

MEDIA FAST FACTS
THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

- 563 million people live in Southeast Asia (8.5% of the world's population).
- 80% of Southeast Asia's population lives on or within 100 kilometers of the coast.
- Agriculture employed 43% of the region's workforce in 2004, and produced 11% of its GDP in 2006.
- Southeast Asia is responsible for 12% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (2000 data); countries' per capita emissions are considerably higher than the global average.
- Land use and the forestry sector contributed 75% of the total regional emissions in 2000, mainly due to deforestation.

STUDY FINDINGS

If no global action is taken to control GHG emissions:

- The average temperature in Southeast Asia could increase by 4.8°C (above the 1990 level) by the end of this century (high-emissions scenario).
- Southeast Asia could experience a 70cm increase in sea level by the end of the century.
- Rainfall could appreciably decline over the next 20-30 years in Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam, and will increase in the Philippines.
- Rice production could decline (starting in 2020).
- Large tracts of forests could be replaced by savanna or shrub land.
- Water stress could escalate, affecting over 20 million by 2050.
- More people could die from malaria, dengue, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.
- Rising sea levels could force the relocation of millions living in coastal communities and islands.
- By the end of the century, the total costs of climate change impacts could be the equivalent of 6.7% of Southeast Asian nations' GDP each year.

THE WAY FORWARD

- The benefits of investing in climate change adaption and mitigation outweigh the costs.
- The forestry sector has the greatest potential to reduce the region's GHG emissions.
- GHG emissions can also be affordably reduced through better energy efficiency in the building, industrial and transport sectors.
- The agriculture sector can reduce GHG emissions through better land and farm management.