

## NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

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Almost fifty percent of the world's population lives in the coastal area in which more than half is occupied by people in the Asia –Pacific region. This region is the most productive and has the richest biodiversity in the world. However, rapid development of coastal areas is resulting in the degradation of natural resources and the environment. It is, therefore, evident that nations have to face great management challenges that include increasing threats and pressures such as climate change, great demand for resources, discharge of land-based pollutants, as well as social and political attitudes. To approach these challenges, management needs to preserve, conserve, develop and rehabilitate natural resources and the environment to ensure their sustainable use based on the principles of public participation and good governance.

The main components of coastal zone management are to promote sustainable development with public participation that facilitates accountability, transparency and community awareness. Ecosystem-based management which aims for conservation and protection of habitats and biodiversity is one example of an effective tool. Regional collaboration and cooperation in scientific and management frameworks must also be developed – and information must also be standardised for the benefit of sharing. Moreover, coastal countries have to establish a national marine policy and strategy that incorporates international guidance and a strengthened management framework. Finally, the precautionary principle will call for preventive pollution control.