

C-09: Application of integrated coastal zone management to Sri Lanka

Mahesha Ranasoma

(Dept of Civil Engineering, Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala, Nugegoda)

A concept paper is presented on application of integrated coastal zone management to Sri Lanka. A review is made of the history and present status of the coastal zone management efforts in Sri Lanka where it is identified that the present approach of issue oriented management framework is not sufficient considering the vast marine resource base accessible through the coastline surrounding the relatively small land mass of the country. An alternative perspective for coastal zone management is examined by considering a process oriented and integrated coastal zone management concept whereby the present uncoordinated and scattered efforts could be meaningfully focused into a single responsive management framework. The underlying prerequisites for such a framework are also examined with particular attention to a coastal zone data base consisting of coastal forcing, coastal responses and coastal resource uses. In addition, the dynamic nature of such a data base is also investigated from the point of view of monitoring the variable time and space scales of the multitude of system parameters. It is concluded that the alternative approach of process oriented and integrated coastal zone management is timely and appropriate for Sri Lanka.