

WHV – Enhancing Community Participation in Sundarbans Forest Management

The Sundarbans, Bangladesh

Natural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (1997)

PROJECT DATES

01-30 November 2024

THE SITE - The Sundarbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world (140,000 ha), lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal. It is adjacent to the border of India's Sundarbans World Heritage site inscribed in 1987. The site is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes. The area is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species, the Bengal tiger and other threatened species such as the estuarine crocodile and the Indian python.

OBJECTIVES - The very successful experience with the local community at Paharpur in the framework of the World Heritage Volunteers Initiative 2023 triggered the willingness to also develop a project dedicated to heritage co-management and community involvement in the Sundarbans, where the relationship between forest and people is crucial.

ACTIVITIES - The volunteers will be involved in stakeholder mapping, manage and mobilize local people for forest management, and engage in practical activities promoting interaction and understanding of the local community, such as site cleaning, training locals as tour guide, courtyard heritage talk sessions.

PARTNERS - Bangladesh Forest Department; IUCN; Sharankhola High School; Burigoalini High School; Fishermen Cooperative; Honey collectors; Shrimp Hatchery; Nowabenki Gonomukhi Foundation.

Nagar Upakhyhan - Perceive

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