political discussions that resulted in a report "The Baltic Sea Islands - a common strategy for the future".

New was the working groups - and the purpose with these groups was to strengthen and deepen our co-operation in the most important fields.

3 working groups were established in 1998:

**Business & Tourism,
Environment and
People-to-People.**

All islands are represented in all groups and the main task for these groups is to initiate and run co-operation projects.

Originally we hoped for a special B7 programme under the EU programme INTERREG IIC, but this turned-up not to be possible.

Therefore we encouraged in 1998 our working groups to set up individual co-operation projects and go for EU co-financing. Each island committed itself to find own co-financing for relevant projects.

The start in 1998 was not easy for all groups. 1999 was better off, and in this years Chairmanship programme for B7 we have created better procedures and financial background for the working groups, with the primary goals:

1. Develop project proposals
2. Obtain co-funding from EU programmes or other international funds to implement these projects.
3. Get projects implemented.

At the moment a good number of project proposals are being developed in all 3 working groups.

But the working group for environment took the lead in 1998, and therefore I am especially pleased with this conference since it presents the first visible results of our efforts for B7 projects in the key fields we have chosen.

And I think the themes of the projects have a major importance.

But as you can see in the program for tomorrow is it also the intention of the conference to look forward regarding B7 co-operation.

This gives me the opportunity to present one of the preconditions for the development of the B7.

Financial tools must be ensured by the national governments. On the Western side from national budgets and on the Eastern side from PHARE- and TACIS-allocations.

The current multilateral EU-programmes for small projects are being abandoned. This is breaking the continuity of a valuable process and leaves regional authorities to national, bilateral top-down driven financial support only.

Since we share a common objective to link the societies in our region, islands must be included in the process in order to ensure a strong commitment from regional and local authorities. Therefore it is absolutely necessary to give the regional and local authorities legal right and the economic resources to engage in co-operation with each other..

Finally I will express my hope for an enjoyable and useful conference for all of you, where information about B7 will be broadened and where new ideas for B7 will be developed and new contacts between interest groups and professionals from our islands will be created. And also create new interest for B7 amongst people outside our islands.

Thank you.

1.3 B7 Islands – Environmental Cooperation
Jørgen Jespersen, chairman of B7 Environmental Group

B7 WG ENVIRONMENT

Group Members

Bornholm:	Jørgen Jespersen
Gotland:	Bengt-Olof Grahn
Hiiumaa:	Ruuben Post
Rügen:	Bodo Noack
Saaremaa:	Anu Vares
Öland:	Mats Lindahl
Åland:	Helena Blomqvist

B7 WG ENVIRONMENT

How we work

Since January 1997:

- Regular Meetings
- E-Mail
- Video Meetings
- Areas/ Co-op. Paper
- 2 y's Work Programmes
- Staff Exchange
- Projects
- Conferences
- Homepage

B7 WG ENVIRONMENT

Some themes/projects

- COASTAL OIL POLLUTION
- B7 ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

- SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
- SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY
- NATURE MANAGEMENT
- ENERGY INFORMATION SYSTEM

- B7 STONE DAY
- PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

- COASTAL ALGAE PROBLEMS

1.4 Project BEST – short presentation
Bengt-Olof Grahn, project coordinator

BEST



- **The BEST project** stands for **B7 Exchange on Sustainable Tourism**
It has been going on since April 1999. The first meeting was in Tallinn, Estonia.
The project will go on until March year 2001.
- **Partners in this project are:**
Bornholm, Gotland, Rügen, Åland, Öland
- From the beginning we hoped that also Saaremaa and Hiiumaa will be partners. But the financing via the Phare programme did not work. Therefore Saaremaa and Hiiumaa could only participate as associated partners.
- **Other associated partner are:**
 - Bornholm Research Centre, Nexö (Denmark)
 - Gotland University College, Visby (Sweden)
 - Estonian ECO-tourism Association, Pärnu (Estonia)
 - Societe D'Eco-Aménagement, Montpellier (France)
 - Kalmar University College, Kalmar (Sweden)

The objectives of the project are:

- ✓ To create an inter-island cooperation network to promote the development of sustainable tourism, that we know when we come to the 7 islands that we behave in such a manner that we don't ruin our nature and cultural heritage
- ✓ To establish common systems for codes of conduct, bench-marking and quality control
- ✓ To adopt and publish a Green Paper
"Sustainable tourism in the B7 islands - definitions and markets"
- ✓ We also want to initiate at least three development projects
- ✓ We want to make a B7 contribution to the VASAB and Baltic Agenda 21 processes

BEST



What has been done. Today we will hear the results of these different objectives. The inter-island network and the establishment of a new homepage has been a task for Öland to work with. Common systems of codes of conduct has been the task for Åland. The Green Paper work is a task for Bornholm. There is a report about the 3 development projects we have worked on Gotland with. In Saaremaa there was a proposal to make a B7 cooking book. This is a joint B7-project under construction which was taken up from the people-to-people-group.

ACTIVITIES SO FAR:

- There have been 3 project coordination meetings.
- We have made two B7 update reports at the beginning of this programme - an International overview & B7 Benchmark and update report.
- We have had the **BEST** conference on Saaremaa 30 September 1999 with 120 delegates from all islands.
- We have printed two **BEST** Newsletters printed.
- We have made the first progress activity- and finance report and received the money from INTERRGE IIC.
- Work has started on all projects: Green Paper, Codes of conduct, Homepage & **BEST** network and ECO-auditing in Öland.
- We have had a workshop on Spatial planning in Copenhagen 2000.
- The pilot projects have started - a Proposal for a new Intereg III project on Spatial Planning & B7 cooking book.

Ideas from workshops in Saaremaa 1999

Some Ideas which came up at the Saaremaa conference were as follows.

- Organise a common B7 festival with different themes
- Reduce the amount of waste from the touristsector by using recyclable articles.
- Try a common marketing of the B7 islands.
- Request for a common B7 tourist information.
- Create a newsletter within B7 about sustainable tourism done by a professional journalist
- A common B7 Cooking book (went into the people-to-people groups)
- B7 seminars for the development of the touristsector.

Some of these ideas are going on and working. However some of them are still laying there and waiting for initiative of people to take care for.

- 1.5 Project SUSWAT – short presentation
 Jørgen Jespersen, project coordinator

Baltic Sea Islands - Planning and Management of Sustainable Water Supply

B7 SUSWAT

Objectives

- Exchange knowledge and information between the B7 islands about planning and management of sustainable water supply
- Encourage integration of water sustainability in the spatial planning process
- Bring up concrete and relevant ideas for better protection of water resources, for more effective water savings etc.
- Start up demonstration of new sustainable solutions to planning and management of sustainable water supply in the islands

Outputs

Status report 1998 with an overview of the existing planning and managing of the water supply in the B7 islands.

6 idea catalogues, each describing good solutions and ideas regarding different themes for sustainable water supply in islands.

A pilot project in each island where some of the ideas from the catalogue are demonstrated in full scale.

Establishing a B7 Water Supply Network.

Make B7 known as front runners regarding planning and management of sustainable water supply.

Financing

	EU funds	Island funds	TOTAL
Bornholm	42 000	42 000	84 000
Gotland	30 000	31 000	61 000
Hiiumaa	99 000	25 000	124 000
Rügen	60 000	20 000	80 000
Saaremaa	101 000	25 000	126 000
Öland	29 000	29 000	58 000
Åland	31 000	30 000	61 000
TOTAL	392 000	202 000	594 000

EU funding:

INTERREG IIC	191 575 €
PHARE/Interreg	200 388 €

Idea Catalogues

- Planning of Sustainable Water Supply
- Sustainable Water Resources
- Sustainable Protection of Water Resources
- Dimensioning Sustainable Water Systems
- Technical Solutions in Water Supply
- The Consumer in the Water Supply System

Pilot Projects

Bornholm

Guidelines for Action Plans for Local Groundwater Protection.

Hiiumaa

New Water Supply System in the Villages of Lauka and Kõrgessaare

Gotland

Mapping Groundwater Resources in Gotland.

Rügen

Investigating Salt in Soils and Groundwater in Catchment Areas

Saaremaa

New Waterworks in the Town of Orissaare.

Öland

Tests of COD-Reduction in Surface Water used for Infiltration to Groundwater

Åland

Investigating New Water Supply System in village in Föglö

1.6 Project SUSWAT – Baltic Sea problems
Jørgen Jespersen, project coordinator

The Baltic Sea is the largest brackish-water in the world.

Area 413 000 km²
Volume 21 000 km³
Mean depth 55 m (max 460 m)
17 % shallower than 10 m.

Drainage basin >1 800 000 km²

77 million inhabitants
Heavily industrialised
Large areas of intensive agriculture

Run off – approx 500 km³ year
Long residence time – approx 30 years. Very susceptible for pollution.

Growing eutrophication. Load of N doubled and load of P 4-doubled since 1950

European Environmental Agency in
"Europe's Environment" 1995:

Baltic Sea Conclusions

- Environment has deteriorated rapidly in many parts since 1950.
- Human activity also responsible the increase of certain natural substances.
- Eutrophication affects the whole Baltic Sea, especially the coastal areas.
- Intensity of toxic blooms has increased.
- Fish stocks partly benefit from moderate but not high eutrophication.
- Level of DDT and PCB has decreased since 1970, but toxic organic compounds is a major threat to the ecosystem.

2. Workshops

2.1 Workshop BEST

2.1.1 Results of BEST projects

Mr. Johansson stated that the conference is not the end of the project, there are 3 more months left for work. He underlined the positive results that most of the projects have come as far as they are at the moment.

The Green Paper, which was a task to be developed from the partner Bornholm, includes a SWOT-analysis of the five islands Rügen, Bornholm, Öland, Gotland and Åland, which is the basis for further strategies on all B7 islands. The Green paper gives first recommendations on necessary actions. However it has to be further developed within the next 3 months and also after the expiration of the project period. Ann Hartl from Bornholm Research Centre pointed out in the discussion that the Green Paper is useful for all islands who should cooperate on some points. However she did not recommend to attempt to do joint marketing for the reason that these islands have common markets and are competitors to each others. There is a need to exchange ideas, but the work has to be done locally.

Moreover there is a need to measure the local populations interest and the satisfaction of visitors with indicators which calls for qualitative methods. Such indicators have to be developed too. It is planned to take up the indicators, which have been agreed upon by Destination 21, the Danish pilot project on sustainable destination, into the Green Paper.

The **Codes of Conduct**, presented from Åland, was a first approach to develop guidelines or so called doe's and don'ts for tourists. This example should make other islands think about their own regulations. It was said that it is almost impossible to have common codes of conduct for all B7 islands for the reason that they differ very much in their culture and nature. However Mr. Johansson concluded that, despite the disparities, there might be a B7 dimension also on codes of conduct which could be added.

The question which was raised about the acceptance of codes of conducts by tourists could not be definitely answered because there was no follow-up work to measure the acceptance. Generally tourists visiting the B7 islands are interested in cultural tourism and focus very much on the people of the places they visit. For this reason they would value such codes of conduct as recommendations how to behave in the local community. Anyway this has to be investigated to find out whether these regulations are accepted or not.

Another question which came up was about other codes of conduct towards the investors and tourism industry. There is also a need for regulations and recommendations in this field which could be incorporated in the Green Paper as it is a matter of spatial development. This problem is more relevant on Rügen than it is on the other islands. Especially Bornholm, Åland and Gotland have a strong focus of how the architecture should fit in. Rules are already existing. There is a need for a framework to make these rules workable.

The **inter-island networking and a proposal for a Website** was presented by Öland. There is a need for further development concerning the content in order to make it a working tool. Whether the stakeholders use this website or not is not up to the stakeholders but depending on the content and quality of the website and how urgent the stakeholders feel to visit this site. Therefore all islands must assist Öland to move forward and make it a qualitative homepage for the tourism industry which is worth to visit.

From the University of Kalmar, some **ECO-auditing measures** taking place at campingsites on Öland were presented. This was a rather new field as EU has just started an initiative with an EMAS process where the B7 islands could also benefit from. However there is a need for a more general approach that would enlighten the operators and stakeholders of all islands in this field.

Mr. Wigsten presented results from a **research for a community initiative concerning transnational cooperation on spatial development planning**. This was a task to be undertaken by Gotland. For the reason that there is a deficit in cross-sectoral partnerships and funding, a proposal was made to establish a BEST-Fond for sustainable tourism development which functions cross-sectoral and transnational. This fund is connected to an action plan and a strategy. Stakeholders can apply for funding. Furthermore Mr. Wigsten pointed out that it is more useful to initiate single pilot projects on each island than to have multiple island projects. Each island can learn from the pilot projects of other islands. Mr. Johansson added that especially the "honeypots" (key areas for tourism) have a lot of users of the nature but very few paying to preserve it. He came to the conclusion that there is a necessity to involve the business sector and to mix public funds and co-financing from the business sector. It was concluded that the BEST-Fond would be an interesting way to bring stakeholders together

More about projects can be read in the published papers of the responsible islands.

2.2. Workshop SUSWAT- Results

At the 4th Steering Group meeting in Bornholm in January 2000 the content of the pilot projects was discussed. Most of the islands had already (at this early stage) a rather clear view on possible and relevant themes for their pilot project. Also the disparity amongst the projects was interesting; together they would cover a wide range of themes.

Based on the discussions in the Steering Group each island prepared its pilot project in March and April 2000 and the projects could start-up in May and run for 3-4 month. Different local consultants were involved besides the B7 SUSWAT consultant: HOH, Water Technology, Denmark.

Here is a very short presentation of each of the seven Pilot Projects. More can be read in the report "B7 SUSWAT Pilot Projects" published in December 2000.

Bornholm

Guidelines for Action Plans for Local Groundwater Protection.

In Denmark new legislation has initiated detailed regional mapping of the groundwater resources. This mapping will - over a decade - uncover so-called Action Areas where special protection activity is foreseen to be necessary to prevent pollution of the groundwater reservoirs. For each of these Action Areas a specific plan – an Action Plan – must be drawn-up and carried out.

The purpose of the B7 SUSWAT pilot project was:

- to set up local guidelines for how to create and how to accomplish Action Plans, especially in areas with intensive farming,
- to use the guidelines to start-up an Action Plan for a specific Action Area in the municipality of Nexø, which is the first Action Area mapped by County of Bornholm.

The guidelines have been set up by HOH Water Technology, Denmark, in co-operation with a local steering group. The content is presented in the "box" below. The report was ready (1st edition) July 2000. It is also available in English.

Furthermore a draft for an Action Plan for Nexø Waterworks has been developed.. This Action Plan will be finalized and implemented in 2001. One vital part will be a contract with 1-2 farmers about changes in rotation of crops and in handling of Chemicals.

Content of report on guidelines to ACTION PLANNING (26 pages) in local water protection.

Definition of goals – quantification of need for action

Establishing of an action group

Information and hearing

Coordination with other planning

Means

- *Regulating farming*
- *Averting pollution from a former point source*
- *Regulating polluting industry*
- *Information campaign*
- *Purchase of land*
- *Spatial planning regulations*
- *Monitoring*
- *Rationalization of water extraction and water consumption*
- *Tracing and proper closing of leaking or disused wells*
- *Regulating wastewater and solid waste*
- *Moving extraction wells*

- *Establishing infiltration plants*
Financing
- *Subsidy Schemes*
- *County funds for removing former point sources*
Negotiations with land owners
Content of the Action Plan
Preparation of a contingency plan

Hiiumaa

Establishing a New Water Supply System in the villages of Lauka and Kõrgessaare.

Lauka is a village with 200 inhabitants. The village was supplied with water from four wells and four separate waterworks. The iron content in the water was relatively high.

The B7 SUSWAT pilot project has established a common water supply system with the first water treatment facility in the island. Consultants have been HOH Water Technology, Denmark, and Estonian consultant agencies.

The result of the pilot project is a modern and economical water supply system in the village of Lauka. Instead of the four old pump stations with the total power capacity of 12 kW we now have only one pump station with the power capacity of 3 kW. Water loss has decreased by establishing new pipelines. The preliminary tests of the water treatment facility have given very good results and the technology of treatment is recommended to solve similar problems in other small waterworks on Hiiumaa.

Gotland

Mapping of estimated Groundwater Resources in Gotland.

The water supply in Gotland is depending on groundwater and many households get their drinking water from single wells.

The purpose of the B7 SUSWAT pilot project has been

- to improve the knowledge about the local groundwater resources and
- to set up a useful tool, mainly in relation to spatial planning.

Consultant has been The Geological Survey of Sweden (SGU).

The resulting information from the project is a total mapping of the island with estimates of the amount of ground water that in a sustainable way can be extracted from single wells, given as max. number of properties per hectare. The mapping is available both in paper and in GIS.

Rügen

Salt and Brackish Water in Soils and Groundwater of Catchment Areas of the Island of Rügen.

Salt (Chloride) in groundwater can make the water unusable. The human impact on the salt content in the ground water is visible in two areas:

- Flooding of sea water can be a possible mean by wetland restoration in coastal areas. This is at least planned in Rügen.
- Salting of roads in wintertime is a normal safeguard in many areas. This can also affect the quality of the groundwater.

The B7 SUSWAT pilot project has focused on salt distribution and salt migration in the groundwater in relation to these two areas.

Consults have been HGN Hydrologie GnbH, Germany.

The main results are:

1. In the monitored water wells in the island of Hiddensee close to the coast the approved water extraction has to be supervised exactly. The capacity of the wells cannot be increased further.
2. The wetland restoration in Polder Neuensien for natural moor growth by opening or removing of dikes and natural brackish water flooding has to take in consideration the ground water protection. In catchment areas and ground water protection zones respectively such measures should be allowed only if infiltration of Chloride into the groundwater is completely impossible. The influence of brackish water was detectable 50- 60 meters inland from the coastline in the area of investigation.
3. The use of salt on a Federal Road (No 196 near Lancken-Granitz) as winter safeguarding for many years has increased the salt concentration in upper soil layers but without influence - so far - to the groundwater. The wells are situated only 20-50 meter from the road.

Saaremaa

Establishing a New Waterworks in the Town of Orissaare.

The town of Orissaare has nearly 1500 inhabitants. The water supply so far has been based on untreated groundwater from one old well near the coast. The water quality has not followed the Estonian regulations.

The pilot project has been carried out by the Association of Local Authorities of Saaremaa in co-operation with the consultants of the B7 SUSWAT project and the local community of Orissaare.

There has been erected a modern drinking water purification plant aiming at a sustainable water supply with drinking water quality according to EU standards.

The groundwater treatment equipment is delivered by WATER SYSTEMS Ltd. from UK. The pilot project was started in the spring 2000 and December 12, 2000, the new waterworks was inaugurated.

The B7 SUSWAT pilot project has co-financed the new waterworks.

Öland

Tests of COD-Reduction in Surface Water used for Infiltration to Groundwater.

In Öland artificial infiltration of surface water into the groundwater is becoming more and more needed to fulfil the demand for drinking water.

The pilot project has aimed at testing a new method for lowering the content of organic material (COD) in the surface water before infiltration in the ground..

As part of the pilot project the municipality of Borgholm in Öland has set up a test plant at the Waterworks of Löttorp, and the test have been running 10.7-1.8.2000.

The results show a COD reduction up to 74 % achieved in the pilot tests, resulting in a COD-concentration in the outgoing water of 5,7 mg/l.

Based on this it is planned to use the method in full scale in some waterworks in the island.

Åland

Investigating the Possibilities for New Well Field and Water Supply System in village Stentorpa, Föglö.

The purpose of this pilot project was to find new ways to solve the water supply for the small island Föglö municipality with a new well field and a new supply system.

During the initial fieldwork a number of unforeseen threats were detected inside or close to the proposed new catchment area (See figure below). Especially an old small dumpsite was found problematic.

Furthermore a pilot well drilling showed low capacity and poor water quality.

Based on the results from the pilot project the municipality has now to decide whether the project shall continue in full scale or not. And the experiences have also shown a need for surveys and planning of polluting activities.

3. Plenum Session - Wednesday, 25 October 2000

- 3.1 The spatial development in the Baltic Sea Region –
VASAB 2010 and INTERREG II C
Dr. Wilfried Görmar; federal office for building and regional planning, Bonn
-

**Programmes and Actions on Spatial Development in the Baltic Sea Region VASAB 2010 Plus und INTERREG
(Contribution to B7 Environmental Conference on sustainable tourism and sustainable water supply in the Baltic Sea Seven Islands - 24/25 October, Rügen)**

Background

In a Europe that grows together new challenges emerge towards sustainable development. Active contributions of spatial planners are required. Modern spatial planning becomes therefore more action- and project-oriented and looks beyond national borders. In the Baltic Sea region, there is already a long tradition of co-operation. In the field of spatial planning, this is connected with VASAB 2010 - Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010, with the adoption of a common vision in 1994 and of the "Stockholm declaration on Sustainable Spatial Development Policy" and more specified actions in 1996.

Both documents and the underlying process provided the basis for the Operational Programme of the Community Initiative INTERREG II C concerning transnational co-operation on spatial planning for the Baltic Sea Region. It was put into effect by the end of 1997 after approval from the EU Commission.

This process was accompanied on European level. The EU Ministers responsible for Spatial planning had adopted the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) in May 1999 in Potsdam and an ESDP Action Programme in October 1999 in Tampere. INTERREG was considered an important instrument towards achieving sustainable spatial development, thus implementing the ESDP.

Moreover, closer co-operation with third countries is envisaged. This includes also countries which have not declared the intention to join EU. In the framework of the Council of Europe, European States have therefore adopted "Guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent" at the CEMAT conference in September 2000 in Hannover. This document associates Europe-wide the politically enforced project-oriented cooperation with a common vision. In order to facilitate that cooperation, a better coordination of financing instruments (in particular INTERREG, PHARE, TACIS) on the EU side was requested. At the same time the non Member States of the EU agreed to explore their own possibilities of achieving better cooperation between the programmes concerned.

In the framework of INTERREG II C, 45 projects have been launched and are still in process. They involved around 50 Million EURO of ERDF and national funds as well as additional funding from other EU programmes (PHARE, TACIS) and from Non-EU countries. One of the projects is "VASAB 2010 Plus – Spatial Development Action Programme", a co-operation project of ministries and institutions responsible for spatial planning of all 11 BSR States. It provided focal points for the INTERREG III B programme concerning analysis, evaluation of ongoing INTERREG projects and key themes for BSR spatial development. The following key themes are envisaged from VASAB.

1. Co-operation of urban regions on key issues of sustainable development
2. Strategic development zones important for transnational integration within the BSR
3. Transnational transport links important for integration across-BSR and with Europe, and for intermodality, including port-hinterland links
4. Diversification and strengthening of rural economies
5. Transnational green networks including cultural landscapes
6. Integrated management of coastal zones and islands

Through prioritising future projects and actions, further inputs for project generation under INTERREG III B are expected in 2001.

These themes have been taken over into the INTERREG programme, specified and further developed towards measures in the draft INTERREG III B programme for BSR.

Other activities in BSR such as Northern Dimension Action Plan as adopted at the European Council in June 2000, further implementation of Agenda Baltic 21 and further specification of Pan-European transport networks have also influenced both, the VASAB process and the elaboration of INTERREG III B programme.

Preparation of the Community Initiative Programme (CIP)

Note: The following remarks on the CIP are interim results of a drafting process and might be changed according to decisions of the EU Commission and the Member States.

The CIP has been prepared based on the guidelines on the “Community Initiative concerning trans-European co-operation to encourage harmonious and balanced development of the European territory” (INTERREG III) B as published in the Official Journal, Brussels C 143/6, on 23 May 2000.

All 11 BSR States which took part in implementing INTERREG II C, declared their willingness, to participate also in the preparation and implementation of the new CIP for INTERREG III B for the period 2000 – 2006: The four EU-Member States Denmark, Finland, Germany and Sweden and the Non-EU States Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Russia. The Government of Åland will also further take part.

The **eligible area** in the Member States is defined as follows:

Denmark: The whole of country

Finland: The whole country,

Germany: The Federal States (Länder) of Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Schleswig-Holstein and Niedersachsen (only NUTS II area Regierungsbezirk Lüneburg),

Sweden: The whole country.

For the participating Non EU States, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Poland are included as a whole. Belorussian area covers the four Oblasts Minsk, Grodno, Brest and Vitebsk. Russian areas cover St Petersburg and surrounding Leningrad Oblast, Karelian Republic, the Oblasts of Kaliningrad, Murmansk, Novgorod and Pskov. For projects concerning the Barents Region, also co-operation with Archangelsk Oblast and Nenzen Okrug is envisaged.

Main features of the OP

Part I starts with a comprehensive analysis of recent development trends in the Baltic Sea Region. Each project application should address issues specifically relevant for the BSR as identified in the analytical background and take account of principal issues for spatial planning and development of the BSR are described in the following chapter 2. Spatial

consequences of EU enlargement as described in chapter 3 have to be considered through the programme. Ongoing political co-operation in Europe and in the Baltic Sea Region (chapter 4) leads to conclusions towards the Interreg III B programme. Lessons from the ongoing Interreg II C programme have also been taken into account.

Part II contains a vision on desired spatial development in the Baltic Sea Region a SWOT analysis of the recent situation and subsequent strategic objectives. Part II, chapter 6 forms the core part of the programme. Based on analysis and strategic objectives set out before, the thematic priorities including related measures and actions are described which will be promoted and financed by the Interreg III B programme.

For further guidance, chapter 7 includes a list of basic selection criteria for future projects.

In chapter 8, compliance of the programme with EU policies is explained. In addition complementarity with other EU programmes in the region has been looked upon to avoid overlaps but guarantee synergy effects between programmes.

Chapter 9 lays down the financial provisions of the programme including the Financial Plan.

Part III, chapter 10 sets out the joint implementation structure and procedures of the programme. Responsibilities, functions and tasks of the implementing authorities and organisations are described.

Chapter 11 includes the description on how the ex-ante evaluation has been organised in parallel to the programme preparation process. It also says how the recommendations and findings of the ex-ante evaluators were taken into account.

Compared to the predecessor programme INTERREG II C, the new Community Initiative Programme for INTERREG III B has introduced the following changes:

- A more active involvement of representatives of Non-EU countries even in immediate programme working groups
- An extended co-operation area concerning the Barents Region and land parts in all countries except for Finland and the Baltic States which took part with the whole territory already under INTERREG II C
- A more comprehensive analysis
- A stronger focus of actions concerning themes and measures, priority areas, character of projects
- A better integration of spatial development and regional policies
- Implementation of dynamism on further guiding the programme through calls for projects (pro-active approach)
- Further development of the BSR implementation model, taking into account also experience of other programmes e.g. concerning the Lead Partner principle
- Building on experience gained under INTERREG II C and other initiatives and programmes, such as Barents Sea co-operation and Swebaltcop
- Stronger differentiation of tasks of the different implementation bodies (MC/SC, Secretariat) and strengthening advisory functions of joint secretariat and Member State representatives
- Supporting stronger involvement of private actors and public-private partnerships in project funding
- Considering possible spending of money for project development (“seed money approach”)
- Involving an ex-ante evaluation team in all steps of programme preparation
- Distinguishing between Programme and Programme Complement.

The Operational Programme shall support the development of a future-oriented spatial structure and contribute to better living conditions for people and business environment for enterprises in the region by:

- Expanding BSR economy and strengthening its position in the global economy
- increasing level of BSR integration
- promoting a territorial balance by supporting weak points and building on strong points
- forming a sustainable part of Europe
- utilising efficiently the limited resources

Operational Goals of the programme are:

- to promote an integrated multi-sector approach
- to support and further develop a long-term spatial development perspective
- to create and support transnational co-operation integrating sub-national authorities
- to support concrete measures focused on overcoming problems and exploiting potentials

For diminishing main disparities, the programme will also have a geographical focus. Especially overcoming East-West and North-South divide shall receive emphasis in the programme. In particular, integration of areas in the Southern and Eastern BSR – of the Baltic States, Belarus, Poland, Russia, of Northern Germany, especially of the New German Länder will be promoted. With regard to EU enlargement and a possibly isolated location for Kaliningrad, the programme will try to intensify co-operation with Russia. The programme will also contribute to implementation of Northern Dimension action plan. The Barents Region will be incorporated in transnational co-operation schemes. Concerning institution building together with CEEC countries, the example given by Swebaltcop programme and other co-operation schemes should be followed and further developed.

Besides diminishing disparities, the programme will also encourage action to strengthen major urban regions and the more densely populated areas and to use their capacity in terms of R&D, Service, ITC, etc. more intensively for further development of the whole region.

The objectives and strategies of the programme will be implemented through the following priorities and measures:

Priority 1: Promotion of spatial development approaches and actions for specific territories and sectors

Measure 1: Supporting preparation and implementation of strategies for macro-regions

Measure 2: Promoting sustainable development of specific sectors

Measure 3: Strengthening sustainable development of coastal zones, islands and other specific areas

Priority 2: Promotion of territorial structures supporting sustainable BSR development

Measure 1: Promoting the development of balanced polycentric settlement structures

Measure 2: Creating sustainable communication links for improved spatial integration

Measure 3: Enhancing good management of cultural and natural heritage and of natural resources

Priority 3: Promotion of institution building, strengthening transnational spatial development

Priority 4: Technical Assistance to support transnational co-operation

-
- Among the issues that are specifically highlighted in the measures are sustainable tourism and sustainable water management. (see overheads).
-

The activities undertaken in the framework of INTERREG III B are understood as system, comprising the following categories:

- Transnational studies and promotion of spatial development concepts,
- Further investigations (related to the above category) which support preparation of investments (environmental and territorial impact assessment, regional and land use plans, technical and economic studies and expertise),
- Financing of structures which implement results gained through transnational investigations (e.g. regional development managers, moderators and agencies),
- Concrete small-scale infrastructure investment (based on preparatory transnational investigations and studies, and being regarded as a first step towards larger investments),
- Marketing strategies based on the project results bridging the planning phase with market-oriented activities.

Each category of measure should thus be result or part of transnational investigations or concepts and cannot be chosen only from national or regional context. In that respect, also small-scale infrastructure within the whole spectrum of ERDF measures can be financed. It should however demonstrate the implementation of transnational investigations and spatial development concepts (which are results of previous INTERREG II C projects or part of new projects), complete existing infrastructure or form as far as possible a visible/independent part of new infrastructure (where the completion is supported through other public programmes or private initiative). Examples of such small scale infrastructure might be information and innovation centres of transnational importance including soft- and hardware provisions, ICT networks, water management, thematic (tourist) routes, parts of buildings or building complexes (like entrance premises) information centres for tourist purposes, booking centres, demonstration and pilot projects. The programme will not provide any finance for large infrastructure investments.

In addition, transnational exchange of experience on key BSR issues, training of professional staff together with participants from Non-EU-States and improvement of information basis might form part of projects.

Financing

The total budget for the EU part of the programme is MEURO, of which **91,5 MEURO**. Norway will participate with national funds and has foreseen an amount of 6 MEURO. For Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland, the EU Phare programme and national funds were identified as potential funding sources. Poland has foreseen to allocate an indicative amount of 2-3 MEURO for the period until 2003. For Russia and Belarus, funds from the EU Tacis programme and also national funds will be considered. Bilateral aid schemes and other sources will be further explored.

Programme implementation and management structure

The programme will be jointly implemented and managed by the 4 EU Member States together with all 7 partner countries, which will have equal voting rights in the Monitoring and in the Steering Committee (MC/SC). Representatives of the regions of the EU Member States and of the Åland islands will also be present in the MC and SC. In addition, several other actors, including regional and local authorities and social partners, will be represented in national Sub-Committees. Pan-Baltic organisations such as VASAB may act in advisory capacity.

The joint management structure consists of

- A joint Monitoring Committee
- A joint Steering Committee
- National Sub-Committees
- A Joint Secretariat
- A Joint Financial Body

In the **Programme Complement**, information on detailed measures and quantifying indicators, on categories of final beneficiaries, on financing of each measure (including public co-financing and estimated private contributions) and financing instruments, on selection criteria for ranking projects as well as on information and publicity will be provided.

Guidelines and procedures for applying the Lead Partner principle will be outlined in the Subsidy contract. Technical requirements for project applications will be provided in an applicants package.

3.2 The role of the business sector in the work for a cleaner Baltic Sea Ingvar Mattsson, responsible for Baltic Sea 2008

Mr. Mattsson introduced two main issues in his presentation: a healthy Baltic Sea and sustainable tourism. There is a brochure available for the first theme called: „Towards a healthy Baltic Sea“. This project aims to improve the environmental state of the Baltic Sea until the year 2008. Three indicators should help in the future to measure achieved results.: water transparency, healthy fish and healthy seals. A time schedule is also set up to ensure success.

Sustainable Tourism

Sustainability in tourism became necessary through different aspects. The determined reason is the growing number of tourists in the Baltic Sea area and therefore the increased consumption. That causes the question: Who will take responsibility for future developments ? The need for a sustainable tourism is also forced by the economical success of companies, the increased tax income and employment and satisfied inhabitants in the different destinations in the Baltic Sea area. Another explanation is obvious: The wide range of tourism products in destinations. Sustainability is carried by three pillars:

1. Ecology
2. Economy
3. Social & Cultural background

Therefore only partnerships between the tourism industry, administrations of municipalities, counties & countries and scientists can lead sustainable tourism to accomplishment. It also will be important in the future to develop partnerships between destinations. But different criteria has to be sorted out before establishing such co-operation:

- This partnership should have a unique, unmistakable profile (USP).
- The turnover/income should be big enough to carry the whole project.
- An organisation must be instituted to ensure a smooth course of all matters.

So how sustainable tourism can be developed ? This often is a process which takes years. Following following off is recommended:

1. Develop a strategy.
2. Define goals to achieve.
3. Try to find indicators to measure whether goals were achieved or not.
4. Set up a communication strategy within your partnership.
5. Enforce legalisation of your plans.
6. Develop an action plan and
7. Lead parties.

It is important that every authority, company and organisation and company is involved in every decision and every step. An auditing method should be set up to see which tasks of the plan are fulfilled yet. Different examples show that such co-operation can be successful. Indicators were prepared and tested already in the counts of Västergötland and the community of Boden. The co-op between St. Petersburg/Stockholm and Piteå/Uleåborg are on the way. There are even partnerships European wide (Ireland) and overseas (New Hampshire, New

Mexico). The B7-group is not the only collaboration in our area. Besides the B7-Islands other organisation like South East Baltic Region, The Bothnian Bow, BPO, Baltic Bridges i.e. endeavour to improve tourism standards in the Baltic Sea Region.

A general goal of sustainable tourism can be described as follows:

„Sustainable tourism is necessary to guarantee that any form of tourist development or activity respects the environment, long-term conservation of natural and cultural resources, and it's socially and economically acceptable and equitable.“

There are different indicators for the economical and ecological success of tourism:

- Number of hotel overnight stays.
- Number of tourism sector employed personal.
- Tourism sector share of GDP.
- Number of SME's with EMAS/ Environmental Management Systems

The number of destinations with local partnerships can be enlisted to see how far the process of sustainability of tourism is developed yet. To control and check the actions the current conditions must be recorded. Index figures like spending, turnover, job generation, and tax revenues are suitable. Different things (product, market, environment, operations) influence actions and the whole process. To avoid mistakes the recommended index figures should be compared regularly with the aims/goals which were defined before. So failures can be corrected immediately.

A Sustainable Tourism Management System Model (STMS) was developed to support interested destinations or companies. The core of such system is the partnership network and it's management-criteria:

- Business policy.
- Business plan.
- Management plans.
- Indicator assessment.
- Associates.
- The Destination.
- External interest parties.

The network should link the three main systems in sustainability:

- Economic System
- Socio-Cultural System
- Ecological System

The documentation management and the state of integration of all partners influences every management criteria.

3.3 A project proposal on Spatial planning
Jan Wigsten, Eco Tour Production AB, Gotland

SUMMARY

It is proposed that:

- a) The B7 create a joint Fund for Spatial Development Planning of Travel & Tourism. The Fund should have a board of directors with representatives from all the islands, who will decide on the dissemination of the funds. Co-funding could be sought from the Baltic Sea Funds.
- b) The activities of the Fund are outlined in a Strategy and Action Plan. A multidisciplinary professional consultancy is required to bring this together in one document. Co-funding could be sought from Interreg III for this initial phase.
- c) There is a need for a Program Officer to provide a platform for the work thus working for and reporting to the board of directors.
- d) The fund needs to be properly marketed. The Program Officer is responsible for information dissemination across the islands.

Justification: The spatial consequences of tourism growth are typically felt at key tourist attractions and sites. Travel & Tourism growth need direction, especially in view of the sector having many micro-enterprises, of which perhaps a majority are seasonal. A major share of consumer spending increase during the summer season, and is also captured by shops and other enterprises that feel they are only marginally connected to Travel & Tourism as such. Thus, it is a large industry with a large number of loosely connected micro-enterprises. Only Gotland, Åland and Bornholm have Destination Management Organisations.

Tourist's need something to do while on holiday, which often take place at the key sites such as beaches, townscapes, archeological sites, nature reserves etc. Such key areas are often commonly owned and a large number of stakeholders need to be involved, representing many different interest groups, often is a major problem and it hampers tourism development since it is hard to agree on financing. Such key sites are vital for the future competitiveness, and should be considered as Development Assets for Travel & Tourism planning and need proper management. Such key sites are typically not owned by tourism firms, however, it does not rule out they partly use these. The key sites are often important recreation areas for the local cross-sectoral partnerships, many times involving a wide range of stakeholders, are required to undertake coordinated action.

It is believed to be most practical to outline in a Strategy and Action Plan what need to be done, and communicate this widely. The Action Plan should detail what actions will be eligible for funding, and by doing so, have the stakeholders to group themselves around these tasks so that ownership of the program can be extended from a wide range of interested people and entities.

This proposal recognise the need to build a good competitive position for the B7 islands in Travel & Tourism, since it is a key sector for our future economic development, as well as for other European peripheral areas. The natural resources are critical for a balanced and sustainable Spatial Development of Travel & Tourism. Such natural resources provides added value for the entire sector, but it do not share the characteristic which other commonly owned natural resources such as oil, mineral and forests. For the latter there exist elaborate concession arrangements for the private sector for ist responsible use and exploration. When agreed and the concession fee have been paid there are clear-cut rules for activities such of re-

forestation and restoration of the areas. The absence of such mechanisms and the absence of „ownership“ is a key problem area in all Travel & Tourism Spatial Development and if not closely monitored, it has the ability to over-develop and destroy irreplaceable key resources for future use.

- 3.4 B7 as test area for new environmental initiatives?
Ulf Johansson, Director of regional development unit of Gotland Municipality
and BEST coordinator

B7 Future environment initiatives



I was asked to conclude this session with ideas about future initiatives and possibilities. I will try to give you some experiences so far from the B7 cooperation within the environmental field and some ideas about what might be possible to do in order to move forwards.

Some experiences so far

The "academic approach"

These experiences we made are quite important. We have got some criticism, mostly from the political level that we have been very academic. This is understandable. If you have a responsibility towards the inhabitants of the islands and you spend money, you have to show concrete results. But at the same time if you start building a road, it is useful to know where the road is going. You need a common ground before you build that road. This is something which we sometimes call the academic approach. However you can always start building a road by doing some concrete things very early. This helps to realize that you can actually build this road. For example SUSWAT showed very concrete results as BEST will do too, hopefully including the action plan before the end of this first project. We need both: concrete results and academic results.

Increased regional/local interest

One very positive example is that there is an increased interest on regional and local level to work with B7 issues. More people are getting involved in this work which is extremely important for the future.

A lack of "doers"

So far there has been few people who have been working very hard to get things going. They need to be offloaded with new people, new initiatives and new entrepreneurs. It is very important that the business sector is here today getting more and more involved.

Mismatch of funds

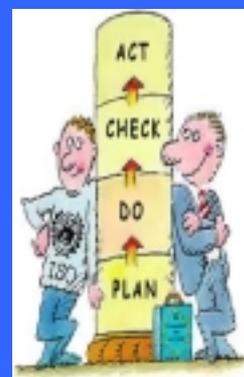
A frustrating problem is the mismatch of funds when it comes to EU programmes. However we will go on talking about this to get better solutions.

Future possibilities? Business development

Support to Environmental Management Systems development

(i.e. HACCP, ISO 14001, EMAS certification activities, environmental policies, education etc)

Regarding Environmental Management Systems we could do something together in the B7 islands. There are instruments on national, transnational and EU level to fund this kind of proposal. A joint office to promote this to the industry would bring concrete results.



joint purchasing routines for the islands' public authorities
(a "B7 Green Exchange")

We represent 300.000 people. We have public authorities purchasing huge amounts of goods every year. This is a strong force that we could use, and we we also could make money by setting up a B7-green.exchange. The public authorities and the islands could have a joint purchasing office, which could be virtual on Internet. There we could set up certain standards and drive the industry by saying we only buy these kind of products that fulfil these environmental requirements.

joint packaging of a B7 Green Tourism product

There is a possibility to market and package some kind of B7 green tourism product. At the moment there is no basic foundation for joint marketing because everyone feels that they are competing. However there is still room to start marketing the B7 islands. This could be done by voluntary work meaning that if it is possible in the UK to have homepages like this where Bed&Breakfast operators all of the UK market themselves on a voluntary basis, why can't it be done on the B7 islands? This would be paid by the industry, run by the industry and the responsibility of the industry with support by the public sector.

Future possibilities? Natural and cultural heritage

The action plan by Jan Wigsten would support the 3 ideas:

- B7 Nature paths
- B7 Cultural heritage paths
- B7 Renewable islands



We have energy and water resources that we should work more with. This could also be funded by the **B7 islands fund for Sustainable Tourism and Development**

Moreover all islands as a whole test area could work together on the new **EU Biodiversity Assessment Tools**.

Safety at Sea Centres

We have been talking about safety at sea for a long time: We are still picking up a lot of oil and garbage on our shores and sometimes even people who came into trouble. There is no better place than the islands to set up a joint network of "Safety at Sea-Centres" on the B7 islands.



Future possibilities? Tourism

development of a B7 Bed and Breakfast product (B7 B&B)

B7 travel pass

joint marketing (fairs, brochures etc);

e.g. We all have videos about our islands on our ships when people come to our islands. We should show videos from the other islands to promote them. I believe a joint marketing on the B7 islands is possible. We have to make our islands shown.

Future possibilities? Increased influence

Joint lobbying activities

Finally there is a need to increase our influence even more, and this kind of conferences are part of that. When people come to our conference and see that we are serious about what we are doing, this enhances our influence. One day we will be invited to important meetings or asked to take part in initiatives. This is part of the local strategy.

We need: **coordinated participation at national and international levels.**

The **B7 annual Environment Initiative** might be another issue to raise that the B7 would focus on one specific issue and maybe hold an event on an annual basis. Of course we also need to work with **pre-accession projects** with a lot of funding possibilities to gain from.

Funding?

There is a lot of money and possibilities, and we all gain from that. **Interreg III** is coming. I am sure that we can be successful in that area. **Life III** is coming or is running at the moment. There are **pre-accession funds (EU and national)**. There is a **Council of Nordic Ministers** which we should use more, especially with the exchange of people between the islands. Also there are possibilities of **national funds or own funding**

3.5 Closing speech

Harriet Lindemann, minister of the environment / SUSWAT, Åland

Dear participants, Dear islanders,

On behalf of all of us I would like to express our gratitude to the conference organisers for the work they have done to make this a successful conference. It has been a great pleasure to participate in this conference and to enjoy the hospitality we have all met here on Rügen. I would especially like to thank Brigitte Thom and her colleagues. I would also like to thank the project leaders for the two projects we have discussed here. Thank you very much.

This event has been very important. It has shown that there are many people who would like to make a contribution to the B7 islands' cooperation. It has also shown that there is a broad commitment for working for the B7 ideas and projects. It makes me happy to see that there are so many representatives from the business sector here. This shows that the environment issues are no longer a concern only to the public sector. For the development of our islands I believe that this is very good.

This conference has focused on environmental issues. The two very important themes have been water supplies and sustainable tourism. As islanders we all know that our water resources are the basis for a prosperous development. Hence it is very important that we can learn from each other and bring out good examples on how to preserve these important resources. The SUSWAT project has been a very good start to an increased exchange of experiences and know-how. Now we have a foundation for future projects and practical efforts in this field.

The B7 islands have agreed to work together on developing tourism. In our common strategy, tourism has been identified as one of our most promising development areas. Naturally it is not possible to develop the tourism sector without a sustainable approach. I believe that it is very important that we run projects like the BEST project to be able to create a good basis for future efforts aiming at making our tourism industry more sustainable and even more successful than it is today. The Green Paper, the new webpage, the pilot projects and the new ideas discussed at this conference, these are all concrete results and examples on how we can go forward together.

If we want the B7 cooperation to grow and become more important we need to involve more people and a wider sector of our island societies into the cooperation. The more people and organisations we can involve, the more possibilities we will be able to explore. And this in turn will make our cooperation even stronger. The two projects we have discussed during these two days, SUSWAT and BEST, have involved about 200 people. I see this as very important example of how we, through the assistance of the European Union and other external sources, can bring our people together and achieve results to our common benefit.

One important output of this conference has been many new ideas for future cooperation. Very soon the Interreg III programme will be open. There will also be new calls for the Fifth Framework Programme, the Life initiative etc. After this conference I am sure that the B7 islands will be able to make a number of joint project proposals within those initiative and other funding opportunities. As a politician I urge all of you to come forward with such ideas to the steering committee and the secretariat. I am sure that good ideas will be promoted and together we will try to find ways to carry them out.

Finally, I believe it was a very good idea to arrange this conference and I hope that we can arrange similar conferences in the future. These events do not only bring a lot of islanders together, they also bring the B7 cooperation forward and promote the B7 idea. Thank you all for your work at this conference. I wish you all a safe journey back home.

Thank you.

Appendix

“ Don’t go to heaven before you have seen B 7...!”

Conference Programme

24. October 2000

10-12	Arrival and registration Hotel Cliff, Rügen
12.30	Lunch
13.30	WELCOME SPEECHES Dr Karin Timmel Knud Andersen
14.00	B7 Islands – Environmental Cooperation Jørgen Jespersen, General presentation Project BEST Bengt-Olof Grahn, Short presentation Project SUSWAT Jørgen Jespersen, Short presentation
15.15	Coffee
15.45	Two parallel sessions SUSTAINABLE TOURISM Presentation BEST <i>Green paper</i> <i>Codes of conduct</i> <i>Networking</i> <i>Continued co-operation</i> <i>Discussions</i>
	SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY Presentation SUSWAT <i>Status report</i> <i>Idea Catalogues</i> <i>Pilot projects</i> <i>General comments</i> <i>Discussions</i>
18.30	Closure of 1 st days programme
20.00	Conference dinner

25. October 2000

09.00	NEW ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES in The Baltic Sea Area <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The spatial development in the Baltic Sea Region Dr Wilfried Görmar• The role of the business sector in the work for a cleaner Baltic Sea Mr Ingvar Mattsson• Proposal for an INTERREG III project regarding ecotourism in spatial planning for B7 Mr Jan Wigsten• B7 as test area for new environmental initiatives ? Mr Ulf Johansson
11.30	CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE
11.30	Lunch
13.00–16.00	Tourism and Environment - Sight-Seeing on Rügen

List of Participants

Participants at the B7 Environmental Conference on Rügen 24th to 25th October 2000

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Company / Institution</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>ZIP-Code</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Tel.</i>	<i>Fax</i>	<i>e-mail</i>
Helena	Blomquist	Environmental lawyer / SUSWAT	Ålands Landskapsstyrelse	PB 60	22101	Mariehamn	Åland	+3581825450	+358 1819155	Helena.blomqvist@Is.aland.fi
Magnus	Eriksson	project manager / SUSWAT	Ålands Landskapsstyrelse	PB 60	22101	Mariehamn	Åland	+358 18 25000	+358 1819155	magnus.eriksson@Is.aland.fi
Terese	Flöjt	project leader / BEST		Klintvägen 14c	22100	Mariehamn	Åland	+358 1843593	+358 1843593	terese.flojt@atc.aland.fi
Malin	Frantzén	Tourist Board Åland / BEST	Ålands TuristFörbund	Storgatan 8	22100	Mariehamn	Åland	+358 18 24258	+358 18 24265	Malin.frantzen@turist.aland.fi
Åsa	Hägg			Styrmansg. 10	22100	Mariehamn	Åland			
Harriet	Lindemann	Minister of the environment / SUSWAT	Ålands Landskapsstyrelse	PB 60	22101	Mariehamn	Åland	+358 18 25374	+358 18 19155	harriet.lindeman@Is.aland.fi
Magnus	Lundberg	chairman of the board of Ålands Tourism Association	Ålands TuristFörbund	Tosarby	22530	Sund	Åland	+358 1843 841		kastelholms.gasthem@aaland.com
Jan-Erik	Mattsson	Chairman of Ålands Stuguthyraförening (association of cottage booking) / BEST	Ålands Stuguthyraförening	Björnhuvud	22270	Eckerö	Åland	+358 18 38208	+358 18 38208	
Hans-Kristian	Skaag			Tingsvägen 3	22710	Föglö	Åland	+358 1850215	+358 1850047	kommun@foglo.aland.fi
Knud	Andersen	chairman of B7, chairman of Bornholm County	Bornholm County	Ullasvej 23	3700	Rønne	Bornholm	+45 56956000		
Henry	Bech	Managing Director of Rønne Water and Heat Supply Company	Rønne Vand-og Värmeforsyning	Sandmansvej 1	3700	Rønne	Bornholm	+45 56 910404	+45 56910104	
Hans Peter Birk	Hansen	geologist		Østre Ringvej 1	3700	Rønne	Bornholm	+45 56952123	+45 56952142	tfje@bora.dk
Finn	Hansen			Grønningen	3720	Aarkirkeby	Bornholm			
Ann	Hartl	scientist in tourism research	research centre Bornholm	Stenbrudsvej 55	3730	Nexö	Bornholm	+45 56 44 11 44	+45 56 49 46 24	rcb@rcb.dk
Lise	Herslund	assistant for tourism research	research centre Bornholm	Stenbrudsvej 55	3730	Nexö	Bornholm	+45 56 44 11 44	+45 56 49 46 24	rcb@rcb.dk
Jørgen	Jespersen	B7 WGE Chairman		Østre Ringvej 1	3700	Rønne	Bornholm	+45 56952123	+45 56952142	tfje@bora.dk

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Ida	Kragstrup	regional planner	B7 WGE, Technical Departement	Østre Ringvej 1	3700	Rønne	Bornholm	+45 56952123	+45 56952142	tfje@bora.dk
Kåre	Kristiansen	Medical Officer	Embedslægeinstitutionen for Bornholms Amt	Ullasvej 13	3700	Rønne	Bornholm	+45 56954850	+45 56954873	kk@bor.eli.dk
Bjarne	Westerdahl	Chairman of Committee for Technique and Environment	County of Bornholm	Østre Ringvej 1	3700	Rønne	Bornholm	+45 5695 2/23		
Jonas	Aaw	Driftengineer	Gotlands Kommun / Tekniska Förvaltning		62141	Visby	Gotland	+46 498 26 98 90	+46 498 26 33 43	jonas.aaw@tf.gotland.se
Ingvar	Amér			Box 1403	62125	Visby	Gotland			
Dr. Brigitta	Amér	Tourist Operator / small tourist business Villa Muramaris	Villa Muramaris	Skogränd 10	62155	Visby	Gotland	+46 498 249149	+46 498 249549	muramaris@swipnet.se
Torgny	Andersson	Marketing Manager	Destination Gotland	Box 1234	62123	Visby	Gotland	+46 498 201821	+46 498 201890	tan@destinationgotland.se
Göran	Blomgren	head of technical department	Gotlands Kommun / Tekniska Förvaltning		62141	Visby	Gotland	+46 498 269 223	+46 498 269 230	goran.blomgren@tf.gotland.se
Leif	Duveborg	Processengineer	Gotlands Kommun / Tekniska Förvaltning		62141	Visby	Gotland	+46 498 269221	46 498 269230	leif.duveborg@tf.gotland.se
Birgitta	Eidmann	consultant export/environmental issues		Lilla Vassmunds	62016	Ljugarn	Gotland	+46 498 524 11	+46 498 524 11	eidmann@tysk-svensk.com
Jerker	Enekvist	small tourist business - Tjelvar adventure	Tjelvar adventure	Mulde Fröjel	62020	Klintehamn	Gotland	+46 498 204952	+46 498 204960	jerker.enekvist@buf.gotland.se
Bertil	Gabrielsson	Tourist Operator				Lansa Fårö	Gotland	+46 498 224258	+46 498 224258	bertil.ga@telia.com
Bengt-Olof	Grahn	Agenda 21 secretary, project coordinator	Municipality of Gotland, regional development unit		6281	Visby	Gotland	+46 498 26 93 79	+46 498 26 92 11	bengtlof.grahn@gotland.se
Brigitta	Gustavsson	Information officer A.D.	Municipality of Gotland		62181	Visby	Gotland	+46 498 269828	+46 498 209540	birgitta.gustafsson@gotland.se
Frej	Hägglund	Tourism Operator	Box 5153	Storvägen 62	62016	Ljugarn	Gotland	+46 498 493011	+46 498 493030	info@ljugarn.com
Ulf	Johansson	project leader and director of the Regional Development Union Gotland	Regional Development Union Gotland		6281	Visby	Gotland	+46 498 269377	+46 498 269052	ulf.johansson@gotland.se

Participants at the B7 Environmental Conference on Rügen 24th to 25th October 2000

Ingvar	Mattsson	speaker, consultant	Visitum	Box 5501	18132	Stockholm	Gotland	+46 8 7838397; +46 706223383	+46 8 6618334	ingvar.mattsson@visitum.ihb.se
Annabritta	von Schulmann	managing director of Gotlands Akademin AB	Gotlands Akademin AB	Hamngatan 3	62157	Visby	Gotland	+46 498 276480	+46 498 212144	annabritta@gotlandsakademin.se
Jan	Wigstén	consultant	Eco-Tour production AB	Burge Hablingbo	62011	Havdem	Gotland	+46 498 487105	+46 498 487115	jan.wigsten@nomadicjourneys.com
Angelica	Wiman	managing director of Strand Hotell	Strand Hotell	Strandgatan 34	62156	Visby	Gotland	+46 498 258827; 270352	+46 498 258811	info@strandhotel.net
Hans-Ole	Hansen	engineer	HOH Water Technology	Geminivej 24	2670	Greve	guest, Denmark	+45 43600 500	+45 43600 900	
Gerhard	Beese	manager	Protour e.V.	Warnowufer 65	18057	Rostock	guest, Germany	+49 381 4590040	+49 381 4590040	PROTOUR.e.V.@t-online.de
Dr. Wilfried	Görmar	project coordinator, member of MC/SC Interreg IIC, IPC, IRIIB	Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning	Am Michaelshof 8	53177	Bonn	guest, Germany	+49 228 4012328	+49 228 4012260	wilfried.goermar@bbr.bund.de
Dr. Ursula	Slawinski	project leader REWAS	REWAS	Erich-Schlesinger-Str. 50	18059	Rostock	guest, Germany	+49 381 4918579		
Meeli	Galuzo	specialist of the Environmental Service of Hiiumaa	Environmental Service of Hiiumaa	Körgessaare mnt 18	92412	Kärdla	Hiiumaa	+372 4631572	+372 4631572	meeli@envir.hiiumaa.cc
Tiit	Harjak	Kärdla Municipality, Head of Planning Department	Kärdla Municipality	Uus 1	92413	Kärdla	Hiiumaa	+372 4631210	+372 4632014	tiit.harjak@kertel.ee
Margit	Kääramees	tourism entrepreneur		Sõrpruse 28-13	92101	Käina	Hiiumaa	+372 4632091	+372 4632092	
Malle	Kappel	specialist of the Hiiumaa Tourist Information Centre	Hiiumaa Tourist Information Centre	Hiiu Street 1	92413	Kärdla	Hiiumaa	+372 46 22233	+372 46 22234	info@hiiumaa.tourism.ee
Urve	Merendi	tourism entrepreneur		Valli 16	92411	Kärdla	Hiiumaa	+372 46 31251	+372 4696269	
Ruuben	Post	managing director of the Biosphere Reserve Hiiumaa Centre	Biosphere Reserve Hiiumaa Centre	Vabriku-väljak 1	92411	Kärdla	Hiiumaa	+372 46 96276	+372 46 96269	ruuben@bka.hiiumaa.ee

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Marika	Randma	County Government, tourism coordinator	Hiiumaa County Government	Leigri väljak 5	92412	Kärdla	Hiiumaa	+372 4631135	+3724631089	marika@mv.hiiumaa.ee
Anu	Saue	specialist of the Environmental Service of Hiiumaa	Environmental Service of Hiiumaa	Kõrgessaare mnt. 18	92412	Kärdla	Hiiumaa	+372 46 31097	+372 46 31572	anu@envir.hiiumaa.ee
Raivo	Tõnissaar	Executive of the Hiiumaa Tourism Association	Hiiumaa Tourism Association	Hiiu Street 1	92413	Kärdla	Hiiumaa	+372 46 22233	+372 46 22234	raivo.tonissaar@hiiumaa.ee
Kai	Vahtra	specialist of the of the Biosphere Reserve Hiiumaa Centre	Biosphere Reserve Hiiumaa Centre	Vabriku-väljak 1	92411	Kärdla	Hiiumaa	+372 46 96260	+372 46 96269	kai@bka.hiiumaa.ee
Rolf	Arnemo	University of Kalmar	Högskolan Kalmar				Öland	+46 480 446213	+46 480 44 64 75	
Claes Horn	av Ranzien	politician, 2nd chairman of Environmental Committee	Environmental Committee	Kohags-lyckan	38074	Löttorp	Öland	+46 485 20566	+46 485 129 35	claeshorn@mail.bip.net
Seppo	Ekelund	environment information person		Box 105	38722	Borgholm	Öland	+46 485 77015		seppo.ekelund@swipnet.se
Stefan	Jessen	production technician		Pl. 4858	38702	Köpingsvik	Öland	+46 485 88066	+46 485 72235	stefan.jessen@borgholm.se
Mats	Lindahl	chief of environmental office	Mörbylånga Municipality	Trollhättev.4	38062	Mörbylånga	Öland	+46 485 470 60	+46 485 472 71	mats.lindahl@morbylanga.se
Leif	Nilsson	expert, University of Kalmar	Högskolan Kalmar				Öland	+46 480 446126		leif.nilsson@sh.hik.se
Tomas	Nilsson	biologist		Vårväders-gatan 17	41431	Göteborg	Öland	+46 31 541 610		Tomas.M.Nilsson@hqus.qu.se
Bo	Persson	engineer		Box 52	38721	Borgholm	Öland	+45 485 88055	+45 485 88052	bo.persson@borgholm.se
Jörgen	Samuelsson	EU advisory officer / project coordinator	Borgholms Kommun	Box 52	38721	Borgholm	Öland	+46 485 88211	+46 485 12935	jeorgen.samuelsson@borgholm.se
Henrik	Svensson	member of B7 WGE	Borgholms Kommun	Box 25	38721	Borgholm	Öland	+46 485 88045	+46 485 12935	henrik.svensson@borgholm.se
Uwe	Ahlers	chairman of the Economic Committee in the District Parliament of Rügen	Wirtschaftsausschuß im Kreistag Rügen	Hans-Beimler-Str.12	18556	Dranske	Rügen	+49 38 391 83 86	+49 38 391 89 668	

Participants at the B7 Environmental Conference on Rügen 24th to 25th October 2000

Eckhard	Bork	head of the Ministry for Environment and Nature Stralsund	Amt für Umwelt und Natur Stralsund	Badenstraße 18	18439	Stralsund	Rügen	+49 38 31 69 60	+49 38 31 69 63 69	
Matthias	Böttcher	member of the board of management	Aufschwung-West-Rügen e.V.	Teschvitz 4a	18569	Gingst	Rügen	+49 38305 55421	+49 38305 55419	
Ernst	Heinemann	mayor of Putgarten	Amt Wittow, Gemeinde Putgarten		18556	Putgarten	Rügen	+49 38391 40914		
Dr. Bernhard	Heinrichs	head of department at the ministry for labour and construction	Ministerium für Arbeit und Bau	Schloßstraße 6-8	19053	Schwerin	Rügen	+49 3855883080	+49 3855883082	bernhard.heinrichs@am.mv-regierung.de
Rolf	Kammann	head of the economy and culture department Rügen	Amt für Wirtschaft und Kultur, Landkreis Rügen	Billrothstraße 5	18528	Bergen	Rügen	+49 3838 813 321	+49 3838 813 270	rolf.kammann@landkreis-ruegen.de
Lars	Kanter			An den Warthen 48	17489	Greifswald	Rügen	+49 3834 3201	+49 3834 2126	greifswald@hgn-online.de
Monika	Krahl	B7 steering group Rügen	Landkreis Rügen	Billrothstraße 5	18528	Bergen	Rügen	+49 3838 813 429	+49 3838 813 270	monika.krahl@landkreis-ruegen.de
Jochen	Lamp	WWF Germany - project office Baltic Sea	WWF Deutschland, Projektbüro Ostsee	Tribseer Straße 30	18439	Stralsund	Rügen		+49 3831 297599	lamp@wwf.de
Prof. Dr. Markus	Landvogt	University of Applied Sciences Stralsund	Fachhochschule Stralsund	Zur Schweden-schanze 15	18435	Stralsund	Rügen	+49 3831 311800		Markus.Landvogt@fh-stralsund.de
Anke	Müller	aniMare - tourism project management	aniMare - Projektmanagement Tourismus	Marien-strasse 6	18439	Stralsund	Rügen	+49 3831 289596	+49 3831 289596	animare@gmx.de
Dr. Bodo	Noack	project coordinator SUSWAT Rügen	Landkreis Rügen	Billrothstraße 5	18528	Bergen	Rügen	+49 3838 813 295	+49 3838 813 119	bodo.noack@landkreis-ruegen.de
Hermann	Noeske	official in charge for water supply and groundwater protection, Ministry of Environment	Umweltministerium	Schloßstraße 6-8	19053	Schwerin	Rügen	+49 385 588 8321	+49 385 588 8032	
Bärbel	Plümecke	Environmental Committee of the District Parliament	Umweltausschuß des Kreistages Rügen				Rügen	+49 3838 209 710	+49 3838 209 709	

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		of Rügen								
Sönke	Reimers	chairman of the board of management of the Tourist Board Rügen	Tourismusverband Rügen			Rügen	+49 3838 807740	+49 3838 254440	Tourismusverband-ruegen@t-online.de	
Axel	Rödiger	manager of the Association for Water Supply and Waste Water Treatment Rügen	Zweckverband Wasserversorgung und Abwasserbehandlung Rügen	Putbusser Chaussee 1	18528	Bergen	Rügen	+49 3838 800412	+49 3838 800449	zwaruegen@t-online.de
Matthias	Scheibe	Marketing Manager	Cliff-Hotel		18586	Sellin	Rügen	+49 38303 84672	+49 38303 8494	scheibe@cliff-hotel.de
Dr. Christian	Schnitzer	B7 steering group Rügen	Landkreis Rügen	Billrothstraße 5	18528	Bergen	Rügen	+49 3838 813 502	+49 3838 813 536	christian.schnitzer@landkreis-ruegen.de
Romy	Sommer	aniMare - tourism project management	aniMare - Projektmanagement Tourismus	Marienstrasse 6	18439	Stralsund	Rügen	+49 3831 289596	+49 3831 289596	animare@gmx.de
Dr. Brigitte	Thom	project coordinator BEST Rügen / department for economy and culture	Landkreis Rügen, Amt für Wirtschaft und Kultur	Billrothstrasse 5	18528	Bergen	Rügen	+49 3838 813409		Brigitte.Thom@Landkreis-ruegen.de
Dr. Karin	Timmel	mayor of county Rügen		Billrothstraße 5	18528	Bergen	Rügen	+49 3838 813 114	+49 3838 813 101	Karin.Timmel@landkreis-ruegen.de
Uwe	Trefflich	engineer, Association for Water Supply and Waste Water Treatment Rügen	Zweckverband Wasserversorgung und Abwasserbehandlung Rügen	Putbusser Chaussee 1	18528	Bergen	Rügen	+49 3838 800457	+49 3838 800485	
Grit	Wenzel	head of the Tourist Board Rügen	Tourismusverband Rügen e.V.	Am Markt 4	18508	Bergen	Rügen	+49 3838 807740	+49 3838 254440	Tourismusverband-ruegen@t-online.de
Dirk	Wetzel	aniMare - tourism project management	aniMare - Projektmanagement Tourismus	Franz-Wessel-Strasse 21	18439	Stralsund	Rügen	+ 49 3831 299932		animare@gmx.de
Aivo	Aavik	B7 SUSWAT project coordinator in Saaremaa	B7 SUSWAT Projektkoordinator in Saaremaa	Pärna 2	93816	Kuresaare	Saaremaa	+372 5289 794	+372 4533 554	k.vald@tt.ee
Andres	Hanso	Chairman of Pöide Parish Council	Pöide Parish Council				Saaremaa			

Participants at the B7 Environmental Conference on Rügen 24th to 25th October 2000

Arno	Ilves	manager of the Consultant Agency UÜ TUKAT	UÜ TUKAT	Rootsi 7	93811	Kuresaare	Saaremaa	+372 5270696	+372 4553437	tukat@tt.ee
Anne	Jakunin	BEST coordinator of Saaremaa, Saaremaa County Government	Saaremaa County Government	Lossi 1	93816	Kuresaare	Saaremaa	+372 4533414	+372 4533448	anne@saare.ee
Raivo	Kallas	director of Saare County Environmental Department	Saare County Environmental Department	Kadaka 1	93817	Kuresaare	Saaremaa	+372 4533442	+372 4533254	raivo.kallas.007@mail.ee
Ene	Kull	chief specialist of tourism	Saaremaa Local Government Association	Lossi 1	93816	Kuresaare	Saaremaa	+372 4533362	+372 4533448	sol@tt.ee
Arvo	Kullapere	director of Vilsandi National Park, mayor of Kihelkonna Community	Kihelkonna Community	Kadaka 3	93401	Kihelkonna	Saaremaa	+372 4546 880	+372 4546 544	loona@tt.ee
Mihkel	Paljak	deputy director of Orissaare Local Community	Orissaare Community	Kuivastu mnt. 33	94601	Orissaare	Saaremaa	+372 4545 593	+372 4545 648	ovv@kuressaare.ee
Jüri	Pärtel	managing director of Saaremaa Local Government Association	Saaremaa Local Government Association	Lossi 1	93816	Kuresaare	Saaremaa	+372 5157 673	+372 4533 448	jrrip@saare.ee
Hendrik	Põldoja	programme coordinator	Ministry of Environment	Toompuiстee 24	15172	Tallinn	Saaremaa	+49 372 6262852	+372 6262869	hendrik@ekm.envir.ee
Perens	Rein	head of Hydrogeological Department/ Geological Survey of Estonia	Hydrogeological Department	Kadaka 82	12618	Tallinn	Saaremaa	+372 672 0087	+372 6720091	perens@egk.ee
Anu	Vares	B7 Environmental Coordinator of Saaremaa	Saare County Environmental Department	Kadaka 1	93817	Kuresaare	Saaremaa	+372 5120 951	+372 4533 254	vares@ut.ee
	Väinönen									