



FIELD SCHOOL ON ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND GOVERNANCE

COASTAL WELLBEING AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AMIDST RAPID CHANGE

Venue: Chilika Lagoon, Bay of Bengal, India; Date: 4 – 8 may 2017

Organised by:

Environmental Change and Governance Group (ECGG), University of Waterloo, Canada
in collaboration with
**Rekhi Centre of Excellence for the Science of Happiness,
Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and NIRMAN Odisha**

Rapid changes in coastal social-ecological systems are often abrupt, long-term, significant and irreversible, and they produce outcomes that disrupt ecosystem services and threaten human wellbeing. Strategies to build the wellbeing of coastal systems are neither simple nor straightforward. Integrated approaches and methods to engage coastal communities in management and governance are urgently needed to address coastal change and associated uncertainty. Ecosystem service and wellbeing concepts have been increasingly promoted as approaches for integrated coastal management in response to these challenges. Together, wellbeing and ecosystem service concepts can offer linked insights on how best to craft and implement management and governance interventions and processes appropriate for responses in rapidly changing coastal systems.

The five-day field school brings together a selected group of 25 graduate students, NGO professionals, fisher community leaders and government marine and coastal departmental officials to provide training on a host of concepts and approaches in the area of coastal environmental change, human wellbeing, ecosystem services, and governance. It includes a creative mix of both classroom teaching and field training right in the heart of Asia's largest Lagoon – Chilika.

Participants will gain firsthand experience of examining interactions among people's wellbeing and the benefits people derive through ecosystem services, identify key benefits, outcomes and trade-offs associated with these concepts as they change through time and space, and their implications for ongoing management and governance.

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