

Online Impact Workshop cum Master Class: Capacity Building Initiative for Citywide Water and Sanitation Management

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East Kolkata Wetlands and its management

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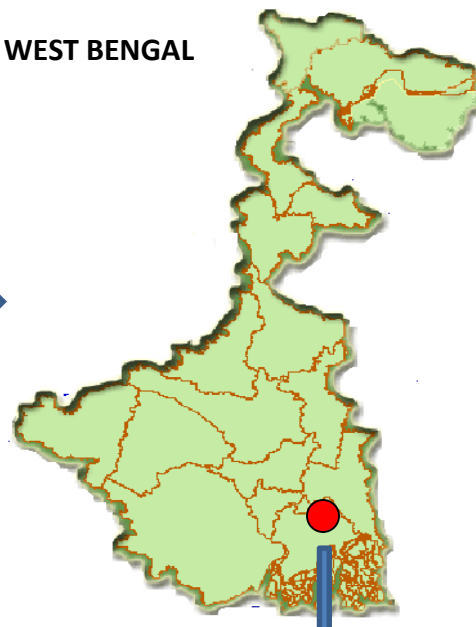
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EAST KOLKATA WETLANDS (EKW)



INDIA

WEST BENGAL

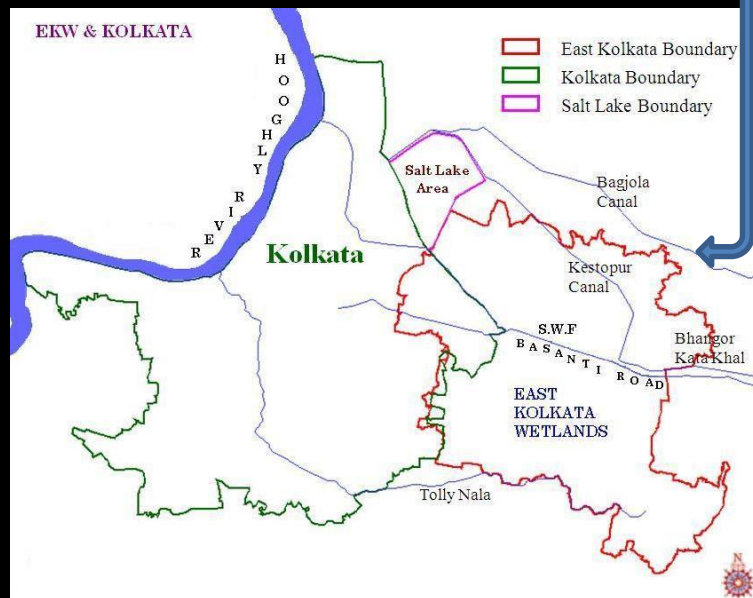


•The EKW located on the eastern fringes of Kolkata city is one of the largest assemblages of sewage fed fish ponds. It is distributed across the part of three districts covering 37 mouzas (30 full) falling under eight police stations, seven Gram Panchayats and two municipal corporations. It spreads over an area of 12,500 ha.

•It is a mosaic of water bodies, agricultural land and settlement areas largely under private ownership. It has more than 250 water bodies of varying sizes.

•It supports a resident population of over 120,000 and pisciculture and agriculture provide major livelihood avenues to them.

•The site has earned its recognition as 'wetlands of international importance' in 2002.



Coordinates

Latitude:

20d25'N to 20d35'N

Longitude:

88d20'E to 88d35'E

What the EKW serves

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE

- Treat huge volume of sewage water generated by Kolkata in the most efficient, economical and natural way- the kidney of Kolkata
- The wetlands act as a carbon sink and clean up the city's air
- Maintain the micro-climatic condition of the region
- Provide a habitat for a variety of flora and fauna endemic to wetlands
- Pass flood waters that the monsoon brings to the city

ECONOMICAL IMPORTANCE

- Fulfill the requirement of fish, vegetables and food grains in the city.
- Provide livelihood support for thousands of local villagers who also have the unique skill of using wastewater to grow fish and vegetable
- Conventional treatment plant is excessively capital intensive, highly energy expensive & O&M cost involved.
- Support a resident population of over 120,000



Major threats

- Illegal land conversion and building construction.
- Siltation of water bodies and distribution canals.
- Conflict of interest between fishermen over sewage allocation.
- Water pollution (leachate from solid waste dump) and air pollution (leather boiling units etc.).
- Unscientific solid waste disposal/dumping (e.g. Dhapa, Mollar Bheri, Plastic units).



Centre for Science and Environment: Training Programme

Title: Urban Lake Management
Duration: 15th - 25th October, 2019

Why I attended the training programme?

The site is lacking of a management plan .

The EKW was declared as Ramsar site based on wise use concept in 2002. In 2006, East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Act and Rules were formulated and East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority was formed. So, the EKW is governed by the Said Act and Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017.

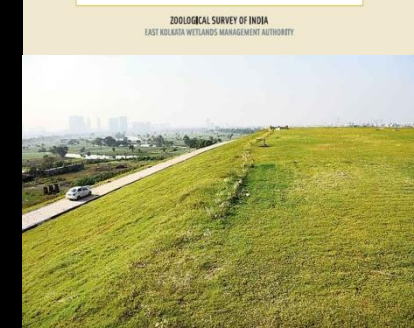
What I learned from the training?

- Understood how to collect and assess baseline data
- Understood the stakeholder mapping
- Understood the status of wetland through field visit
- Identification of issues and challenges
- Got a clear knowledge for preparation of management plan



Significant activities running or just completed after training

- Demolition of illegal structures within EKW
- Removal of waste plastic / leather boiling units
- Monitoring of quality of sewage water in different points of the canal and fish ponds
- Assessment of presence of heavy metals in fishes and vegetables grown in EKW
- Demarcation of the boundary of the EKW : Ground thruthing is almost complete
- Documentation of floral and faunal diversity of the EKW
- Awareness Generation regarding the importance of the wetlands among the people through
 - Conducting study tours
 - Celebration of world wetlands day
 - Formation of Wetland Mitra
- Solid waste dumping:
 - For Dhapa: 1. 300 KLD Leachate Treatment Plant is set up.
 - 2. KMC has started bio mining of legacy waste
 - 3. Submitted a concept plan on closer of existing land fill site and future utilization of Dhapa disposal site
- For Mollar Bheri: BMC has stopped dumping of solid waste at Mollar Bheri and identified a new site for dumping
- Framed guidelines for preparation of integrated management plan. The plan is in pipe line.



A tropical landscape featuring a calm body of water, likely a pond or a small lake. The water reflects the surrounding greenery and the sky. On the left, there is a dense line of palm trees and other tropical plants. In the distance, a small hut with a thatched roof is visible on the left bank, and a person is standing on a narrow path or bridge in the center. The right bank is also lined with palm trees. The sky is overcast and grey. The text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bright green, 3D-style font.

THANK YOU