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Sustainability in SI/DS

Small island developing states: coastal systems, global change and sustainability

The consequences of global change for the sustainable development of small island developing states (SIDS):

Many such states face a number of global climate change risks, such as an increase in the proportion of more intense storms, along with other global change threats that include energy security and costs. All these threats come on top of local development threats, such as increased run-off, often with increasing levels of contaminants due to unsustainable agricultural and industrial practices.

When taken together, the resulting pressures on islands and their communities lead to significant increases in vulnerability to change due to reduced resilience to these changes. Vulnerability is also increasing as a result of contemporary processes that heighten the exposure of material and other assets. The capacity to address hazard risk also influences vulnerability. This includes the level of awareness of coastal hazards and exposure, and access to critical life support infrastructure, especially for people living in hazard-prone areas. Vulnerability and resilience are considered to be important integrating concepts when managing the local consequences of global changes.

There are many initiatives that will help reduce the vulnerability and enhance the resilience of SIDS to such changes. These include improving risk knowledge and coastal resource and land use management, while also strengthening socio-economic systems and livelihoods. In this way, managing global change can be closely aligned with local development and humanitarian processes, thereby enhancing the overall sustainability of development processes and outcomes.

Keywords

Vulnerability Resilience Risk Global change Sustainable Development Small islands

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Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are recognised as a special case in terms of their environment and small size. Many challenges associated with these islands' situation can be overcome by forging partnerships, both local and international. Sustainable development is possible only with a strong multi-stakeholder approach, where the government, private sector and civil society play their full part.

Small island developing states (SIDS) are one of the most vulnerable countries for environmental sustainability in the world. To maintain environmental sustainability, the SIDS governments are pursuing many e-government projects, but there is much debate on its effectiveness. In the absence of empirical evidence, this study conducts quantitative analysis to estimate the effects of e-government development on environmental sustainability. Utilizing a panel dataset, we found that the development of e-government not only has direct effects on environmental sustainability, but also indirect effects through the enhancement of government effectiveness. This study emphasized the importance of contingent or intermediary factors in the study of e-government effectiveness. Additionally, after reviewing potential variables, we recommend the effectiveness of government as an important intermediary variable for the environmental sustainability in developing countries, such as SIDS.

we will review studies that have analyzed the direct relationship between e-government development and environmental sustainability.

To summarize the previous studies on the positive effects of e-government development on environmental sustainability, the mechanisms by which e-government positively affects environmental sustainability are as follows: by savings in costs due to transportation obviated by the need to visit government offices, and in savings in fossil fuel usage, the reduction of paper ; by lowering their energy consumptions and carbon footprints ; and/or providing greater opportunities for agencies to share and re-use technology, and reducing overall infrastructure costs.

Keywords: local partnership ; civil society ; developing countries ; environmental sustainability; government effectiveness; small island developing states

Source/References: *Alliance Development Works and UNU-EHS; UN-OHRLLS.*