

PRESS NOTE

NATIONAL SHORELINE MAPPING CHANGE ASSESSMENT FOR INDIA

Today Society of Integrated Coastal Management launched the shoreline study maps of Gujarat and Puducherry. These maps will be made available on the website of SICOM at www.ncscm.org/sicom.

The coastline of India is undergoing changes due to various anthropogenic and natural interventions. Most of the shoreline changes are on account of the structures which have been developed/constructed along the foreshore of the country. Several of these developments are not compatible with the dynamic nature of the shoreline.

In the report submitted by Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Committee on 16th July, 2009, it has been recommended that there should be a moratorium stipulated on all foreshore developmental activities till such time a detailed study is not undertaken for the entire coastline. Accordingly, a moratorium tourism was imposed on 21st August, 2009 and 3rd November, 2009. Further, based on a report submitted by Integrated Coastal and Marine Area Management (ICMAM) no development was permitted in the areas identified as “high eroding sites” and areas along ecological sensitive areas. Meanwhile, a shoreline study has been assigned to Institute for Ocean Management (IOM) , Chennai in November, 2009. IOM has now completed the study for Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. As of today we have received the approval from Gujarat and Puducherry on the shoreline maps. These maps are prepared based on the comparative study of four satellite images dated 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2009.

Based on these maps the shoreline is being classified as high erosion, medium erosion and stable or low erosion. SICOM proposes to complete the shoreline study mapping for the entire country by June, 2011.
