

Submission by Bangladesh on The Effects of Climate Change on Oceans

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its adverse impact can undermine the ability of all countries to achieve nationally and internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The marine environment is already registering the impacts of climate change. The current increase in global temperature of 0.7°C since pre-industrial times is disrupting life in the oceans, from the tropics to the poles.

Even with its vast capacity to absorb heat and carbon dioxide, the physical impacts of climate change on the ocean are now very clear and dramatic. According to a 2013 report, temperatures in the shallowest waters rose by more than 0.1 degree Celsius (0.18 degree Fahrenheit) each decade between 1970 and 2010. Overall, the world's oceans are warmer now than at any point in the last 50 years.

It is of particular concern that, increase in global temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification and other climate change impacts are seriously affecting coastal areas and low-lying coastal countries, including many Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The survival of many communities across the world, and of the biological support systems of the planet, is at risk.

A number of international entities, including IPCC and UNFCCC, have produced several evidence-based accounts of climate change impacts on the oceans. Such impacts include ocean heat, sea surface temperature, sea level rise, ocean flooding and acidity, coral bleaching, migration of aquatic species, decrease in nutrients, changes in oceanic currents including El Niño and La Niña etc.

Bangladesh is considered one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change. However, there is yet to be any robust institutional mechanism for relevant scientific data collection that may contribute to developing specific climate resilient sustainable development of ocean and seas. Likewise, there is yet to be in place any particular ocean based climate change mitigation measures and adaptation policies and strategies. As such, Bangladesh attaches high importance to capacity building support and transfer of technology for LDCs and SIDS through partnership with development partners and relevant international organizations.