

Climate Change and Monsoon Onset Effects on Myanmar coastal resources emphasis on Myeik Archipelago

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Myanmar has abundant fisheries and a wide range of coastal habitats: coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, estuaries and mudflats. Myanmar has the fourth largest area of mangroves in Asia and has a very high coral diversity. But as a coastal country of the Bay of Bengal, the hydrographic condition of Myanmar coastal region is heavily influenced by the monsoon climate. The climate change which interacts with anthropogenic and Monsoon Onset effects on the health of the coastal and marine environment, its living resources and realizes through variation in water temperature, increased concentrations of dissolved carbon dioxide (Blue Carbon concept), seawater intrusion, altered current and/or storm patterns and increased runoff. Consequently, the area of mangroves has declined by 58% between 1980 and 2010 and coral reefs by over 56%. Fish biomass has declined and Catch per Unit Effort has also fallen to 30%. The loss of mangroves and other healthy ecosystems leaves the coastline more vulnerable to disasters such as cyclones. The objective of this paper is to support some activities leading to an agreed set of environmental indicators, to measure the health of the Myeik Archipelago Ecosystem and to develop remedial strategies for coastal areas of Myanmar.

References

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