

ENVIS Newsletter
on wetland ecosystems including inland wetlands

Sarovar Saurabh

Vol. 13(4), 2017

Picture Courtesy: Siddhesh Bhave



SÁLIM ALI CENTRE FOR ORNITHOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY
(A Centre of Excellence under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Anaikatty, Coimbatore - 641 108 (INDIA)

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Vol. 13(4), 2017

ISSN: 0972-3153

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Published by

Environmental Information System (ENVIS)
Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON),
Anaikatty (P.O.), Coimbatore-641108,
Tamil Nadu, India.

Sponsored by

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India, New Delhi.

Contents

	Page
1. Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017	1-8
2. Green Skill Development Programme	8-9
3. Newspaper Article	10

Views expressed in the articles of this newsletter are of the authors only.

Instructions to Contributors

We welcome original research and popular articles, reviews, reports, research highlights, notes, news, snippets, etc., related to the thematic area of the ENVIS Resource Partner for publication in 'Sarovar Saurabh the ENVIS Newsletter on Wetland ecosystems including inland wetlands'.

The articles and other information should be neatly typed in double space not exceeding five pages. The figures, graphs/drawings should be of good quality and clarity. Photographs should be of minimum 300 dpi resolution. References should be limited and cited in the text by name and year. Council of Science editors style may be referred to for listing references at the end.

Email your articles in MS-Word 2003 or 2007 format to sacon-env@nic.in or salimalicentre@gmail.com

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From The Editors' Desk

Wetlands are known to support rich biodiversity and provide wide range of ecosystem services. However they are threatened by reclamation and degradation resulting in loss of biodiversity and disruption in ecosystem services provided by them. To arrest these activities, the Environment Ministry introduced the Wetland (Conservation and Management) rules, as a regulatory framework for conserving the wetlands of the country during the year 2010. Subsequently after many deliberations and brainstorming sessions the Wetland rules 2010 have been revisited and reframed.

During September 2017, the Union Ministry of Environment notified the New Wetland (Conservation and Management) rules 2017. The new rules aim to empower the states to decide what they must do with their wetlands. This includes deciding which wetlands should be protected and what activities should be allowed or regulated, while making affable calls for 'sustainability' and 'ecosystem services' among others.

In this issue we have given the Wetland (Conservation and Management) rules 2017 for wider reach. In addition, we also have the news on wetlands that is shared for all. Our website can be accessed easily for information on the latest conferences, laws, rules & regulations on wetlands, bibliography, conference updates and news. Further, I request all the readers to kindly contribute your events, activities, articles and keep us updated on the happenings of the wetlands around you. Your inputs will help us keep our website updated and also help disseminate the information to the masses.

Dr. K. Sankar,
Director, SACON

Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017

Seeking to protect over 2 lakh wetlands across the country, the Centre has come out with rules to identify and manage these ecologically fragile areas which play an important role in flood control, ground water recharge, preserving plant varieties, supporting migratory birds and protecting coastlines. It also indirectly widens the ambit of permitted activities by inserting the 'wise use' principle, giving powers to state-level wetland authorities to decide what can be allowed in larger interest. The notification says, "The wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority." The Centre's role under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, will be restricted to monitoring its implementation by states/UTs, recommending trans-boundary wetlands for notification and reviewing integrated management of selected wetlands under the Ramsar Convention, an international arrangement to preserve identified wetlands.

Source: <http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in>

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE NOTIFICATION New Delhi, 26th September, 2017

G.S.R. 1203(E).—Whereas the wetlands, vital parts of the hydrological cycle, are highly productive ecosystems which support rich biodiversity and provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as water storage, water purification, flood mitigation, erosion control, aquifer recharge, microclimate regulation, aesthetic enhancement of landscapes while simultaneously supporting many significant recreational, social and cultural activities, being part of our rich cultural heritage;

And whereas many wetlands are threatened by reclamation and degradation through drainage and landfill, pollution (discharge of domestic and industrial effluents, disposal of solid wastes), hydrological alteration (water withdrawal and changes in inflow and outflow), over-exploitation of their natural resources resulting in loss of biodiversity and disruption in ecosystem services provided by wetlands;



And whereas clause (g) of article 51A of the Constitution stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures;

And whereas the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is a comprehensive legislation to provide protection and improvement of the environment, including *inter-alia*, wetlands, and for matters connected therewith;

And whereas the National Environment Policy, 2006 recognises the ecosystem services provided by wetlands and emphasizes the need to set up a regulatory mechanism for all wetlands so as to maintain their ecological character, and ultimately support their integrated management;

And whereas India is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and is committed to conservation and wise use of all wetlands within its territory;

And whereas the Central Government has published the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, vide number G.S.R. 951(E), dated the 4th December, 2010;



And whereas conservation and wise use of wetlands can provide substantial direct and indirect economic benefits to state and national economy, and thereby the Central Government stands committed to mainstreaming full range of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services in development planning and decision making for various sectors;

And whereas the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations need to take into account wetland ecosystem services and biodiversity values likewise within their developmental programming and economic well-being, also taking into cognizance that land and water, two major ecological constituents of wetland ecosystems, are enlisted as State subjects as per the Constitution;

And whereas the Central Government considered it necessary to supersede the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 for effective conservation and management of wetlands in the country;

And whereas the Central Government had, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 25, read with subsection (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, published the draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016, vide number G.S.R. 385 (E) dated 31st March, 2016 for information of the public likely to be affected thereby; and notice was given that the said draft rules would be taken into consideration by the Central Government after expiry of a period of sixty days from the date on which copies of the Gazette notification is made available to the public;

And whereas the Central Government has received the suggestions and objections from the State Governments, Union Territories and its organisations, individuals and civil society organisations on the draft Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016;

And whereas the suggestions and objections received in response to the above mentioned draft rules have been duly considered by the Central Government in consultation with State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 25, read with sub-section (1) and clause (v) of sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 3 and section 23 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and in supersession of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby makes the following rules for conservation and management of wetlands, namely:—

1. Short title and commencement.—

(1) These rules may be called the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

(2) These shall come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

2. Definitions.—

- (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-
 - (a) "Act" means the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
 - (b) "Authority" means the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority, as the case may be;
 - (c) "Committee" means the National Wetlands Committee referred to in rule 6;
 - (d) "ecological character" means the sum of ecosystem components, processes and services that characterise the wetlands;
 - (e) "integrated management plan" means a document which describes strategies and actions for achieving wise use of the wetland and the plan shall include objectives of site management; management actions required to achieve the objectives; factors that affect, or may affect, the various site features; monitoring requirements for detecting changes in ecological character and for measuring the effectiveness of management; and resources for management implementation;
 - (f) "Ramsar Convention" means the Convention on Wetlands signed at Ramsar, Iran in 1971;
 - (g) "wetland" means an area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes;
 - (h) "wetlands complexes" means two or more ecologically and hydrologically contiguous wetlands and may include their connecting channels/ducts;
 - (i) "wise use of wetlands" means maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through implementation of ecosystem approach within the context of sustainable development;
 - (j) "zone of influence" means that part of the catchment area of the wetland or wetland complex, developmental activities in which induce adverse changes in ecosystem structure, and ecosystem services.
- (2) The words and expressions used in these rules and not defined, but defined in the Act, shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Act.

3. Applicability of rules.—These rules shall apply to the following wetlands or wetlands complexes, namely:—

- (a) wetlands categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention;
- (b) wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration:
Provided that these rules shall not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts, and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 as amended from time to time.

4. Restrictions of activities in wetlands.—

- (1) The wetlands shall be conserved and managed in accordance with the principle of 'wise use' as determined by the Wetlands Authority.
- (2) The following activities shall be prohibited within the wetlands, namely,-
 - (i) conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
 - (ii) setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
 - (iii) 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;



(iv) solid waste dumping;

(v) discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;

(vi) 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,

(vii) poaching.

Provided that the Central Government may consider proposals from the State Government or Union Territory Administration for omitting any of the activities on the recommendation of the Authority.

5. Wetlands Authorities.—

(1) The Central Government hereby constitutes the State Wetlands Authority in each State with the following members, namely:—

(i) Minister In-charge of the Department of Environment/Forests of the State Government or Minister Incharge of the Department handling wetlands - Chairperson;

(ii) Chief Secretary of the State or Additional Chief Secretary equivalent - Vice Chairperson;

(iii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Environment - Member *ex-officio*;

(iv) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Forests - Member *ex-officio*;

(v) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Urban Development - Member *ex-officio*;

(vi) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Rural Development - Member *ex-officio*;

(vii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Water Resources - Member *ex-officio*;

(viii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Fisheries - Member *ex-officio*;

(ix) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Irrigation and Flood Control - Member *ex-officio*;

(x) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Tourism - Member *ex-officio*;

(xi) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Revenue - Member *ex-officio*;

(xii) Director, State Remote Sensing Centre - Member *ex-officio*;

(xiii) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member *ex-officio*;

(xiv) Member Secretary, State Biodiversity Board - Member *ex-officio*;

(xv) Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board - Member *ex-officio*;

(xvi) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Member *ex-officio*;

(xvii) One expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socioeconomics to be nominated by the State Government; and

(xviii) Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Director in the Department of Environment/Forests or Department

handling wetlands - Member Secretary.

- (2) The Central Government hereby constitutes the Union Territory Wetlands Authority for each Union Territory with the following members, namely:—
- (i) Administrator or Chief Secretary of the Union Territory - Chairperson;
 - (ii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Environment - Vice Chairperson;
 - (iii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Forests - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (iv) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Urban Development - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (v) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Rural Development - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (vi) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Water Resources - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (vii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Fisheries - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (viii) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Irrigation and Flood Control - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (ix) Secretary in-charge of the Department of Tourism - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (x) Secretary in-charge of the Departments of Revenue - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (xi) Director, Remote Sensing Centre - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (xii) Member Secretary, Union Territory Pollution Control Committee - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (xiii) Member Secretary, Biodiversity Board of the UT - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (xiv) Chief Wildlife Warden - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (xv) Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the Regional Office of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change- Member *ex-officio*;
 - (xvi) One expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socioeconomics to be nominated by the Union Territory Administration; and
 - (xvii) Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary/Director in the Department of Environment/Forests or Department handling wetlands - Member Secretary.
- (3) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority may co-opt other members, not exceeding three in number, if required.
- (4) The State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority shall exercise the following powers and perform the following functions, namely:-
- (a) prepare a list of all wetlands of the State or Union Territory within three months from the date of publication of these rules;
 - (b) prepare a list of wetlands to be notified, within six months from the date of publication of these rules; taking into cognizance any existing list of wetlands prepared/notified under other relevant State Acts;
 - (c) recommend identified wetlands, based on their Brief Documents, for regulation under these rules;
 - (d) prepare a comprehensive digital inventory of all wetlands within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules and upload the same on a dedicated web portal to be developed by the Central Government for the said purpose; the inventory to be updated every ten years;
 - (e) develop a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence;
 - (f) recommend additions, if any, to the list of prohibited activities for specific wetlands;
 - (g) define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction; wise use being a principle for

- managing these ecosystems which incorporates sustainable uses (such as capture fisheries at subsistence level or harvest of aquatic plants) as being compatible with conservation, if ecosystem functions (such as water storage, groundwater recharge, flood buffering) and values (such as recreation and cultural) are maintained or enhanced;
- (h) review integrated management plan for each of the notified wetlands (including trans-boundary wetlands in coordination with Central Government), and within these plans consider continuation and support to traditional uses of wetlands which are harmonized with ecological character;
 - (i) in cases wherein lands within boundary of notified wetlands or wetlands complex have private tenancy rights, recommend mechanisms for maintenance of ecological character through promotional activities;
 - (j) identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing State/Union Territory level development plans and programmes;
 - (k) ensure enforcement of these rules and other relevant Acts, rules and regulations and on half-yearly basis (June and December of each calendar year) inform the concerned State Government or Union Territory Administration or Central Government on the status of such notified wetlands through a reporting mechanism;
 - (l) coordinate implementation of integrated management plans based on wise use principle through various line departments and other concerned agencies;
 - (m) function as nodal authority for all wetland specific authorities within the State or Union Territory Administration;
 - (n) issue necessary directions for conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies;
 - (o) undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands; and
 - (p) Advise on any other matter *suo-motu*, or as referred by the State Government/Union Territory Administration.
- (5) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory shall provide all necessary support and act as nodal Department and Secretariat to the Authority.
- (6) The Authority shall, within ninety days of publication of these rules, shall constitute,—
- (a) a technical committee to review brief documents, management plans and advise on any technical matter referred by the Wetland Authority; and
 - (b) a grievance committee consisting of four members to provide a mechanism for hearing and forwarding the grievances raised by public to the Authority;
- (7) The Committees referred to in sub-rule (6) shall meet at least once in every quarter to perform their functions.
- (8) The Authority shall meet at least thrice in a year.
- (9) The term of non-official members of the Authority nominated by State Government or Union Territory Administration, shall be for a period not exceeding three years.

6. Constitution of National Wetlands Committee.—

- (1) The Central Government, hereby constitutes the National Wetlands Committee with the following members, namely:—
- (i) Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India - Chairperson;
 - (ii) Special Secretary or Additional Secretary dealing with wetlands, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India-Vice Chairperson;
 - (iii) Additional Director General, Wildlife, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India - Member *ex-officio*;
 - (iv) Adviser or Joint Secretary dealing with wetlands, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change -

Member *ex-officio*;

(v) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;

(vi) Joint Secretary , Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;

(vii) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;

(viii) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;

(ix) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;

(x) Joint Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India- Member *ex-officio*;

(xi) The Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board - Member *ex-officio*;

(xii) Director, Zoological Survey of India or Scientist F- Member *ex-officio*;

(xiii) Director, Botanical Survey of India or Scientist F- Member *ex-officio*;

(xiv) Director, Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad or Scientist F- Member *ex-officio*;

(xv) Member, Central Water Commission - Member *ex-officio*;

(xvi) Adviser, Niti Aayog - Member *ex-officio*;

(xvii) Three representatives of State Government or Union Territory Administration on a rotational basis for a tenure of two years each;

(xviii) One expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning & socioeconomics; and

(xix) Director/Additional Director/Joint Director dealing with wetlands, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Member Secretary.

(2) The National Wetlands Committee may co-opt other members, not exceeding three in number, if required.

(3) The National Wetlands Committee shall perform the following functions, namely:-

(a) advise the Central Government on appropriate policies and action programmes for conservation and wise use of wetlands;

(b) evolve norms and guidelines for integrated management of wetlands based on wise use principle;

(c) monitor implementation of these rules by the Authority;

(d) advise the Central Government on proposals received from State Governments or Union Territory Administrations for omission of the prohibited activities as referred in sub-rule (2) of rule 4;

(e) recommend designation of wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention;

(f) recommend trans-boundary wetlands for notification;

(g) review progress of integrated management of Ramsar sites and transboundary wetlands;

(h) advise on collaboration with international agencies on issues related to wetlands; and

(i) advise on any other matter *suo-moto*, or as referred by the Central Government.

(4) The tenure of non-official members of the Committee shall not exceed three years.

(5) The Committee shall meet at least once in every six months.

7. Delegation of powers and functions to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.—

(1) The concerned Department of the State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, within a period of one year from the date of publication of these rules, prepare a Brief Document for each of the wetland identified

for notification, providing:—

- (a) demarcation of wetland boundary supported by accurate digital maps with coordinates and validated by ground truthing;
 - (b) demarcation of its zone of influence and land use and land cover thereof indicated in a digital map;
 - (c) ecological character description;
 - (d) account of pre-existing rights and privileges;
 - (e) list of site-specific activities to be permitted within the wetland and its zone of influence;
 - (f) list of site specific activities to be regulated within the wetland and its zone of influence; and
 - (g) modalities for enforcement of regulation;
- (2) Based on the Brief Document, the Authority shall make recommendations to the State Government or Union Territory Administration for notifying the wetlands.
- (3) The State Government or Union Territory Administration shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the Authority.
- (4) (a) In case of trans-boundary wetlands, the Central Government shall coordinate with concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to prepare the Brief Document containing information as listed in sub-rule (1).
- (b) Based on the Brief Document, the National Wetlands Committee shall make recommendations to the Central Government for notification of the wetland.
- (c) The Central Government shall, after considering the objections, if any, from the concerned and affected persons, notify the wetlands in the Official Gazette, within a period not exceeding 240 days from the date of recommendation by the Committee.
- (5) (a) The Central Government shall create a dedicated web portal for information relating to wetlands.
- (b) The Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration shall upload all relevant information and documents pertaining to wetlands in their jurisdiction.

Report on the SACON Component of the GSDP at Coimbatore

The Coimbatore city Green Skill Development program started on the 6th June, 2017 at the Botanical Survey of India, (BSI) Coimbatore office. As per the initial discussions the modules were sorted out and the biodiversity, floral diversity modules were conducted by the BSI during the first three weeks i.e. up to June 27th, 2017. Starting from Thursday June 28th, 2017 we started with the SACON component.

We prepared a time table wherein we clubbed the Wetlands module with Computers and GIS. As per the Schedule we completed the classroom sessions for Wetlands, Computers and GIS. The initial classroom sessions for four days were conducted in the Lecture hall of BSI while the remaining part comprising of laboratory and library was completed at SACON. The field visit to the wetlands of Coimbatore was undertaken on 5th July, 2017 followed by Laboratory analysis and computer Laboratory for two days and the laboratory sessions for the GIS component for next two days. Looking at the interest of the participants, we requested BSI for an additional day to introduce the participants to some wetland laboratory components and completed the session on Friday 14th July, 2017. The feedback for the two and half week session was collected on 14th July, 2017.

The Nature Guide training component was under taken by SACON during the last week of August after the participants have covered the Faunal aspects and other modules of the Foundation course.



GSDP Inaugural Program



Classroom session



Practical session



Field visit and sampling

Dec. 21, 2017 Times of India

A price tag on Singanallur lake

Natural bounties like wetlands and water bodies are invaluable, we know that. But, what if they have an economic value and probably are accounted for - a better argument for their conservation. The United Nations has calculated the global average value of a wetland for the ecological services worth Rs. 93.94 lakh per hectare per year. According to this, the value of Singanallur Lake alone will be around Rs. 108 crore per year as the lake is spread over 115 hectares. To quantify this, a city based group, Centre for Urban Biodiversity conservation (CUBE), will take up a study and calculate the actual value of the services provided by Singanallur Lake in monetary terms.



V S Vijayan and Lalitha Vijayan, former directors of Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History and members of the Salim Ali Foundation will guide the environmentalists to conduct this study.

There are totally 24 ecological benefits provided by any wetland in the world. "Generally lakes are only known for two things - ground water recharge and migratory birds. But there are so many other benefits such as disaster regulation, soil conservation, raw materials, climate regulation, and bio-chemical genetic materials and so on. Also, there are invaluable resources such as happiness, joy, peace and relief that one feel when they visit the wetlands and see its biodiversity. These services cannot be measured," said Vijayan. So this study is similar to a socio-economic survey where all the lake's services will be calculated and it will be measured in monetary terms.

So how will it be done? Vinny R Peter said that they will begin the valuation in January, 2018 and take it up for a year. "We are involving experts and scientists from all the fields such as statistics, fisheries, economics, environment and forest for the process. First, we are trying to find out the history of the lake. After this, we will find out the different services that people depend on from the lake such as water supply, fisheries, raw material, medicinal plants and agriculture," said Vinny.

Environmental economist Paul P Appasamy said such studies help the government frame policies and take measures to conserve the lake. "A similar study was undertaken for Pallikaranai marsh in Chennai but the methodology was completely different. The ministry of environment and a German agency funded more than 1000 cr to restore the marsh," he said. Reiterating this, Vijayan said in most cases, when the proposals for lake conservation or any conservation efforts are sent to the government, the willingness to spend for it is very rare. "So if we attach a number and tell them that they gain this much from this lake every year, they will be able to allocate at least 10% of it for its conservation," he said.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/a-price-tag-on-singanallur-lake/articleshow/62186328.cms>