**Aligning local adaptive land use management in coastal regions to European climate and regional development policies**

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Abstract:

In the European North Sea coastal regions natural and anthropogenic change processes, like changes in climate or ecosystems, demographic distributions or economic potentials, appeal for a realignment of adaptive and ecosystem-based strategies to manage human activities, also with respect to an integrated European policy context. The coastal regions are of significant ecological and socio-economic interest and part of international and cross-sectoral research projects.

The research project COMTESS funded by the German Ministry for Education and Research provides a case study focusing on participatory integrated planning and assessment processes in the community of Krummhörn (rural southern North Sea coastal region, north-west Germany). Here, adaptive governance strategy planning focuses on the interface between land and sea, increasing regional adaptive capacity and better informed decision-making. Different cross-sectoral interests of local experts, including the common objectives for climate adaptation strategies, for instance in accordance to the European maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management or European rural development program, have been taken into account and will be integrated into regional policy actions.

These examples of regional governance actions reflecting possible adaptation measures and European policies can be transferred to similar low lying European peripheral coastal areas in the North Sea region and the southern Atlantic region of the EU.