



São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Scenarios and Modelling on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to Support Human Well-Being

Priyanka Sarkar

Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar-788011, India
prianca.sarkar9@gmail.com

I am currently working on my Ph.D. as a UGC-BSR Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Assam University, Silchar (India). I completed my Master's degree with a specialization in 'Environmental Monitoring and Assessment' from Assam University. In the past, I have received financial support from India-UK Water Centre, British Ecological Society, and the Volkswagen Foundation, Germany to share my research findings at some international conferences/workshop. Recently, I have been awarded with the '2019 Wetland Ambassador' fellowship by the 'Society of Wetland Scientists', USA. Soon, I will join the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA to carry out research on 'Can biochar increase carbon sequestration in wetland restoration projects?'

I am interested in understanding how the various ecological aspects of floodplain wetlands in the tropics are related to socio-economic dimensions, livelihood sustenance, and human well-being. For my doctoral research, I have been studying the ecosystem services and economic valuation of *Chatla* floodplain wetland of Assam, northeast India. Through my work, I intend to comprehensively identify the services that *Chatla* provide to raise greater awareness of the importance *Chatla* in maintaining the well-being of the dependent people. I endeavor to find the link between its natural capital and the well being of the dependent communities through the integration of socio-ecological and economic approach. This includes socio-economic assessment of the dependent communities; ecological assessment of the biophysical structure of *Chatla*; spatial assessment of its land-use and land cover change across seasons; and, economic valuation of major provisioning services & water regulating service i.e., water purification potential of *Chatla*. I anticipate that my research findings would enlighten the stakeholders, and influence the policymakers to adopt scientific and sustainable management strategies for *Chatla* and similar wetlands in India to enhance their resiliency, creating a 'win-win' situation.