

# **Coastal Zone Management in the hands of local communities**

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# **“Build Back Better”**

- **All disasters accentuate the pre-existing vulnerability**
- **Coastal eco system is dominated by different plants and animals**
- **Productive salt marsh, creeks and wetlands and mangrove systems.**
- **Resource base for sustainable livelihood**
- **Contribution to ecological services, pollutant absorption, climate regulation, prevention of coastal erosion, maintenance of water quality.**
- **Storage and recycling of nutrients production and rock, food, medicines, industrial products, recreational benefits as indicators of environmental change.**
- **Coastal areas are disaster prone visited by cyclones, floods and drought.**

# Threats to coastal areas

- **Change in climate will cause an increase in floods, cyclones and rise in sea level.**
- **Cyclones will be more in the Bay of Bengal.**
- **A sea level increase of 1mm/year.**
- **India as among the 27 countries vulnerable to sea level rise.**
- **7500 km coastline in India are vulnerable to inundation and salinization.**
- **Coastal infrastructure, coastal villages are at risk.**
- **Absence of protection, a one meter rise in sea level would inundate 1700km.**
- **Implication of such an event to human life is great and economic implication would be several thousand billions.**

# Problems of Coastal Management

- Rebuilding of physical infrastructure has not taken into account the disaster risks into the development programmes and plans.
- NGOs and Govts treated hazards of nature as interruptions than as a risk integral to development
- NGOs emphasis of short term fixes
- Government's lack of political will to implement legislations as long term measures.
- Government is happy that best infrastructure are developed.
- Whether these structures are sustainable developments?
- Numerous problems are surfacing. The impact of ground water, the pattern of inundation of villages, sedimentation and other ecological changes impact on the soil profile.
- No process of consultation by the Government with stakeholders
- Indian pattern of planning is centralized and top down.
- No public knowledge about any development plan, public participation or public hearings.

# Problems of Coastal Management

- Government has focused more on development and less on peoples security and protection.
- Expert driven coastal zone management plans should have a micro approach.
- Confusion and contention as to which area constitutes the coastal zone.
- Consequently the habitat development is delayed, coastal areas are occupied illegally by damaging industries.
- Technical agencies and institutions assigned to carryout HTL marking could not complete HTL marking.
- Wherever the demarcation of HTL is done, is not worth as it has not involved the local communities
- Proposed Coastal Zone Management (CZM) plan undermines and negates the protective regulation (CRZ).
- CZM globally recognizes the role of local communities, traditional knowledge, interrelationship with coastal environment.
- The proposed CZM plan in India does not take into account the role of panchayats.

# In the hands of local communities

- The coastal land is scarce and fragile. Hence both the Government and local communities have to play responsible roles.
- Protection, conservation, development and management of the coastal areas.
- Need to strike a continuous balance between the interests of local communities, environment and economic activities.
- In the absence of people's full participation, the development assets will not be maintained.
- Corruption will increase.
- Long term conservation and development processes will be hampered.
- Livelihood of local communities will be affected.
- Entitlement rights of people and relationship between Government and Community will be at risk.

# Methodology for co-management of coastal areas

**To take CZM to scale and to make CZM implementable and sustainable.**

- **CRZ is to be maintained in its original form.**
- **HTL is to be demarcated by the local communities.**
- **Panchayat would be able to carryout HTL.**
- **Panchayat would eventually protect and manage the coastal resources and habitats from the impact of natural disasters.**
- **India has GIS and Remote Sensing capabilities generating images using the GIS data.**
- **These data converted into various formats, maps and charts of various scales for different application and purposes.**
- **GIS map can be obtained and to converted into a simplified chart / guide by NGO's.**
- **Non technical persons from panchayats will be trained to carryout demarcation of HTL.**

# **Interested and capable NGOs could:**

- **Review on the type of maps used in other countries.**
- **Analyze the level of error variations in various type of mapping methods to determine the most viable mapping suitable for HTL demarcation.**
- **Arrange for specific GIS maps to locating HTL.**
- **Develop a conversation pattern by which the technical data/map could be made into user friendly guide.**
- **Validate these through technical workshops / seminars.**
- **Train about 30 youth from each panchayat.**
- **Government would identify suitable NGOs for facilitating the transfer of technical know to cover the entire coastal areas.**