



Place in News - The Philippine Island of Pugad

Context: The Philippine Island of Pugad is currently experiencing significant land subsidence, measuring up to 11 cm per year, alongside rising sea levels, which pose a threat to its 2,500 inhabitants who may face displacement.

- Experts caution that certain areas within Bulacan province could potentially submerge entirely, as the rate of sea level rise in the Philippines is three times greater than the global average.

Pugad: one of the Philippines' fastest sinking islands





About the Philippine Island of Pugad:

- A small island covering 7 hectares located in Manila Bay, which is part of the Hagonoy municipality in Bulacan province.
- It is densely populated, housing approximately 2,500 residents who primarily engage in fishing and aquaculture.

Location:

- The island is situated at the mouth of the Angat–Pampanga River Delta, historically encircled by mangroves and marshlands.

Issues & Challenges:

- **Land Subsidence:** The island is sinking at a rate of approximately 11 cm per year, making it the fastest in the Philippines due to excessive groundwater extraction.
- **Sea-Level Rise:** The rate of sea level rise in the Philippines is three times the global average, currently at 3.6 mm per year, with the potential to accelerate to 13 mm per year.
- **Climate Hazards:** The region frequently experiences floods, typhoons, and storm surges, which disrupt the lives and livelihoods of its residents.
- **Loss of Mangroves:** The conversion of land to fishponds has diminished natural protective barriers, thereby increasing vulnerability.

About the Philippines:

- A nation in Southeast Asia, consisting of over 7,000 islands located in the western Pacific Ocean.



Location & Neighbours:

- The Philippines is positioned approximately 800 km east of Vietnam, bordered by the Philippine Sea to the east, the South China Sea to the west, and the Celebes Sea to the south.
- **Capital:** Manila (with Quezon City being the most populous).

Features:

- **Coastline:** The country boasts a coastline of 22,550 miles (36,290 km), rendering it highly susceptible to climate change.
- **Mountains & Volcanoes:** There are around 50 volcanoes, both active and dormant, with Mount Apo being the tallest at 2,954 meters.
- **Climate:** The climate is tropical, characterized by a susceptibility to typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.