

COLMCILLE CHALLENGE 2011



- TNC project between Inishowen Development Partnership (Ireland) and Argyll and the Islands Leader group (Islay)

Presentation to
Leader Sub-committee meeting Brussels -31/05/2012

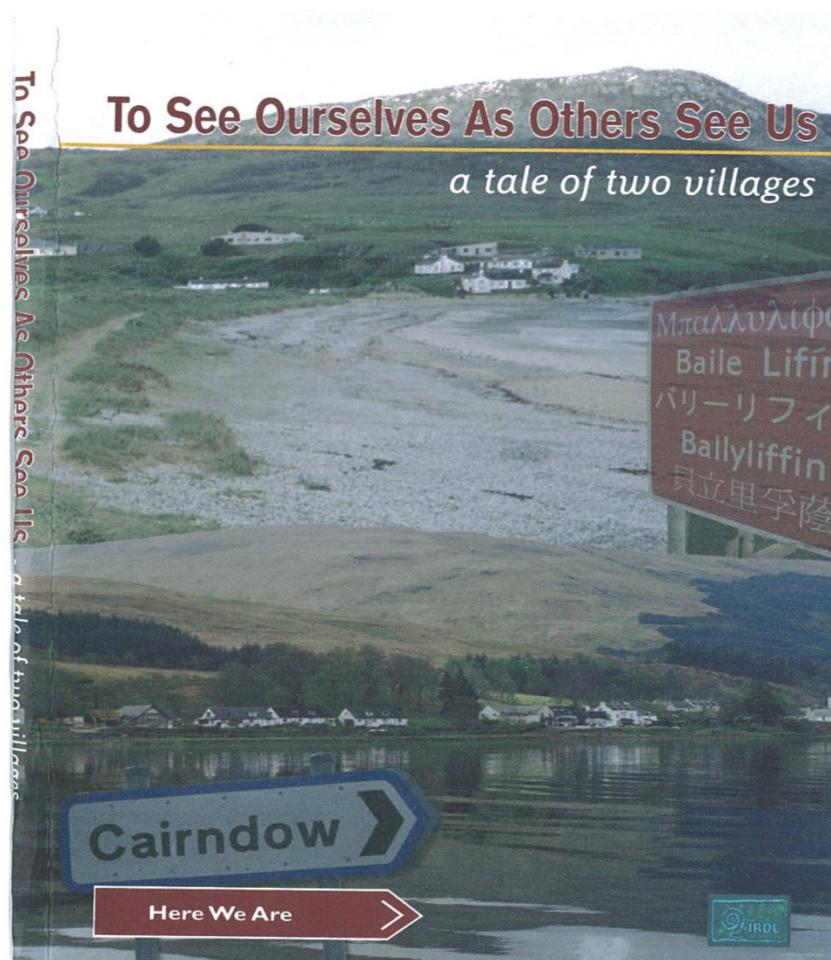
By Andrew Ward, RDP Manager, Inishowen Development Partnership

Location of areas



- Inishowen – Political isolation from N.Ireland
- Geographical isolation from rest of the ROI
- South Islay had been identified as a fragile area in need of community development

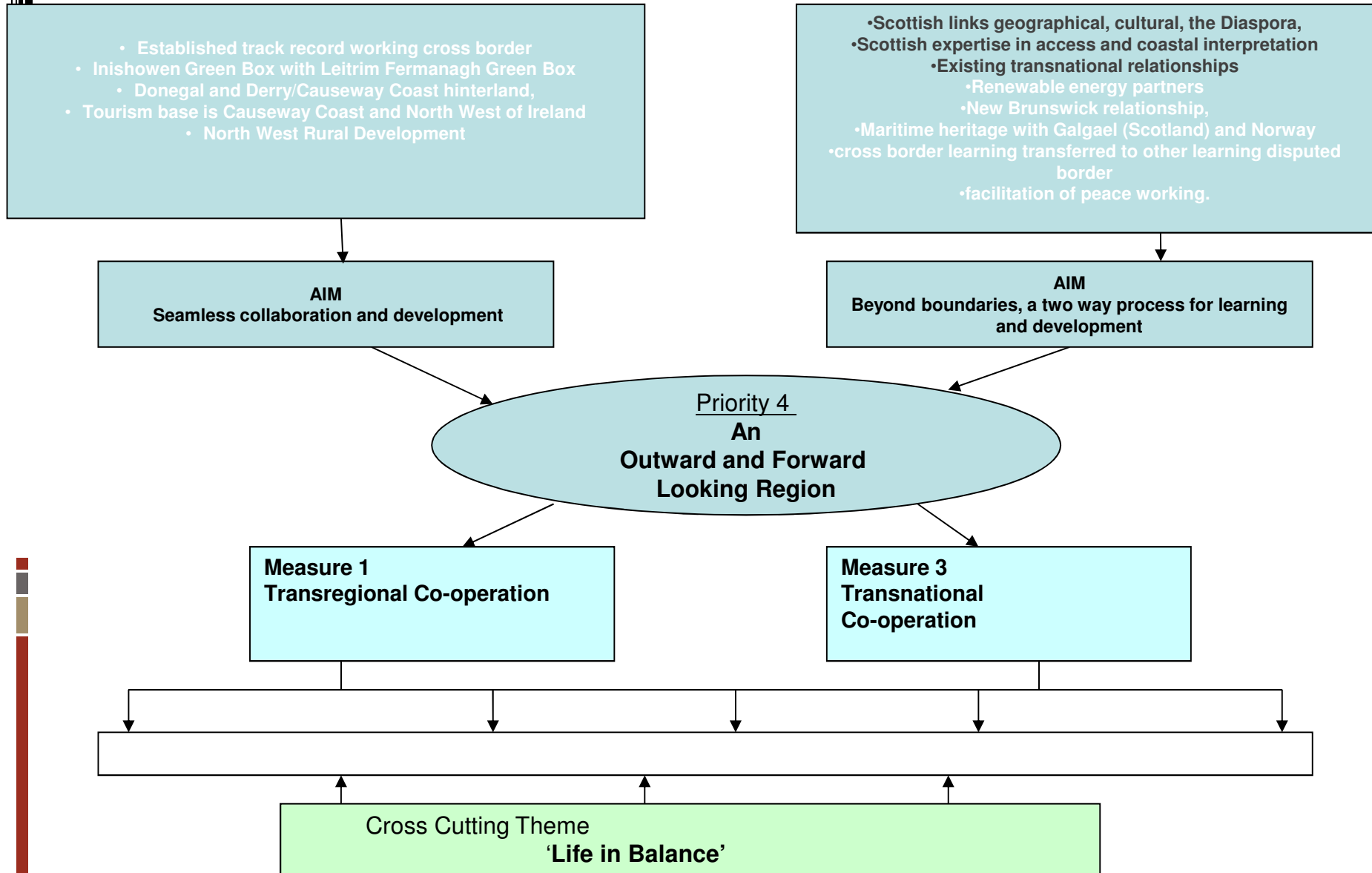
History of linkages with Scotland



- “A Tale of two Villages” – successful TNR with WHELK (Highlands and Islands of Scotland LAG) –
- Scottish Irish Parliamentary group visit.
- 1847 Exmouth Castle 241 Irish Emigrants lost off Islay with many from Inishowen.

IDP Strategic Plan 2007-2013

Theme 4 Outward and Forward Looking



|| IDP Consultation Process

Public meetings

Programmetheme is
“outward and forward
looking region” (IDP
Strategy Plan p.49)

Business Plan – Scotland
specifically mentioned ,
natural neighbour with
strong social cultural ties



Argyll and the Islands TNC Strategic Objectives



- Progressive rural economy theme
- “To increase the capacity of rural communities to undertake projects and activities which will improve prosperity”

The Project

- The Colmcille Challenge is a rowing challenge from Port Ellen on the Isle of Islay, to Greencastle on Lough Foyle.

- Distance, 44 miles

- The row kicked off a twin Festival of the Sea in both Islay and Moville involving events based on common maritime history and culture in both locations.

- Event took place from 8th - 10th July 2011



The Project

- Festival of the sea in both locations incorporated the following events:

- Exhibition of heritage and modern coastal rowing boats,
- Traditional music and dance,
- Cookery demonstrations (celebrating local seafood produce).
- Historical walks,
- Environmental talks,
- Art and photography exhibition,
- Storytelling (local folklore),
- Safety at sea talks,
- Lectures on coastal wildlife.
- Craft exhibition

Cost: Argyll & Islands LAG €21,552.29

Inishowen Leader = €19,924.43



Support

Citation written by Brian Friel,
(considered the greatest living English
language dramatist) especially written to
commemorate the Colmcille Challenge.

Patron: John Hume, Nobel Lauriat, voted
Irish person of the 20th century



*"Before man harnessed the wind in a
Sail he propelled his boat with two
sticks.*

*The Foyle rowing Club is reviving a skill
as old as mankind, a skill that requires
Physical strength and - because it is a
group exercise, -mental discipline.*

*The Club is building up a modest fleet
and at the same time reclaiming the
Foyle as a place of pleasure and
pleasurable exercise. "*

Brian Friel

Outcomes

- Overall the Colmcille Challenge was a very successful event. Its focus, the rowing challenge across the North Channel(Atlantic), was completed by all participating teams. This involved support and input for local communities both in Scotland and Ireland.
- Colmcille Challenge Festival ran to plan and was enjoyed by all who attended.
- The co-operation and involvement of Inishowen's sister community on Islay enriched the experience for all involved.
- The event crossed boundaries and joined two communities and it is hoped that we can build on this excellent start.
- A local fundraiser in Islay before the event collected £1,700stg for a Hospice in Ireland



Outcomes.....con

- Future Events
- Bi annual row
- Boats already showing interest from other parts of Scotland, Ireland and Wales
- Development of strong friendships (kinship) between the two maritime neighbours.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

21st July, 2011

Dear Dr. D. McGinley,

Thank you very much for your letter concerning the Colmcille Challenge from Islay to Inishowen, which took place on 9th July.

I had already heard about this event and was most interested to see the brochure and pre-development report which you enclosed. I gather that the day was very successful with glorious weather, other than one little rough patch.

It is good to know how much the members of the Foyle Rowing Club enjoyed their visit to Islay in April, and the aim of the Challenge, to bridge the ancient sea routes and strengthen the ties between our two communities, is indeed to be commended.

I hope that everyone involved enjoyed taking part in the Challenge, and that your fund-raising proved successful.

Thank you again for your letter, and my good wishes to you all.

*Yours sincerely
Mary Morrison.*

Lady-in-Waiting

Dr. D. McGinley

Thank you for listening.....



"The project added value to the shared experience of peripheral coastal communities and can be a catalyst to cultural and heritage based tourism in the future."

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INISHOWEN
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP



'The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
investing in rural areas'.



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba