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Introducción al al uso de los geoindicadores de cambios ambientales en costas húmedas tropicales

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Resumen del producto Decisions for appropriate use and sustainable development of environmentally complex coasts of the humid tropics must be based both on a detailed knowledge of their past evolution and on the best possible predictions about their future evolutionary trends. Geoindicators focus primarily on environmental changes of the last 100 years and they provide tools and standard methods for the scientific research of coastal zones. Considering the characteristics of the humid tropical coasts, the most appropriate geoindicators for their study are 1) shoreline position, 2) transitory water levels, 3) extension and distribution of coastal wetlands, 4) coral reefs, 5) landforms, 6) sediment sequences and composition, and 7) the seismic activity. Vegetal zonations and temporal successions can, with due precautions, be useful to identify shoreline changes along the borders of rivers, lagoons and sandy-muddy littorals. All these coastal geoindicators can reflect tectonic and anthropogenic processes and they are the most useful for studying the relationships between geomorphological changes and the energies of marine and fluvial processes, relative sea level, sediment characteristics and water quality. In the tectonic coasts of the humid tropics, the geoindicators of seismic activity are necessary for interpreting the morphological changes associated with earthquakes and tsunamis (land subsidence/emergence, landslides, soil liquefaction, flooding). Some tropical coasts are not influenced by typhoons or hurricanes, but they are impacted by phenomena like El Niño, monsoons and tsunamis, all of which increase water levels and promote flooding and coastal erosion. Environmental changes in the Late Quaternary may be registered in a variety of geofoms, like perched marine and fluvial terraces, levees and crevasse-splay deposits, beach ridges, mud capes and mud diapirs/volcanoes. The study of the morphology of deltaic plains and the composition and age of peats and other types of paleosols

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