

## ASSESSING CLIMATE-INDUCED VULNERABILITY OF SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES IN THE LOWER GANGETIC DELTA, WEST BENGAL

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*This study explores the vulnerability of fishing communities in four estuarine villages; Fraserganj, Kakdwip, Diamond Harbour, and Ganga Sagar, located in the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, India, within the Sundarbans mangrove region. Primary data were collected from 450 local fishers through interviews and focus group discussions in purposively selected villages between 2024 and 2025. A Livelihood Vulnerability Index (LVI) was calculated to assess climate-related impacts. The results show high environmental stress, with a Cyclone Exposure Index of 0.78 and a Water Salinity Impact score of 0.75, highlighting frequent storms and rising salinity. These risks emphasize the need for adaptive strategies and institutional support to strengthen community resilience.*

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