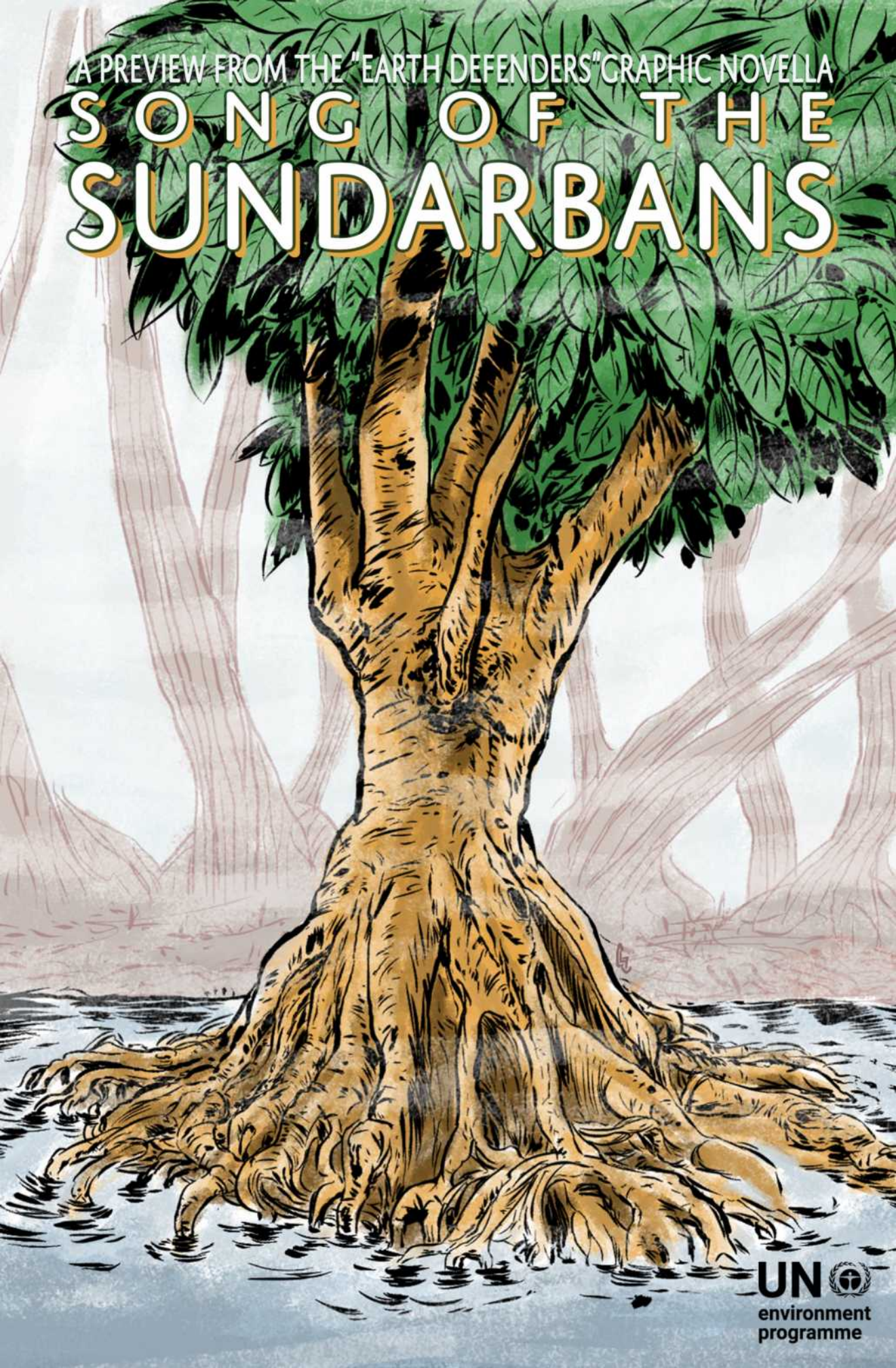


A PREVIEW FROM THE "EARTH DEFENDERS" GRAPHIC NOVELLA

SONG OF THE SUNDARBANS



SONG OF THE SUNDARBANS

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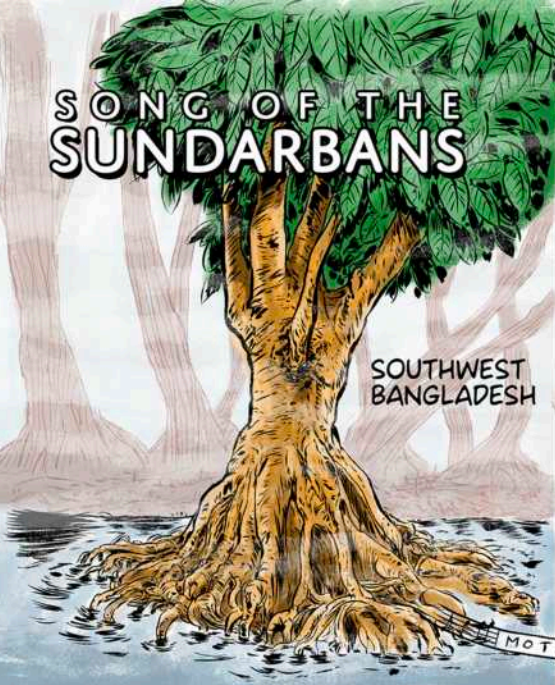
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SONG OF THE SUNDARBANS



SOUTHWEST BANGLADESH

DHAKA, CAPITAL CITY OF BANGLADESH

MY NAME IS AMIL PRANIMAK.



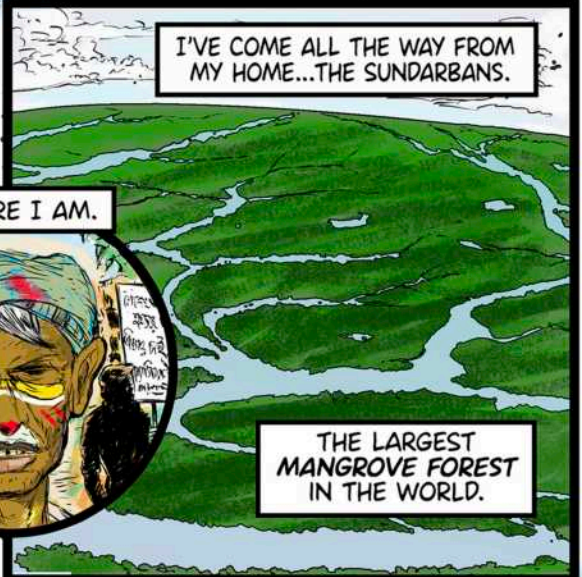
MOTHER SUNDARBANS I AM A FISHERMAN. KEEP

I NEVER IMAGINED THAT I WOULD FIND MYSELF IN THE CAPITAL OF BANGLADESH PROTESTING A GIANT POWERSTATION, THE RAMPAL COAL-BURNING PLANT.

I'VE COME ALL THE WAY FROM MY HOME...THE SUNDARBANS.



BUT HERE I AM.



THE LARGEST MANGROVE FOREST IN THE WORLD.

MONTHS AGO AS WE HAD JUST BUILT OUR TONG* FOR THE FISHING SEASON.

AMIL, WILL THIS COAL PLANT PUT OUR MANGROVES AT RISK?

YES...AND OUR LIVELIHOODS!



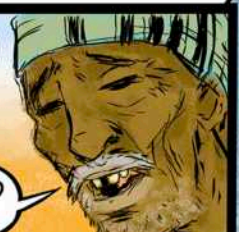
OUR DELTA IS ALREADY STRANGLERED BY ALL THE COMMERCIAL FISHING.



...AND THE TOXIC SHRIMP FARMS POISONING OUR SOIL.

BHALLAGE NA!* WE HAVE THE HUMAN RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

WE MUST DO SOMETHING.



*TEMPORARY SHELTER

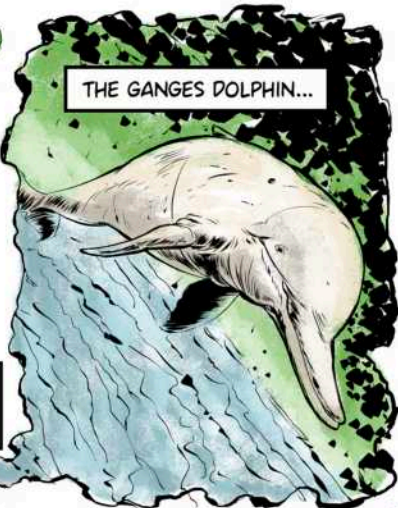
*BENGLI: "I DON'T LIKE THIS!"

OUR PRECIOUS SUNDARBANS.
THOUSANDS OF SPECIES...

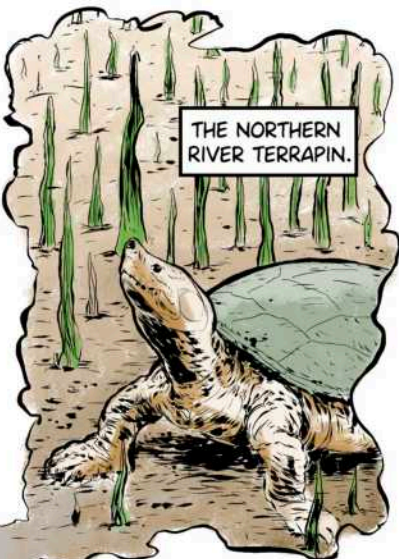


THE ENDANGERED
ROYAL BENGAL
TIGER...

THE GANGES DOLPHIN...

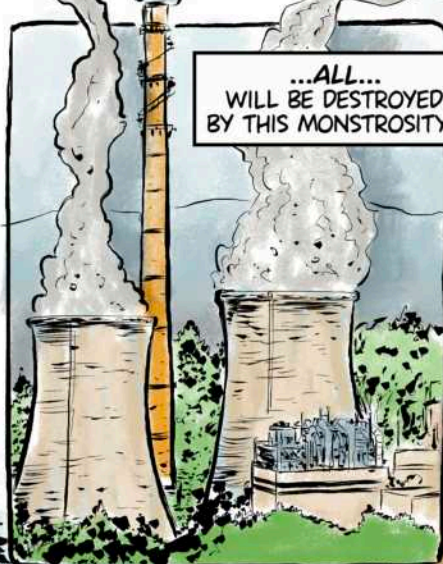


THE NORTHERN
RIVER TERRAPIN.



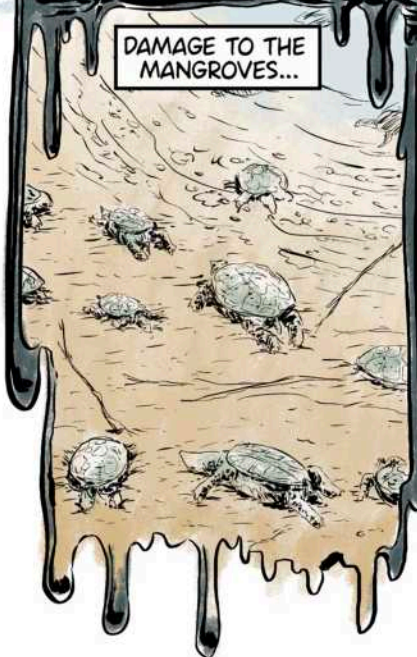
...ALL...
WILL BE DESTROYED
BY THIS MONSTROSITY.

MASSIVE SHIPS IN OUR PRISTINE WATERS
WILL SPEW TOXINS, COAL DUST, AND SULFUR.
MANY OF THE COAL SHIPS WILL SINK.



THEIR WAKE WILL ERODE OUR RIVER BANKS,
WHEN WE'RE ALREADY FACING FLOODS AND
RISING SEA LEVELS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE.

DAMAGE TO THE
MANGROVES...



...THE VERY HEART
OF THE SUNDARBANS...



...WILL BE...



...IRREVERSIBLE.

MONTHS LATER, DHAKA,
CAPITAL OF BANGLADESH.



MUCH FARTHER
THAN MY KOSHA*
COULD EVER
TAKE ME.

EXCUSE
ME?! HELLO?
ANIL?



*FLAT BOTTOM BOAT

OH, SALAM*!
SORRY, I WAS LOST
IN THOUGHT.

IT'S OK,
I'M DEV!
DHAKA CAN BE
OVERWHELMING
AND YOU'VE
TRAVELED
SO FAR.



WE'RE EXCITED
TO HAVE YOU SPEAK AND
MARCH WITH US BACK TO
THE SUNDARBANS.



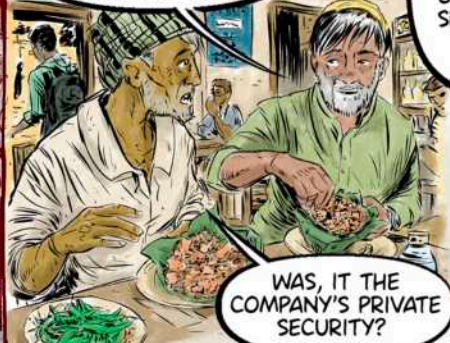
*BENGALI: "HELLO"

I'M HONORED MY
VILLAGE CHOSE ME.
I JUST HOPE..



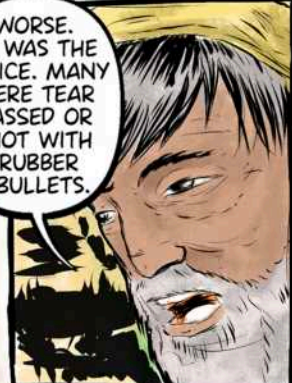
...MY LEGS
CAN CARRY ME
ALL THE WAY
BACK. HIA-HIA!

HONESTLY,
OUR MORALE COULD
USE A LIFT. WE WERE
ATTACKED AT THE
LAST PROTEST.



WAS, IT THE
COMPANY'S PRIVATE
SECURITY?

WORSE.
IT WAS THE
POLICE. MANY
WERE TEAR
GASSED OR
SHOT WITH
RUBBER
BULLETS.



THE NEXT DAY.

WE LIVE IN A
DEMOCRACY...

...YET, WE
HAVE NO
VOICE.

NO SEAT
AT THE
TABLE.

BUT WE ARE
ENTWINED TOGETHER LIKE
THE GNARLED MANGROVES
OF THE SUNDARBANS.





THIS LONG MARCH WILL SHOW THAT THERE IS POWER IN THE BANGLADESHI! ALL OF US.

FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE. FROM CHATTAGRAM TO DINAJPUR

WE MUST RAISE OUR VOICES.



ON EVERY PLATFORM. USING TECHNOLOGY...



...AND OUR TRADITIONS TO MAKE OUR SONG HEARD.



EVEN WHILE AUTHORITIES REFUSE TO LISTEN...



...AND WHILE PRIVATE SECURITY AND POLICE THEMSELVES...



...USE VIOLENCE AGAINST US!

THIS WAS A PEACEFUL MARCH!



BECAUSE THE MARCH IS THE PEOPLE...

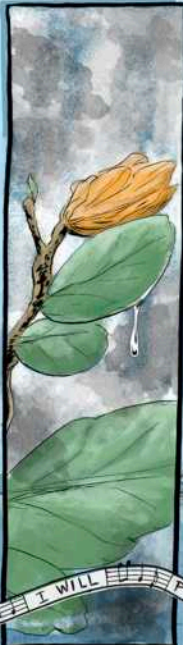


...AND THE PEOPLE ARE THE SONG.

AND THE SONG IS IN...



...EVERY BEING.



LARGE



...OR SMALL...



THE SONG CANNOT BE...



...SILENCED.



SINCE 1990, THE SUNDARBANS HAVE LOST 50 SQUARE KILOMETERS, THE EQUIVALENT OF 450 FOOTBALL FIELDS, TO RISING SEA LEVELS. HUMAN INTERFERENCE IS KILLING OFF SPECIES OF ALL KINDS AND AFFECTING VIRTUALLY ALL FLORA AND FAUNA. THE RATE OF LOSS IS INCREASING. DESPITE THE DISAPPROVAL OF THE PEOPLE, CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAMPAL COAL-BURNING PLANT CONTINUES AND THE FIRST 660 MEGAWATT UNIT BEGAN OPERATION IN DECEMBER 2022. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LARGEST MANGROVE FOREST ON THE PLANET CONTINUES...

EARTH DEFENDERS

THE UNTOLD STORIES OF ACTIVISTS
AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

SIX ORIGINAL STORIES THAT SHINE A
SPOTLIGHT ON ENVIRONMENTAL
DEFENDERS, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND THE
URGENT NEED TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS
IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT.

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