Sundarban Wetland – a Ramsar site and a Biosphere Reserve

Building resilience of the coastal communities by creating shared values through community based ecological mangrove restoration

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Sundarban Wetland

Lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal. World’s Largest Mangrove forest; hundreds of criss-crossed creeks, mangrove forests all entwined with each other has created a complex ecosystem.
A natural biodiversity hot spot –

- 85 species of mangroves
- 58 species of mammals
- 55 species of reptiles and
- 248 bird species.
5.1 million people inhabit in 54 islands out of 102 islands in this fragile landscape. 3600 km long embankment protect the life and livelihood of the villagers from saline tidal waters. Only mangroves along the embankment can and do act as bio-shield to protect the islands.
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Mono cropping Agriculture, river fishing, crab, honey collection are the sources of income.
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Aila, a tropical cyclone in May 2009 – there was saline cover for 3 years
*Assisted natural regeneration of mangroves in multi species scenario
*Upscaling to have a significant effect – 5000 hectare of mangroves restored
*Community ownership involving all stakeholders esp women
*Robust mangrove monitoring methodologies involving communities
*Create sustainable value chain around mangroves
THANK YOU

15TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAKES AND WETLANDS