

# **Conceptual Framework and Planning Guidelines for Integrated Coastal Zone and River Basin Management**

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## Abstract

Coasts and river basins contain important natural environments but they are also used intensively by mankind. Both systems support a variety of socio-economic functions as they provide space, produce resources and absorb unwanted products. With the expansion and increase in scale of human activities, functional linkages between coastal and riverine areas are ever more apparent. Economic activities in downstream areas benefit from upland resources, such as water, aggregates and wood. On the other hand, coastal areas provide space for settlement and industrial or tourist developments that have a positive benefit for the wider basin area. The two areas are linked through a number of natural and socio-economic processes: the cycle of water, sediment transport and human activities.

Conflicting demands on natural resources and land uses has brought the need for a comprehensive approach, involving multiple objectives and the need to account for a wider scale of interest in both space and time. Given this contemporary perspective, an integrated approach to the management of coastal zones and river basins is necessary.

Integrated river basin and coastal zone management provides the opportunity to consider explicitly certain aspects of these systems that have previously been seen as outside the scope of interest. Such an approach leads to better co-ordination of policy making and action across sectors (water, forestry, agriculture, urban development, environmental protection, etc.) and geographically, ultimately leading to a more rational use of resources and more effective environmental protection.