

NATURAL RESOURCES

GOAL: TO DEVELOP THE REGION'S TOURISM & NATURAL RESOURCES

TOSAÍOCHTA : LE HACMHAINNÍ NÁDÚRTHA AN RÉIGIÚIN A FHORBAIRT

Key Activities / Tosaíochta	Progress Update to CDB at March 2011
1. To progress cross-border tourism initiatives	Interregg IV projects still awaiting final approval, ongoing meetings with project partners on submission of additional information requests from SEUPB. No further updates at this time
2. Development and promotion of walking and trails resource in the region	The commencement of the annual inspection by the National Trails Office have commenced on our way marked ways. DCC will seek to address issues arising from these inspections
3. To develop the county's marine & water based leisure resources	Sail West Project action ongoing
4. To develop strategic Tourism projects (Sliabh Liag, Inch Levels, Malin Head)	Formal launches have been held by both funding bodies, Interegg & Failte Ireland, pre tender work in under way and part 8 planning work commenced Malin Head working group advancing plans for development. Inch Levels, application awaiting SEUPB decision
5. To undertake tourism promotion initiatives	Donegal Live is preparing for two events this year 1 st May Glasgow and 21 st May Dublin, the tourism trade is being invited to participate.
6. To research and develop marine biology potential in the county (e.g. seaweed)	The use of seaweed is now being investigated with an initial focus group being invited to discuss this area and its potential for the county. An update from this working group will be provided for next CDB meeting
7. To undertake an islands sustainable tourism initiative	The Council are working on this through a funding application presently awaiting decision from SEUPB under the Interregg IV programme with Scottish and NI Partners. Still pending
8. To provide support & interagency targeted initiatives for the agricultural sector	The Green Economy Fora will present actions.

9. Develop Forestry Resource of Region	The Green Economy Fora, and linked with Tourism and Natural Resources Fora will progress this through cross cutting actions
10. Identify and develop niche tourism opportunities	The Tourism and Cultural Foras are linking up and with the appointment of an external Chair for the Tourism Fora, it is expected that a new work plan will be devised agreed and implemented.
11. Develop Marine Spatial Planning Model for sustainable development	Environmental and activity audit of Lough Swilly underway. Future scenario building process commenced with consultative group, comprising of state bodies, elected members & Local Authority officials. Information and project progress is available at www.imcore.eu/lough-swilly . This work is still ongoing
12. Development of recreational forests	The Council through the Public Arts Office are working with Coillte and Failte Ireland in development of sculpture trail routes through Ards forest. This project is presently being advanced through the Public Arts Manager of the Council
13. To explore opportunities in the hydrocarbon sector for County Donegal	This are is still pending awaiting the formation of a working group.