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Assessment of shoreline change and its relation with Mangrove vegetation: A case study over North Konkan region of Raigad, Maharashtra, India

Barnali Das*[1], Anargha Dhorde [1]

[1]Nowrosjee Wadia College, Geography, Pune, India

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ABSTRACT

Shorelines, in response to accretion and denudation, are dynamic in nature. Vulnerability of Sea Level Rise varies from place to place with 20th century observing greatest threat to it. Mangroves along the shore, are the one to first sustain this impact of SLR. In the present study an attempt has been made to understand the relation between shoreline changes with mangrove habitat through remote sensing data and geospatial technique. Shoreline change rate has been calculated for the years 2000, 2012 and 2019, in Digital Shoreline Analysis System by End Point Rate. Change analysis indicates that in last 20 years erosion dominated the study area with an average rate of -0.02m/yr. During 2000 to 2012, relatively higher erosional rates (-0.35m/yr) were observed. While from 2012 to 2019 accretion process dominated this area with a rate of 0.43m/yr. Sonakothakar, Mothe Bhal and Dadar with denudational trends have observed landward progradation of mangroves whereas, at Aware, a zone of over accretion exhibited a seaward progradation of mangroves. This type of integrated study not only will help to understand active process over the shore but also will help to conserve mangrove habitat. Such regional scale studies should be carried out before implementing any coastal conservation projects.

1. INTRODUCTION

Shorelines are dynamic in nature and often respond to the changes in sea level. Global mean sea level (GMSL) was envisaged to be accelerating at considerable rate during 19th century with a further leap in its rate in 20th century (Church and White 2006). The speed of GMSL rise during 1900 to 2009 was estimated about 1.7 ± 0.2 mm/year which raise up to 3.2 ± 0.4mm/year at the end of 20th century (Mimura 2013). Vulnerability of Sea Level Rise (SLR) varies from place to place, with developing countries being much more susceptible to it (Wheeler and Yan 2009). In the Indian scenario east coast are much more vulnerable to erosion as compared to west coast, however, 36% of Maharashtra coast is under the process of erosion (Mohanty et al. 2017).

Mangroves thrive on mudflats along the shore. Mangrove habitat is considered as a boon to mankind. However, mangrove habitat is under continuous threat of shoreline change. It was observed that during early Holocene period there was high SLR to which mangroves were able to withstand the effect however, this characteristic of withstanding varies time to time and from place to place (Woodroffe 1990). At paces resilient nature of mangroves was noted that was attributed to the anthropogenic pressure and physiographic settings (Nitto et al. 2014). However, certain studies have shown that mangrove ecosystem is very dynamic in nature and they can even migrate landward in order to balance with SLR (McLeod and Salm 2006). Mangrove forest structure exhibits an interesting pattern of transition from seaward fringe to land ward, with healthy strong tree near the sea to dwarf forest far inland (Feller 2015).

SLR has eroded considerable parts of coast, wetlands and mudflats in India (Dwivedi and Sharma 2005). However, mangroves act as a stabilizer and protector to SLR, deforestation to which may boost up erosion rate like Alibag coast in Maharashtra (Vidya et al. 2015).

* Corresponding Author

*(barnali25das@gmail.com) ORCID ID 0000-0002-6103-4656
(e-mail) ORCID ID 0000- 0002 – 5678 - 7397

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Over last two decades it has been observed that mangroves in the study area have increased profusely. Impact of changing shoreline on mangrove vegetation needs to be addressed. Thus, present study aims at understanding the relation of mangrove growth with shoreline change. The specific objectives set are i) Detecting the changes in Shoreline and ascertaining the zones of denudation and accretion and ii) assessing the growth/decline in mangroves within the selected patches.

2. STUDY AREA

Raigad district is located on the west coast of Maharashtra, India. This coast is intertwined by rocky and sandy coast. A number of creeks are also observed to have developed marsh ecosystem at places. Within these belts of mudflats and marshes, lining the creeks, clusters of Mangrove patches are observed. Various local newspaper articles cited that in the last two decades these mangrove clusters, especially along the northern Raigad, has shown exponential growth. A few patches of mangroves from the North Raigad region are selected for the present study(Fig 1). The study area extends between 18˚ 53' 12.28"N and 18˚ 45' 16.2"N latitudes, and 72˚ 52' 14"E and 73˚ 1' 42.2"E longitudes. In Raigad there are 11 true mangrove species and 15 mangrove associates (Mhatre et al. 2013).

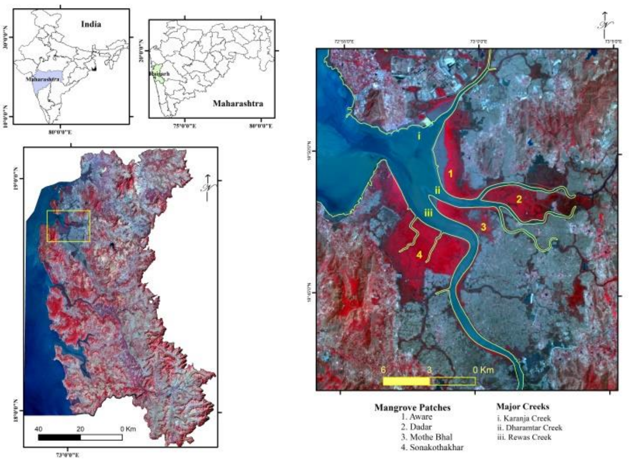


Figure 1. Location map

3. DATA & METHOD

3.1. Data Base

Present work depends on secondary data, in the form of satellite images were retrieved first. Since shorelines are highly dynamic and exposure of mangroves depends upon the tidal conditions, the level and condition of tides during the process of capturing the satellite images has to be taken into consideration. Table 1 presents the dates and tidal condition selected for retrieving the satellite images.

Table 1: Detail of Dates selected and Tide condition for each scene

Date & Year	Satellite & Sensor			Approx. Satellite Pass time	Time	Tide Level	Tide Stage
13/04/2000	Landsat (Level II)	7	TM	10:37am	12:29pm	0.72	Ebbing
04/04/2012	Landsat (Level I)	7	TM	10:37am	11:13am	1.40	Ebbing
25/03/2019	Landsat (Level II)	8	OLI	10:37am	10:58am	0.96	Ebbing

3.2. Image processing

Image pre-processing was carried out for all the images wherein the images were subjected to geometric and radiometric corrections. The image of 2012 was processed for image correction as it had a problem of scan line error. This problem was fixed with the help of Landsat toolbox plugin in ArcGIS. Image post processing was carried out over the images for layer stacking and obtaining certain indices which were essential for further analysis. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), Normalized Difference Moisture Index (NDMI), Tasseled Cap (TC), and Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) were computed in ERDAS Imagine. Along with these indices, image segmentation was performed in eCognision. In order to delineate the shoreline and obtain the erosional and depositional rates along the shoreline, Digital Shoreline Analysis System (DSAS) was employed.

3.3. Shoreline Extraction and Rates calculation

The general methodology adopted for the present study is outlined in figure 2. Shorelines were extracted through the DSAS program by employing band combinations of NDVI-TC band, NDMI-TC band and NDWI. These were then compared with the manually digitized shorelines to obtain the deviation statistics (table 2). Shoreline with minimum deviation in respective year was taken into consideration for further work of change detection analysis. Rates of changes along the selected stretches of shoreline were obtained in the DSAS software. DSAS employ several perpendicular transect from a baseline (in this study 150m away from the extracted shoreline) and records point of intersection between transect and shorelines for different years. DSAS automatically calculate several statistical methods for shoreline change viz. End Point Rate (ERP), Jackknife Rate (JKR), Linear Regression Rate (LRR), Shoreline Change Envelope (SCE), Net Shoreline Movement (NSM), Least Median of Square (LMS) and Weighted Linear Regression (WLR). All these methods have some advantages and disadvantages. In the present study shoreline change by ERP rate is taken into consideration as for relatively small data it gives good results (Esmail et al., 2019). Moreover it shows normal distribution and is simple and universally prevalent method (Nassar, 2018).

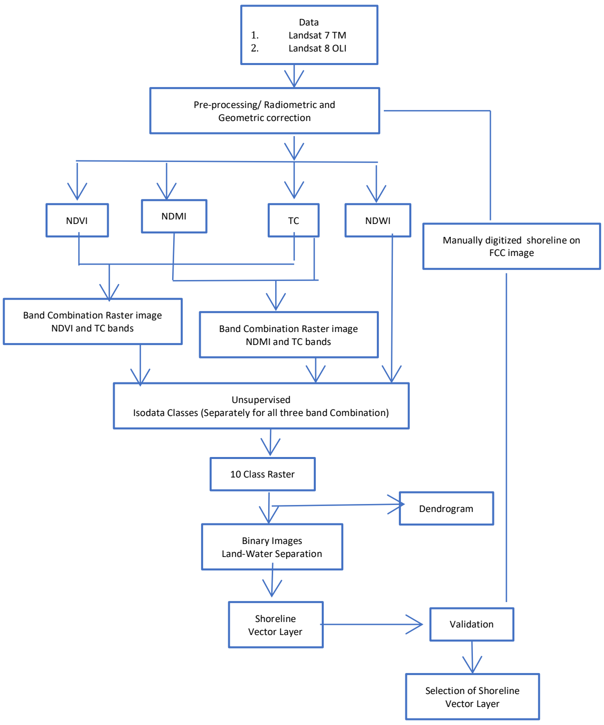


Figure 2. Methodology

Table 2. Within pair difference between manually created shoreline and other methods

Method	Deviation from Manually Digitized Shoreline		
	2000	2012	2019
NDWI	Min = 0.62 Mean=210.85 Max=999.18	Min = 0.17 Mean=256.38 Max=998.28	Min = 0.06 Mean=324.86 Max=999.73
NDVI_TC	Min = 0.23 Mean=243.3 Max=998.47	Min = 0.00 Mean=236.50 Max=999.83	Min = 0.14 Mean=151.20 Max=997.78
NDMI_TC	Min = 0.54 Mean=339.77 Max=999.64	Min = 0.32 Mean=386.98 Max=999.73	Min = 0.03 Mean=143.40 Max=998.91

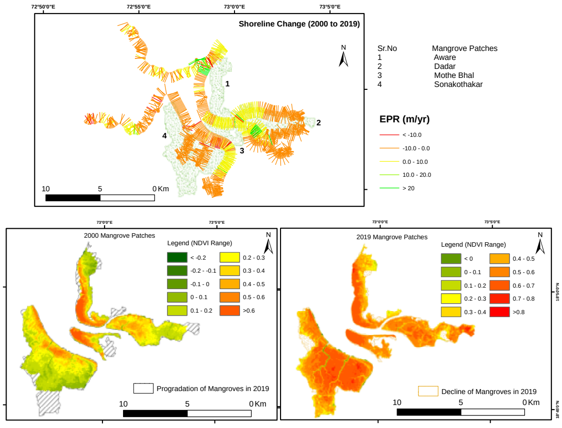
3.4. Image Segmentation

Image segmentation process has been applied on False Color Composite (FCC) and NDVI image, to delineate mangrove patches in eCognition software. Scale parameter of 1, shape factor of 0.1 and compactness of 0.5 has been assigned to generate vector layer of mangrove. This vector layers, for individual patches are used to extract NDVI data. Ground control points (GCPs) collected through field visit from mangrove patches are used for proper delineation and segmentation of patches.

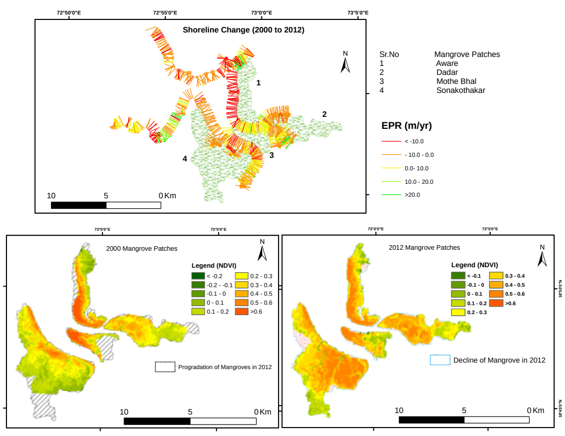
4. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Shoreline change analysis for the present study has been carried over a span of 20 years ranging from 2000 to 2019. A time sectional analysis was also attempted between 2000 to 2012 and 2012 to 2019. Change detection analysis of the study area indicated that the shoreline has undergone both accretion and denudation process in last 20 years. Transects demarcated for accretion and denudation rates, indicates that almost 70.99% of the area has undergone erosion during the entire study period (2000 to 2019). While, almost 71.41% (2000 to 2012) and 67.79% (2012 to 2019) of the transects were subjected to erosion. However, during 2012 to 2019 it was observed that although 67.79% area was under erosion but the rate of erosion was relatively less than the rate of accretion.

Change analysis indicated that in the last 20 years erosion process dominated over the study area with an average rate of -0.02m/yr. During 2000 to 2012, erosion rate was high with -0.35m/yr whereas, from 2012 to 2019 accretion process dominated over denudation with a rate of 0.43m/yr (Fig 3). Overlay of extracted NDVI for mangrove patches clearly depicts that mangrove colony have undergone changes. In the regions of denudation like Sonakothakar, Mothe Bha and Dadar, it was observed that there is landward progradation of mangrove habitat whereas accretion dominated over Aware region with no major landward progradation but a seaward progradation was observed. This is mainly due to the stable shoreline as a result of accretion. NDVI values overall have risen from 0.6 to 0.8 during 2000 to 2019. However, steady inter patch transformation was observed during the time with major part of the patch reaching towards higher NDVI values. This leap in NDVI values during the time span indicates the healthy status of mangrove vegetation. Mangroves are salt tolerant species. Inland shift of shoreline often leads to saltwater penetration through soil and creeks, in such cases, mangroves then acts as a feeder to salinity (Prerna et al. 2015; Lambs et al. 2015) which is reflected in their overall health status. Minor decline of the mangroves was also observed in the study area it is only because of anthropogenic pressure over the region.



(a)



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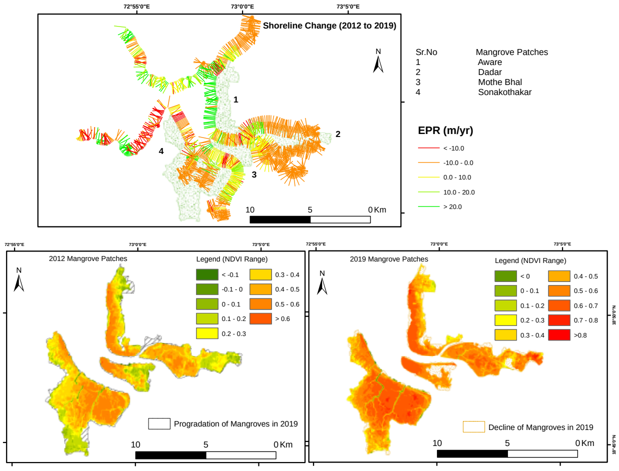

(C)

Figure 3: Shoreline change and Mangrove spatial extent transformation during **(a)** 2000-2019, **(b)** 2000-2012 and **(c)** 2012-2019

5. CONCLUSION

The present study concludes that shoreline over north Konkan region is under immense impact of shoreline change with processes of accretion and denudation varying from time to time. Process of erosion increased over Sonakothakar, Mothe Bha and Dadar whereas Aware observed accretion. This change has direct relation with mangrove habitat. Areas with denudation clearly witnessed an inland extension of mangrove vegetation over time whereas seaward progradation of mangroves was observed in the areas dominated by accretion processes. Over the time span, whether erosion or deposition zone, mangrove NDVI values exhibited an increasing trend indicating overall good health of the species. With intensified effect of climate change, sea level ought to increase, leading landward migration of mangroves (Gilman 2008). This type of integrated study not only will help to understand active process over the shore but also will help to conserve mangrove habitat. Such regional scale studies should be carried out before implementing any coastal conservation projects.

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