

Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Bangladesh, Present Status and Future Opportunity

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Abstract

Coastal zone is the area where Ocean, land and atmospheric interact with each other. The coastal zone of Bangladesh is very dynamic and diverse in nature. The south western part of the coastal zone contains the world's largest single mangrove forest contributing to protect the ecosystem in this region and the south eastern part provides opportunity for major industrial and economic activities such as ports and shipping, ship recycling, fisheries, ship building and ecotourism. The earlier coastal management initiative which was inadequate and was not able to bring a remarkable result due to lack of proper coordination, weak monitoring and evolution methods and technical knowledge. Moreover the Ocean issue was ignored in coastal management. Bangladesh has a great opportunity to search different natural resources such as oil, gas and marine living resource. Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world due to climate change and frequently affected by different natural disasters that influence the lives and livelihood of the coastal community. However, integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) initiative has to be taken to develop the present condition of the coastal community and to nourish the economy of the country by proper using of the marine resources as well. However short, mid and long term management measures recommended by the researchers, scientists and policy makers are to be implemented with the coordination among different Ministries and Agencies to materialize an effective ICZM for sustainable development.

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