

Save “SUNDER BAN”

Dr. Sudhanshu Tiwari

The most alarming factor before today's world is to overcome from disasters and global warming. “Sunder Ban” the swampy delta of the Brahmaputra and the Ganga rivers, is under danger. This is extending about 260 km along the Bay of Bengal from the Hooghly River Estuary (India) to the Meghna River Estuary in Bangladesh. Just 100 kms south of Calcutta, Sunder ban is one of the most unique ecosystems of the world. It is dominated by mangrove forests and gets its name from the Sundari (*Heritiera foams*) trees. Their geographical details are Longitude-30°24'-30°28'N; Latitude-77°40'-77°44'E; Altitudinal Range-0-10m above sea level; Average Rainfall-175cm; Temperature-2°C-38°C. Sunder ban covers an area of 4262 sq. kms in India. The Sunder ban Tiger Project was started in 1974 and has an area of 2585 sq. kms. The core area is 1330 sq. kms and is a national forest and UNESCO world heritage site. There is mangrove scrub, littoral forest, salt water mixed forest, brackish water mixed forest and swamp forest. This estuarine mangrove forest is natural habitat of Royal Bengal Tigers. They adapt itself to their saline and watery environment. Besides the tiger, Gangetic dolphin, jungle cat, fishing cat, Indian fox, Indian civet, mongoose, little porpoise, spotted deer, Indian flying fox, rhesus monkey, etc. also inhabit here. Unfortunately the sunder ban is undergoing with the rising of ocean. If we cannot save “Sunder Ban” than we cannot save “City of Joy” (Kolkata). According to O.E.C.D. list, Kolkata is among top ten metropolitan cities, which may flooded into sea. Sunder ban bear cyclone and other sea activity and thus safe Kolkata.

Extreme extortion of nature, it itself has become the greatest enemy of human being. It is need of the hour to recognize the nature's call/clue and to keep caution while racing with the nature so that human civilization will remain protected and would be towards development.

We should try to SAVE “Sunder ban” → Unique Ecosystems → Royal Bengal Tigers → “City of Joy”.

Friends, if we do not ponder over the problem, it would be too late for tomorrow.