

Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of Wetlands in Relation to Global Change

Capacity Building Workshops

Kolkata (India): 19-21 February 2015
Guwahati (India): 23-25 February 2015
Kathmandu (Nepal): 12-14 March 2015

Organised jointly by the



National Institute of Ecology (NIE), New Delhi

**Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI),
Barrackpore, Kolkata**

**School of Science, Kathmandu University,
Kathmandu, Nepal**

Conservation Sciences India, New Delhi

under the project funded by the



**Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research
(APN-GCR), Kobe, Japan.**

INTRODUCTION

Wetlands, in spite of their rich biological diversity, are threatened by changes in land use/land cover, inappropriate water resources management and climate change. Despite increasing awareness of their ecosystem services, wetlands are not accounted into the development projects. We believe that this stems from the lack of capacity and the complexities in assessing the biodiversity of wetlands and linking it to various ecosystem services.

The project aims at building capacity of early career policy makers, natural resource managers, researchers and NGOs to understand and assess the wetland biodiversity and its linkages with their ecosystem services, to monitor changes caused by change in land use/land cover and other anthropogenic activities in and around wetlands, and to integrate the wetland concerns into land use and water resources projects. The project is developing a framework for rapid assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services of major wetland types for their guidance. It focuses upon the Freshwater Ecoregions of Ganga-Brahmaputra basin.

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Three Capacity Building Workshops of 3 days each will be organised at Kolkata (West Bengal), Guwahati (Assam) and Kathmandu (Nepal) as per schedule given below.

Kolkata (India): 19-21 February 2015
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Workshop Objectives

The workshops will comprise of several presentations on the assessment of biodiversity, ecosystem services and their linkages based on a field visit and available studies elsewhere. The need for conservation of wetlands and considering their ecosystem services (direct and indirect benefits to humans) in framing the policies, plans and management projects, particularly those related to water resources will be explained. Specifically the participants will learn:

- The current state of wetlands and their biodiversity,
- Ecosystem services of wetlands and impacts of land use changes and climate change on them,
- Methods of rapid assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services,
- Linkages between biodiversity and ecosystem services, and
- General framework for valuation of ecosystem services

Draft Guidelines for assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services will be discussed and tested during the field visit. Later, these will be updated and published on the web.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Following categories of individuals will benefit from the Workshops:

- All early to mid-career officials and policy makers involved with conservation and management of wetlands, biodiversity, fisheries, water resources, agriculture, wildlife, national parks and sanctuaries (especially with wetland habitats);
- Researchers in universities, colleges and other institutions at doctoral and post-doctoral level working with different kinds of wetlands (any aspect);
- NGOs actively engaged in activities directly related to wetlands

For logistic reasons, **applicants from only the APN Member countries in South Asia** will be considered for these Workshops.

Applications

All those desirous of attending any one of the three workshops should apply in the attached format by giving full details about themselves, their interest in wetlands and current activities relevant to the subject of the workshop. All applicants should submit a short (200 words) statement on how they would benefit from the workshop and how they will be able to use the understanding gained there in their work.

All applications, duly endorsed and forwarded by the concerned heads of their institutions/organisations, should be submitted **by Email only** to the Project Coordinator (Prof. Brij Gopal) at ciwsa.nie@gmail.com. Those interested in attending the Workshop in Nepal should send a copy of their application also to Prof. Subodh Sharma (Kathmandu) at subodh.sharma@ku.edu.np

All applications MUST be submitted LATEST by 31 December 2014.

Participants from countries other than Nepal and India will be considered only if they can meet the costs on travel and accommodation, food etc. from their own sources.

The number of participants will be restricted to a maximum of 20 individuals per Workshop.

Participants will be selected on the basis of their qualifications, involvement in wetland related activities and ability to put the understanding/knowledge gained from the Workshop into practice.

Support to the Participants

The Project has limited funds to support only 10 local participants who do not require travel and accommodation. Therefore, outstation participants are requested to make their own arrangement for travel to the preferred workshop

location. All participants will be required to stay at one place and the organizers will arrange accommodation in suitable guest house or modest hotels/lodges at a low cost. Communication in this regard will sent to the selected participants.

Certificate of Participation

All participants will be given a **Certificate of Participation** provided that they attend the workshop fully on all the three days, actively participate in the discussions and activities during the field visit, and fill up an evaluation form at the end of the Workshop.

CONTACTS

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ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

The **Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)** is a network of 22 Member Country governments that promotes global change research in the region, increases developing country involvement in that research, and strengthens interactions between the science community and policy makers. For details visit <http://www.apn-gcr.org/>

The **National Institute of Ecology (NIE)** is india's premier non-profit Professional Association in the fields of ecology and environment, devoted to environmental conservation through education, research and management. It is registered under the FCRA (no. 231660512 (Educational) and under section 12 Aa and 80(G) of the Income Tax Act of India. For details, visit www.nieindia.org/

The **Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI)** under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is India's oldest institute devoted to fish and fisheries. For details visit www.cifri.ernet.in/:

The **School of Science** is a centre of academic excellence at **Kathmandu University** – an autonomous non-governmental institution. For details, visit <http://www.ku.edu.np/science/>