

STUDY**Coastal cities in parts of Asia sinking fastest**

Cities along the coasts of South and Southeast Asia are sinking - even faster than similar cities elsewhere - because of rapid, poorly controlled urbanization, scientists say, heightening risks already posed by rising sea levels. Over the past two decades, the population of Chittagong in Bangladesh, on the Bay of Bengal, has swelled by more than 120 percent to 5.2 million. It is also one of the world's fastest-sinking cities, according to new research.

The study, published this week in the journal *Nature Sustainability*, found that land is sinking particularly quickly in coastal cities built on "flat, low-elevation river deltas," where groundwater and oil extraction are driven by rapid growth and urbanization.

— *The Washington Post*