



ELOISE NEWSLETTER



March 2004

No. 5

*ELOISE –
how the land-
ocean
interaction
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ELOISE is the European Union's thematic network where coastal zone research projects are clustered to focus on the important questions of how the land-ocean interaction operates, and on how this is influenced by human activities.

Operating since 1996, the number of ELOISE projects has reached 60, rendering it the world's largest coordinated coastal research initiative. Throughout the period it has been intended that ELOISE contribute directly to activities within integrated coastal zone management and spatial planning, and thus to European coastal policy.

Realising ELOISE's added value - Electronic Workshops on four topics.

A second year of assembling, assimilating and integrating the results of the 60 ELOISE projects will shortly kick off. Four electronic Workshops will be held over a period of several weeks either side of Easter 2004.

During 2003 the integration and synthesis of ELOISE results began with Workshops on topics cutting across the individual projects. That on 'Upscaling from ELOISE results to European and global scales' was reported in the September 2003 edition of the Newsletter (No.4), whilst 'Managing European Coasts; past, present and future' was reported in the June 2003 Newsletter (No.3). This work will now continue via four electronic workshops commencing shortly on fresh themes and held in rapid succession. *Page 2.*

ELOISE to be present at EuroOCEAN2004. May 2004.

In May the Irish Presidency of the European Union will host EurOCEAN2004 at Galway, with the ELOISE cluster present. One conference session, entitled "Natural and anthropogenic impacts in coastal ecosystems" has been designed particularly with ELOISE in mind. Additionally there will be extra-conference plenaries devoted to ELOISE.

Speakers from three of the ELOISE Secretariat institutes will address the Conference session, Amongst the topics to be presented will be the first year of the integration of results from ELOISE projects. Looking forward, the special plenaries will evaluate initial results from the electronic Workshops and will consider their longterm application in coastal assessment and management. Completing participation by ELOISE, a stand will provide a point of information about ELOISE projects. *Page 4*

Announcement: The 6th ELOISE Conference, Portoroz, Slovenia, 22-5 November 2004 The European Conference on Coastal Zone Research: an ELOISE approach.

The 6th ELOISE meeting during 2004 will be an important step in the current integration, synthesis and utilisation of the results from ELOISE projects. Work has intensified during 2004 with a view towards future application of ELOISE in coastal assessment and management. The Conference invites contributions from current projects focusing on four fields – climate change and management, nutrients, habitats, and contaminants. *Page 4.*

www.eloisegroup.org From midday, Monday 22 March, **the new website** will be operating. Until then, please use the existing www.nilu.no/projects/eloise *page 5*

Electronic workshops page 2 EuroOCEAN2004 page 4 ELOISE Conference page 4 New website page 5



Coastal systems occupy a minor proportion of the surface of the world's seas, but contribute disproportionately to the cycles of carbon and nutrients, since on average the intensity of processes is much higher than in the deep oceans. They are also an important ecotone between the terrestrial and the oceanic systems, and much of their characteristics and ecosystem processes can only be understood in the context of this gradient.

Assimilating the results of ELOISE: Electronic Workshops on four topics

A second year of assembling, assimilating and integrating the results of the 60 ELOISE projects will shortly kick off. Four electronic Workshops will be held over a period of several weeks either side of Easter 2004 with the intention to build introductory Digests of the contribution made by ELOISE to understanding of land-ocean interactions in Europe.

The previous ELOISE Newsletter (No. 4. September 2003) outlined plans for the continued synthesis of results from ELOISE, and for their dissemination. As a first phase Workshops were envisaged seeking to assemble the information and tools which ELOISE has developed, and which could be utilized in a wider arena. To cast the net as wide as possible, giving an opportunity to as many projects as possible to participate, the chosen format for implementing this is the holding a series of electronic workshops over several weeks.

Four themes have been chosen which span a number of elements described in the original Science Plan for ELOISE from 1994. These are:

- 1) Habitat dynamics at the coast-catchment interface
- 2) Nutrient dynamics
- 3) Climate change and coastal management
- 4) Contaminant budgets in the coastal zone

These Workshops will be held on the ELOISE website, and all ELOISE projects are invited to participate. For each Workshop introductory documents will be available on-line, and participants will be able to place opinions, comments or even full documents into the forum. Each Workshop will be steered by an individual institute from the Secretariat service.

The result of the online exchanges of opinion will be introductory Digests to each topic. These will be used during the coming months as the starting point from which the dissemination of ELOISE achievements will be pursued, into fields of management, assessment, research, education, and so forth.

The four themes

Details of the themes are available on the ELOISE website, the overview here intended to provide a flavour. Each workshop will have its own style and focus. Over a period of around 6 weeks it is hoped that participants from ELOISE projects, both coordinators and the many individual scientists, will find a number of points where they can contribute to a wide and inclusive assembly and comprehension of ELOISE results.

NOTE, the dates given are planned dates. These are flexible according to progress of the Workshops, and so the Eloise website should be consulted for the latest status

Theme 1: Habitat dynamics at the coast-catchment interface. 22 March – 3 April

The workshop seeks to review and summarise findings from ELOISE research projects on the dynamics of coastal habitats. Dynamics are understood to mean changes over different time scales within the living communities that populate habitats, as well as changes from one habitat into another. These dynamics will be linked to important drivers of global, societal and ecological change.

Habitat will be the main currency of thought, as it has acquired a considerable degree of consensus among biodiversity experts as well as a formal status in the directives of the EC.

The subtopics are:

1. introduction: defining and scoping the paper
2. coastal habitat typology: EC-legal perspective, the literature, LOICZ, ELOISE projects
3. changes: A spectrum of different changes, e.g. natural change, direct conversion to human habitat, indirect change through by human activity. A matrix will be mapped of major changes versus typology. Natural change is placed over a geological perspective (isostatic sea level rise, climate change). Scales of time and space are coarse to reflect the European perspective (> year (probably decadal), > 100 km)
4. contributions of ELOISE projects: these will be placed on the matrix above.
5. relevance of the findings for the management of coastal habitats
6. way forward: this will spell out statements to illicit the electronic debate and identify key people and/or institutions that would provide feed back from the relevant ELOISED projects and the wider stakeholder audience

Theme 1 will be led by the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) of the Free University of Amsterdam.



Theme 2: Nutrient dynamics. 29 March – 23 April

Nutrient dynamics is a cross-cutting theme which lends itself well to the integration and comprehension of the products of ELOISE research into a digest suitable for management and policy issues. This will be achieved through the complementary execution of:

- i)-a desktop assembly of the project results into scientific- as well as management-sounded sub-topics,
- ii)-an electronic workshop aiming at improving both the scientific value and the focus on management issues within each sub-topic.

Issues and questions pertinent to ELOISE projects will be extracted from the desk study. These will be addressed to ELOISE community and external experts for their discussion during the electronic workshop.

Three sub-topics have been selected for evaluation in this theme:

1. Nutrient sources and transport: relating nutrient fluxes to land-based activities, atmospheric and river processes
2. Nutrient transformation processes: processing in estuaries and coastal areas – what processes govern the fate of nutrients?
3. Nutrients and foodwebs: Effects of altered nutrient discharges on the functioning of coastal and estuarine foodwebs

For each of these themes the same three strands will be examined:

- a) scientific implications and challenges
- b) tools for assessment and prediction
- c) implications for management activities

Within each of these strands all participants are invited to comment on short statements extracted from the review of ELOISE literature. The supporting literature for these statements will be provided, and participants are encouraged to submit all viewpoints supported by their own expertise and results from ELOISE.

Both scientists from the ELOISE cluster and related projects and representatives for the end-users communities are invited to participate in the discussions.

Theme 2 will be led by the Centre for Estuarine and Marine Ecology (NIOO) of the Netherlands (v.escaravage@nioo.knaw.nl) from Monday 29th March till Friday 23rd April. Each sub-topic will receive full attention during a separate week: *Nutrient sources and transport* in week 14, *Nutrient transformation processes* in week 15 and *Nutrients and foodwebs* in week 16. The last week (17) is reserved to treat the comments that would not fit into this schedule.

Theme 3: Climate change and coastal management. 5 April – 23 April

preparatory work relating to 'Climate Change and Coastal Management' has yielded a range of topics. ELOISE projects have dealt both directly with aspects of climate change and indirectly with issues arising from climate change. A framework for the final digest will be made available, containing the following sections:

- * Title: Climate Change and Coastal Management
- * Introduction: Scope and purpose
- * Climate Change Impacts - Science and Socio-economic responses
- * Contributions to Science/Socio-economics by the ELOISE and related EU-funded projects.
- * Science Research Gaps and Management needs
- * Conference forum questions/statements to initiate dialogue
- * Annex: Project titles list, summaries, publications.

Theme 3 will be led by the Centre for Socio-Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERGE) of the University of East Anglia and the Tyndall Centre.

Theme 4: Contaminant budgets in the coastal zone. 26 April – 7 May

This theme emerges from various elements in the original ELOISE Science Plan. Of the specific research objectives of ELOISE, the objective of the subtopic 'Human Impact on Coastal Seas' was to *determine the regional and global consequences of human impact through pollution, eutrophication and physical disturbance on land-ocean interactions in the coastal zone*. The impact through pollution is the focus of this theme.

Four subtopics will be examined in this workshop:

- 1) Sources, fluxes, and transport of contaminants reaching the coastal zone.
- 2) Fate and transformation of contaminants once they reach the coast
- 3) Habitats and ecological impacts, and the evidence for impact, i.e. pollution
- 4) Socio-economic dimensions, and the human factors leading to contaminant fluxes at the coast.



Four different strands to these subtopics will be examined, these being geographical and spatial aspects, process understanding, managerial opportunity, and methodologies behind assessment. These four strands of analysis will be tailored to each subtopic, and participants will be asked to consider the contribution of ELOISE in respect of each.

To assist their evaluation of these contributions by ELOISE a line of argument will be developed, supported by evidence from ELOISE projects and participants will be asked to consider such viewpoints in light of their own results and experience. From the website participants will have access to most of the ELOISE publications, and descriptions of the various projects within the cluster. The sheer diversity of research and conclusions within ELOISE is anticipated to stimulate debate as to the appropriateness of the single statements made for each of the subtopics.

Theme 4 will be led by the Centre for Ecological Economics (CEE) of the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU).



ELOISE to be present at EuroOCEAN2004. May 2004

Hosted by the Irish Presidency of the European Union, the EuroOCEAN2004 Conference being held in Galway, 10-13 May, is the successor to previous EuroOCEAN conferences held in Brussels (1994), Sorrento (1996), Lisbon (1998) and Hamburg (2000). EuroOCEAN2004 is a marine science policy conference, providing a forum for policy makers and strategic planners from EU and Member State administrations to interface with the marine research community and marine stakeholders.

In addition to a focus on young marine researchers, for many of which ELOISE has provided opportunity, organisation of the Conference did take deliberate account of the potential contributions to be gained from ELOISE. One session has been devised with this in mind. Entitled "Natural and anthropogenic impacts in coastal ecosystems", this session will be addressed by key individuals representing three of the institutes providing the ELOISE secretariat service. Professor Kerry Turner of CSERGE/UEA, Professor Peter Herman of NIOO/KNAW, and Professor Laurence Mee of M CPRG/University of Plymouth will give invited lectures. The conclusions of the first year of the integration and synthesis of ELOISE results will form a part of these lectures.

ELOISE will also hold extra-conference open plenary sessions at which the current work to assimilate and disseminate ELOISE results will be considered. Indeed, EuroOCEAN2004 represents the point at which the results of the electronic Workshops will be first reported to the wide community. From this point the ELOISE Secretariat will focus on turning these digests into packages for the dissemination and continued application of ELOISE understanding. The first plans for this dissemination phase will be discussed at these open sessions and opinions sought. Already tie-ups have been established with the European Masters Programme in Water and Coastal Management to promote current research in education, and links are being built with various networks of coastal managers in Europe.

A manned display and stand will be set up as a point of information on ELOISE projects and research topics. Projects wishing to make information available at this stand should take contact with the Secretariat service at NILU.

The EuroOCEAN2004 Conference is seen as an important display of ELOISE progress to the wider marine community in Europe. The conference is significant in the European calendar, and will attract political attention.



The 6th ELOISE Conference, 2004

European Conference on Coastal Zone Research: An ELOISE Approach. Portoroz, Slovenia, 22-25 November.

The 6th ELOISE meeting during 2004 will be an important step in the current phase of ELOISE activities. Beginning in July 2002 the current Secretariat service began the integration and synthesis of the results of ELOISE research work, the first Workshops being held during 2003. This process has intensified, and the results will see presentation and discussion at the 2004 European Conference on Coastal Zone Research: an ELOISE Approach, to be held in Portoroz, Slovenia from 22 to 25 November, 2004.

The First Announcement for this Conference was issued on March 16. This can be downloaded, along with registration details, from the ELOISE website.



Conference Topics and Structure

The Conference will focus on the four topics addressed by the electronic conferences:

1. Climate change and coastal management
2. Nutrient dynamics
3. Habitat dynamics at the coast-catchment interface
4. Contaminant budgets in the coastal zone

Key note speakers will be invited to introduce them and to provide international perspectives to these different aspects of land-ocean interaction in the coastal zone. Sessions will also be held at which the results of integration, synthesis and planned dissemination of ELOISE results within these themes will be presented and discussed.

Central to the Conference, however, will be parallel sessions for oral presentation of results from ELOISE projects. The presentation of work from outside the ELOISE grouping is also strongly encouraged. Poster sessions will also be organized. Whilst the integration and synthesis work is to represent the accumulation of ELOISE understanding and its position within coastal research as a whole, this work is driven entirely by ELOISE achievements themselves. Hence, presentation of ELOISE work is central.

Abstracts of contributions to all of these sessions are expected to arrive by e-mail at the Conference Secretariat before **15 September, 2004**. Instructions for abstract preparations will be presented in due course in the Second Announcement and on the ELOISE web site.

Venue

The European Conference on Coastal Zone Research will be held at the Benardin Conference Center in Portoroz, Slovenia. Portoroz is located on the northern Adriatic Sea shore. Located in the heart of Europe, Portoroz on Slovenias coast faces pressures of many kinds, and yet is a successful resort. The participants of the Conference will be accommodated within the Benardin Conference Center complex at the Grand Hotel Emona and Hotel Histron. Special prices will be offered for the Conference, and this information is available only via ELOISE and the announcements downloadable from the website. Otherwise general information about the venue is available at <http://portoroz.si>

Registration

Participants of the ELOISE projects do not pay the registration fee when registered before **20 October, 2004**. After this date the ELOISE project participants, as well as other participants will be requested to pay a fee of **100 EURO (50 EURO for students)**.

Those interested in participation in the Conference are requested to click on "Registration" and complete the form on the ELOISE website.

New ELOISE website

www.eloisegroup.org From midday, Monday 22 March, the new website will be operating. This will be a developing site. Initially holding the electronic workshop facility, by the time of the

EuroOCEAN 2004 conference an entirely revamped portal will be open, rendering access to ELOISE project information much easier, providing linkages to projects own websites, and providing a new facility.

Until the new site is open, please use the existing www.nilu.no/projects/eloise

