

In the land of tides, tigers and mangroves: A study of Sundarbans world heritage site in India

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Abstract

Batir Desh, land of tides, "Sundarbans" is the largest riverine delta and mangrove tiger - land of the world. It is the largest national part of India and the only mangrove habitat for the Royal Bengal Tigers. The largest Mangrove forest is the world, it is one of the most important world heritage sites. But most of the people in Asia and all over the world didn't know much about this world heritage site. So in this research going to make more aware, the people about this land of tides, tigers and mangroves heritage site. From intra- textual readings critical opinions of naturalists and through a questionnaire distributed among University students, academic and nonacademic staff of the University of Kelaniya got data for the research. By comparing all those with the observations shows the lack of awareness about this world heritage site among the people. And also it gave the chance to aware about the myths which are related to this heritage site and the natural endemic bio diversity of this national park. It got its name from the profusion of "Sundari" trees. Bon bibi is the presiding deity of this vast ten thousand square kilometers marshland. Tides, high and low, are the regular features of this tidal country. Only those trees live there which are suitable for that special climatic and soil conditions. There are so many living beings which are endemic for that environmental condition. This research shows the available act of a tidal country in natural biodiversity, as well as world heritage sites, both in educational and tourism attraction place. But these days according to the unbalance tourism industry in India, Sundarbans is in danger. Industrial air pollution, de forestation of Mangrove forest and the unethical behaviors of tourism are badly effect to this heritage site. So especially this research is focusing on to give the message that how to protect Sundarbans in technical and ethical way among the people. And also it will be a path to make a new legal condition to the tourism management system around the Sundarbans heritage site.

Keywords: *Bio diversity, mangroves, tides, tiger, world heritage site.*