5.1 Introduction

The conceptual foundations of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) can be traced to the mid-1960s when the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission was established in response to a growing awareness that the environmental problems pertaining to the coast required focused attention. Initially known simply as coastal zone management (CZM), the concept received a boost with the enactment of the US Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, 1972. A decade later, the term ‘integrated coastal zone management’ emerged, and pilot programs were initiated in the coastal countries of Ecuador, Sri Lanka, and Thailand by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Coastal Resources Center at the University of Rhode Island played an important role in its popularization. However, the utility of ICZM was not acknowledged until the Earth Summit, 1992. Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 that emerged from that conference can be seen as the ‘Rosetta Stone’ of sustainable coastal development (SCD), for its invaluable insights into how sustainable development is to be operationalized in relation to the marine and coastal environments.
states to formulate and implement coastal management programs, leading to an upsurge in ICZM activities. Another major catalyst was the significant rise in investments in coastal and marine related projects by multilateral and bilateral donor agencies. While in 1993 only 57 nations were engaged in CZM activities, by 2002, the number had doubled, and nearly 95 coastal nations or semi-sovereign states had some sort of ICZM activities in place. Interestingly, the majority of these programs were from the developing world.

This chapter begins by defining the concept of ICZM. It draws on definitions proposed by academics and international organizations to capture the essence of the concept. This is followed by an examination of the structure of an ICZM process. As the basic methodological tool to secure SCD, the core principles that help to operate an ICZM process are described, and some of the major criticisms against it are examined in section 5.4. Section 5.5 argues for the necessity of climate change adaptation approaches to the management of the utilisation of coastal and marine resources and environments, and section 5.6 considers the practical advantages of linking coastal climate change adaptation (CCCA) to an ICZM process. The penultimate indispensability of ICZM to achieving SCD is reaffirmed to conclude this chapter.

5.2 Defining ICZM

Various definitions have been offered to describe ICZM. Leading academics define ICZM as:

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8 At minimum, 29 key guidance documents have been produced over the past decade and a body of knowledge on important integrated coastal management principles. Sorensen, *Baseline 2000*, ibid. at annex F.