

SURVIVING IN THE SUNDARBANS: THREATS AND RESPONSES focuses on the conduct of different groups and various agencies, and attempts to understand this conduct in the context of deteriorating ecosystem integrity, and heightened vulnerability of human society, where natural processes are averse to human presence, and where the development process is weak.

The study explores the socio-political and physical complexities within which sustainable development strategies need to be developed. The emphasis is not so much on how to develop these strategies but on understanding the contrasting forces, competing interests, and contradictions in operation.

In this study the concept of collective or self-organised action is used as an analytical tool to help unravel the complex interactions that take place at different levels and to shed light on conditions associated with better management of the various contradictions at play in the eco-region.

It is argued that the unique eco-region of the Sundarbans requires special policy measures to address ecological sustainability and distributional equity, to overcome the ills that undermine human well-being, and to ensure that people of this eco-region have the choices to live the way *they* like and value what *they* have reason to value.



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An analytical description of life in an  
Indian riparian commons

Anamitra Anurag Danda



2007