



Tourism oriented coastal interventions. Intentions and side effects.

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Coastal erosion, resulting from storm frequency and sea level rise, besides its various environmental impacts, poses a significant threat to coastal economies where the market for tourism services is a key factor for economic growth. Additionally, coastal tourism and resort beaches are considered as dynamic natural resources that generate value and capitalized in the relevant properties market. Many types of tourism-oriented interventions and protection measures that include marinas, docking areas, seawalls, revetments, groynes of various types, breakwaters, beach nourishment, dune building etc have been implemented so far. Beach nourishment, is a viable approach to mitigation of coastal erosion and it is widely used to protect coastal structures but also supports beach recreation and tourism. Coastal administrators and stakeholders in order to sustain and further develop the coastal areas are proposing interventions driven by different priorities based on their perspective. This work presents an overview of a series of ongoing coastal intervention projects in Crete Island, which are related to tourism. The scope is to identify the background in decision making, the goals of the projects initiated by different stakeholders and assess their side effects. Coastal intervention projects in the study include building of new marinas, beach nourishment and coastal protection measures with various approaches. Each, of those ongoing projects have different scopes even if their common ground was coastal protection. Additionally, the each of the ongoing coastal intervention projects in Crete will create significant environmental, societal and economic side effects. The complex nature of the coastal uses in Crete, makes each intervention difficult to sustain, if all the environmental, social and economic consequences are not explored.

Keywords: coastal area, management, sustainable development, decision making, coastal interventions

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