

Disputing Biodiversity in an Interdisciplinary Project

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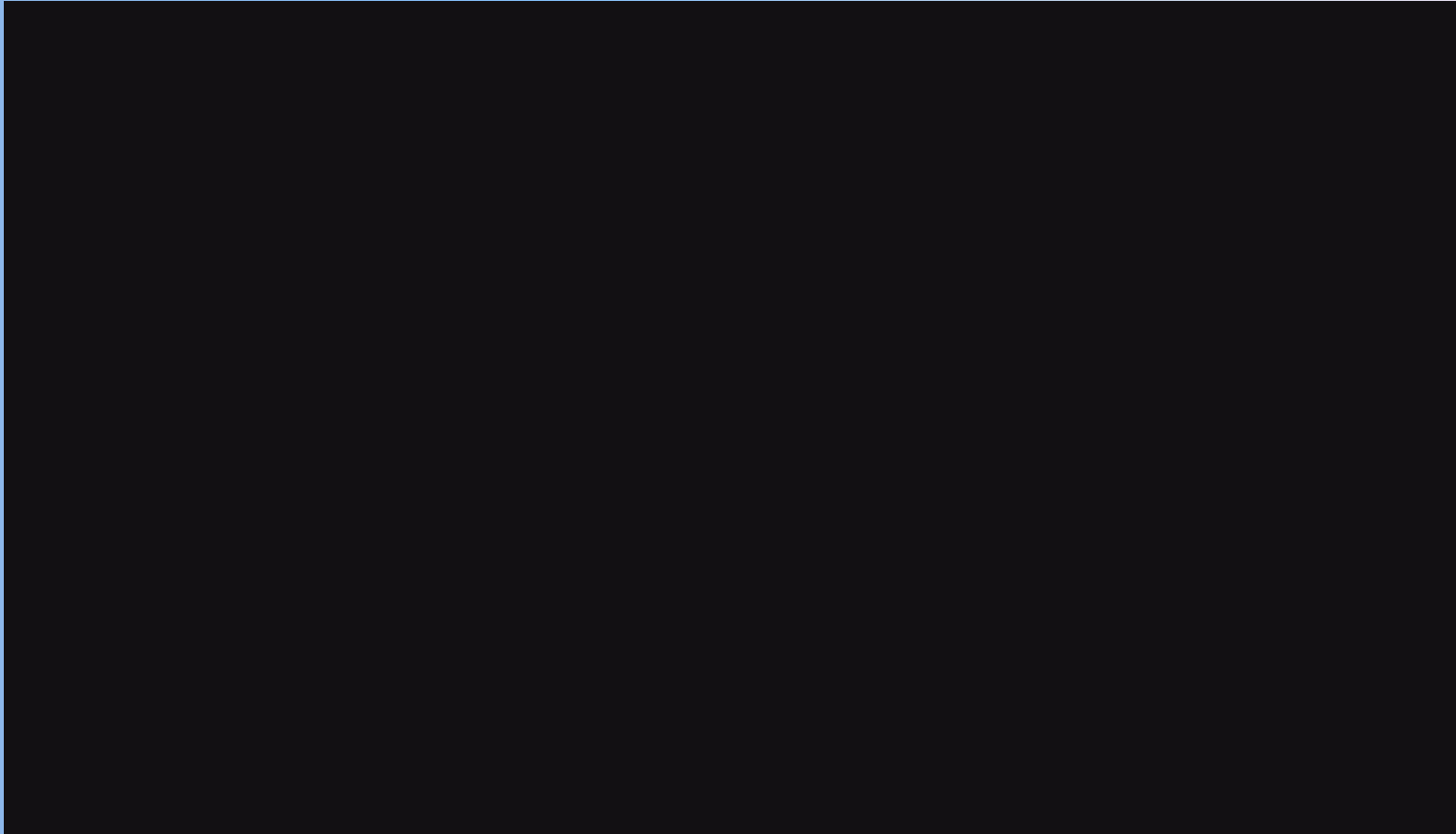
Forest and Nature Conservation policy

Georg August University Goettingen

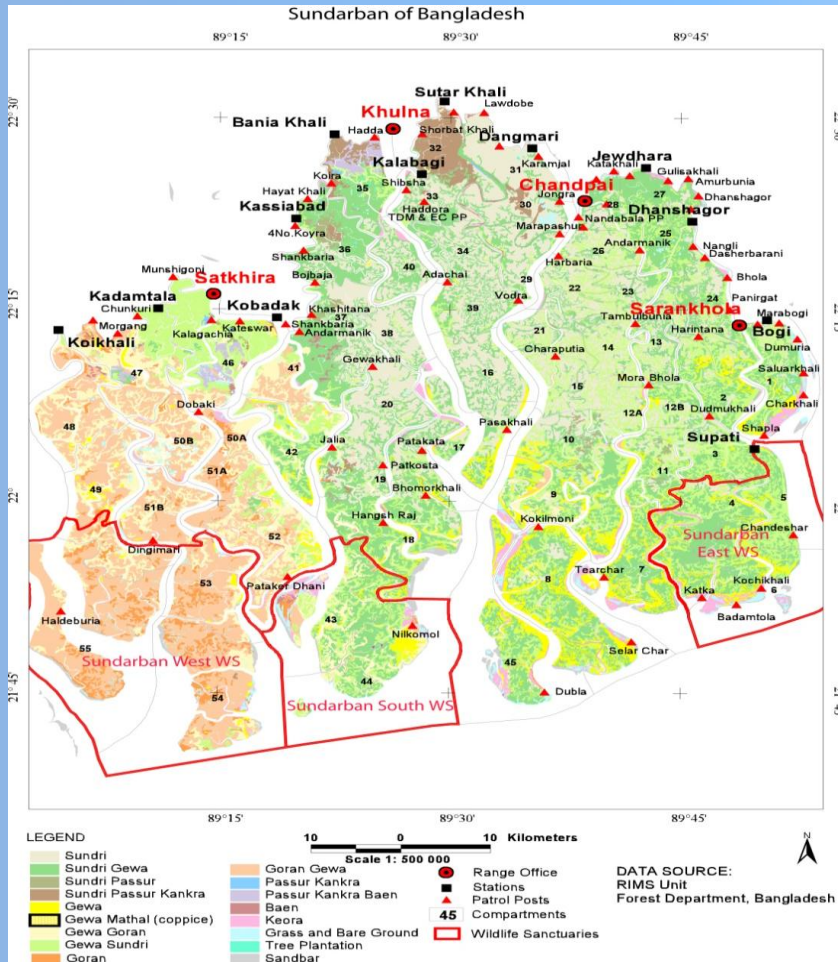
The Sundarbans



- Area over BD+IND 10,000 km²
- Roughly 60% fall in BD
- Located in the SW part of the country between latitudes 89°00' and 89°55' E and longitudes 21°30' and 23°30' N.
- Total area in BD part of SRF is 577,356 ha of which 175,724 ha is water.



The Sundarbans



- 3 Protected Areas in Sundarban Reserved Forests (SRF), which constitute the core area of the World Heritage Site, inscribed in 1997. SRF is the 1st Ramsar site of the country.
- The World Heritage Committee of UNESCO has declared the Sundarbans as its 522nd World Heritage Site for its outstanding scenic beauty and biological traits

Biodiversity of Sundarban:

- Largest diversity of mangrove plants on the Globe characterized by a very dynamic environment due to characterized the effect of tide, flooding, salinity, and cyclones.
- Only this mangrove area on earth inhabited by man-eating tigers
- The forest has a unique biota comprising:
- 334 species of plants
- 49 species of mammals
- 400 species of fish
- 320 species of birds
- 53 species of reptiles
- 11 amphibian species
- Numerous invertebrates, phytoplankton, fungi, bacteria, zooplankton, benthic invertebrates, mollusks etc.



The major environmental services and products from the Sundarbans

- Timber and industrial raw material.
- Fuel wood.
- Thatching material.
- Non-wood forest products
- Fishes
- Crabs
- Recreation and tourism
- Protection against Natural calamity like Cyclone

Sundarbans Biodiversity project

Project Component

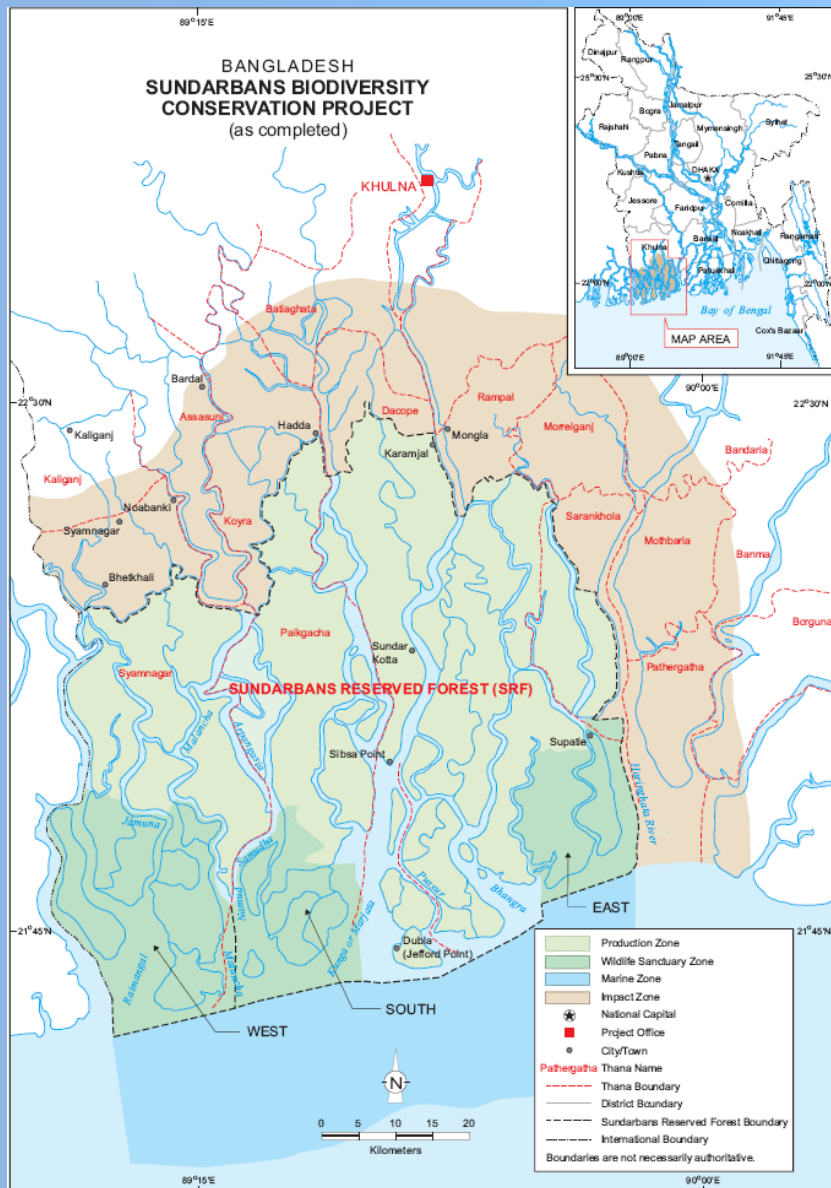
- Duration : 1998-2003
 - Finance : ADB, GEF, PRB
- Effective organization of the SRF
 - Biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource Management
 - Socioeconomic development of the impact zone
 - Ecotourism and Environmental awareness
 - Technical advice, monitoring, and research studies
 - An effluent treatment facility for the Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM).

A. Effective organization of the SRF

- Sundarbans Management Unit (SMU)
 - New management unit with in the Forest Administration
- Stewardship Commission (SSC)
 - To improve governance by active participation all stake holders in decision making

B. Biodiversity conservation & SRM

- Forest management
- Wild Life Management
- Aquatic Resource Management



D. Socioeconomic Development of the Impact Zone

- Awareness and training
- Alternative livelihood
- Micro finance model alternative income generating activities

D. Technical Advisory Group, Monitoring, and Research Studies

- Research
- Providing training

Tasks

- A. Forest department
- B. Forest department
- C. NGOs
- D. TAG team of the project and universities

Faced challenges

- Every discipline worked independently, with less coordination
- Lack of trust between actors.
- State (FD) was too directive and powerful.
- Anti Ngo and civil society movement (who were let out)

Discussion point:

Is Interdisciplinary project is
only symbolism???!!!

What happened next?

- Suspension of the project in 2003
- Cancellation of the project in 2005