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Chapter 4: Hotspots of relative sea level rise in the Tropics

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Abstract

This chapter presents changes in relative sea level (RSL) along tropical coastlines (30°N-30°S). Under current and future global changes, 90% of the coastlines are at risk, facing challenges of rising sea level (SL). Since the last century, scientists have attempted to understand processes governing RSL, to separate variations in absolute SL from those due to vertical land movement, and to discover their links to climate change. Recently developed space technologies provide accurate estimates of ongoing SL changes. Combined with tide gauge records, these new instruments (GPS, altimetry, InSAR) offer a new perspective for the science associated with sea level and its changes. This chapter reviews the concept of RSL, of RSL hotspots and describes different RSL measurements. Then, it identifies and maps the hotspots of RSL changes and updates, where possible, previously published estimates of RSL trends. Identification of the RSL hotspots is of paramount importance for climate change mitigation and adaptation in tropical regions.

Keywords: relative sea level ; tide gauge ; Tropics ; GPS ; altimetry ; land movement; delta

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4.1. Introduction

The pronounced impact of climate change on natural systems and human societies is a reality. Understanding the extent to which people, societies, ecosystems and economy are exposed to risk under current and future climate is a challenging issue for modern science. One of the major consequences of the ongoing climate change is a rise in sea level (SL). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported [*IPCC AR5*, 2013] that the global mean sea level (GMSL, 1.6 to 1.8 mm/yr rise over the 20th century [*Church et al.*, 2013]) will continue rising in the 21st century and beyond, at probably a faster rate than observed today, even if the global temperature will be stabilized. Almost 90% of the coastlines worldwide will face challenges of rising sea level [*IPCC AR5*, 2013] although to different extent as the rates of the sea level rise can be several times larger in some regions than the GMSL rise [*Church et al.*, 2013]. Consequently, the part of coastal vulnerability reflecting a high and growing exposure and low adaptive capacity of the coastal populations to sea level rise is not spatially uniform either [*Nicholls et al.*, 2011]. Certain regions throughout the world, especially in developing countries, are already recognized as particularly vulnerable to sea level rise; for example, small islands in the Caribbean Sea, Maldives Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, Tuvalu Islands in the Pacific, or the West African coast from Morocco to Namibia, the south Asian coast from Pakistan to Burma as well as the coasts in southeast Asia from Thailand to Vietnam [*Nicholls et al.*, 1999; *Nicholls and Cazenave*, 2010]. *Nicholls et al.*, [2011] defined these specific regions as areas where an efficient protection against sea level rise will most likely fail, potentially resulting in a significant portion of environmental refugees. It is worth mentioning here that those cases are related to relative sea level (RSL) changes, which are felt by coastal populations, i.e. the changes in sea level relative to the land on which people live. Focusing on the analysis of the RSL variations is of obvious practical importance, since it makes little difference to a person nearly submerged, whether the ocean is rising or land is subsiding [*Milliman and Haq*, 1996]. Pronounced dispersion in the rates of RSL rise calls for detailed investigation of the processes responsible for sea level changes not only at the global scale but also at the regional scale. The RSL changes are induced by a combination of various processes of a different nature and operating at different spatial and temporal scales, originated in the ocean, ice, atmosphere, sediment transport, and the solid Earth deformation inducing land subsidence or uplift [*Stammer et al.*, 2013]. Ocean temperature and salinity variations resulting from water heating, precipitation or freshwater discharge from land can contribute to regional sea level fluctuations by changing the sea water density. Additional freshwater fluxes from river discharge or land

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ice melting modify ocean currents, which in turn also have significant repercussions on regional sea level variations [*Stammer*, 2008], with signals taking decades to propagate around the global ocean. Atmospheric pressure, at different scales, also plays a role in regional sea level variations [*Ponte*, 1994; *Wunsch and Stammer*, 1997; *Piecuch and Ponte*, 2015]. Concerning the vertical land movements, there exists a wide range of natural and anthropogenic processes, which can induce them. The water mass exchanges between land and ocean lead to changes in the Earth's surface and in the geoid that manifest themselves as part of observed RSL variations [*Milne et al.*, 2009; *Stammer et al.*, 2013]. These result from different processes: (1) ice-water mass redistribution associated with ice cap melting since the Last Glacial Maximum (called post glacial rebound or Glacial Isostatic Adjustment/GIA; [*Peltier*, 2004; *Lambeck et al.*, 2010]), (2) ongoing land ice melting [*Mitrovica et al.*, 2001; *Tamisiea and Mitrovica*, 2011] and (3) land water storage variation [*Riva et al.*, 2010]. GIA involves the visco-elastic response of the Earth's mantle to mass redistribution, while processes (2) and (3) involve the elastic response of the Earth's crust. GIA and present-day mass redistributions produce very different response of the solid Earth, and thus regional RSL variations (see, for example, [*Milne et al.*, 2009; *Tamisiea*, 2011; *Tamisiea and Mitrovica*, 2011]). We now call these processes 'static' effects (e.g.,[*Stammer et al.*, 2013]). The solid Earth also responds to sediment loading, referred to herein as sedimentary isostatic adjustment, that often induces strong subsidence within the deltas [*Blum and Roberts*, 2009; *Syvitski et al.*, 2009]. Many other natural processes, such as tectonics and volcanism, can also generate land movements that are more local when compared to the 'static' effects discussed above. Aside from most of these natural factors, an additional complex dimension to these changes is the non-negligible impact of human activities; For instance, sea level can be modified through building of dams and reservoirs, irrigation and hydrocarbon extraction, groundwater pumping among many other processes [*Fiedler and Conrad*, 2010; *Wada et al.*, 2012, 2016]. These anthropogenic forcings affect directly the land water storage, and hence water mass exchange between land and ocean [*Milly et al.*, 2010] and consequently can generate locally significant vertical land movement. Several Asian megacities subsided by several meters during the past few decades owing to groundwater withdrawal or hydrocarbon extraction [*Syvitski*, 2008].

In this chapter, we focus on the RSL changes within the Tropics, defined below as a region from 30°N to 30°S latitude. The Tropics are home to 40% of the world's population, and this proportion is projected to reach 50% by 2050 [*Edelman et al.*, 2014]. From today until 2050,

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the largest coastal population growth is expected to take place in Africa where the population will double [*Edelman et al.*, 2014]. Assessing the vulnerability of tropical coasts to future climate change and elaborating an efficient climate mitigation policy is one of the most important global issues of our time. Developing countries that make up a majority of tropical regions are the most vulnerable to RSL changes, because they have limited resources to adapt themselves socially, technologically and financially. Moreover, it is important to note that the Tropics host the largest deltas in the world. These low-lying delta plains are crucially affected by land subsidence that often makes the sea along the delta coasts to rise much faster than the GMSL rises. As the deltas are a home to tens of millions of people, the densely populated deltaic environments become a suitable site for springing up of megacities (greater than 5 million inhabitants) with the associated complex problems of their management.

One of the objectives of this chapter is to bring together sea level observations in order to analyze similarities and differences in the RSL changes along the tropical coasts. It is crucial for all evaluations of coastal impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation, to account for the RSL rise, especially along the low-lying populated coasts where RSL is rising much faster than its global average rate. We call these sites hotspots of RSL rise [*Sallenger et al.* 2012]. Our primary concern is to review the current knowledge about RSL in the tropical regions and to: (1) comprehensively identify, document and map the hotspots of RSL changes; (2) give an overview of available long-term sea level records, and (3) update, where possible, previously published estimates of RSL trends over recent decades. Section 2 will review the different datasets currently available to study RSL. Then we will dedicate a specific section for each of the Oceans in the tropical band, with a sub-section dedicated to large oceanic sub-basins. For each region, we will document both the societal and physical aspects of RSL. At the end of each section, we summarize the main features of the respective RSL hotspots.

4.2.Data sets

4.2.1. Tide gauge records

Tide gauge (TG) records are the main source of information available to assess coastal sea level changes since the mid-19th century. The TGs were designed to measure RSL, namely, the water level relative to land on which they are installed [*Pugh and Woodworth*, 2014]. Therefore, the TG measurements reflect absolute sea level (ASL, i.e. in respect to the center of the Earth) changes but also local vertical land movements along with changes in the geoid. The worldwide

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geographical distribution of TGs is particularly limited and irregular with an obvious lack of stations in the Southern Hemisphere, particularly in developing countries and island states. In our analyses, we use annually averaged sea level series from the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL) Revised Local Reference (RLR) database [*Holgate et al.*, 2013]. The PSMSL recommends using the RLR records, where the sea level means were reduced to a common datum, for time series analysis. The PSMSL also provides the 'Metric' data, without datum continuity checked and with, sometimes, large discontinuities. These metric records should only be used in studies pertaining to the seasonal cycle of mean sea level [*Holgate et al.*, 2013]. The length of TG records, as well as the number of missing values, are of crucial importance for estimating long-term trends. *Douglas*, [2001] has concluded that more than 50-60 years of continuous measurements are required for a long-term sea level trend to be reliably estimated. In this study, we reduce this constraint by estimating trends at the stations with records longer than 30 years, and with less than 4 consecutive years of missing data.

4.2.2. Satellite altimetry

Since 1993, satellite altimetry has been used for measuring spatial and temporal variations of absolute sea level (hereafter, called ASL) rise. The ASL products, consisting of sea surface heights, are routinely processed and distributed by six groups: Archiving, Validation and Interpretation of Satellite Oceanographic data (AVISO), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Colorado University (CU), Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), European Space Agency Climate Change Initiative (ESA-CCI) and Delft University of Technology (TUDelft-RADS). Here, we chose to use the newly reprocessed ESA-CCI Sea Level v1.1 gridded altimetry product (hereafter, called ESA) that is freely available at: http://www.esa-sealevel-cci.org (see details in *Ablain et al.*, [2015]). In order to remove the seasonal signal in the ASL time series, we used a 12-month running mean filter.

4.2.3. Reconstruction of sea level in the past

Recently, a new approach was developed to reconstruct the ASL variations in the past. This method combines information from TG records with spatial patterns from altimetry and/or oceanic models [*Church et al.*, 2004; *Llovel et al.*, 2009; *Hamlington et al.*, 2011; *Ray and Douglas*, 2011; *Meyssignac et al.*, 2012a]. In order to get an overview of the regional ASL variation in the Tropics over a longer period, we employ an updated version of past sea level reconstruction developed by *Meyssignac et al.*, [2012a] for the period 1960-2014. This method

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is based on reduced optimal interpolation, combining long-term TG records with a time varying linear combination of Empirical Orthogonal Functions-based spatial patterns derived from 2-D sea level grids based on oceanic model outputs.

4.2.4. GPS stations

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is used for precisely positioning TG benchmarks with respect to the center of mass. These measurements, due to their relatively low cost and easy implementation, and maintenance, have become key components for sea level studies as they provide accurate determination of coastal vertical land movements [*Wöppelmann et al.*, 2007; *Wöppelmann and Marcos*, 2016]. In this study, we use vertical velocities estimated by the University of La Rochelle from its latest GPS data reanalysis (called hereafter ULR6, [*Santamaría-Gómez et al.* 2017]). These estimates are made at the GPS stations that are directly collocated with TGs or situated not further than 15 km from them, provided that the GPS series have more than 3 years of data [*Wöppelmann et al.*, 2007]. The magnitudes of vertical velocity and their associated uncertainties are available (free of cost) at http://www.sonel.org; the GPS at tide gauge data assembly center Système d'Observation du Niveau des Eaux Littorales (SONEL).

4.2.5. Urban agglomerations and Low Elevation Coastal Zones (LECZ)

We used the Urban-Rural Population and Land Area Estimates v2 dataset, providing the number of people living on contiguous coastal elevations less than or equal to 10 m in 2010. This dataset is from the Low Elevation Coastal Zone collection (LECZ, [*McGranahan et al.*, 2007]) and is freely downloadable from http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/ collection/lecz.

4.3.Atlantic Ocean

4.3.1. Eastern South America

The Tropical Atlantic Ocean is bordered in the west by the Brazilian coast extending through the Caribbean Sea to the Gulf of Mexico. The entire Brazilian coastline, extending from latitude 4°N to 34°S, has been experiencing erosion, although the erosion rates vary irregularly and are often enhanced within river outlets [*Muehe*, 2010]. Since 1970s, rapid expansion of agglomerations and intensive construction of housing for residence and tourism, bring more people to settle along the coast [*Short and Klein*, 2016]. At the end of the 90s, already 20% of

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Brazilians live in coastal cities [*Muehe and Neves*, 1995] (Figure 4.1). For example, the population density of the megacity of Rio de Janeiro has nearly doubled in four decades (27 inhab/ha in 1960 to 48 inhab/ha in 2000, [*Saglio-Yatzimirsky* 2013]); presently, its population exceeds 12 million people. In the Northeast, Recife is a large metropolitan city with approximately 4 million inhabitants that ranks among the cities in Brazil, with the highest population density at the coast [*Muehe and Neves* 1995; *Neves and Muehe* 1995]. This city is located at the mouth of two rivers, Beberibe and Capibaribe, within low-lying areas making it particularly vulnerable to RSL rise. All these large coastal cities, where the problems of urban drainage are nowadays permanent, have to deal with floods. In 2008, around 30% of more than 5.5 thousand municipalities in Brazil reported having inefficient drainage system and having suffered from floods in the past five years [*Nali and Rigo* 2011]. The consequences of drainage system deficiency in urban areas are important, ranging from impacts on human health, through groundwater contamination and proliferation of mosquitoes, to damage effects, inter alia, on housing, infrastructure and psychological stress. These effects will become even more critical with a rise in RSL [*Muehe* 2010].

In the north, the Brazil coastline of the Amazon Delta extends from Cape Orange in the state of Amapa up to the French Guiana's border. Despite deforestation, dam construction and land usage, the delta is in relatively good health [*Syvitski et al.* 2009]. *Mansur et al.* [2016] estimated that over 1.2 million people are under the risk of flooding (fluvial and coastal) in this delta, and that 41% of urban sector inhabitants are exposed to potential flooding risks. The population of the Amazon Delta is projected to grow by more than 60 % over the 15-year period [*Overeem and Syvitski*, 2009], making this region particularly vulnerable to anthropogenic changes. The Orinoco Delta in Venezuela is an area with small population and is less developed. However, it is estimated that by 2050, 21% of this delta population will be potentially inundated due to future RSL rise and 20% of the delta area could be lost [Ericson et al. 2006].

Over the last few decades, the observed retreat of mangrove vegetation along the delta coastline seems to be compatible with a long-term relative sea-level rise trend [*Cohen and Lara* 2003; *França et al.* 2012]. *Gratiot et al.* [2008] have shown that the mangrove retreat of the 1500 km-long flat muddy coast from the Amazon to the Orinoco (Venezuela) rivers over the last twenty years has been governed primarily by the lunar 18.6-year low-frequency tide constituent. These findings highlight an extreme sensitivity of this region to global environmental changes in general, and, in particular, to sea level changes.

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Populations of the northern Brazil neighboring countries will also face sea level rise adaptation problems: thus, in terms of population impacted by a 1 m sea level rise, at least 6% of people living in Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana population would be displaced [*Dasgupta et al.* 2009]. These countries are among the top 10 countries/territories worldwide affected by climate-induced massive population relocation.

From the PSMSL RLR data set, 11 TG records are available along the Brazilian coast and one recent record from French Guiana (Ile Royale, 10 years, 2006-2015). Of these sea level records, only two from southeastern Brazil cover recent years and are long enough to allow long-term trend estimates: Cananeia (53 years, 1954-2006) and Rio de Janeiro (Ilha Fiscal station: 51 years, 1963-2013). The length of the other records is less than 21 years. Emery and Aubrey [1991] reviewed all records from Brazil available at PSMSL and noted a coherent RSL rise of about 2-4 mm/yr between 1950 and 1970; this was interpreted as land subsidence except for RSL observations at Recife, Belem and Imbituba, where the trends are close to zero. The lower trends were suggested to result from land movement produced at Recife by the Pernambuco fault, and to sediment-induced subsidence at Imbituba and Belem. More recent work has revisited these long-term trends and estimated RSL trend in the range 3-5 mm/yr over the past 50 years [*Neves and Muehe* 1995; *Mesquita* 2003; *Muehe* 2006; *Mesquita et al.* 2013]. We searched for new records in PSMSL to update the Emery and Aubrey results, but have found only two recent series: One at Cananeia and another at Ihla Fiscal (Table 4.1). The Ilha Fiscal record exhibits no significant RSL trend over 1967-2013, the signal being dominated by strong multidecadal fluctuations. The presence of the multidecadal sea level signal explains the low statistical confidence of the trend estimate at Ihla Fiscal noticed by Emery and Aubrey (1991). Our estimate of the RSL trend at Cananeia over a 50-year span (Table 4.1) is of 4.1 mm/yr (Table 4.1) that is surprisingly coherent with 4.2 mm/yr obtained by Emery and Aubrey over the first 30 years of apparently the same sea level record. A different trend was found, however, by *Ducarme et al.* [2007] who estimated a larger RSL trend of 5.6 ± 0.07 mm/year after having identified and corrected two periodicities of 24.2 year and 10.7 year dominating the very low frequency spectrum of sea level at Cananeia. This rate, over the last 50 years, largely exceeds the observed GMSL trend from satellite altimetry over the last 22 years (3.1 to 3.3 mm/yr, [*Cazenave and Le Cozannet* 2013]) and Cananeia should be classed as a strong positive anomaly, *a hotspot*, in the global sea level rise pattern [*Mesquita et al.* 2013]. The reasons of the increased rate of RSL rise at Cananeia have not been completely explained yet, but they are unlikely due to land subsidence alone. (It is worth noting here that *Aubrey et al.*

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[1988], *Muehe and Neves* [1995] and *Mesquita et al.* [2013] previously presented evidence that the Brazilian coast may be sinking.) An apparent contradiction comes from the NEIA GPS station collocated (Table 4.1) with the Cananeia TG (10 m distance from the tide-gauge and 15 years in operation). Indeed, no significant trend in vertical movement was detected by the NEIA GPS at the Cananeia TG over the last 15 years (Table 4.1). Yet, it does not exclude an increased RSL rise at Cananeia, as it can also be due to oceanic processes. Notice, however, that the ASL absolute sea level trends near Cananeia vary between 1.8 and 3 mm/yr over 1993-2014 similarly to the sea level trends of about 2.5 mm/yr reconstructed near the Brazilian coast over 1960-2014 (Figure 4.4).

The other two GPS stations on the Brazilian coast are collocated with Recife and Imbituba TG, the two sites likely influenced by local land movement [*Emery and Aubrey* 1991]. Land subsidence of 2.4 mm/yr is observed at RECF GPS, at 9 km from the Recife TG, and slower subsidence of 1.1 mm/yr at IMBT GPS, 700m from Imbituba TG. Unfortunately, the lack of modern TG records at Recife and Imbituba does not allow separating the contribution of land movement from oceanic component in the observed RSL. The lack of data and insufficient density of the TG network is a major obstacle for accurate evaluation of regional sea level changes in this region. Since 2007, efforts are being made to implement a Permanent Brazilian Sea Level Monitoring Network called Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)-Brazil Network. Under this program, twelve new TG stations have been installed and are now fully operational (data available on http://www.goosbrasil.org/gloss). This gives hope for obtaining more precise and accurate long-term sea-level measurements along the coast of Brazil [*Lemos and Ghisolfi* 2011].

4.3.2. Caribbean Sea

The Caribbean Sea is bounded in the west by Central America and, in the south, by Venezuela and Colombia. It is connected to the Gulf of Mexico through the Yucatan straits in the north. Cuba, the Greater Antilles and the Lesser Antilles, separate the Caribbean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean to the north and northeast. The Caribbean Sea includes more than 7000 islands that are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise because of high population density. Indeed, about half of the island population lives within 1.5 km from the sea [*Mimura et al.* 2007] because of its dependence on coastal and sea resources [*Nicholls and Cazenave* 2010]. *Dasgupta et al.* [2009] identified, among 84 coastal developing countries, the Bahamas is one of the 5 most impacted

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countries of 1-meter SL rise. In terms of potential land loss, Belize, Puerto Rico, Cuba and Jamaica are ranked in the top 10 in the sea level vulnerability classification (from 1 to 2% of loss, *Dasgupta et al.* 2009). Similarly, Jamaica and Belize are among the top 5 in the classification of the largest wetland loss triggered by sea level rise (~30% of loss, *Dasgupta et al.* 2009). Moreover, the unique biodiversity of the Caribbean Sea islands [*Mittermeier et al.* 2011] appears to be particularly threatened by the projected sea level rise. With a 1-m of sea level increase, ~9% of the islands (i.e. 63 islands among the 723 identified as biodiversity hotspot by *Bellard et al.* 2014) is expected to be entirely submerged, and the worst-case scenario of a 6-m increase would lead to a loss of half of the islands (i.e. 356 islands).

Updating *Palanisamy's et al.* [2012] work, over the 1960-2014 reconstruction period, we observed strong positive ASL trends in the Caribbean of about 2.5-3 mm/yr (Figure 4.4), except for Cuba, the Lesser and Greater Antilles where the ASL trends are lower, at around 1.8-2.5 mm/yr (Figure 4.4). The RLR TG records from the PSMSL dataset corroborate these findings. Only seven sea level records span more than 30 years (Table 4.2). Two stations are located on the continent: Cartagena (1949-1992, 44yr) in Colombia shows an RSL trend of 5.2 mm/yr, and Cristobal (1909-1979, 71yr) in Panama shows an RSL trend of 1.5 mm/yr. The former trend is the fastest of the long-term Caribbean sea level observations (Figure 4.2) that places Cartagena among the cities directly threatened by rising sea level. The RSL measurements along the Antilles chain reveal trends of: i) about 3 mm/yr in the Virgin Islands; and ii) about 2 mm/yr in Puerto Rico and Cuba. Over the 1993-2014 altimetry period, we observe strong positive ASL trends from Nicaragua, southward through Venezuela to the Lesser Antilles, in the range of 3-5 mm/yr (Figure 4.3), which is greater than the GMSL trend over the same period. In the eastern part of the Caribbean Sea, the ASL trends are smaller; they range from 1.8 to 3 mm/yr (Figure 4.3) along the Greater Antilles islands, in particular along the coasts of Cuba, Jamaica, Haiti and Puerto Rico. It is worth noting here that the seismically active Lesser Antilles subduction zone is a potential source of tsunami-induced flooding all along the Caribbean coasts [*McCann* 2006].

GPS stations (Table 4.2) are concentrated in the US Virgin Islands with the only station available on the continental coast, at Cartagena. All GPS records span about 9 years, except the station in Lime Tree Bay where the record is for 21 years. Analysis of the GPS data at Cartagena reveals a trend of 1.7 mm/yr that is most likely due to land movement along the fault [*Emery and Aubrey* 1991]. In this case, the ocean contribution to the 5.2 mm/yr RSL trend at Cartagena

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would be about 3.5 mm/yr. It is difficult to answer whether the 9-year long GPS series are long enough for estimating land movement in these regions. In order to get an insight into this issue, we compared the trends derived from two GPS stations in Lime Tree Bay. The 21-year long CR01 GPS station shows a trend of 2.9 mm/yr while another one, which has a 9-year long record, has a much smaller trend of 1.1 mm/yr. This points out to a possible non-stationary character or significant spatial variation in vertical land movements in Lime Tree Bay.

Along the Bahamas Islands, the ASL trends range from 0 to 3 mm/yr, but some trends in this region are statistically insignificant, and some have high uncertainty (Figure 4.3) due to pronounced interannual sea level variability in the Caribbean region. *Torres and Tsimplis* [2013] show that the interannual fluctuations in this region can be partly explained by the influence of El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) at different time and space scales; however, they found no significant link with the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO).

4.3.3. Gulf of Mexico

Along the U.S. Gulf coast, the population grew up 150% and housing construction by 246% from 1960 to 2008 [*Wilson and Fischetti* 2010]. In August 2005, hurricane Katrina (followed by hurricane Rita a few days later), resulted in the largest natural disaster in US history and devastated human and economic landscape along the U.S. Gulf Coast. This disaster brought to the forefront a problem, recognized for decades, of adaptation to the Mississippi Delta sinking, which results in extensive wetland loss and increases the exposure of population, economic activities and infrastructure to hurricane-induced storm surges [*Syvitski et al.* 2009]. *Dai et al.* [2009] have shown that during the twentieth century approximately 25% of the Mississippi wetlands were lost to the ocean. The largest factor contributing to the wetlands loss is the construction of artificial levees, reducing the number of sediment pathways into adjacent flood plain basins [*Kesel* 2003]. This land-loss problem is exacerbated by trapping of 50% of the total sediment load by upstream dams, and there is not enough supply to keep pace with subsidence and accelerated sea-level rise [*Blum and Roberts* 2012]. Assuming an acceleration of sea level rise from 3 to 4 mm/yr and a subsidence rate from 1 to 1.7 mm/yr, coupled with the absence of sediment input, Blum and Roberts [2009] projected a potential submergence of 25%-30% of the delta (~10,000–13,500 km2) by the year 2100. Blum and Roberts [2012], concluded that significant drowning is inevitable, even if sediment loads are restored, because the sea level is now rising at least three times faster than during the period of the delta-plain formation.

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Moreover, anthropogenic effects including locally accelerated subsidence can exacerbate this problem. *Becker et al.* [2014] estimated that 68% (~ 4 mm/yr) of the sea level rise recorded at Galveston over the last century is too large to be due to natural sea level variability and, by consequence, should be dominated by land subsidence probably induced by extraction of subsurface fluids, hydrocarbons, and groundwater withdrawal [*Morton et al.* 2006; *Kolker et al.* 2011].

Kolker et al. [2011] used the Grand Isle, Galveston and Pensacola TG records from the RLR PSMSL dataset to investigate the subsidence rate in the northern part of U.S. Gulf over 1947-2006. They assumed that the Pensacola record, located on a stable carbonate platform, experiences a linear land movement and therefore subtracted the Pensacola from the others records to remove interannual variability. In doing so, they underlined three distinct significant subsidence phases i) 1947-1958: 3.1 mm/yr and 2.6 mm/yr; ii) 1959-1991: 9.8 mm/yr and 6.2 mm/yr; and iii) 1992-1996: 1 mm/yr and -2 mm/yr at Grand Isle and Galveston respectively. They argued that the recent subsidence rates are lower than predictions of the subsidence scenario suggested by *Blum and Roberts* [2009] and, perhaps, future land losses linked to the subsidence will be limited. However, in updating *Kolker et al.* [2011] work we obtained a subsidence rate of ~3 mm/yr at Grand Isle over 1992-2015 (and ~0.8 mm/yr at Galveston, Table 4.3). This result is closer to the estimation of *Morton et al.* [2006] who reported a subsidence rate of ~4 mm/yr over 1993-2006. Moreover, our estimates agree with recent work by *Letetrel et al.* [2015], who combined satellite altimetry data and the long-term Grand Isle TG record and estimated a subsidence rate of ~5 mm/yr over 1992-2008 and ~7 mm/yr over 1947-2011. These values are close to the GPS-derived vertical velocity of ~ -6.5 mm/yr over 2005-2016, estimated from GRIS GPSstation, 100 m from the Grand Isle TG.

The observed subsidence results from a combination of different processes such as tectonics, sedimentation, glacial isotactic adjustment, and anthropogenic fluid withdrawal [*Douglas*, 2001]. Various studies estimated present-day subsidence rates in the range of 2-10 mm/yr, as a response to the delta sedimentary load [*Jurkowski et al.* 1984; *Ivins et al.* 2007; *Syvitski* 2008; *Törnqvist et al.* 2008]. However, *Wolstencroft et al.* [2014] argued that the viscoelastic deformation due to sediment loading alone is unlikely to exceed ~0.5mm/yr. Thus, the current high rates of observed subsidence are likely to be linked to sediment compaction and fluid extraction.

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In the RLR PSMSL dataset, we found 20 TG stations, with time spans of more than 30 years, distributed along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. 17 stations are located in the United States, two in Mexico and one in Cuba. The long-term RSL trends are gathered in three clusters. The first one represents the western coast from Progresso to Rockport (4 TGs) where the sea level rises at 3-5 mm/yr. The fastest RSL rise is observed at 6 TG situated along the northern coast from Freeport to Grand Isle in the Mississippi delta. Conjugation of land subsidence with rising ASL results in an RSL of 6-10 mm/year. The third cluster contains moderate RSL trends of 2-4 mm/yr observed at 10 TGs in the eastern Gulf, from Dauphin Island to Key West. As in other regions, the main driver of the enhanced sea level rise in the Gulf of Mexico is in the deltaic region, and is due to land subsidence.

4.3.4. Atlantic Eastern border: Gulf of Guinea

The Gulf of Guinea, located in the eastern Equatorial Atlantic, is constituted of eighteen coastal States from Senegal to Angola. Its 12000 km-long coastline is characterized by typical low-lying topography, coastal lagoons and by two large deltas: The Niger Delta and the Volta River Delta (Figure 4.1).

This coastline hosts 12 townships, each with a population of over 1 million, which is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change [*UN-HABITAT* 2014]. *Moriconi-Ebrard et al.* [2016] highlight the formation of an urban band of high population density by 2020, in the coastal area of the Gulf of Guinea. Yet, this region is already extremely vulnerable to projected sea level rise impacts (erosion, submersion, saline intrusion into coastal aquifers and agricultural areas, fisheries, mangrove degradation) [*Nicholls and Mimura* 1998].

Jallow et al. [1999] estimated, by modeling the effects of coastal erosion and a rise in sea level, that Banjul, the capital of the Gambia, can disappear by 2050. *Dasgupta et al.* [2009] ranked Benin in the top ten, of 84 developing coastal countries worldwide, which would be most impacted by a 1-m sea-level rise in terms of population to be displaced (4%) and wetland area loss (14%) and Gambia in terms of land area loss (1%). According to *Brown et al.* [2011], Cameroon ranks in the top ten African countries likely to be impacted by flooding and forced migration by 2100. *Hinkel et al.* [2012] concluded that Nigeria is one of the most vulnerable African countries both in terms of the people-based sea level impacts as well as in terms of economic costs. Some 25 million people are estimated to live currently within its coastal zones, with about 8.5 million beneath the two-meter inundation contour [*French et al.* 1995]. The

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largest city, Lagos, is expanding rapidly across the land standing below a meter above sea level. As much as 70% of the city's population live in slums characterized by extremely poor environmental conditions, including regular flooding of homes that lasts several hours and that sweeps raw sewage [*Adelekan* 2009]. In the Niger delta region, even in absence of acceleration in absolute sea-level rise, the land loss through edge erosion alone can cause shoreline recession of 3 km by the year 2100 [*French et al.* 1995]. Moreover, the Niger Delta is sinking much faster than global sea level is rising [*Syvistki et al.* 2009]. The high subsidence rate (25-125 mm/year, [*Abam*, 2001]), due to oil and gas extraction, combined with a reduction in sediment deposition plus accelerated compaction of sediment, makes this delta along with the Nile River Delta the most threatened of the African deltas [*Syvistki et al.* 2009].

Relatively little research on long term sea level change has been undertaken previously over the African continent, because the existing African dataset is shorter than that in other parts of the world [Emery and Aubrey 1991; *Woodworth et al.* 2007]. The lack of historical data on sea-level rise in Africa makes it difficult to assess coastal impacts and vulnerability with accuracy.

Woodworth et al. [2007] reviewed the African sea level changes by using the PSMSL data set. In the Gulf of Guinea, some records exist but with less than 20 years of data available and no recent data. In the RLR PSMSL data bank, only two TG records from this region have relatively recent data but with substantial missing or inconsistent data: Dakar 2 (1992-2014, 73% of completeness, Senegal) and Takoradi (1929-2012, 79% of completeness, Ghana). In conclusion, along of the Gulf of Guinea coastline, only the Takoradi TG record, with reliable datum continuity, can be used to estimate a long-term RSL trend over 36 years (1930-1965), which is ~3 mm/yr [*Woodworth et al.* 2007].

In this context of lack of data, *Wöppelmann et al.* [2008] have initiated investigations at Dakar (Senegal) to find and rescue past sea-level records. Several decades of sea level observations at Dakar have been found, the earliest dating back to 1889. The secular RSL trend estimated from this long reconstructed TG is 1.6 ± 0.2mm/yr from 1900 to 2011. Using satellite synthetic aperture radar interferometry (SAR), *Le Cozannet et al.* [2015] showed that despite a complex geology, a rapid population growth and development in Dakar, the historical TG does not seem to be affected by local vertical coastal land motion, and therefore can be a good candidate for sea level studies in the Gulf of Guinea as well as for past sea level reconstruction. The rate of

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ASL rise along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea is in the range 1.8-3 mm/yr (Figures 4.3 and 4.4) during the shorter (1993-2014) and longer periods (1960-2014).

Due to the lack of TGs, it is difficult to assess all the causes of sea level variations along the West African coast. *Melet et al.* [2016] determined the processes responsible for coastal sea level variability in the Gulf of Guinea over the 1993-2012 period. They showed that in Cotonou (Benin), the sea level trend is largely dominated by the same ocean signal as observed in the altimetric data and, to a lesser extent, by interannual variability of the wave run-up height.

In the late 1990s, the Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA, www.odinafrica.org) project was initiated in order to develop an African sea level observing network as part of the GLOSS Core Network, and rescue historical sea level data. Today, this project brings together more than 40 marine-related institutions from 25 African countries to address the challenges of accessing data and information for coastal management.

4.3.5. Tropical Atlantic RSL hotspots: Summary

- ***Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana*** are in the world top 10 countries mostly impacted by a 1-m sea-level rise [*Dasgupta et al.* 2009]. About 6% of people in these regions would be displaced, leading to high probability of climate-induced massive population displacements.
- ***Brazilian coast:*** The enhanced sea level rise at Cananeia makes it a sea level hotspot. Is the RSL trend at Cananeia a local anomaly or should it be seen as a typical value along the Brazilian coast? It is difficult to answer this question now, as the number of long-term TGs is insufficient to resolve RSL trends variations along the western South America coast.
- ***Cartagena in Colombia:*** With a RSL trend faster than 5 mm/yr and 1 million inhabitants, this is a site of great concern. The problem is complicated by the fact that contribution of land movement to the observed RSL is not yet reliably established. Consequently, any projections of future RSL changes should be assessed with due care.
- ***Northeastern coast of the Gulf of Mexico:*** The region within and around Mississippi delta is experiencing the fastest RSL rise measured by TGs in the tropical Atlantic. Land movement, due to sedimentation processes and water/oil/gas withdrawals, drives the long-term RSL changes in this region.

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- ***Niger Delta*** is sinking much faster than GMSL is rising [*Syvistki et al.* 2009]. The high subsidence rate (25-125 mm/year), due to oil and gas extraction, combined with reduction in aggradation plus accelerated compaction of sediment, makes this delta, along with the Nile River Delta, the most threatened among the African deltas [*Syvistki et al.* 2009].

4.4.Pacific Ocean

4.4.1. Central America and South America

The Pacific coast of South America is a tectonically active zone driven by subduction of the Pacific plate. Little information about the long-term RSL trends along this coast is available, except from the earlier analysis by *Aubrey et al.* [1988] and *Emery and Aubrey* [1991] who have reported highly variable sea level trends with changing signs all along the coast of Chile and Peru. These trend variations were attributed to non-uniform tectonism, faulting and segmentation of subducting lithosphere. Inspecting the updated PSMSL RLR data set, we found 9 TG records spanning more 30 years from Mexico to Chile. An interesting result is that, along the west coast of South America, 5 of 6 long-term stations (Figure 4.2 and Table 4.4) reveal a decreasing RSL with a trend of about –1 mm/yr. This value indicates a coastal uplift at a rate of ~ 2 mm/yr provided that we take ~1 mm/yr as a trend of ASL rise along the coast of Chile-Peru from altimetry (Figure 4.3). Obviously, this evaluation should be taken with care because trend uncertainties are quite large (Table 4.4 and Figure 4.3). Notice, nevertheless, that a 2 mm/yr land emergence was detected by GPS at Callao, although this value was estimated from 5-year long measurements (Table 4.4). As to the southern most tropical Chilean TG Caldera, it manifests a positive RSL trend of about 2.8 mm/yr, which is larger than 1.7 mm/yr estimated by *Emery and Aubrey* [1991] from a shorter period. The noticeable difference between our estimates and those of *Emery and Aubrey* [1991] might result from significantly longer time series used in our analysis. The long-term series are necessary to separate the trend from interannual and, especially, decadal sea level fluctuations that are particularly strong in this region. These low-frequency sea level variations are driven by El Niño and have been extensively investigated since 1960s [*Roden* 1963; *Wyrtki* 1973, 1975; *Mitchum and Wyrtki* 1988; *Enfield* 1989; *Clarke* 2014]. Recently, *Losada et al.* [2013] estimated that ENSO explains more than 65% of the mean sea level variance along the Peruvian coast. According to *Reguero et al.* [2015], the number of inhabitants affected by El Niño events, in addition to future sea level rise, will be substantial not only in Peru and Ecuador but in Panama, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala impacting more than 30% of population in these countries. *Hallegatte et*

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al. [2011], in a global study of losses due to future floods in coastal cities, identified Guayaquil, the largest and the most populated city in Ecuador, to be at particularly high risk.

Farther northward, in Central America, the century-scale Balboa record, the longest on the American tropical coast, shows a RSL trend of about 1.5 mm/yr that is comparable to the ASL trend measured by altimetry (Figure 4.3). The two available 30-year long Mexican TGs have large, statistically significant, RSL trends. Acapulco, with more than 700 000 inhabitants, faces sea level rising at a rate of 8.4 mm/yr that places this city as a RSL hotspot: the RSL is rising here at the rate among the fastest measured worldwide. A smaller (4.4 mm/yr) but yet appreciable RSL trend was estimated at Guaymas, a low-lying city in northwestern Mexico. Along the Mexican South Pacific coast, the altimetry dataset has non-significant ASL trend over the last 22 years. *Buenfil-López et al.* [2012] showed that the RSL in this region is affected by seismic activity that can generate instantaneous fall in sea level. The GPS stations in Mexico have not yet provided reliable long-term estimates and we cannot reliably evaluate the land movement contribution to the observed RSL rise at Acapulco and Guaymas.

4.4.2. Southeast Asia

Approximately 20% (~ 134 million) of the world's population living in a contiguous area along the coast, within less than 10 meters above sea level, can be found in seven Southeast Asian countries: Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore (LECZ database, Figure 4.1). The first four are among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest number of people living within less than 10 m above sea level [*McGranahan et al.* 2007]. Most of the megacities in this region are located either in coastal areas or within a large delta, with rich alluvial soils used for agriculture and aquaculture. A series of rapidly developing megacities is located in large deltas, such as Bangkok (~6 million inhabitants), the capital of Thailand in the Chao Phraya River delta (Figure 4.1) and Ho-Chi-Minh city (Vietnam), of ~8 million inhabitants situated in the Mekong River Delta (Figure 4.1). The natural resources in this region will also be profoundly impacted by RSL. Thus, concerning the mangrove forest persistence in Indo-Pacific region, *Lovelock et al.* [2015] projected that some sites subject to sea level rise, with low tidal range and low sediment supply, could be submerged by 2070s. This is the case in Chao Phraya and Mekong deltas, where vulnerability to sea level rise is exacerbated by anthropogenic activities, as groundwater extraction and dam construction [*Lovelock et al.* 2015]. In southern China, the Pearl River Delta, one of the most populated areas

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in the Chinese mainland [*Wolanski* 2006], is home to several megacities (~8 million inhabitants each) as Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong. *Hanson et al.* [2011] evaluated the exposure of the population of the world's large cities to coastal flooding hazard by 2070s, and concluded that only twelve countries contain 90% of the total of 148 million people exposed. (China (21%), Vietnam (9%), Thailand (3%), and Indonesia (2%) are among the top 10 countries.) They also pointed that the exposure in 2070s varies disproportionately in deltas among the top 10 cities: Guangzhou (~10 million people exposed), Ho Chi Minh City (~9 million), Bangkok (~5 million) and Hai Phòng (~5 million, Vietnam).

We updated analyses of TG records from eastern Asia previously performed by *Emery and Aubrey* [1986, 1991] and *Yanagi and Akaki* [1994]. The sea level records selected from the PSMSL database are the RLR series spanning at least 30 years, except for two stations Kota Kinabalu and Tawau (28 years) which are the only available data from Borneo Island (Table 4.5). We investigated for significant RSL trends in this region, from Vietnam to South China. In Vietnam, we found 3 significant RSL trends: in the North at Hondau, 2 mm/yr, and in the South at Danang and Vungtau, on an average, 3.4 mm/yr. There are no TGs from Cambodia available at PSMSL; the same is the case with the Mekong delta, though more than 20% of the national population lives in this area, which is also a vital agricultural zone. *Fujihara et al.* [2015] analyzed water level trends from 24 river gauge stations (over 1987-2006) managed by the Mekong River Commission. These stations located in the delta, and influenced by both inflow from upstream and tidal action from the South China Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, can also deliver relevant information about the RSL. *Fujihara et al.* [2015] estimated a RSL trend of ~ 7.4 mm/yr over 1987-2006 in the Mekong Delta, attributing 20% of this trend to ASL rise and 80% to land subsidence. *Erban et al.* [2014], using interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR), estimated a rate of land subsidence, mainly due to groundwater pumping, throughout the Mekong Delta in the range 10–40 mm/yr during 2006-2010. Their projection is that, if pumping continues at this rate, a land subsidence of ~0.9 m (0.35–1.4 m) is to be expected by 2050.

There are 3 long-term TG records available from Thailand. In the cities of Ko Sichang and Ko Lak, we estimated an RSL rate of 0.8+/-0.5 mm/yr. The Fort Phrachula TG is located at the coast of the Chao Phraya delta, just south of Bangkok, and it has an RSL trend of ~15 mm/yr. This very fast RSL rise, is due to land subsidence induced partly by natural compaction of deltaic sediments and amplified by overpumping of groundwater, changing non-linearly with

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571 time since 1955 [*Emery and Aubrey*, 1991; *Phien-wej et al.* 2006]. Over the past 35 years, the
572 land subsidence rate reached 120 mm/year and nowadays ranges from 20 to 30 mm/yr [*Phien-*
573 *wej et al.* 2006]. The work of *Phien-wej et al.* [2006] suggests that for each 1 m^3 of groundwater
574 pumped out in the Bangkok Plain, it is approximately 0.10 m^3 of ground that is lost at surface.

575 In Peninsular Malaysia, the average RSL trend, estimated from 4 TGs, in operation since 1980s
576 to 2015, is about ~3 mm/yr. At the southern tip of the Malaysian Peninsula, in Singapore, the
577 RSL trend is about 2-3 mm/yr since 1970s. These estimates are consistent with the results of
578 *Tkalich et al.* [2013] who reported an RSL trend of ~2.3 mm/yr. The Singapore mainland is
579 subsiding at a rate of 1.5-7 mm/yr [*Catalao et al.* 2013].

580 Along the Indonesian Pacific Coast, there are no RLR TGs available at PSMSL. However,
581 *Fenoglio-Marc et al.* [2012] used two TGs located on the Pacific coast of Java province from
582 the Metric PSMSL database: Jakarta (1993–2011) and Surabaya (1993–2009). In Surabaya,
583 they estimated an RSL trend of 8.8 mm/yr and -21.3 mm/yr at Jakarta, compared to an ASL
584 trend of 3.8 mm/yr from altimetry at both locations. Combining these two techniques, they
585 detected a high land subsidence rate at Jakarta of -19.7 mm/yr and of -5.3 mm/yr at Surabaya.
586 The megacity of Jakarta (~ 10 million inhabitants) is located in a lowland area in the northern
587 coast of West Java and is subject to land subsidence mainly induced by excessive groundwater
588 extraction [*Abidin et al.* 2010]. From levelling surveys, GPS observations and InSAR analysis,
589 *Abidin et al.* [2015] estimated the rate of land subsidence in Jakarta in the range 30-100mm/yr
590 during 1974-2010. *Chaussard et al.* [2013] performed a global survey of Sumatra and Java,
591 using a method of differential SAR interferometry (D-InSAR), and identified land subsidence
592 in 5 major coastal cities, mainly due to groundwater extraction, in the range 20-240 mm/yr
593 during 2006-2009. Moreover, at Jakarta, *Hanson et al.* [2011] estimated that more than 2
594 million people will be exposed to coastal flooding by 2070s. Considering the Coral Triangle
595 countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, and the
596 Solomon Islands, *Mcleod et al.* [2010] demonstrated that the sea level rise (scenario: sea level
597 rises up to 0.4 m by 2100 and without adaptation) will significantly affect coastal population
598 and habitats, and Indonesia will be a country which is likely to be most affected by coastal
599 flooding, with ~ 6 million people impacted annually by 2100.

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In East Malaysia, located on the island of Borneo, only two long TGs are available and both they manifest a strong RSL trend of ~4 mm/yr since 1990s, consistent with the ASL trend from altimetry (Figure 4.3) over the same period.

In Philippines, 5 acceptable TGs (Figure 4.2) are available, and they span 44 to 68 years. The 3 TGs located on the eastern side of the archipelago have high RSL trends of: ~5.5 mm/yr at Davao and Legaspi; and ~ 14 mm/yr in Manila. In the west, the Cebu TG has a RSL trend of 0.9 mm/yr. These differences in trend can be explained by land subsidence, which is larger on the eastern side of the subduction zone, and there is a marginal land uplift on the opposite side [*Emery and Aubrey* 1991]. In Manila, *Rodolfo and Siringan* [2006] showed that a much higher rate of RSL is induced by land subsidence, linked with the increase in groundwater pumping and consistent with the population growth curve over the same period. The GPS station (PIMO 2.7 mm/yr, Table 4.5), located 13 km northeast from the TG, and the DORIS station (3.2 mm/yr), located 10 km southeast from the TG, show, in agreement, an uplift rather than subsidence [*Santamaría-Gómez et al.* 2017]. This indicates a significant spatial variation in vertical displacements around the TG. *Raucoules et al.* [2013] demonstrated, from D-InSAR, that Manila was locally affected by vertical ground motions of about 15 cm/yr from 1993 to 2010. Therefore, the impact related to human-induced subsidence is already evident in Manila city. In this context, the results of *Perez*'s *et al.* [1999] on vulnerability analysis suggest that most areas along the coast of Manila Bay (including Manila city) could succumb, from both physical and socio-economic standpoints, to a 1 m sea level rise by 2100.

In South China, we found 3 TGs with a time span of at least 50 years. We estimated RSL trends of: ~2 mm/yr at Kanmen and Zhapo, and ~1 mm/yr at Xiamen. *Tseng et al.* [2010] estimated from TGs, around Taiwan, an RSL trend of 2.4 mm/yr from 1961 to 2003 and 5.7 mm/yr during the period 1993-2003. *Ding et al.* [2001] estimated an RSL trend at Hong Kong around ~2 mm/yr over 1954-1999. Two TG records in Hong Kong from the RLR PSMSL dataset have similar RSL trends of ~3 mm/yr (Table 4.5). *Guo et al.* [2015] estimated vertical land movement along the South China coast from TGs and satellite altimetry, and found subsidence rates varying from 6 to 17mm/yr. At Shenzhen, land subsidence at a rate of 25mm/year was detected over 2007-2010, by the method of Small Baseline Subset InSAR (SBAS-InSAR, Xu et al. 2016). In the Pearl River Delta, the RSL changes seem to be essentially controlled by vertical movements of active faults [*Mei-e*, 1993]. *He et al.* [2014] reconstructed the regional sea level, by combining TGs and altimetry, over the period 1959-2011 and estimated that sea level has

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risen at a rate of 4 mm/yr in the Pearl River Delta. They determined different spatial patterns of variability in the river mouth and along the coastline. In this region, there is no clear consensus on the causes of long-term RSL changes. Many more studies are urgently needed to understand the causes of observed RSL changes in order to mitigate potential disasters associated with future SL rise

In light of the results mentioned above, the major concern of this region is that the rates of RSL rise are one to two times higher (and much more at Bangkok and Manila) than the GMSL trend over the 20th century. These results are confirmed by estimates from the sea level reconstruction (Figure 4.4) that vary around ~3 mm/yr since 1960 and 3-5 mm/yr since 1993 (Figure 4.3).

Recent analysis of the regional sea level variability in the Gulf of Thailand, including GPS-derived rate of vertical land movements, provides a rate of ASL rise of about 5 mm/yr since 1940s and 3-6 mm/yr over the altimetry era [*Trisirisatayawong et al.* 2011]. In this region, the impact of the post-seismic motion due to the 2004 Sumatra-Andaman earthquake on the RSL rate is of the order of -10 mm/yr [*Trisirisatayawong et al.* 2011]. Furthermore, there are indications that RSL rates increased significantly at all locations (20–30 mm/y almost everywhere [*Saramul and Ezer* 2014]) after this earthquake.

Many studies have shown that in South China Sea, the interannual sea level variations are linked to ENSO [*Rong et al.* 2007; *Han and Huang* 2009; *Peng et al.* 2013] and to the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO, [*Deng et al.* 2013; *Wu et al.* 2014; *Strassburg et al.* 2015]). The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) influences interannual sea level variations in the southwestern (Malaysia Peninsula and Singapore Strait) and southeastern (Borneo Island) coastal regions [*Soumya et al.* 2015]. The sea level trends are greatly masked by a low-frequency variability associated with the PDO [*Strassburg et al.* 2015; *Cheng et al.* 2016]. Since 1990s, there has been a major phase shift of PDO; this phase shift is associated with an intensification of the trade winds at the equator, storing warm water and increasing sea level in the western tropical Pacific, and reducing it along the west coast of the Americas [*Merrifield et al.* 2012]. Hence, the accelerated sea level rise seems to be a part of global adjustment to this PDO phase shift [*Cheng et al.* 2016]. Thus, it is important to take into account this natural decadal variability in the future sea level trend estimates in the South China Sea, where sea level rise expected to be much more intense.

4.4.3. Western Tropical Pacific (WTP) Islands

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Over the past several decades, there is a large scientific consensus on the threat hanging over small islands, and, particularly, on the western tropical Pacific (WTP) islands, due to rising sea levels associated with global warming [*Nurse et al.* 2014]. The future stability, and survival, of the nations of these small islands is a major international concern. A large number of studies, using TG data, altimetry observations, past sea level reconstruction and global models, have revealed patterns of a recent enhanced sea level trend in the WTP (among others [*Church et al.* 2004; *Merrifield* 2011; *Becker et al.* 2012; *Merrifield et al.* 2012; *Meyssignac et al.* 2012b; *Zhang and Church* 2012]). Inspecting the updated PSMSL RLR data set, we found 22 TG records spanning more than 30 years in the WTP region. Interestingly, 12 out of 22 long-term stations (Table 4.6) reveal an increasing RSL, with a trend greater than the 20th century GMSL.

Merrifield [2011] highlighted an abrupt sea level rise in WTP since the early 1990s, compared to the last 40 years. *Becker et al.* [2012] showed that the RSL rate at Funafuti Island (Tuvalu) is ~5 mm/yr over 1950–2009, which is about 3 times larger than the GMSL rise over the same period. These results are confirmed by our estimates from the sea level reconstruction that estimates the trends in the range 4-5 mm/yr since 1960 (Figure 4.4) and 5-11 mm/yr since 1993 (Figure 4.3). In the WTP region, superimposed on these trends are transient interannual and decadal sea level variations of the order of ±20–30 cm [*Becker et al.* 2012]. This interannual and decadal sea level variability is attributed to low-frequency Pacific trade wind fluctuations, associated with low-frequency modulations of ENSO and PDO [*Merrifield*, 2011; *Zhang and Church* 2012; *Moon et al.* 2015; *Palanisamy et al.* 2015]. However, the processes operating over longer timescales, and especially the influence of the Indian Ocean, are still under debate [*Han et al.* 2014; *Moon et al.* 2015; *Mochizuki et al.* 2016]. *Han et al.* [2014] argued that the intensified decadal and multidecadal sea level variability results from a phase shift in sea surface temperature between the Indian Ocean and tropical Pacific. In addition, at many islands in this region, the RSL can be affected by crustal deformation due to volcanic and tectonic activities. For example, *Ballu et al.* [2011] reported large earthquake-related land subsidence at the Torres Islands (Vanuatu) between 1997 and 2009, which added to the absolute sea level, generating RSL rise of ~20 mm/yr.

The increased island sensitivity to changes in human settlement patterns, and in socioeconomic and environmental conditions, makes it far more difficult to detect and attribute climate change effects. This also remains a source of debate in the scientific community [*Nurse et al.* 2014].

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Over the past few decades, from a limited number of studies, no clear linkage between WTP island shoreline recession and recent sea level rise was found [*Webb and Kench* 2010; *Le Cozannet et al.* 2013; *Kench et al.* 2015; *McLean and Kench* 2015; *Duvat and Pillet* 2017] but net changes in shoreline position have been observed. However, *Kench et al.* [2015] question the islands' capacity to continue maintaining their current dynamic adjustment to higher rates of sea level change, as those expected by 2100. A recent study by *Albert et al.* [2016] highlights that the rates of some Salomon Islands shoreline recession are substantially higher in areas exposed to high wave energy, indicating a synergistic interaction between sea level rise and waves. Therefore, shoreline changes and floods seem to result from extreme events, and from maladaptive trajectories exacerbated by the sea level rise [*Duvat et al.* 2013].

4.4.4. Tropical Pacific RSL hotspots: Summary

- ***Acapulco (Mexican South Pacific coast***) with more than 700 000 inhabitants faces a sea level rise at a rate of 8 mm/yr, one of the fastest rates along the Pacific coast of America.

- ***Mekong Delta*** is a hotspot with an RSL rise of 7 mm/yr over 1987-2006. *Fujihara et al.* [2015] estimated that 80% of this rate is due to land subsidence. The delta is likely to subside even faster, at a rate of 10-40 mm/yr, as revealed by InSAR analysis over 2000-2010.

- ***Chao Phraya Delta*** *(Bangkok)* faces an RSL rise of 15 mm/yr, but the current subsidence is probably larger, being about 20 to 30 mm/yr [*Phien-wej et al.* 2006] with a milder ASL trend of 3-5 mm/yr.

- ***Jakarta megacity*** *(Indonesia)* is one of the world's cities most threatened by rising RSL with a high population density, fast land subsidence of 20 mm/yr or larger (InSAR 20-240 mm/yr), and an enhanced ASL rate of 5-7 mm/yr.

- ***Manila megacity*** *(Philippines)* is an indisputable RSL hotspot due to land movement induced by a variety of processes in this region. The contribution of ASL rise (5-7 mm/yr) and the interannual variations due to ENSO are not negligible either.

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- ***Almost all the Western Tropical Pacific Islands*** are subject to pronounced ASL rise. In combination with land subsidence induced by tectonic faults and the Pacific subduction zone (e.g. Vanuatu), some of the WTP islands can face rapid coastal submergence in the future.

4.5.Indian Ocean

4.5.1. Bay of Bengal

The Bay of Bengal (BoB), located in the northern Indian Ocean is surrounded to the east by Bangladesh and Myanmar, and to the west by India. The BoB is the largest bay in the world, and is unique in many ways. Today, a quarter of the world's population lives in its vicinity (~1.5 billion people from World Development Indicators, Mundial 2014) and more than 170 million people live below 10 m of coastal elevation (from LECZ, India - 7%, Bangladesh - 40%, Myanmar - 25% and Sri Lanka - 13% in percentage of the respective national population, Figure 4.1). The population is being concentrated in megacities such as Kolkata (India, ~15 million inhabitants), Chennai (India, ~10 millions), and Dhaka (Bangladesh, ~18 millions), and in large urban agglomerations (~ 4.5 millions) such as Chittagong in southeastern Bangladesh and Yangon in Myanmar (Figure 4.1). Additionally, Dhaka and Kolkata are megacities located in the low-lying Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) Delta, and Yangon in the Irrawaddy River Delta. Other major deltas along the India's east coast are the Krishna, Godavari and Mahanadi. *Syvitski et al.* [2009] revealed that all these deltas are already threatened by rising RSL. They classified the deltas as subject to: (i) high risk for the Krishna delta, due to virtually no deposition of sediment and accelerating compaction, (ii) greater risk: GBM and Irrawaddy deltas due to compaction of the soil exacerbating the low rate of sediment deposition; and (iii) significant risk: the Mahanadi and Godavari deltas, due to lower sediment deposition rates than that of ASL rise. The geographic and socio-economic situation of the BoB coast places it among the most vulnerable to climate change, and to RSL rise not only in South East Asia, but also in the world. *Rao et al.* [2008] demonstrated that, over the four past decades, pronounced coastal erosion along the Krishna and Godavari deltas is apparently due to sediment retention at dams. This result was confirmed by *Gupta et al.* [2012], who showed that increasing number of mega dams and reservoirs between 1978 and 2003 on the Krishna River (9 mega-dams), Godavari (9 mega-dams) and Mahanadi (2 mega-dams) could be an obvious reason for the observed decrease (>70%) in sediment supply. Concerning the GBM delta, *Sarwar and Woodroffe* [2013], using 20 years of Landsat satellite images, noticed that the entire delta coast changed

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761 little and erosion and accretion are relatively balanced. However, *Wilson and Goodbred* [2015]
762 highlighted three regions where sediment supply is insufficient to offset subsidence or erosion:
763 in the northeast (Sylhet Basin), along the Indian tidal delta plain and the fluvio-tidal transition
764 in the western and central parts of the delta. *Shearman et al.* [2013] documented, from 20 years
765 of Landsat satellite images, a net contraction of delta mangrove area, including the Sundarbans
766 region.
767
768 The RSL changes along the eastern coast of India, from West Bengal to Sri Lanka have been
769 previously estimated from two long-term (>60 years) TGs at Vishakhapatnam and Chennai
770 (RLR PSMSL) analyzed by: *Emery and Aubrey* [1989]; *Unnikrishnan and Shankar* [2007]; and
771 *Palanisamy et al.* [2014]. These studies found consistent RSL trends equal to 0.6 and 0.8 mm/yr
772 at Chennai and Vishakhapatnam (Table 4.7), respectively. Both values are significantly smaller
773 than the 20th century GMSL trend (still valid if GIA correction of ~ -0.4 mm/yr is applied).
774 Both stations are located at the border of the tectonically stable Precambrian shield and their
775 lower RSL trends were interpreted by *Emery and Aubrey* [1991] as consequence of land
776 submergence. However, the altimetry-derived and reconstructed ASL trends (Figure 4.3 and
777 4.4) near the eastern coast of India are about 1 mm/yr or larger than the RSL trends at Chennai
778 and Vishakhapatnam. Thus, the subsidence of the eastern coast of India does not seem to be
779 supported by these long-term RSL measurements.
780
781 In the northwest BoB, along the Hooghly River in West Bengal, *Emery and Aubrey* [1989]
782 found erratic RSL rates between -7 to 6 mm/yr at Saugor (1937-1982, 45yr, 4 mm/yr), Diamond
783 Harbour (1948-1982, 35yr, -7 mm/yr), Kidderpore (1881-1931, 24yr, 6 mm/yr) and Kolkata
784 (1932-1982, 50yr, -7 mm/yr). They finally omitted all these records because of a great influence
785 of cyclonic storm surges, floods, sediment compaction and datum shifts. *Nandy and*
786 *Bandopadhyay* [2011] estimated RSL trends based on three TGs (>30 yr) from the RLR PSMSL
787 dataset (Table 4.7): 1.2 mm/yr at Gangra (31 km from the sea coast), 2.8 mm/yr at Haldia (43
788 km from the sea) and 4 mm/yr at Diamond Harbour (70 km from the sea). They argued that this
789 trend variability appears to originate from the morphology of the landward-narrowing estuary,
790 with some contribution from sediment compaction. *Brammer*, [2014] detected a shift in 1975
791 in the Diamond Harbour TG, coinciding with the construction of the Farakka barrage across
792 the Ganges. This construction, and probably other upstream engineering works, may have
793 altered the RSL at Diamond Harbour, increasing the dry-season volume of freshwater

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discharge, extending toward the freshwater zone to the mouth of the estuary and impacting the tidal regime [*Sinha et al.* 1997].

Shared by India and Bangladesh, in the north of BoB, the Sundarbans region is the world's largest contiguous mangrove forest that covers approximately ~10 000 km^2 of the GBM delta, with 60% in Bangladesh and 40% in India [*Iftekhar and Saenger* 2008]. This area, directly threatened by sea level rise and alteration of freshwater flux, is recognized as a global priority for biodiversity conservation, especially regarding the Royal Bengal Tiger [*Loucks et al.* 2010]. *Brown and Nicholls*, [2015] reviewed available data, literature and documentary sources and created a database of subsidence rates in the Bengal delta. They concluded an average subsidence rate of 2.8 mm/yr in Sundarbans region, the lowest rate observed in GBM delta. *Loucks et al.* [2010], using high resolution elevation data and a scenario of sea level increasing (by 28 cm), warned that in 50 years the Sundarbans tigers could join the Arctic's polar bears on the list of victims of climate change-induced habitat loss. *Rahman et al.* [2011], using Landsat images, showed that the Sundarbans coastline is currently in net erosion and was losing on-an-average about 5 km^2/yr over 1973-2010 (~170km^2, i.e ~2%). *Payo Garcia et al.* [2016], through a numerical model with different sea level rise scenarios (rise by 46 cm or 75 cm) and taking a net subsidence of ±2.5 mm/yr, estimated that between 1 to 6% of Bangladesh Sundarbans area could be lost by 2100. The results obtained in this framework suggest that erosion, rather than inundation, may remain the dominant land loss driver by 2100. *Pethick and Orford* [2013] showed a rapid rise in RSL in the Sundarbans area. They used the only three available TGs, provided by Institute of Water Modelling of Bangladesh: Hiron Point (34yr), Mongla (20yr) and Khulna (72yr). In the RLR PSMSL dataset, we could find the Hiron Point and Khepupara TG records, but they turned out to be too short (<24 years) for long-term analysis. *Pethick and Orford* [2013] found strong RSL trends of: ~8 mm/yr at Hiron Point (at the mouth of Pussur Estuary), ~6 mm/yr at Mongla and ~3 mm/yr at Khulna (located 120 km inland). Moreover, they argued that the mean high water level was increasing at a much faster rate (14-17 mm/yr) and a large part of the signal can be attributed to tide amplification, constricted by embankments.

Along other low-lying coastal regions of Bangladesh, high population density, inadequate infrastructure and low adaptive capacity have made the urban residents highly vulnerable to climate change [*Milliman et al.* 1989; *Choudhury et al.* 1997; *Warrick and Ahmad* 2012]. Over

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827 28% of the total population (~48 million) live in urban agglomerations (World Bank indicators
828 [*Mundial* 2014]). This percentage, which was below 5% in 1974, is expected to reach to 45%
829 in 2030. At least 50% of the urban population (~23 million) live in three major cities: Dhaka,
830 Khulna, and Chittagong, where the land elevation, in whole or in part, is less than 10 meters
831 above sea level. *Hanson et al.* [2011] estimated that more than 11 million people will be
832 exposed to coastal flooding in 2070s at Dhaka, ~4 million at Khulna and ~3 million at
833 Chittagong.
834
835 *Higgins et al.* [2014], using InSAR satellite-based technique and GPS over 2007-2011, mapped
836 the subsidence within GBM delta in a region covering ~10000 km^2 of irrigated cropland
837 surrounding Dhaka city. The subsidence rate is about 10 mm/yr around Dhaka and may reach
838 18 mm/yr elsewhere in the area. *Brown and Nicholls* [2015] reported subsidence rates in the
839 range -1 to 44 mm/yr, with a mean of ~3 mm/yr. These rates are associated with four principal
840 processes: i) tectonics, ii) sediment compaction, iii) sedimentation, and iv) human activities
841 such as groundwater extraction, drainage and embankment building.
842
843 Some studies tried to estimate the effect of future RSL rise on Bangladesh coast. *Huq et al.*
844 [1995], among others, estimated that a 1-meter rise can flood ~17% of land area and lead to
845 displacement of more than 13 million people. *Arfanuzzaman et al.* [2016] estimated that with a
846 71 cm rise (with respect to 1980–1999 levels), up to 25% of Bangladesh wetlands could be lost
847 by 2100. *Ruane et al.* [2013] studied the impact of climate changes through different parameters
848 on agricultural production in Bangladesh. They show that the agriculture production in southern
849 Bangladesh is severely affected by sea level rise. The projections of production lost due to
850 coastal inundation, associated with 27 cm of sea level rise, could reach 20% in southern
851 Bangladesh (and 40% with 62 cm sea level rise).
852
853 Finally, there is no clear consensus about the response of the GBM delta to natural and human
854 forcings over decadal to century timescales. Moreover, all the studies on climate change
855 impacts focused on coastal flooding by applying a simplified sea level rise scenario, yet an
856 uncertainty of 10 centimeters of RSL rise may result in major consequences for local people
857 [*Lee* 2013]. Despite the crucial importance of this problem, very few studies have focused on
858 assessing the actual RSL rates along the Bangladesh coast.
859

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Singh [2002] estimated RSL trends from three TG records (22-year, 1977-1998) provided by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (BIWTA): in the west, at Hiron Point ~4 mm/yr, in the center, at Char Changa ~6 mm/yr and, in the east, at Cox's Bazar ~8 mm/yr. They argued that difference between these three RSL trends is probably due to local land subsidence in the eastern Bangladesh region (around Cox's Bazar). *Lee* [2013] used the Hiron Point TG record over 1990-2009 to reconstruct, by using ensemble empirical mode decomposition technique, the past RSL over 1950-2009 and found an RSL trend of ~8mm/yr. *Sarwar* [2013] used TG records, collected from the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), BIWTA and the Metric PSMSL dataset, and provided a comprehensive analysis of sea level changes in the region. They considered 13 TG records having at least 14 years of data, but a lot of discrepancies appeared in the trend analysis.

Along the Myanmar coast and within the Irrawady Delta, where ~11 million people live, only one long-term RLR TG record is available at PSMSL: the Yangon TG, operated during 1916-1962. Unfortunately, about 47% observations are missing in this record. There are also 3 old stations but with the record length under 10 years (Akyab, Moulmein and Amherst). It is an encouraging fact that since 2006 these locations have been re-instrumented and current data are now available from the Metric PSMSL dataset. The delta coast seems to be, more or less in equilibrium, and sediment deposition currently balances subsidence and sea level rise [*Hedley et al.* 2010]. This can be explained by fewer numbers of large dams relative to its Asian neighbors. However, this situation is now rapidly changing with extensive damming projects in the basin. At Yangon, *Hanson et al.* [2011] project that, by 2070s, more than 5 million people could be exposed to coastal flooding.

A large part of the recent RSL trends estimated in the eastern BoB can be attributed to the ASL rise. Over 1993-2014, the rate of ASL trend is in the range 3-5 mm/yr along the GBM coast and in the eastern part of the BoB, and 1.8-5 mm/yr along the eastern coast of India (Figure 4.3). Over 1960-2014, the sea level reconstruction gives an ASL trend of 2.5-3 mm/yr along the GBM coast and the eastern part of the BoB, and in 1.8-2.5 mm/yr along the east coast of India (Figure 4.4), which is greater than the 20th century GMSL.

This finding was previously reported by *Church et al.* [2004], who found the fastest rate of ASL rise (4-5 mm/yr) in the north-eastern Indian Ocean over the period 1955–2003. *Han et al.*

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[2010], combining *in situ* and satellite observations with climate model simulations, identified a significant sea-level rise since 1960s in Indian Ocean (except in its southern tropical region). They demonstrated that changing surface winds, linked to the strengthening of the Indian Ocean Walker and Hadley circulations, drive this pattern. However, a recent decadal reversal in the upper-ocean-temperature trends is observed in the North Indian Ocean (north of 5°S, [*Nieves et al.* 2015]). An increase in the sea surface height decadal rate of ~6 mm/yr was estimated between the period of 1993-2003 and that of 2004-2013 from analysis of satellite altimetry data [*Thompson et al.* 2016]. *Thompson et al.* [2016] showed, through numerical model simulations, that this reversal has resulted from the combined effects of changing upper-ocean heat redistribution and the cross-equatorial heat transport, both being associated with decadal changes of surface winds.

4.5.2. Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf and Maldives

The Arabian Sea is a region, in the northwest part of Indian Ocean, at strikingly intense geopolitical and economic crossroads, notably via marine trade route for oil and gas resources export. We find the major harbors of Kochi and Mumbai on the southwest coast of India, and further in the northwest, the largest and most frequented ports serving the Arabian Sea, and, in the northeast, the major port of Karachi in Pakistan. Mumbai and Karachi are two large global megacities (with more than 10 million inhabitants, Figure 4.1). The city of Karachi had a high population growth rate of 5.3% over 1960-2010 [*Singh* 2014]. On average, over the same period, Asian megacities faced an annual population growth rate of 3.7% against a rate of 2.6% in in the rest of the world [*Singh* 2014]. Mumbai, with a current population of about 20 million, expects to achieve a 35%-growth rate by 2025, and in Karachi, the current population of 14 million is expected to see an increase of 45% by 2025 [*Kourtit and Nijkamp* 2013]. These cities already face major challenges of flooding and aquifer salinization, amplified by regional sea level rise. The situation is being further aggravated in the Indus Delta along Pakistan's coast, in Sindh province. This river system, among the largest deltas on Earth, is dominated by human activity since 19th century and is presently affected by (1) artificial flood levees, (2) barrages and their irrigation canals, (3) sediment impoundment behind upstream reservoirs, and (4) inter-basin diversion [*Syvitski et al.* 2013]. Consequently, there is a drastic reduction of sediment flux by more than 90% [Giosan et al. 2006; Syvitski and Kettner 2011], which increases coastal retreat, seawater intrusion and flooding. Moreover, Ferrier et al. [2015] showed that, in the

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Indus delta over the past 100 years, as much as ~0.5mm/yr of the sea level trend can be linked to erosion and deposition of sediment since the last glacial–interglacial cycles. Another important process occurs in this specific region: the influence of the groundwater depletion, deforming the Earth's solid surface and depressing the geoid and slowing sea level rise near areas of significant groundwater loss [Veit and Conrad 2016]. Veit and Conrad [2016] define important groundwater depletion regions in Northwest India, Northeast Pakistan and in the Arabian Peninsula, with a consequential slowdown in sea level rise by ~0.5 ± 0.1 mm/yr since 1930. Their work suggests that RSL in this region is currently as much as ~50 mm lower than it would be in the absence of global groundwater depletion.

Emery and Aubrey [1989] investigated the relative long-term sea level from the Indian TGs during 1878-1982. On the west coast of India, they selected 3 TGs from the PSMSL dataset at Mumbai (also known as Bombay), Mangalore and Kochi (or Cochin) with a time length sufficient to detect significant changes. The longest and most coherent is the record of Mumbai (105 years, 1878-1982) presenting a significant linear sea level trend of -0.9 mm/yr, followed by the Kochi record (43 years, 1878-1982) with a trend of 1.3 mm/yr and the Mangalore series (24 years, 1953-1976) that has a -2.1 mm/yr trend. These trends show a strong discrepancy, probably due to differences in the record lengths. *Unnikrishnan and Shankar* [2007] conducted complete reanalysis of these records. They estimated significant RSL trends from PSMSL TGs having at least 40 years length. In Arabian Sea, the TGs of Aden (58 years, 1880-1969), Karachi (44 years, 1916-1992), Mumbai (113 years, 1878-1993), and Cochin (54 years, 1939-2003) were selected. The RSL rise estimated from these stations is between 1.1–1.7 mm/yr. We updated the RSL trends at Cochin to be 0.7 mm/yr and at Mumbai to be 1.5 mm/yr (Table 4.8), and ~1.8–2.5 mm/yar from the sea level reconstruction (Figure 4.4). Over 1993-2014, the rate of sea level rise over the Arabian Sea from satellite altimeter is ~1.5–3.5 mm/year (Figure 4.2). Although slightly lower, these estimates are consistent with GMSL rates.

Alothman et al. [2014] focused on the long-term sea level rise in the northwestern Persian Gulf. The average of 15 TGs records, obtained from PSMSL, produces a RSL rate of 2.4 mm/yr for the period 1979–2007. Using 6 GPS stations, they estimated a subsidence rate of −0.7 mm/yr in this region, in part due to excessive pumping in agricultural areas and wetting of unstable soils [*Amin and Bankher* 1997].

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The Maldives, located from 7°N to 0.5°S in the northeastern Arabian Sea, consists of 1190 small islands with 80% of the land area to be less than 1 m above sea level [*Khan et al.* 2002]. These atoll islands are morphologically sensitive to floods, tsunamis, and sea-level changes [*Kench et al.* 2006]. Several studies detected a recent trend of sea level rise at the Maldives [*Khan et al.* 2002; *Woodworth* 2005; *Church et al.* 2006; *Palanisamy et al.* 2014]. *Palanisamy et al.* [2014] compared two longest TGs: Malé and Gan (~20 years of length, available from PSMSL dataset), with satellite altimetry and past sea level reconstruction. They inferred a significant rate of ASL rise at these two sites of ~1.4 ± 0.4 mm/yr over 1950-2009. This rate is slightly lower than the GMSL rate over the same period. However, it only represents the climatic-component of sea level changes, and therefore does not take into account local subsidence that can amplify the RSL change, i.e., directly felt by the population. Now, it is crucial more than ever to estimate with accuracy the rate of vertical land motion at these sites, because the ongoing and future sea level rise subjects the population of the low-lying Maldives to enhanced vulnerability.

The nation of Mauritius, in the southwest, lives on a group of islands consisting of the main islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega and the archipelago of Saint Brandon. Two TG records with 30-years length are available from the RLR PSMSL dataset in: the capital of Mauritius Port Louis, where we found an RSL rate of ~4 mm/yr, and the Rodrigues Island with an RSL trend of ~6mm/yr (Table 4.8). These high rates are confirmed by the ASL trends from the sea level reconstruction (3-4 mm/yr,Figure 4.4) and from altimetry (5-7 mm/yr, Figure 4.3).

Globally, long-term, interannual and decadal changes in the sea level of the Arabian Sea have rarely been a subject of specific studies, probably due to the lack of historical quality data; the focus has primarily been on the regional physical oceanography of the northern Indian Ocean or that of the Bay of Bengal.

An important feature was highlighted by *Clarke and Liu* [1994] who pointed that the interannual sea level signal along the Indian west coast, from the equator to Mumbai, is generated by zonal interannual winds blowing along the equator. *Shankar and Shetye* [1999] demonstrated that the interdecadal sea level variations recorded by the Mumbai TG closely follow the monsoon rainfall over the Indian subcontinent. They explained this by the changes in salinity in coastal waters, due to the seasonal fluctuations in river runoff, related to the strength of the monsoon, and to the dynamics of ocean currents along the Indian coast.

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Shankar et al. [2010] pointed to a much weaker interannual variability, in terms of low frequency, of the Indian west coast compared to the east coast. *Aparna et al.* [2012] demonstrated that the dominant climatic signals, IOD and ENSO, do not display any coherent response along the eastern Arabian Sea, in contrast to the Bay of Bengal. *Suresh et al.* [2013] showed that the Indian west coast intraseasonal sea level variations are mostly remotely forced by the winds from equatorial region and *Suresh et al.* [2016] demonstrated that winds near Sri Lanka drive 60% of Indian west coast and eastern Arabian Sea seasonal sea level. The Mumbai TG, the unique century-long TG record in the Indian Ocean, was used by *Becker et al.* [2014] to detect human influence on sea level rise. They provided statistical evidence, from the power-law statistics framework, that 64% (i.e, ~0.7 mm/yr) of the observed sea level trend at Mumbai over the 20th century could be induced by externally driven changes in the Indian Ocean currents.

4.5.3. Indian Ocean RSL hotspots: Summary

- ***Bangladesh coast*** is a sea level hotspot because of high density of coastal population that experiences devastating impact of cyclones on interannual time scale and RSL rise is enhanced by land subsidence on the decadal scale.
- ***Irrawaddy Delta*** is another sea level hotspot with 11 million people living in the region. A combination of 3-5 mm/yr in the ASL rise with land subsidence of 6 mm/yr [*Syvitski et al.* 2009] leads to an RSL rise of more than 10 mm/yr.
- ***Mauritus Island***: A site potentially threatened by an RSL rise of 4-6 mm/yr over the past 30 years, and an indication of the ASL rising 2 to 3 times faster than the 20th century GMSL.

4.6.Conclusion

This chapter brings together sea level observations, and analyzes similarities and differences in past RSL changes along the tropical coasts. We first reviewed the concept of RSL and the drivers of its regional variations. We defined the RSL hotspots and described the different types of observations used to estimate it. Second, we have identified a number of RSL hotspots per oceanic basin. We highlighted the vulnerability of the tropical deltaic coasts, more specifically those of Asia, and a current knowledge gap for priority-populated areas such as Brazil, Indonesia, Philippines and Bangladesh. Obviously, this hotspot list is far from being exhaustive,

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1017 because most of these regions are still not sufficiently well instrumented with quality TGs and
1018 collocated GPS stations. While waiting for obtaining in the future precise and accurate long-
1019 term sea level *in situ* measurements, new space missions are expected to provide
1020 unprecedentedly precise observations of sea level changes along the tropical coasts (e.g. the
1021 satellite missions Saral/Altika, Sentinel-3/6, Jason-CS, SWOT).

1022 Understanding and forecasting of the RSL critical thresholds along low-lying heavily populated
1023 tropical coastlines are among the most vital societal issues. High priority should be given to the
1024 development of integrated, multidisciplinary approaches to understanding the imprint of
1025 different geophysical coastal processes on the present-day RSL changes. Assessment of coastal
1026 vulnerability, in order to take appropriate measures to protect populations, can only be
1027 determined if the RSL threshold, and even more its uncertainty, are properly estimated.

1028

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1035 *gauge records, altimetric and GPS data, as well as corrections and accuracies, quickly and*
1036 *easily available for the community. We acknowledge B. Meyssignac, from LEGOS/CNES, for*
1037 *supplying the past sea level reconstruction dataset.*

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1039 **Figures :**

1040

Preprint of: Becker, M., Karpytchev, M., & Papa, F. (2018). Hotspots of relative sea level rise in the Tropics. In Tropical Extremes: Natural Variability and Trends (pp. 203–251). Elsevier. Retrieved from *www.elsevier.com/books/tropical-extremes-natural-variability-and-trends/vuruputur/978-0-12-809248-4*

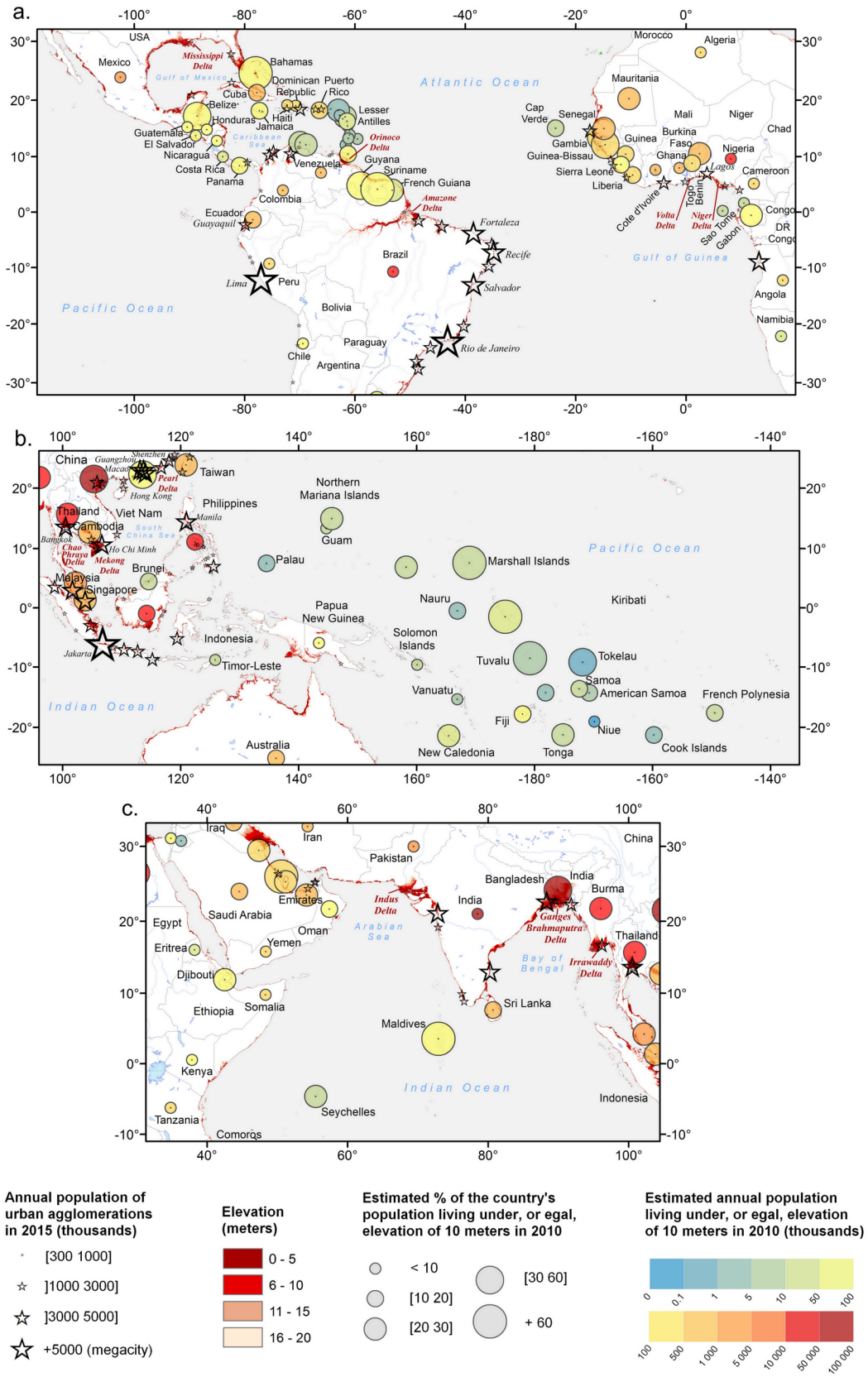

Figure 4.1: Map of the sub regions between 30°N to 30°S included in this global literature review. Annual estimated Population of Urban Agglomerations with 300,000 Inhabitants or more in 2014 (from the UN World Urbanization Prospects 2014, https://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/cd-Rom/), located, in whole or in part, in contiguous coastal elevations less than or equal to 10 meters in 2016. The global digital elevation model GTOPO30 (https://lta.cr.usgs.gov/GTOPO30) is used to map elevation less than 20 meters.

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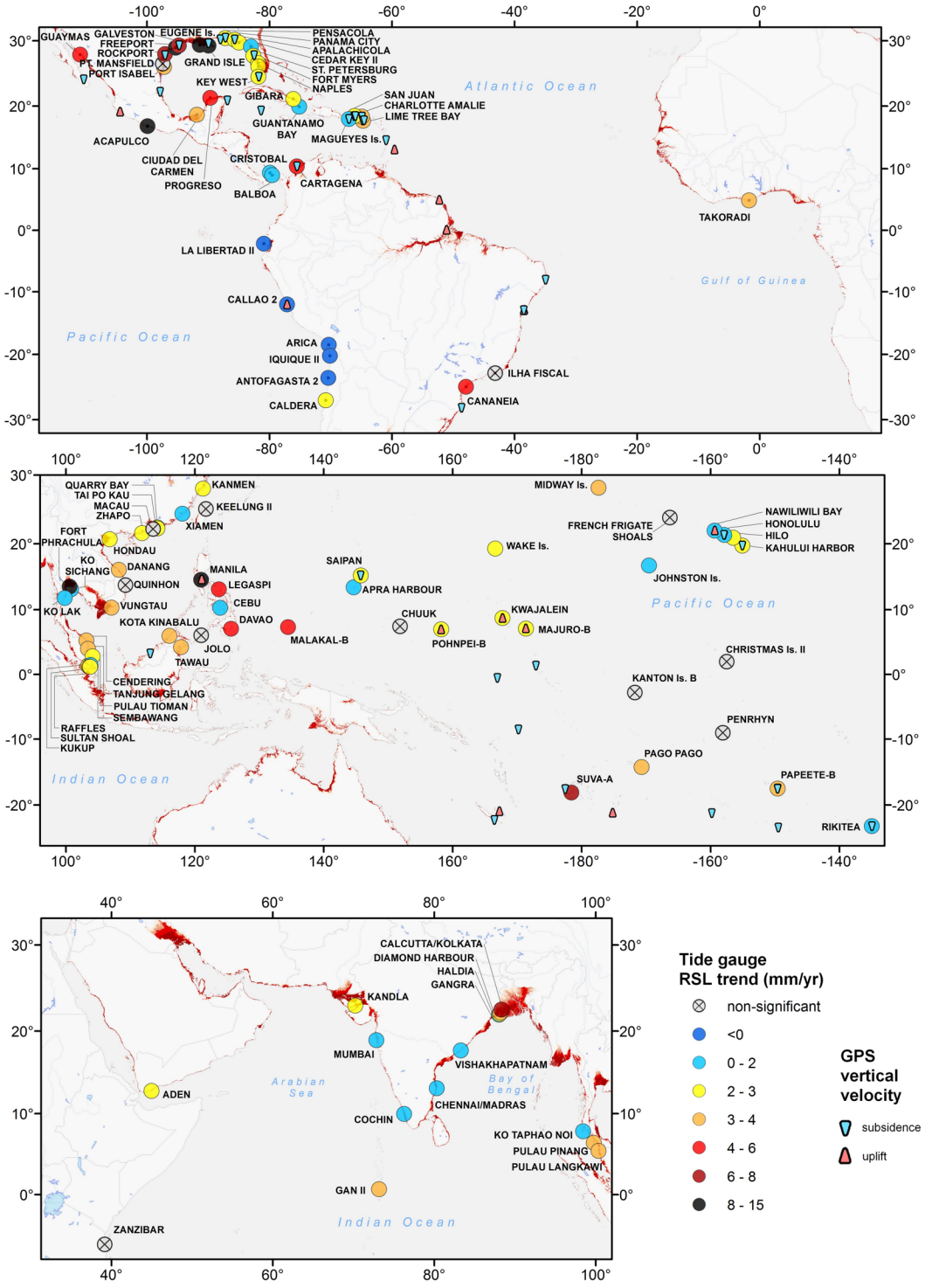

Figure 4.2: Geographic distribution of the tide gauge records, and their linear trends (mm/yr), available from the RLR PSMSL dataset and GPS stations from ULR6 SONEL database.

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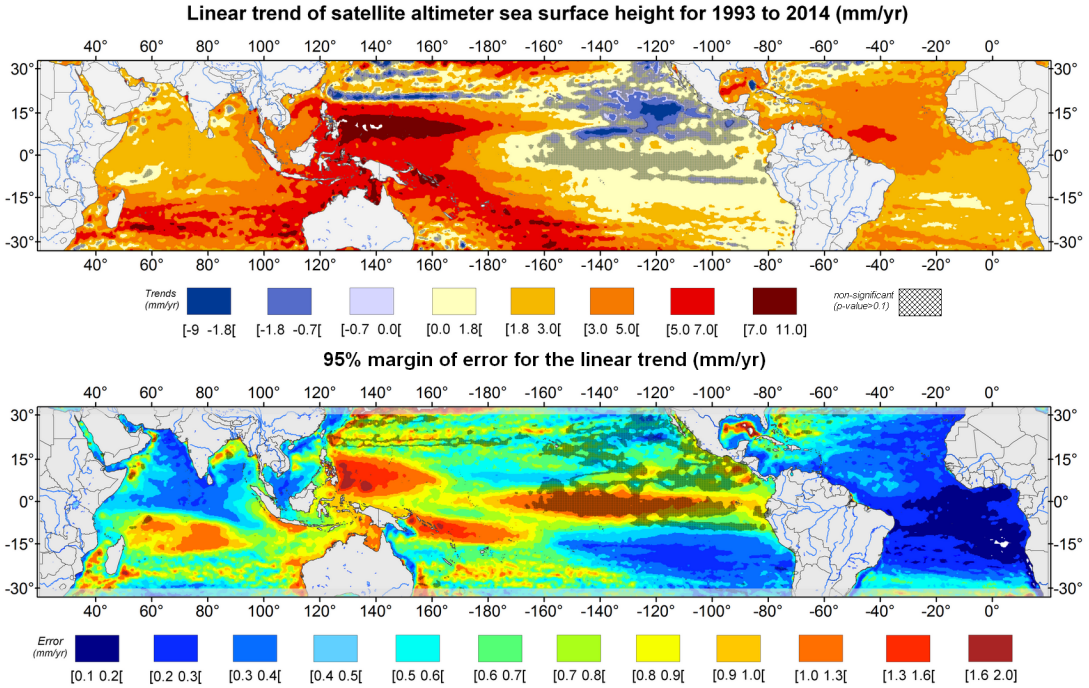

Figure 4.3: (a) Geographic distribution of sea surface height linear trends (mm/yr) for 1993 to 2014 based on satellite altimetry. Shaded area represents non-significant trends (p-value>0.1). (b) 95% margin of error for the linear regression equation (mm/yr).

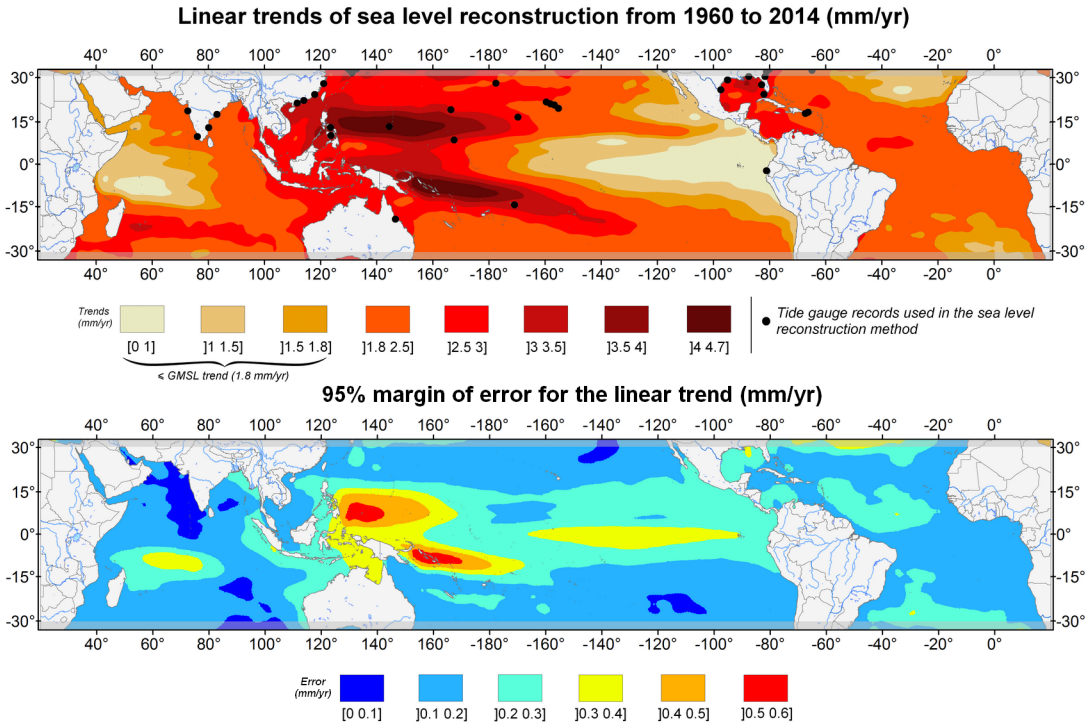

Figure 4.4: (a) Geographic distribution of sea surface height linear trends (mm/yr) for 1960 to 2014 based on sea level reconstruction in the past. Shaded area represents non-significant trends (p-value>0.1). Black dots represent the tide gauge records used in the reconstruction method. (b) 95% margin of error for the linear regression equation (mm/yr).

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Table 4.1: Atlantic - Eastern South America

Locations, time spans and trends of RLR PSMSL tide gauges and SONEL GPS stations. Error corresponds to 95% margin of error for the linear trend. The symbol --- corresponds to non-significant trend (p-value>0.1).

Tide gauge from PSMSL

COUNTRY	ID	NAME	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	RSL TREND (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Brazil	726	CANANEIA	-25.02	-47.93	1955-2004	50	4.1	0.7
Brazil	1032	ILHA FISCAL	-22.90	-43.17	1971-2013	43	---	---

GPS - ULR6 from SONEL

Country	ID	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	TIDE GAUGE	DISTANCE	VERTICAL VELOCITY (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
French Guiana	CAYN	4.95	-52.30	2005-2013	9	Cayenne	11km	1.0	1.0
Brazil	MAPA	0.05	-51.10	2003-2013	11	Santana	14km	1.0	0.4
Brazil	RECF	-8.05	-34.95	1999-2013	15	Recife	9km	-2.4	0.3
Brazil	SAVO	-12.93	-38.43	2007-2013	7	Salvador	10km	0.4	0.4
Brazil	SSA1	-12.98	-38.52	2007-2013	7	Salvador	150m	-0.5	0.4
Brazil	SALV	-13.00	-38.51	1999-2008	10	Salvador	4km	0.2	0.4
Brazil	NEIA	-25.02	-47.92	2002-2013	12	Cananeia	10m	0.0	0.3
Brazil	IMBT	-28.23	-48.66	2007-2013	7	Imbituba	700m	-1.1	0.4

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Table 4.2: Atlantic - Caribbean Sea

Locations, time spans and trends of RLR PSMSL tide gauges and SONEL GPS stations. Error corresponds to 95% margin of error for the linear trend. The symbol ---corresponds to non-significant trend (p-value>0.1).

Tide gauge from PSMSL

COUNTRY	ID	NAME	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	RSL TREND (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Colombia	572	CARTAGENA	10.40	-75.55	1949-1992	44	5.2	0.5
Panama	169	CRISTOBAL	9.35	-79.92	1909-1979	71	1.4	0.3
Virgin Is. US	1447	LIME TREE BAY	17.69	-64.75	1984-2015	32	3.1	1.0
Virgin Is. US	1393	CHARLOTTE AMALIE	18.34	-64.92	1985-2015	31	3.3	1.2
Porto Rico	1001	SAN JUAN	18.46	-66.12	1963-2015	53	2.1	0.5
Porto Rico	759	MAGUEYES ISLAND	17.97	-67.05	1955-2015	61	1.7	0.4
Cuba	418	GUANTANAMO BAY	19.91	-75.15	1938-1971	34	1.8	0.8
Cuba	563	GIBARA	21.11	-76.13	1976-2014	39	2.0	1.0

GPS - ULR6 from SONEL

Country	ID	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	TIDE GAUGE	DISTANCE	VERTICAL VELOCITY (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Mexico	UNPM	20.87	-86.87	2007-2013	7	Puerto Morelos	146m	-1.9	0.4
Colombia	CART	10.39	-75.53	2000-2008	9	Cartagena	2km	-2.2	0.5
Cayman Is.	GCGT	19.29	-81.38	2005-2011	7	South Sound	7km	-1.4	0.2
Puerto Rico	BYSP	18.40	-66.16	2008-2013	6	San Juan	9km	-1.3	0.8
Puerto Rico	PRMI	17.97	-67.05	2006-2013	8	Magueyes	500m	-0.4	0.2
Puerto Rico	MAYZ	18.22	-67.16	2010-2013	4	Mayaguez	2m	---	---
Puerto Rico	ZSU1	18.43	-65.99	2003-2011	9	San Juan	10km	-1.1	0.3
Virgin Is. US	STVI	18.34	-64.97	2008-2013	6	Charlotte	6km	-1.6	0.5
Virgin Is. US	VITH	18.33	-64.92	2006-2013	8	Charlotte	5km	-1.3	0.3
Virgin Is. US	VIKH	17.71	-64.80	2006-2013	8	Lime tree bay	4km	-2.9	0.3
Virgin Is. US	CR01	17.76	-64.58	1994-2013	20	Christiansted	13km	-1.1	0.4
French West Indies	ABMF	16.26	-61.52	2008-2013	6	Pointe-à-Pitre	4km	---	---
French West Indies	LMMF	14.59	-60.99	2008-2013	6	Fort de France	7km	-3.6	0.5
Barbados	BDOS	13.09	-59.61	2004-2013	10	Bridgetown	3km	0.4	0.5

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Table 4.3: Atlantic - Gulf of Mexico

Locations, time spans and trends of RLR PSMSL tide gauges and SONEL GPS stations. Error corresponds to 95% margin of error for the linear trend. The symbol --- corresponds to non-significant trend (p-value>0.1).

Tide gauge from PSMSL

COUNTRY	ID	NAME	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	RSL TREND (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Mexico	690	PROGRESO	21.30	-89.67	1952-1984	33	5.2	1.0
Mexico	796	CIUDAD DEL CARMEN	18.63	-91.85	1957-1987	31	3.6	1.2
USA	497	PORT ISABEL	26.06	-97.22	1945-2015	71	3.9	0.4
USA	1038	PORT MANSFIELD	26.55	-97.42	1964-1995	32	---	---
USA	538	ROCKPORT	28.02	-97.05	1964-2014	51	6.1	0.8
USA	725	FREEPORT	28.95	-95.31	1955-2007	53	8.8	1.2
USA	828	GALVESTON I	29.29	-94.79	1958-2010	53	6.7	0.8
USA	161	GALVESTON II	29.31	-94.79	1909-2015	107	6.4	0.3
USA	440	EUGENE ISLAND	29.37	-91.39	1940-1974	35	9.7	1.5
USA	526	GRAND ISLE	29.26	-89.96	1947-2015	69	9.0	0.5
USA	246	PENSACOLA	30.40	-87.21	1924-2015	92	2.2	0.3
USA	1641	PANAMA CITY	30.15	-85.67	1985-2015	31	3.0	1.1
USA	1193	APALACHICOLA	29.73	-84.98	1968-2015	48	2.1	0.8
USA	428	CEDAR KEY II	29.14	-83.03	1939-2015	77	1.8	0.3
USA	520	ST. PETERSBURG	27.76	-82.63	1947-2015	69	2.7	0.3
USA	1106	FORT MYERS	26.65	-81.87	1966-2015	50	2.9	0.6
USA	1107	NAPLES	26.13	-81.81	1966-2015	50	2.5	0.6
USA	188	KEY WEST	24.56	-81.81	1913-2015	103	2.4	0.2

GPS - ULR6 from SONEL

Country	ID	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	TIDE GAUGE	DISTANCE	VERTICAL VELOCITY (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Mexico	TAMP	22.23	-97.86	2007-2013	7	Ciudad Madero	7km	-0.8	0.4
USA	ARP3	27.83	-97.06	1995-2006	12	Port Aransas	1km	-1.3	0.4
USA	TXGA	29.33	-94.77	2005-2013	9	Galveston	3km	-3.4	0.8
USA	GAL1	29.33	-94.74	1995-2003	9	Galveston	6km	-4.6	0.8
USA	GRIS	29.62	-89.96	2004-2013	10	Grand Isle	100m	-6.5	0.5
USA	MOB1	30.23	-88.02	1996-2009	14	Dauphin Is.	6km	-3.1	0.4
USA	PCLA	30.47	-87.19	2004-2013	10	Pensacola	8km	-0.4	0.4
USA	PNCY	30.20	-85.68	2001-2010	10	Panama City	6km	-0.2	0.4
USA	MCD5	27.85	-82.53	2007-2013	7	St Petersburg	14km	-1.6	0.4
USA	MCD1	27.85	-82.53	2001-2007	7	St Petersburg	13km	-0.3	0.7
USA	KWST	24.55	-81.75	2002-2013	12	Key West	5km	-1.1	0.4
USA	CHIN	24.55	-81.81	2007-2013	7	Key West	400m	---	---

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Table 4.4: Pacific - Central America and South America

Locations, time spans and trends of RLR PSMSL tide gauges and SONEL GPS stations. Error corresponds to 95% margin of error for the linear trend. The symbol ---corresponds to non-significant trend (p-value>0.1).

Tide gauge from PSMSL

COUNTRY	ID	NAME	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	RSL TREND (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Mexico	693	GUAYMAS	27.92	-110.90	1952-1989	38	4.4	1.4
Mexico	686	ACAPULCO	16.83	-99.92	1967-2000	34	8.4	3.0
Panama	163	BALBOA	8.97	-79.57	1908-2015	108	1.5	0.2
Ecuador	544	LA LIBERTAD II	-2.20	-80.92	1950-2002	53	-1.3	1.0
Peru	1274	CALLAO 2	-12.05	-77.15	1970-2014	45	-0.3	1.2
Chile	618	ARICA	-18.47	-70.33	1952-1991	40	-0.7	1.5
Chile	2261	IQUIQUE II	-20.20	-70.15	1986-2015	30	-1.1	1.8
Chile	510	ANTOFAGASTA 2	-23.65	-70.40	1946-2015	70	-0.8	0.5
Chile	619	CALDERA	-27.07	-70.83	1951-1991	41	2.8	0.9

GPS - ULR6 from SONEL

Country	ID	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	TIDE GAUGE	DISTANCE	VERTICAL VELOCITY (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Mexico	SLCR	16.17	-95.20	2008-2012	5	Salina Cruz	1m	---	---
Mexico	LPAZ	24.14	-110.32	2006-2012	7	La Paz	3km	-1.1	0.3
Mexico	UCOM	19.12	-104.40	2007-2012	6	Manzanillo	12km	0.7	0.6
Mexico	ACYA	16.84	-99.90	2004-2012	9	Acapulco	1m	---	---
Peru	CALL	-12.06	-77.15	2009-2013	5	Callao	1km	2.0	0.6

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Table 4.5: Pacific - Southeast Asia

Locations, time spans and trends of RLR PSMSL tide gauges and SONEL GPS stations. Error corresponds to 95% margin of error for the linear trend. The symbol ---corresponds to non-significant trend (p-value>0.1).

Tide gauge from PSMSL

COUNTRY	ID	NAME	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	RSL TREND (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
VietNam	841	HONDAU	20.67	106.80	1957-2013	57	2.1	0.6
VietNam	1449	QUINHON	13.77	109.25	1977-2013	37	---	---
VietNam	1475	DANANG	16.10	108.22	1978-2013	36	3.2	1.0
VietNam	1495	VUNGTAU	10.33	107.07	1979-2013	35	3.6	1.4
Thailand	449	KO SICHANG	13.15	100.82	1940-2002	63	0.8	0.5
Thailand	444	FORT PHRACHULA	13.55	100.58	1940-2015	76	14.7	0.9
Thailand	174	KO LAK	11.80	99.82	1940-2015	76	0.8	0.5
Malaysia	1592	CENDERING	5.27	103.19	1985-2014	30	3.3	1.1
Malaysia	1589	TANJUNG GELANG	3.98	103.43	1984-2015	32	3.3	0.9
Malaysia	1678	PULAU TIOMAN	2.81	104.14	1986-2015	30	2.8	1.2
Malaysia	1677	KUKUP	1.33	103.44	1986-2015	30	3.6	1.3
Singapore	724	SEMBAWANG	1.47	103.83	1972-2015	44	1.8	0.7
Singapore	1248	SULTAN SHOAL	1.23	103.65	1972-2015	44	2.9	0.9
Singapore	1351	RAFFLES	1.17	103.75	1980-2015	36	2.7	1.1
Malaysia	1733	KOTA KINABALU	5.98	116.07	1988-2015	28	3.9	1.9
Malaysia	1734	TAWAU	4.23	117.88	1988-2015	28	4.0	2.8
Philippines	260	JOLO. SULU	6.07	121.00	1948-1994	47	---	---
Philippines	145	MANILA	14.58	120.97	1948-2015	68	13.8	0.7
Philippines	394	CEBU	10.30	123.92	1948-2015	68	0.9	0.7
Philippines	522	LEGASPI	13.15	123.75	1949-2009	61	5.5	0.7
Philippines	537	DAVAO	7.08	125.63	1949-1992	44	5.3	1.2
Tawain	545	KEELUNG II	25.13	121.73	1956-1994	39	---	---
China	934	KANMEN	28.08	121.28	1959-2015	57	2.2	0.4
China	727	XIAMEN	24.45	118.07	1954-2003	50	1.1	0.8
China	933	ZHAPO	21.58	111.82	1959-2015	57	2.2	0.5
Hong Kong	1034	TAI PO KAU	22.44	114.18	1963-2015	53	3.0	0.8
Hong Kong	333	NORTH POINT	22.30	114.20	1950-1985	36	---	---
Hong Kong	1674	QUARRY BAY	22.29	114.21	1986-2015	30	2.8	1.7
Macao	269	MACAU	22.20	113.55	1925-1982	58	---	---

GPS - ULR6 from SONEL

Country	ID	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	TIDE GAUGE	DISTANCE	VERTICAL VELOCITY (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Malaysia	GETI	6.22	102.11	1998-2002	5	Geting	5m	---	---
Malaysia	KUAL	5.32	103.14	2007-2013	7	Cendering	8km	---	---
Malaysia	UMSS	6.04	116.11	2007-2013	7	Kota Kinabalu	8km	---	---
Malaysia	JUML	2.21	102.26	2004-2013	10	Tanjung Keling	11km	---	---
Malaysia	BIN1	3.24	113.09	2007-2011	5	Bintulu	4km	-3.2	0.5
Singapore	NTUS	1.35	103.68	1997-2013	17	Jurong	7km	---	---
Philippines	PIMO	14.64	121.08	1998-2010	13	Manila	13km	2.7	0.6

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Table 4.6: Pacific - Western Tropical Pacific Islands

Locations, time spans and trends of RLR PSMSL tide gauges and SONEL GPS stations. Error corresponds to 95% margin of error for the linear trend. The symbol ---corresponds to non-significant trend (p-value>0.1).

Tide gauge from PSMSL

COUNTRY	ID	NAME	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	RSL TREND (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Palau	1252	MALAKAL-B	7,33	134,47	1976-2014	39	4,1	2,5
Guam	540	APRA HARBOUR	13,44	144,65	1948-2015	68	1,8	0,9
Northern Mariana Is.	1474	SAIPAN	15,23	145,75	1979-2014	36	2,8	2,1
Micronesia	528	CHUUK	7,45	151,85	1953-1986	34	---	---
Micronesia	1370	POHNPEI-B	6,98	158,23	1976-2014	39	2,6	1,7
Marshall Is.	595	WAKE ISLAND	19,29	166,62	1951-2015	65	2	0,5
Marshall Is.	513	KWAJALEIN	8,73	167,74	1947-2015	69	2,2	0,7
Marshall Is.	1217	MAJURO-B	7,10	171,37	1969-2001	33	3	1,8
Fiji	1327	SUVA-A	-18,14	178,42	1988-2015	28	6,7	1,9
French Polynesia	1253	RIKITEA	-23,12	-134,97	1970-2014	45	1,7	0,6
French Polynesia	1397	PAPEETE-B	-17,53	-149,57	1970-2014	45	3,3	0,8
USA	300	HILO	19,73	-155,06	1947-2015	69	2,9	0,5
USA	521	KAHULUI HARBOR	20,90	-156,48	1951-2015	65	1,9	0,5
USA	155	HONOLULU	21,31	-157,87	1905-2015	111	1,4	0,2
USA	756	NAWILIWILI BAY	21,95	-159,36	1955-2015	61	1,5	0,5
USA	1372	FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS	23,87	-166,28	1975-2005	31	---	---
USA	598	JOHNSTON ISLAND	16,74	-169,53	1950-2002	53	0,8	0,7
USA	523	MIDWAY ISLAND	28,21	-177,36	1982-2015	34	3,8	1,2
Cook Is.	1450	PENRHYN	-9,02	-158,07	1978-2014	37	---	---
American Samoa	539	PAGO PAGO	-14,28	-170,69	1949-2015	67	3,2	0,7
Kiribati	1329	KANTON ISLAND-B	-2,82	-171,72	1973-2011	39	---	---
Kiribati	1371	CHRISTMAS ISLAND II	1,98	-157,48	1981-2014	34	---	---

GPS - ULR6 from SONEL

Country	ID	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	TIDE GAUGE	DISTANCE	VERTICAL VELOCITY (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Cook Is.	CKIS	-21,20	-159,80	2002-2013	12	Rarotonga B	3km	-0,5	0,4
Fiji	LAUT	-17,61	177,45	2002-2013	12	Lautoka	1km	-1,2	0,3
French Loyalty Is.	LPIL	-20,92	167,26	1997-2013	17	Lifou	2km	0,2	0,5
French New Caledonia	NRMD	-22,23	166,48	2006-2013	8	Noumea	9km	-1,9	0,2
French Austral Is.	TBTG	-23,34	-149,48	2008-2013	6	Tubuai	1m	-0,33	0,5
French Polynesia	GAMB	-23,13	-134,96	2000-2003	4	Rikitea	900m	-1	0,4
French Polynesia	PAPE	-17,53	-149,57	2003-2013	11	Papeete	1m	-1,9	0,2
French Polynesia	FAA1, TAH2	-17,55	-149,61	2007-2011	5	Papeete	6km	-1,8	0,5
French Polynesia	TAH1, THTI	-17,58	-149,61	2000-2013	14	Papeete	6km	-1	0,3
Kiribati	KIRI	1,35	172,92	2002-2013	12	Tarawa C	2km	-0,2	0,2
Marshall Is.	KWJ1	8,72	167,73	1996-2002	7	Kwajalein	1km	0,5	0,4
Marshall Is.	MAJU	7,12	171,36	2007-2013	7	Majuro	2km	0,8	0,4
Micronesia	POHN	6,96	158,21	2003-2013	11	Pohnpei	3km	0,8	0,4
Palau	PALA	7,34	134,48	1996-2001	6	Malakal	3km	---	---
Rep. of Nauru	NAUR	-0,55	166,93	2003-2013	11	Nauru	3km	-1	0,3
Samoa	SAMO	-13,85	-171,74	2001-2013	13	Apia B	4km	---	---
Solomon Is.	SOLO	-9,43	159,95	2010-2013	4	Honiara B	1km	---	---
Tonga	TONG	-21,14	-175,18	2002-2013	12	Nuku'Alofa B	800m	3	0,4
USA	CNMR	15,23	145,74	2003-2013	11	Saipan	600m	-1,2	0,2
USA	HNLC	21,30	-157,86	1997-2013	17	Honolulu	1m	-0,2	0,2
USA	HILO	19,72	-155,05	1999-2009	11	Hilo	1km	-1,1	0,2
USA	ASPA	-14,32	-170,72	2001-2009	9	Pago Pago	7km	---	---
USA	LHUE	21,98	-159,34	1999-2004	6	Nawiliwili	4km	0,5	0,6
USA	ZHN1	21,31	-157,92	2002-2013	12	Honolulu	6km	-0,6	0,3
Vanuatu	VANU	-17,74	168,32	2002-2012	11	Port Vila B	1km	---	---
Tuvalu	TUVA	-8,53	170,20	2002-2013	12	Funafuti B	3km	-1,7	0,2

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Table 4.7: Indian Ocean - Bay of Bengal

Locations, time spans and trends of RLR PSMSL tide gauges and SONEL GPS stations. Error corresponds to 95% margin of error for the linear trend. The symbol ---corresponds to non-significant trend (p-value>0.1).

Tide gauge from PSMSL

COUNTRY	ID	NAME	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	RSL TREND (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
India	205	CHENNAI / MADRAS	13.10	80.30	1953-2012	60	0.6	0.5
India	414	VISHAKHAPATNAM	17.68	83.28	1937-2011	75	0.8	0.5
India	1369	GANGRA	21.95	88.02	1974-2006	33	1.2	1.6
India	1270	HALDIA	22.03	88.10	1971-2012	42	2.8	0.9
India	543	DIAMOND HARBOUR	22.20	88.17	1948-2012	65	4	0.7
India	369	CALCUTTA	22.55	88.30	1932-1999	68	7.4	1.3
Thailand	446	KO TAPHAO NOI	7.83	98.43	1940-2015	76	1.3	0.9
Malaysia	1676	PULAU LANGKAWI	6.43	99.76	1986-2015	30	3.4	1.9
Malaysia	1595	PULAU PINANG	5.42	100.35	1986-2014	29	3.9	1.9

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Table 4.8: Indian Ocean - Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf and Maldives

Locations, time spans and trends of RLR PSMSL tide gauges and SONEL GPS stations. Error corresponds to 95% margin of error for the linear trend. The symbol ---corresponds to non-significant trend (p-value>0.1).

Tide gauge from PSMSL

COUNTRY	ID	NAME	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	RSL TREND (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Tanzania	1600	ZANZIBAR	-6.15	39.18	1985-2013	29	---	---
Yemen	44	ADEN	12.79	44.97	1916-1967	52	2.3	0.5
India	596	KANDLA	23.02	70.22	1954-1996	43	2.6	0.8
India	43	MUMBAI / BOMBAY	18.92	72.83	1878-1993	116	0.7	0.1
India	438	COCHIN	9.97	76.27	1939-2007	69	1.5	0.4
Mauritius	1673	PORT LOUIS II	-20.15	57.50	1987-2016	30	4.1	1.7
Mauritius	1672	RODRIGUES Is.	-19.66	63.42	1987-2016	30	5.9	2.1

GPS - ULR6 from SONEL

Country	ID	LAT	LON	DATE	LENGTH (year)	TIDE GAUGE	DISTANCE	VERTICAL VELOCITY (mm/yr)	ERROR (mm/yr)
Tanzania	ZNZB	-6.22	39.21	2010-2013	4	Zanzibar	7km	---	---
Mauritius	VACS	-20.30	57.50	2008-2012	5	Port louis II	15km	-0.8	0.4

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