Integrated coastal zone planning and implementation

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Integrated coastal zonal planning and implementation are issues of policy and governance, so what is the role of science? This contribution stems from the team's original interest in contributing to a better and sustainable coastal management. Since this original idea, Kenya has evidently not waited. Based on its considerable domestic expertise and in view of environmental and economic challenges for the country much has been done to elaborate an integrated coastal zone planning. This resets and should redefine the role of science in the complexity of global and local stakeholders' interests in the coastal zone. Often, data gaps, lack of baselines, lack of integrative insights weaken the effectiveness of such planning. Also, the valuation discourse appears to direct disproportionately conservation and management priorities and must be assessed critically by science. Scientists are keen not only to deliver commissioned and/or applied policy-support research but also to generate an 'overhead' of fundamental understanding, thus looking ahead to future questions and allowing for the transfer of insights to other locations. Indeed lessons learnt elsewhere must accelerate progress in a science-based conservation and management, moving beyond mere empiricism or trial and error. We will present our view on how to insert our scientific work into a general strategy of effective coastal zone planning.