

## **DR. ADITYA GHOSH**

Aditya Ghosh has been an academic researcher, editor, journalist, adjunct faculty and project manager in internationally reputable institutions across Germany, India, UK and Tanzania. He works as a postdoctoral scientist currently at the Centre for Global Sustainability and Cultural Transformation run jointly by the Leuphana University and Arizona State University. Between 2013 and 2016, he was a DAAD scholar and Research Associate at the South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg. Apart from DAAD, he has received many other prestigious awards such as Chevening from UK, Start-up grant from Heidelberg, Chancellor's Grant from Sussex University, UK; Asian Environment Journalism Award (2013 & 2015) and SIDA fellowship in development journalism. He teaches postgraduate courses on sustainable development, climate change, human-environment interactions, health and media in South Asia at Arizona, Leuphana, and Heidelberg universities. His articles have been published across a range of peer-reviewed journals and in media outlets such as Reuters, The Guardian, The New York Times. His research is focused on sustainable development its barriers and opportunities in South Asia amidst rapidly changing climate; he specialises on the Sundarbans in particular.

In his previous career as an editor and journalist, he worked with Hindustan Times, The Times of India – two of India's and world's largest English language newspapers and Centre for Science and Environment, India's premier think-tank. He collectively spent 12 years across media and policy research before moving into academia. He has attended Universities of Heidelberg in Germany, Colorado Boulder in the US, Sussex and Lincoln in the UK and Calcutta and Mumbai in India.

You can read some of his recent media articles here:

<http://goo.gl/GLo1Wl>

You can contact Aditya here:

[aditya.ghosh@daad-alumni.de](mailto:aditya.ghosh@daad-alumni.de)

[adityo.ghosh@gmail.com](mailto:adityo.ghosh@gmail.com)

**Title of the talk:** Disappearing wonderland: Changing climate and cursed waters of the Sundarbans

This talk introduces the Sundarbans across India and Bangladesh stretching along the Bay of Bengal and its current challenges to stay afloat. The world's largest and most biodiverse mangrove ecosystem, home of critically endangered Royal Bengal Tiger and many other species, a carbon sink more efficient than the Amazon, a socio-culturally rich human habitat and a living fossil that has recorded the imprint of human civilisation since a few thousand years is facing an acute existential crisis. Climate change induced sea level rise, increasing frequency of disasters, incessant land loss and erosion, increasing salinity in the soil as well as myopic development strategies and policies are gravely affecting wellbeing of humans and nonhumans of the region alike. Consisting of 102 islands with a human population of over 4.5 million, the region has already lost two populated islands and at least five others are sinking in the seas fast, displacing hundreds of thousands – many more than the small island nations collectively. The iconic nonhuman species of the region such as *Sundari* trees and Bengal Tigers are disappearing fast as well. It needs a concerted effort from the global and local communities, scientists, NGOs, civil society and governments to collaborate and save this marvel on earth.