

# Glossary of Bengali Words

- Aila*** A cyclone
- Allah*** Muslim's God
- Bada*** Local name of Sundarbans
- Bagh*** Tiger
- Bagdha*** Shrimp only found in saline water
- Baishak*** First month of Bengali year
- Bedhobapolle*** Shelter home for divorced women
- Borse*** Fishing instrument
- Chattro*** Last month of Bengali year
- Chira*** Bangladeshi food
- Chati*** Large shrimp
- Dinghy*** Tiny boat
- Dowa*** Muslim's prayer
- Easy Bike*** Three-wheeled motor vehicle
- Furi*** Local fish collector
- Gita*** Holy volumes for Hindu people
- Jal*** Net
- Jala-Baolie*** Female fishing community

- Kawra*** Fruit found in Sundarbans
- Kholpatua*** Name of a river
- Kortabakte*** Male head
- Lakre*** Fuel
- Lungi*** Man's cloth
- Mabonbibi*** Goddess
- Mach*** Fish
- Mal*** Local name of Sundarbans
- Mawali*** Honey gatherer
- Mayabiehorin*** Beautiful Deer
- Meku*** Water-insect
- Modantak*** Bangladeshi bird
- Muri*** Bangladeshi food
- Ochol*** Technique for separating fish from water-insect
- Pantavat*** Fermented boiled rice
- Passea*** Salty sea fish
- Pona*** Shrimp
- Powa*** Name of a fish
- Renu*** Small shrimp
- Sidr*** Name of a cyclone
- Shora*** Name of a village
- Sofeda*** Bangladeshi fruit
- Taka*** Official currency of Bangladesh
- Union*** The lowest level of administrative unit of Bangladesh

# Appendix A

## In-depth Interview Guide

This document is a guideline for conducting unstructured interviews during the fieldwork.

### Sundarbans Forest

- Describe, in detail, your understanding of the Sundarbans.
- When and how did you become acquainted with the forest?
- Do you require any permission to access the forest? Share your personal experience.
- What is the preferred time for going to the forest?
- Who goes to the forest, and for what?
- Tell us about the clothes the women and men wear when they go to the forest.
- What are the rituals which the area's inhabitants practise before going to the jungle?
- Outline the available resources of the Sundarbans Forest, and what types of forest resources you collect.
- Tell me the name of the instruments you use when you collect resources from the forest.
- How do you shift the collected resources from the forest?
- According to you, who is involved in processing the collected resources for market, and how does the process function?
- What are the benefits people obtain from the forest?
- Describe the relationship the area's inhabitants have with the forest, and how it changes over time.

## **Informant's Behaviour with the Forest and its Resources**

- Are there any differences between using instruments and collecting forest resources? If so, share your experiences.
- How do the women collect fish, leaves and timbers and how do they interact with the collected resources at home?
- To what extent, and by whom, is the forest used in a sustainable way?
- Tell me how the forest resources are sold in the market, and who benefits financially.
- Tell us about the social barriers women face when they go to forest, and when they attempt to sell the forest products in the local market.
- What are the obstacles the women face when they influence the familial decision-making process?
- Tell me in detail about the people's forest conservation activities.

## **Environmental Security**

- Do you feel that you are living in a secure environment? How was the ecological system of the village when you were a younger? Describe the crops and habitations of the people of Shora.
- Describe the recent environmental degradation that has occurred in the area.
- According to you, what are the likely reasons for the degradation of the local ecosystem, as well as the forested ecology?
- Tell me your experiences about the cyclones that have occurred at Shora.
- Tell me in detail about the scarcity or availability of the environmental resources required for leading a safe life.
- Describe the relationships between the people and the forest.
- Share with me how the cyclones hampered the environmental security of the area.
- What is the relationship between the Sundarbans forest and environmental security?

## Appendix B

# Keywords Used in Focused Group Discussion

Sundarbans<sup>1</sup>  
Religious practice  
Men  
Women  
Widow  
Divorced women  
*Bidobapolle*  
Condition of the forest  
Corruption  
Use of the forest resource  
Livelihood  
Forest-going habits of men and women  
Allocation of the benefits gained from the forest resources  
Forest conservation  
Tiger attacks  
Patrolling system  
Sidr  
Aila  
Environmental security  
Ecological protection  
Forest and people's relation.

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<sup>1</sup>For the gathering of rich data and convenience of the participants, I used keywords during focus group interviews.

## About the Author



Sajal Roy has been lecturing (although he is currently on study leave) in the Department of Women and Gender Studies at the Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR), Bangladesh since 2014. He is currently enrolled as a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute for Culture and Society (ICS), Western Sydney University, Australia. Before commencing his Ph.D., he completed a Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in Gender and Development from the University of Bergen and a Master of Social Sciences (MSS) in Women and Gender Studies from the University of Dhaka. His doctoral thesis examines the ways that

gender, marital status, religion and mobility intersect with the forest-based livelihood transformation of two contrasting coastal communities (Muslim and Munda Indigenous Communities) in south-west Bangladesh since Cyclone Aila in 2009. His documentary, entitled *Livelihood Diversity in the Sundarbans Forest*, has recently been screened at Lund University's Development Studies conference. Sajal's teaching and research interests include applied social research methods, community studies, gender and post-disaster recovery, feminist political ecology, and sustainable development goals. Sajal was awarded the prestigious *Meltzer Research Grant* from the University of Bergen in 2012 and a small-scale research grant (2015), jointly awarded by the Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur and the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh on feminist political ecology of gendered relations of the Shora forest community in the Bangladesh Sundarbans forest. He was a visiting researcher at the Nordic Institute for Asian Studies (NIAS), University of Copenhagen and International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Independent University, Bangladesh. He also served as a Senior Research Associate at the Research and Evaluation Department of BRAC International in South Sudan, Sierra Leone and Liberia. As a young social worker

and resource person, he has contributed for more than 3 years to a local NGO called *Coastal Development Organization for Women*, located in the district of Satkhira, Bangladesh.

**Peer-reviewed Publications:**

- Roy, S. (2018), ‘Livelihood resilience of the indigenous Munda community in the Bangladesh Sundarbans forest’ in: W. Leal and D. Ayal (eds.), *Handbook of Climate Change Resilience*, Springer Nature, pp. 1–22.
- Roy, S. (2018), ‘Book review: Women of the storm: civic activism after Hurricane Katrina’, *Journal of Gender Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2018.1475322>.
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## About the Book

A truly comprehensive introduction to the topic, *Climate Change Impacts on Gender Relations in Bangladesh: Socio-environmental Struggle of the Shora Forest Community in the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest* is an essential text for undergraduate and postgraduate students but also anyone wanting to better understand the complexities between gender, disasters and development in the coastal regions of Bangladesh. Sajal Roy's own deep knowledge, passion for the subject and accessible writing style provide great insights into the different cultural, social, political and environmental perspectives of this agenda. The combination of accessible introductory description along with the critical commentaries is difficult to pull off, but this book manages it with style.

*Saleemul Huq*, Ph.D., Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Bangladesh, and Senior Fellow, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK.

Elucidating the socio-environmental struggles by the Shora forest communities living in the Sunderbans areas, Sajal's book contributes immensely to the pertinent yet somewhat under-researched area of climate change and its nuanced impacts on gender relations in Bangladesh. Findings reiterate that empowering local communities leads to building communities' social capital, which they already possess, and possibly facilitates identifying community-led, gender-sensitive mechanisms in saving the forest. The book recommends concerted efforts by agencies and stakeholders in supporting longer-term initiatives such that climate change impacts on gender roles and relations can be positively realized, especially among communities like the Shora, who are exposed to multiple layers of vulnerabilities: climatic hazards, patriarchal societal construct, and inadequacies of resources.

*Golam M. Mathbor*, Ph.D., Professor, School of Social Work, Monmouth University, New Jersey, USA.

Most climate adaptation strategies focus on sustaining ecosystems and meeting basic human needs. Invariably this involves concepts of past and future equity in terms of access and use of resources. Sajal Roy analyses the changes in gender relationships in the context of impacts on vulnerable communities and ecosystems in the Bangladesh Sundarbans. This



excellent research provides an essential dimension for understanding and directing local climate adaptation as well as broader strategies for climate justice.

*Donna Craig*, Ph.D., Professor in Environmental Law, School of Law, Western Sydney University, Sydney, Australia.

Sajal's rich ethnographic analysis of the Shora Sundarban forest community provides valuable insights into the gendered dimensions of disaster resilience and livelihood security. In a time of anthropogenic climate change, such intersectional thinking is essential to future poverty-alleviation efforts. Scholars and practitioners of gender and development, rural livelihoods, climate change and development, South Asian development, human security, disaster resilience, forest-dependent communities, and feminist political ecologies will all find this book useful.

*Dr. Kearnin Sim*, Lecturer and Program Convenor in Development Studies, College of Science and Engineering, Division of Tropical Environments and Societies, James Cook University, Australia.

This book is a useful contribution to the much-needed study space for understanding the gendered imbalances in the context of traditional knowledge, contribution and deprivation in sustainable use of resources in Sundarbans. The author explores vividly the causal relationship between the complex ecological processes and the socio-environmental struggles, which will be a valuable contribution to anyone interested in women's role in creating a sustainable future.

*Dr. Namrata Bhattacharya-Mis*, Lecturer in Human Geography and International Development, University of Chester, UK.

The book by Sajal Roy on Sundarbans uncovers several myths about this largest mangrove forest in the world – the home of Bengal Tigers. The struggles for livelihood by the local people, especially Muslim women, who risk their lives while roaming in this forest are depicted in the book in a fascinating manner, which will be liked by any reader.

*Professor Ataur Rahman*, Western Sydney University, Australia.

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