

# Change of coastal land use, its impact, and management options

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In the recent past, coastal zone is increasingly being used in an unplanned way, which has resulted in its degradation. There are unique living ecosystems along the coasts, such as mangroves, sand dune vegetation, corals, seaweeds, benthos, and fisheries. The coastal communities directly and also indirectly depend upon these ecosystems for their livelihood. These are some of the most productive natural systems and are ecologically and economically very significant.

However, due to monetary benefits, vested interests as also lack of information and awareness, the natural as well as designated coastal land use has been changed at several places along the Indian coast. Deforestation, reclamation, and pollution have become routine practices in spite of legislative protection like Coastal Regulatory Zone, Wildlife Protection Act (1972), etc., being in place.

There have been efforts towards preservation and conservation of the coastline in the form of biosphere reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, marine parks, germplasm preservation centres, and protected areas.

It is concluded that for sustainable development and utilization of the natural coastal living and non-living resources, there is a need for more awareness. Efforts to understand the natural processes and man-made changes are essential for proper coastal land-use plan.