Visualizing the Coast with Coastal Transects Analysis Model (CTAM)

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Why CTAM?

*Management of coastal areas faces many challenges due to complexity, diversity, dynamics and scale of natural and human systems and their interactions. Is it possible that the task is further complicated because we lack **common vision** about what our coastal areas look like? We also don't know what they are like compared to other areas.*

Sophisticated, technology-based tools and complex decision-making models for integrated coastal management are developed to help increase our understanding about coastal areas. Often, these tools are data-demanding, not widely accessible, and not applicable in developing countries context.

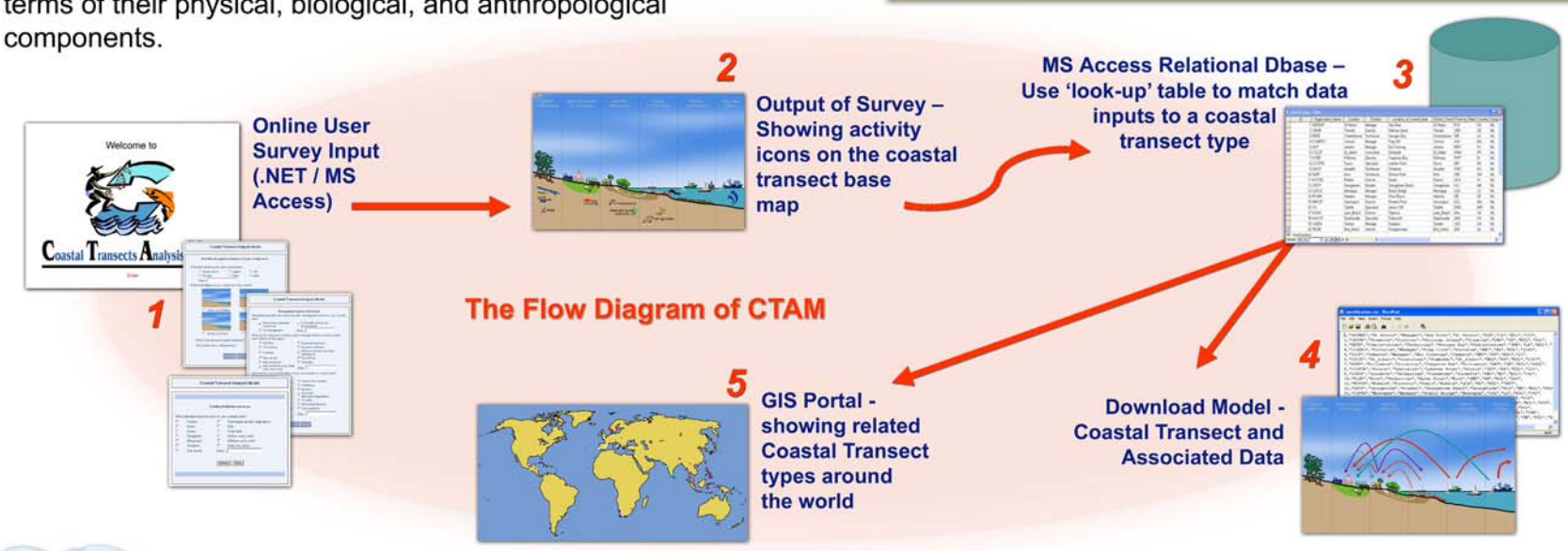
A simple, accessible and user-friendly tool is required!

What is CTAM?

- CTAM is a simple *on-line visualization* and *decision-making* tool aiming to assist policy makers, coastal planners, and other stakeholders in addressing present and future demands in coastal areas.
- Based on the original idea presented by Pauly & Lightfoot (1992)*, CTAM describes coastal areas in terms of their physical, biological, and anthropological components.

Key inputs into CTAM Phase I:

- Physical description of coastal areas (e.g., coastal shape, substrate type, slope, etc.)
- Dominant habitats and resources
- Fishing activities
- Other coastal activities
- Management system and measures
- Main environmental issues and impacts on coastal zone



What can CTAM do?

- The current focus of CTAM is on *interconnectedness* between fisheries and aquatic ecosystems and humans, expressed in terms of three main flows; i.e., *biomass, cash* and *labour*.
- CTAM Phase-I describes and classifies coastal areas based on physical characteristics, types of habitats, and resources and activities.
- Future development of CTAM will include assessment of impacts of coastal activities on fisheries resources and coastal habitats and exploration of policy and management scenarios.

Requirements for CTAM Phase II:

- Quantitative and qualitative information about resources and activities, e.g., size of mangrove forests, health of coral reefs, number of small-scale fishers, catch by species, landing values, labour migration pattern, etc.

CTAM Phase II will be ready in May 2007.
For more information about CTAM, please visit *http://cdc.fish.ku.ac.th/wp6/about_CT.htm* or write to Ratana Chuenpagdee at *ratana.chuenpagdee@dal.ca*

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* Pauly, D. and Lightfoot, C. 1992, A New Approach for Analysing and Comparing Coastal Resource Systems. Naga 15(2): 7-10.

Illustration from the brochure of the original ICLARM 'Coastal Transect Project'.