

## ABSTRACT

As an island nation, Sri Lanka's coastal resources are more important for its sustainability. In the past, Sri Lankan government introduced several management systems to protect the coastal resources including human activities. The centrally controlled mechanisms as well as the bottom level social management systems were shown unsuccessful in the past decades to control the coastal resources in Sri Lanka. In this context present study tested co-government strategies as tools for the coastal resource management. For this study remote coastal fishing village, Naguleliya in North-western Province was selected. Effect of the development of co-management strategies evaluated based on coastal environment protection, coastal fisheries development and coastal area socio-economic conditions of the resource users.

Bottom level coastal services providing organizations including government have been selected as the stakeholders. Baseline survey and monthly fishing data were collected in the study. Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and the Net Benefit (NB) of Society were used to evaluate the study effects. Local Direct Use Value was used to study on mangroves in the study area.

According to the study results stakeholders involvement for coastal dune protection showed much better success than the past attempts made in this village. Mangrove replanting, sustainable harvesting of mangrove and coral reef restoration activities under the study had been shown co-management is best management tool to coastal ecological conservation. Study focused on to develop economic situation in this village by improving fishing capacity under the Maximum

Sustainable yielded. Stakeholders achieved significant fish catch and also income improvement under the study effects. With study effects Net village Benefit has been increased and also basic need such as water connected to the village as a sociological improvement. Formal community organization and the common fund have been resulted as the social effects of the study. As such, a coastal area social benefits coastal area fisheries activities and coastal environment were changed to better directions with the study effects. This thesis and study content on co management may help to sustainably manage coastal resources in Sri Lanka.