



Ministry of Environment, Forest
and Climate Change
Government of India



Integrated Management of Wetland Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Global Environment Facility Funded
Full Scale Project



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL

THE PROJECT

Wetlands underpin food, water and climate security and sustain rich biological diversity. Yet, these ecosystems are under a range of direct and indirect threats including alteration to hydrological regimes, degradation of catchment land uses, point and diffuse pollution, invasive species, over-exploitation of resources, reclamation and infilling and unregulated tourism contribute to the erosion of natural capital and reduction in the benefits that flow from wetland ecosystems.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India through the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) seeks to conserve and sustainably manage wetlands across the country and aims to stem their continued loss and degradation by promoting a cross-sectoral policy, planning and decision-making environment. The GEF-funded **Integrated Management of Wetland Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IMWBES)** project complements and builds on the existing policy and practice frameworks in order **to improve the management effectiveness of nationally and internationally important wetlands in India and to secure the socio-economic and environmental benefits through wetland wise use.**

PROJECT GOAL

“Conservation and wise use of wetlands for sustained provision of their full range of ecosystem services and maintenance of biodiversity”

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

“Enhance management effectiveness of wetlands of national and global significance and integration in developmental planning”

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The IMWBES project is organised into following four components aimed at addressing the knowledge, capacity and institutional barriers limiting effectiveness of wetland management, and would help transform the national baseline project into the delivery of global environmental benefits

COMPONENT 1:

National wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services based knowledge systems designed to make available knowledge systems that enable wetland managers systematic inclusion of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) values in site identification, management planning, developing cross-sectoral institutional arrangements and responding to emerging challenges of climate change.

COMPONENT 2:

National Scale Capacity building for applying integrated wetland management intending to build the capacity of wetlands manager to deliver and apply integrated management.

COMPONENT 3:

Demonstration of integrated wetland management in three wetlands to facilitate learning and the development of best practices for up-scaling and wider implementation within state governments. The project will support inventory and assessments, finalisation of management plan and implementation of core activities.

COMPONENT 4:

Project monitoring, evaluation and outcome dissemination to ensure that the project meets its stipulated objectives, and the results are effectively disseminated to the wetland managers and stakeholders within state government.

Components	Outcomes	Outputs
<p>Component 1</p> <p>Wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services knowledge system for national policy support</p>	<p>Increased adoption of integrated wetland management through application of climate-smart integrated wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity assessment tools</p> <p>Wetland BES knowledge systems applied to improve management effectiveness of sites of national and international significance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hierarchical wetland BES assessment tool developed and field tested at six sites. • Climate vulnerability assessment tool developed and field tested in six sites. • Wetland managers trained on application of tools, methodologies and best practices for integrating BES values and climate responses in site management. • Wetland management effectiveness tool developed and applied to Ramsar sites. • Small grant programme administered to support wetland managers in improving site management effectiveness. • Improved wetland information synthesis and accessibility to support wetland policy and management implementation. • Guidance document developed to support integration of wetlands into state developmental and investment programming.
<p>Component 2</p> <p>National scale capacity building for applying integrated management</p>	<p>Enhanced institutional capacity and trained human resources for integrated management of wetlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modules for integrated management of wetlands developed and implemented for training wetland managers. • Communities of Practice established for sharing best practices and lessons learnt on wetland management developed for wetland managers. • National Communication and Outreach Strategy developed and supported by the establishment of a website on wetland conservation and wise-use. • Outreach materials on wetland ecosystem services values and integrated management developed and used for organizing and delivering national level outreach events.
<p>Component 3</p> <p>Demonstration of integrated wetland management</p>	<p>Integrated wetland management applied in three protected wetlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline assessment and evaluation of ecosystem services values carried out for three demonstration sites. • Cross-sectoral institutional arrangements for integrated management enabled for three pilot sites. • Built capacity of wetland communities and stakeholders at three demonstration sites to support integrated management. • Potential private sector partnerships identified at three demonstration sites and actively engaged in integrated management. • Implementation of management plan reviewed and adapted periodically to address site and landscape scale drivers and pressures.
<p>Component 4</p> <p>Project monitoring and evaluation</p>	<p>Project impacts and performance are measured</p> <p>Evidence base on benefits of BES based-wetland management established</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project monitoring and reporting systems established • Site and wetland catchment scale monitoring implemented assessing management effectiveness and outcomes for BES values. • Project best practices guidelines on ES based wetland management disseminated for national scale replication. • Increased use of BES based monitoring systems to assess maintenance and restoration of wetland ecological character, and enhanced livelihoods for wetland dependent communities.

Key Contacts

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Project	Integrated Management of Wetland Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IMWBES)
Trust Fund	Global Environment Facility
Geographical Scope	National-India
Project Executing Organizations	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Government of India
Lead Technical Support Agency	Wetlands International South Asia
Duration of Project	60 Months
Endorsement of GEF Council	March 29, 2016
Cost of Project	\$24,413,575 (GEF Trust Fund: \$4,196,575 and Co-financing- \$20,217,000)

