Understanding Coastal Challenges in SAARC Region

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About SCZMC

• Established in 2005 in Male’, Maldives
• 8 member States of SAARC
• Mandated to
  – Identify coastal institutions, facilitate collaboration and promote coordination on ICZM
  – Assess, collect, compile info on ICZM
  – Provide support to ICZM institution and capacity development
  – conduct research and transfer technology.
Major Challenges in ICM – the drivers

• Large population size and high rates of growth
• Over exploitation of resources
• Extreme poverty coined by depleting resources, and lack of alternative livelihoods
• Large-scale, quick-profit, commercial enterprises which degrade resources and conflict with interests of the local people
• Lack of awareness about management for sustainability among local people and policy-makers;
• Lack of understanding of the economic contribution of coastal resources to society
• Lack of serious government follow-up in support and enforcement of conservation programs (Chua & White 1988)
• Climate change and disasters
Complex and Multiple Uses of Coastal Zone

- Urban Settlement
- Industrial Development
- Waste Disposal
- Shore Protection Works
- Ports and Marine Transportation
- Land Transportation Infrastructure
- Water Control and Supply Projects
- Coastal Fisheries
- Aquaculture
- Coastal Forest Industries
- Coastal Agriculture
- Extractive Industries
- Tourism and Recreation
- National Security
- Lagoons and Estuaries (Clark 1994)
Important Principles for ICM

• Coastal area is a unique system that requires special management and planning
• Water is the major integrating force in coastal resource systems
• land and sea uses be planned and managed in combination
• Coastal management boundaries should be issue-based and adaptive
• Conserve common property resources
• Prevention of damage from hazards and conservation of resources should be combined
• All levels of government must be involved
• The nature-synchronous approach to development is much better for the coasts
• Benefit sharing and public participation is essential
• Conservation for sustainable use should be a major goal
• Multi-use and users management is workable for most coastal systems
• Traditional resource management should be respected
• The environmental impact assessment approach is essential
Thank You