

Center for Community-Based Resource Management (CBRM)

Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba

CBRM Database

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Case Study Name:	Trends in development of coastal area management in tropical countries: From central to community orientation		
Author:	Christie, P. & White, A.		
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Region:	Southeast Asia		
Country:	Philippines		
Ecosystem Type:	Coastal marine		
Social Characteristics:			
Scale of Study:	Regional		
Resource Type:	Fisheries		
Type of Initiative:	Community initiative; local NGO initiative		
Community Based Work:	Resource management; conservation; environmental education		

Keywords:	collaborative management, community based management, integrated coastal management, participatory action research, traditional knowledge and management systems
Summary:	<p>The development phases of coastal management in tropical countries are described. Pre-colonial, centralized, community-based, and collaborative coastal management are identified as forms of management which have evolved to what today is called integrated coastal management. Centralized management began during colonial times when any attempt at management was orchestrated from the top of government. Community-based coastal management, in response to the failures of more centralized approaches, began in the Philippines through several projects, the experience of which spread to other countries in Southeast Asia and to Ecuador in the 1980s. The concept of collaborative management is now accepted as a description of variations in joint management arrangements between government and community or with the private sector stakeholders. It is suggested that collaborative management and integrated coastal management are more or less synonymous. The trends identified within tropical coastal management include interdisciplinary research and management integration, valuing traditional knowledge and management systems, increasing reliance on local participation, and using participation oriented research approaches. It is seen that the capacity for improved coastal management is increasing dramatically with a strong emphasis on training through academe and field learning trials. The authors are positive about current developments in coastal management, while cautioning practitioners that global economics will increasingly impact the use and conservation of coastal resources. A theme is that local government and community accountability in coastal management will help make efforts effective and more sustainable.</p>