

# Ecosystems: Oceans

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## *Sustainable Development in the Oceans*

*International Oceans Institute*

[ [Full Report](#) ]

The implementation of the Rio Agreements as they affect the world's oceans is mixed: high on formal action and promises, low on real commitments and tangible implementation.

### *Critical issues and priorities*

These are seen to be of a theoretical as well as of an institutional nature. Intellectual inertia appears to be blocking progress towards a genuinely new economic order. The very nature of the oceans, however, which has forced the international community to think innovatively with regard to the legal order, also will oblige it to think innovatively about the socio-economic order.

### *The "economics of the common heritage" will have to acknowledge that:*

- *A large proportion of the wealth of the ocean is based on a non-property and non-sovereignty concept;*
- *A large proportion of the value of the ocean is non-quantifiable;*
- *Uncertainty and vulnerability, and therefore risk are far greater in the ocean environment than on land and new thinking, emerging from insurance economics, may soon play the pioneering role that the economics of the textile industry played during the early phase of the industrial revolution;*
- *Intellectual property rights may have to be harmonized with the requirements of sustainable development;*
- *To be "sustainable," ocean and coastal management, based on the new "ocean economics" will have to contribute to a solution of the most pressing socio-economic problems in coastal areas where the majority of human populations are concentrated - the problem of employment in the industrialized states; the problem of poverty alleviation in the developing countries;*
- *The time may have come for systems of international taxation. Entities other than states (multinational corporations) are new actors on the stage of international relations which may imply new financial responsibilities vis a vis the international community. The Law of the Sea Convention has elevated the principle of international taxation to a norm of international law.*

*The "economics of the common heritage" transcends both "capitalism" and "socialism," both rooted in the early phase of the European industrial revolution and reflecting a European value system. In fact, the "economics of the common heritage" transcends economics as a separate discipline and re-integrates it into a wider, social, political, cultural and ethical context reflecting different cultural value systems.*

*Following the guidelines offered by the Brundtland Report and Agenda 21, the sustainable development of the oceans requires a system of governance at local, national, regional, and global levels that must be comprehensive, consistent, interdisciplinary and trans-sectoral, and participatory - bottom up, not top-down. The design of such a system should fully utilize existing institutions and abstain from creating new bureaucracies and additional financial burdens.*

*A system such as the one envisaged is already clearly in the making. It represents the most advanced point in the evolution of national/ international organization and may have an important impact on the evolution of world order in the next century.*

## *Community-Based Resource Management and Integrated Coastal Management - Two Asian Experiences*

*Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources*

*[ [Full Report](#) ]*

*With 7,100 islands and 13,411 km of coastline, more than half of the Philippine population live in coastal areas and fisheries are a major contributor to agricultural productivity. Despite this, there has been a terrestrial bias in Philippine development and environment concerns. The fragmentation in the management of coastal areas further aggravates this bias. Different initiatives have been started by different agencies in various parts of the country. Some community-based resource management projects have been relatively successful but in areas where more than one agency implements a coastal management project, local people become more confused and fragmented in their actions.*

*This paper presents two relatively successful initiatives, the first a community-based resource management project called the Marine Conservation Project of San Salvador (MCPSS) begun in 1988 by Haribon Foundation. After Haribon withdrew in 1994, the local community continued to implement local initiatives on marine conservation and livelihood activities. The island has a total land area of 380 hectares with around 1,500 residents in 255 households. The project aimed "to reverse the downward trend in fish yields from the coral reefs through community involvement in resource management."*

*Major project components include: resource management planning; research and monitoring; community organizing; community education to provide information and raise awareness about key topics; support activities such as facilitation of construction of physical structures; development of alternative livelihoods; linkages with and support for outside agencies and groups; encourage active*

*participation in the project activities.*

*In 1993, a local organization began coordinating efforts on the island. The success of this project is due to three main reasons: the community considers it a success because of the tangible benefits they observed as a result of the project; there is recognition of the community's prior right to the resource even without any transfer of ownership; and the local community members with support from the local government are vigilant in the enforcement of local ordinance for the protection of their marine resources.*

*The second initiative increases the impact of successful initiatives and improves implementation of integrated coastal management efforts in the country through training. The project involves six Philippine-based institutions: Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries (DA-BFAR); Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Coastal Environment Program (DENR-CEP); Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources, Inc.; International Center for Living and Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM); International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR); and the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Resources Development (DOST-PCAMRD). Each institution plays a defined role in the project. Different agencies have different responsibilities based on their strengths. The main objective of the project is to develop cadres of middle level managers with the same integrated coastal management framework. The project has four phases, not necessarily occurring in chronological order and not distinct from each other: course design and module development; pilot training; training implementation; and ensuring sustainability.*

*Concurrent to these phases were the networking and linking efforts of participating institutions. To avoid duplication is avoided in the conduct of ICM training in the Philippines and the region, networking and linkages have also been a vital activity under the project.*

*Both initiatives qualify as best practice primarily because of two factors - the participatory process in implementation which has generated a sense of ownership for the project from the stakeholders themselves and the institutional as well as personal commitment of the organizations and individuals involved in the project.*

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