

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 07/09/10
1. To progress cross-border tourism initiatives	Interreg 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	No further update at present pending SEUPB decision on funding applications
3. To develop the county's marine & water based leisure resources	Sail West Project Officer has been selected and Marketing Officer has been appointed and started in August 2010.
4. To develop strategic Tourism projects (Sliabh Liag, Inch Levels, Malin Head)	<p>Works ongoing at Sliabh Liag under the NDP Failte Ireland funding supported by Udaras and the Council. Donegal County Council are in advanced negotiations with Failte Ireland regarding the Sliabh Liag project for funding under the Capital Investment Programme.</p> <p>Malin Head in partnership with the Lough Agency with funding under the Interreg IV programme – project currently at Economic Appraisal stage.</p> <p>Marketing and development works are ongoing at Inch Levels, currently being carried out by National Parks and Wildlife Service.</p>
5. To undertake tourism promotion initiatives	<p>The Council are working with our partners in Donegal Tourism Ltd on new marketing initiatives for 2010.</p> <p>Donegal Live event was a major success and feedback very positive from both Trade and public, Event evaluation meeting will review all aspects of the event and investigate its possible future roll out from both cost and operational and impact.</p>
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.
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 Interreg IV programme with Scottish and NI Partners
8. To provide support & interagency targeted initiatives for the agricultural sector	This area will also be addressed through the Green Economy Fora with cross cutting actions

9. Develop Forestry Resource of Region	This area will now be advanced through the Green Economy Fora, and linked with Tourism and Natural Resources Fora through cross cutting actions.
10. Identify and develop niche tourism opportunities	The Tourism and Cultural Foras are linking up to explore areas of common interest and how through cross working of the membership of foras.
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 .
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
13. To explore opportunities in the hydrocarbon sector for County Donegal	