



Society for Creative Opportunities and Participatory Ecosystems

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Action plan for East Kolkata Wetlands based on learnings from wetland conference August 30-31, 2022

Connecting Wetland Narratives to Action Plan: A Stakeholders Dialogue

The conference *Connecting Wetland Narratives to Action Plan: A Stakeholders Dialogue* brought up crucial issues with respect to the sustainable management of the East Kolkata Wetlands. The priorities that emerged from the conference are targeted to address the following streams:

- A. Sewage crisis and solid waste management
- B. Productivity enhancement through wise use

Specific action points related to these involve the following stakeholders –

1. Wetland community
2. Department of Environment
3. East Kolkata Wetland Management Authority
4. Department of Urban Development & Municipal Affairs
5. Kolkata Municipal Corporation – both sewage and solid waste management.
6. Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation – both sewage and solid waste management.
7. Department of Irrigation & Waterways
8. Department of Fisheries
9. Department of Animal Husbandry
10. Agricultural extension centre Sashya Shyamala Krishi Vigyan Kendra, and
11. Fisheries experts
12. Society for Creative Opportunities and Participatory Ecosystems (SCOPE)

Action point 1

The most importance crisis is crisis of sewage in East Kolkata Wetlands, which is regulated through a system of 10 Regulator Gates at Bantala. The Bantala Regulator Gates need to be managed according to the principle of wise use of sewage and ensure maximum sewage flow into the wetlands to carry out treatment of sewage in cost-effective and eco-friendly manner.

Currently, Lock Gates at Bantala are being managed without a properly agreed upon scientific procedure. Departments 2 to 7 need to formally meet to settle this matter.

Action point 2

Desiltation of bheries/ fish ponds is essential to ensure maximum sewage treatment and this is the second most important need. For this, Departments 2, 3 and 8 need to meet to decide on some institutional and arrangements on how to ensure the above requirement.

Action point 3

To empower women especially from Scheduled Castes and Tribes by generating additional income, animal husbandry is the most suitable and Departments 2, 8 and 9 may decide on institutional arrangements, along with consultation of stakeholders 1, 10 and 11 to facilitate training as well as turkey and poultry rearing support.

Stakeholder 12, namely Society for Creative Opportunities and Participatory Ecosystems (SCOPE), requests to be present as a facilitator in all of these action plans.