



## Tropical Coasts Undergoing Change

The tropics with their copious rain forests, bizarre mangroves and coral reefs and scenic coastal landscapes hold a great fascination and attract numerous tourists each year.

However, these habitats are also of extraordinary ecological importance. They belong to the most productive areas on our earth, function as sinks for climate-relevant gases and harbor a great diversity of genetic resources.

The tropical coastal ecosystems are also important nurseries for fishes and crustaceans and support the life of millions of people.

The intensive exploitation of natural resources, an increasing urbanization, and the global climate change are exerting dramatic effects on coastal ecosystems all over the world. But they are particularly critical in locations distinguished by their rapid economic development and high rates of population growth, as is the case in many tropical countries.

Needed are scientifically sound concepts for the conservation and sustainable use of tropical coastal ecosystems. Research at the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) in Bremen makes an essential contribution to this.



# zmt

## Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology

Research  
Capacity Building  
Coordination

## Contact

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## ZMT Profile

- **Established** in 1991
- **Member** of the Leibniz Association (WGL) and the German Marine Research Consortium (KDM)
- **Cooperation agreements** with universities and research institutions at national and international levels
- **Task spectrum:**
  - Tropical marine ecology research
  - Capacity building in marine sciences
  - Coordination of international projects and programs
- **Departments:** Biology, Biogeochemistry, Social Sciences, Ecological Modeling
- **Research projects** in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and southern Africa
- **Infrastructure:** Chemistry and biology laboratories, aquaculture unit, research stations abroad, specialized library



## Investigating Interactions

The ZMT conducts research on tropical coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, coral reefs, sea grass meadows as well as rivers, estuaries and the adjacent coastal waters. It addresses issues related to the functioning of these habitats, their interactions with the hinterland and the open ocean as well as their response to anthropogenic interventions and climate change.

To cover the entire complexity of interactions between humans and the environment, the ZMT conducts research with an interdisciplinary approach which includes both natural science and social science working groups.



## Building Capacity

Promoting knowledge and building capacity in the field of tropical marine ecology is an essential objective pursued by the ZMT.

The Center trains scientists and students from all over the world. It is involved in the academic teaching program of the Bremen universities and makes an essential contribution to the development and implementation of various international study courses, for example, the ISATEC master study course (International Studies in Aquatic Tropical Ecology).

Besides, the ZMT organizes special courses and international summer-schools primarily in its partner countries, and also provides “training-on-the-job” opportunities within its own research projects.



## Promoting Cooperation

The ZMT runs its projects in close cooperation with its partner research institutions located in tropical countries. Since its inception, the Center has established a broad network of contacts in Germany and in partner countries which enable flexibility in research planning. For science, but also industry and politics, the ZMT has become a contact point for the exchange of topical information.

The Center also cooperates with international organizations promoting ocean-related research, education, and conservation programs, as well as supporting national efforts for a sustainable coastal management.

