

## AGENDA ITEM 8:

15:30-16:30

A CZCP Assessment of the State of the Coast

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This short paper attempts to provide seed ideas on how CZCOP may develop knowledge products that are useful to the community. It begins with an initial exchange of ideas during the Feb. 22 2010 meeting and supplemented by straw man ideas on how to proceed.

### **Initial exchange taken from Feb 22, 2010 minutes:**

#### **Agenda item 7. What document should the CZCP produce?**

It was reiterated that the IGOS Coastal Zone Theme [Report](#) and the [White Paper](#) for OceanObs 09 were examples of useful documents produced by the community, and there was agreement that such documents were important for the CZCP and its impact on Earth observations and their uses. There was considerable discussion about what documents should be considered in the future. Robert Christian proposed that the CZCP should develop a roadmap detailing the activities to be carried out by the CZCP. Hans-Peter Plag suggested that an assessment of the state of the coastal zone could be a valuable long-term core for the CZCP activities, which would require to bring in many other experts. He mentioned the GGOS 2020 book, which had contributions from more than 40 experts, took almost three years to prepare, and is considered as very valuable for the geodetic community. Others mentioned the Millennium Assessment Report for Biodiversity as a possible example. Liana McManus stated that 232 countries have coastal zones, and each of them would have their own story. Thus, a report with so many stories could be an option. She also wanted such a report initially to be web-based, with the option in a later stage to produce a book as a snapshot of the web-based, living document at a point in time. There was consensus that the CZCP needs to spend more time on developing these ideas into one or more specific projects.

#### **1. Process of collecting priority ideas from the community**

Through the newsletter or via mass emailing, we can solicit ideas on what priority topics the CZCP can facilitate in producing to assess the state of the global coast. One idea is to provide the list of main topics from the IGOS Coastal Theme Report, and respondents can identify subtopics within each and rank by importance (Table 1 for example). We can collate and show the resulting overall ranking and produce a series of documents covering the prioritized topics. Once the topics and rankings are collated, we will publish a prioritized list of topics.

## 2. Intermediate steps

In determining documents to produce, we also need to be cognizant of global initiatives that are doing assessments of the coasts and oceans. These include UNEP's Assessment of Assessments (AoA), the start up phase "to initiate a regular process for global reporting and assessment of the State of the Marine Environment". The AoA was published in 2009 and may be found at [http://www.unga-regular-process.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=20](http://www.unga-regular-process.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=20). The CZCOP can broadly contribute to the overall initiative, with a distinctive bottom-up approach in the development of knowledge products.

Table 1. Solicitation of coastal environmental priority issues from the CZCOP.

<b>IGOS THEME REPORT MAIN TOPIC</b>	<b>EXAMPLES OF SUBTOPICS - PLEASE ADD ISSUES IMPORTANT TO YOU</b>	<b>Please identify the top 5 priority issues from the list on the left (1 most pressing to 5 least pressing)</b>
<b>COASTAL HUMAN POPULATIONS</b>		
1.0 COASTAL HAZARDS	Flooding  Sea level rise Subsidence Add priority issue Add priority issue	
2.0 COASTAL DEVELOPMENT & URBANIZATION	Coastal urbanization and public health issues Coastal land use and cover change Add priority issue Add priority issue	
<b>COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS</b>		
3.0 HYDROLOGICAL & BIOGEOCHEMICAL CYCLES	Quality and quantity of river flows and climate change- induced impacts Coastal eutrophication Add priority issue Add priority issue	
4.0 ECOSYSTEM HEALTH &	Wetland states and prospects	

## PRODUCTIVITY

Coral reef health  
Seagrass ecosystem  
health  
Add priority issue  
Add priority issue

### **3. Value added using the bottom-up approach of the CZCOP**

Currently, there is a flurry to development policy-oriented sustainability indicators for coasts and oceans. We can contribute to this initiative by letting each contribution provide sustainability indicators covering social, economic, governance and ecosystem indicators of environmental states and flows as applied to the coastal nation or a featured coastal site within one. If broadly structured, the contributions can be case studies that bring out the rich texture and diversity of coastal vulnerability and resilience across coastal sites, to complement the more traditional country reports, and regional as well as global syntheses. The integration of both human and ecosystem assessments in each writeup will make compelling narratives about the state of the coast. We can link the readers to more aggregated assessments such as those recently completed within the Assessment of Assessments.

### **4. Envisioning products**

1. Global representation - from each coastal state
2. Contains socioeconomic and biophysical underpinnings of coastal environmental issues, their socioeconomic impacts, and governance aspects
3. As short text version with lots of graphics, pictures, videos for web publication
4. Amplified version as pdf publication for free download
5. Associated data can be published as well and integrated into a database