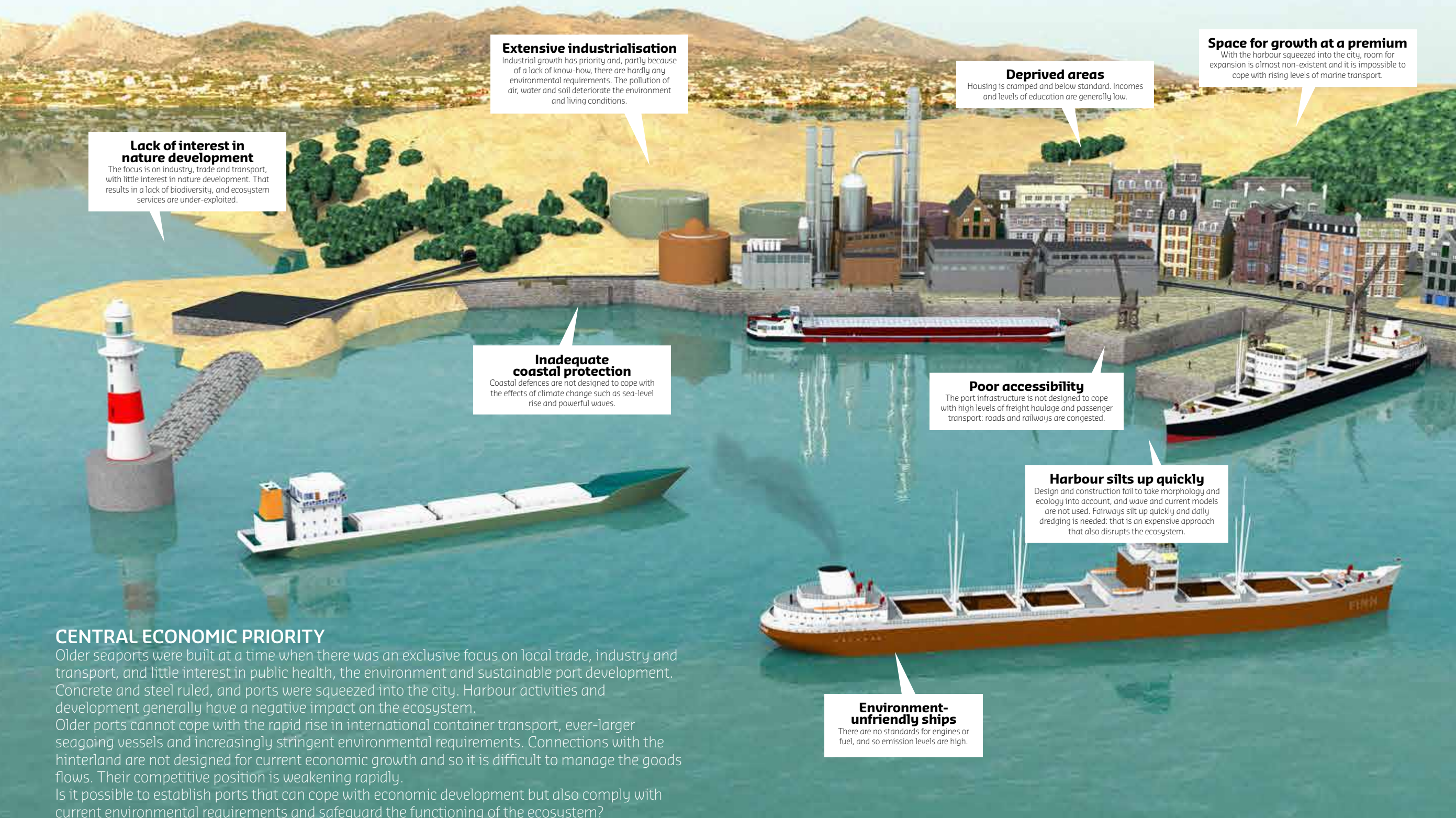


TRADITIONAL PORT



Lack of interest in nature development

The focus is on industry, trade and transport, with little interest in nature development. That results in a lack of biodiversity, and ecosystem services are under-exploited.

Extensive industrialisation

Industrial growth has priority and, partly because of a lack of know-how, there are hardly any environmental requirements. The pollution of air, water and soil deteriorate the environment and living conditions.

Space for growth at a premium

With the harbour squeezed into the city, room for expansion is almost non-existent and it is impossible to cope with rising levels of marine transport.

Deprived areas

Housing is cramped and below standard. Incomes and levels of education are generally low.

Inadequate coastal protection

Coastal defences are not designed to cope with the effects of climate change such as sea-level rise and powerful waves.

Poor accessibility

The port infrastructure is not designed to cope with high levels of freight haulage and passenger transport: roads and railways are congested.

Harbour silts up quickly

Design and construction fail to take morphology and ecology into account, and wave and current models are not used. Fairways silt up quickly and daily dredging is needed: that is an expensive approach that also disrupts the ecosystem.

Environment-unfriendly ships

There are no standards for engines or fuel, and so emission levels are high.

CENTRAL ECONOMIC PRIORITY

Older seaports were built at a time when there was an exclusive focus on local trade, industry and transport, and little interest in public health, the environment and sustainable port development. Concrete and steel ruled, and ports were squeezed into the city. Harbour activities and development generally have a negative impact on the ecosystem.

Older ports cannot cope with the rapid rise in international container transport, ever-larger seagoing vessels and increasingly stringent environmental requirements. Connections with the hinterland are not designed for current economic growth and so it is difficult to manage the goods flows. Their competitive position is weakening rapidly.

Is it possible to establish ports that can cope with economic development but also comply with current environmental requirements and safeguard the functioning of the ecosystem?