CAUSES OF FLOODING IN BANGLADESH

Flooding is a natural phenomenon in Bangladesh. Floods here occur on an annual basis and with the rise of global warming, this climate vulnerable nation can expect more floods and stronger cyclones in the future. So why is Bangladesh chronically prone to river floods?

PHYSICAL & HUMAN CAUSES

75% OF THE COUNTRY IS LESS THAN 10 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL

80% OF BANGLADESH CONSISTS OF A HUGE FLOOD PLAIN AND DELTA (THE LARGEST DELTA ON EARTH).

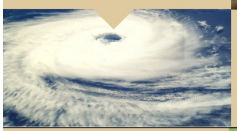
7% OF THE LAND AREA OF BANGLADESH IS MADE UP OF RIVERS & INLAND WATER BODIES

Snowmelt FROM THE HIMALAYAS IN LATE SPRING AND SUMMER RUNS INTO THE RIVERS

80% OF BANGLADESH'S RAIN FALLS DURING MONSOON SEASON WITH UP TO 4,000MM FALLING PER YEAR

3 LARGE RIVERS CONVERGE IN BANGLADESH – THE GANGES, BRAHMAPUTRA AND MEGHNA – WHICH MASSIVELY SWELLS DISCHARGES

Cyclones FROM THE BAY OF BENGAL CAUSE AND CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS FLOODING

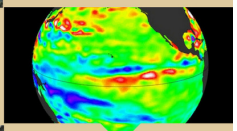


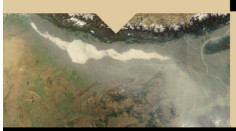
Deforestation OF THE HIMALAYA STRIPPING THE LAND OF THE TOP SOIL WHICH SLOWS AND DRAINS WATER. THIS CAUSES SOIL EROSION WHICH HIGHER PEAK DISCHARGES

Urbanisation IN BUILT-UP AREAS (SUCH AS DHAKA) THERE ARE FEWER PLACES FOR WATER TO DRAIN TO. THIS CAN MEAN MORE WATER GOING INTO THE RIVERS

Irrigation FOR FARMING CAUSES RIVER CHANNELS TO SILT UP, REDUCING THEIR CAPACITY TO COPE WITH FLOOD WATERS

Tectonic UPLIFT IN THE HIMALAYAS MEANS THAT SEDIMENT EROSION INCREASES, CLOGGING UP THE CHANNEL WITH ERODED SEDIMENT MEANING LESS WATER CAN FIT





Climate change IS LIKELY TO INCREASE MONSOON RAINFALL AND SPEED UP THE MELTING OF HIMALAYAN GLACIERS