

INTEGRATED PLANNING FOR COASTAL ZONE ESTABLISHING RELATION BETWEEN PEOPLE AND NATURAL

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1. INTRODUCTION

The coastal zone is a conflict zone – increasing conflict between man and nature, damage to productive ecosystem, natural disaster, increasing pollution, depletion of resources, loss of biodiversity etc. There are various types of sectoral projects often not integrated with spatial planning with multiple urban and rural authorities.

Agenda 21 of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, 1992 recognised the vital role of coastal and marine areas and suggested integrated management and sustainable development.

There should be methodological approach for coastal zone management. There are several criterions for consideration of environmental parameters. An integrated planning for coastal zone can be prepared on a broader area with orientation to environment and ecology.

2. COASTAL REGULATION ZONE

The Govt of India regulation identifies three types of coastal zone, all of which are found in West Bengal, India under this study. The three Zones are :

(1) Zone I – Areas that are ecologically sensitive and important with mangroves, marine habitat, sanctuaries, heritage area, beaches with low and high tide zone etc.

(2) Zone II – The areas that have already been developed, close to shore line. Such as Haldia industrial town or Digha resort town.

(3) Zone III – Zone mostly underdeveloped, rural areas with beaches etc.

Guidelines for regulation/control for all three zones have been detailed out. The future plan should be based on conservation, environment and development.

3. STRATEGIES

The integrated plan must be with peoples' participation. The coastal area has fragile ecosystem – vulnerable to various kinds of natural and manmade disasters. These can be prevented with education and public awareness, besides regulatory measures. A participatory process is given in the paper.