



Our Mission: Empowering Integrated Coastal Zone Management Through Earth Observations

Robert Christian¹, Paul DiGiacomo², Hans-Peter Plag³

1) Biology Department, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858 USA

2) Center for Satellite Applications and Research, NOAA Science Center, Camp Springs, MD 20746, USA

3) University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Reno, NV 89523, USA.

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.

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.

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.



Diversity of coastal zones.



Athens, 2008



Cotonou, 2010



Puerto Rico, 2011.

To contact or join the CZCP, please visit <http://www.czcp.org>.

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 activities of the CZCP.

The first regional workshop focused on the Mediterranean and was held in June 2008 in Athens, Greece, where the importance of understanding and linking to decision makers was emphasized.

The second regional workshop focusing on West Africa was held in Cotonou, Benin in conjunction with a UNESCO/IHP Workshop on water and climate. There, the importance of capacity retention in addition to capacity building was emphasized.

The third regional workshop with a focus on Earth observation support for sustainable tourism in small island states took place in March 2011 in Puerto Rico.

Other CZCP activities include building on the legacy of the IGOS-P Coastal Theme Report, updating its requirements and implementing recommendations, as well as support for relevant GEO Work Plan Tasks. The development of a Global Coastal Zone Information System (GCZIS) is a core activity of the CZCP.