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**DISCIPLINES:** Coastal Ecology & Sustainable Management  
Landscape Architecture & Planning

**KEYWORDS:** Coastal Ecology, Coastal Management,  
Adaptation, Climate Change Adaptation



#### **BIOGRAPHY:**

With over 35 years of experience in Canada and internationally, Dr. Mercer Clarke is an interdisciplinary scientist whose research interests fall broadly on the detection, avoidance and sustainable management of detrimental change in coastal environments, and on the promotion and protection of biodiversity in coastal and marine landscapes. In 2010 Colleen completed a doctorate in Interdisciplinary Studies from Dalhousie University, where her research focussed on the state of Canadian coasts and the constraints and opportunities for improved coastal planning and management. In 2011 she completed a Post Doctorate with the Canadian Healthy Oceans Network (CHONe), where her research culminated in the development of a science-based framework for assessing and reporting on the state of coastal and oceans health. Her research and professional practice interests also include development and implementation of land use planning measures for local adaptation to coastal climate change,

Prior to undertaking her doctoral studies, Colleen was an experienced marine ecologist (M. Sc. Memorial 1976) and landscape architect (M .L. Arch. Guelph, 1987), with over 30 years in private sector practice as an environmental consultant and senior project manager. Her portfolio included a wide array of projects in the commercial and industrial sectors where her skills in planning, design and construction were used to plan for new development, audit contaminated sites, and in environmental remediation and ecological restoration. Her interdisciplinary management skills have been applied in an array of sectors that include coastal planning and management, municipal development, offshore oil and gas exploration and development, hydroelectric and fossil fuel energy production, remediation and pollution abatement, and industrial manufacturing.

Colleen has served as President of the Atlantic Association of Landscape Architects, President of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA), and as a member of the Boards of the Oceans Institute of Canada, the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists, the Canadian Environmental Industry Association, and as a member of the Council of Centres for Sustainable Development Research. Internationally, she served as the Oceans Institute of Canada delegate to the NGO Forum of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, and was the Canadian Co-Chair of the widely acclaimed bi-national UNEP Global Programme of Action Coalition for the Gulf of Maine (GPAC). She is well known for her volunteer efforts to advance conservation ethics within her own profession, as well as in her community. In 2009, in recognition of her service to the environment and to the profession, she was elected by her peers to the College of Fellows of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects. Currently she serves as a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Assessment of Risks of Coastal Climate Change, an initiative of Natural Resources Canada,

Through her association with the Telfer School of Management at the University of Ottawa, where she is an Adjunct Professor, Colleen is part of the C-Change project's international team working to assist coastal communities in Canada and the Caribbean with planning and adapting to the challenges posed by the sea level rise and severe weather impacts of climate change. In the past four years, C-Change has assisted its local partners in better understanding of the threats and vulnerabilities related to coastal climate change, and of the risks associated with an array of climate scenarios. Working closely together, community representatives, often from the professions of planning, engineering, and environmental management, have coalesced as an international Community of Practice on Adaptation to Coastal Climate Change (C-PAC3). Communities throughout Canada and the Caribbean have discovered the many commonalities they face, no matter how different their environments may be.