

Coastal environments

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While the pressures along the coastal zone increase, the challenge of the Integrated coastal management remains difficult to accomplish. One of the complex issues to address is the current overlapping of projects and initiatives which split financial resources and the adequate response of end beneficiaries.

Coasts environments in Latin America are a good example of the urgent need to coordinate efforts and get a serious dialogue and commitment between the research community and the operational agencies. In addition, essential interaction between disciplines is rather modest and in some cases inexistent. Unfortunately the multiplicity of financial resources which are not coordinated either, just contribute to the problem.

In the talk some approaches are proposed to ensure a short term integration along with specific examples of:

- How to move towards a definition of Ocean-Climate services by considering specific users demands, and main issues in each geographic region of Latin America: Pacific, Caribbean and Atlantic coast.
- How to establish the specific roles of the components of the Ocean-Climate services for the coastal zones including the mechanisms for their interaction: data monitoring and processing, research, modeling, forecast, information and decision support systems, vulnerability assessments, risk management and policy making.
- How to ensure coordinated efforts among the global (GFCS, WCRP, JCOMM, GOOS, ICAM), regional and national programmes which really contribute to the sustainability of coastal zones in Latin America.

Finally a set of specific recommendations to WCRP to work on the expected synergy for coastal environments as well as key research topics are proposed.