

"Coastal Zones 21st Century Challenges" Working Group

Abstract No. 2433: "Coastal Zones: 21st Century Myths and Challenges"

20 years have passed since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. 20 years of efforts to better understand, inform, and improve the relationships between our societies and our planet's coastal zones. These efforts have crystallized into tangible outcomes in the forms of improvements in environmental culture and international agreements upheld by national and transnational coastal zone plans, protocols, and conventions. While moving forward with these national and international efforts, we realize that the balance between development and stewardship is still broken, and many more efforts are needed to create a harmonious relationship between the use of knowledge in society and our planet's coastal zones. Through the active participation of 115 researchers from 30 countries, a baseline document has been created in order to participate in the construction of the "focused political document" for the Rio+20 outcomes.

The general concluding comment of our Rio+20 baseline document is:

"The challenges we face in coastal zones are mostly anthropogenic or amplified by human activities that clearly transgress reasonable limits. Any initiative to truly help society progress sustainably must integrate the limits of the planet and be co-constructed with the affected communities."

If we deeply understand these words, one question appears:

"Do we, through the activities of our societies, fit into the proposed solution?"

The answer is
NO

Challenges Impacting

Malnutrition; hunger;

Wars and other violent conflicts; Lack of education;

Climate change and its consequences; Over-exploitation of marine

living resources; Toxins in fish and shellfish, and pathogens

such as cholera and hepatitis, are threats to human health;

Population growth; Global economic crises...etc

Challenges from Pollution and Climate Change:

Oceanic temperature warming and PH change towards

acidification; Decreasing oxygen levels leading to dead

zones, species extirpation, and noxious gas emissions;

Seawater intrusion in coastal aquifers; Coastal

and sea pollution caused by wastewaters and solid

wastes that have been treated ineffectively or not at all

Pollution by toxic waste...etc

Challenges in Policy:

Harmonize the interests of coastal environment

users, including local community members,

coastal municipalities, regional and/or inter-municipal

planning, national, transnational, and

international stakeholders,

through the continuous

improvement of

economic-legislative instruments and

elaboration and implementation of coordinated strategies for the use of natural, social, cultural, and

institutional resources; Rethink economic growth and the flows of energy and materials; Preserve 100% of

the areas where the indigenous peoples of the coasts remain, including the Saami, Chukchi, Siberian Yupiaq and

many others; Integrate research and education into the decision making process; Make information readily and

easily accessible to facilitate informed

decision-making; Protect natural and cultural resources

at all levels: local, regional, national,

communities safe; Monitor and

industrial activity, and the related

hazards of oil pollution, chemical transport,

collision, GIS reduction, and technical failures; Introduce policies that: make change

trends mandatory, protect existing coastal habitats and ecological functions,

recover the fishing stocks, and prevent illegal and habitat-destructive

fishing; Prevent over-population in developing regions

...etc

Lives of Coastal Zone Residents:

freshwater availability;

Wars and other violent conflicts; Lack of education;

Climate change and its consequences; Over-exploitation of marine

living resources; Toxins in fish and shellfish, and pathogens

such as cholera and hepatitis, are threats to human health;

Population growth; Global economic crises...etc

Challenges in Research:

Generate an information baseline

of coastal ecological and

social processes that

researchers can measure

against; Take into account the

social and human dimensions

of uncertainty; Study in

greater depth the

interconnectedness of natural

systems to better understand how

to sustain coastal and oceanic health

Conduct research in support

of management on multiple

spatial and temporal scales

...etc

SO...
...If we continue:



we do
NOT

we do
NOT

Go!

Go!

Go!

How
can we
move respectfully
in this positive
direction?

Governance, Global/Local Articulation:

The efforts cannot only come from local governments and communities; The challenges are global in nature;

UN Ocean should be supplemented by other trans-governmental and non-governmental networks as additional forms of

governance; Maritime Basins (IPMB) should contribute to providing governance systems with common and reliable

information and promote coherent responses from these systems; Build strong connections between transboundary maritime

basins related to large marine ecosystems and maritime regions of the world; Apply a deliberative approach that concentrates

on managing emerging challenges and linking all spatial and temporal scales...etc

Collaborative Policy Making: The instruments for the implementation of integrated coastal zone management are: an integrated approach to coastal land and marine spatial planning, cross-sectoral and multiregional agreements, public participation, effective cross-border consultation system, monitoring and assessment of socio-economical and ecological changes and trends, comprehensive analysis of sustainable development indicators, financial and legal mechanisms for ICZM implementation, and connected and collaborative decision-making between all administrative levels from global to local; Move from the theoretical framework into realizing the necessary actions!

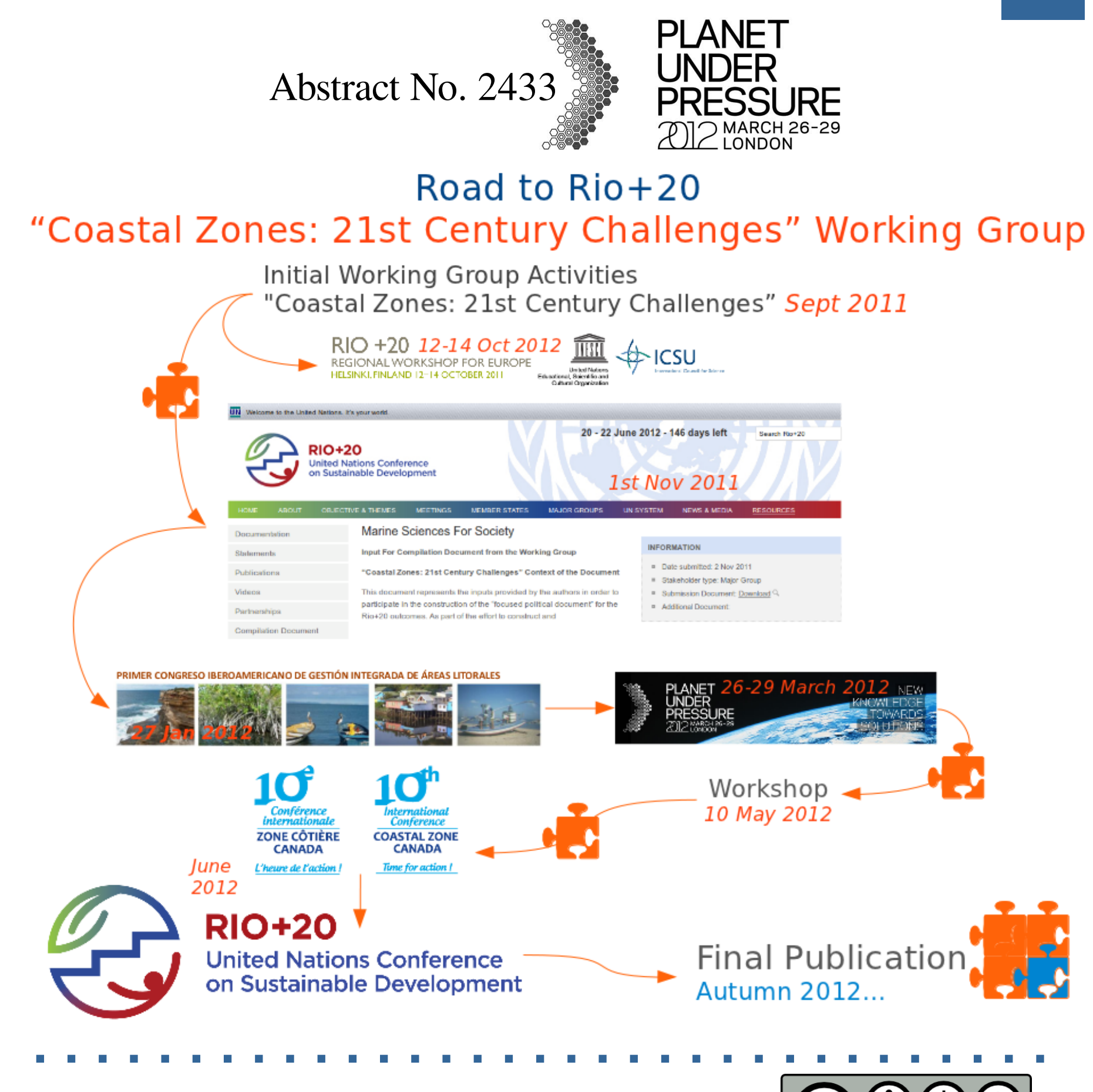
THE MOST VITAL ACTIONS WE MUST TAKE ARE THOSE THAT REVERSE NEGATIVE INERTIAS
AND, PLEASE, BE COURAGEOUS: MANY THANKS

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