

Economic Valuation of Storm Protection Function: A Case Study of Mangrove Forest of Orissa and 1999 Super Cyclone

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The research aims at making a quantitative assessment of the storm protection function of mangrove forests. In Oct. 1999, the state of Orissa was battered by a super cyclone that caused tremendous loss of lives and properties in the coastal region. There was wide reporting in national as well as international press that areas with mangrove forest in their coastline witnessed comparatively less damage. Using village level human casualties data, I have estimated a cyclone damage function that takes into account the wind velocity, storm surge velocity and socio-economic condition of the villages separately and tries to find out the number of human casualties that were avoided due to the presence of mangroves in some areas.