

Sustainable Practices For Conserving Wetland Resources –A Case Of Munroethuruthu

Wetlands are one of the valuable ecosystems that sustain the balance of the nature which holds water, land, air and various unique species together. Due to natural and anthropogenic activities of men, these fluvial landforms are diminishing and vanishing from the earth's surface. Human habitation and the utilization of wetland resources improved the economic value and made these fluvial landforms more precious which started to attract more human activities in these fragile ecosystems. Over exploitation and adverse impacts of urbanization started to deplete these ecosystems which started to impact in the form of disasters like unexpected tidal flooding, hyper salinity of water, degradation of vegetation etc. Mangroves which once considered as 'sacred groves' which is abundant in the wetlands protected these ecosystems to a greater extent from nature's fury like Tsunami, Hurricanes, Cyclones etc. Deterioration of these species for various economic activities and lack of restoration after certain disaster makes the wetlands more vulnerable. This study focuses on the present situation of Munroethuruthu, an island in Ashtamudi wetland, Kollam which had a valuable ecosystem once. Various anthropogenic activities and unnatural flooding degraded the wetland resources and stability of the wetland. This study explores spatial planning strategies for conservation and various policies that can be implemented in this region under Nature Conservation, Livelihood, Tourism and density reduction for the protection of native community and wetland ecosystem.

Keywords: *Wetlands, Conservation, Mangroves, Tidal flooding*