

## 43<sup>rd</sup> 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 | Debashish Mazumder, ANSTO | 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Project Activities in 2020

#### ▪ Meetings / Workshops

- › Virtual project review meeting (8 – 9 October 2020)
  - The meeting discussed the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting identified existing knowledge gaps and status of the establishment of a national program, experimental design, sample collection and analyses for meeting project milestones.
  - A total of 14 Member States attended the virtual project review meeting. The meeting discussed and reviewed the status of each member state in relation to the sample collection and analyses.
- › Second Regional Training Workshop in Sydney, Australia (Q1 2021)
  - The next course, focusing on stable isotope analysis will be delivered in 2021, either in-person as originally planned, or via an on-line platform subject to COVID-19 pandemic situation. Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, sample collection, analysis and database development works have been affected.

### Progress during 2020

- The progress review meeting discussed and reviewed the status of each member state in relation to the establishment of a national program, sampling design, sample collection and analyses.
- Based on the progress reports submitted by the countries, it is evident that all participating countries have established national programs, and progress is being made to some extent towards study site selection, sampling, and analyses despite COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions.
- 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

- ✓ Pandemic related risk should be considered in the risk matrix and achievements.
- ✓ Virtual platform for conducting meetings and training yielded better results, and it may be considered as an alternative for pandemic like situations.