

Sabah Shoreline Management Plan: A Case Story from Malaysia

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The management of the coastline around Sabah faces numerous conflicting interests from the public and different private and industry groups. The public demands socio-economical growth, sustainable development and preservation of natural resources - sometimes formulated more specifically e.g. regarding local fish stocks or not at all. The private and the industry demands local coast protection and development of oil palm plantations, mangrove forestry, aquaculture, fishery and tourism etc. The numerous multi-disciplinary conflicts cross users groups, users and the use of the resources in multiple ways. To resolve the issues the creation of a management plan for Sabah's coastline has been initiated. In the paper the findings to-date are presented and some comments given on future work. A baseline has been established from historical investigations, collection of data and information using whatever modern techniques available as well as visual inspections and photos, numerical modelling using several different model systems aiming at the topic to resolve and socio-cultural surveys along the coastline. Understanding of physical, chemical and biological involved processes as well as the dynamics of the integrated processes and a holistic impact assessment is required. To do so numerical models have served as to integrate the available information and knowledge and to hind-cast and now-cast conditions and predict the consequences of different development scenarios. In some cases the models results needed further detailed analysis in combination with specific knowledge on local habitats to determine the impacts. The focus of the paper is on the integration on information's, but some details are also given on the most important conflicts and biggest threats to dominating habitats.