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Coastal Areas: Challenges and Opportunities for Sustainable Development

Max Jungmann, Heidelberg Center for the Environment

Climate change, rising populations, growing inequalities, international migration flows, new health and security risks – the 21st century continues to confront populations across the world with enormous challenges. This is particularly the case for coastal regions, which are at the forefront of present and future impacts of climate change. At the same time, however, new technologies and social, political, and economic innovations have produced a great number of opportunities for sustainable development in coastal regions that can help overcome many risks humanity is facing.

In an attempt to connect global trends in the field of sustainable development with local circumstances in coastal regions, the presentation will start with a very brief introduction to sustainable development and the international framework on sustainability, with an emphasis on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. Focusing on SDG 13 (climate action), the presentation will continue with an analysis of the challenges and opportunities of coastal regions for sustainable development and the interconnections between different SDGs. Last but not least, the speaker will discuss a number of drivers and barriers of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in coastal regions and invite participants to a discussion on the theme: Coastal Areas: Think Global, Act Local?