

MPhil / PhD Research

Project Title

The Coastal Resources Management Strategies in the Maldives

A Sustainable Approach towards the Nature

A research submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the University of Colombo for the degree of MPhil / Ph.D programme.



By

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Introduction

Sustainable coastal resources management is at the forefront of the world's attention, with global initiatives such as the 1972 World Conference on the Human Environment, the 1987 World Commission on Environment, and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment. However, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Coastal Resources Management (WSSCRM) to renew commitments for the implementation of the Agenda 211 over the next decade confirmed that the world is far from the achieving sustainable coastal resources management. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division (UNDESAD) for Sustainable Management, 2002 reports reaffirm that, If the current patterns of coastal resources management continue, nearly half of the world's people will suffer from water shortages within the next twenty five years, along with greenhouse gas emissions, will grow, and the world's oceans will deteriorate.

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The UNDESAD report highlights that despite over two decades of global efforts to promote sustainable coastal resources management, unsustainable coastal resource use still continues and may continue in the future posing threats to the livelihoods of millions of people in the world. These global scale efforts, however, underscore a range of socio-political, economic and ecological factors that determine the responses of each nation. The varying interpretations of these global initiatives according to different national coastal resources management goals, cultural and socio-economic situations, have influenced national commitments and responses.

Similarly, the Global Conference on the sustainable resources management of Small Island Developing States (The 1994 Barbados Conference) translated Agenda 21 into specific policies, actions and measures to be taken at the national, regional and international levels to enable Small Island Developing States to achieve sustainable coastal resources management. However, successful implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action at the national level is determined by each Island State's capacity and commitment.