

37	Perspective Action Plan For Development Of Majuli	Institute of Environmental Management & Social Development, Gurgaon	2003
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This super summary provides an outline of the content of the report on the perspective area development plan for Majuli encompassing social, cultural, religious, demographic, economical, geographical, industrial aspects and other issues of future developmental concerns.

CHAPTERS 1& 2: : BACKGROUND

This part of the report has attempted to present a complete and balanced picture of the diversity and distinctiveness of Majuli focusing on future development needs and strategies.

Both the chapter focuses on present status and basic information about Majuli that will be always essential to formulate plans and policies on any developmental activity to be taken up based on services of appropriate standard.

These two chapters provide all such information encompassing:

- Physiography, Geology and Geomorphology of Majuli
- The need and ways of protection and development of Majuli
- Rich cultural, religious and environmental heritage needed to be preserved
- Infrastructure and present development scenario
- Social, demographic and economic aspects
- Resources
- Traditions
- GIS mapping for Majuli
- Current problems and obstacles to development
- Macro and micro level projects for protection of Majuli
- Macro and micro level projects for future development of Majuli

CHAPTER 3 :: ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES AND HERITAGES

To ascertain the potential and barriers for development, existing state of all types of resources have been investigated:

- Physical resources supporting sustainable growth
- Demographic characteristics
- Life in Char/Chapories
- Places of importance
- Adventure sports and scope
- Agriculture and land use pattern
- Drawbacks of agriculture
- Industrial status

- Horticulture
- Animal husbandry
- Pisciculture
- Forestry, Agro-forestry, Medicinal Plants
- Water transport, riverport
- Traditional skills
- *Sericulture
 - *Handloom
 - *Handicraft
 - *Pottery
 - *Bamboo product
 - *Boat-making
- Mineral and Oil exploration
- NGO activities
 - *Capacity Building
 - * Action agenda for Ngos

CHAPTER 4 :: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

With local economies dependent on primary industries (farming, handicraft etc) that are going through difficult periods, many rural industries are now in decline, impacting on local jobs and services. There is need to initiate innovative experiment to boost production and rejuvenate the economy of the island. The report sees the examination of the present state as the first step towards sustainable development of the rural economy.

- Agricultural prospect
- Wheat as alternative crop
- Wasteland recovery
- Organic farming
- Drawbacks & prospects
- Expanding industrial base in Majuli
- Prospects of cultural industry
- Women in dairying
- Promoting sustainable livelihood practices in the Char/chapories
- Rejuvenating sericultural sector

CHAPTER 5 :: PERSPECTIVE PLAN FOR TOURISM

Tourism is fundamental for the rural economy of Majuli and can play a central role in revitalising the island and its surrounding areas - expenditure by visitors to the countryside may support substantial jobs across Majuli. The report advocates improved access to road and waterways for both passengers and freight, for physical isolation can be a barrier to economic growth.

Issues examined are:

- Overview of tourism sector
- Global scenario

- Deficiencies in infrastructure
- Scheme for development of infrastructure
- New possibilities
- International tourist attractions
- Spiritual tourism,eco-tourism, wild-life tourism, adventure tourism, & rural tourism in Majuli

CHAPTER 6 : : OUTCOME OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY

A socio-economic survey was carried out in the river island to gauge the present set up of Majuli with respect to economy, population, agriculture, culture, intensity of flood damage to the island and so on. The study also tried to have an insight into people's perception about the problems besetting them and their readiness of addressing those problems through resources and means available to them and their willingness to undergo training to embark upon such activities. The major findings of this study are discussed under the following sub-heading:

- Education and employment status of the inhabitants
- Traditional skills of the villagers
- Micro-enterprise initiatives in Majuli
- Flood and disaster management
- Information regarding Satras in Majuli
- Human resource requirement
- Current development scenario

CHAPTER 7 : : LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPES

The rural landscape has evolved over hundreds of years to create landscapes, and heritage features that are highly valued. Change must be allowed to continue however, this will need to be managed to retain Majuli's distinctiveness, diversity and its natural value and to ensure that natural resources are managed and the rural ambience protected. The integral link between conservation of landscape and legal provisions also needs to be recognised

- Sustainable development through heritage area
- Statutory and regulatory requirements
- Implication of heritage conservation policies
- Specific protection measures for cultural landscapes
- Requirement of adherence to national/ international service quality standards
- Purpose of conservation
- Indigenous cultural heritage
- Conservation practices
- General principles of conservation
- Processes of conservation
 - *Degree of intervention
 - *Non-intervention

- *Maintenance
- *Stabilisation
- *Repair
- *Restoration
- *Reconstruction
- *Adaptation
- *Interpretion
- Eco-tourism
- Basic position
- Plan of action

CHAPTER 8 & 9 :: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In the summary the people's perception about the micro-enterprises as income generating activity, both as individual as well as collective venture is focussed at length based upon the socio-economic survey undertaken. The recommendation for future development of Majuli is grouped under the following headings:

- Recommendation for the tourism sector
- Recommendation for the agricultural sector
- Recommendation for the handloom sector
- Recommendation for the horticultural sector
- Recommendation for Forestry
- Recommendation for agro-forestry
- Recommendation for pisciculture
- Recommendation for small/tiny sector industry
- Recommendation for service sector industry
- Recommendation for cultural industry
- Recommendation for Animal husbandry and veterinary sector
- Recommendation for dairying and milk production
- Recommendation for poultry development
- Recommendation for erosion and flood control