

3.1 CHANGES TO THE COAST OF THE NILE DELTA IN SPACE AND TIME

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The coastline of the Nile Delta has changed due to natural and man-induced processes. As in all other river deltas, subsidence occurs as a result of the sediment load. Furthermore, currents of the Mediterranean Sea constantly reshape the coastal outline.

The erection of the Aswan Dam earlier this century and the High Dam beginning in the 1960's, also affected the coastline of the Nile Delta. This includes both erosion by Mediterranean Sea currents and deposition of beach sediments along straight segments of the coastline. Clear changes are given particularly at Rosetta and east of Lake Burullus during the period of 1984 to 1993.

Because such changes are expected to continue in the future, it is prudent to establish monitoring stations along the coastline of the Nile Delta. Information from these stations will allow us to model future changes to the coastline in space and time.

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