Environmental Challenges in the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Zone

Arturo Carranza-Edwards

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, Circuito Exterior S/N, Ciudad Universitaria, Delegación Coyoacán, C.P. 04510, Distrito Federal, México

ABSTRACT

In the coastal zone of the Gulf of Mexico, one of the major environmental challenges is associated with the population growth and the consequent urbanization. The urban population generated by new people conglomerates cause environmental degradation in coastal plains affecting the natural environment. Mangroves, coastal lagoons, dunes, and beaches are the environments that may receive the greatest impact. We discuss some of the main effects and possible solutions to environmental degradation in relation to global climate change itself.