

Module 1. Introduction

1000 Wetlands Programme

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change
Government of India



Authors

- Dr Ritesh Kumar, Wetlands International South Asia
- Dr Goldin Quadros, Salim Ali Center for Ornithology and Natural History
- Mr Suresh Babu, WWF – India
- Dr M Ramesh, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Learning Objectives

In this module, the participants will learn about:

- Wetlands and their importance
- Goal and purpose of 1000 wetlands programme
- Programme implementation structure
- Four stage programme approach
- Structure of a hands-on-training programme

Section [1]

Wetlands and their importance

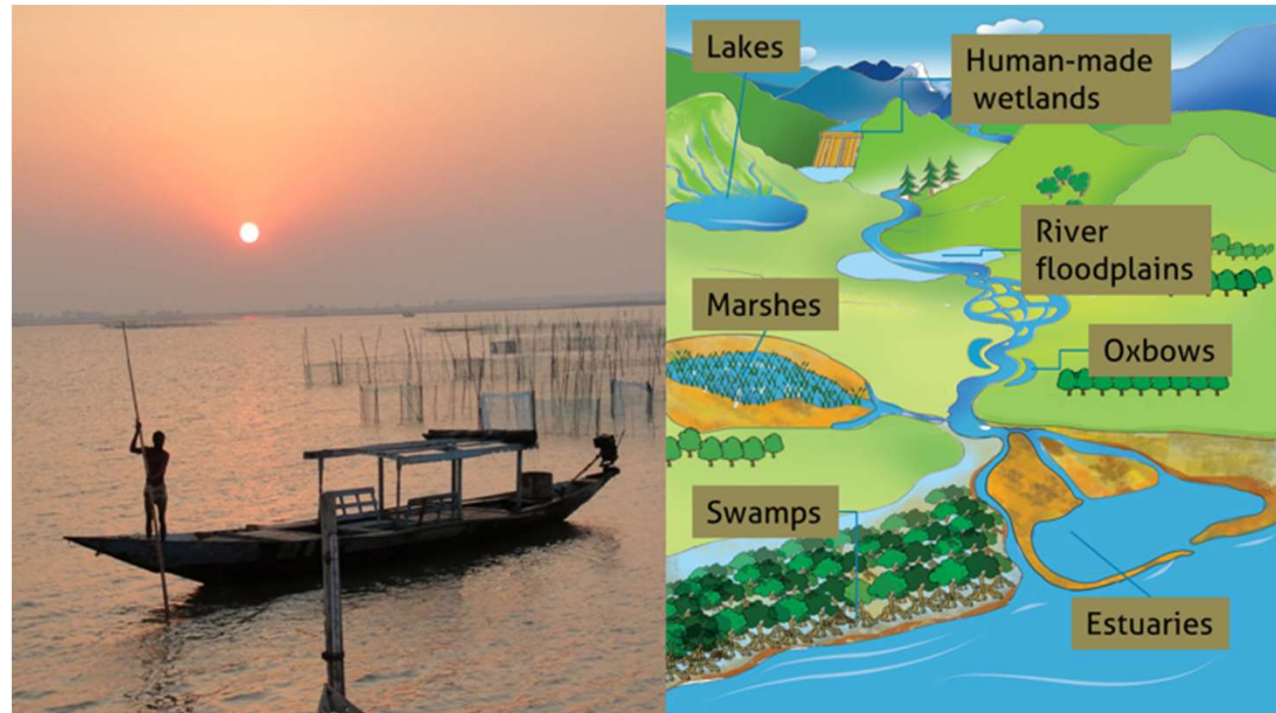




Wetlands

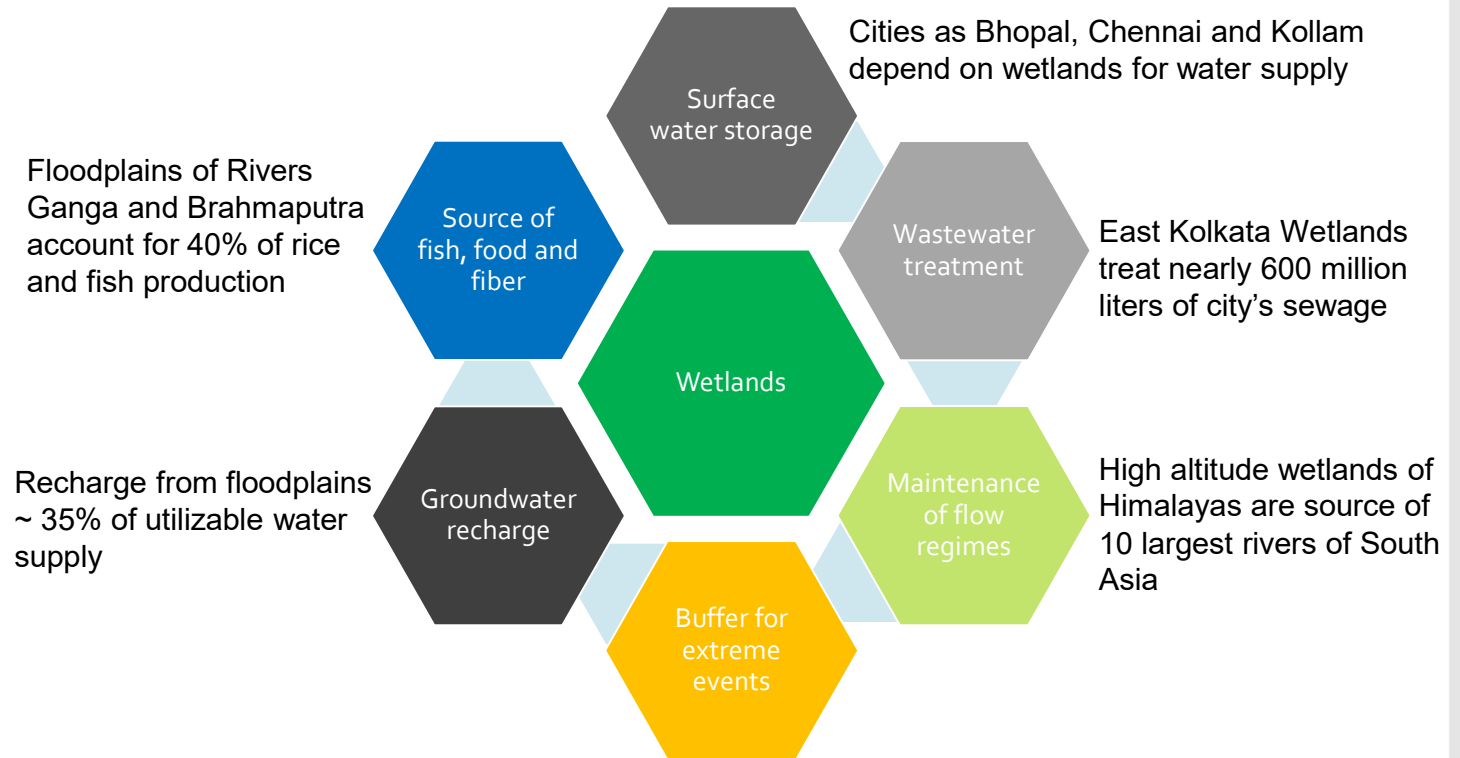
Ecosystems where water plays an important role in controlling the environment and associated plant and animal life forms

Occur in diverse forms in the landscape



Wetlands support human well-being

Wetlands are developmental assets for the society and need to be preserved as such



Wetlands sustain diverse forms of life



Loktak - last natural habitat for Manipur Swamp Deer



Chilika - one of two lagoons in the world with resident Irrawaddy Dolphin population



HAW of Ladakh - only known Indian breeding site for Black necked crane



26 of 36 freshwater turtles are endangered



Yet, wetlands continue to decline

In most cases, wetlands degradation takes place as their values are not recognized in developmental plans and programmes



Fragmentation of hydrological regimes



Catchment degradation



Conversion for alternate use



Pollution



Over - harvest



Invasive species

Section [2]

1000 Wetlands Programme: Goal and Purpose



Goal and Purpose

Emphasizes on the role of wetlands as developmental assets which can secure sustainable development for all

Goal

'conserve and wisely use wetlands to secure their biodiversity and ecosystem services as a contribution to sustainable development'.

Purpose

'mainstream full range of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services into developmental planning at all levels.'



Objectives

Emphasizes on the role of wetlands as developmental assets which can secure sustainable development for all

- Catalyze wetlands rejuvenation in all districts of the country.
- Rejuvenate wetlands based on integrated management plans which systematically and comprehensively address the threats and secure ecosystem services and biodiversity values.
- Broadbase stakeholder engagement in the formulation and implementation of wetlands management plans while creating economic incentives for resource stewardship.
- Develop a national wetlands information system informing planners and decision-makers on the status and trends of wetlands condition and management effectiveness.
- Develop capacities for integrated wetlands management at multiple levels and within a range of stakeholders.

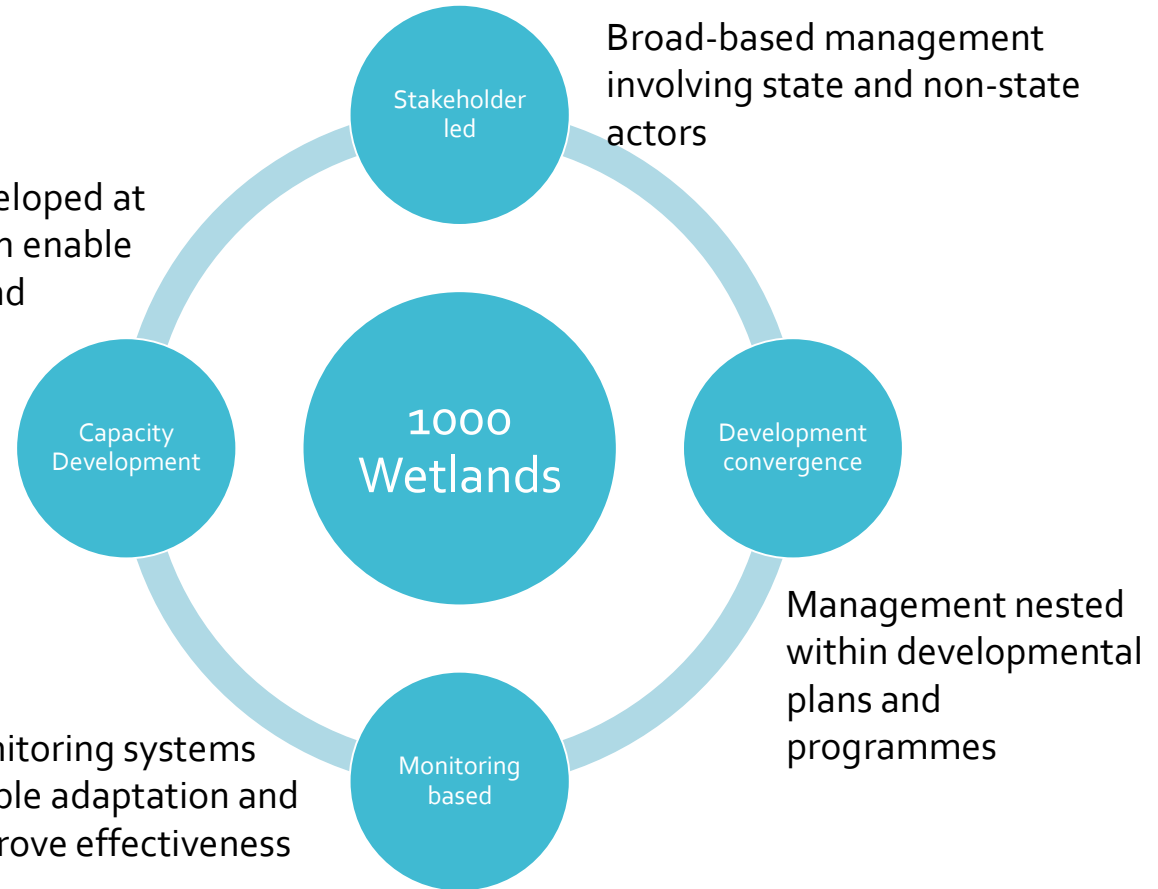


Core elements

Programme focuses on building local ownership and capacity for wetlands management

Capacity developed at local scale can enable replication and upscaling

Monitoring systems enable adaptation and improve effectiveness



Wetlands

- Any wetland can be included considering its role in supporting societal well-being
- Wetland is under human-induced threats
- Wetland management will lead to tangible benefits to society and nature
- Lessons from managing wetlands under the programme can be replicated and scaled up
- Wetlands not covered under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 may be selected under the programme
- Preferably outside the protected area network
- Should not be covered under any scheme of any ministry



Section [3]

Implementation structure



Wetland management involves a range of actions

- **Delineating and mapping** wetland
- **Collecting and collating information** on different wetland features and factors influencing the features
- **Monitoring** wetland ecosystem health
- **Interventions** to maintain the ability of wetlands to sustain diversity and provide ecosystem services
- **Mobilizing communities and stakeholders** to bring about positive behaviour for wetlands
- **Ensuring compliance** with various acts and rules
- **Promoting integration** of wetlands in sectoral development planning



Participatory management

	Wetland delineation	Monitoring and Research	Training and Capacity Development	Technical support	Implementation of interventions	Communication and Outreach	Enforcement of extant regulation	Mainstreaming in plans and programmes
MoEFCC				x			x	x
SWA	x	x					x	x
District Wetland Committees					x		x	x
State Government Departments					x			x
Local self governments		x			x			
NGOs		x			x			
CBOs					x			
Wetland mitra		x			x	x		
Knowledge partners			x					
Academic and research organizations		x					x	
Corporates					x	x		



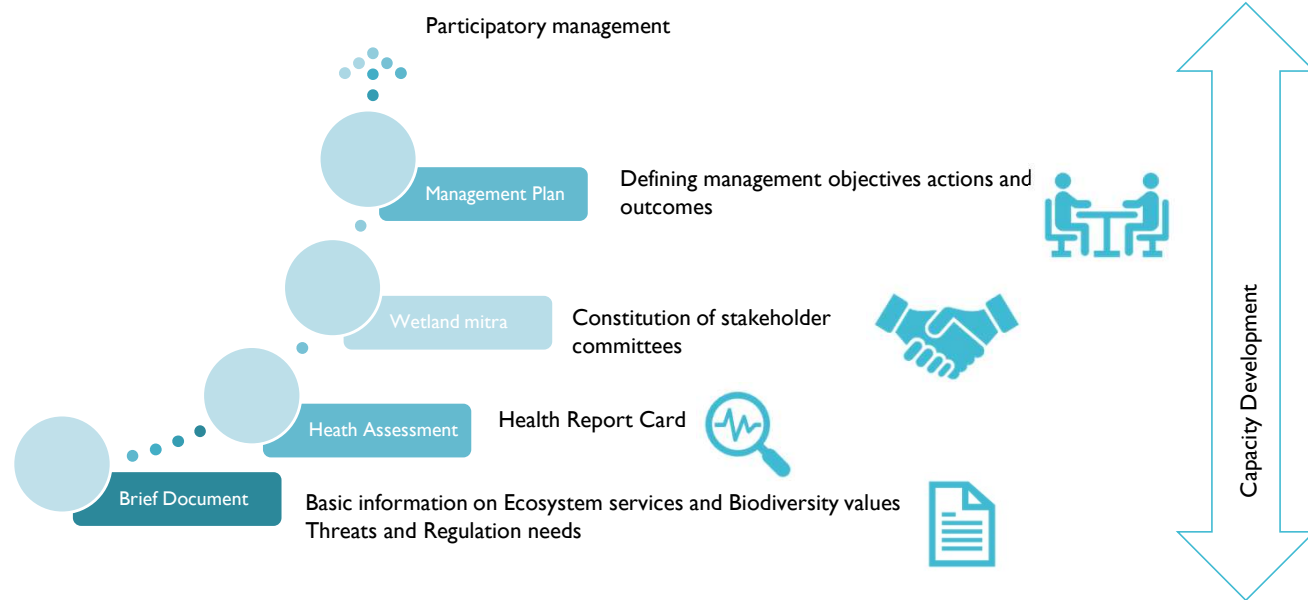
Section [3]

The four stage approach



Four stages

- Put available information together
- Assess wetland health
- Constitute stakeholder groups
- Prepare management plan



Four stages

Stakeholder driven process with government playing an enabling role

- Stage 1. Brief document : Collection of basic information on wetland, their ecosystem services and biodiversity values, threat and management needs (Module 2)
- Stage 2. Preparation of Health Report Card: Assessing wetlands condition on the basis of select parameters (Module 3)
- Stage 3. Wetland mitra: Constituting stakeholder groups for wetlands management (Module 4)
- Stage 4. Integrated management plan: Taking decisions to intervene in a wetland (Module 5)



Section [4]

Structure of a training programme



Workshop plan

Ideally two days

1 day for technical discussions

1 day for field visits

Day 1

(am)

- Participant welcome and introduction
- Module 1 : Introduction (30 mins)
- General Q & A (30 mins)
- Module 2: Brief documents (30 mins)
- Hands on exercise and clarification of doubts (90 mins)
- Lunch

(pm)

- Module 3: Wetland Health Report Card (30 mins)
- Hands on exercise and clarification of doubts (90 mins)
- Module 4: Wetland mitra (30 mins)
- Module 5: Integrated management planning (45 mins)
- General Q & A



Workshop plan

Ideally two days

1 day for technical discussions

1 day for field visits

Day 2

(am)

- Field visit – discussions on wetland health, mitra and management needs

(pm)

- Hands on exercise on preparation of management plan (90 mins)
- General discussions
- Workshop closing



Things to remember

- Workshops are aimed at building stakeholder trust and participation – so plan well in advance!!
- Conduct the workshop in a field setting
- Choose your participants well – ideally everyone should be linked with wetlands management in one way or other
- Use a roundtable setting for every one to be able to participate in discussions
- Allow sufficient breaks and discussion time
- Clear expectations in the morning session (this is not about receiving grants from the Ministry or State Government, rather creating a stakeholder owned programme)
- Set rules of participation (allow everyone to speak, clear doubts)
- Use local language – be gender sensitive
- Acknowledge all questions and make sure these are answered to satisfaction of the participants
- After workshop ends, reflect on the sessions and incorporate changes to improve the next one

Thank You

