

Component 4. Sustainable Resource Development

4.1 Sustainable Fisheries Development

4.1.1 Bheri desiltation

It is assessed that production in nearly 30% of bheri under cooperatives are lower due to excessive silt deposition. Under the management plan, a one-time desiltation of bheri under cooperatives would be supported, so that an optimal water column (up to 0.8 m) and natural gradient of water flow can be maintained. The excavated silt will be used to strengthen embankments or used as manure in agricultural farms. The selection of bheri will be done in consultation with the CAG, and would be based on a commitment with the cooperative to maintain the bheri in the good condition to support fish production.

The activities to be undertaken are:

- Meeting of CAG to prepare a list of bheri needing desiltation
- Preparation of estimate of desiltation to be carried out
- Desiltation of the ponds
- Transport of silt to embankments or agricultural farms

4.1.2 Establishment of new hatcheries

It is proposed to construct 4 hatcheries for production of seeds of Indian major carps and air breathing catfishes in Dhapa Manpur, Tardha Kapasati, Kharki and Kantipota for enhancement of fish yield from East Kolkata Wetlands. The proposed hatcheries with a production capacity of 0.15 million fry / unit for air breathing fishes and 1 million / unit for freshwater fish are proposed to be operated through fish cooperatives.

The revenue generated through sale of fish seeds would be used for operation and maintenance of the hatchery units.

The activities to be undertaken are:

- Formation of SHGs for management of hatcheries and defining rules for management of infrastructure and sharing of usufruct
- Construction of hatchery including brood tank, larval rearing tank, feed culture tank, and generator shed
- Maintenance and hatchery operation including brood stock maintenance, breeding using inducing agents, and larval rearing

4.1.3 Bheri water quality monitoring

As a part of the wetland monitoring programme under Component I, it is proposed to cover up to 30% of bheri into a water quality monitoring programme. As a part of this programme, each bheri operator will:

- Receive a training on water quality monitoring, covering measurement of parameters and their thresholds
- Receive a water quality testing kit