

ARE THE ESTUARINE MANAGEMENT ISSUES PROPERLY FOCUSED?

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This paper summarizes and compares estuarine management programs of different countries such as Australia, UK, USA, Canada, South Africa and Bangladesh to obtain a global overview of estuary management situation. Although the differences in the system of governance among the discussed countries make it difficult to compare, this comparison is limited to the legislative and institutional frameworks, administrative arrangements, management approach, and management issues. This is followed by a discussion to examine how the management issues are linked to coastal and catchment environments. The study reveals that estuary management has traditionally concentrated on coastal parts, that is, management of estuaries is strongly influenced by the adjacent land use practices, such as coastal development, shoreline protection, and creation of facilities for recreation. On the other hand catchment parts are under-emphasised in the management approach. This paper finally sorts out the general factors which are hindering the efficacy of estuarine management programs in the discussed countries which on the other hand represent a global view of estuarine management situation.