

LEGAL CHALLENGES FOR RESOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL  
ISSUES IN THE COASTAL ZONES OF INDIA

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Though environmentally and socially sustainable development became the basic goal of majority of interventions in most coastal areas all over the world, one of the major challenges that face India in the coastal marine sector is the reconciliation of development objectives and conservation aim, as in any other developing nation. The policy of short term economic planning in terms of achieving sustainable development too has been severely criticized in the wake of rapid deterioration of the highly fragile zones of coastal ecosystems due to multiple and conflicting human activities. In order to have a control over exploitation and check on accelerated deterioration of resources the Government of India had promulgated a notification in 1990 based on the frame work of environmental protection act. Thus declaring coastal stretches as coastal regulation zones (CRZ). This paper critically reviews the formulation and implementation of the CRZ act over the past decade with a thrust to have an integrated profile and a point of identifying promising approaches for the future. The analysis established that several factors contribute to coastal zone space conflicts and the development of an indigenous capacity for truly integrated coastal zone management is a process of trial and error and likely to take some time period to establish fully throughout the region. It's also observed that development of a civil society as well as broader economic recovery require the development of more equitable transparent and sustainable approaches to the utilization of natural resources and coastal marine resources are considered to be of increasingly strategic significance in those processes.