

Climate – always changing

Listening: Statement of Prof. Ahmed

Prof. Ahmed, a scientist in Bangladesh

"Since the end of the Ice Age rivers like the Ganges have brought masses of sediment from the Himalayas and have built up the delta. All deltas in the world have grown although the sea level has risen by more than 120 metres.

During the monsoon heavy rainfall leads to flooding all over the country. That is quite normal. In some years two thirds of the country are under water. But the floods are important for agriculture. They bring fertile sediments.

Mangrove forests along the coast catch the mud and they also protect the hinterland from high ocean waves. The trees also reduce the wind speed of tropical storms. This is important because every April and October cyclones with wind speeds of more than 200 km/h move over the Bay of Bengal.

However, during the last 30 years most of the mangroves were cut down. Now there are rice fields and shrimp farms. They produce shrimps for the people in rich countries.

Climate change and rising temperatures will increase the pressure on Bangladesh. More tropical storms and rising sea level are dangerous for the country and the people living there. But fresh sediments brought in by the rivers would increase the size of the delta even if the sea level rises."

Name:

Klasse:

Datum: