

42nd Regional Meeting of National RCA Representatives

Project: RAS7031 Assessing the Vulnerability of Coastal Landscapes and Ecosystems to Sea-Level Rise and Climate Change (RCA)

Details: 2019 – 2022 | AUL | Kerrylee Rogers, University of Wollongong | 16 Participating GPs

Background

- There is limited information regarding the vulnerability of coastlines and estuarine shorelines in the Asia Pacific Region to the effects of climate change and sea-level rise. As a result, there is inadequate adaptation planning and management for climate change, leading to significant social and environmental impacts.
- This is alarming as the Asia Pacific region includes countries that are most at risk from sea-level rise in the 21st century. There is an urgent need for information that can be applied in the region for better coastal adaptation planning and management.

Project Objectives

- The overall objective of this project is to improve capacity of coastal countries in the Asia-Pacific region to use radiometric and isotopic techniques to ascertain coastal vulnerability and resilience to climate change in the 21st century.

Project Activities in 2019

▪ Meetings / Workshops

- › First Coordination Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (25 Feb – 1 Mar 2019)
 - Member States documented national activities that contribute to the objectives, identified knowledge gaps, facilitated the development of collaborative arrangements, and established a regional plan of activities to meet the objectives.
 - A total of 16 Member States attended the meeting which included a field trip to the Malacca Straits and the region of Malacca. The location was chosen for its international trade significance and its vulnerability to the impacts of erosion and flooding associated with sea-level rise.
- › First Regional Training Workshop in Sydney, Australia (2- 6 Dec 2019)
 - Attended by 11 MS including the TO, the course provided basic training in site selection and design, coring, sample preparation and basic sediment analysis, gamma spectrometry, laser particle size analysis and ITRAX.
 - It included two field trips to the Homebush Bay wetlands where participants experienced field activities including measurements of substrate surface elevation change and sediment coring.

Progress during 2019

- The first RTC was successfully delivered in Dec 2019, providing the basic skills for MS to commence identifying study sites, collecting samples and preparing samples for subsequent analysis.
- During the first RTC, as well as from the (ten) annual progress reports submitted by the MS, it is evident that the MS were making significant progress towards site selection, sampling and sub-sampling.
- Powerpoint slides and associated documentation was also supplied to all participants.
- The project will continue to identify appropriate information that can be incorporated into a training manual. The training manual is anticipated to consist of resources adapted from IAEA and ANSTO, with project specific information included.

Constraints/ Challenges

- ✓ Not all MS submitted their annual progress reports. (10 out of 16)
- ✓ Further training courses were planned for 2020 to direct attention towards technical skills in radiometric and isotopic analyses but will most likely be postponed due to travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.