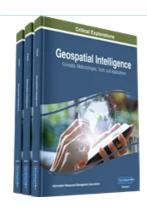
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## Reigniting GIS's Application in Ecotourism: A Case Study of Sundarbans in Bengal

Sovik Mukherjee (Shri Shikshayatan College, India)

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## **Abstract**

The chapter brings out a brief note on the tourist attractions, hotels and lodges, NGOs/travel agencies operating in that region, railway/bus stations, land use profile, etc. in the Sundarban area of West Bengal in conjunction with exploring the potential of ecotourism using GIS and some secondary source data. Moving onto the analysis part, by making use of geo-spatial data, the attributes of ecotourism potential in the Sundarbans has been explored. The author makes use of the Euclidean distance mechanism and principal component analysis to rank the ecotourism sites in Sunderbans (i.e., based on the construction of ecotourism potential index [EPI]). The novelty of the chapter lies in comparing the ranks obtained by constructing the EPI following the principal component analysis and the Euclidean distance function. It needs to be mentioned here that these tourist spots have been selected based on the information collected on the inflow of both domestic and foreign tourists to these spots. The chapter concludes by discussing the future scope of research in this regard.

## **Chapter Preview**

All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination. — Earl Nightingale

Introduction

Тор

Geographic Information System (GIS) uses a convex combination of various disciplines which include geography, mathematics, statistics, computer science, management and mapping science. On the basis of collected geospatial data, the technology offers a dynamic analysis for not only research but serves as a decision making instrument in the context of urban planning, disaster prevention and mitigation, tourism and other commercial areas, etc. An advanced form of GIS in this context is — Web based Geographic Information System (WGIS). It is fast becoming an effective tool for tourism and has developed itself into a platform that encourages ecotourism by bringing in the notion of area assessment, service management, resource use management, visitor flow management, and assessing impacts of the development of tourism. Therefore, the prospect of GIS applications in ecotourism is noteworthy. The study brings out a brief note on the tourist attractions, hotels and lodges, NGOs/travel agencies operating, railway/bus stations to land use profile, etc. in the Sundarbans in conjunction with exploring the potential of ecotourism using GIS based data. It should be also noted that this study will frequently make use of satellite data on digital image classification.

Figure 1. The Location Map of Sundarbans, India

\$\tilde{\$\p\}978-1-5225-8054-6.ch065.f01(https://igiprodst.blob.core.windows.net:443/source-content/9781522580546\_213224/978-1-5225-8054-6.ch065.f01.png?\$\sv=2015-12-11&\sr=c&\sig=iq08arcpAg9Mm9YvjTmz3JQR6zkyalPbBsGQVeui%2FlE%3D&\se=2019-11-14T22%3A41%3A24Z&\sp=r)\$

To introduce the readers to the landscape of Sundarbans, the study area of the Indian Sundarbans is of 130 kms in length out of the total 180 kms of total coastal length of West Bengal.

