

## **OCEAN HEALTH, COASTAL WEALTH**

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Coastal habitats provide a bounty of ecosystem goods and services. They are a vital source of protein providing as much as 26% of food fish for SE Asia. They also function as nursery grounds for other economically important fishery found in the pelagic realm. Simulation models of wave conditions under climate change scenario (i.e., bigger and stronger waves) also provide scientific evidence to intuitive logic that coral reefs if maintained in good condition could effectively dampen wave energy and, thus, protect coastal inhabitants from the devastating effects of waves. Ecosystem health is therefore crucial to help build resilience to disturbances impending upon climate change. At the same time, however, ecosystem health is also sensitive to ocean health. Changes in ocean temperature, and consequential changes in cyclonicity and sea level poses compounding risk to the coastal environment. This has significant impact on the capacity of the coast to deliver goods and services.