Salinity in the Sundarbans

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Session: 2022-23, Batch: 49
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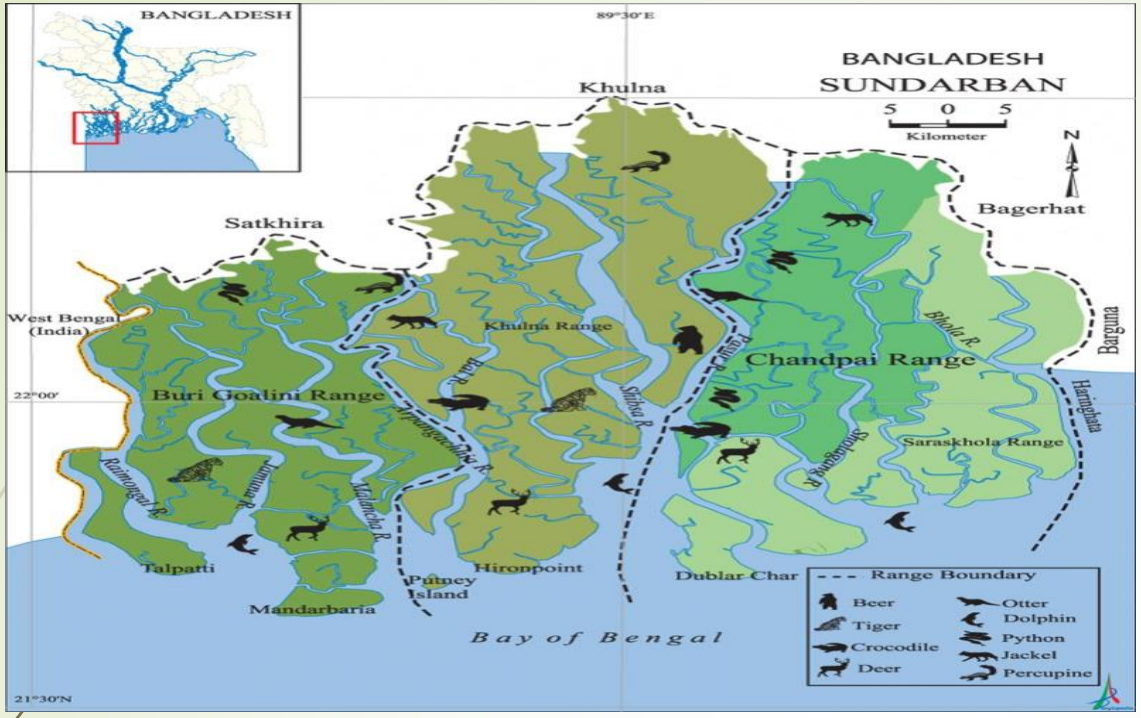
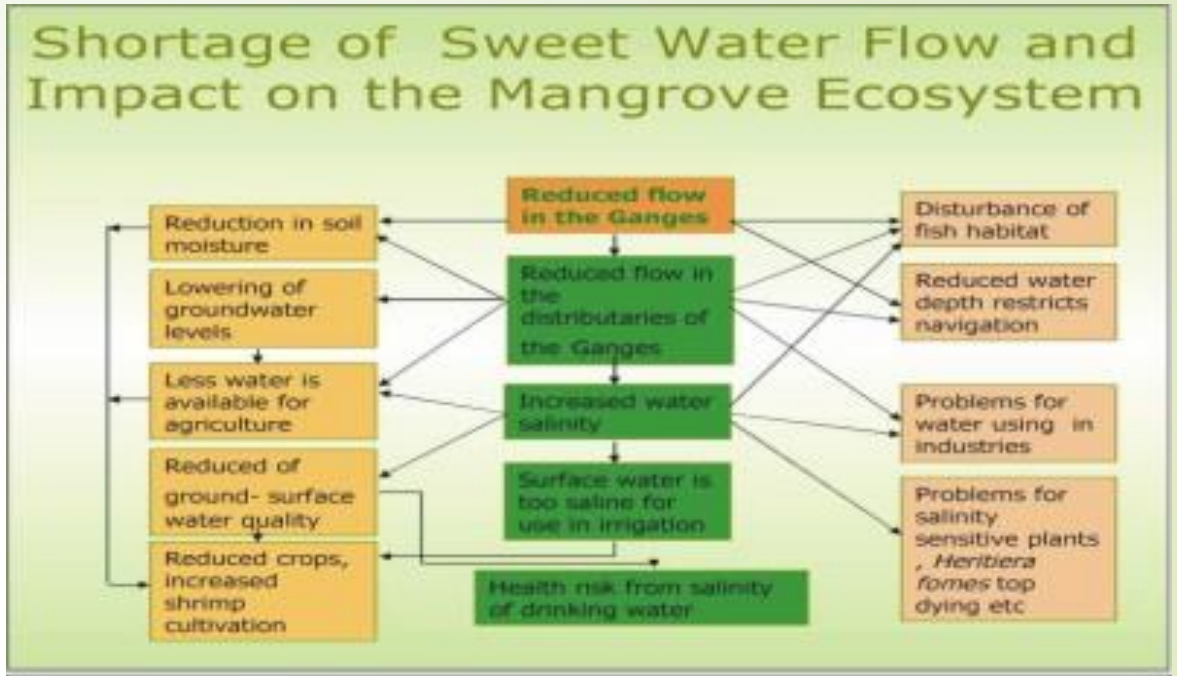
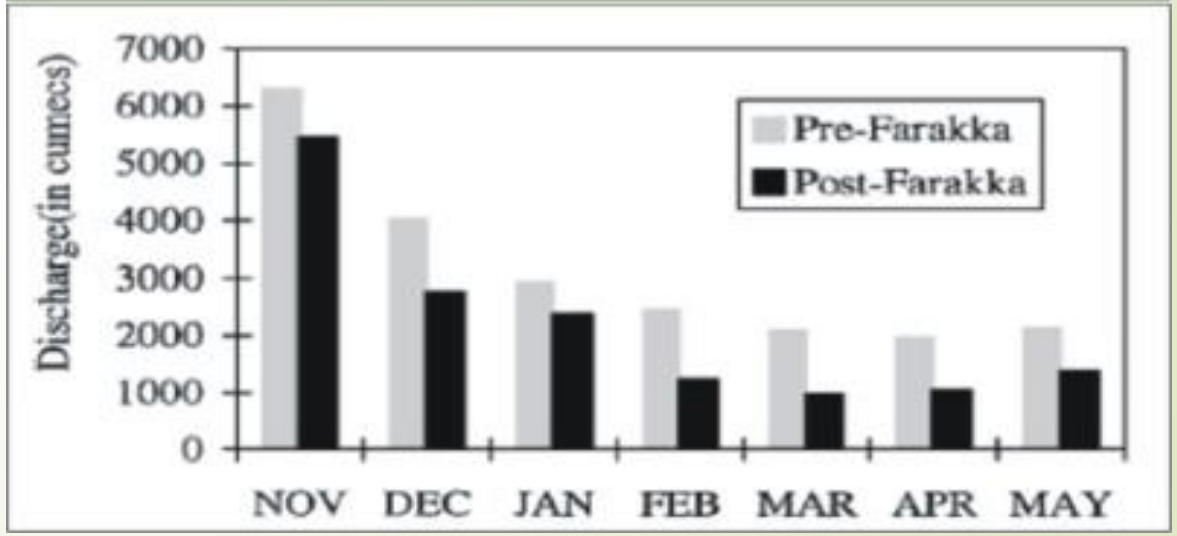
Salinity in the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest



- Globally, mangrove forests are deteriorating due to several natural and anthropogenic factors such as sea level rise, habitat fragmentation, over-exploitation, pollution, etc. Sea-level rise - driven salinity would influence the functional activity of dominant species by declining their structure and functions, which is not well understood.

- Indiscriminate environmental changes with anthropogenic pressures in the mangrove forest of tropical and sub-tropical regions have threatened ecosystem functions and services





- This research was carried out in the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest (SMF) of Bangladesh across three salinity zones. In the Ganges–Brahmaputra estuary, the Sundarbans of Bangladesh

51% of the country's protected forest land is in the Sundarbans, which has 334 species of trees and rivers home to over 210 species of fish - Shamsul Haque Ripon

Rising salinity poses threat to Sundarbans biodiversity

Md Samiur Rahman Sazzad

Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, protects the country from natural disasters every year. But its nature and biodiversity are under threat due to climate change, rising water level, environmental pollution, wildlife poaching and timber smuggling.

It is known that Sundari trees here are dying due to excessive salinity and wild animals are suffering from various diseases. Besides, hunting of wild animals and fishing by spraying pesticides in rivers and canals also go on unabated. Due to these reasons, the biodiversity of Sundarbans is under threat.

The salinity in Sundarbans is increasing from east to west and from north to south. Soil salinity is 2-4.5 ds/m throughout the Sundarbans. During the dry season, soil salinity remains within six ds/m.

Sundarbans Day Today

On February 14 in 2001, 70 environmental organisations of the country, including Khulna University, declared February 14 as 'Sundarbans Day'. But Forest Department is not observing the day countrywide. It was being observed only in the coastal districts adjacent to Sundarbans since 2002.

Kazi Maruful Islam, Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka said, "Due to climate change, Sundarbans are suffering huge damage every year. As a result, people dependent on Sundarbans are also suffering."

"Bangladesh is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. So, all concerned, including government,

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Climate change makes a decline in forest density in Sundarbans' water bodies: Study

TBP Desk

February 14 (Wednesday) is going to be observed as 'The Sundarbans Day' in the country. The day was declared as 'Sundarbans Day' in 2001 to support the conservation of the important ecosystem.

Ahead of the 'The Sundarbans Day', Change Initiative, a leading NGO, in a study titled: "Rising Tides, Roaring Futures: The Sundarbans' Quest for Survival", found that Sundarbans has been witnessing a decline in forest density

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Published: 01:16 AM, 02 December 2019

Sundarbans: The natural shield of Bangladesh

Harun Ar Rashid Mamun

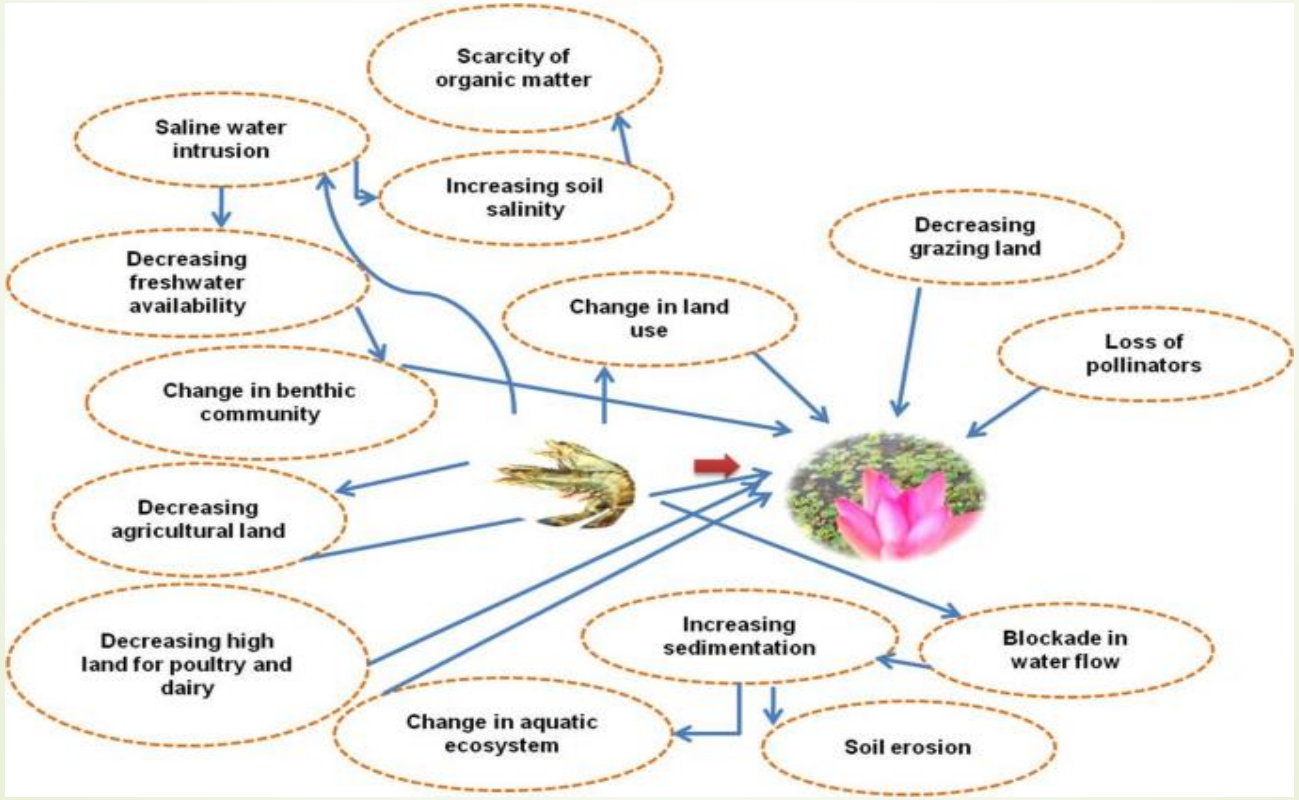
The Sundar-bans is the largest mangrove forest or saline forest in the world. The total area of the Sundarbans is about 10,000 square kilometer, which spans between Bangladesh and India.

The size of the Bangladesh part of the Sundarbans is 6,017 sq. km, which is 60-65% of the total area. The Sundarbans on the Bangladesh side spreads over Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Patuakhali, and Barguna districts. In 1987 UNESCO recognized Sundarbans as a World Heritage Site.

In fact, the Sundarbans is a forest that is not only beautiful to see but also rich in natural diversity. It is the mangrove or coastal forest that protects the coast of Bangladesh like a coastal greenery shield. It plays a vital role in preventing the salinity of the land, protecting the balance by preventing pollution of the environment, and also acts as a watchman to protect the country from various natural disasters.

Moreover, it helps Bangladesh develop economically. For example, the forest is considered as a source of raw materials for various industries, source of revenue (about 45%) of the government and the source of income of the 2 million local people and also a treasure trove of tourism. Undoubtedly it is a blessing for Bangladesh.

The loss of functional variables of dominant mangrove species with salinity indicates that these species, as well as the mangrove ecosystem, are severely vulnerable to salinity. The results of this study illustrated that this chronological pattern of reducing growth with increasing



Thanks