

ACTIVITY: Workshop 3

PLACE: The Tavern, Murrisk, Co Mayo

ORGANIZERS:

Kevin Lynch / National University of Ireland Galway (NUI Galway)

Murrisk Development Association

PARTICIPANTS:

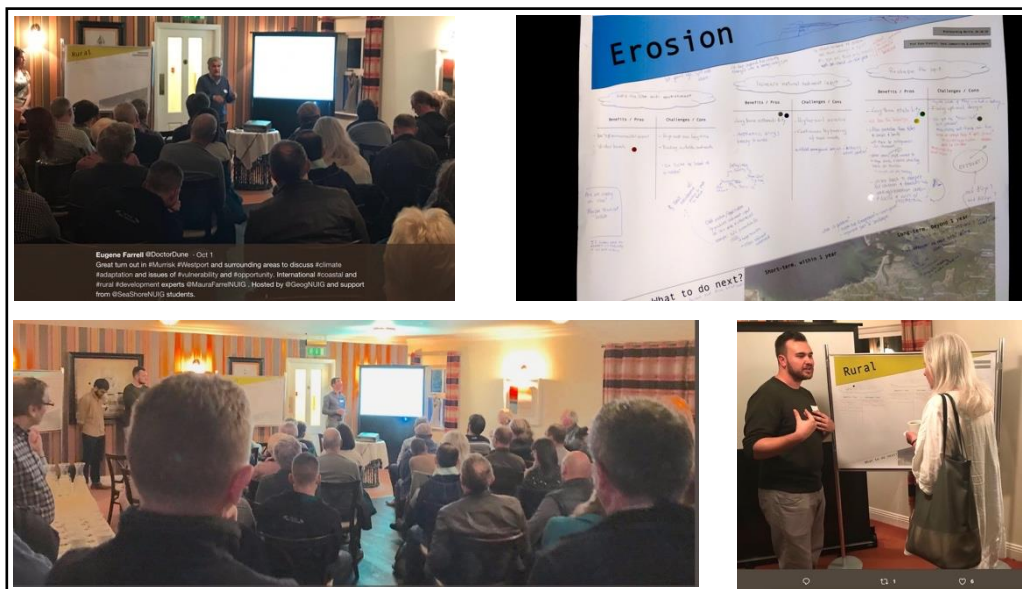
54 participants; 44 signed in: Murrisk Development Association / Non-affiliated local residents / NUI Galway / CARO / National Parks and Wildlife Service/ Westport Tidy Towns / Coastal Communities for Climate Action/ Public Participation Network/ Community Futures Louisburgh/ Extinction Rebellion

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTIVITY:

The purpose of the event was: 1) a greater awareness of possible solutions and 2) a solid commitment from those interested to work together to take action.

STRUCTURE:

There were four 5-minute talks by the visiting speakers, with plenty of time for questions. Discussion following each talk was recorded as annotations on related posters. There were posters for each thematic area on which attendees could write notes directly. After the talks the speakers went to their posters where they chatted informally to attendees.



SUMMARY:

The event on Oct 1st focused on international good practice experiences from Prof Enzo Pranzini (University of Florence), Prof Bas Pedroli (Wageningen University) and Dr Maura Farrell (NUI Galway). The goal was to demonstrate that climate adaptation solutions do exist that can be beneficial to the communities and the natural environment at the same time, with thematic areas covered being: Landscape change; Coastal flooding; Rural development; Coastal erosion. Additionally, attendees

contributed ideas via a series of boards around the room, and through one-on-one conversations with the visiting academics. The combined ideas from the speakers and attendees are summarised in Table 1 & 2 below. These represent possible options to investigate rather than being a proposal upon which to make a decision.

The second stated goal of the event was to formalise a commitment by stakeholders and individual citizens to build on the work of the Aelcllic Project. 21 people agreed to form a Working Group to continue for 1 year after which progress would be reviewed. This local consortium is comprised of 6 from local representative groups; 5 members of local government departments; 4 local residents; 2 local farmers; 2 academics; 2 from a national government agency. The group has already met once and has prioritised the following areas for immediate action:

- **Awareness:** Raise awareness regarding 1) the work of the WG and 2) wider issues
- **Data:** Gather existing data, knowledge & reports; conduct studies where possible (possibly using University or Local students). *A need for a study to gather local knowledge on climate related risks and impacts to supplement other scientific work was identified as a priority*
- **Plan:** Develop action that will work towards using the existing climate adaptation guidelines framework to produce a draft local climate adaptation plan, while at the same time see if a Communities Future methodology can be followed in parallel (combining all communities in the 'Working' area (Lecanvey to Belclare))
- **Options:** 1) compiling a robust list of short-term options (implementable within a year) and long-term options 2) as a priority, specifically developing a plan of action to look at fencing & educational boards (with due process and need for community support implicit).

Table 1: Adaptation options for coastal risk management in the Bertra area (these are ideas & comments, not to be taken as options up for decision)

Thematic Area	Solutions to facilitate climate adaptation	Benefits	Challenges	Possible short-term Action	Possible long-term Action
EROSION	Hold the line with nourishment	No "Big" environmental impacts Wider beach Produce sediment input for this area and other areas	High cost over long time Finding suitable sediments Can Bertra be looked out in isolation Needs maintenance, which will pose a problem for people in the future	Protect sand dunes at all costs	Retreat Need to think to 2030-2050, and with a scenarios of 2.5m sea level rise UK example: No more coastal defences, abandonment. Wave attenuation for intertidal sandflats East of Bertra strand. Need to conduct a
	Increase natural sediment input	Long term sustainability Aesthetics: brings beauty to the area Produce sediment input for this area and other areas	Higher soil erosion Continuous bypassing of sediments		

		Helps tourism Allows sediment movement	Artificial management may not restore natural processes		hydrographic modelling for 2m sea level rise.
	Reshape the spit	Long term stability We have the technology Offers protection from tides to houses and lands Closest to Westport for children and families Walking/Recreation area Flood and wind protection!	Complete waste of money: Need to build a walkway Finding optimal design Can spit be stabilised? Is it possible? Morphology can change over time Can we accept that it will change? Let environment evolve... solutions must be flexible May create long term issues Will there be consequences for insurances A number of years ago, after storms, people wanted to reshape the beach and to restore blue flag beach for tourism: Maybe not the only strategy.		
LANDSCAPE	Organise community hikes to everyday landscapes and exchange perceptions	Discover your own landscape Increases awareness among diverse groups Visitor experience of Crough Patrick → It's not all about the summit Re-imagine	Discuss differing perceptions (based on history or experience) Natural / Man-made? Protection of Westport and all area	Identify problem(s)	Landscape development plan
	Prioritise actions and share them with decision-makers	Clear steps to be followed	Risk of losing joint focus Risk of being played a part/conflicting interests		

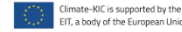
			(landscape vs. people) Must find balance between protecting landscape and population		
	Develop a landscape adaptation plan with realistic, largely shared, action points	Clear vision for a reference baseline for all actions High Nature Value Farming Re-wilding	Assess the feasibility of the actions Settle on restoration or improvement Multi "party": All stakeholders (OPW, NPWS, Local Authority)		
RURAL	LEADER programme	Environment Call Long-term funding Community or individual Start-up fund Links community to the council Greater number backing a voice	Red tape" Long application	Develop community strategy (LEADER funds)	Community Futures
	EIP - AGRI	Multi-Actor Farmer Led Shared community vision for Bertra	Large projects Next call: post 2020		
	Examples of places (e.g. The Burren)	Wonderful example Tried and tested	Long term projects Full community commitment Coastal areas changing most rapidly Insurance risks		
FLOODING	Let it flood	Reduce floods in priority areas Increases biodiversity Natural process	No mechanism to compensate land owners Need to decide what's most valuable How much money to put into abandoned lands	Organise locally → Lead action	Develop vision for future → Use vision to inform funding (e.g. Community Futures) Model all aspects of climate change

	Small flood renovation	Every event doesn't need to be catastrophic Keeps things/structures/places the way they are now	Little or no mechanism to fund at the moment Issue of insurance Fear/Uncertainty Too much money spend on short term solutions		over 50-100 years: Sea level rise + changing landscape Local economy Transports, infrastructures
	Combine methods	Don't have to fix everything at once No regrets options Flexibility → Find shared vision Collaboration No one-size fits all win won Community-based solutions	Risk Analysis Relocation costs? Insurance cost? Must plan for long-term Consistent and Effective cost-benefit solutions Waste of money		



Table 2: Summary of short-term and long-term adaptation actions

Short-term	----->	Long-term
Collaboration: All parties at the table		More community orientated meetings
Clear old wire + fencing from Betra (because it is dangerous and ugly)	Stop wasting money on what should not be "preserved"	Actively involve ALL members of the community
Working with local schools to raise awareness and to include the young generation in future community projects	Innovative participatory events	Hold the line with nourishment
Gather any evidence of erosion in the area	Build a regulated walkway, so that people can enjoy their walk while preserving nature	Increase natural sediment input
Collect old images, documents, drawings, paintings representing local landscapes of the area		Reshape the spit
Identify how locals value and perceive their natural landscape	Propose solutions to address the issue of insurance and compensation for relocation schemes	Need to think towards 2030-2050, and with a scenarios of 2.5m sea level rise
Identify best practice of flood insurance in other countries (e.g. France)		Conduct a hydrographic modelling for 2m sea level rise (SLR)
Look at best practices of coastal management in other countries (e.g. UK)	Small flood renovations: renovate households to handle minor flood events	Let it flood: Use appropriate areas to reduce flood height
		Combine methods for flood risk management
Organise and plan actions locally	Develop a shared vision for the future → Use vision to inform funding (e.g. Community Futures)	Relocation: Managed retreat
		Model all aspects of climate change over 50-100 years: SLR + changing landscape, Local economy, Transports and infrastructures
Organise community hikes to everyday landscapes and exchange perceptions	Identify priorities for action and share them with decision-makers	Develop a landscape adaptation plan with realistic, largely shared, action points
		High Nature Value Farming
		Rewilding
Looking for best-practice examples of sustainable rural development (e.g. The Burren)	Develop community strategy (LEADER funds)	Funding: Community Futures
		Funding: EIP – AGRI → Multi-actor, farmer-led, shared community vision of Bertra



	<i>"No regrets' options": Deliver net social or economic benefits irrespective of whether or not climate change occurs as well as across a range of possible climate futures</i>
	<i>Option with minor consequences/impacts: This type of solution may result in minor costs with limited, or no short term benefits for individuals, communities or ecosystems</i>
	<i>Option with moderated to important consequences/impacts: Options that can result in important and non-reversible effects on ecosystems and/or communities</i>