

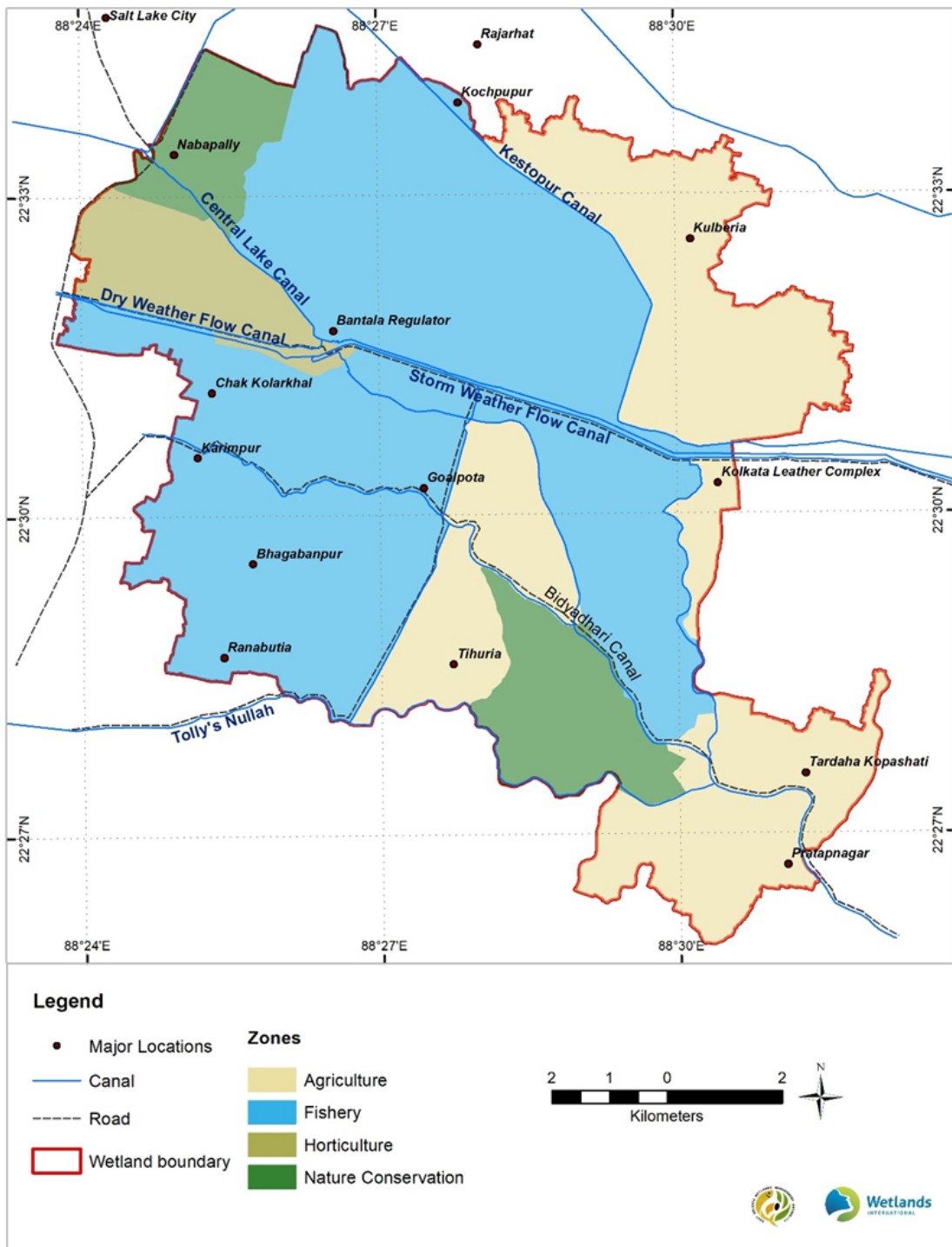
### 1.3 Management zoning

For the ease of management, and also ensuring compliance with the extant regulatory regimes, it is proposed to segment the wetland into four major zones (Map 17), while recognizing that the interdependence between these zones and the overarching goal of securing wise use of the wetlands. It must be accepted that the East Kolkata Wetlands have its unique character where the entire eco-system is dependent on the sewage water reaching the area and thus the wetland area is interspersed in the other zones as well. Naturally, our zoning plan will take this unique aspect into consideration. Following are the broad zones:

- Fishery zone: Wetland area that is subjected to use for fish cultivation using sewage water and subject to multiple land ownership. The zone can be used additionally by providing regulating services for absorbing storm water flows during monsoon, act as a flood storage and help recharge ground water.
- Agriculture zone: A part of the wetland permanently being used for cultivation of rice and other crops. The zone can additionally be managed by using open spaces for storing excess flood water and allow infiltration of stormwater. The zone has the potential to attract wintering waterbirds if organically farmed. Rainwater harvesting in agricultural fields to enhance availability of freshwater.
- Horticulture zone: Part of the solid waste dumping area on the western periphery of the wetland which has been converted as a waste recycling region for cultivating vegetables. The zone can be maintained as an area for practicing horticulture. Dhapa dumpsite of KMC has been existing at this zone of EKW much prior to the declaration of Ramsar site. KMC is conscious of its responsibility in maintaining a healthy environment. However, resource recovery system such as composting, biomethanation, material recovery facility (MRF) for recycling, sanitary land filling is recommended in the zone.
- Nature protection zone: A part of the wetland where biodiversity value is the highest, and habitat use by migratory species. The zone can act as a buffer for species when moving between rural and urban areas. The zone also has the potential to be used as a site for recreation and ecotourism, within the framework of existing provisions of Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, and other extant regulation.

The zoning plan will guide management interventions. Following steps are proposed:

- Finalization of zoning plan in consultation with stakeholders
- Preparation of zonal management plans
- Implementation of zonal management plans within the framework of action plan as described in this document.



**Map 17. Proposed management zones of East Kolkata Wetlands**