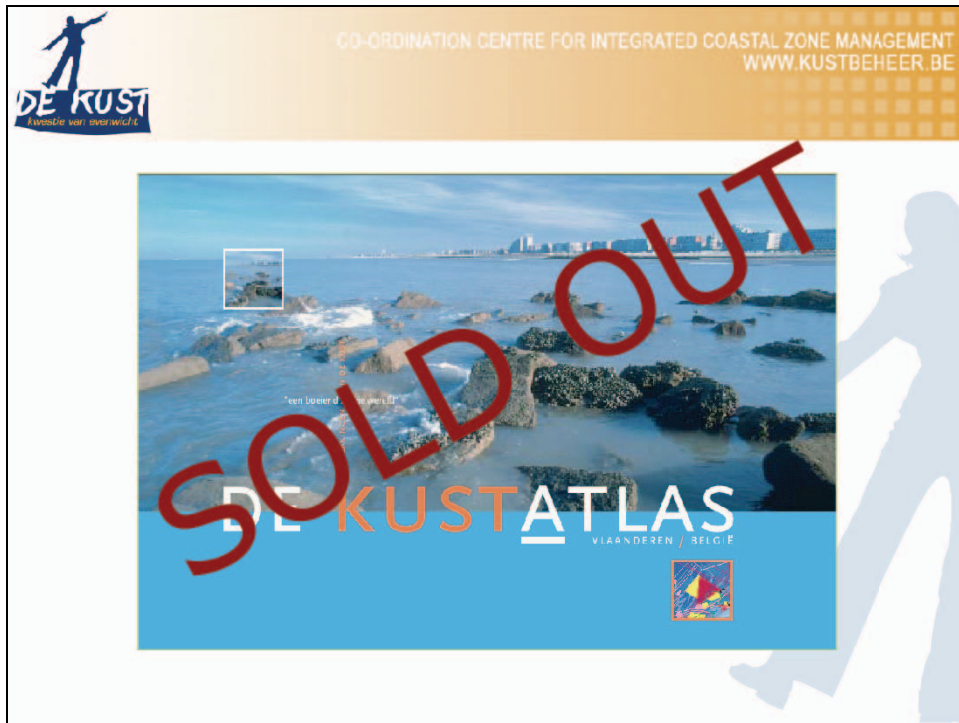




In name of the Coordination Centre for ICZM and the organizers of the ICAN 5 conference I'd like to welcome everybody here present on the official launch of the second edition of the coastal atlas Flanders/Belgium.



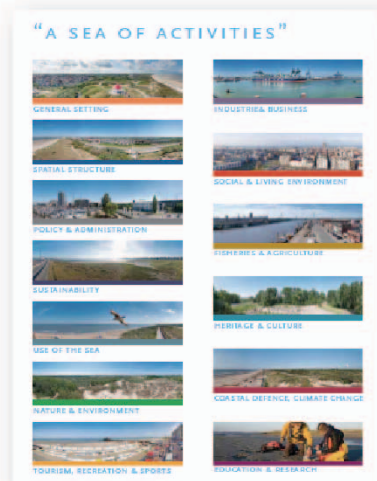
This is a second edition, the first coastal atlas was established in 2004. The atlas was established because of the European guidelines, as all member states of the European Union had to make a report on the state of their coastal zone. Instead of a dusty report, the Coordination Centre chose for an atlas, accessible for a broad audience.



The coastal atlas was such a succes it was very quickly sold out in the bookshops... This showed there was a big interest in the atlas, and there were many demands for a second edition. So finally, the coordination centre is proud to present you the result of some hard work, as Ann-Katrien Lescauwaeet already explained to you. We are very grateful we had such a big support from the coastal atlas group who helped to develop the coastal atlas.

Highlighting the new topics

- Thematic approach
- New chapters, 13 in total
- New items
- Innovative photography
- New & updated maps
- Attention for timeless information



The second edition is complementary to the first, so we introduced many new topics in the atlas. The world is changing, and so is our Coast and Sea! We did not change the thematic approach in the atlas, but introduced some new chapters, such as policy and administration, and education and research. There are 13 chapters in total, giving us a complete image of our coast and sea. The atlas is telling more about the ecological treasury which our coast and sea is, how we, humans, use space, what economical activities are taken place, how we protect ourselves against the mighty sea, the living environment and the culture and heritage of the coastal region. Also new items and of course maps were integrated. The innovative photography is also new, many photos were made with a special typ of camera using a convex lens, giving the reader a broad perspective of 180°. The photos in the atlas are really splendid. It was taken care of the information integrated in the atlas would be as timeless as possible.

On a tour of the Belgian Coast and Sea...



So now we'll take you on a tour of the Belgian Coast and Sea...

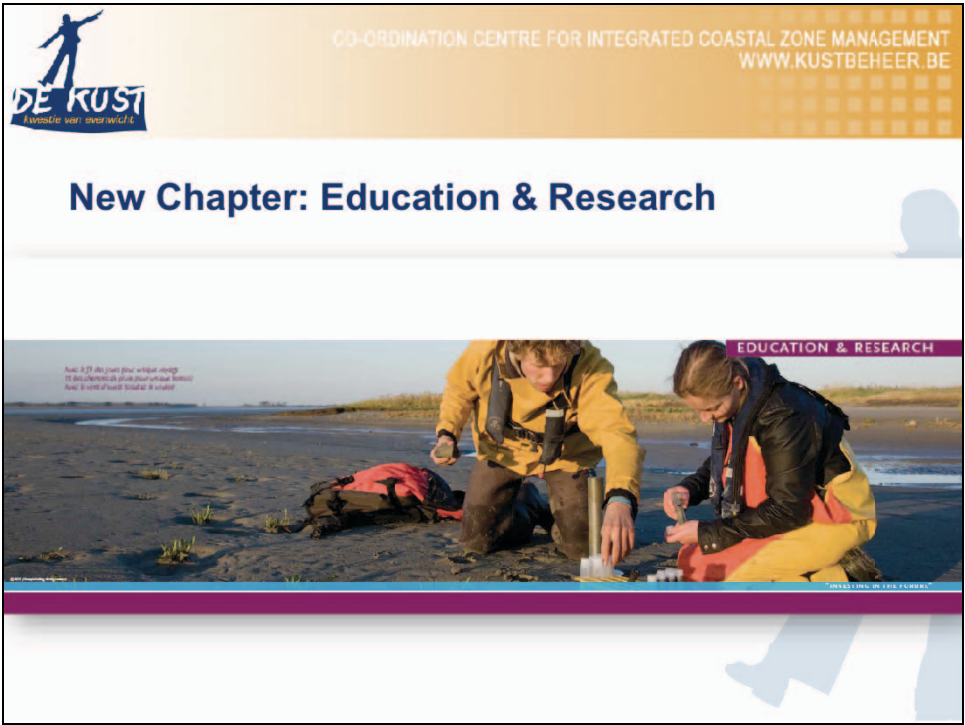


A new chapter integrated in the atlas is policy and administration.

Responsibilities



The Belgian situation is not one of the most simple, so this chapter wants to learn you something more about who's responsible for what. This chapter gives you an overview with a clear split up on responsibilities. The Belgian federal government's authorities are limited to the territorial sea, the European Economic zone and the Belgian continental shelf. The Flemish Region's authority extends to the low water line. But the Flemish regional government also has jurisdiction over some sea-related matters. For example, where the federal government is responsible for energy and for the wind turbines at sea, the Flemish level is responsible for dredging at sea. Fishery policy for example is a European matter.

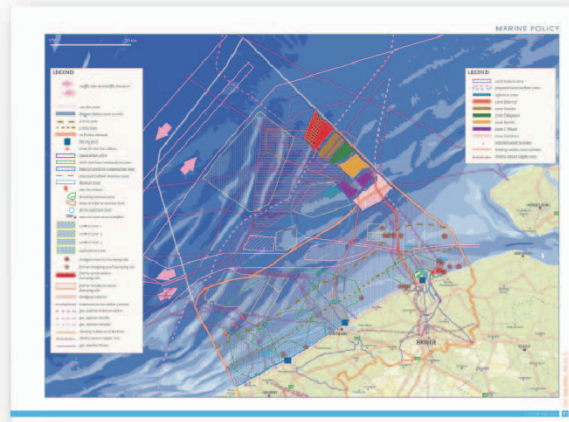


The Sea and Coast are a grateful region for educational actors, that is why we also dedicated a chapter on this theme.



The coast a a beloved place for schools and other educational users. Practical teaching and excursion materials are offered, every coastal municipality has field work kits that can be borrowed free of charge. Various actors and organisations such as the province of west flanders, the Flanders marine Institute, Educational Horizon stimulate people's enthousiasm to discover our coast and sea. There are many nature and environmental centres in the area between De Panne and Knokke-Heist en in the hinterland. Also, various institutions and organisations do scientific research on the coast and sea. Research on sea for example is mainly carried out on the vessels Belgica, Ter Streep and Zeeleeuw, as you can see here. But also buoys, sounding poles, planes and even satellites are used.

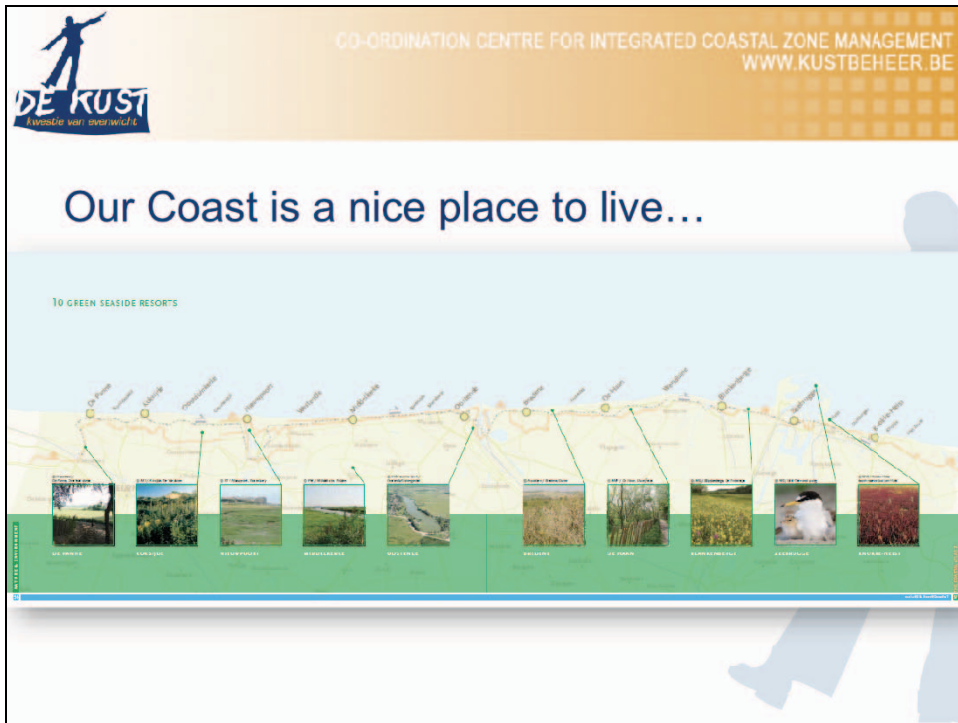
Spatial Structure...not only on land, also at sea!



Mankind did not only discover land, but also sea to use intensively. There is a lot more going on at sea as one can imagine! A large number of sectors is present who all have their own interests:




The North Sea is a strategic maritime transport artery. Every day 250 vessels pass our coast. Sand is extracted for building industry and beach nourishment. Fairways and docks must be dredged regularly to keep the ports accessible for shipping. Belwind installed 55 wind mills on the Bligh Bank. There are zones designated for dumping. Where cables and pipelines for gas and communication run over the Belgian continental shelf, ships are to take precaution in this area and to avoid anchoring. The ports of Zeebrugge, Ostend and Nieuwpoort are the base for commercial fishing at sea. Aquaculture becomes more important, and in 2005 4 zones were designated for cultivating bivalve molluscs. Nature has to be protected and there are different marine protected reserves at sea, there is tourism at sea, including tours by boat to the windmills... There are also military exercises at sea. It is a real challenge to reconcile all these aims, that is why planning at sea has become an important topic, on national and european level.



It is proven: our coast is a nice place to live! Not only because of the climate – there is for example less rain and more sunshine – but the coast has some nice green places to offer. Think of nice dune formations in De Panne and Koksijde, the Yser Estuary in Nieuwpoort, our nice polders...the coastal atlas gives you an overview of these green seaside resorts.




In the atlas you can also discover the nice buildings of architectural value there are at the coast: the 100 year old Rotonde in Middelkerke, the belle epoque tram station in De Haan, the beautiful pier in Blankenberge...there is a lot to discover.



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And needs a sustainable approach

Avec effacement de données à venir
 avec le nom de "SUSTAINABILITY"

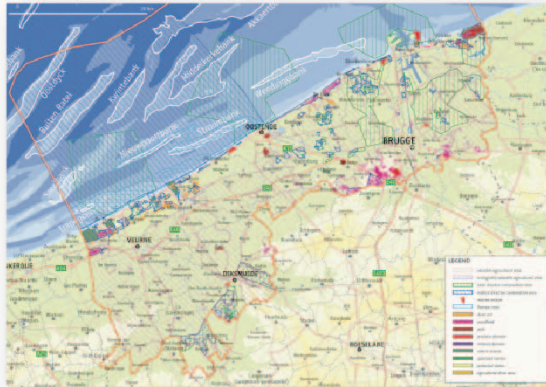


"A MATTER OF BALANCE"

Important to know where we're heading to...
 

The coast and sea is a very attractive region, not only for tourists. It is a nice place to live and work, marine industry has to have its place, nature has to be preserved. This is why it is important to seek a balance between social, economical and ecological aspects, and that is what sustainable coastal management aims to do. Is the coastal region developing in a sustainable way or not? It is a task of the Coordination Centre for ICZM to follow these developments, and the coastal indicators are helping us. The coastal indicators keep track of what is going on and show us where we are heading to.

Nature management and recovery



The coast and sea are an ecological treasury, that needs to be preserved. The atlas shows you regions where a lot of effort was put in nature management and recovery, such as the Zwin in Knokke-Heist, and the Yser Estuary in Nieuwpoort. The map also shows you the natural areas at the coast and sea.

Trends on social level



The mild climate and the healthy sea in the neighbourhood makes the coast an attractive place to live, also for elder people. It is a trend you don't only see in Belgium, phenomenons as ageing and dejuvenation at our belgian coast are a fact, and are causing other trends: housing has become less affordable, but on the other hand, active seniors with lots of time and money offer opportunities for employment as well.



The Coast and Sea are important employers: think of our harbours Oostende and Zeebrugge, with big international importance. The coast has also a great concentration of professional knowledge and business activity focussing on marine science and technology, think of our internationally known dredging companies. An important chapter as well is Fisheries and Agriculture, explaining the challenges the fishery and agriculture sector have to face.



It has been a hot topic during the last couple of years: sea level rise obliges the government to take measures and protect our coastline. The Coastal Security Plan is intended to protect the coast from storm tides and also takes rising sea levels into account. It suggests measures for systematically reinforce the sea wall to guarantee the highest possible level of coastal safety, at least protecting against a 1 in 1000-year storm. The plan drafted by the Agency for Maritime Services and Coast has a time horizon extending to 2050. The first measures are already taken.

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DE KUST
Kust van overwicht

THE COASTAL ATLAS 2
FLANDERS / BELGIUM

www.aquaterra.be/nl/winkel
Book shop: 'De Standaard'

For local governments, educational use, nature guides,
stakeholders, marine industries...

...for everybody who loves the Coast and Sea!

So we invite you to enjoy reading our brand new coastal atlas, which will be available in the Standaard book shops starting from the 1st of September, or via the website of Aquaterra! The Coastal Atlas is a gadget for local governments, educational use, nature guides, marine industries, in fact, for everybody who loves the coast and sea!

DE KUST
Aansluiting van overvloed

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Avant de mer le vent pour donner l'ordre au jour
Et l'air se met de danser pour sentir le vent
Et de regard l'océan qui les moutons agiteront

Thank you for your attention

AFDELING KUST VLIZ Agiv West-Vlaanderen WSC UNIVERSITEIT KENT Vmm CHELDEF

Special thanks to the entire T&F Group Coastal Atlas for their time, knowledge and expertise,
and to the organizers of ICAN5

ICAN

Thank you for your attention, and very special thanks to the entire t&f group coastal atlas for their time efforts, knowledge and expertise!