

Component I. Institutions and Governance

I.1 EKWMA Reorganization and Strengthening

EKWMA requires an efficient and results-oriented institutional structure, and gradual shift from an enforcement to a strategic role in wetland management. A reorganised set up is proposed to include following units:

- Planning and Design unit: Responsible for strategic planning for conservation and wise use, including assessing adherence to the various policy mandates and regulatory provisions.
- Enforcement unit: Responsible for ensuring compliance with extant regulation, and coordinating with line departments on implementation of penal provisions. This unit will closely liaise with police, district administrations of South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas, KMC and BMC.
- Wetland monitoring unit: Responsible for systematic wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring. The unit can function out of Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management which has existing infrastructure to support ecological and hydrological monitoring of the wetland.
- Community engagement and communications unit: Responsible for liaison with community and civil society organisations, and ensuring integration of community concerns within management actions. This unit will be also responsible for external communications, based on a communications plan.

The following activities are also proposed to be taken with due approval of the Governing Body of EKWMA:

- Sustainable financing mechanism: A gradual shift to financing through appropriate allocations within the state budgets would need to be made so that core wetland monitoring and management functions are not interrupted if the financing of projects is not available. EKWMA may also render research and consultancy support to other states on wetland management issues, which could be an additional source of revenue.
- Policy coherence: Development programmes around EKW need to be based on a single and coherent policy, which should guide various agencies in the design of various programmes. A mechanism for ensuring that EKWMA is consulted before implementation of developmental programmes is proposed to be developed.

I.2 Wetland demarcation

It is proposed to demarcate wetland boundary by placing geo-tagged pillars all along the wetland periphery. Demarcation will be done using geo-tagged boundary pillars (approximately 1600 pillars are required to be placed at 500 m interval).

Activities to be carried out are as follows:

- a) Completion of field reconnaissance survey
- b) Placement of geo-tagged pillars