

# AVOIDING AN URBAN NIGHTMARE: TIME TO GET PLANNING RIGHT

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## Harnessing the potential of Blue Economy

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Now all of these infrastructures will be susceptible to hazards, both natural and manmade, e.g. sea level rise, cyclone, tornado, tidal surge, pollution, oil spillage, accidental fires, collapse of infrastructure, etc. Vulnerabilities are intrinsic to infrastructures. This depends on quality of building, its

In order to understand the seriousness of the issue, one has to look at the data on natural disasters. In 2017, about 318 natural disasters occurred, affecting 122 countries—the impact of which resulted in 9,503 deaths. Ninety-six million people were affected, and economic damage was as high as USD 314 billion.

cyclones and tornados, coastal tide, soil erosion, temperature variations, flooding, etc. As a result of these hazards, our infrastructure will face a number of challenges.

A resiliency approach to designing, building, and protecting our critical infrastructures and managing their risks is what is needed to address these risks

structures, and looks for solutions through a lifecycle approach to design, construction, and operation of our complex infrastructure systems. Such an approach would enable us to harness these growing risks by crafting solutions that leverage today's technological complexities while minimising their risks.

Nowadays, coastal resiliency has emerged to address ecological functioning, human behaviour, engineering design, and community sufficiency in the face of potential hazards. Coastal resiliency adopts a "multiple lines of defence" approach: combinations of natural infrastructure (salt marsh, coral, mangrove, oyster, dunes, sea wall, sea wall and riprap, levee and dike, etc.) engineered solutions, both "soft" (biodegradable fibre rolls, drift fences, coir envelopes, beach nourishment) and "hard" (revetments, bulkheads, articulating concrete mats), together with policy (buyouts, zoning, and building codes) to reduce the impacts associated with storms. Some call it going towards hybrid infrastructural solutions.

There is substantial evidence that natural infrastructure (i.e., health ecosystems) and combinations of natural and built infrastructure ("hybrid" approaches) enhance coastal resiliency by providing important storm and coastal flooding protection, while also providing other benefits. There is growing interest around the world to use natural infrastructure to help coastal communities become more resilient to extreme events and reduce the risk of coastal flooding.

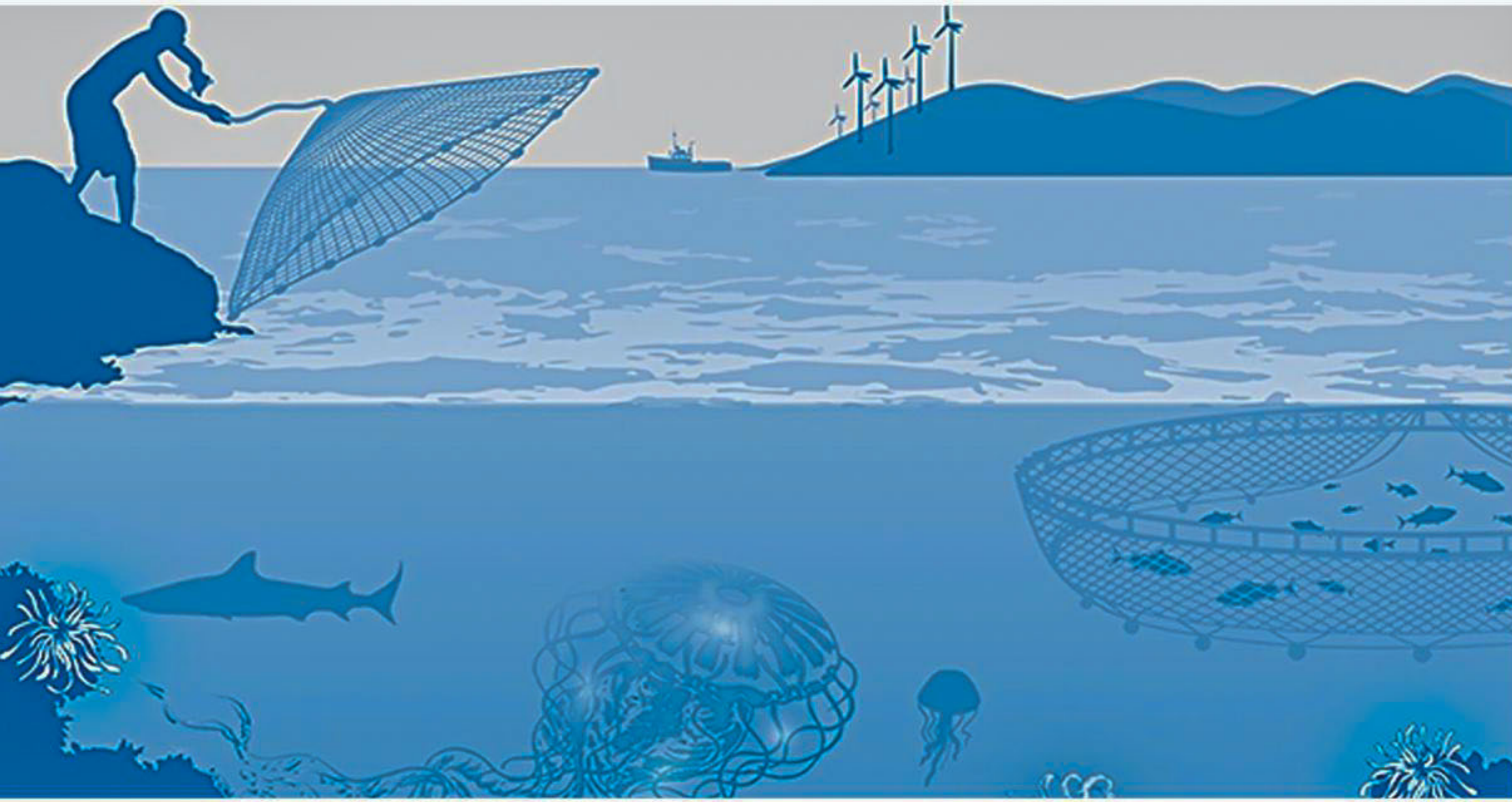
The Blue Economy Project focuses on increasing resiliency of natural resources areas and infrastructure and investing in maritime industries will be a timely initiative that sets a foundation for the future discourse on the issue.

Additionally, many countries are focusing on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). In simple words,

ICZM is a process of governance and consists of the legal and institutional framework necessary to ensure that development and management plans for coastal zones are integrated with environment (including social) goals and are made with the participation of those affected. The purpose of ICZM is to maximise the benefits provided by the coastal zone and to minimise the conflicts and harmful effects of activities upon one other, on resources and on the environment. The concept involves combining, coordination or integrating, at a number of scales, values, interests and goals, many of which are in competition. As a layman, what I understand by integration is that it is all about connecting all vulnerabilities and strengths.

Robert Wyland once said that "The ocean stirs the heart, inspires the imagination." Rightly so. It is giving us new imaginations and ideas under the broad moniker of "Blue Economy". In Bangladesh too there will be lots of activities related to seas and coasts. New industrial complexes, infrastructures, buildings, networks of services will start mushrooming in Cox's Bazar, Kutubdia, Maheshkhali, Patuakhali, Khulna and Mongla areas. For ensuring a better future, it is now time to think about resiliency in whatever we build in our coastal areas and areas adjacent to our seas. Otherwise unplanned Blue Economy related infrastructures will be a burden rather than an asset; a threat rather than an opportunity. And neglecting the resiliency issue related to our Blue Economy infrastructures will be at our own peril and will cause an irreparable damage for all. Therefore a resilient infrastructure for blue economy should be our slogan for the upcoming days.

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planning, structural and architectural aspects, and so on. When hazards interact with infrastructures their vulnerabilities come into play. Either the hazards are controlled by mitigation or other interventions or the hazards lead to disasters which are behind our capability to control.

In the country where Blue Economy related activities will go on, for example in the south-east including the Cox's Bazar coast and south-west including the Sundarbans, these areas will be susceptible to, as the experts predicted in AR5 Report IPCC, sea level rise, increased precipitation, frequent

at a systemic level. Here resiliency means: the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to and recover rapidly from disruptions. The concept of resiliency takes a risk-based and layered approach to addressing interlinkages among today's complex infra-



### এগিয়ে যান স্বপ্নপূরণের পথে

আপনার প্রতিটি স্বপ্নই আমাদের কাছে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। মানুষের ছোট ছোট স্বপ্নগুলোই এক সময় বাস্তব হয়ে সমৃদ্ধ জীবন গড়ে দেয়। আর তাই, স্বপ্নপূরণের পথে আপনাকে এগিয়ে নিতে আমাদের প্রতিনিয়ত প্রচেষ্টা, যার অনন্য এক প্রতিফলন মুদারাবা হাউজিং/অন্ট্রাপ্রেনারশিপ ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্রকল্প। ভবিষ্যতে উদ্যোক্তা হতে চান অথবা অ্যাপার্টমেন্ট, বিল্ডিং বা জমির মালিক হতে চান, এমন ব্যক্তি বা ব্যক্তিবর্গ এই প্রকল্পে হিসাব খুলতে পারবেন।



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