

Faria Putal
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Global Trend: Bangladesh Slowly Sinking

Land sinking is a serious problem that Bangladesh is currently facing. In many areas of the country the land surface is steadily decreasing in elevation, this is causing lower elevations as well as an increased prevalence of floodings. Different factors that are contributing to the land sinking, also known as land subsidence, in Bangladesh are over-extraction of groundwater, soil compaction, natural factors, and sea-level rise. As Bangladesh is a country that is already prone to natural disasters, such as cyclones, land subsidence is causing an increase in floods. This disaster is putting communities and infrastructure at risk.

I have ranked this issue to have the greatest importance because nearly 75% of the country is below sea level. "Climate experts predict that by 2050, rising sea levels will submerge some 17 percent of the nation's land and displace about 20 million people." (Bangladesh: A Country Underwater - Culture on the Move. Natural Resources Defense Council) A few action steps that need to be taken in order to reduce further land subsidence in Bangladesh are sustainable groundwater management, soil conservation, climate adaptation, effective planning/urbanization, as well as raising awareness. The current likelihood of these action steps being executed is currently low, more awareness is needed as these are steps that need to be taken in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the government, NGOs, communities, and international organizations.

Work Cited:

Bangladesh: A Country Underwater - Culture on the Move. Natural Resources Defense Council. [NRDC]. [cited 2023 Feb 13]. Available from:

<https://www.nrdc.org/onearth/bangladesh-country-underwater-culture-move>