conferenceseries.com

2nd International Conference on

COASTAL ZONES

July 17-18, 2017 Melbourne, Australia

Coastal wetland restoration in China: Status, lessons and the ways forward

Zezheng Liu¹, Baoshan Cui¹ and Qiang He² ¹Beijing Normal University, China ²Duke University, USA

With accelerating degradation of coastal environment worldwide, restoration has been elevated as a global strategy to enhance the functioning and social services of coastal ecosystems. While many developing countries suffer from intense coastal degradation, current understanding of the science and practice of their coastal restorations is extremely limited. Based on analysis of >1000 restoration projects, we provide the first synthesis of China's coastal restorations. It shows that China's coastal restoration has recently entered a rapidly developing stage with an increasing number of restoration projects carried out in multiple types of coastal ecosystems. While long-term, national-level restorations enforced by the government appear promising for some coastal ecosystems, especially mangroves, restorations of many other coastal ecosystems, such as salt marshes, sea grasses and coral reefs, have been much less implemented, likely due to under-appreciation of their ecosystem services values. Furthermore, the planning, techniques, research/assessment and participation models underlying current restorations remain largely inadequate for restoration to effectively halt rapid coastal degradation. To promote success, we propose a framework where paradigms in current restorations for coastal environmental management policies and practices and should inform sustainable development of coupled human-ocean systems in many countries.

zzliu@mail.bnu.edu.cn