

CPN Consultation Report 2021

In November 2020, the Coastal Partnerships Network opened a consultation survey to gain the views of UK Coastal Partnerships on the direction of the CPN. This included gathering opinions on current collaborations, opportunities and our three proposed service areas: Learning & Development, Networking, Advocacy & Communications and Collaboration. This report is a summary of the findings.

We would like to extend thanks to all Coastal Partnerships who took the time to respond to the survey. Your feedback has shaped our strategy and business plan, helping the CPN ensure that we are providing the support that CPs need. The consultation has confirmed that we are aligned with need and appetite on the ground and, as part of our ten-year strategy, we will strive to deliver the identified services, programmes and events that will assist CPs across the network.

Background to the Consultation

Why now?

The CPN is a progressive and ambitious organisation that aims to support collaborative working across the UK coastline by enabling knowledge exchange and externally championing the work of CPs. Originally set up as a volunteer committee in 2006, the CPN now has a dedicated team of two full time staff, one part-time Chair and an experienced committee. This group drives the CPN forward in collaboration with a network of public, private and third sector partners. The committee believes that now is the time to grow the CPN into a professional organisation and build a stronger, more active network which can help both the CPN and CPs realise their full potential by supporting collaboration at the regional and national scale.

The last four years have been an exciting time for the CPN, we have collaborated with the Environment Agency, Coastal Communities Alliance, Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group, New Economics Foundation, Thames Estuary Partnership, the Marine CoLABoration and others to achieve the following:

A series of well attended national conferences:

- Catchment and Coastal Partnerships (2018)
- Coastal Challenge Summit opened by Dr Therese Coffey (View the reports for 2018 and 2019)
- Annual Forum (since 2006)

Valuable staff funding:

- National Coordinator funded by John Ellerman Foundation (2018 – 2021)
- Research, Collaboration, and Fundraising Officer funded by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (2020-2021)

Far-reaching and ambitious national projects:

- Wholesale Approach to Marine Management with The Rivers Trust (2019-2020)
- OneCoast coalition – with the Coastal Communities Alliance, LGA Coastal SIG, National Coastal Tourism Academy, Natural England and New Economics Foundation.

- Coastal Based Approach proposal submitted to Government as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review
- Multiple innovative collaborative projects with various research institutions.

Government engagement:

- Tri-Fora representation at the House of Commons Fisheries Bill evidence hearing (2018)
- Tri-Fora secretariat of the new Coastal Communities APPG

What We Did

Theory of Change

With the generous support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the CPN Committee of 10 CPs and two Environment Agency staff - many with over 30 years' experience of working in or with CPs - undertook a Theory of Change process throughout 2020. This work was facilitated by Richard Harris from 3KQ.

Committed to ensuring that the CPN evolves to meet the needs of all UK CPs, we undertook these collaborative workshops to design our organisational structure and offer. Through this process we devised a Vision and Mission statements, a set of Strategic Goals and a draft Strategy and Business Plan. We also applied for legal status as a CIO – taking our first steps in evolving from a voluntary network to a professionalised one.

Consultation Process

A Consultation Working Group was set up consisting of three members of the CPN committee and the CPN National Coordinator. This group led work on drafting the consultation questions, which were also reviewed by the full committee during the Theory of Change sessions. We utilised the consultation to gain feedback on our three proposed CPN service areas: Learning and Development (L&D), Networking, Advocacy and Communications, and Collaboration.

Under Learning & Development we gathered feedback on CP appetite for a mentoring network and areas of skill strength and weakness. Under Networking, Advocacy and Communications, we gathered feedback on our annual events (Annual Forum and Coastal Challenge Summit), influencing policy, priorities for digital networking and appetite for additional informal events. Under Collaboration, we explored the will for forming collaborative projects and campaigns, building stronger ties with academic research and engaging in standardised monitoring and evaluation across the network.

We also consulted on 'The Future of the CPN', through gaining feedback on our strategic goals. An optional section, 'Further Collaboration and Learning Opportunities' allowed CPs to express interest in the Marine CoLABoration initiatives and tools - using a Values-Based Approach, Systems Change and particular projects (such as #OneLess, Agents of Change, World Ocean Day for Schools). It also gathered feedback on willingness to engage in our other opportunities: OneCoast and Year of the Coast, the Coastal Based Approach Proposal (CoBA), Coastal Communities APPG Inquiry 2021: "A Resilient Future for Coastal Communities" and ReMeMaRe: Restoring [seagrass] Meadows, [salt] Marsh and [oyster] Reef.

The consultation survey was hosted on Typeform and began on 9th November, closing early January to allow for input from CPs who requested an extension to the original closing date in December. This proved that despite time and capacity limitations, CPs still wanted to ensure they logged a response and engaged with the future of the CPN.

Webinars

As part of the engagement process around the CPN Consultation, we hosted a series of webinars. A presentation from Marine CoLAB member, Forum For The Future, introduced attendees to the Systems Change Approach, whilst the Marine Conservation Society showcased use of the Values-Based Approach. This was supported by an accompanying presentation on the CoLAB experiment #oneless as a practical case study of both approaches. The sessions had a healthy turn-out and the concepts were met with enthusiasm. There were multiple requests for recordings, which have been uploaded to the CPN website for all to access.

Consultation Findings

Through the Theory of Change process and national consultation, we identified and confirmed the need for support through three key service areas:

1. **Networking, Advocacy and Communications Programme** to provide relationship development opportunities to enhance collaboration and enable knowledge exchange and advocacy at a national scale.
2. **Learning and Development Programme (L&D)** and learning exchange network to enable reciprocal circulation of key learning through sharing and absorbing skills and expertise, leading to development in key areas of identified need.
3. **Collaborative Projects and Partnership Development Programme** to support greater collaboration between CPs across the UK so they can share resources, reduce duplication of effort, scale impact and optimise funding opportunities.

As mentioned above, we also gained feedback on The Future of the CPN and Further Collaboration and Learning Opportunities. The consultation questions and their responses are explored below under these five thematic areas.

Networking, Advocacy and Communications

Establishing successful long-term working relationships with diverse transdisciplinary and inter-departmental partners at a local level is the unique selling point of CPs, and central to their success. We identified a potential need to provide networking and relationship development opportunities to enhance collaboration and knowledge exchange at a national scale.

CPN Annual Forum

As the main way of facilitating knowledge exchange, the CPN has convened an Annual Forum since 2006. This Forum brings CPs and other interested private, public and third sector organisations together to showcase their work, it updates on major national initiatives such as Marine Planning and identifies areas of need, discussing how we can collaborate better.

- 69% of respondents indicated they had attended a CPN Annual Forum in the past.

- These CPs were asked what they found most useful at the event. They highlighted the networking and information sharing opportunities:



- Barriers to attending the forum were highlighted as distance (and the resulting cost of travel and overnight stays) and sparing the time out of a busy work schedule. Being new to the CP officer role was also highlighted as a barrier.
- 83% believe a virtual event would make it easier for them to engage – but in-person networking and discussion benefits would be lost.

When asked about the most important **discussion topics for CPs collaborating at a national scale**, CPs gave responses such as:

- How to engage successfully with government departments, agencies and private sector funders, to gain buy-in.
- How to shape our work to deliver our desired outcomes for local, sub regional and regional (collaborating with other CPs) areas to deliver government's desired outcomes locally and nationally.
- How to make CPs relevant and central to emerging agendas and key issues.
- How to access funding around key issues such as climate change (habitat and biodiversity loss), climate adaptation, blue carbon, coastal habitat restoration, net gain and litter and plastics.
- Addressing the gap between terrestrial and marine, to tackle siloed working.
- Identifying shared aims to increase effectiveness in progressing certain areas of work – such as physical coastal change & protection, biodiversity gain, education and engagement - exchanging learning on past projects and their challenges, minimising duplication of effort.

- CP collaboration on joint funding bids. It was raised that, when developing funding source opportunities, government and funders need to understand the need for eligibility to lend itself to more joined up submissions.
 - How to encourage better use and stewardship of the coastal and marine environment through messaging.
 - Community engagement around coastal issues such as renewable energy/decarbonisation; water quality, climate change and sustainable fisheries.
- 100% of respondents are interested in attending an annual forum in the future.
 - 97% would welcome regional CPN events.

Coastal Challenge Summit

Since 2018, we have co-convened an event that brings together the Coastal Communities Alliance (CCA) and Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group (LGA Coastal SIG) networks with CPs, to discuss topics of importance to the socio-economic and conservation groups working at the coast. You can view the event reports for 2018 and 2019 on the [CPN website](#).

- Only **36%** of respondents indicated they had **attended a Coastal Challenge Summit** in the past.

These CPs were asked what they found **most useful** at the event(s). They highlighted the following benefits:

- Gaining better insight into the socio-economic agenda and being challenged to link environmental objectives.
- The chance to listen to new voices and their agendas, to understand our commonalities, issues and challenges.
- Discussion around tackling common issues on the coast and how CPs can help local authorities/other government groups and agencies achieve their required outputs for the sea and coast.
- Constructive and collaborative workshops to find ways forward on current priority issues.
- The opportunity to network with a wider range of partners, compared to the CPN annual forum.
- The chance to explore how we can work smarter with external coastal interest organisations, not just other CPs.

The **most important outcomes** of the Coastal Challenge Summit were highlighted as:

- Broader recognition of the organisations working across the coast.
- Increased political buy-in to focusing resources on coastal sustainability.
- The strengthening of the “Triumvirate”, with a clear voice and growing gravitas.
- Joint vision and collaboration opportunities

There was also a suggestion that a series of regional Coastal Challenge Summits may be beneficial to ensure that local issues and knowledge are taken into account to develop tangible outputs. Such workshops could be facilitated by coastal partnerships and structured to explore regional pressures and issues.

Discussion **topics raised as important** for CPs collaborating at a national scale included:

CP funding, climate change and resilience projects, coastal erosion, habitat restoration, marine and coastal litter, utilisation of new technologies, recreational disturbance, biodiversity loss, marine planning, the barriers between marine and land planning, engagement with local authorities, natural capital, green-blue recovery, coastal development, cross-border collaboration, levelling up coastal communities, stewardship of natural assets and integration of sustainability principles across sectors.

- **95% are interested in attending a Coastal Challenge Summit** in the future.

Digital Networking

We would like to further develop the CPN website and build in functionality that will help CPs connect, collaborate, and exchange knowledge remotely.

- 97% support the idea of creating an interactive, digital networking platform for CPs.
- CPs were asked what they felt would be the most beneficial uses of such a platform. The features suggested for ranking were a contacts database for all CPs, Coastal Partnership profiles, thematic discussion forums, a showcase of CP success stories (case study development), a showcase of CP challenges and lessons learnt and a learning and development hub for sharing training materials and running courses online. All options received a very similar priority ranking – with great enthusiasm for all elements - but a showcase of CP challenges and lessons learnt narrowly came out on top.

Working within a CP can sometimes feel isolating, and we have found that regular meetings can provide a source of support and increase wellbeing for CP Officers. Knowing and hearing from others working on the same issues is comforting as well as informative.

The CPN would like to offer quarterly CP Officer check in meetings and additional informal events and site visits to help us connect in a social setting. It is hoped this will support greater well-being and happiness for the network of hardworking and dedicated CP staff.

- **89%** are interested in **quarterly CP officer update meetings**.
- **64%** are interested in **social time** after these quarterly CP officer update meetings.
- **92%** are keen to attend annual **national CP social events** (either remotely or in person - *when safe to do so*).
- We also asked whether CPs would be interested in hosting a social event (either remotely, or in person when safe to do so). Ideas included field trips to visit a CP area and relevant project, themed discussion workshops to accompany site visits and a coastal quiz night.

Learning & Development

CPs have a wide range of skills and expertise. All CPs, however, have both strengths and requirements for learning and development. We identified a potential opportunity to create a programme that will enable those with expertise to share their skills, and support learning and development in other key areas. The responses were as follows:

- **93%** of respondents would be interested in **sharing their skills and expertise** with other CPs through a **funded learning and development (L&D) programme**.
- **100%** of respondents would be interested in **exchange-based learning** as part of an L&D programme (skills and expertise exchanged, CPs not paid).

CPs were asked about areas in which they possess strong skills and would be **willing to mentor** others through an L&D programme. The following skills were highlighted:

1. Interdisciplinary project development and delivery - 70.4%/ 19 resp.
2. Community engagement - 63.0%/ 17 resp.
3. Workshop facilitation - 55.6%/ 15 resp.
4. Consensus building - 44.4%/ 12 resp.
5. Fundraising - 40.7%/ 11 resp.
6. Other expertise areas offered included effective communication, financial management and collaborative working.

CPs were also asked to indicate areas where they felt they **needed support** in learning and development. Corporate fundraising emerged as the area with by far the greatest demand for support, followed by media engagement. We will be taking this into account when developing our Learning & Development Programme. The full results were as follows:

- Corporate fundraising - 74.1%/ 20 resp.
- Media engagement - 29.6%/ 8 resp.
- Healthcare engagement - 25.9%/ 7 resp.
- Financial management - 22.2%/ 6 resp.
- Other topics highlighted for support included sharing of best practice in behaviour change science (turning theory to practice), community engagement and academic knowledge (such as CIA)

Knowledge-sharing or training on appropriate (and effective) tools for digitally/remotely engaging with stakeholders and partners was raised as helpful. Support in keeping up with the latest coastal developments was also mentioned.

Accreditation/Career Development

The CPN would like to support a career development pathway for CP staff, potentially through an accredited route with a relevant professional institute.

- 86% would welcome an accredited career development path for CP Officers.
- 90% would welcome a training package for upskilling new CP Officers.

It was highlighted that a resource not just aimed at new CP officers, but also offering ability to upskill those who work closely with CPs, would be beneficial.

Regarding accredited career development, it is agreed that existing bodies do not offer accreditation that is specific enough or fully understand the CP officer role – as it is a complex non-traditional role requiring both established people skills and technical knowledge. An affiliation with one of the existing bodies will provide recognition and help to strengthen the importance of coastal and marine work on this stage.

Achieving professional accreditation of coastal partnership activity through affiliation with an existing professional body is seen as a helpful advancement, not only in the running of partnerships, but regarding their standing with other organisations.

It was highlighted that the accreditation route we go down must be flexible to take into account and respect the value of professional memberships/accreditation practitioners already hold. Overall, accreditation is viewed as a great step in CPN's development.

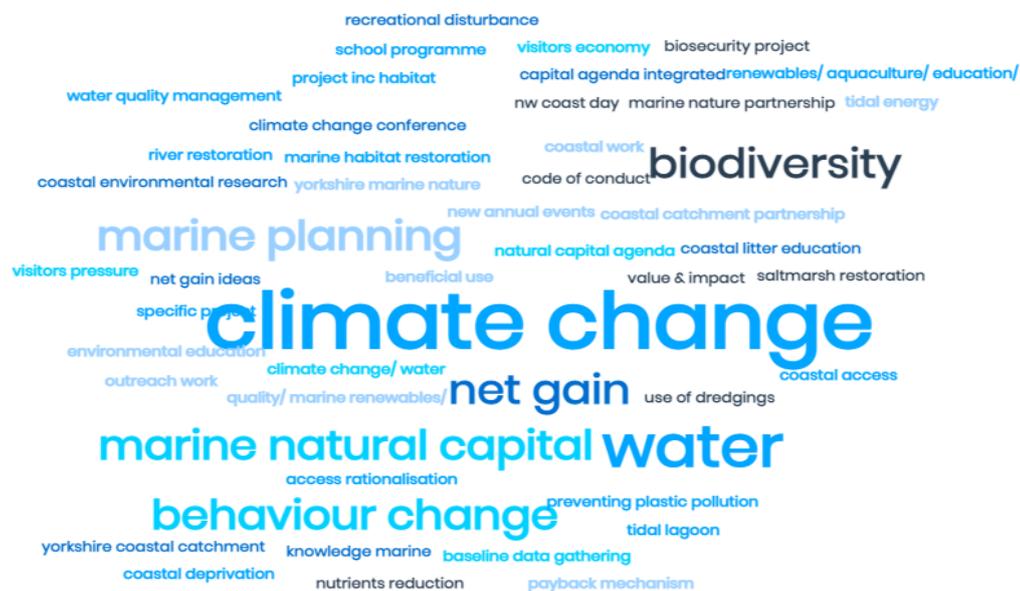
Collaborative Projects and Partnership Development

Enabling collaboration is a core service of all CPs. However, we have identified a need to support greater collaboration between CPs across the UK to share resources, reduce duplication of effort and optimise funding opportunities.

Using our directory of nearly 400 CP projects and campaigns created this year, we aim to enable greater collaboration in project and campaign development.

We asked a series of questions around collaboration with other CPs, with academia and for input into policy.

- The **majority** are **interested in collaborating on project and campaign development** with other CPs (over 80% selected their level of interest as a 3 or 4 (highest interest)).
- CPs were asked which **thematic areas** they are looking to develop projects and campaigns in over the next 3 years. The answers generated the following word cloud:

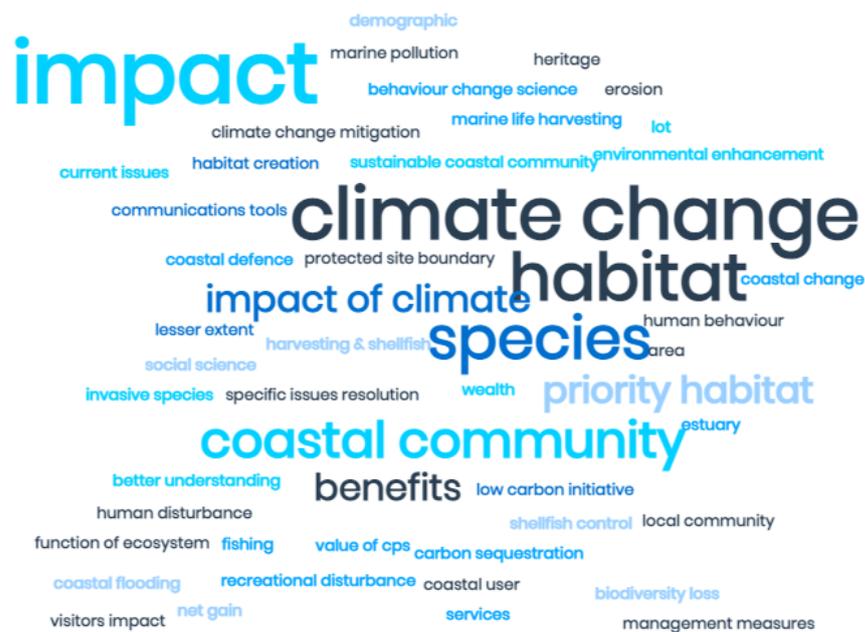


- **96%** are happy for the CPN to drive forward development of **national collaborative projects**.
- **93%** are happy for the CPN to drive forward development of **regional collaborative projects (with local CPs)**.

Academic Research

Integrating natural, social, and economic sciences, engineering and other academic disciplines into CP working is essential to ensure that CP delivery is informed by current state-of-the-art knowledge, techniques and resources to support enhanced sustainability of the coastline.

- **83%** of respondents **collaborate with academia**. We also collected examples of this collaboration, for reference.
- **86%** are **interested in collaborating** in academic research with other CPs and research institutions.
- CPs were asked about **priority areas for research**, the answers for which generated the following word cloud:



Developing Our National Voice

CP staff knowledge is essential to the development of policy and CPs often contribute through consultation responses. We have identified the need to create a national unified voice for CPs in terms of these responses. The CPN would like to work with CPs to identify where and when a unified voice is relevant and facilitate this process.

- CPs were asked how the CPN could help promote their work across the UK. All of the responses given – such as providing contact with central and local government, championing CPs through the annual forum and other events, building a repository of

area case studies and exploiting the reach of social media - are encompassed under our three service strands, indicating that these are accurate in terms of planned offering.

- **75%** are interested in **collaborating on consultation responses** to create a unified voice for CPs in policy development.
- **68%** are interested in **developing position statements** for key issues.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Quantifying and analysing CP working and benefits to community and nature is a critical aspect of maintaining, growing, and creating stable long-lasting CPs that demonstrate value. We would like to quantify CPs services to gain both local and national scale support.

- 79% would be willing to participate in an annual information request for monitoring and evaluation of CPs – helping to monitor impacts and develop a cost-benefit analysis.
- 86% are willing to participate in a training to embed monitoring approaches.

The Future of the CPN

The CPN is run voluntarily by members for members. The CPN Action Plan has long had the ambition of professionalising and gaining legal status. Therefore, we are currently applying for CIO status and aim to become financially independent within 3 years, having received support funding to become established.

During the Theory of Change Process, we crafted our Vision and Mission statements and a set of strategic goals. We asked CPs their opinion on these goals, as outlined below.

Our long-term aim is that the CPN will be:

Professional: The CPN and CPs are recognised for their professionalism and ability to deliver valued and high-quality services.

Established: The CPN is respected as a high performing and supportive national and international networking body.

Adaptive: The CPN is professionally managed, with stable and consistent capacity and resources to support its members in a constantly changing environment.

Impactful: The CPN consistently demonstrates its own value and that of its members, and successfully maintains and attracts new funding.

Influential: The CPN is able to effectively advocate and influence on behalf of its members, across local and national government policy areas.

- **All CPs** who responded to the consultation **agreed with these strategic goals**.
- **93%** welcome a **professionalised, fully resourced CPN**.
- Going forwards, **100% of respondents would like to work with us**.
- 93% are willing to be contacted regarding funding options for the CPN.

Further Collaboration and Learning Opportunities

The CPN has been working closely with a range of organisations over the last few years and, as a result, there are a number of opportunities for collaborative project development between our partners and CPs. In the consultation, we asked CP's views on these opportunities to ascertain priority and gauge overall interest in each.

The Marine CoLABoration

The Marine CoLABoration was initiated by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in 2015 to increase collaborative action and explore how to communicate the value of the ocean more effectively.

The Marine CoLAB community is formed of a wide group of over 100 organisations supported by a Steering Group of nine: Client Earth, Fauna and Flora International, Forum for the Future, Institute for European Environmental Policy, International Programme on the State of the Ocean, Marine Conservation Society, New Economics Foundation, Thames Estuary Partnership (CPN Chair) and the Zoological Society of London.

The CoLAB aims to communicate the role of the ocean in human wellbeing, culture, and prosperity and to demonstrate effective collaboration. The vision is for an ocean that is healthier and where the full range of ocean and human values are reflected in individual and collective decision-making. They aim to increase the effectiveness and impact of ocean solutions through a Values-Based Approach. The CoLAB takes a collaborative, experimental Values-Based and Systems Change Approach, learning about their impact through an action, research, learning cycle.

Using a Values Based Approach

Taking a Values-Based Approach (VBA) means that Marine CoLAB partners design projects which test the hypothesis that developing a shared appreciation of the value of the ocean, in all its forms, will deliver better outcomes for people and the planet.

The focus is on making intrinsic and non-monetary values explicit, moving away from a narrative currently dominated by short term economic maximisation of the ocean's resources.

The VBA approach uncovers and communicates the value of the ocean in all its diversity to connect with deeply held, personal and shared values. It works on the premise that we can accelerate progress towards an ocean-friendly society by collaborating and placing value at the heart of solutions.

- **92%** (of the 86% who answered the additional collaboration questions) are **interested in learning how to use the Values-Based Approach** in their work.
- CPs felt a Values-Based Approach would be most useful for stakeholder and community engagement, specifically regarding messages around health and wellbeing, the value of coastal/estuarine/marine biodiversity and sustainable tourism and recreation.
- Some CPs had reservations about using VBA with technical audiences and some industry stakeholders. This highlights the opportunity to trial and test VBA comms across a range of audiences and the public to find the right approach for industries outside of marine conservation, enabling a two-way flow of learning between the CoLAB and CPs local networks.

Using a Systems Change Approach

Taking a Systems Change Approach means understanding the system which supports the issue you want to change (e.g., reducing plastic pollution into our coastal waters), to find the best collaborative way to enable that change.

It includes mapping and identifying all the parts of the system and the relevant organisations involved (e.g., plastic production, retail, waste management etc) to uncover where in the system, if you applied pressure and worked with the relevant stakeholders to identify new solutions, you could 'flip the system' into a new one which would supporting more sustainable behaviour and practice (e.g., eliminating single-use plastic and supporting a refill culture).

CPs inherently do this (to some extent) to enable integrated, cross-sectoral management. There are, however, tools involved in systems change analysis and delivery that could evolve our practice to become more innovative and impactful, tackling problems from multiple sources collaboratively.

- **92% are interested in learning how to use the Systems Change Approach.**
- CPs indicated that a Systems Change Approach would be most useful for work addressing climate change, litter, pollution, tourism and recreation.

Example Marine CoLAB Projects (using the above tools)

#OneLess

#OneLess was established in 2016 to reduce London's single-use plastic footprint and tackle ocean plastic pollution at source. London is an estuarine city, directly connected to the ocean via the River Thames, and our actions in this city profoundly impact the ocean.

Working with a rapidly growing movement of pioneering individuals, innovators, communities, businesses, NGOs, and policymakers, #OneLess is spearheading a change in the way Londoners access and drink water, from single-use plastic water bottles, to refilling and reusing.

A new culture has arrived, with the number of people using a refillable water bottle higher than ever before, a growing citywide network of 150+ public drinking fountains, and 90+ organisations are actively working to encourage refilling and remove plastic water bottles from workplaces, venues, shops, and supply chains.

The learning from this project could potentially help with existing CP litter projects or help kickstart projects where there are currently none.

Agents of Change

Agents of Change is an initiative that seeks to build support in coastal communities for Marine Protected Areas and associated marine resource use (e.g., sustainable fisheries, sustainable planning).

The experiment is exploring what happens if we empower 'Agents of Change' – different organisations and individuals within coastal communities - as new voices for conservation, to widen engagement in the process and discussions surrounding marine conservation. View the website for engagement at Beachy Head East MCZ.

This project could potentially help CPs with their local MPA engagement, or we could look to adapt and broaden the approach to include a whole coastal space within a CP area for holistic coastal engagement.

World Ocean Day for Schools

World Ocean Day for Schools (WODS) started in 2017, building from a teacher questionnaire developed by the Marine Conservation Society and the Thames Estuary Partnership to understand if or how staff teach about the ocean in schools.

WODS seeks to establish the same level of engagement and enthusiasm as World Book Day for World Ocean Day 8th June each year. Those engaged in it develop resources that teachers can easily use - from 5-minute assembly ideas to full scale lesson plans.

This could be a great way to share your educational resources or collaborate to create aligned CP educational resources.

The CPN Chair identified that the skills and tools developed through the CoLAB approach would be useful for CPs in their ongoing and future work. There is also huge scope to scale and adapt the projects listed above to improve coastal areas.

The CoLAB are committed to sharing and upscaling their unique skills and expertise in collaboration with CPs via the CPN. To make the most of this, we asked a few questions to understand which elements of the opportunity are most needed with CPs.

- **83%** are interested in working with the CPN and Marine CoLAB to **replicate experiments** within their CPs.
- **Agents of Change** is coming out as the project with the greatest interest by over one third. WODS came in second, with #oneless third.
- Some CPs expressed their concern about the inaccessibility of theory and the use of complex jargon in the approaches – our CPN Learning & Development programme will aim to demystify this.

[OneCoast](#)

The initial plan for a Year of the Coast - having a year of events to celebrate the diversity and resilience of our coast and its communities in 2021 - was unfortunately rendered impossible by the previously unimaginable impacts of Coronavirus. As coastal businesses and livelihoods were hit by the impacts of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, affecting our already fragile coastal economies, the narrative switched to support and recovery.

We adapted our concept to a three-year programme – the first two years to focus upon recovery and embedding resilience, culminating in a celebratory year at a time when businesses, organisations and communities could come together, having rebuilt after the pandemic.

Despite our hopes for committing to this programme, the stretching timeline of the pandemic has meant that 2021 is very much still a year of survival for most at the coast.

We see this year as an opportunity to support survival and recovery where we can, such as through aligned messaging to help address the pressures around domestic travel and 'staycations'. We realised, however, that to ensure our coastal communities, environment and economies can build

back to be stronger and more sustainable, a wider, more aspirational approach is needed over the next decade and beyond.

We quickly came to realise that our coming together had to stretch beyond the demarcation of a single project or year, creating a legacy for any celebration and making it part of something much more ambitious. As such, we formed OneCoast.

OneCoast is a cross-sector coalition established by the Coastal Partnerships Network, Local Government Association Coastal SIG, Coastal Communities Alliance, National Coastal Tourism Academy, Natural England and New Economics Foundation, to create a unified voice to advocate on behalf of coastal issues. As a coalition, we represent: 56 local authorities, over 100 Coastal Community Teams, over 87 Coastal Partnerships and wider initiatives, 35 Coastal Destination Management Organisations and thousands of small businesses.

OneCoast aims to grow to become a cross-sector group representing industry, the public sector, environment, commerce and national bodies, wishing to partner with Government to deliver change across the coast and support the levelling up agenda to build back better, increasing community and environmental resilience. The Year of the UK Coast will form part of OneCoast's 10-year strategy, to be developed this year.

- **96%** would like to **carry OneCoast messages** to support a **sustainable recovery** throughout 2021 – in particular around increased pressures on our coastal towns and local environment caused by high domestic tourist numbers.
- **75%** would like to help shape the **OneCoast strategy** or develop a project for our celebratory year.
- CPs had a number of great ideas around collaborative events and projects that could form part of this celebration.

[Coastal Based Approach Proposal](#)

The Coastal Based Approach is a simple idea to establish coastal partnerships covering the entire UK coast. In 2010, the Conservative Government set up a programme called the Catchment Based Approach. It put in place partnerships of key stakeholders in every English Catchment that took an interest in helping to deliver Good Ecological Status to water bodies in those catchments. It led to catchment management plans and partnerships which deliver over 3 to 1 return on investment.

We are suggesting a similar approach be applied at the coast, providing systematic coverage to enable the delivery of a wide range of Government policies and programmes, including HMG's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management strategy, Marine Policy Statement and 25 Year Environment Plan, amongst others.

You can see a summary of this idea and a longer document setting out why this is necessary, and how this could be achieved, on the [CPN website](#).

The paper was submitted to Defra and Ministers across Government as part of the recent Comprehensive Spending Review, asking for the Government to provide political credibility for CoBA and provide targeted investment from existing budgets to establish CoBA in 2021.

- The development of a Coastal Based Approach (CoBA) is **supported by 96% of respondents**.
- CPs were asked if they currently work with a Catchment Partnership. A **third** of partnerships indicated that they **work with one or more Catchment Partnership**.
- The **priority water quality issues** in CP's coastal spaces were highlighted as: plastics and litter, nitrates, endocrine disrupters, heavy metals, effluent and UCSOs, microplastics, nutrient and sediment run-off (mainly agricultural pollution), contaminated sediments (landfills, old mines, coastal munitions dumps).

[Coastal Communities APPG Inquiry 2021: "A Resilient Future for Coastal Communities"](#)

The Covid-19 crisis has profoundly impacted our coastal communities, exposing and exacerbating social and economic structural challenges that need an urgent and co-ordinated response to support a sustainable recovery. Coastal towns are the most vulnerable to the economic impact of the COVID lockdown and the economic loss to coastal communities from the pandemic is forecast to be £7.96bn from tourism on the English coast alone.

In the summer of 2020, the CPN, CCA and LGA Coastal SIG offered to provide a joint secretariat for the newly formed Coastal Communities APPG. Together, we crafted a letter to the Chancellor requesting that dedicated investment be directed to help remedy pervasive issues along the coast and called for a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities who can work across Government, supported by the reinstatement of the Whitehall cross-department working group for the coast.

We are embarking on an inquiry into "A Resilient Future for Coastal Communities". These evidence-based, community-led recommendations will provide a blueprint for any new Minister and cross-departmental working group to begin to tackle some of the deep-rooted issues on the coast, such as by improving digital connectivity and green transport infrastructure, attracting new investment and, catalysing innovative ways of working to ensure coastal communities are not left behind.

Throughout 2021, the inquiry will focus on immediate issues around survival through Covid-19. Next year, a deeper inquiry will run around recovery, focusing upon themes identified by the APPG members and secretariat; inc. climate and community resilience, flood and coastal erosion, fisheries, connectivity, education, skills and training, tourism and hospitality. This will result in recommendations to the Government for policy amendment, creation, and integration. In 2022, an in-depth inquiry will be launched to build on the work in 2021.

We asked CPs a couple of questions about willingness to get involved in the APPG inquiry.

- **79%** are willing to **share existing research/evidence** with the Coastal Communities APPG inquiry, 52% in giving expert or lived experience evidence.
- **83%** would be willing to engage with and **support future research projects** as part of the APPG work.

ReMeMaRe: Restoring [seagrass] Meadows, [salt] Marsh and [oyster] Reef

ReMeMaRe (pronounced Re-Memory) aims to reverse centuries of decline of our estuarine and coastal habitats, and support the government's net zero targets by creating habitats of high blue carbon sequestration potential that help us adapt to the threat of climate change and encourage biodiversity recovery.

ReMeMaRe will contribute to this aim by providing dedicated resource for the restoration and improved management of saltmarsh, seagrass and oyster bed habitats around the English coast.

The project is led by the Environment Agency in collaboration with a cross Defra Steering group with representation from Defra, the Marine Management Organisation, Natural England, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Crown Estate and the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities. The Steering group has broadened engagement and now works closely with a number of eNGOs who are sharing their restoration strategies.

The project Team have created a number of valuable resources including Restoration Potential Maps and Restoration Handbooks. The Team now aims to review marine activities at restoration sites and support strong environmental leadership that is nationally strategic and locally owned by working in Partnership.

The Coastal Partnerships Network (CPN) has been recruited by the ReMeMaRe project to write their Engagement Strategy and the Team have expressed a keen interest in working more closely with Coastal Partnerships via the CPN to deliver this work locally.

- **Saltmarsh is the most common habitat of concern** for CPs (by almost a third). Seagrass is second, followed by oyster beds.
- **75%** are interested in **developing a coastal restoration plan** for their area.