

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study <i>(should be concise and within approximately 25 words)</i>			
The complementarity of human and nature well-being: A case illustrated by traditional forest resource users of the Sundarbans in Bangladesh			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
Unnayan Onneshan			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir and Tanjila Afrin, Unnayan Onneshan			
Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords <i>(3-5 key concepts included in the case study)</i>			
Livelihoods; Biodiversity; Conservation; IPLC			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>		19 February 2018	
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>			

Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)</i>									
Bangladesh									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Sundarbans									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
https://www.google.com/maps/@22.0188472,89.0067929,10z									
Ecosystem(s) <i>(please place an “x” in all appropriate boxes)</i>									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural		In-land water	x	Coastal	x
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other <i>(Please specify)</i>			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area <i>(within 50 words)</i>									
The Sundarbans is a symbol of majestic beauty and tranquillity, a wilderness of nature and a hotspot of biodiversity. It is located at the great delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers at the edge of Bay of Bengal, and is the largest contiguous single-tract mangrove ecosystem in the world. The livelihood pattern in the Sundarbans area actually varies with seasons and supports an estimated 3.5 million people directly or indirectly.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area <i>(land-use, traditional resource management practices etc. – within 50 words)</i>									
First, local households earn cash income by selling ecosystem products, such as fish, honey and so on at local markets. Second, the use of natural resources provides substantial subsistence such as food, fresh water and timber. The lives and livelihoods of the local people are mainly related to the physical and biological (or, biodiversity) resources.									

Contents

Status (<i>"ongoing" or "completed"</i>)	Completed	Period (<i>MM/YY to MM/YY</i>)	2008-2017
Rationale (<i>why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed – within 50 words</i>)			
<p>This case study, by identifying the Sundarbans Reserve Forest (SRF) area as a socio-ecological production landscape and seascape (SEPLS), reveals that powerful agents at local, national and international levels have been extracting the resources of the Sundarbans beyond the sustainable limit. On the contrary, the IPLCs are playing an important role in the restoration of natural resources through traditional knowledge and practices, which in turn can establish a sustainable resource management system.</p>			
Objectives (<i>goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study – within 50 words</i>)			
<p>This presents a case study of the Sundarbans of Bangladesh to examine whether the livelihood patterns of indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) have contributed to the conservation and sustainable utilization of the biodiversity resources of this largest mangrove forest ecosystem of the world. It also attempts to demonstrate that the institutional fragility, the existing nature of the power sharing arrangement, the nature of the political settlement and most importantly the exclusion of the IPLCs in the conservation and management process, have contributed to loss of biological diversity.</p>			
Activities and/or practices employed (<i>within 50 words</i>)			
<p>A significant amount of data was collected through participatory observations, questionnaire surveys, key person interviews and focus group discussions. The study particularly draws on the traditional knowledge of the forest people of three cooperatives that the Unnayan Onneshan helped to set up.</p>			
Results (<i>within 50 words</i>)			
<p>Results imply that there is a significant number of anthropogenic pressures that not only cause degradation of biodiversity resources but also negatively hamper the balanced relationship between the biotic and the abiotic components of this mangrove ecosystem. The human induced pressures have mainly intensified with the advent of neoliberalism as the sole strategy of accumulation of wealth, with profits being considered more important through commercialization of forest products and neglect of the intrinsic ecological value of biological resources and diversity.</p>			
Lessons learned (<i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities – within 40 words</i>)			
<p>The continuous encroachment into the forest region, conversion of mangrove forest land into commercial shrimp cultivation farms and the marginalization of IPLCs signify that institutional fragility exists in management of the Sundarbans. Such imbalanced and tilted power sharing in the management of biological resources ultimately results in continued degradation and loss of biodiversity on the one hand, as well as the persistent poverty of the local people in the Sundarbans, on the other. The situation has been further aggravated by natural disasters and climate change.</p>			
Key messages (<i>within 40 words</i>)			
<p>The Sundarbans is under the threat of continuous degradation due to the structural rigidities, embedded in, and reproduced by, institutions and unequal power sharing arrangements. In this process, the lives and livelihood conditions of IPLCs are also being adversely impacted. These kinds of knowledge-based livelihood strategies of the local people, which ensure collaborative management system of SEPLS and equitable benefit sharing, should be promoted at different tiers of policy levels.</p>			
Relationship to other IPSI activities (<i>if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.</i>)			
<p>This case study originally appeared in the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review v. 3.</p>			
Funding (<i>any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study</i>)			

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
●			■				●	■	

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

■							■	
		■		●	●	■		