

Coastal Regulation and Its Enforcement, Case Study: India

Santosh K Ghosh -- presented by: **Unmesh Kirtikar**
Centre for Built Environment, Kolkata, India

Purpose: Many countries in Asia have long coast line and the need for coastal regulation is being felt with concern for natural disasters, climate change with sea level rise, unsustainable pattern of development causing environmental deterioration. The prohibitory and regulatory activities can enhance accountability. Indian case study is presented which provide many lessons.

Scope: Coastal zone regulation with prohibitory and permitted uses guidelines have wide scope. The coastal areas are complex with biodiversity, mangrove forests, industrial, urban and recreational activities and such regulation may prevent soil erosion, deforestation and environmental degradation. Coastal regulation can have wider scope in preparing landuse plan, vulnerability index etc.

Methods: The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India in 2010 has amended the 1991 regulation (on the basis of Environmental Protection Act, 1986), mentioning uses, which are permitted and not permitted. It identifies land area between high tide line (HTL) in landside to 500 m between low tide line (LTL). This is coastal regulation zone (CRZ) and a concept of hazard line has been demarcated categories 1. Areas ecologically sensitive 2. Areas already developed near shoreline 3. Undisturbed area including rural area. Islands have special category. Regulation is given to State Governments to enforce. Accurate mapping is required, as demarcation is difficult. In case of creeks, if the width of creek is upto 350m, the CRZ will be 100 m from the creek, if wider than this it will be 150 m from the creek.

Results: Since 1991 there were amendments 25 times and various State Govts have expressed difficulties as India has 8200 km long coast line. Now the Govt. of India has appointed a special committee to look into.

Conclusion: Within the framework of overall coastal regulations details will give variations as the long coastline has diverse landscape. Current regulations donot include aquatic resources. The fishing community has objections. There are 3200 fishing villages. Land, water and natural resources symbiosis is needed requiring an environmental sustainability plan. Land use regulations and building rules are to be drafted for different coastal zones.

Recommendation: Preparation of an integrated planning with hazard mapping, identification of environmental area including aquatic part, protection of biodiversity mangrove, livelihood options for local people etc. is needed.

Contact Information: Prof. Santosh K Ghosh, President, Centre for Built Environment, 2/5 Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata – 700 020 India, Phone/Fax: 91 33 2476 1495, Mobile: 91 9748774706, Email: sghoshcbe@rediffmail.com