

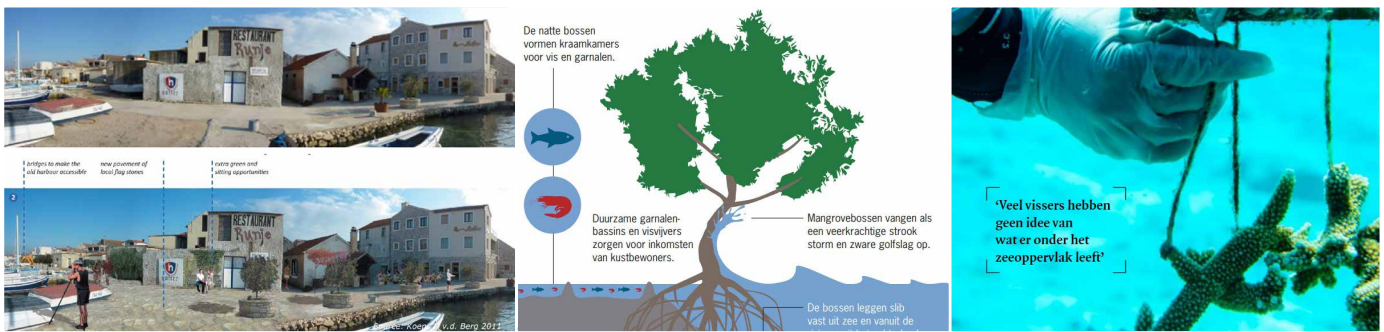
Integrated coastal zone management



Sustainable development of coastal regions for the benefit of local communities and the environment



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



“Including the value of natural resources and our social capital in national accounting is a vital step for achieving economic growth that is equitable and sustainable”

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director

Coastal regions at risk

40% of the world’s population lives with 100 km of the sea. The coast is a place where people live, find their livelihoods and wellbeing, and for many it is a favourite holiday destination. The coastal environment is under high pressure from this intense human use. A third of coastal regions worldwide are at high risk of degradation, especially from infrastructure development and pollution, with Europe and Asia the most threatened. Degradation of ecosystems such as dunes, coral reefs and mangroves results in a loss of natural capital and ecosystem services. It is often local communities that pay the price for this loss, which can include reduced availability of seafood, loss of natural coastal protection and negative economic impacts through loss of tourism.

Nature Based Solutions from Wageningen

Wageningen University & Research is a frontrunner in the innovative ‘building with nature approach’. We have actively applied this nature based solution worldwide with the reclamation of lost coastal land in Indonesia and the restoration of coral reefs in the Caribbean and Kenya, but we are also providing our expertise to deliver this methodology at the core of the Dutch policy to restore coastal natural capital. Capacity building and the participation of local stakeholders as problem owners is crucial in this process. This calls for tailor-made projects with a balanced mix of expertise in the fields of people, planet and profit: the one-Wageningen approach. In Croatia this has resulted in empowerment of local communities and election of a local government that has chosen for sustainable development, away from the former mass tourism developments. In Kenya local communities have now agreed on a no take zone to allow reef recovery in combination with habitat enhancement for specific seafood species.

Examples of our work

Through the links below you can find examples of the successful implementation of the interdisciplinary projects referred to above:

- www.wur.nl/en/project/REEFolution-Kenya.htm
- www.wur.nl/en/show-longread/Nature-based-solutions-for-water-management.htm
- www.wur.nl/en/Dossiers/file/Building-with-Nature-2.htm
- www.wur.nl/en/activity/Engineering-Building-with-Nature.htm

Challenges

- Participatory restoration of coastal ecosystems through building with nature
- Local economic development through sustainable exploitation of coastal natural capital
- Capacity building and empowerment of local communities
- Partnership building with local stakeholders

Take-aways

- Coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration
- Building with nature
- Sustainable tourism development
- Environmental impact assessments
- Integrated management plans
- Local community participation
- Tailor-made, innovative solutions
- Landscape design and visualisation
- Dedicated structures for seafood enhancement
- Delivery of Corporate Social Responsibility targets
- Sustainable business platform

Contact

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