

Sea level rise: experiences of Sri Lanka

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Sea level is rising at alarming rate. Scientific works have proved that the chief cause of this phenomenon is global warming. Environmental, economic, political, and social and many other several problems have already been created around the globe due to rising sea level. Few countries are planning to curtail aftermaths of Sea Level Rise (SLR) while many coastal and island nations still do not take into account this problem as even a threat to coastal economic activities.

Results of the field observations and the secondary data collected through the present study reveal that the Sri Lanka is vulnerable to Sea level Rise. Sri Lanka is an island which opens to large ocean. Considerable portion of total population, urban land, railway and main roads, industrial land and many other economic activities are concentrated into the coastal zone in Sri Lanka. Railway and main roads, residential areas, particularly in the western and southern parts of the country, are already threatened. But, it is evident that the policy makers, and planners, and other authorities do not pay due attention on the sea level rise when implementing development projects in the coastal zone. On the other hand, few scientist and research institutions have been working on the problem of sea level rise for several years.

The main objectives of this paper are to discuss the impacts of sea level rise and evaluate the scientific and institutional structure that work on this issue.

Key words: Sea Level Rise, Coastal zone development.

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