



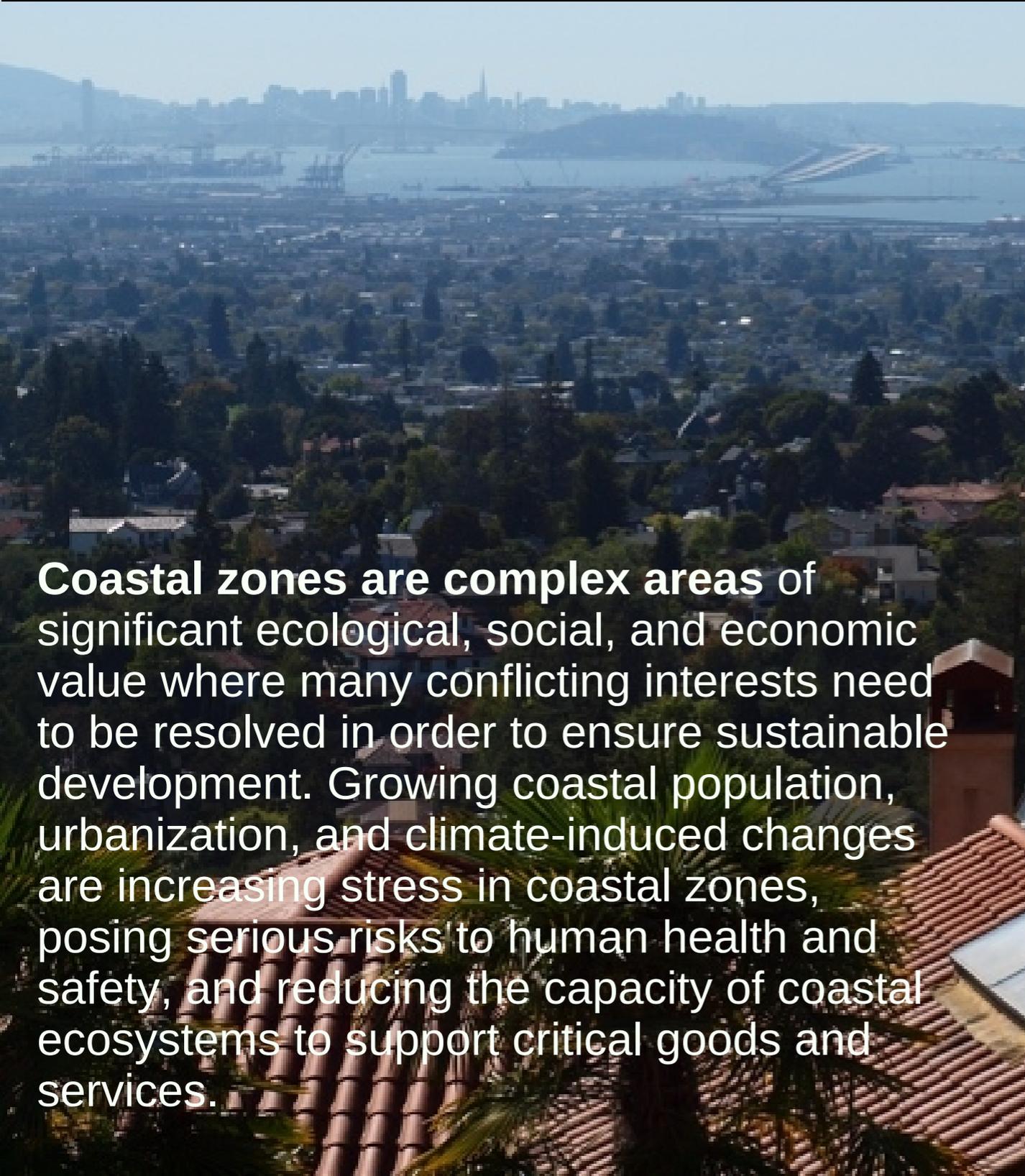
The Coastal Zone Community of Practice (CZCP):
Supporting Integrated Coastal Zone Management with
Earth Observations

A brief overview of the goals, scope, and activities of the CZCP



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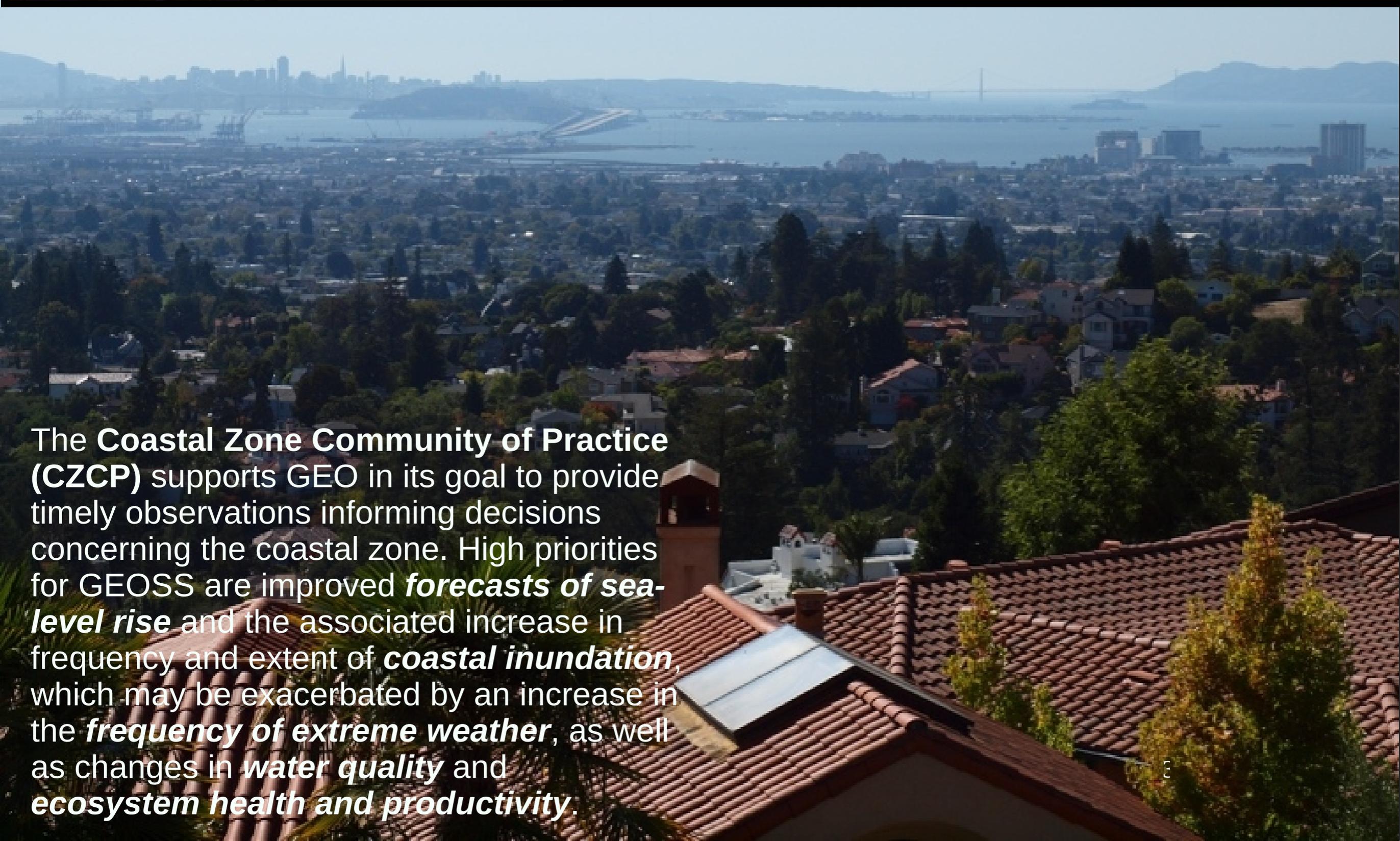
Coastal zones are complex areas of significant ecological, social, and economic value where many conflicting interests need to be resolved in order to ensure sustainable development. Growing coastal population, urbanization, and climate-induced changes are increasing stress in coastal zones, posing serious risks to human health and safety, and reducing the capacity of coastal ecosystems to support critical goods and services.





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The **Coastal Zone Community of Practice (CZCP)** supports GEO in its goal to provide timely observations informing decisions concerning the coastal zone. High priorities for GEOSS are improved ***forecasts of sea-level rise*** and the associated increase in frequency and extent of ***coastal inundation***, which may be exacerbated by an increase in the ***frequency of extreme weather***, as well as changes in ***water quality*** and ***ecosystem health and productivity***.



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The CZCP brings together experts in an effort to support coastal zone management through utilization of Earth observations and derived products. The CZCP focuses both on research and practical applications related to coastal zone management. It interacts directly with the GEO User Interface Committee and a number of GEO Participating Organizations.



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A Series of Regional Workshops,
“GEOSS Support for Decision-Making in
the Coastal Zone: Managing and
Mitigating the Impacts of Human
Activities and Natural Hazards in the
Coastal Zone,” is one of the main
activities of the CZCP



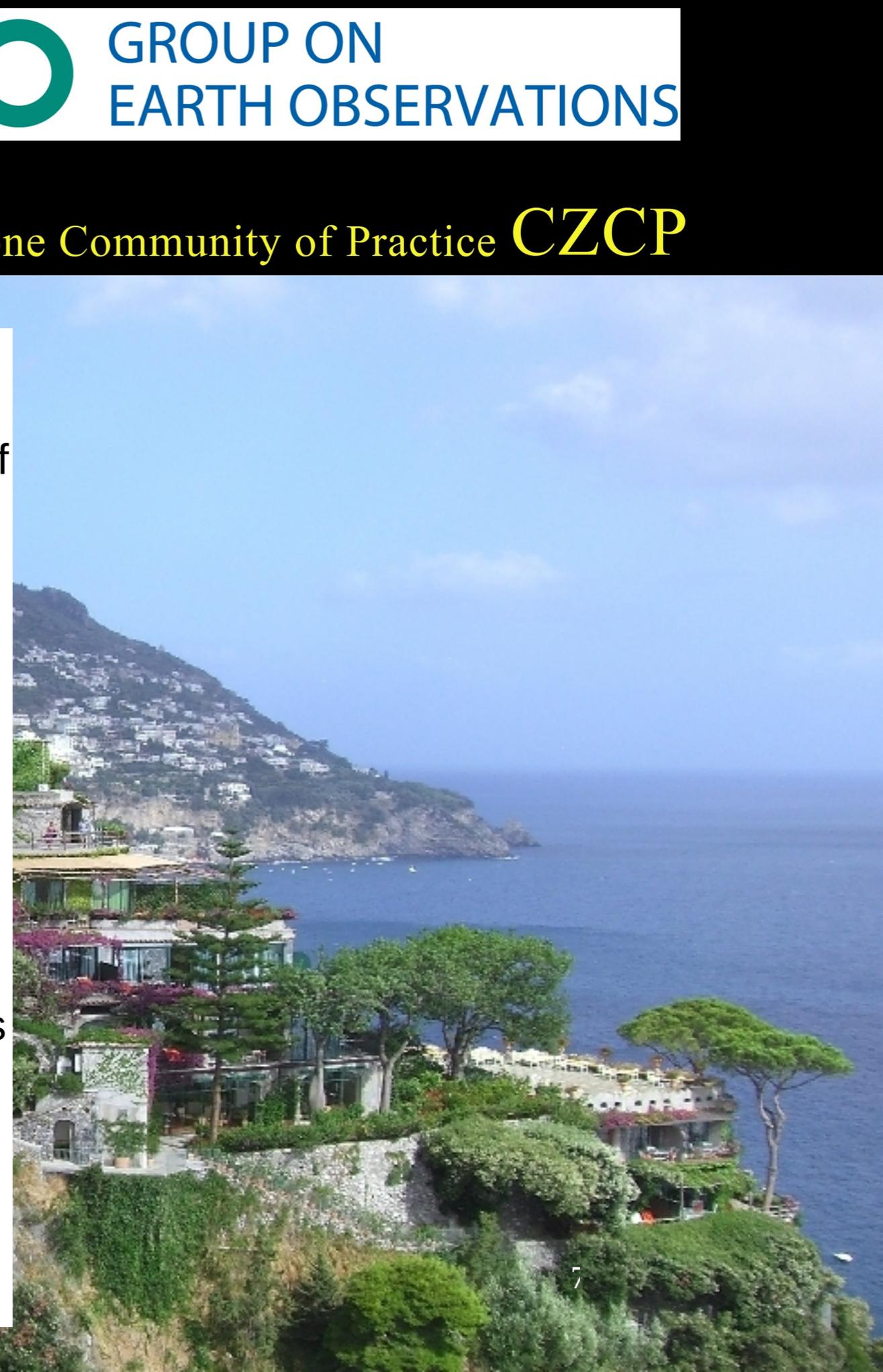
The first regional workshop focused on the Mediterranean and was held in June 2008 in Athens, Greece, with participants from Europe, Africa, and America. The workshop emphasized the importance of understanding and linking to decision makers, and produced a set of conclusions and recommendations, which are available at the CZCP web page





Main Workshop Conclusions:

- Region-scale differences in observational capabilities hinder progress in the development of basin-wide observing and decision support systems
- There is a need for enhanced risk awareness, based on scientific hazard and vulnerability assessments
- There is a need for enhanced Land Cover/Land Use & Digital Elevation Maps
- There is a need to assess the impact of climate change on nearshore processes under both current and future (up to year 2100) conditions
- There is a need to assess the “dynamic” impacts of climate change on inundation, erosion and shoreline change.
- There is a need to assess nutrient loading (terrestrial input), hypoxic/anoxic conditions, habitat alteration and water quality.





The second regional workshop focusing on West Africa was held in Cotonou, Benin, in conjunction with a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)/International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Workshop on water and climate.

The importance of capacity retention in addition to capacity building was emphasized, and the importance of bridging the gap between science and governance was reiterated.





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Beyond “Capacity Building”:

During the workshop, a growing dissatisfaction in Africa with the term “capacity building” and the perceived slow pace of progress was reported. It was suggested to plan in terms of:

Capacity retention: prevent existing infrastructure, individuals, and know-how from disappearing;

Capacity sustainability: the need for institutional and infrastructure longevity; and

Capacity empowerment: the need to make enhanced use of capacities that already exist.





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The **Workshop Resolution** encourages the African Union in collaboration with UNESCO to develop a mechanism for the establishment of an African Fund to address climate change, water resources, and coastal and marine issues in Africa.

“There is a **gap between science and governance** that needs to be bridged; until such time as there is a mechanism for interplay between science, policy, and governance, we are very far away from the reality we propose” (*Prof. Chidi Ibe, Nigeria*).



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The **third regional workshop**, which will focus on Earth observation support for sustainable tourism in small island states, is in preparation for March 2011 in Puerto Rico.





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Future Workshops:

- Asia (Indonesia)
- High-latitudes (Arctic)



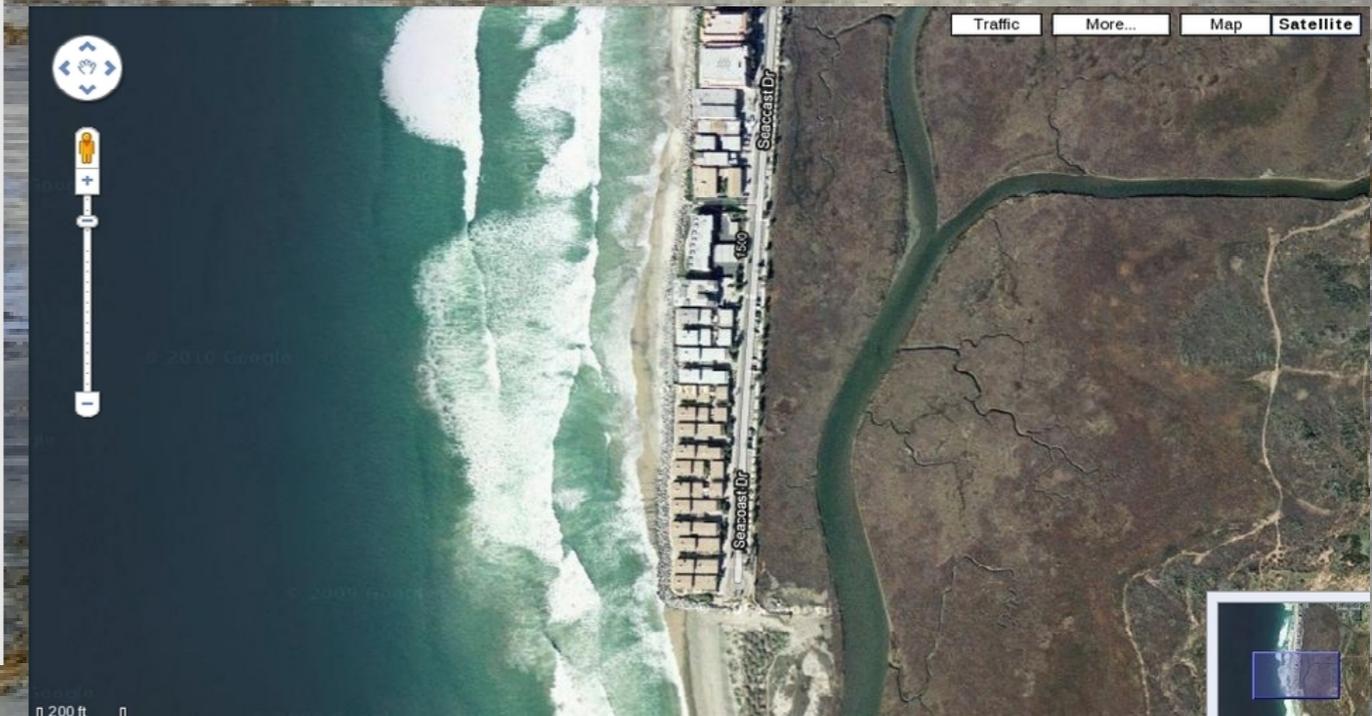


Other CZCP activities include:

- building on the legacy of the Integrated Global Observing Strategy - Partnership (IGOS-P) Coastal Theme Report, updating its requirements and implementing recommendations,
- support for relevant GEO Work Plan Tasks.

working with and helping to implement the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) and other observing systems related to coastal zones,

- facilitating data sharing and access,
- building of capacity,
- address funding issues.



CZCP and User Engagement

GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice - SeaMonkey

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Our mission: Empowering integrated coastal zone management through Earth observations ...

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The CZCP depends on interaction with a wide range of people, and you might be one of them. This web page allows you to interact with the CZCP.

If you are interested in linking in one way or another to the CZCP, download the "[Expression of Interest Form](#)" and submit the completed document by e-mail to the CZCP Co-Chairs [Paul DiGiacomo](#) and [Hans-Peter Plag](#). In this form, we ask for some information about the background of your interest so that we can provide a qualified response. If you already decided that you would like to contribute or become a member, then download the "[Join the CZCP Form](#)" and send the completed document to the Co-Chairs. If your browser is set up to send e-mails, you may also fill in the on-line "[Expression of Interest](#)" or "[Join the CZCP](#)" form, respectively.

If you have general questions about the CZCP, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, or other issues related to the coastal zone, download the "[Question to the CZCP Form](#)" and submit the completed form to the Co-Chairs. Here, too, we ask for some information about the background for your question in order to serve you in the best possible way. You may also use the on-line version of the "[Questions to the CZCP](#)" form.

If you have comments on the work of the CZCP, the web page or other issues concerning the CZCP, please, use the [Comments on the CZCP Form](#). If you have information about relevant meetings, programs, datasets, services that you cannot find on our web page, please, use the "[Alerting the CZCP Form](#)" to bring these events to our attention. Based on the input from many, the CZCP web site will improve over time and become an ever more valuable resources for all those having interest in the coastal zone, including you. On-line versions of these forms are available as "[Comments on the CZCP](#)" form and "[Alerting the CZCP](#)" form, respectively.

Some Opportunities and Challenges

- Workshops and Reports are the “easy” part: primary challenge is in effective, ongoing follow-up and implementation.
- CoPs typically develop on a “best-effort” basis with extremely limited resources (time & money).
- As a result, CoPs are often regionally in activities.
- GEO CoP often seen as competition to on-going programs/projects.
- CZCP needs extension outside of the core group/region (mainly USA).
- Integrating/linking more of the wide range of users who could benefit from improved access to actionable Earth-observation based information into the CZCP remains the key challenge.
- Could a focus on specific projects help?
- Engage users into an assessment of the state of the World’s coasts

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