

## The Bere Island Conservation Plan, The Heritage Council and the Bere Island Project Group

The aim of the Bere Island Conservation Plan is to shape the sustainable future of the island. It demonstrates the value of a landscape approach to island management. In line with the European Landscape Convention, the conservation plan was developed with the full involvement of the Bere Islanders, who were proactive in developing strategies to protect and manage their landscape. It has resulted in a series of projects inspired by its vision, informing and shaping policy at the regional, national and European levels. The Conservation Plan has also become a model of best practice for other European islands.



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe recognised the great value of the project. The Bere Island Conservation Plan is a sound plan representing an exemplary approach and fulfilling all the criteria for the Council of Europe Landscape Award, particularly where public participation and awareness-raising are concerned. It involves various participants (local people, universities in the framework of the Erasmus programme, the army, etc.). The project brings nature and the economy together and offers waste management solutions. It is subject to integrated management using the resources available, and is linked to every sector of island life. While the depopulation of rural areas is a problem on a European scale, it has precisely resulted in stabilisation of the island's population. This project has the right dimension and sets a useful example.