

PREFACE

Wetlands are intrinsically considered a beautiful natural resource within the Earth's complex environment, which sustains human being and other life process. Malda district in the state of West Bengal, India is conspicuously occupied by large number of wetlands, which play key role in hydrological and ecological functioning of the region as well as maintain a crucial habitat for many plant and animal species. Human benefits from the wetlands emerge in the form of provisioning (food, fibre, fresh water), regulating (flood control, water storage, waste treatment) supporting (soil formation, nutrient cycling) and cultural (aesthetic value, education, recreation) services. This significant entity of Earth's environmental system (wetlands) are impacted by human assault, in the form of water quality degradation from agricultural run-off and solid waste dumping into wetland; land use land cover alteration surrounding wetlands, wetland encroachment and resultant area shrinkage; uncontrolled exploitation of surface and ground water and wetland resources etc. The wetlands under study encounter practically every problem that a wetland system can encounter. As a consequence, wetlands are being disrupted, triggered by modern human development in Malda district. The present work attempts to analyse the conservation ethics to wetland ecosystem and recommends scientific understanding on how wetlands work and what services they provide. An attempt has also been made, to advocate sound management policies in order to enhance this rare and even unique ecosystem with special reference on its wise use and sustainable management as a part of the larger effort to our sustainable earth.

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23/12/2019
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