



Fact Sheet on Climate Change, Biodiversity, Disaster and Environmental Impacts

Climate Change

- An annual loss of \$1 billion of GDP by 2010, \$5 billion by 2070 for Bangladesh
- To warm by just one degree Celsius, 11 percent of Bangladesh would be submerged, putting the lives of 55 million people in danger
- It is apprehended that the sea level will rise by up to 80-89 cm by the year 2050
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) projects that, the global average surface temperature is likely to rise by a further 1.8-4.0°C this century and will result in a further rise in global sea levels of between 20 and 60cm by the end of this century
- On more than 25,000 hectares of land in the south, agricultural production has dropped significantly in recent years. Most of the affected area is less than 1.5m above sea level.
- One (1) meter sea level rise will inundate about 5,608 million acres of existing coastal land of Bangladesh.
- The coastal area comprising of 65 percent of greater Khulna, 99 percent of Barisal, 100 percent of Patuakhali, 44 percent of Noakhali and 12 percent of Faridpur will be inundated.
- Due to sea level rise, 13.74 percent of net cropped area and about 401,600 hectares of mangrove forest along with its wild life will be vanished.

Bio-Diversity

- The present afforestation policy has endangered Bangladesh's rare species of wildlife because it is unsuitable for her ecological balance and biodiversity.
- The existence of rare species of wildlife, including Hoolock Gibbon (known as Ulluk in Bangladesh), wild elephant, deer, and various types of tigers, are at stake due to plantation of imported trees.
- 10 percent of the country's total land can be declared as protected areas where local trees will grow naturally.
- After the creation of the Kaptai lake, pangas, sada ghonja, baghaira, and sarputi were thriving. But those are also declining, BFDC sources said seeking anonymity.
- In previous two years, annual production of pangas, sada ghonja, baghaira, and sarputi varied from 10,000 to 12,000 tonnes while it was 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes about 15 years ago.
- Sea level rising warned loss of Bengal tigers in the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest -- and a world heritage site -- and threat to hundreds of bird species.
- Last year 12 species of animals are totally lost from the country within which 7 species are of Sundarban.



Disaster

- During Sidr nearly two million households with 8.7 million people were affected, 1.5 million houses damaged, 4.1 million trees destroyed, and crops in one million hectares of land were fully or partially lost.
- Bangladesh was affected by great floods at two times in 2007.
- During Sidr "one-fourth" of the 6,017 sq. km. Sundarbans has been badly hit by winds of 250 km per hour and a 5-metre tidal surge.
- Environmental Destruction is great by sidr. The 31% of Sundarban or 1 thousand 900 km is affected by sidr. As a result the 40 species animals, 400 species birds and 200 species fishes are laid up by sidr.
- Devastating cyclones hit the coastal areas of Bangladesh almost every year usually accompanied by high-speed winds, sometimes reaching 250 km/hr or more and 3-10m high waves.

Environmental Impacts

- The rivers of Bangladesh already lost its navigability due to pollution. In 1971 the country had 24140 kilometres of waterway, whereas it has only 3800 kilometres now.
- About 441 industries pollute the river Karnaphuli, discharging 10-12 million liquids and 6000 gallons oil in the river, which increases toxic elements and decreases the variety and number of fishes.
- About half of the solid waste generated every day in country cannot be collected due to their unplanned and haphazard dumping.
- Only 39 percent people across Bangladesh are provided with good sanitation facilities although sanitation for all is supposed to be achieved by 2020.
- Air pollution kills 15000 annually in Bangladesh.
- Water and air is being polluted by using 1800 tons insecticide in agriculture land per year.

Activities of Unnayan Onneshan

- Representative of Unnayan Onneshan participated in last Bali Climate Conference to present its view to climate policy on world forum
- Representatives of Unnayan Onneshan participates in the 2nd Working Group Meeting on Protected Areas at Rome and presents paper on "Biodiversity and Forest Governance"
- Unnayan Onneshan working exclusively with its partner organization in Sundarban Reserve Forest to establish the customary uses through research and advocacy both grassroots and policy level
- Unnayan Onneshan is going to publish a book on "Customary Uses of Forest Peoples" as a part of forest conservation programme
- Unnayan Onneshan going to organize international conference on "Climate Financing" in next August 2008
- Unnayan Onneshan recently published its "post sidr livelihood phenomenon" research report
- Unnayan Onneshan developed series of "Climate Brief" highlighting Bangladesh concern
- "Bali Road Map: Challenges and Way Forward" is going to be published in next March 2008.