

## TIGER-WIDOWS IN INDIAN SUNDARBANS AND RISKY VOCATION OF MUD CRAB COLLECTION

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*Edible mud crab collection from wild waters have emerged as a profitable vocation with prospect of high returns in Indian Sundarbans in West Bengal; fetch high market price in domestic and international markets. There have been incidences and reports about professional adult mud crab and crablet collectors of Hingalganj, Kultali, Gosaba and other brackishwater Blocks falling prey to Royal Bengal tigers during this practice in deeper parts of Indian Sundarbans. Usual method of mud crab collection followed by inhabitants, including the tiger-widows, i.e., surviving wives of crab, fish and honey collectors killed by man-eating tigers in recent past and few alternative livelihood options for them towards improved living are presented in this communication.*

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