

COASTAL AREA PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT USING FORESTS AND TREES AS PROTECTION FROM TSUNAMIS

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ABSTRACT

Coastal regions will always be focal points for society's uses, including for commerce, tourism, recreation, housing, fishing, and many others. Integrated coastal management balances ecosystem preservation and restoration against the short and long term needs of society. Such balancing of disparate and seemingly conflicting requirements necessitates establishing priorities to which participating stakeholders can ascribe. Strong leadership that is sensitive to integrative management will be required to "champion" the long term effectiveness of forests and trees over the more expedient effectiveness of short term "fixes" such as hard engineered solutions.

Multi-sectoral planning under well defined leadership establishes a framework within which to structure integrative programs. An integrated intersectoral approach consists of three primary phases:

- Phase I Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessments*
- Phase II Mitigation Strategy Planning*
- Phase III Institutional Issues to encourage planting of forests and trees as part of coastal management and cost benefit analysis to assist decision makers to evaluate forest and tree planting programs in relation to local social, economic and environmental priorities.*