

Mangrove fisheries and livelihoods

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Abstract

This study was conducted to observe the linkage between the coastal mangrove fisheries and livelihoods issues in the coastal district of Cox's Bazar Bangladesh. Studies found that mangrove forest are important in terms of ecosystem service and fishery diversity in the study area. Fishing within the mangrove forest is one of the prime activities in this coastal area while several species of fishes are found. Increases in water quality and other environmental parameters are influenced highly on the fisheries diversity as well as livelihoods security in the study area. In recent years, the dependency on coastal forests and its fishery resources has increased substantially which lead overexploitation of the resources and resulted in degradation of coastal ecosystems including water quality. The highest fisheries diversity was found in pre-monsoon when water quality remains good in condition and stays stable for a month, and then gradually decreased in monsoon and post-monsoon while water quality was comparatively poor. The coastal dwellers have moderate knowledge on water resource management, notwithstanding the forests are exploited unwisely for house hold uses due to poor economy and livelihoods. Studies suggest that good governance on the coastal forest and water quality issues is required at Cox's Bazar which would ensure the livelihoods security of the coastal poor dwellers.

Keywords

ecosystem function, fisheries, livelihood, Bangladesh