



Coastal Development: Sustainability or Destruction?

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Abstract: Coastal development is a challenge for environmental thinking concerning the protection and preservation of the marine ecosystem, welfare of the local community and growth of the tourism industry. The objective of this paper is to determine whether coastal development is sustainability or destruction. Specifically, this paper will focus on the ecocentrism, effects of coastal development. This paper used the descriptive method. The writer conclude that coastal development has positive and negative effects to the marine ecosystem and tourism industry. As the coastal areas become highly developed, it attracts crowds of tourists that can contribute to great changes, but also damage the environment.

Keyword: *Coastal development, marine ecosystem, ecocentrism*

INTRODUCTION

Earth is an ocean planet, 71% of the Earth's surface is covered by water. Oceans affect all living things – even those far from the shore – and it provides a place for many organisms to live. Coastal areas are some of the most productive and biologically diverse on the planet and the most densely populated. (WWF Global) In every corner of our planet, there are human inhabitants and one of the favorite destinations are coastal areas. In line with this, development of coastal areas is directly proportional to an increase in the country's tourism. Development of coastal areas become a big hit to attract more tourists. Rocky coastal areas become white sand in an instant, with the construction of homes, hotels, restaurants, roads, sea wall, piers and nearshore dredging accompanying it. Half of the Earth's population lives on or is within 100 miles of the coastline and will likely increase each year and through coastal development it attracts more tourists that doubles the local population or more than that. (WWF Global) With this trend, lots of coastal development is on-going but is it really a sustainable act or a destruction of our marine ecosystem and our humanity?

This paper consists of discussion on ecocentrism by Aldo Leopold, effects of coastal development, conclusion and possible solutions regarding the issue.

METHODOLOGY

This paper is a descriptive type of paper, for it only describes the theory of ecocentrism, advantages and disadvantages of coastal development as well as stating of fact about the issue, and lastly the giving out of solutions for the issue. This paper will not affect the facts stated on other



literature gathered but it will only suggest for improvement in solving the issue and locating for answers. No research materials and methods would be used in the making of this paper.

ECOCENTRISM: LAND ETHIC

Aldo Leopold mentioned that this theory of ecocentrism changes the role of the human person from conqueror of the land community to a plain member of the land community (soil, waters, plants and animals). This implies respect for his fellow members and respect for the land. Humans also need an ecological conscience where the human person manages the natural environment where he or she is concerned by both biotic and economic grounds for fear of the loss of the species.

EFFECTS OF COASTAL DEVELOPMENT

Coastal development can cause chronic sedimentation, sewage effluent, industrial discharge, changes waterflow and run off which can harmfully affect coral growth rates and metabolic activities as well as directly kill corals. The damage doesn't end with the construction of tourist infrastructure. Removal of reefs can result in beach erosion, land retreat and sedimentation. Sedimentation can smother reefs or increase turbidity in coastal waters, hence reducing light needed for coral growth and survival. Pollutants can lead to increase in coral disease and mortality, cause changes in coral community structure, impede coral growth, reproduction and larval settlement. Mining of coral for construction materials and souvenirs can lead to long-term economic losses in terms of lost benefits for fisheries, coastal protection, food security and biodiversity.

As coastal areas become highly developed it attracts more tourist that lead to the increase of government revenues through taxes that was collected from employment, establishments, services and goods, and will result in an increase in foreign exchange revenue through imports and exports. It also generates employment in the area; more establishments mean more jobs for the local community. As the community becomes highly developed, loss of political and economic autonomy, including loss of real property through massive land price increase, loss of folklore and important institutions of traditional folk culture, social disorganization including loss of parental control, increased materialism and drug use, modified sex behavior and will culminate into hostility towards tourists (e.g. thievery, verbal aggression, prostitution).

It reduces the political unrest due to unemployment, and raises mutual esteem and understanding among different nations, however, it can also be used as a means towards political purposes, kidnaping of tourists, and increasing the possibility of political riots among those opposed to the government. It also provides opportunities for meeting different people, exchanging ideas, and promoting cultural values and beliefs. This might promote mutual recognition among nations and increase tolerance of cultural differences, but it has lingual and cultural effects like unwanted lifestyle changes, demonstration effects, introducing bad habits to the local community, health problems (AIDS, Hepatitis), an increase in crime, traffic congestion and crowding which produce stress, annoyance, conflict, and anger. It may also cause displacement of residents for expansion of tourism facilities.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion to the paper, the writer concludes that as population increase in coastal areas, it is likely to have great changes but also damage the marine ecosystem and tourism industry (local community, economy, government and health). The possible solution is the implementation of law regarding limiting the development of coastal areas, environmental education and establishment of environmental protection and humanitarian group that will monitor every coastal area and members of the community. For the writer these solutions may be vital in protecting both the environment, economy and community. The writer assumes that the country may face a lot of problem if the issue is not considered as soon as possible.

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