

Geo-Environmental Issues of the New Millennium

Sustainable
Planning
Perspectives

Editor in Chief

Smt. Madhumita Basu

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Dr. Ayan Das Gupta

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Dr. Rupam Kumar Dutta

Dr. Deepa Bhattacharyya

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Climate Change, Human Security and Livelihood Challenges in Indian Sundarbans—A Baseline Study

Dr. Rajashree Dasgupta

Introduction

Insecurity of human life never arises from a single cause, rather it emerges from the interaction of multiple factors. Climate change is one such important factor at present threatening human security through undermining livelihoods, compromising culture and identity, increasing rate of migration and challenging capability of the local Government to provide the conditions necessary for human security. The occurrence of extreme weather events in the past have led to wide scale population displacement. The increase in the frequency and intensity of these extreme events under climate change situation is likely to amplify the challenges and risks of such displacement. Many vulnerable groups do not have enough basic resources to be able to migrate and to cope with the impacts of floods, storms, and droughts. These migrants themselves may become vulnerable to climate change impacts in the destination areas, particularly in the coastal parts of the developing nations.

Sundarbans, a World Heritage Site located at the coastal parts of Bay of Bengal and covering 9630 sq. kms. area in India and around 10,000 sq. kms. area in Bangladesh is one such vulnerable coastal zone where the inhabitants are facing major challenges to earn their livelihood in the perspective of climate change. Here, the region is facing the rising problems of relative sea level rise, coastal erosion, land submergence.