

# Sundarbans ATLAS

Bangladesh Forest Compartment Maps and Gazetteer



Helmut Denzau, Gertrud Neumann-Denzau, Peter Gerngross

## **Imprint**

### **Sundarbans Atlas**

Bangladesh Forest Compartment Maps and Gazetteer

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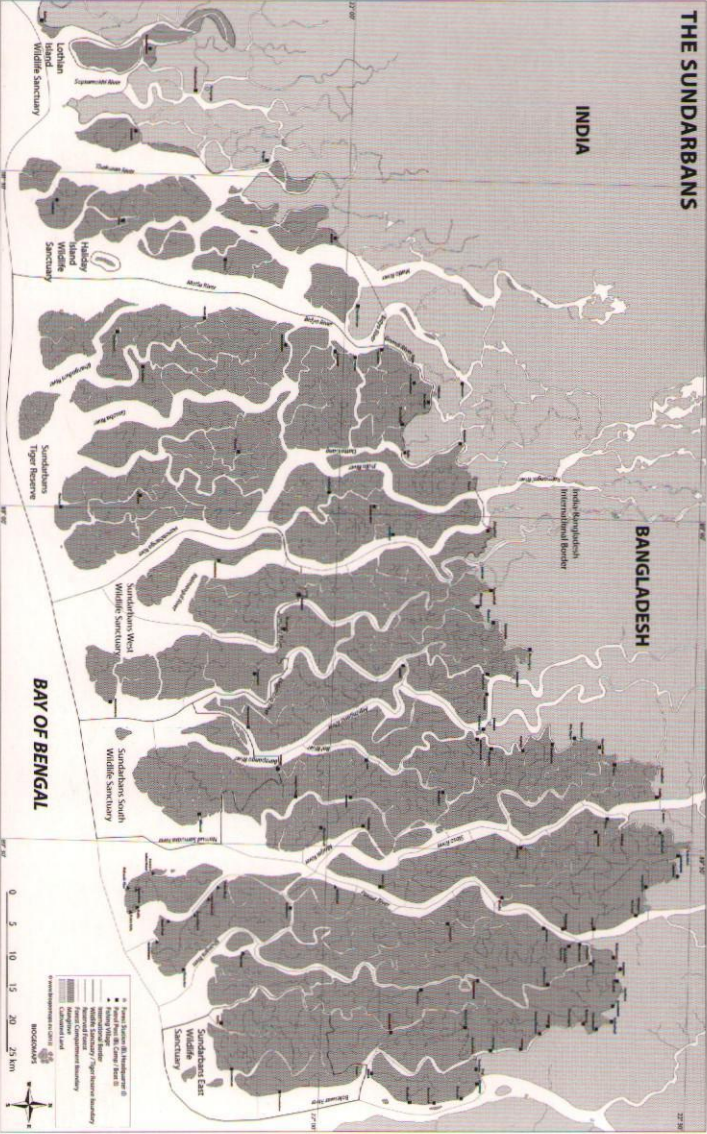
# THE SUNDARBANS

INDIA

BANGLADESH

India-Bangladesh  
International Border

BAY OF BENGAL



- 1 Forest Station (H. Mandap) (H)
- 2 Forest Post (H. Camp) (H.C.)
- 3 Forest Village
- 4 Wildlife Sanctuary / Tiger Reserve boundary
- 5 Reserved Forest
- 6 National Park boundary
- 7 National Park
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MOONDAVIS

# Bangladesh Sundarbans Forest Compartment Names

adopted from S.J. Curtis (1934)

No.	Compartment Name	Forest Range	No.	Compartment Name	Forest Range
C01	Alibanda	Sarankhola	C31	Dhangmari	Chandpai
C02	Marabhola	Sarankhola	C32	Sutarkhali	Khulna
C03	Arnabindi	Sarankhola	C33	Hatdura	Khulna
C04	Katka	Sarankhola	C34	Adasain	Khulna
C05	Supoti	Sarankhola	C35	Jaimuni	Khulna
C06	Tiger Point	Sarankhola	C36	Ganderkhali	Khulna
C07	Betmar	Sarankhola	C37	Slanekhali	Khulna
C08	Passar Island	Sarankhola	C38	Jafa	Khulna
C09	Kagabaga	Chandpai	C39	Cheila Bogi	Khulna
C10	Ghusiangara	Chandpai	C40	Mankidomania	Khulna
C11	Patakata	Sarankhola	C41	Chalki	Satkhira
C12A	Harantana	Chandpai	C42	Bal	Satkhira
C12B	Harantana	Sarankhola	C43	Seikhali	Khulna
C13	Tambulbumia	Chandpai	C44	Dhundal	Khulna
C14	Kalamala	Chandpai	C45	Dubla	Sarankhola
C15	Chhotasiala	Chandpai	C46	Kalagachi	Satkhira
C16	Neshankhali	Khulna	C47	Chunkuri	Satkhira
C17	Tintukra	Khulna	C48	Kalindri	Satkhira
C18	Kaga	Khulna	C49	Atharabanki	Satkhira
C19	Jalbunia	Khulna	C50	Kokomari	Satkhira
C20	Gawakhali	Khulna	C51	Malancha	Satkhira
C21	Charputia	Chandpai	C52	Megua	Satkhira
C22	Putia	Chandpai	C53	Puspakhali	Satkhira
C23	Kankramari	Chandpai	C54	Mandarbaria	Satkhira
C24	Nangli	Sarankhola	C55	Raimangal	Satkhira
C25	Arwaber	Chandpai			
C26	Nandobola	Chandpai			
C27	Bhola	Chandpai			
C28	Mirgamari	Chandpai			
C29	Shikari	Chandpai			
C30	Jungra	Chandpai			

## Administration

Bagerhat Divisional Headquarter for Sundarbans East Forest Division:

Sarankhola Forest Range + Chandpai Forest Range

Khulna Divisional Headquarter for Sundarbans West Forest Division:

Khulna Forest Range + Satkhira Forest Range



## **Contents**

Map of the Entire Sundarbans	1
Bangladesh Sundarbans Forest Compartment Names	2
Overview Map of Bangladesh Sundarbans Forest Compartments	3
Imprint	6
Introduction	9
References	12
Abbreviations	12
List of Bangladesh Forest Department Bases	13
Legends and Maps of Forest Compartments 1 to 55	16-125
Notes to the Index-Gazetteer	126
Index-Gazetteer	127-172
Folded Map of the Entire Sundarbans	Back cover inside (pocket)

## Introduction

The Sundarbans mangrove forest is the largest continuous mangrove forest in the world. The area covers 10,284 sq.km, of which 58.5% lies in Bangladesh and 41.5% in India.

We have visited the Sundarbans mangrove forest in India as well as in Bangladesh since 1989. We also dealt with the Human - Tiger Conflict (Neumann Denzau, Denzau, 2010a , 2010b). In the evaluation of numerous sources that reported Human - Tiger incidents in the Sundarban Reserved Forest (SRF), we have frequently observed that problems appeared concerning the location of the places of incidents. Several reports, especially in newspapers, used names of creeks that could not be associated with any location. In different reports about the same incident different place names were mentioned, often obviously distorted by oral transmission or by ignorance. We have therefore begun to compile a list of names of large and small waterways of the Sundarbans of Bangladesh from different maps and have connected these names with information about the location. This list was made into an Index-Gazetteer arranged in alphabetical order. What was at first intended only for our personal use, we were able to expand through several maps by Peter Gerngross. Now the Sundarbans Atlas in hand is intended for users like conservationists, scientists, employees of the Forest Department, law-enforcing and other authorities, tourists, tourist companies, journalists, NGOs and legal resource users.

How did we proceed?

As a basemap a NASA satellite image of the Sundarbans was used. The image was created by Jesse Allen, Earth Observatory, using data obtained from the University of Maryland's Global Land Cover Facility (2008). Coastlines and waterways of the Sundarbans of Bangladesh and India were manually vectorized using this NASA satellite image as a basis for our maps.

The Government of Bengal, Calcutta, published the 'Working Plan for the Forests of the Sundarbans Division', Vol.1, 2 and 3, by S.J. Curtis, Deputy Conservator of Forests in 1933-1934. Vol.2 includes 75 Compartment Maps in the Appendix III. Today compartments 1-55 are part of Bangladesh Sundarbans, compartments 56-75 of Indian Sundarbans. Curtis' work has to be valued as milestone for mapping the Sundarbans (scale 1 inch = 1 mile) . It was the source of inspiration and an important source of information for our Sundarbans Atlas.

The following additional maps of the Bangladesh Sundarbans were examined:

Forest types maps 1: 50,000 from 1985 (10 sheets). These maps contain only a few names of smaller watercourses such as creeks and no Forest Department Bases.

Forest types maps 1:50,000 from 1997 (15 sheets). These maps contain a lot of errors. Several Forest Department Bases are located in the wrong place, others are not included. These maps were not used because the edition of 2002 is a much improved version.

Forest types maps 1:50,000 from 2002 (10 sheets), abbreviated D2002.

Sundarbans Reserved Forest Map 1: 200,000 from 2002 (1 sheet), abbreviated B2002.

The names of waterways were extracted mainly from Curtis Maps 1934, D2002 and B2002 as well as some maps of various Forest Patrol Posts. The Forest Department Bases (Range Offices, Forest Stations, Patrol Posts, Wildlife Sanctuary Headquarters) from D2002 and B2002 were included in our map as either Forest Stations or Patrol Posts.

## **Structure of this Sundarbans Atlas**

The Map of the Sundarbans shows (as the only map in the book) the entire Sundarbans Reserved Forest of Bangladesh and of India. The Forest Department Bases of both countries are inserted: in Bangladesh these are Forest Stations and Patrol Posts, in India these are Headquarters and Camps/Beats. All strictly protected areas of the Sundarbans mangrove forest are included, e.g. the Sundarbans South, West and East Wildlife Sanctuaries in Bangladesh and the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve and Haliday Island and Lothian Island Wildlife Sanctuary in India.

The Map of the entire Sundarbans in a larger scale for easier reading is found folded in a pocket at the end of this book. In all other sections of this Sundarbans Atlas only the Bangladesh part of the Sundarbans Forest (6,017 sq.km) is considered.

The List of Names of Forest Compartments in Bangladesh (1-55) in English is adopted from Curtis (1934) and the appropriate Forest Ranges from D2002.

The Overview Map of Forest Compartments of Bangladesh Sundarbans shows the location of all 55 compartments.

An alphabetical List of all Forest Department Bases indicates the corresponding compartment numbers.

All Compartment Maps 1-55 are drawn in the same scale for better comparison. For every compartment there is a double page. On the left hand you find the legend with names in English (obtained from published sources), local usage and Bangla for the map on the right hand side.

### **The legend consists of three parts:**

In the upper part the names of the waterways are listed in numerical order. These numbers correspond with the numbers of the waterways on the compartment map on the right hand side. This allows us to give the names in English (including local names) as well as in Bangla in the legend.

The middle part of the legend shows the names of big rivers or islands in both languages. On the map the names are just in English. The lower part of the legend contains the names of Forest Stations and Patrol Posts of the respective compartment in alphabetical order as well as the names of temporary fishing villages in the coastal area.

In each Compartment Map the compartment boundaries are marked by dotted lines. The actual compartment number, the icons for Forest Stations, Patrol Posts and fishing villages are shown in the left upper corner of each map, followed by the scale and the arrow to indicate north. On each map the numbers of the waterways are just given for the actual compartment. For all adjacent compartments the compartment numbers e.g. C24 are given for orientation and guidance where to look to continue. All Forest Stations and Patrol Posts on the page (inside and outside the actual compartment) are labelled to allow a good overview.

The Index-Gazetteer contains the names of waterways, Forest Stations and Patrol Posts in English taken mainly from Curtis, D2002 and B2002. For each place name the compartment number and the source is mentioned. Identical names for different places can be distinguished accurately. Thus the Gazetteer is far more than an index, as it always mentions the source where a name was derived from. Differences in the spelling of the names by different sources are accurately reported. A lot of variations are caused by slightly different transcriptions of Bangla names into English by cartographers in the past. Over a time span of more than 80 years the course of some waterways in Curtis' maps have changed significantly.

Since the same waterways sometimes go by different names they may occur at different places within the Index-Gazetteer. Because of cross-references in brackets a correlation with the names of other sources is possible.

A change of the names for different parts of the same waterway or errors because of wrong spelling become clear. In some cases remarks in brackets are given for better understanding of certain facts.

Location names in bold in the Index-Gazetteer indicate those used in the compartment maps.

**This book can be used in various ways:**

- to search names in Compartment Maps
- to find the sources for all mentioned names
- to find spelling errors and transcription differences occurring in the English sources
- to find a standardized name, like 'Chota' for Chhota, Choto, Chotta etc.
- to find an adapted name for a waterway (same spelling as for a nearby Forest Station or Patrol Post)
- to find different places with the same name
- to find multiple names (identical names may appear more than once in different parts of the Sundarbans)
- to find and recognize ambiguities of names
- to find different names for parts of the same waterway

**Here are two examples for using the Index-Gazetteer:**

1. If you go through the Sundarbans by boat the names of waterways and Forest Stations or Patrol Posts of the respective compartment could be determined easily with the help of maps and legends in English, Local or Bangla. It must be remembered that not all Patrol Posts are permanently in use, and that a few have disappeared (e.g. Mandarbaria) or got closed.

2. You are looking for a location of a place name. Search this name in English (including Local) in the Index-Gazetteer and determine the compartment number it belongs to. Visit the Compartment Map and with the help of the legend you find its particular number on the map. The legend enables also to learn the equivalent name in Bangla script.

We are happy to present this Sundarbans Atlas with 55 Bangladesh Compartment maps and an Index-Gazetteer to the public, because we believe that many people will be interested in this information. It should be regarded as a basic documentation with several options for further investigations. Some Bangla names might require certain linguistic verifications. The existing collection of names could be extended by additional commonly used terms, and names of manifold smaller creeks are waiting to be brought to light.

We thank many local informants for sharing their knowledge, Sabrina Miti Gain for transcription from English into Bangla, and Philip Gain and his SEHD team for title design, publishing and distributing this book.

**Helmut Denzau, Gertrud Neumann-Denzau, Peter Gerngross**



## References

- B2002: Forest Types Map 1:200,000 Sundarban Reserved Forest (SRF), February 2002  
(RIMS/GIS Unit 2002 - 1:200,000 SBCP, Bangladesh Forest Dep., Government of Bangladesh)
- Curtis, S. J., 1934 – Working Plan for the Forests of the Sundarbans Division, Vol. 2, Appendix III  
Compartment Maps, Government of Bengal, Calcutta
- Curtis, S. J., 1933 – Working Plan for the Forests of the Sundarbans Division, Vol. 3, Description of the  
Compartments and their Histories, Government of Bengal, Calcutta (short-term: Curtis T)
- D1985: Forest Types Maps 1:50,000 SRF, 1985, 10 Sheets  
Land Resources Development Centre - 1:50,000 Government of Bangladesh
- D1997: Forest Types Maps 1:50,000 SRF, August 1997, 15 Sheets  
(RIMS/GIS Unit 1997 - 1:50,000 Bangladesh Forest Dep., Government of Bangladesh)
- D2002: Forest Types Maps 1:50,000 SRF, February 2002, 10 Sheets  
(RIMS/GIS Unit 2002 - 1:50,000 Bangladesh Forest Dep., Government of Bangladesh)
- Deodatus, F., 2001 – Field Trip Report, SBCP Internal Notes – IN 27, Government of Bangladesh
- Ghagramari PP map, Harbaria PP map
- Kochikhali PP map, 2011 - 1 :50,000
- Local informant: Insiders with special knowledge of the interior Sundarbans like boatmen, captains,  
fishermen and other resource users were interviewed. They confirmed most of the English names and  
eventually provided some other names known to them, here called ‘Local Name’.
- Neumann-Denzau, G., Denzau, H., 2010a – Examining the extent of Human-Tiger Conflict in the  
Sundarbans Forest, Bangladesh, Tigerpaper, Vol.37/2, 4-7
- Neumann-Denzau, G., Denzau, H., 2010b – Examining certain aspects of Human-Tiger Conflict in the  
Sundarbans Forest, Bangladesh, Tigerpaper, Vol.37/3, 1-11

## Abbreviations

FS	Forest Station
PP	Patrol Post
FR	Forest Range
RO	Range Office
C	Compartment
(z), (y), (x), (w), (v)	Indices for different places with the same name
(a),(b),(c)	Indices for different parts of the same waterway
(old), (new)	Indices used when the course of a waterway has changed between 1934 (Curtis) and 2002, but when there has not been a name change
#	closed
*	standardized name

## List of Forest Department Bases

FS = Forest Station  
 PP = Patrol Post  
 FR = Forest Range  
 RO = Range Office

Compartment numbers in brackets indicate for a Forest Station or Patrol Post that this compartment lies on the opposite bank or nearby.

Names of Base	Compartment Name
Adachai PP	39 (34) (40)
Amurbunia PP	27
Andharmanik PP (Chandpai FR)	26 (25) (28)
Andharmanik PP (Khulna FR)	37 (41) (46)
Baidyamari PP	28
Baniakhali FS	35
Baraitala PP	27
Bhadra PP	39 (29) (22) (21)
Bhola PP	24
Bhomorkhali PP	18 (19)
Bogi FS	1
Bojbaja PP	37
Burigoalini FS + RO	(46)
Chandeshar PP	5
Chandpai FS + RO	28 (30)
Charaputia PP	15 (21)
Charkhali PP	1
Chunkuri PP	47
Dasherbharani PP	24
Dhangmari FS	(31)
Dhanshagor FS	25
Dhanshagor PP	27
Dingimari PP	51 (49)
Dobeki PP	50 (46) (47)
Dubeki PP (Khulna)	18 (43) (52)
Dubla PP	45
Dudmukhi PP	2 (3) (11) (12)
Dumuria PP	1
Gewakhali PP	20 (38)
Ghagramari PP	31
Gulisakhali PP	27
Hadda PP	35
Haddora PP	33
Haldibunia PP	55
Hangsha Raj PP	18

Harbaria PP	26 (22) (29)
Harintana PP	13 (12B) (14)
Hayatkhalī PP	(36)
Jalia PP	19 (42)
Jewdhara FS	27
Jongra PP	31 (30)
Kadamtala FS	(46) (47)
Kailashgonj PP	32
Kalabogi FS	32 (33)
Kalagachia PP	46
Kalamteji PP	27 (25)
Karamjal PP	31
Kassiabad FS	(36)
Katakhali PP	28
Kateswar PP	46
Katka PP	7 (6)
Khasitana PP	37
Kobadak FS	(46) (41) (37)
Kochikhali PP	6
Koikhali FS	(48) (47)
Kokilmoni PP	8 (9)
Koyra PP	35 (36)
4No. Koyra PP	36
Lawdobe PP	31
Mandarbaria PP	54
Marabogi PP	1
Marapassur PP	29 (30) (26)
Mirgamari PP	28
Morabhola PP	24 (1) (2)
Morgang PP	47
Munshigonj PP	(46)
Nalian FS + RO	(32) (35)
Nandabala PP	28 (26) (30)
Nandabala Agamara PP	28 (26)
Nangli PP	24 (25)
Nilkomol PP	44
Notabeki PP	49 (51)
Panirgat PP	24
Pasakhali PP	17 (10)
Patakata PP	19 (17)
Patkerdhani PP	52 (43)
Patkosta PP	19 (20)
Puspakathi PP	53
Saluarkhali PP	1
Sarankhola FS + RO	1 (24)

Shankbaria PP	36
Shapla PP	1 (5)
Shekbaria PP	46 (37) (41)
Shelarchar PP	8
ShorbatkhaliPP	32
Sibsa PP	33 (35)
Supati FS	5 (3)
Sutarkhali FS	(32)
Tambulbunia PP	13 (14) (23)
Tearchar PP	7
Tengrakhali PP	47
Terabeka PP	1

## Notes to the Index-Gazetteer

The Gazetteer contains information of the Compartments 1-55 Bangladesh Sundarbans.

There are three columns for every place: Place name, Compartment number (Comp), Source.

### Place name:

Waterways (like Rivers, Khals, Varanis, Gangs), Islands, Forest Stations (FS), Patrol Posts (PP), Fishing Village (FV), name of Compartments 1 – 55 as used by Curtis, special points like Jeffort Point.

Different places with the same name are indicated with (z), (y), (x), (w) and (v) sorted towards rising compartment numbers

(a), (b) and (c) are used in the following case:

A long waterway (a) is found in one map with only one name, but in another map the waterway is composed of several parts with different names, including the same name as waterway (a), but for a shorter stretch. In that case the shorter part of the same waterway is listed as waterway (b). In case that another shorter stretch as (b) is also found it is listed as waterway (c).

addition of remark 'old' and 'new' is used when the course of the waterway has changed between 1934 (Curtis) and 2002, but when there has not been a name change

Khal(i) means that in different sources it is written as Khal or Khali

Cross-references in brackets allow a correlation with the names of other sources.

Bold typed location names indicate those used in the compartment maps

### Compartment:

If a long waterway is running through several compartments all numbers are given sorted towards rising compartment numbers (separated by slash)

Compartment numbers in brackets indicate for a Forest Station, Patrol Post or Fishing Village that this compartment lies on the opposite bank or nearby.

### Source:

This column contains abbreviations. The complete citations of the mentioned sources are listed in the reference list on page 12.

\* means a (by the authors) standardized name, like 'Chota' for Chhota, Choto, Chotta etc. or 'Bara' for Bora, Boro or Varani for Bharani.

\* means also an adapted name for a waterway, to have the same spelling as for a nearby Forest Station or Patrol Post.

Curtis with added compartment number for example Curtis C53 means, that the same waterway is shown in two adjacent compartment maps (here C51 and C53) by Curtis but with different names (happens on 9 pages of the Gazetteer).

D2002 with added compartment number is only occurring once on page 167. D2002 C51,53 is a waterway bordering this compartments in its northern part and D2002 C53 is the same waterway (with a slightly different name) in its southern part.

## Index-Gazetteer

Place name	Comp.	Source
<b>Adachai Khal</b>	34	B2002 D2002
(= Adasain Khal)		
(= Manki Khal)		
<b>Adachai PP</b>	39/(34)/(40)	B2002 D2002
<b>Adania Gurguria Khal (z)</b>	8	D2002
<b>Adania Gurguria Khal (y)</b>	8	D2002
(upper part of Dhalamia Varani)		
Adasain: Name of Compartment C34	34	Curtis
Adasain Khal	34	Curtis
(= Adachai Khal)		
(= Manki Khal)		
<b>Adhmia Khal (z)</b>	8	D2002
(= Adhnia Khal)		
Adhmia Khal (y)	8	D2002
(between Khajurbari Khal and Mora Passur River)		
Adhnia Khal	8	Curtis
(= Adhmia Khal (z))		
<b>Agarghotta Khal</b>	18/43	D2002
(= upper part of Kaga Gang)		
(= part of Kaga River (a))		
(between Taza Kaga Khal and Mara Kaga Khal)		
<b>Agunjala Khal</b>	49/55	D2002
(= Badrason Khal)		
<b>Alakhia Khal</b>	17	Curtis D2002
Alibanda Khal	1	Curtis
(between Podabati Khal and Paikudi Khal)		
Alibanda: Name of Compartment C01	1	Curtis
<b>Alkir Island</b>	17	D2002
<b>Alorkol FV</b>	(8)/45	B2002 D2002
(Jeffort Point)		
<b>Ambaria Gang</b>	7	Curtis B2002 D2002
<b>Amratali Khal</b>	43/44	D2002
(= northern part of Nilkamal Khal (a))		
<b>Amurbunia PP</b>	27	B2002 D2002
<b>Andaria Khal</b>	30	D2002
Andarmanik Khal (z)	27/28	Curtis C27
(= Urubunia Khal (z) + Urubunia Khal (y))		
Andarmanik Khal (y)	37/41	D2002
(= upper part of Andermanik Khal (z))		