

Status of Action for Adaptation to Climate Change in Indian Bengal Delta

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Introduction

The need for adaptation in the vulnerable low lying areas in of IBD has been highlighted in The West Bengal State Action Plan on Climate Change WBSAPCC (2012). Adaptation strategies were designed to meet the need through actions. Examples of efforts for Adaptation to Climate Change focusing on Livelihood improvement, Construction of Embankments and Roads, Provision of Electricity, Better access to health care, Biodiversity Conservation and many more were highlighted. The WBSAPCC, 2012 has a subsector fully dedicated to the Indian Bengal Delta (Indian Sundarbans Delta). The six missions on Adaptation, mentioned in the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), can also be found in the WBSAPCC. The WBSAPCC, 2012 has listed 14 actions under adaptive strategies for Indian Sundarbans Delta. Some of the adaptation action is been illustrated in the Poster.



WWF-India helped remote villages access to power. Micro Solar Power is changing the lifestyle of people living in Rajat Jubilee village in Sundarbans, 2011. This has led to reduction in the use of biomass and kerosene which has bearing on biodiversity and deforestation. Similar actions are also been variably taken by West Bengal Renewable Agency.



Road Construction at Colonypany, Nafarjung in S.24.Pgs. Roads are built with active participation of villagers in 2015. Over the last four years, they have joined hands to build more than 10 kilometres of brick roads, connecting several previously inaccessible villages, which have withstood the ravages of floods and disastrous cyclones that are frequent in this vast tract of forest and saltwater swamp. Now the villagers can avail of the much-needed health and nutrition services provided by the government under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and have easy access to school.

SUNDAY HINDUSTAN TIMES, KOLKATA
JUNE 5, 2016

More women now deliver in health centres in Canning

In South 24 Parganas, Canning, Women are increasingly taking the facility of child delivery in the health centres rather than at home. Now majority of women deliver children under the care and supervision of doctors and nurses than midwives. As a result, a number of institutional deliveries have gone up from 27% in 2014-15 to 87% in the month of May, 2016.

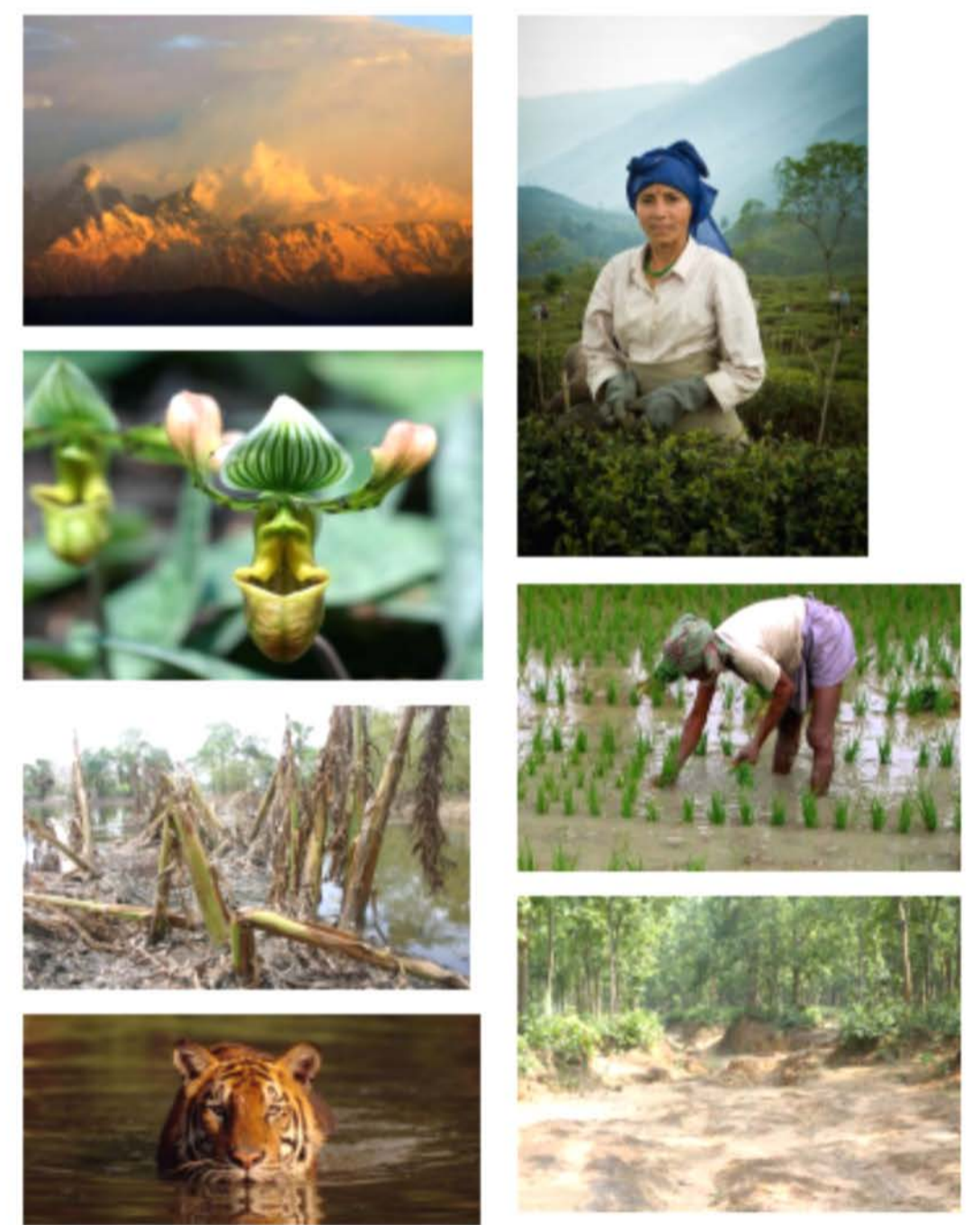
Administration

In view of the recent announcement of the Chief Minister of the state of West Bengal on November 2015, a separate district will be created for the Sundarbans, which can be seen as a big step forward



Embankment built at Bijojnagar village, Sundarbans, 2015 under the programme of rebuilding 1300km of damage embankment. Climate change is expected to exacerbate flooding and to frequent storms and cyclones in the region. The embankment will help to combat climate change.

West Bengal State Action Plan on Climate Change



Government of West Bengal
Government of India

158 Flood Shelters planned/constructed in IBD in North 24 Parganas by district authorities of North 24 Parganas, 2016

Name of the Block	Number of Flood Shelters
Haroa	17
Hasanabad	44
Hingalganj	28
Minakhan	31
Sandeshkh ali-I	10
Sandeshkh ali-II	28



Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters (in school and other State Government Buildings). 15 multipurpose cyclone shelters have been completed in South 24 Parganas district in IBD and another 12 out of 20 targeted MPCs have been completed and handed over to the competent authority by end of April, 2016

Otters' return gives Sunderbans a chance



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The semi aquatic animal 'Otter' was reportedly become extinct in the Indian Sunderbans in 2000. 16 years later the comeback of otter in the Sunderbans indicates a revival of health of the Sunderbans. The environmentalists believe that comeback of the species is the indication of the mangroves regaining their health which supports the SAPCC.

Target

The WBSAPCC has been targeted to be completed in a 10-year period ending 2022 AD. The plan covers two 5-year plan periods viz., the 12th 5-year plan and the 13th 5-year plan spanning over 2012-2017 and 2017-2022, respectively. In the said adaptation strategies, an estimate has been put at Rs. 1710 crore (2012-2017) and Rs. 1583 crore (2017-2022), thereby totaling the projected budget at 3293 crore, for a period of 10 years. The estimated budget for the next 10 years came to Rs. 5148 crores. No progress report has been found about the expenditure.

Conclusion

DECCMA research shows that the adaptation strategy mentioned in the WBSAP has not been carried out not only by Government but also by the Civil Society Organisations. The West Bengal State Climate Change Action Plan (2012) envisaged a list of programmes to be undertaken during the next 10 years ending in 2022. The action under West Bengal State Climate Change Action Plan seem to be benefiting to Sundarbans. It has opened a whole new vista for the people living in the Indian Bengal Delta (IBD).

Acknowledgement

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Project to help open eye care units in Sunderbans

