

# ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION OF SUNDARBANS FOREST

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PRESENTED BY :TASNIM RAHMAN MOUMITA

ID : 22301689

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# WELCOME TO SUNDARBANS!

## I. Introduction:

- The Sundarbans is the largest contiguous mangrove forest in the world.
- It spans the delta formed by the confluence of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna Rivers in the Bay of Bengal.
- The forest extends from the Baleshwar River in Bangladesh's division of Khulna to the Hooghly River in India's state of West Bengal.
- It covers approximately 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>, with 6,517 km<sup>2</sup> in Bangladesh and 3,483 km<sup>2</sup> in West Bengal.
- This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a unique ecosystem of mangrove forests and diverse wildlife, making it a treasure trove of biodiversity.





## 2. Ecosystems in the Sundarbans Forest

Exploration of the various ecosystems in the Sundarbans forest and their distinctive features, including the associated animal diversity.

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### Mangrove Ecosystem

The unique mangrove ecosystem of the Sundarbans, characterized by its salt-tolerant flora and fauna.

### Tiger Reserve

The Sundarbans is home to the largest population of the Bengal tiger, adapted to the aquatic environment.

### Biodiversity Hotspot

The Sundarbans is a biodiversity hotspot, hosting various species of birds, reptiles, and invertebrates.

### Interconnected Ecosystems

The interconnection between the mangrove, estuarine, and marine ecosystems, supporting diverse life forms.

### Threats and Conservation

Challenges faced by the Sundarbans due to climate change, human activities, and the conservation efforts in place.



# 3. ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS OF THE FOREST

Discussion on how the Sundarbans forest contributes to ecological balance and its importance in maintaining biodiversity.

## Unique Ecosystem

The Sundarbans forest represents a unique ecosystem with diverse flora and fauna, contributing significantly to global biodiversity.

## Carbon Sequestration

Sundarbans acts as a vital carbon sink, playing a key role in regulating the global climate by sequestering a substantial amount of carbon dioxide.

## Mangrove Reforestation Initiatives

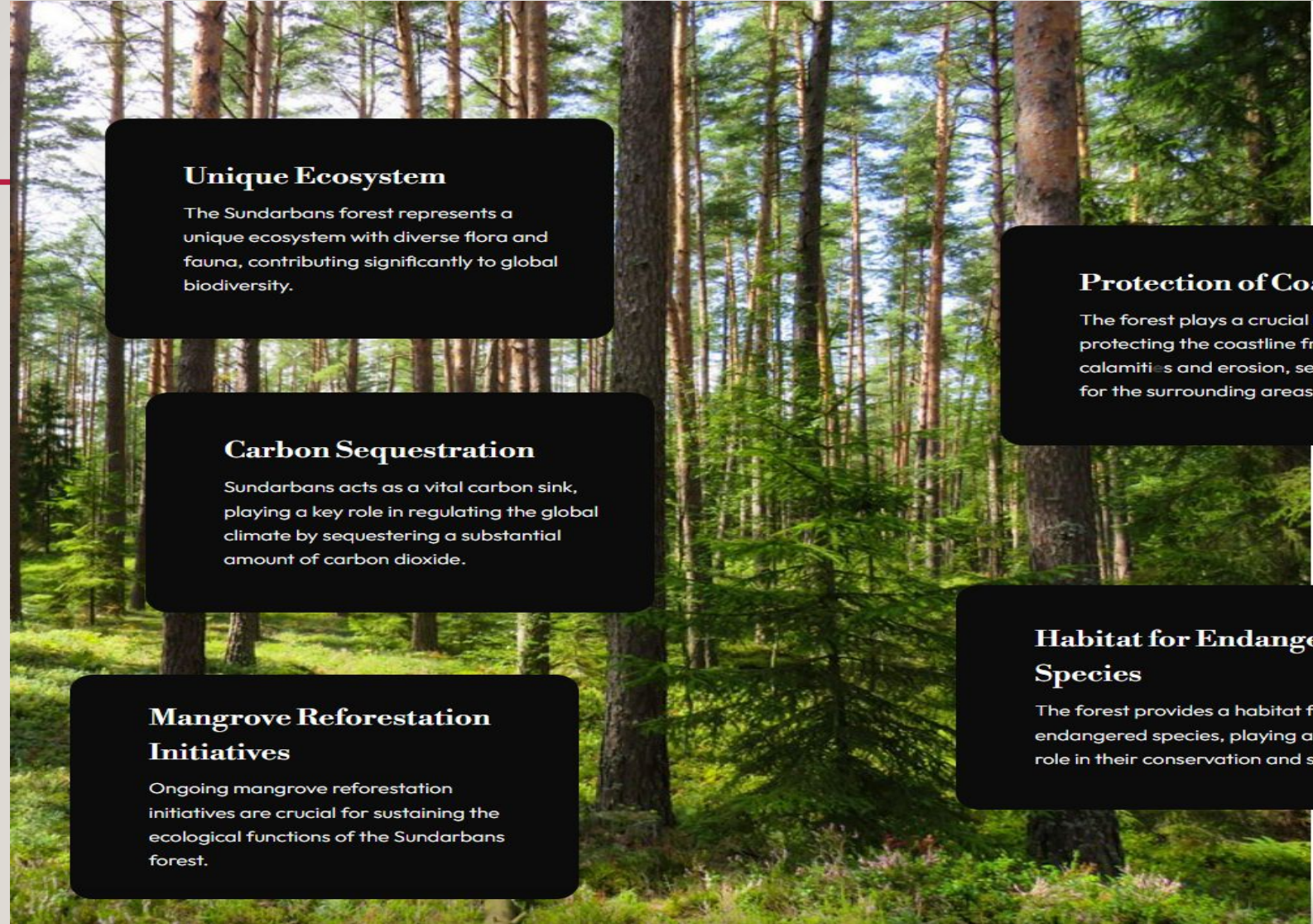
Ongoing mangrove reforestation initiatives are crucial for sustaining the ecological functions of the Sundarbans forest.

## Protection of Coastline

The forest plays a crucial role in protecting the coastline from natural calamities and erosion, serving as a shield for the surrounding areas.

## Habitat for Endangered Species

The forest provides a habitat for various endangered species, playing a pivotal role in their conservation and survival.





# 4. ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE SUNDARBANS

- **Rich Fisheries:**

- The Sundarbans provide a thriving habitat for a variety of fish and crustaceans, contributing significantly to the local fisheries industry.

- **Tourism Potential:**

- The natural beauty and diverse wildlife of the Sundarbans attract tourists, offering opportunities for ecotourism and economic growth in the region.

- **Mangrove Resources:**

- The Sundarbans mangroves serve as a source of various resources such as honey, wood, and medicinal plants, supporting local livelihoods and industries.





# 5. CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF THE SUNDARBANS



## Traditions and Rituals

The Sundarbans plays a pivotal role in preserving and shaping local traditions and rituals, deeply ingrained in the cultural fabric of the communities.



## Art and Folklore

The rich biodiversity of the Sundarbans has been a wellspring of inspiration for local art and folklore, contributing to the cultural identity of the region.



## Community Livelihoods

The Sundarbans sustains the livelihoods of numerous communities through activities such as fishing, honey collection, and traditional medicine, underpinning the local economy.



## Cultural Heritage Sites

The Sundarbans is home to historical sites and cultural landmarks that hold immense significance for the local population, showcasing the region's heritage.



## Religious Significance

The Sundarbans is intertwined with religious practices and beliefs, serving as a sacred space for various communities and faiths.





# 6. AESTHETIC VALUE AND ECOTOURISM

## Aesthetic Appeal



Exploration of the visual beauty of the forest and its influence on visitor experiences.

## Tourist Engagement



Understanding the role of aesthetic appeal in attracting and engaging tourists in ecotourism activities.

## Ecotourism Impact



Assessment of how the aesthetic value of the forest contributes to the promotion of ecotourism.

## Conservation Efforts



Highlighting the link between aesthetic value appreciation and the support for forest conservation initiatives.





# 7.THREATS TO THE SUNDARBANS FOREST

- **Human Encroachment**

Rapid population growth leading to increased human activities encroaching upon the forest areas.

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- **Climate Change Impact**

Rising sea levels and extreme weather events causing detrimental effects on the Sundarbans' delicate ecosystems.

- **Pollution and Contamination**

Industrial and agricultural pollutants leading to water and soil contamination,

- **Deforestation Practices**

Unsustainable logging and clearing of land for agriculture leading to the loss of vital forest cover.





# 8. MEASURES FOR SUNDARBANS FOREST SAFEGUARD



## Community Involvement

Engaging local communities in forest protection initiatives to ensure sustainable practices and local ownership.



## Enhanced Surveillance

Implementing advanced surveillance technologies and increasing ranger presence to deter illegal logging and poaching.



## Eco-Tourism Promotion

Promoting eco-friendly tourism to generate alternative livelihoods for local communities and raise awareness about forest conservation.



## Policy Enforcement

Strengthening law enforcement and imposing strict penalties for forest exploitation to deter illegal activities.



## Mangrove Reforestation

Initiating large-scale mangrove reforestation projects to restore degraded areas and enhance ecosystem resilience.





## 9.CONCLUSION

- A broad plan of action is needed to preserve the Sundarbans Forest.
- To combat serious threats like pollution, habitat loss, and climate change, international cooperation is required in addition to community involvement.
- To stop illicit activities like poaching and logging, strict laws and law enforcement are required.
- Strategies for adaptive management require ongoing research and ecosystem health monitoring.

By following these measures, we can hope for a sustainable future for the Sundarbans Forest.





**"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE;  
TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH."  
- HELEN KELLER**

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**THANK YOU !**

