



# WETLANDS MANAGEMENT FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE PROTECTION

## Situation

Wetlands are ecosystems located at the interface of land and water. They occur in various forms such as marshes, lagoons, estuaries, mangroves, peatlands, ponds, lakes, reservoirs, floodplains, and deltas. As highly productive ecosystems, wetlands are vital parts of the water cycle and support a rich biological diversity.

In India, 93 wetlands of international importance have been designated under the Ramsar Convention. There are over 750,000 wetlands in India which are spread over 15.98 Mha (National Wetlands Decadal Change Atlas 2021). Distributed across ten biogeographic zones—from the Trans-Himalayas to the Indian Islands—these wetlands exhibit an enormous diversity and support a variety of ecosystem services like 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. In addition, wetlands directly and indirectly support the livelihoods of millions of Indians.

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.



Project Name	Wetlands Management for Biodiversity and Climate Protection.
Commissioned by	International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV).
Project Regions	Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
Lead Executing Agency	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
Duration	September 2018 - December 2025

## Objective

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.

## Approach

The project is implemented in close cooperation with the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Government of India.



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Four main output areas define the implementation approach of the project:

- Integrated management planning for priority 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.
- Demonstrating approaches for community engagement as well as Green Recovery Measures post COVID-19 through ecosystem-based sustainable livelihood and adaptation measures.

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**Strengthening capacities and networks for enhanced ecosystem-based **Wetland Management** to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services, secure livelihoods and build **Climate Resilience**.**

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## Contribution to the 2030 Agenda

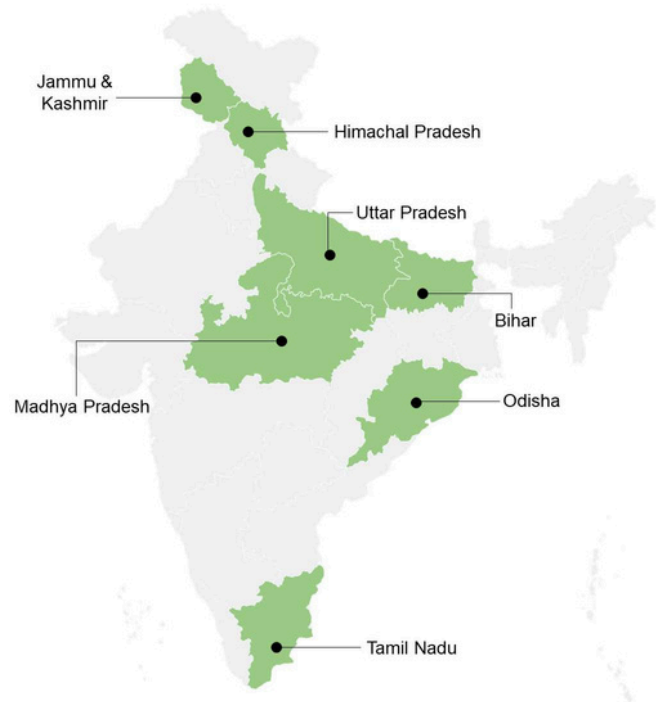


Figure 1: Project States

*Disclaimer: The geographical map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute recognition of international boundaries or regions; GIZ makes no claims concerning the validity, accuracy or completeness of the maps nor assumes any liability resulting from the use of the information therein.*

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