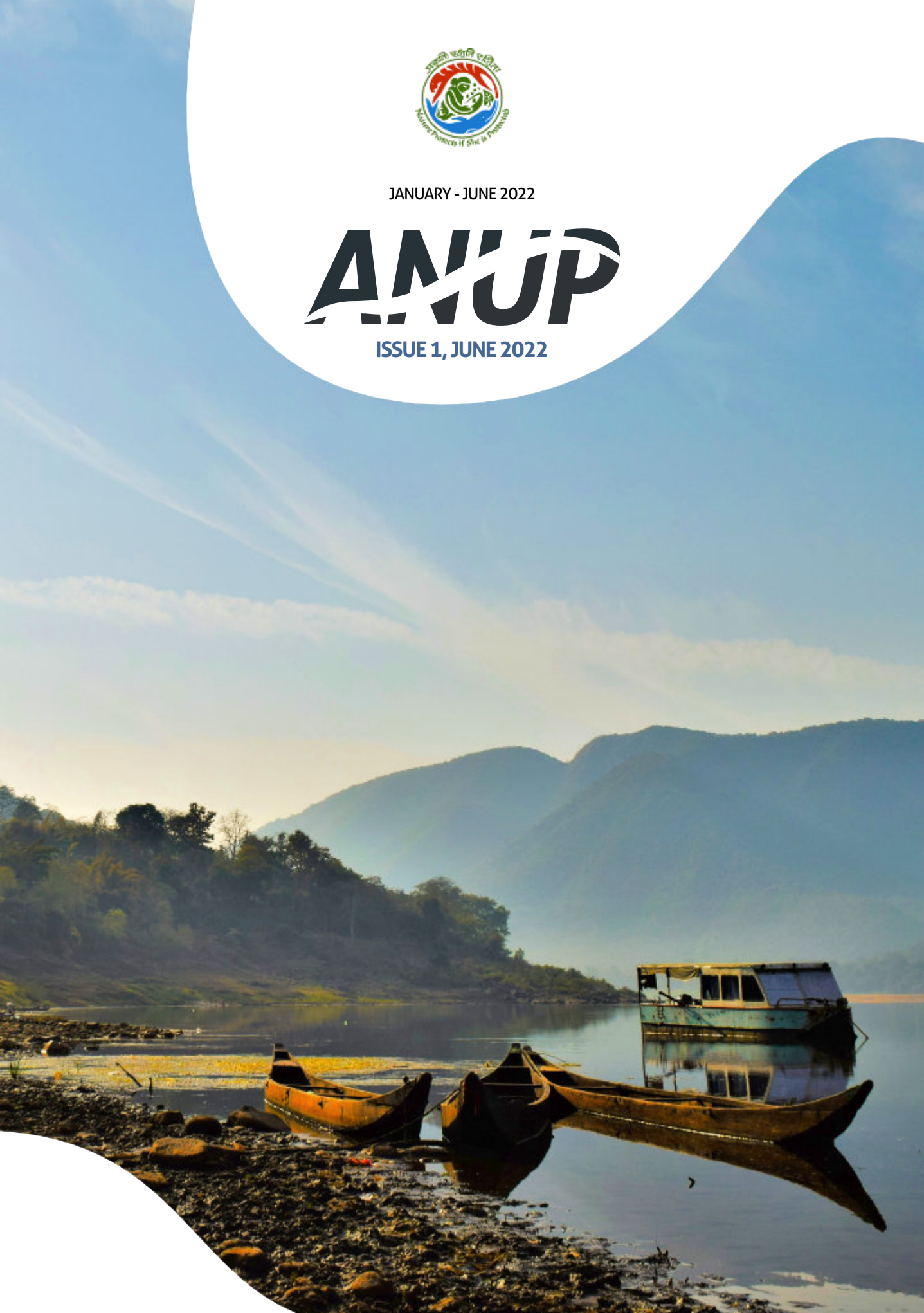




JANUARY - JUNE 2022

ANUP

ISSUE 1, JUNE 2022





मंत्री
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन
और
श्रम एवं रोजगार
भारत सरकार



सत्यमेव जयते

MINISTER
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
AND
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

भूपेन्द्र यादव
BHUPENDER YADAV



75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

MESSAGE

Wetlands, ecosystems located at the interface of land and water, are life support systems that ensure functioning of water cycle and providing us ecological and economical security.

If forest are our lungs, wetlands are the kidneys of landscape. Continued functioning of wetlands has acquired new meaning in the age of increasing water and food security. Indeed, wetlands are life support for a range of plant and animal life, and as wetlands degrade, the existence of these life forms would be under stress. At the same time, it is for security of human well-being, that wetland conservation acquires prominence.


It is with great pleasure that we present the first edition of 'Anup'- a newsletter to keep wetlands managers, Wetland Authorities and other stakeholders updated on the development in this sector. The term 'Anup', meaning incomparable lands, has been used for wetlands in our ancient texts.

Wetlands conservation has received a great fillip in recent times. At the international level, we are aiming at increasing the network of Ramsar sites to 75 wetlands, making our network the largest in Asia. We have also chalked out a framework for participatory governance of wetlands, especially to bring primary stakeholders aboard our various conservation and management initiatives. It is also encouraging to note that the States/UTs are taking up the implementation of the national regulatory framework of wetlands. A Memorandum of Cooperation with the Confederation of Indian Industries will allow us to develop systematic engagement opportunities with the corporate sector on their proactive role in conserving wetlands.

The wetland managers have been requesting a platform for information sharing on developments in wetlands conservation. This six-monthly newsletter, developed under the Global Environment Facility- MoEFCC-United Nations Environment Programme funded Integrated Management of Wetland Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Project, is an effort in this direction. We hope to receive more contributions from the states and union territories so that we keep each other inspired through success stories as well as keep an eye on challenges.

With best wishes.

Date: 04.07.2022


(Bhupender Yadav)

HIGHLIGHTS

*Hon'ble Union
Minister Mr
Bhupender Yadav
meets Secretary
General of Ramsar
Convention*

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*Sahbhagita, a
National Workshop
to Prepare the
roadmap for
Participatory
Wetlands
Management*

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Network of Ramsar
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in the Pipeline*

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*Prime Minister
Launches Mission
Amrit Sarovar to
Conserve Water for
the Future*

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National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems

Goal

Develop and maintain a network of healthy wetlands which contribute to human well-being through their diverse ecosystem services, as well as sustain diversity and populations of wetland-dependent species.

Purpose

Mainstream full range of wetlands biodiversity and ecosystem services within developmental plans and programmes at various levels.



Hon'ble Union Minister Mr Bhupender Yadav meets Secretary General of Ramsar Convention



Hon'ble Union Minister discussing India's proposed designation of wetlands of international importance with Ms Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention

Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Mr Bhupendra Yadav held a meeting with the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention Ms Martha Rojas Urrego on June 10, 2022 in Geneva to discuss the designation of 75 wetlands to the Ramsar Site Network as part of the celebrations of India's 75 years of our Independence.

India currently has 49 Ramsar sites and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has sent proposals for 26 wetlands from the States of Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Goa to the Ramsar Convention, aiming for 75 Ramsar sites in India by August 15, 2022.



Sahbhagita, a National Workshop to Prepare the roadmap for Participatory Wetlands Management

The MoEFCC organized a National Workshop for Developing a Roadmap for Participatory Conservation and Wise-Use of Wetlands. Titled 'Sahbhagita', the workshop was held on May 21, 2022, at the National Center for Sustainable Coastal Management in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The workshop

was held under the aegis of the Global Environment Facility-MoEFCC-UN Environment Programme funded Integrated Management of Wetlands Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services project and was attended by 157 participants.

The workshop had roundtable discussions on three themes:

- Building convergence with conservation and development plans and programmes and investments at various levels
- Creating an enabling and participatory governance environment for Sahbhagita
- Bridging the science-policy-action divide to support Sahbhagita



Workshop Session 2 in progress. From left to right: Prof. R Ramesh (Director, NCSCM), Mrs. Manju Pandey (Joint Secretary, MoEFCC), Mrs. Leena Nandan (Secretary MoEFCC), Mr. Bhupendar Yadav (Hon'ble Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change), Mr. Ashwini Choubey (Hon'ble Minister of State, Environment, Forest and Climate Change), Prof. R Velraj (Vice-Chancellor, Anna University)



Wetland Champions with workshop dignitaries

Key recommendations include:

- Aligning management action plans with existing sectoral schemes and programmes to ensure convergence
- Creating an inter-sectoral work environment to support wetland management actions at the site, district and state-level
- Creating a wetlands governance system that enables stewardship, inclusion, and participation.
- Building public-private partnerships for wetlands conservation at the site, district, and state levels
- Making civil society engagement an integral part of the management plan preparation, implementation, monitoring through citizen science programs such as Wetland Health Card, and Asian Waterbird Census
- Developing wetland missions by the Wetland Authorities with clear targets and outcomes, priority wetlands, clear timeframes and implementation plans with working arrangements with different sectors and stakeholders.
- Covering all wetlands of national and international importance within systematic management effectiveness assessment.
- Improving information technology adoption and incorporation of robust science and plural knowledge in wetlands management.
- Organising multi-level training programs in vernacular languages for different stakeholders and upgrading the training curriculum for wetland managers.

Hon'ble Union Minister Mr Bhupender Yadav and Hon'ble Minister of State Mr Ashwini Kumar Choubey felicitated thirteen Wetland champions from across the country with a memento. In his address, the Union Minister underlined the need to balance nature conservation and development at various levels and recommended the following:

- The Indian National Flag may be placed at each of the wetlands of national and international significance along with an inscription highlighting the wetland values. Public events may be organized at these sites to promote awareness and build citizen participation for conservation and wise use of these sites.
- A Standard Operating Procedure for participatory conservation and wise use of wetlands may be drafted by the Ministry and shared with the state for implementation.
- Sahbhagita workshops may be arranged at state levels to promote an intersectoral and collaborative approach to conservation and wise use of wetlands.

IBBI & MoEFCC Enter into a Memorandum of Cooperation on Establishing a Work Programme on Wetlands

A Memorandum of Cooperation between Indian Business and Biodiversity Initiative (IBBI) and the MoEFCC was signed to establish a joint work programme on wetlands. The IBBI is a multi-stakeholder group of leading Indian businesses, led by the Confederation of Indian Industry making commitments for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Within the framework of cooperation, MoEFCC and IBBI shall strive to:

Making businesses aware of wetlands and the role these ecosystems play in making resilient landscapes

- Promoting wetlands conservation and wise use within the portfolio of actions as 'nature-based solutions' for achieving food, water and climate security and biodiversity conservation
- Developing guidance and tools for industries to address their impacts and interdependencies on wetlands

- Developing multi-stakeholder partnerships and mobilizing resources for wetlands conservation, wise use and restoration.

The Memorandum was signed by Mrs Manju Pandey and Ms Seema Arora (Deputy Director-General, CII) at the Sahbhagita workshop.



Mrs Manju Pandey, JS, MoEFCC and Ms Seema Arora, Deputy Director-General, CII signing a Memorandum of Cooperation to establish a program on wetlands within IBBI

India Extends the Network of Ramsar Sites to 49, 26 More in the Pipeline

India added two more Ramsar Sites Khijadia Bird Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh, establishing the largest network of Ramsar Sites in South Asia. The sites were announced on World Wetlands Day 2022.

To mark the 75th year of India's Independence, the Ministry has

proposed to increase the List of Wetlands of International Importance to 75 sites. Accordingly, proposals for the designation of 26 additional wetlands as Ramsar Sites have been submitted to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and are at various stages of review. With this, the Indian network of Ramsar Sites will be the largest in Asia.

Prime Minister Launches Mission Amrit Sarovar to Conserve Water for the Future

Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi launched a new Mission 'Amrit Sarovar' on April 24, 2022, aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 waterbodies in each district of the country as a part of the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The Mission, which is to be completed by August 15, 2023, will lead to the construction of around 50,000 Amrit Sarovar in the country with an area of the size of about an acre

or more and a water holding capacity of 10,000 cubic meters. People's participation in the Mission is the focal point of Mission Amrit Sarovar. Local freedom fighters, their family members, Martyr's family members, Padma Awardee and citizens of the local area wherein an Amrit Sarovar is to be constructed, will be engaged at all stages.



MEETINGS

Third Meeting of National Wetlands Committee

The third meeting of the National Wetland Committee (NWC) constituted under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 was held on April 6, 2022. The meeting was chaired by Mrs Leena Nandan, Secretary, MoEFCC. The committee decided to set up a Technical Sub-Committee to take up various technical issues that emerge intermediary to the larger NWC meetings. The committee also discussed the outcomes of the Space Application Centre (SAC)- Decadal Change Atlas and recommended that the shape files of the analysis be made

available to all States and Union Territories for enabling delineation. The applicability of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 to human-made wetlands was also discussed and the committee was informed of the Office Memorandum (OM) issued by the Ministry on the said subject. The committee also considered proposals related to East Kolkata Wetlands. The full minutes can be accessed at https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/library/MoM_NWC_06-04-2022.pdf.

Meeting with Ministry of Coal on Renaturation of Pit Wetlands

Coal mining operations lead to the creation of mine voids which over a period of time progress to form wetland ecosystems acting as habitats for specific life forms, and also providing benefits in the form of water supply, fisheries and recreation. A joint meeting of the MoEFCC and Ministry of Coal was held on July 21, 2022, to discuss the renaturation and sustainable development of Pit Wetlands in Indian Coal-Mining Sites. Mrs Manju Pandey, (JS, MoEFCC) and Mr Bhabani Prasad Patil (JS, Ministry of Coal) along with experts from Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), National Centre for

Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)-India, Wetlands International South Asia (WISA) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) outlined a framework of action for the renaturation of pit wetlands. It was agreed to begin the process by identifying wetlands that could be taken up under the initiative and conducting baseline ecological, hydrological and socio-economic inventories.



Discussions between the officials from MoEFCC, Ministry of Coal and experts from knowledge partners on renaturation of pit wetlands in progress

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS

Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 Applies to All Wetlands Greater Than 2.25 Ha

The MoEFCC issued an Office Memorandum on March 8, 2022, reiterating that the 2,01,503 wetlands (>2.25 ha) as per the National Wetland Inventory and Assessment (NWIA), 2011 should be protected as per Rule 4 of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. This

protection is irrespective of the applicability of notification as per the said Rules. The notification can be accessed at

https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Reiteration%20OM_Protection%20of%20Wetlands.pdf

Constitution of Technical Expert Committee for Development of a Guidance Document on Conservation of Intertidal Wetlands

The National Wetlands Decadal Change Atlas, 2021 prepared by the SAC has indicated that in the last ten years, the area under mangroves, creeks and coral reefs has increased while the intertidal mudflats and salt marshes have receded. The increase in mangrove area has been at the cost of mudflats, which have an ecological significance of their

own. In view of this, the MoEFCC has constituted a technical expert committee to prepare a guidance document for the conservation of intertidal wetlands. The committee is chaired by Mr Sundeep, Scientist-F, MoEFCC- Coastal Division and has experts from NCSCM, BNHS, WISA and SACON.

Nomination of States And Expert Members to the National Wetlands Committee

As per the provisions of the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, five subject matter experts are nominated to the National Wetlands Committee for three years and two representatives from States/Union Territories for two years on a rotation basis. Through a notification of February 10, 2022, the MoEFCC nominated the following subject matter experts to the NWC:

- Prof Rajiv Sinha, Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
- Prof Sanjay Deshmukh, Department

of Lifesciences, Mumbai University, Mumbai

- Dr Vishwanath Waikhom, Former Dean, School of Life Sciences, Manipur University
- Dr Surabhi Mehrotra, Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture and Planning, MANIT, Bhopal
- Dr T.V. Ramachandra, Coordinator of Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Convener at Environmental Information System at Centre For Ecological Science, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore

Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have been nominated to the NWC as States/UT representatives. The notification can be accessed at

<https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/National-Wetlands-Committee-%E2%80%93-OM-dated-10.02.2022-Nomination-of-next-round-of-States-and-Expert-Members.pdf>

SIGNIFICANT JUDGEMENTS

National Green Tribunal Orders Preparation of a Joint Environmental Management Plan for Najafgarh Jheel

The NGT order dated 21.01.2022 in application number 16/2019 has directed the Governments of Haryana and NCT of Delhi to jointly prepare an Environment Management Plan (EMP) for Najafgarh jheel, a transboundary wetland between Delhi and Haryana. Till the time the joint EMP is prepared, the individual EMPs prepared by Haryana and NCT Delhi are to be implemented. It was also directed that

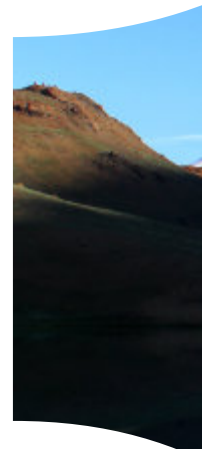
the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 be strictly followed along with the Guidelines issued by MoEFCC on the subject. The National Wetland Committee has been directed to monitor the progress of implementation of action plans with both the States i.e. Haryana and Delhi through their respective State Wetland Authorities and resolve the inter-state disputes if any.

All Wetlands Above 2.25 Ha to Receive Protection Under Rule 4 of Wetlands Rules.

The NGT Southern Zone in application number 153 of 2016 in its decision pronounced on April 13, 2022 regarding Sompeta wetlands has directed that all wetlands above 2.25 Ha (which were mapped and identified in the National Wetland Atlas), whether notified or not, will receive protection under the rule 4 of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rule, 2017.

As per Rule 4 of the Wetlands Rules, the wetlands are to be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority. The following activities shall be prohibited within the wetlands

- conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
- setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
- solid waste dumping;



- manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016, hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;
- discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
- any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of these rules; and
- poaching



NEWS FROM STATE AND UT WETLAND AUTHORITIES

District Wetland Committees Constituted in Bihar

The Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bihar in line with decisions of the Bihar State Wetland Authority has constituted district wetland committees for wetlands identification and demarcation, preparation of brief documents and health cards, Integrated Management Plans and constitution of wetland mitras. These committees are chaired by the District Collector and have representatives from all concerned line departments.

In the second meeting of the authority held on January 28, 2022, key decisions taken included approval of 36 wetlands with an area >100 ha for preparation of brief documents and health cards and constitution of wetland Mitras. The progress of notification of 28 wetlands under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 was also reviewed. Proposals for designating five wetlands as Ramsar sites were also approved.

Nodal Agency for the Management of Wetlands of Chattisgarh Notified

The Government of Chhattisgarh has designated the Forest and Climate Change Department as the nodal agency for the management of wetlands and the office of the State Biodiversity Board as the secretariat to the State Wetland Authority as per its order of February 11, 2022.

State Wetlands Authority Kerala Initiates Management Planning for Vembanad -Kol Wetlands, the State's Largest and Most Complex Ramsar Site

Vembanad-Kol, spanning 1,780 sq km, is the largest wetland regime of the Malabar coastline and has diverse habitats including estuaries, river floodplains, mangroves and marshes, interspersed with an intricate network of channels.

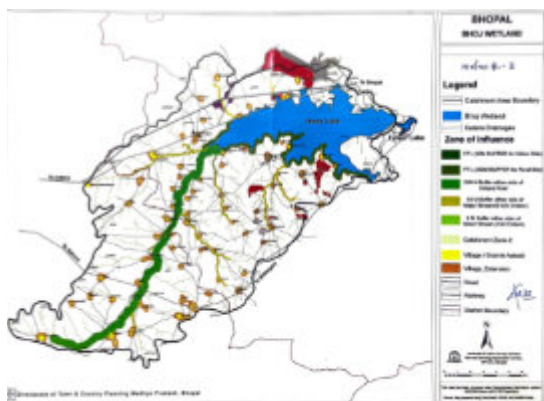


Discussions during the stakeholder consultation in progress

The State Wetland Authority Kerala has initiated management planning for this Ramsar site in collaboration with the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management and Wetlands International South Asia. The first stakeholder consultation was held on May 18, 2022, wherein over 50 participants representing different stakeholder groups discussed the management issues and priorities.

Government of Madhya Pradesh Issues Administrative Order for the Protection of Bhoj Wetlands

The Government of Madhya Pradesh, on March 6, 2022, issued an administrative order specifying the boundary of Bhoj Wetland and its zone of influence. Activities prohibited, regulated and permitted have been specified in this order. The order can be accessed at http://swa.mp.gov.in/uploads/files/BWL_wetland_Rules.pdf



Map representing zone of Influence of Bhoj Wetlands

The second meeting of the Madhya Pradesh State Wetland Authority was held on February 2, 2022. The key decisions taken included approval of the of the Integrated Management Plan of Girwar wetland for submission to MoEFCC; recommendation of five wetlands to be notified under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and constitution of District Wetland Conservation Committees.

Expert Committee Review of Wetlands Conservation Activities in Himachal Pradesh



Expert committee members at Khab Sangam in Pooh

The Himachal Pradesh State Wetlands Authority constituted an expert committee to review implementation and effectiveness of activities undertaken within their 'Wetlands Conservation Programme' at select major wetland sites of the state. The committee visited Pong Dam, Khajjiar and Rewalsar wetlands during January

07-12, 2022 and Chandertal wetland complex on June 8, 2022. The committee prepared an evaluation report taking cognizance of results achieved from the interventions and further suggested integrated management actions to secure conservation and wise-use goals.

Meghalaya Bans Permanent Construction around Umiam Wetlands

The Government of Meghalaya imposed a ban on any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within 50 meters from the mean high flood level of the Umiam Lake, as per a notification issued on February 22, 2022.

Tamil Nadu Launches State Wetlands Mission

With the objective of ecological restoration of the wetlands in the state, the Government of Tamil Nadu has launched the Wetlands Mission for Rs 150 crore. The mission includes identification and mapping of 100 wetlands (from 141 prioritized wetlands list prepared by SACON) in five years and restoring the ecological balance by focusing on the livelihood options.

Delhi Consolidates Inventory of Wetlands and Proposes 10 Wetlands for Notification

The Wetland Authority of NCT of Delhi, working with 17-line departments and agencies has consolidated a list of 1,045 wetlands. Of these 701 brief documents have been prepared and are at various stages of review by the Technical Committee. Based on the committee recommendations, draft

notifications under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 are under preparation. The Committee is also taking up the preparation of a manual on ecological rejuvenation of wetlands for use by different line agencies and departments of the government.

Goa Issues Draft Notification on Bondvol Lake

The State Government of Goa issued a draft of the notification of Bondvol lake under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Spanning an area of around 7 Ha located in village Calapur of Tiswadi Taluka, North Goa district, Bondvol is a century-old natural reservoir serving as a source of water for the village of Santa Cruz, collecting

rain and spring water over a 9.300-hectare submergence basin.

Goa currently has seven wetlands notified under the Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 including Nanda Lake, Cottombi Lake, Pilerne Lake, Xeldem Lake, Toyyar Lake, Sarzora Lake and Dashi Lake.

Sikkim Declares Tungkyog as a Biodiversity Heritage Site

The Sikkim Biodiversity Board declared Lake Tungkyog in Hee-Gyathang, Dzongu, North Sikkim as a Biodiversity Heritage Site on March 8, 2022 at an event organised by the Hee-Gyathang Gram Panchayat and Hee-Gyathang Biodiversity Management Committee.

Under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 the State Government in consultation with local bodies may notify the official gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.



KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

Climate Responsive Management Plans for Four Ramsar Sites Reviewed

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) funded Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection Project aims at strengthening the institutional framework and capacities for an ecosystem-based integrated management of wetlands of International importance in India. The project is implemented by MoEFCC and GIZ and has four pilot sites (Pong Dam and Renuka in Himachal Pradesh, Bhitarkanika Mangroves in Odisha and Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu).

A major outcome of the project is incorporating climate risks in wetland management plans. To review the management plans of the pilot sites, a consultation workshop was held on March 22, 2022. The threats and proposed management actions for each site were discussed with the officials from concerned departments of the MoEFCC (Wetlands Division, Biodiversity Division, Mangrove Cell, Forest – Wildlife) and Ministry of Jal Shakti and representatives from Wetlands International South Asia.



Wetlands as Nature-Based Solutions for Addressing Water-Related Disaster Risks

Wetlands International South Asia and the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) have prepared a guidebook to assist the incorporation of nature-based solutions such as wetlands conservation in the preparation and implementation of District Disaster Management Plans. In continuation with the same, a one-day National workshop was organized on

April 26, 2022. During the workshop, attended by over 35 experts from prominent Government bodies, Knowledge institutions, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations, pathways for replication and upscaling of wetlands conservation as a nature-based solution for mitigating water-mediated disaster risks were discussed.

Fauna from Tide Pool Ecosystems along the Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg Coast in Maharashtra Documented



Tourists observing the flora and fauna along the Kunkeshwar beach, Sindhudurg district

Tide pools are common features of rocky shores worldwide and are among the significant wetland component. They are poorly studied than the adjacent emergent substratum (rocky patch) and very little information is available about the patterns and processes of communities in them. The tide pools act as refuges, feeding habitats, and nursery grounds for many marine organisms. Dr Goldin Quadros, Dr Shirish S. Manchi, Mr Siddhesh D. Bhave and Ms. Purnima Mohite from SACON, undertook the study along the southern coastal districts of Maharashtra, namely Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri, covering 288 kms of a coastal length with an objective to a) document the faunal diversity and distribution from the tide pools across the Ratnagiri (167 kms) and Sindhudurg coast (121 kms) and b) explore the potential of

coastal Tide pool tourism as a livelihood option for the local community. It was observed that the overall biodiversity along the rocky tide pools in the two districts totalled 303 species. They comprised 30 seaweed and algae species, 80 phytoplankton species, 73 zooplankton species, 90 species of megafauna that included both invertebrates and vertebrates, and 30 bird species. The report suggests the rocky tide pools from three locations in Sindhudurg district namely Tamberdeg, Kunkeshwar and Bhogwe, as suitable for tourism. While in Ratnagiri district, five locations, Latghar, Hedvi, Kharviwada, Velas and Velneshwar, have the potential for rocky tide pool tourism. The report has been submitted to the Mangrove Foundation of the Maharashtra Forest Department.

Restoration of Pallikarnai Marsh displayed at the Biological Diversity Exhibition



Dignitaries visiting the NCSCM booth at the exhibition

The National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change participated in the Biological Diversity Exhibition organized on International Biodiversity Day 2022 by the National Biodiversity Authority in Chennai. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mr Bhupender Yadav. NCSCM displayed the values and pressures of wetlands, the need for conservation of wetlands and a Freshwater - Coastal Wetland continuum model. Restoration of the

Pallikaranai Marsh at Chennai, an urban wetland, by identifying threats and values was on display. This marsh has been suggested as a potential Ramsar Wetland by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mr Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for State Mr Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Hon'ble Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Tamil Nadu State Mr Siva. V. Meyyanathan visited the stall and appreciated the knowledge products developed by NCSCM.



MAJOR EVENTS

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Reviews Management of Loktak

Hon'ble Union Minister Mr Bhupender Yadav chaired a review meeting on the Integrated Management Plan of Loktak lake on January 2, 2022. The meeting was attended by the State Forest Minister, Chairperson of Loktak Development Authority, Members of Legislative Assembly and officials of Forest and Environment, Loktak Development Authority, and Manipur

State Wetland Authority. Reiterating the Ministry's commitment to conserving the Ramsar site, the Union Minister stressed that all plans and projects for the development of the wetland would require the maintenance and conservation of the beautiful gift of nature as well as the participation of the local community residing at the periphery of the wetland.

Asian Waterbird Census Network Joined Hands with the National Biodiversity Authority to Foster Waterbird Monitoring in India

Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is the longest-running citizens science programme, collating and disseminating information on waterbird counts on wetlands for over thirty years. In a special initiative, the AWC partners with National Biodiversity Authority to engage State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) and Union Territory Biodiversity Councils (UTBC) in conducting waterbird census. This special edition of

the census covered 19 States and Union Territories. During the census, 142 wetlands were covered by 119 participating organisations that spotted 179 wetlands and wetlands-dependent species and submitted counts estimate to the Census database. Over 300 participants from 28 SBB and 8 UTBCs received training in January 2022 on conducting waterbird census.

World Wetlands Day National Celebrations at Sultanpur Wetlands, Haryana



Dignitaries at the national celebration of World Wetlands Day at Sultanpur National Park

February 2 is celebrated worldwide as World Wetlands Day. The Convention on Wetlands was adopted on this date in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar. In 2021, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming World Wetlands Day as an officially recognised event of the United Nations.

The MoEFCC partnered with the Government of Haryana to celebrate World Wetlands Day at Sultanpur National Park, a Ramsar site in Haryana. The function was presided over by Hon'ble Union Minister Mr Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister of State, Mr Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr Manohar Lal, and Forest Minister of Haryana, Mr Kanwar Pal. Two new Ramsar sites, Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh were also announced on the occasion.

MoEFCC Organised a Regional Hand-Holding Workshop for Wetland Managers

MoEFCC in coordination with Madhya Pradesh State Wetland Authority organized a handholding workshop on Wetland Database Generation and Management during March 10-11, 2022 in Bhopal. The objective of the workshop was to facilitate the wetland managers and nodal officers of State Wetland Authorities in the preparation Brief Documents and using the national wetlands portal to maintain this information digitally. Representatives from the Wetlands Authorities of Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh attended the workshop.



Representatives from the Wetlands Authorities and knowledge partners with MoEFCC and GoMP officials

Union Minister Visits Deepor Beel to Review the Management Status

Hon'ble Union Minister Mr Bhupender Yadav accompanied by the Chief Minister of Assam visited Deepor Beel on March 12, 2022, to review the status and conservation needs of the wetland. Discussions were held on the need for the preparation of an integrated management plan.

Jal Tarang- the Renovated Wetland Interpretation Centre of Bhoj Wetland Inaugurated on World Environment Day

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr Shivraj Singh Chauhan inaugurated the renovated Interpretation Centre of Bhoj Wetland- 'Jal Tarang' on World Environment Day 2022. The interpretation centre has exhibits, models, dioramas, an interactive touch screen, digital walls, a kids' area and other facilities to create awareness of the values and benefits of the Ramsar site.



The dignitaries visiting Jal Tarang

MoEFCC Convened a Two-days workshop on the Conservation of Himalayan Wetlands



Workshop participants at Wular Wetland

The MoEFCC convened a regional workshop for Conserving Himalayan Wetlands at Srinagar, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on June 13-14, 2022. The workshop was attended by wetlands managers from Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir; and knowledge partners of the Ministry's wetlands programme.

Three roundtable discussions on:

- a) integrated management of Himalayan Wetlands;
- b) Establishing a regional programme on Himalayan Wetlands; and,
- c) Himalayan Wetlands as Habitats for Migratory Birds in the Central Asian

Flyway were convened.

Major recommendations included conservation planning on the basis of catchment - cryosphere interactions, creating a network of research and knowledge institutions to support state and UT governments in wetlands management, development of sustainable Himalayan Wetlands tourism guidelines; in the collaboration with industry partners; and higher involvement of Army in the enforcement of extant regulation and monitoring. The outlines of a national Himalayan Wetlands Programme were also developed with Science, Policy, Practice and Knowledge and

Partnerships as core pillars. A state of Himalayan Wetlands' report was also proposed to be developed in collaboration with knowledge partners.

A field visit to the Wular showcased the ways in which the integrated management plan was being

implemented, and how the hydrological interventions were being carried out by the Wular Lake Conservation and Management Authority. The workshop concluded with the roundtable discussions being finalised at Hokersar Interpretation centre.



PUBLICATIONS

- A National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas prepared by the Space Applications Centre was released on February 2, 2022, highlighting the changes in the wetlands across the country over the past decade. Available from: <https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/library/1643777982.pdf>
- Suganthi Devadason Marine Research Institute, Tuticorin and the Department of Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, University of Kerala prepared a first-ever comprehensive guide on Molluscs of Gulf of Mannar, titled 'The Molluscs of Gulf of Mannar, India and Adjacent Water: A Fully Illustrated Guide'. The guidebook provides a detailed pictorial portrayal of 1041 species of molluscs, including 722 gastropods, 287 bivalves, 7 scaphopods, 21 cephalopods and 4 polyplacophorans.
- Summary Report on Asian Waterbird Census 2022: Results of Mid-winter Count by Biodiversity Management Committees and Asian Waterbird Census Network was launched by Hon'ble Union Minister Mr Bhupender Yadav and Hon'ble Minister of State Mr Ashwini Kumar Choubey at an event organized by the MoEFCC in collaboration with National Biodiversity Authority commemorating International Biodiversity Day on May 22, 2022, at Chennai.
- A brochure on the Government of India's initiatives for wetlands conservation was released on February 2, 2022, highlighting the MoEFCC's efforts towards wetlands management including the policy and programming and the four-pronged approach for wetlands rejuvenation. Available from: <https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/library/1643777167.pdf>
- Brochures on the significance, services, and threats of four Ramsar sites- Sultanpur National Park and Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary, and Bakhira Wildlife sanctuary were also released during the World Wetlands Day 2022.

Available from:
<https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/library/1643777025.pdf>
<https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/library/1643777059.pdf>
<https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/library/1643777091.pdf>
<https://indianwetlands.in/wp-content/uploads/library/1643777115.pdf>



CONTACT

Wetlands Division
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road
New Delhi 110003, India
Email: wetlands-mefcc@gov.in



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The IMWBES is a Full-Scale, five-year project with a goal of “conservation and wise use of wetlands for sustained provision of their full range of ecosystem services and maintenance of biological diversity”. The project objective is to “enhance management effectiveness of wetlands of national and global significance and integration in developmental programming”. Wetlands International South Asia is the Lead Technical Support Agency providing technical backstopping to the project implementation.