



# International Coastal Atlas Network

## OBJECTIVES

- Ensure that ICAN has representation from CWA development and user groups from around the world.
- Develop technical and policy guidelines to assist CWA developers in acquiring data and engaging with data providers. Accordingly, collate and publish a set of best-practice guidelines for the development of CWAs.
- Highlight the benefits of interoperability and standards based systems to the coastal atlas developer communities.
- Develop collaborative projects for the sharing of know-how, implementation of technical solutions and demonstration of atlas benefits to users.
- Align the atlas efforts of the Network partners in order that interoperability can be facilitated.
- Engage with other relevant international projects and developments.
- Involve representatives of the user communities to help in tailoring CWAs to their needs.



CWAs provide valuable information, data and tools for coastal zone managers and decision makers.

## AIM

ICAN aims to be a global reference for the development of coastal web atlases (CWAs). Via the expertise of more than 35 member organizations, ICAN intends to inform, guide and influence matters related to research, development and use of CWAs.

## BACKGROUND

In recent years significant advances have been made in the development of Internet resources for decision makers, scientists, resource managers and the general public who are interested in coasts around the world. Coastal web atlases (CWAs) are a key component of these technological improvements.

## WHAT IS A CWA?

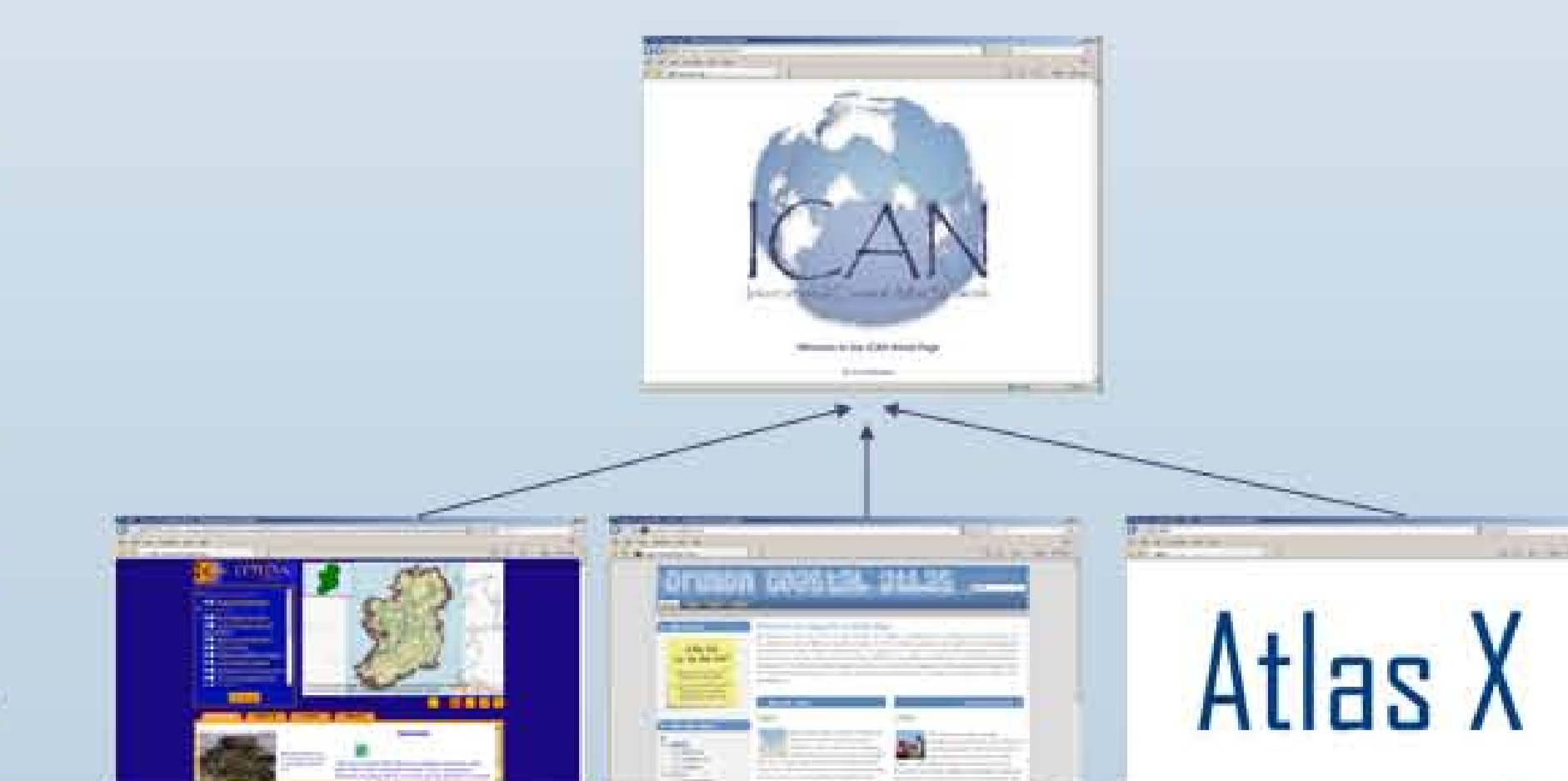
We define a coastal web atlas (CWA) as: a collection of digital maps and datasets with supplementary tables, illustrations and information that systematically illustrate the coast for the purposes of coastal zone management and planning, oftentimes with cartographic and decision support tools, all of which are accessible via the Internet.



CWAs can be local, regional, national and international in scale.

## ACTIVITIES

- Technical development:** A major focus is on a cooperative interoperability and network project to globally-integrate locally-maintained coastal atlases (<http://ican.ucc.ie/>).
- Raising Awareness:** Promote the benefits of ICAN to the developer and user communities including non-technical, high-level decision makers.
- Outreach and Training:** ICAN encompasses a wide range of knowledge and expertise from different disciplines which will be made available to atlas developer and user communities, via handbooks and training courses.



The ICAN prototype (<http://ican.ucc.ie/>) addresses issues of atlas interoperability to connect individual CWAs to an integrated global atlas.

## WHO IS IN



# ICAN

International Coastal Atlas Network

## ICAN EVENTS

- International workshops:
- Potentials and Limitations of Coastal Web Atlases (University College Cork, Ireland, 2006),
  - Coastal Atlas Interoperability (Oregon State University, USA, 2007),
  - Federated Coastal Atlases: Building on the Interoperable Approach (European Environment Agency, Copenhagen, Denmark, 2008),
  - The next international workshop will take place in Italy, Autumn 2009.

## CONTACT

If you would like to join the ICAN initiative or be kept informed of our progress, please email: Dawn Wright at [dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu](mailto:dawn@dusk.geo.orst.edu) or Ned Dwyer at [n.dwyer@ucc.ie](mailto:n.dwyer@ucc.ie) For more information visit: <http://ican.science.oregonstate.edu/>



Poster Design: Kathrin Kopke (CMRC) and Kathy Belpaeme (Kustbeheer)