

The Indo-German Biodiversity Programme

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in partnership with GIZ is implementing the Indo-German Biodiversity Programme. Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the programme addresses the challenges of biodiversity conservation in five projects:

- Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation (HWC)
- Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
- Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HPFES)
- Private Business Action for Biodiversity (PBAB)
- Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection

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Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection

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Wetlands Management

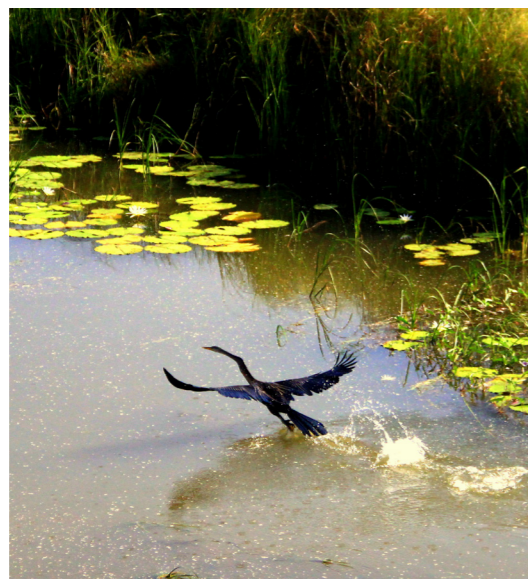
for
Biodiversity
and Climate
Protection



Wetlands in India

Wetlands are ecosystems located at the interface of land and water. We see them in various forms – marshes, lagoons, estuaries, mangroves, peatlands, ponds, lakes, reservoirs, floodplains, deltas, etc. As highly productive ecosystems, wetlands are vital parts of the water cycle and support rich biological diversity.

There are over 750,000 wetlands in India which are spread over 152,600 km² (National Wetlands Atlas 2011). Distributed across ten bio-geographic zones – from the Trans-Himalayas to the Indian Islands – these wetlands exhibit an enormous diversity and support a variety of ecosystem services: freshwater provision, food, fibre and fuels, groundwater recharge and purification, pollution abatement, flood mitigation, erosion control and carbon sequestration. They also provide cultural and recreational benefits. Wetlands directly and indirectly support the livelihoods of millions of Indians.



In India, 26 wetlands of international importance have been designated under the Ramsar Convention.

Many wetlands are threatened by reclamation and degradation through drainage and landfill, pollution, hydrological alteration, over-exploitation and climate change resulting in loss of biodiversity and disruption in ecosystem benefits to the society. Wetlands in India form an integral component of biodiversity conservation, water and food security and climate protection.



Wetlands in India account for **4.6%** of total geographical area.

Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection

With the overall goal of securing and enhancing wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services while offering nature-based solutions for climate change, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) has launched the project "Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection" in 2018.

The main objective of the project is to strengthen the institutional framework and capacities for an ecosystem-based integrated management of wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites) in India. The project is implemented by MoEFCC and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Project Approach

The project is implemented in close cooperation with the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) of the MoEFCC. The following three main output areas define the implementation approach of the project.

- Integrated management planning for 3-4 pilot Ramsar sites based on biodiversity, ecosystem services and climate change risks.
- Capacity development of national, state and site level stakeholders for integrated wetland management.
- Development of a wetland monitoring system, including an instrument to track management effectiveness.

Up to four Ramsar sites will be selected as pilot sites for project implementation in consultation with the MoEFCC and state governments. Wetlands International South Asia is a knowledge and technical implementation partner for the project.

Implementation Partners

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India

The MoEFCC is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government for the planning, promotion, coordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environmental and forestry policies and programmes.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a public-benefit federal enterprise owned by the German Government that provides services worldwide in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

State Wetlands Authority

Constituted under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, State Wetlands Authority is the apex body at the state level for identification, notification, conservation, management and monitoring of wetlands.

Wetlands International South Asia

Wetlands International South Asia is a non-government organisation working for sustaining and restoring wetlands, their resources and biodiversity in South Asia region.