

THE LEGAL REGIME ON THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN BANGLADESH: BLUE ECONOMY APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

The marine environment of Bangladesh consists of a large area of the Bay of Bengal and its coastline and estuaries. Bangladesh owns 118813 km² of territorial seas, contiguous zones, 200 nautical miles of exclusive economic zone, a continental shelf within 200 NM and high seas in the Indian Ocean. Furthermore, many islands including beautiful St Martin Island, the world's largest mangrove forest called Sundarban and 710 km² of coastlines extend the landscape of the marine environment. The traditional approach to conserving marine environments has been changed globally. The dynamic approach, Blue Economy, has been advocated across the world since 2012. Following the principle of sustainable development, the blue economy approach has been a paradigm shift in the ocean economy in the last decade. This blue economy is an approach to sustainable ocean governance which attempts to achieve certain goals including economic, social, cultural and ecological goals. The recent amendment to *the Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act, 1974* adopts the Blue Economy approach in Bangladesh. The critical legal discussion on domestic law exposes the position of Bangladesh for the conservation of the marine environment while heading toward a blue economy.

Key Words: The Bay of Bengal, Blue Economy, Bangladesh, Marine Environment, Sustainable Development

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