

Baguio Resolution on Coastal Resources Management

issued by
The Policy Conference on Managing ASEAN's
Coastal Resources for Sustainable Development
4-7 March 1990
Manila and Baguio, Philippines



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BACKGROUND

In early 1986, the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)--Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand--began an international and collaborative effort to develop integrated coastal resources management plans. With the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development and the technical assistance of the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM), each country selected a coastal environment and began an intensive, interdisciplinary research programme involving scores of university-based researchers, government officials and representatives from the private sector and nongovernmental organisations. The research was intended to gather baseline data, assess the state of the environment at the project site and suggest how best to manage the site so that its resources could be utilised to promote economic development and protection of the valuable coastal resources. Once the research was completed, attention turned to the formulation of comprehensive coastal resources management plans, most of which were completed in late 1989 and early 1990.

To emphasise the necessity for action in implementing these plans, an international conference on "Managing ASEAN's Coastal Resources for Sustainable Development" was held in Manila and Baguio City, Philippines, on 4 to 7 March 1990. ICLARM and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines sponsored the conference, which featured sessions on "Current Efforts in Coastal Resource Planning and Management"; "The Role of Political Leadership in Managing Coastal Resources for Sustainable Development"; "Providing Resources for Sustainable Development"; and "Community Awareness and Participation in Sustainable Development." Participants included key policymakers from each ASEAN country, technical experts from Asia, Europe and North America, and representatives of the media and international donor agencies.

Discussion repeatedly turned to recognition of the root causes of the problems in coastal areas and the urgent need to implement effective remedial measures. At the conclusion of the conference, the participants agreed to state both collectively and unequivocally the importance of focusing international attention on the plight and protection of ASEAN's coastal resources. The result of this agreement is the "Baguio Resolution on Managing ASEAN's Coastal Resources for Sustainable Development," which is found on the pages that follow. In unanimously approving the resolution, official representatives from the six countries have provided a permanent and prominent demonstration of ASEAN's concern for and commitment to integrated social and economic management of coastal areas. In turn, international donor agencies have recognised the need to support integrated management programmes designed to protect coastal resources, and media representatives have agreed to their essential role in promoting community awareness of these issues.

ASEAN has been in the forefront of many areas of international collaboration; the Baguio Resolution continues that tradition by providing the world's first multinational commitment to integrated coastal area planning and management.

BAGUIO RESOLUTION ON COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, much of Southeast Asia's population lives in coastal areas, and the lives and reasonable aspirations for economic advancement of these coastal residents are inextricably linked to the sustained productivity of coastal resources; and coastal areas contain a diverse collection of natural resources within their interrelated ecosystems, and close linkages exist between these ecosystems and the socioeconomic systems in coastal areas; and fish and other aquatic resources are routinely captured and cultured in coastal areas, providing food, valuable chemicals and materials, employment and income for many coastal residents; and the region's unique coastal environments also provide many other economic opportunities for the private sector including oil, mineral and timber extraction, agriculture, shipping and tourism;

WHEREAS, many coastal environments within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have become seriously degraded, resource-use conflicts are escalating, and valuable coastal resources are being over-exploited; and the result is that the productivity of these coastal areas has diminished, and the prospects for continued economic prosperity in the region has been jeopardised;

WHEREAS, to maintain and enhance the livelihood of coastal communities within the ASEAN, coastal areas must be managed for sustainable development; and as population and economic pressures on these coastal resources increase, it becomes more difficult and challenging to achieve sustainable development in coastal areas in the absence of proper management; and effective management of coastal areas requires that the ecological and socioeconomic interdependencies that characterise these areas be taken fully into account; and this can best be done through development and implementation of integrated coastal resources management plans;

WHEREAS, political leaders, and many groups and organisations have important roles in effective coastal resources management, and all of these can contribute to sustainable development; and government decisionmakers and the private sector can play a crucial role through their support of plan development and implementation, and their encouragement of coastal communities to act cohesively to enhance prospects for sustainable development of coastal areas; and donor agencies can likewise contribute meaningfully in setting the course of development of coastal areas by ensuring that all sectoral projects funded are congruent with multisectoral development plans that are conducive to sustainable development of coastal areas; and the mass media are important in increasing public awareness regarding the importance of coastal resources and the dependence of continued prospects for economic development in coastal areas on proper management of coastal resources;

WHEREAS, recognising the need for effective strategies to manage coastal resources for sustainable development, the ASEAN, through its various mechanisms, has undertaken a series of cooperative programmes, particularly the ASEAN/US Coastal Resources Management Project; and under this project, the following activities have been undertaken by various national institutions coordinated by the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management:

- analysis, documentation and dissemination of information on how coastal resources are being developed for economic purposes;
- strengthening of existing management capabilities of local and national institutions within the region;
- provision of technical solutions to resolve conflicts arising from competing uses of coastal resources; and
- assistance to various organisations and agencies in the development of coastal area management plans;

WHEREAS, the Policy Conference on Managing ASEAN's Coastal Resources for Sustainable Development

recognises the accomplishments of the Coastal Resources Management Project;

THEREFORE, we the participants of the Policy Conference hereby resolve and further recommend that the ASEAN member countries, donor agencies and all other groups and organisations give emphasis to the protection of these resources for the primary benefit of coastal communities by:

- endorsing policies that promote and enhance sustainable development of coastal resources;
- encouraging the development and implementation of integrated, interdisciplinary and comprehensive coastal resources management plans;
- further strengthening management capabilities of governmental and nongovernmental organisations responsible for the management of coastal resources;
- undertaking measures to relieve human population pressures in coastal areas;
- implementing and rigorously enforcing effective regulations and supporting incentive schemes to promote sustainable uses of coastal resources;
- increasing awareness of coastal populations regarding their critical dependence on the continued productivity of coastal resources;
- promoting community-based participation in coastal area management;
- adopting policies and programmes to enable women to participate in and contribute more actively to the effective management of coastal resources for sustainable development;
- exploring ways and means by which the public and private sectors can cooperate and thereby benefit from efforts to sustain and develop coastal resources; and
- considering in coastal area management, the implications of possible climate change and sea level rise.

ADOPTED by acclamation in Baguio City, Philippines, on 6 March 1990.

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International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management

The International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) is an autonomous, nonprofit, international scientific and technical center which has been organized to conduct, stimulate and accelerate research on all aspects of fisheries and other living aquatic resources.

The Center was incorporated in Manila on 20 January 1977 and its operational base was established in Manila in March 1977. The interests of ICLARM are primarily in tropical developing countries worldwide.

ICLARM is an operational organization, not a granting or funding entity. Its program of work is aimed to resolve critical technical and socioeconomic constraints to increased production, improved resource management and equitable distribution of benefits in economically developing countries. It pursues these objectives in the fields of aquaculture, capture fisheries management and coastal resources management, including research, training and information activities with institutions in developing and developed countries.

The ICLARM core staff consists of internationally recruited scientists drawn from diverse disciplines in the biological, agricultural and social sciences. In addition, provision is made for interns, consultants and visiting fellows, contributing to breadth of competence and flexibility.

The core program and core staff are supported by a number of foundations and governments.