

# C30EROSIONAL PROBLEMS ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERN COAST OF SRI LANKA

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Coastal erosion has become a hazard in Sri Lanka. This research was carried out in order to investigate into its causes, nature and preventive measures.

**Field** observations were made along the coast from Matara to Colombo. Samples of beach material were collected. Rock samples from the vicinity were also collected in order to test them for applicability in preventive structures. Erosional data were obtained from the Department of Coast Conservation.

Laboratory analyses of the beach material show that the particle size has a correlation with rates of erosion. Finer the particle size higher the erosional rate. Mineral sands were contained in a number of localities but no correlation could be drawn between their content and erosion.

The causes of erosion in this part of Sri Lanka are mainly Coral and Sand mining, marine influence, human interference and vanishing of mangroves. Tests showed that basic charnockites was the most suitable local rock type for usage in preventive structures. Coastal erosion should not be considered a purely physical problem but should be studied in the light of its economic and social significance.

#### *References*

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2. Wood, A.M.M. (1969) Coastal hydraulics. McMillan, London.