



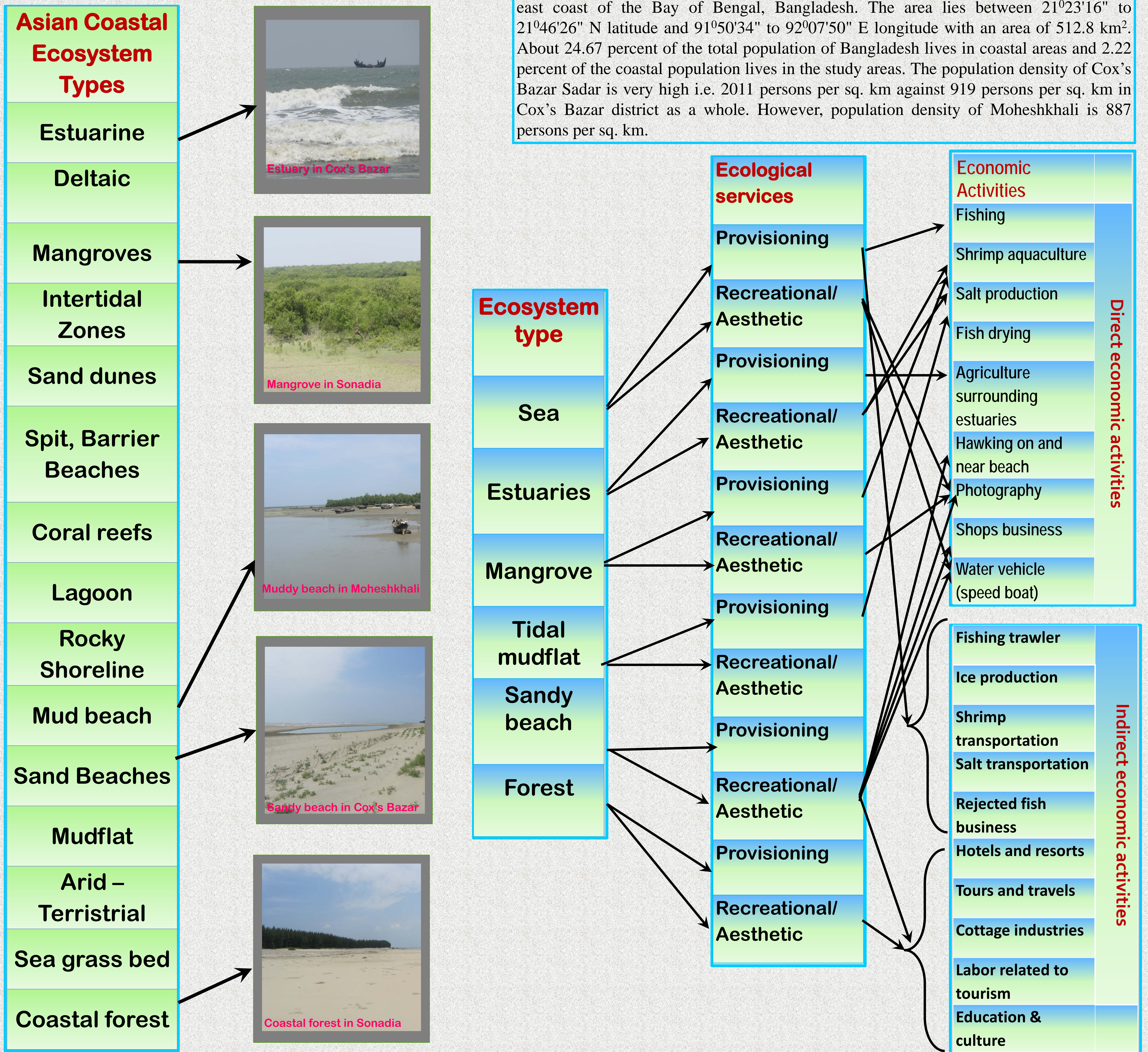
# Coastal Ecosystem, Ecosystem Services & Changing Economic Activities of Cox's Bazar-Moheshkhali Area, Bangladesh



*Coastal ecosystem is a dynamic interface between land-based and oceanic influences*

## Cox's Bazar-Moheshkhali Coastal Ecosystem: a part of Asian Coastal Ecosystem

**The study area:** It is under Cox's Bazar district of the Chittagong division and located about 390 km from Dhaka capital city and 152 km south from Chittagong port city on the east coast of the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh. The area lies between 21°23'16" to 21°46'26" N latitude and 91°50'34" to 92°07'50" E longitude with an area of 512.8 km<sup>2</sup>. About 24.67 percent of the total population of Bangladesh lives in coastal areas and 2.22 percent of the coastal population lives in the study areas. The population density of Cox's Bazar Sadar is very high i.e. 2011 persons per sq. km against 919 persons per sq. km in Cox's Bazar district as a whole. However, population density of Moheshkhali is 887 persons per sq. km.



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# Pattern of Change in Economic Activities from Traditional to New

## New Economic Activities

### Traditional Economic Activity

#### Agriculture

- ❑ Unprofitability of crop cultivation (mainly single crop-*Aman* rice) compared to shrimp farming and salt production
- ❑ Decline in crop yield due to salinity, lack of sweet water for dry season irrigation and incidence of pest and diseases
- ❑ Unfavorable climate and uncertainty of crop production
- ❑ Rapid expansion of growth of tourism leading to land use change
- ❑ Market drivers resulting in profitability of new economic activities
- ❑ Transformation of agricultural land to non-agricultural purposes

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#### Fishing

- ❑ Decline in availability of fish resources; changes in species composition of catches; the high proportion of juvenile fish in the catch
- ❑ Risk of cyclone and tidal surges and lack of security for the fishermen during fishing in sea from pirates
- ❑ High price of electricity leading to increase costs of fish processing and marketing
- ❑ Market drivers resulting in profitability of new economic activities
- ❑ Shrimp farming provides more economic growth compared to fishing from sea

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#### Fish trading

- ❑ Market and non-market driving forces resulting in unprofitability of fish business
- ❑ Influence of middlemen in controlling fish trading
- ❑ Lack of fishing harbor facilities resulting in unprofitability of fish business
- ❑ Increase cost of catch fish and variability in market price

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#### Fish exporting

- ❑ Lack of fish stocks for processing to export
- ❑ Unavailability of fish storage, preservation and exporting facilities
- ❑ Lack of foreign investors and high cost of exporting
- ❑ Profitability of new economic activities
- ❑ Delay supply of order due to manmade uncertainties

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#### Fish drying

- ❑ Market driving forces resulting in low wages to the laborer
- ❑ Fish drying processes are gradually shifting from traditional to modern systems
- ❑ Unavailability of catch fish & extreme weather events
- ❑ Profitability of new economic activities

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#### Small scale business

- ❑ Traditional small scale businesses are less profitable than new economic activities like rapidly growing tourism
- ❑ Market drivers also leading to profitability of the new economic activity
- ❑ Unprofitability of small scale business due to fall in demand because of uncertainties like political unrest, disruption of communication etc.

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1. Tourism



2. Shrimp farming and salt production



3. Hawking on beach



4. Photography on beach



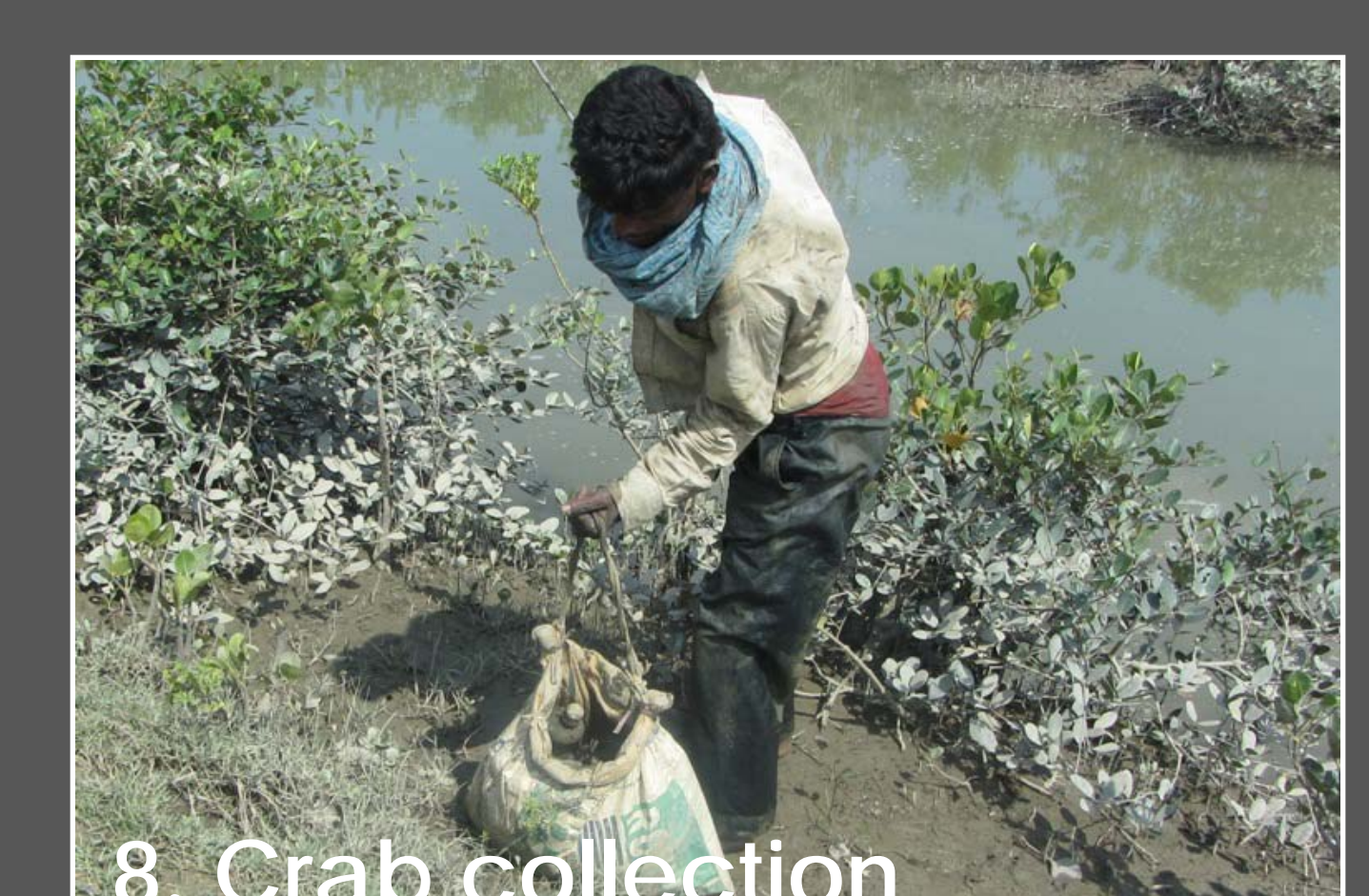
5. Horse riding on beach



6. Bike riding on beach



7. Shop business in sea beach



8. Crab collection

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