

Sundarban Environmental Diversity, Opportunities and Challenge



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ABSTRACT

Sundarban a part of which falls within tidal West Bengal, is the largest mangrove swamp of the world. This forest is locally known as 'BADABON' are one of the richest biodiversity hotspot in India. This UNESCO world Heritage site is known for its Mangroves, Coastal forests that serve as a biological buffer between the land and sea. This system provides an enormous wealth of resource created by its special environment. However mainly due to human interference urges urgent appropriate measures for restoration and preservation.

Keywords : Hotspot, Biodiversity, Coastal Forests, Buffer, Habitat, Endangered, Degradation, Environment.

I. INTRODUCTION

SUNDARBAN, the south central part of the Ganga Delta – face, being the largest mangrove swamp of the world. This mangrove ecosystems are found in the inter tidal zones of sheltered sources, estuaries, creeks, back waters, lagoons, mudflats, and are regarded as most productive and biologically

SUNDARBAN'S SPECIAL IDENTITY

The Sundarban Swamps and forests provide a grand Scenario where diverse animals and plant species live in a complex physical, chemical, mechanical and animate environment.

- Forests cover more than 60% of Indian mangroves.
- Largest nursery for fish and shell fishes.
- Sundarban is the only mangrove tiger land in the world.
- It is the habitat of large number of Endangered plants and animals.
- It consists of :
 - ❖ 50 mammalian species
 - ❖ 11 Turtles species
 - ❖ 13 Lizards species
 - ❖ 37 Snakes species
 - ❖ 12 Toads species
 - ❖ 350 Fishes species
 - ❖ 173 Mouses species

❖ 753 Insects species

Which consists of Bees, Ladybird,
Marits, Flies and Butterflies.

FLORAL :- 128 mangroves species of the world as 64 are found in Sundarban. The main tree species are *Brain, Keora, Garan, Garjan, Genwa, Sundari, Passur, Hetal, Golpata*.

FISHERIES :- 40% of forest area support multitude species of fish. In numerable species of fish of which skimps and previous are commercially important.

TIDAL POWER :- The Sundarban's estuaries channels, creeks provide a vast ground of tides. Mass inflow of water from the sea and return of same at in internal of 12 hours 24 minutes is a daily phenomenon.

AGRICULTURAL :- The Sundarban is entirely built by alluvium and naturally fertile as it has been allowed to built above tidal levels. Salinity of surface soil and of ground water is high. Rain fed among paddy is the principal crop. Storage of rain water in some re excavated canals help to raise few crops in dry season.

RESULTS

✓ **Effect on Environmental Degradation** :-

- Human interference causing environmental degradation is a universe problem. Its impact is much more serious in Sundarban as biosphere which survives on a number of inter linkages and oscillations which could be quite damaging with several ramifications.

✓ Forest clearance and premature reclamation.

✓ Effect of drainage congestion.

✓ **Effect on Fish Life** :- Increased load on sediment in waterways, has made rivers and creeks fishing difficult.

✓ **Endangered wild life** :- Royal Bengal tiger, spotted deer, wild Boar, and crocodiles are the major victims of poaching.

ERRORS AT ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Over 300 sq.km. covered by intertidal blanks and charlandas suitable for afforestation and creation of mangroove forests. Aerial seeding programme fin in accessible areas like Dia, Swan and Sagar is lands is in progress. This Eco – Restoration programme has targeted large areas formed charlands, mud flats along the stream banks.

CONCLUSION

An important highlight of the conclusion is that Harmony between development and conservation is crucial specially for Sundarban where human hand has spoiled many of the properties of its unique bio – diversity. The impact on climate is ever changing. The mangrove is shrinking and numbers of mammalian species is on decline. Human hand is to repair it and discharge the responsibility adequately.

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