The French Coastal Environment: Land use, coastal conservation, demographic pressure, risks and consequences of climate change

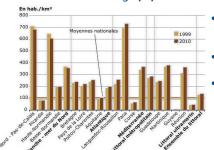
Le 11 juin 2013 Collège de France, Paris



Ministère de l'Écologie, de l'Énergie et du Développement durable

# A wide diversity of landscapes...

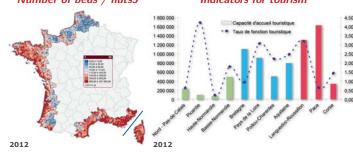
### A high population density



- About 7,5 millions people in coastal municipalities in 2010
- 5,8 millions on metropolitan coasts
- 1,5 millions in overseas french departments
- a population density of 285 inh./km², 2,5 times more than the metropolitan average
- more than 500 inh./km2 in Nord Pas-de-Calais, Haute-

# Normandie and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

## A high level of tourism Number of beds / nuts5 Indicators for tourism

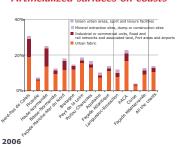


About 7,5 millions beds for tourists in coastal municipalities (secondary homes, hotels and camping) More than 8 000 beds per munici-

### Many artificial surfaces

# Land use in France

### Artificialized surfaces on coasts



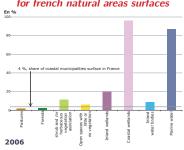
- more artificialized areas on coasts, especially in Nord Pas-de-Calais, Haute-Normandie and Paca
- less arable land, pastures and forests, more wetlands and water bodies

### A great ecological wealth...

Ex 1: wintering shorebirds



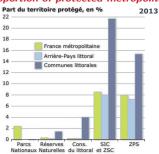
Ex 2 : Share of coastal municipalities for french natural areas surfaces



- Many wintering water birds, some of them are only living on coasts (Brant Goose, Sanderling...), as many protected plants.
- · Several specifical natural habitats : salt marshes, dunes, bare



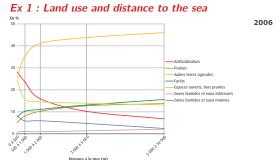
### ... And many protected areas Proportion of protected metropolitan territory



National parks Natural reserves Conservatoire du littoral Habitats directive Birds directive

- the proportion of protected areas in coastal municipalities is higher in coastal municipalities than the metropolitan average
- --> An answer to human pressure and ecological interest of the coasts

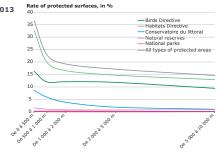
### These indicators are stronger on the coastline (500 m buffer to the coastaline)



- Artificialized and semi-natural lands are more important near the coastline
- · Agriculture is less important near the coastline

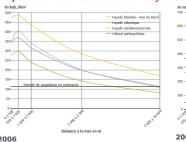
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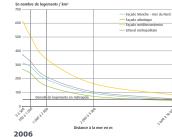
### Ex 2: Protected areas and distance to the sea



- The closer you are to the coast, the more important are the protected areas
- In a 500 m buffer around the coastline, all protected areas are covering 35 % of the territory

### Coastal areas : many stakes and many specific hazards Population and residences density according to the distance of the sea





- Population and residences density are higher near the coastline
- With less than 500 m of the shoreline, residences density is 8 times bigger than the national average. The population density is  $\boldsymbol{3}$ times bigger.

### Coastal areas : many stakes and many specific hazards Coastal erosion



- 25 % of the coastline is concerned.
- Most of the coasts are beaches but also erodible cliffs (calcareous cliffs for example)



### Coastal areas : many stakes and many specific hazards

Marine submersion • Maximum extend of marine submersion About 7 000 km<sup>2</sup>, 16 % are waterbodies

### Calcultation of stakes

### Costal erosion

- a 250 m buffer around erodible coasts
- Model to calculate the number of inhabitants and residences
- About 140 000 inhabitants concerned in 2006 (+ 3 % between 1999 and 2006)
- and 155 000 residences in 2006 (--> secondary home), +7 % between 1999 and 2006

### Marine submersion

- Maximum extend of marine submersion (areas lying bellow the maximum sea level - 100 years period)
- Model to calculate the number of inhabitants and residences
- About 850 000 inhabitants in 2006 (+1 % between 1999 and 2006)
- About 570 000 residences in 2006 (+7 % between 1999 and 2006)

### Calcultation of stakes Land use in «lowlands» Less artificialised areas More pastures and Wetlands arable land Shrub, herbac Less forest and semi-Forests natural areas Pastures More wetlands Arable land Artificial non agricultural veg Mine, dump and construction sites Industrial, commercial and transport untis

### The french national Observatory for coastal zones and seas

Website: www.onml.fr





- Steering committee with many services
- works on metropolitan and overseas territories and seas
- works on the three pilars of sustainable development
- about 45 indicator factsheets, many studies and a Web cartographic tool (statistical and geographical data)

