

Coastal Zone Community of Practice Update (02/04/2007)

The **GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice (CZCP)** objectives are to:

- Engage coastal users (e.g., managers and decision makers) and data providers to collaborate in the specification of requirements for *in situ* & remote coastal observations and derived Information products (variables to monitor, time-space resolution, accuracy, rate, forms and delivery methods in which data and derived products are needed);
- Evaluate current and projected observational capabilities against these requirements, identifying gaps, redundancies and activities that need to be strengthened;
- Promote the development of workshops and “proof of concept” pilot projects that both address these gaps and enable data integration for the provision of new or improved decision support tools;
- Promote the development or strengthening of networks of institutions globally, regionally and across Communities of Practice (CPs) that contribute to and benefit from GEOSS;
- Advise the User Interface Committee, other CPs and GEO on matters relating to coastal zone observations and related societal benefits, and identify priority needs as well as areas for linkage, collaboration and support.

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- Organizing group:

Jimmy Adegoke

Michael Bruno

Robert Christian

Franciscus Colijn

Paul DiGiacomo

Thomas Malone

Liana Talaue-McManus

Hans-Peter Plag

- A number of GEO member nations, as well coastal user interests & applications (e.g., sea level rise, water quality, integrated coastal area management) are represented by this group.
- Monthly (or better) group telecons are taking place to facilitate discussion and plan CZCP activities.

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Recent and ongoing community engagement activities:

- An invitation letter to participate in the CZCP was submitted to the GEO Secretariat; UIC – please advise on the distribution status of these letters.
- Coastal users/organizations are being identified by the organizing group, guided by their broad/diverse user knowledge, interests, and national/international activities.
- A GEO CZCP list server (CP-COASTAL@LIST.GEOSEC.ORG) has just been created to facilitate discussion with and between these coastal users; an FTP site has also been established and a formal request for a GEO-CZCP web site has been made as well.
- The CZCP has helped organize/plan recent coastal user workshops and meetings, including the 3rd GOOS Regional Forum (Cape Town, 2006) and the recent GEO Inland & Nearshore Coastal Water Quality Remote Sensing Workshop (Geneva, 2007); several presentations about the CZCP have been made at these and other recent meetings and workshops.
- The first CZCP workshop is being planned (see next slide), with a prospectus being finalized to be submitted shortly to the GEO Secretariat for distribution to member nations, organizations, et al.

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“GEOSS Support for Decision-Making in the Coastal Zone: Observing Requirements for Coastal Development, Urbanization and Hazards”. Workshop objectives include:

- Specify data and information requirements of the Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) community in developing nations, particularly longer-term planners, policy makers, and educators.
- Discuss and prioritize data and information gaps identified in a separate pre-workshop effort. Identify the challenges to filling these gaps, as well as the emerging decision-making approaches and model-based solutions.
- Facilitate linkage of space-based observations, *in situ* measurements and models with sustained programs that will provide data and information needed to:
 - > Assess changes in susceptibility and resilience to coastal inundation and storm surge in high risk regions and
 - > Assess and forecast impacts on human health risks, the state of coastal ecosystems and the living resources they support
- Initiate planning for a Coastal Data Assimilation System pilot project (CODAS) and corresponding Integrated Coastal Decision Support System (ICoDSS) for data acquisition, analysis, modeling and integration toward improved decision-making across the land-sea interface in two or more target regions. Specifically, the workshop will examine the state of coastal predictive models and decision-support systems and identify what steps will be needed to satisfactorily address user needs in developing nations.
- Planned tentatively for April 2008 at a location to be determined (possibly Nigeria or South Africa).