

Fishery, Tourism and Wetland

Services of Chilika Lake



Dr. Tarulata Sethi
Prof. Sudhakar Patra

Fishery, Tourism and Wetland Services of Chilika Lake



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Preface

This book on “Fishery, Tourism, and Wetland Services of Chilika Lake” is the outcome of research work with the financial assistance of Indian Council of Social Science (ICSSR), New Delhi. We have immense pleasure of presenting this book to the researchers and students. The Chilika lake supports a complex interplay of biodiversity, local livelihoods, and tourism-based development. This book explores the multiple services offered by the Chilika ecosystem, particularly focusing on fisheries and tourism, and examines their economic and social contributions through a cost-benefit analysis framework. This publication aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of the diverse ecological services rendered by the lake and its surrounding wetlands. Drawing from multidisciplinary research, field studies, and policy analysis, this volume brings to light the intricate interdependencies between nature and society in the Chilika region.

Our objective is not only to document the ecological functions and economic value of the wetland but also to highlight the challenges facing this fragile ecosystem due to climate change, unsustainable development, and governance complexities. We delve into provisioning services such as fisheries and freshwater resources; regulating services like carbon sequestration and flood control; cultural services that sustain local traditions and ecotourism; and supporting services that maintain biodiversity and ecological balance. This work is intended for researchers, policymakers, conservation practitioners, students, and all those who recognize the critical role of wetlands in ensuring environmental sustainability and human well-being. It is our hope that this book will inspire more informed stewardship and integrated management approaches for Chilika and wetlands across the globe.

The book is immensely useful for under-graduate and post-graduate students of economics, environmental economics, fisheries and tourism economics. We extend our sincere thanks to the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) for granting access to valuable data, reports, and field support. My appreciation also goes to the local fishermen, boat operators, and community members of Chilika Lake who generously shared their time, experiences, and insights. Finally we are thankful to Empyreal Publisher for publishing and marketing of this book.

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ABOUT THE BOOK

The book “Fishery, Tourism, and Wetland Services of Chilika Lake” offers a comprehensive exploration of the ecological and economic significance of India’s largest coastal lagoon Chilika Lake, located in Odisha. This book is designed for researchers, policymakers, students, and practitioners which highlights the importance of sustainable wetland governance, community-based resource management, and inclusive development. It provides actionable policy recommendations for balancing conservation with economic development in fragile wetland ecosystems.



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