

List of Figures

1.1	Location of south-western Sundarban in West Bengal, India	8
1.2	Position of the Patibania island and the Henry's island within south-western Sundarban	9
1.3	Map of the Patibania island	10
1.4	Map of the Henry's island	11
1.5	Digital elevation model of the Patibania island	18
1.6	Digital elevation model of the Henry's island	19
1.7	Profile of the island	20
1.8	Hypsometric curve of the Henry's island	22
1.9	Hypsometric curve of the Patibania island	23
1.10	Distribution of mangrove vegetation and tidal inundation in the Henry's island .	24
1.11	Distribution of mangrove vegetation and tidal inundation in the Patibania island	25
1.12	Schematic diagram of a transect in the Henry's island	27
1.13	Schematic diagram of a transect in the Patibania island	28
1.14	MAVI maps of the Patibania island	30
1.15	MAVI maps of the Henry's island	31
1.16	NDVI maps of the Patibania island (1)	32
1.17	NDVI maps of the Henry's island	33
1.18	Flowchart of the methodology	45
2.1	Contour zonation map of the Henry's island	69
2.2	Elevation profile of a cross section of the Henry's island	69
2.3	Contour zonation map of the Patibania island	71
2.4	Elevation profile of a cross section of the Patibania island	72
2.5	Classification of geomorphological settings identified in the islands	73

2.6	Map of geomorphic settings in the Henry's island	75
2.7	Map of geomorphic settings in the Patibania island	78
2.8	Contour map of a saltpan in the Henry's island	82
2.9	Cross sectional diagram of the Henry's island (west to east)	84
2.10	Contour planning map of saltpan in Patibania island	85
2.11	Cross sectional diagram of the Patibania island (west to east)	87
2.12	Tidal flat settings of an estuary	91
2.13	Schematic diagrams of cross profiles of the banks of the Bakkhali creek and the Edward's creek	93
2.14	Schematic diagram of a cross profile of the tidal zones in the Henry's island . .	93
2.15	Schematic diagram of a cross profile of the tidal zones in the Patibania island .	94
2.16	Distribution of saltmarsh vegetation along the coastal tract	95
2.17	Sediment accumulation and biogeography of saltmarsh along the Bakkhali creek	98
2.18	Factors affecting saltpan distribution within islands	99
2.19	Identification of saltpans in the two islands	101
2.20	Cross profiles in a saltpan	105
2.21	Changing area of saltpans presented through bar graphs for the islands	106
2.22	Geomorphic of tide dominated estuary	107
2.23	Location of Muriganga and Saptamukhi estuaries within Hooghly estuary in south-western Sundarban	107
2.24	Changing area of saltpans within Henry's island	108
2.25	Changing area of saltpans within Patibania island	109
2.26	Geomorphology of the Bakkhali creek and surrounding areas	112
2.27	Geomorphology of the Pitts creek and surrounding areas	112
2.28	Sea level rise scenarios	115
2.29	Morphodynamic feedback on sedimentation in mangrove ecosystems	119
3.1	Regional settings	122
3.2	Regional setting of the study area	123
3.3	Yearly sea level fluctuations	126
3.4	Yearly frequency of cyclones in the Bay of Bengal (1876–2020)	127
3.5	Seasonal and monthly frequency of cyclones (2007–2020)	127
3.6	Dynamics of coastal processes	128

3.7	Holocene sea level rise	130
3.8	Tidal range of Sagar station	135
3.9	Types of tidal fluctuations at Sagar Island	136
3.10	Tidal fluctuation map of all year in Sagar island	137
3.11	Tidal fluctuation map of all year in Sagar island	138
3.12	Tidal fluctuation map of all year in Sagar island	139
3.13	Beach morphology as the energy gradient, sediment character	145
3.14	Beach morphology as the energy gradient, sediment character	147
3.15	Vegetation succession at coastal dune of Bakkhali sea beach	149
3.16	Groundwater system	150
3.17	Schematic maps of shoreline change	154
3.18	Map of the coastline monitored and linear shifts at the places observed	155
3.19	Bar graphs showing areas of erosion and deposition	156
4.1	Bar plots for soil texture analysis	159
4.2	Moisture content zones in two saltpans	160
4.3	Bar plots for soil chemical analysis	163
4.4	Maps of salinity in two saltpans	165
4.5	Maps of organic matter in two saltpans	166
4.6	Comparative boxplots across seasons for the soil variables in saline blank 1 (pre: pre-monsoon, mon: monsoon, post: post-monsoon).	167
4.7	Comparative boxplots across locations for the soil variables in pre-monsoon. . .	171
4.8	Estimated densities across seasons for the soil variables in saline blank 1. . . .	172
4.9	Estimated densities across locations for the soil variables in pre-monsoon. . . .	173
4.10	Pearson correlation plot of soil variables at saline blank 1 in pre-monsoon. . . .	182
4.11	Pearson correlation plot of soil variables at saline blank 1 in monsoon.	182
4.12	Pearson correlation plot of soil variables at saline blank 1 in post-monsoon. . .	183
4.13	Pearson correlation plot of soil variables at saline blank 2 in pre-monsoon. . . .	183
4.14	Pearson correlation plot of soil variables at saline blank 3 in pre-monsoon. . . .	184
4.15	Pearson correlation plot of soil variables at Patibania in pre-monsoon.	184
4.16	The mangrove zones in the Henry's island	186
4.17	Zonation of mangroves within a saltpan in the Henry's island	188
4.18	Tidal inundation frequency in the Patibania island	192

4.19	Tidal inundation frequency in the Henry's island	193
4.20	Creatures involving in bioturbation in a saltpan in the Henry's island	199
4.21	Schematic diagram of a tropical coastal shelf ecosystem	205
5.1	Yearly rainfall (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	212
5.2	Seasonal rainfall (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	213
5.3	Seasonal proportion of yearly rainfall (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	214
5.4	Monthly rainfall (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	215
5.5	Yearly averages of daily maximum temperature and daily minimum temperature (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	216
5.6	Joint plot of yearly averages of daily maximum temperature and daily minimum temperature (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	216
5.7	Seasonal averages of daily maximum temperature and daily minimum temper- ature (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	217
5.8	Joint plots of seasonal averages of daily maximum temperature and daily mini- mum temperature (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	218
5.9	Monthly averages of daily maximum temperature and daily minimum temper- ature from January to June (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	219
5.10	Monthly averages of daily maximum temperature and daily minimum temper- ature from July to December (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	220
5.11	Yearly averages of daily relative humidity measurements (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	221
5.12	Joint plot of yearly averages of daily relative humidity measurements (2000– 2019); station: Diamond Harbour	222
5.13	Seasonal averages of daily relative humidity measurements (2000–2019); sta- tion: Diamond Harbour	223
5.14	Joint plots of seasonal averages of daily relative humidity measurements (2000– 2019); station: Diamond Harbour	224
5.15	Monthly averages of daily relative humidity measurements from January to June (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	225
5.16	Monthly averages of daily relative humidity measurements from July to De- cember (2000–2019); station: Diamond Harbour	226
5.17	Yearly potential evapotranspiration	227

5.18	Comparison of yearly potential evapotranspiration and rainfall	227
5.19	Monthly potential evapotranspiration	228
5.20	Change in vegetation index in the two islands	230
5.21	Regression of mangrove forest cover of different categories on yearly rainfall, average daily maximum temperature and average daily minimum temperature in the Patibania island	235
5.22	Regression of mangrove forest cover of different categories on yearly averages of daily relative humidity values (I) and (II) in the Patibania island	236
5.23	Regression of mangrove forest cover of different categories on yearly rainfall, average daily maximum temperature and average daily minimum temperature in the Henry's island	238
5.24	Regression of mangrove forest cover of different categories on yearly averages of daily relative humidity values (I) and (II) in the Henry's island	239
5.25	Total biomass of the Henry's island and the Patibania island	243
5.26	Plot of groundwater depth	248
5.27	Seasonal of groundwater depths	248
5.28	Drainage map of the Patibania island	250
5.29	Drainage map of the Henry's island	251
5.30	Buffer region of the larger creeks in the two islands	252
6.1	Forest management plan	264
6.2	Working principle of fishing management	270
6.3	Four stages of participatory program	277
6.4	Climate resilient development plan for Sundarban	280