

1.5 Research

Following specific research studies are proposed to be commissioned to address the knowledge gaps in assessing status and trends in ecological character:

- Carbon and GHG Flux assessment – to assess the role of EKW in sequestering carbon and GHG, and this integrate role of these wetlands in climate change mitigation strategies
- Nutrient budget - to assess the quantity of nutrients entering EKW, its uptake in resource recovery practices and discharge downstream
- Bioaccumulation studies – to assess the chain of heavy metal contamination in EKW, quantity of toxic metals accumulating in fish, vegetables and crops cultivated in EKW and possible remedial measures
- Multiple values assessment – to assess multiple values communities living in and around EKW associate with the wetland, the underlying reasons and the ways in which this value can be orientated towards behaviour change for wetland wise use

1.6 Capacity Development

To support integrated management of EKW, the human capacity of EKWMA and concerned line departments as well as stakeholders will be enhanced by training workshops on:

- Integrated wetlands management
- Wetlands inventory assessment and monitoring
- Land use planning for multiple wetlands use
- Wetlands and climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Integrating wetlands wise use in developmental planning
- Conducting excursions (National and International), developing course module relating to wetland/environment management

1.7 Communication, Education, Participation and Public Awareness

Stakeholder engagement in wetland management will be promoted through creating awareness on biodiversity and ecosystem services values, management strategies adopted and opportunities for participation. Specific activities to be undertaken include:

1.7.1 Signage

Signage indicating EKW as a Ramsar Site, is proposed to be placed at all major entry points of the wetlands complex, namely along Basanti Road, EM Bypass and Bantala Lock Gate. Signage are also proposed in the 7 Panchayat Offices and school premises inside wetlands.

At the 19th meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee, 29 October-1 November 1996, the members adopted a decision that defines recommended wording for signs at all Ramsar Sites, when translated into the local languages of the sites. The decision reads as follows: The Contracting Parties should endeavor to place descriptive signs at all Ramsar Sites, and these signs should include the Ramsar logo, as well as the following suggested text (amended for EKW):

THIS SITE, COVERING 12,500 HECTARES, IS DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AS A WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS, THE