

Supporting sustainability and adaptation
to global change in the coastal zone

Future Earth Coasts is a Global Research Project of Future Earth, a platform for translating sustainability knowledge into action that includes a number of United Nations agencies, intergovernmental bodies and organisations such as the International Council for Science.

The purpose of **Future Earth Coasts** is to:

- Focus attention on grand challenges on the World's coastlines.
- Connect coastal researchers, practitioners, Indigenous Peoples, activists, businesses, youth, and decision-makers.
- Build and bridge scientific, local, and Indigenous knowledge.
- Support the next generation of coastal leaders and custodians.
- Advocate for equitable and sustainable coastal development.
- Enable community resilience and adaptive capacity.
- Translate coastal sustainability values and knowledge into action.

We partner with individuals, programmes, projects, and organisations to contribute to our vision and research priorities and goals for engagement and capacity building.

Visit **FutureEarthCoasts.org** to find out how to join our community and contribute through the *Future Earth Coasts Academy*, *Future Earth Coasts Fellows*, and *Affiliated Projects*.

OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Future Earth Coasts builds on over 20 years of global scientific experience and applied research—originally the Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ) project of the former International Geosphere Biosphere Programme and the International Human Dimensions Programme.

This work includes numerous books, publications and State of the Coast reports (available at **FutureEarthCoasts.org**); and networks like Lagoons for Life and Ocean Acidification Africa.

FutureEarthCoasts.org

Future Earth Coasts is administered and supported by a distributed International Project Office. The head office and the Executive Director of Future Earth Coasts are hosted by the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT) in Germany. Other branches of the International Project Office are hosted at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science and Virginia Institute of Technology (both US), the Southern Cross University in Australia, and jointly at State Key Laboratory of Estuarine and Coastal Research, East China Normal University in Shanghai and at Yantai Institute of Coastal Zone Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences in China.

Contact information

Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)
Address: Fahrenheitstrasse 6
D-28359 Bremen, Germany
Phone: 0049 421 238 00 114
info@FutureEarthCoasts.org



Photo credits

Cover: Seaweed farming, Zanzibar, 2016. Rachel Clara Reed, Wikimedia Commons.
Inside: Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge wetlands provide a storm buffer for a New Jersey community, USA, 2014. USFWS NE Region, Wikimedia Commons.

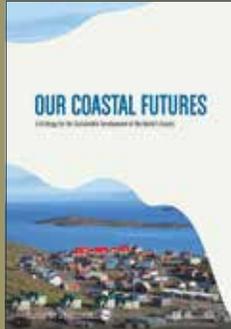
Sustainability of the World's Coasts

**TRANSITIONING TOWARDS
RESPECTFUL CUSTODIANSHIP
OF OUR COASTS**



Our Coastal Futures: A Strategy for the Sustainable Development of the World's Coasts

Improving the management of our coasts will help the World create new pathways towards a more sustainable future. Most of the World's sustainability opportunities and challenges converge in the coastal zone—the interface between land and sea. Here, hundreds of millions of people already face increasing pressure from population growth, unsustainable development, and escalating disaster risk as the climate changes and sea levels rise.



Available at
FutureEarthCoasts.org

Our Coastal Futures is a new strategic approach to:

- **Enable** regional stakeholders and institutions to develop a common understanding of their coasts and future prospects.
- **Co-design** robust strategies to chart desired coastal futures.
- **Co-produce** innovative coastal sustainability initiatives and pathways to achieve these desired outcomes, and realise the Sustainable Development Goals.

futureearth coasts is a community

Future Earth Coasts builds and connects knowledge, explores new development paths, and finds new ways to accelerate transitions to sustainable development at the coast through:

- **Co-designing and co-producing knowledge**—develop engagement strategies that bring together societal partners to build a common understanding about the coast and of future prospects.
- **Charting a course to a new type of science**—develop a new engaged, action-oriented approach to coastal research that provides a forum to undertake innovative disciplinary research and co-design, coordinate and implement transdisciplinary research.
- **Providing accessible and relevant products**—add value to research outputs that support synthesis and assessment efforts to align with policy and societal needs.
- **Building capacity**—draw upon the experience and expertise of coastal specialists and practitioners from around the World and build partnerships to inform and advance sustainable development at the coast through networking, capacity development, and mentoring.

We do this by providing opportunities that address one of our three **core themes**:

- Dynamic Coasts
- Coastal Development
- Pathways to Sustainability

Future Earth Coasts' focuses on coastal systems or "**hotspots**" that are particularly vulnerable to global change and critical to the sustainability of coastal socio-ecological systems: rivermouth systems, deltas, and estuaries; islands; the Arctic; and coastal urbanisation areas.



**NATURE + PEOPLE
SCIENCE + SOCIETY
KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION**