Coastal Zone CoP (CZCP) Update

Main achievements since January 2011: 3rd Regional Workshop on "Earth Observation Support for Sustainable Tourism in Small Island States" took place, March 9-11, 2011, Puerto Rico

More than 55 participants representing provider and user organizations;
First day: invited presentations from provider and user point of view;
Second day: thematic breakout sessions, poster session, plenary discussion;
Third day: summing up and recommendations
Coastal Zone CoP (CZCP) Update


Final Recommendations are available at the workshop web page ...
Coastal Zone CoP (CZCP) Update

Recommendations

The Participants of the Workshop “Earth Observation Support for Sustainable Tourism in Small Island States in the Caribbean” jointly organized by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the Coastal Zone Community of Practice (CZCP),

Recognizing that

Sustainable Tourism is a fundamental pillar of development, well-being and economic growth in the Caribbean;

The regional “Sustainable Tourism Policy” of the Caribbean Tourism Organization provides a framework for advancing sustainable tourism in the member States of that organization;

Earth observations and related information and services are essential for a sustainable, environmentally sound, safe and attractive tourist industry;

And realizing that

There is a gap between the information needed by, and useful for, stakeholders of tourism, particularly the ends users, and the Earth observation information available by international and national agencies, researchers, and data providers;
Coastal Zone CoP (CZCP) Update

Recommendations

*In order to bridge the gap between providers and users recommend that*

- GEO invites the United Nations World Tourism Organization to become a Participating Organization of GEO;
- The GEO Secretariat asks the GEO Principals in the region to work with relevant Participating Organizations and countries to initiate an intergovernmental dialog with the goal to:
  - encourage GEO membership of the Small Island States;
  - identify the information needs of the governments of the Small Island States;
  - initiate pilot projects;
- Regional organizations of the stakeholders in sustainable tourism consider to create (or use, if it already exists) a platform for a coordinated dialog with GEO and ask the CZCP to support this platform in its dialog with GEO;
- The CZCP considers to establish a web-based information system for Coastal Zone issues complementary to and/or leveraging existing systems;
- A pilot project be initiated to familiarize regional users with GEO facilities (GEO Portal, User Requirement Registry) and to enable feedback on these facilities and participation in developing user services (for example, coastal atlas);
- Arrangements be made for up-to-date presentations on GEOSS and Earth observations and the value for sustainable tourism to the Caribbean Tourism Organization, the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, and other private organizations.
Coastal Zone CoP (CZCP) Update

Current and Upcoming Activities:

Review of regional workshop approach as outreach to users:
- needs to be complimented by stronger links to major user groups;
- thematic workshops may be more efficient than regional ones;

Next CZCP workshop:
- tentative title "Climate Change in the Arctic: New Opportunities and Challenges for the Coastal Zones"
- Summer 2012

Planning and proposing of dedicated sessions at major science meetings.

Participation in developing a Oceans CoP.

Activities in planning:
- global coastal information system using a hybrid crowd-sourcing approach.