Darwin Initiative Main: Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note": (https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/information-notes-learning-notes-briefing-papers-and-reviews/).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

Darwin Initiative Project Information

Project reference	27-007
Project title	Increasing the resilience of biodiversity and livelihoods in Colombo's wetlands
Country/ies	Sri Lanka
Lead Partner	International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka
Project partner(s)	Cobra Collective CIC (CC), UK Wetland Management Division, Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLDC), Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal, and Community Cleanliness, Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation, Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation Biodiversity Secretariat, Ministry of Environment Central Environment Authority (CEA), Ministry of Environment Urban Development Authority (UDA), Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal, and Community Cleanliness, Sri Lanka Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka (FOGSL), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Darwin Initiative grant value	£344,670.00
Start/end dates of project	1st September 2020 to 31st January 2024
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2022 – Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 Annual report 3
Project Leader name	Dr. Matthew Simpson
Project website/blog/social media	https://cobracollective.org/portfolio/increasing-the-resilience-of-biodiversity-and-livelihoods-in-colombos-wetlands/ https://twitter.com/project_cobra/status/1316718438505680896
Report author(s) and date	Matthew Simpson, Priyanie Amerasinghe and Matthew McCartney 30/04/23

1. Project summary

The urban wetlands of Colombo, Sri Lanka (Figure 1), contain unique biodiversity that supports numerous livelihood services. They are also recognised for the important role that they play in flood protection of the city. Despite this, wetland destruction continues. Although increased attention has been given to tackle wetland loss, government agencies need greater community engagement and biodiversity monitoring. This project develops a mechanism for aligning community wetland practices and monitoring with government policies. At the catchment scale, community best practices of wetland management, are being promoted to safeguard biodiversity, improve livelihoods and secure the well-being of 2.3 million people.

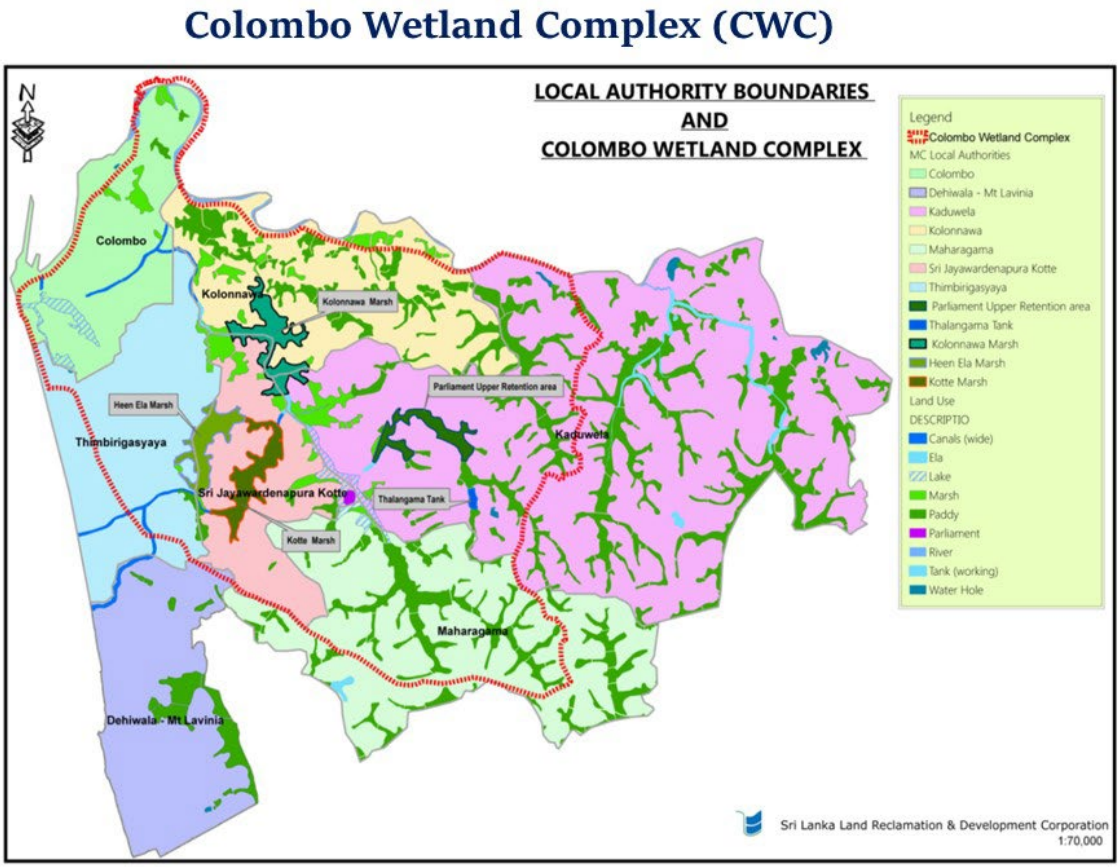

Figure 1: Map of the Colombo Wetland Complex (CWC)

The project involves the direct engagement of all stakeholders, including communities, civil society and the government, through training and consultation. The comprehensive engagement is being used to determine the following:

- The current status of Colombo's urban wetlands.
- Best practice community wetland monitoring and management examples.
- Wetland management principles to help inform policy.

Overall project impact

- Engaged communities of Colombo managing wetlands sustainably and delivering: a halt to wetland loss and degradation; biodiversity protection; improved direct and indirect benefits for households; and improved health and well-being.

Project outputs

- Output 1 Production of the Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report.
- Output 2 Identification of best practices for community wetland management and monitoring protocols.
- Output 3 Development of Wetland Management Principles.
- Output 4 Project evaluation.
- Output 5 Dissemination of project findings.

The project delivery plan is presented in Figure 2.

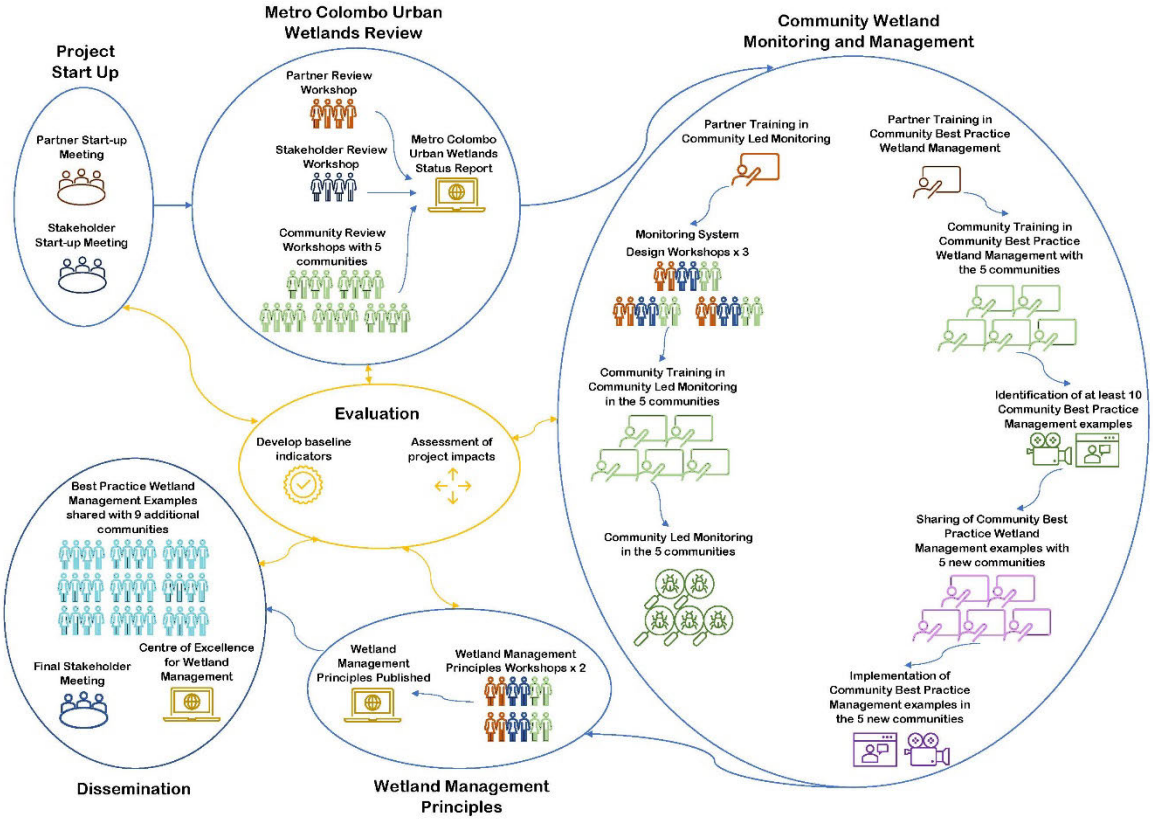

Figure 2: Schematic of the planned project delivery

2. Project stakeholders/ partners

The lead project partner, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (Sri Lanka), is supported in terms of project management by the Cobra Collective (CC) (UK). The following partners are actively engaged on the project:

- Wetland Management Division, Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLDC), Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal, and Community Cleanliness, Sri Lanka
- Department of Wildlife Conservation, Ministry of Wildlife and Forest Conservation
- Biodiversity Secretariat, Ministry of Environment
- Central Environment Authority (CEA), Ministry of Environment
- Urban Development Authority (UDA), Ministry of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal, and Community Cleanliness, Sri Lanka
- Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka (FOGSL), University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

The project partnerships are underpinned by long-term relationships with Colombo's community groups and key government agencies. Through extensive consultation during project development, communities and government agencies requested the need to link community initiatives and wetland management on the ground with government policy and practice and develop a more coordinated framework for management. Therefore, the project was co-designed, and is now being delivered, with key groups in Colombo to deliver project outcomes.

Although COVID-19 travel restrictions and restrictions on face-to-face meetings in Sri Lanka significantly reduced planned engagement in the first 18-months, the project continued with online engagement. Since the end of 2021, when covid restrictions were lifted, the project team has significantly ramped up partner and community engagement. Despite difficulties caused by

the economic crisis in Sri Lanka (e.g. fuel rationing and hyperinflation), interaction with partners and the 5 wetland communities selected for monitoring/study has been ongoing with regular meetings (approximately weekly) with all the communities throughout the 22/23 year. Between March and April 2022, community representatives, and site coordinators from government partner organisations, were appointed for each of the wetlands (Table 1). The role of these appointed staff is to engage, coordinate and deliver engagement activities with wetland communities in each of the wetlands, including the use of participatory video and the implementation of community monitoring activities. Because many community members couldn't afford to travel to physical meetings, we organized virtual WhatsApp meetings. Each group had community-level meetings and also WhatsApp meetings. Institute heads (UDA and SLLDC) were also part of the WhatsApp group to discuss the progress at each site. Community representatives met frequently to develop the videos in their own areas in addition to meetings held at IWMI's for experience sharing and training. Each community is producing two videos.

Table 1: Site Coordinators (3 F and 2 M) and Community Representatives (5 F and 3 M)

Wetland	Site coordinator	Community Representative	Community Representative
Beddagana	Narmadha Dangampola (Female) – UDA *Saluka Lakshith (Male) UDA**	H.M.B.K.B Herath (Male) *Suresh Kanna (Male)**	*Sadeesha* Mohotti (Male)*
Heen-Ela	Chethika Gunasiri (Female) – SLLDC	*Charithri Ambagahawita Jayathilake (Female)**	
Kolonnawa	Kasun Bandara (Male) – SLLDC	A.A.T Nayomi (Female)	I.D.K Chathurangi (Female)
Kottawa	Manusha Welikala (Female) – Research and Development officer Department of Agrarian Services	M.D.D Jayathissa (Female),	Mallika Padmini Perera (Female)
Madiwela	Hirantha de Silva (Male) – SLLDC	Jagath Wasantha (Male) *Manohara Peiris** *(Male)*	N. Randika Perera (Female) *Sathsara Pasan (Male)**

*New appointments (in italics) when an incumbent left the program

A key initiative that was not included in the initial planning of the project but we took the opportunity to initiate during 2022/23, was the Colombo schools program (section 16). This aims to increase awareness and educate children (age 14-17) being taught in schools close to wetlands, about the importance of the biodiversity and ecosystem services of the wetlands in their city.

The CC team conducted a short visit to Sri Lanka (09th – 18th February 2023). During this period, we conducted a face-to-face partner meeting with all partners and community representatives, an interactive discussion session for participants of the on-line course on community environmental management and a planning meeting for the five wetland communities. In addition, we commenced work with 5 new communities (i.e. Kimbulawela, Madinnagoda, Crow Island, Attidiya and Mulleriyawa Lake, Kotikawatta). Meetings were held with all new communities and participatory video training and filming took place to produce five videos.

In addition, the project team continues to work closely with the Sri Lankan NGO, *Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills (EIL),* on the development of a mobile app that can be used by community members for wetland health monitoring. This app is completed (translations in Sinhala and Tamil) and is currently being rolled out for use by communities and stakeholders to enable reporting on wetland indicators that they have identified as important.

In addition to the project partners, the project continues to have regular engagement with UNDP, and their Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (OP6). The programme has moved into a new phase (OP7) but continues to provide financial assistance for initiatives of Civil Society Organizations and Community Based Organizations that contribute to the environment including wetlands in the Colombo Landscape. A number of community-based organizations have been supported by the initiative. Dr Priyanie Amerasinghe (IWMI) has been appointed to the National Steering Committee (NSC) member of the Global Environment Facility/Small Grants

Programme for Operational Phase VI and VII - (2021-2024) and is helping to coordinate activities and align project outputs as well as build synergies across projects.

We have also met regularly with Andrew Price (Head of Prosperity Section), Sri Lanka British High Commission (BHC), and members of the High Commission communications team. On 07th March 2023 we organized a successful field visit for all High Commission staff (including the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner) to the Diyasaru wetland (a UDA run wetland park in Colombo). We are also formally reporting to the BHC on a quarterly basis. Andrew Price supported our application for a follow-up Darwin project on "Rights of Wetlands" that included a component on Colombo's wetlands, which was successful in the last application round.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Throughout the reporting period we have continued to work very closely with wetland communities and to make up for time lost to the Covid pandemic.

Output 1

Activity 1.1 - Review of all data related to Metro Colombo Urban Wetlands

This is completed and reported in last year's annual report.

Activity 1.2 – Workshops to discuss and assess the existing status of Colombo wetlands

This is completed and reported in last year's annual report.

Activity 1.3 – Production of Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status Report

This is completed and reported in last year's annual report.

Activity 1.4 – Production of baseline indicators to assess project activities against

This is completed and reported in last year's annual report.

Activity 1.5 – Production of training materials

As noted previously in response to the COVID-19 restrictions, the project converted much of the training, that was originally intended to be in-person training, into a free online course. The English version [redacted] has been translated into Sinhala and Tamil and all 3 versions are available on the Open University's OpenLearn Create platform. The course is freely available to anyone to carry out in their own time and at their own speed but to facilitate learning we held a guided program from October 2022 through to February 2023. Sixty-eight people enrolled for the facilitated course. Individuals were encouraged to engage with a topic each week and then we held a weekly online meeting to discuss the topic and share experiences. This culminated in a face-to-face training session in Colombo (37 people, 25 women, 12 men) in February 2023 during the visit of the CC team. To date, the online course has been completed by 792 people (404 in English, 161 in Tamil and 227 in Sinhala).

Activity 1.6 and 1.7 Online training course in the community best practice wetland management approach and training workshops in gender-sensitive community-led monitoring

Originally, we had hoped to commence the training in March 2021, but due to the additional time required to transfer all training online, and COVID restrictions meaning many stakeholders could not access online content at home, this only commenced in September 2021. We followed up this training with face-to-face meetings in January and February 2022. Throughout this reporting period, we conducted other online training and face-to-face training courses for participatory video and other elements (annex 4).

In conjunction with FOGSL, a schools program ("Wetlands awareness week") was initiated in September 2022 to build awareness and stimulate interest in school children. Schools in the vicinity (i.e. within 5km) of the original 5 wetlands were identified and approached to determine their interest for pupils to engage in wetland activities. A wetlands and biodiversity awareness

programme was developed and delivered at *Diyasaru* Wetland Park. One hundred and thirty-seven children, across a range of ages, participated during the week (Table 2; Figure 2). Follow-up activities were organised with a number of additional schools which involved visits and presentations to school children (and parents (Table 3; Figure 3).

Table 2: Number of school children that participated in the wetlands awareness week

Wetland	School	Total	F	M
Heen ela	Hewavitharana Maha Vidyalaya	21	11	10
	President's College	23		23
Kolonnawa	Gothatuwa Maha Vidyalaya	18	8	10
	Henry Olcott Mahavidyalaya	25	10	15
Kottawa	Ananda Maha Vidyalaya	21	6	15
Madiwela	Vidyawardena Maha Vidyalaya	29	17	12

a) b)

Figure 2: a) Andrew Price of the British High Commission visits Diyasaru Wetland park and meets with Dr Priyanie Amerasinghe of IWMI and Professor Kotagama of FOGSL during the schools program; b) Children participating in the schools program, learning about the robotic device used for water quality monitoring.

Table 3: Schools involved in the extended school program on wetland biodiversity

Wetland	School	Total	F	M
Beddagana	Ananda Sastralaya, Kotte	56		56
Heen ela	Sri Jayawardenapura Hindu Vidyalaya (Tamil Medium), Rajagiriya	27	21	6
	Hewavitharana Madya Maha Vidyalaya, Rajagiriya	24	11	13
Kolonnawa	Gothatuwa Maha Vidyalaya , Kolonnawa	38	21	17
Madiwela	Vidyawardena maha vidyalaya, Talawatugoda	60	33	27
Kottawa	Dharmapala Vidyalaya, Kottawa	32	17	15

a) b)

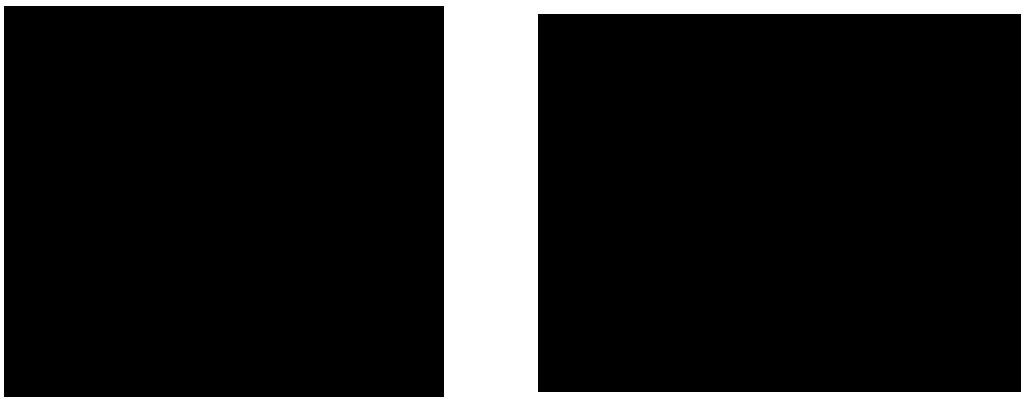

Figure 3: Schools involved in the extended schools program (a) Hindu College Rajagirya; b) Vidyawardana maha vidyalaya, Rajagiriya.

Output 2

Activity 2.1 – Undertaking free, prior and informed consent process

Reported in last year's annual report. We have continued with the processes developed including ensuring that all participants understand and sign the consent form before being part of the project. This includes all participants from the 5 recently selected wetland communities (see activity 2.2).

Activity 2.2 Workshops with community groups to introduce community best practice wetland management

The last annual report described the engagement with the original five community groups selected to identify community best practice wetland management. Throughout this reporting period intensive interaction has continued (i.e. weekly meetings) with these groups, in large part focused on the development of participatory videos. Each of the original 5 communities has produced at least one video on best management practices and they are working on the production of a second. In addition, since January 2023 the research has been extended to 5 new wetlands (i.e Kimbulawela, Madinnagoda, Crow Island, Attidiya and Mulleriyawa Lake) (see activity 2.6).

Activity 2.3 Design of the monitoring system with key stakeholders

As reported in last year's annual report, communities identified the challenges they face, particularly flooding, economic pressures and pollution. In conjunction with the project partners and the project team, workshops were held to identify critical biophysical (including biodiversity) parameters for monitoring – via a citizen science program – that can provide evidence for wetland management and decision-making. These parameters are built into the citizen science app and Mapeo (section 2.4).

Activity 2.4 Design and field testing of mobile App.

Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills (EIL), an NGO in Kolonnawa, Colombo, has worked with project partners and youth groups in Kolonnawa, to develop the Colombo Wetlands monitoring app (details provided in the last annual report). The Beta version of this app (*Wetlands Journey*) is now being field tested by the original 5 wetland communities.

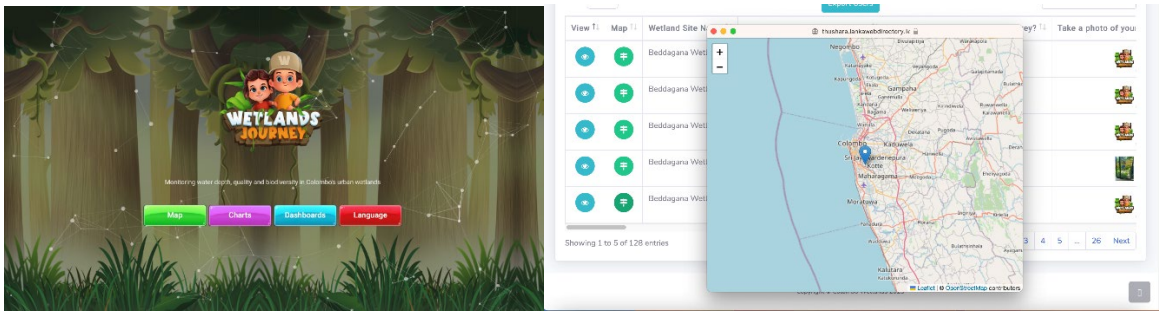

Figure 4: Wetland app developed for monitoring wetland health and biodiversity with a screenshot showing a map with a single site for data entry.

EIL has also modified Mapeo, an offline mapping tool, which can be used by communities to record what is happening in their locality and plan management actions beyond the monitoring capability of the monitoring app. Translated into Tamil and Sinhala and customised for the specific situation in Colombo this app is now being used by community groups to map environmental challenges and resources in the vicinity of the 5 original wetlands.

EIL have also developed a Colombo Wetlands Environmental Data Visualization Dashboard website where users of the app can upload their data to be shared with others (see 3.4).

Activity 2.5 Training workshops for community groups in wetland monitoring approaches and ongoing monitoring

Two training sessions have been undertaken with community groups in wetland monitoring approaches and in particular the use of the wetland monitoring app. In 2023 this will be expanded further with wetland community members and schools.

Activity 2.6 Sharing of community best practices with other community groups

Since January 2023, the program has been extended to 5 new wetland communities (i.e. Kimbulawela, Madinnagoda, Crow Island, Attidiya and Mulleriyawa Lake) (Figure 5). During the CC mission in February 2023, site coordinators and community representatives were identified for each of the new wetlands (Table 4). In February and March, 2023 meetings were held in the new communities and the original 5 community teams presented their films to the new communities. We are now working with these communities on management best practices and wetland monitoring, building on lessons learned from the original 5 wetlands.

Figure 5: Map showing the location of the 5 original (green) and 5 recently selected (beige) wetland communities

Table 4: Site Coordinators (F and M) and Community Representatives (F and M) for the five new wetlands

Wetland	Site coordinator	Community Representative	Community Representative
Attidiya	Nayana Wickramage (F), Coordinator of Programes at Sobhaketha, CEA	To be identified	To be identified
Crow Island	Shantha Bandara, (M) Crow Island, Beach Park Management Society	To be identified	To be identified
Kimbulawela		To be identified	To be identified
Madinnagoda	Nihal Ranjith Madapatha (M)	Lakmali Munasinghe (F)	
Mulleriyawa Lake	Nayana Getamanna (F), Technical Officer, Pradeshiya Sabha, Kotikawatta, Mullariyawa	To be identified	To be identified

Activity 2.7 Identification of community best practices with new communities

Members of the new communities were trained in participatory video techniques. Communities have identified best practices in their wetlands and with the support of the project team are currently developing videos.

Activity 2.8 Monitoring of community best practice wetland management

In February, we carried out participatory video sessions with the 5 new communities and videos are now being made that highlight the social and environmental challenges the communities and their wetlands face and the best practice solutions they are implementing.

Output 3

Activity 3.1 Analysis of community best practice wetland management monitoring data

Data are currently being collected. This analysis is planned for the final year of the project.

Activity 3.2 Development of wetland management principles to guide community wetland management

Planned for Q3 of this year.

Activity 3.3 Production of wetland management principles on project website

Planned for Q3 and Q4 of this year.

Activity 3.4 Development of software platform to share monitoring data

EIL have developed a Colombo Wetlands Environmental Data Visualization Dashboard website. Data from the user app (section 2.4) can be uploaded to this site for comparison with other locations. The database is currently being beta tested.

Activity 3.5 Develop communication network and information chain through partner organisations

This communications through partners is an ongoing activity that that has been developed and discussed in regular project meetings.

Output 4

Activity 4.1 – Assessment of project impacts using developed project impact indicators

The project impact indicators were finalised and agreed in June 2021 and the impact of the project will be assessed against these. Annex 4 provides a list of the agreed indicators developed which are over and above the MELIA indicators (annex 3). A baseline has been developed at the start of engagement with communities in January and February 2022, through interviews and questionnaires. As project activities continue the impact of activities will be assessed and questionnaires will be undertaken at the end of 2023 to assess the impact of the project.

Output 5

Activity 5.1 - Establish a Centre of Excellence for Community Led Wetland Monitoring and Management

Planned for the final year of the project.

Activity 5.2 - Workshops to allow community to community knowledge and experience exchanges

In August 2023 workshops and community film festivals will take place to facilitate a knowledge and experience exchange. However, dialogue between the original 5 communities and the new 5 communities is ongoing.

Activity 5.3 Submit applications for side events at Ramsar and CBD CoPs

With other organizations (IUCN and Birdlife International), the project organised a side event at Ramsar COP 14 (07th November 2022) entitled *Community wetland management for livelihood and biodiversity resilience*. An interesting panel discussion generated ideas on how community-based wetland management strategies can be improved by sharing best practices and lessons learned – success stories that are not often documented. The meeting is included in this short report of the Ramsar COP. Although the project did not participate physically in the CBD COP in December 2022, the team contributed to background documents including on targets for restoration of inland waters and rights of wetlands.

Activity 5.4 Develop policy briefings

Planned for Q2 and Q3 of the final year.

Activity 5.5 Produce finalised pack of training materials

Planned for Q3 of the final year.

Activity 5.6 Produce final reports

Planned for Q3 of the final year.

Activity 5.7 - Share project outputs at national and international events

Presentations were given at public face-to-face meetings celebrating World Wetlands Day on 2nd February 2023 in Colombo sharing project outputs and progress.

The UDA conducted a program for Girl Guides at the Rampart Wetlands Centre in Beddagana. Dr. Priyanie Amerasinghe was the keynote speaker at this event. A youtube link to the event can be found here.

Figure 6: Girl guide event at the new Rampart Wetland Centre, Bedaggana.

Dr. Priyanie Amerasinghe was involved in a dialogue on the Sobhketha Radio program of the CEA, on Wetland Restoration. It was aired on 29 January 2023 through the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Flyer for the Sobhketha Radio Program on Wetland Restoration

Activity 5.8 - Establish and regularly update project websites

Project pages have been established here and here.

Activity 5.9 - Draft and submit at least two articles to journals

Planned for Q3 and Q4 of the final year.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

***Output 1* - A robust evidence base of current wetland status and management within the Metro Colombo region and trained staff in community best practice wetland management and monitoring approaches.**

The Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report was published, distributed and presented at workshops to achieve a shared understanding of the wetland Status in Colombo during last year's activities.

Knowledge and experience of community wetland management and community wetland monitoring is limited in Colombo. The online training course and face-to-face training have provided the ability for partners, stakeholders and community members to increase their understanding of community wetland management and monitoring. Transferring the course online has resulted in the training being available to many more people than the 30 we had originally planned with nearly 800 people now having engaged with the course material.

***Output 2* - Community wetland monitoring and management.**

The five selected communities have identified the challenges they face and their community best practice wetland management solutions. They have been trained in participatory video (Figure 8) and are producing two videos to share their management solutions. Their first videos have been shared with five new communities who themselves are now producing their own videos. In 2023/24 at least15 videos highlighting community wetland management best practice will be completed and shared across Colombo and Sri Lanka.

Figure 8: Field training in participatory video production

Co-design of monitoring approaches, particularly the monitoring app (activity 2.4) and the monitoring equipment, has taken place and is being rolled out to community groups and schools. Training in wetland monitoring has been undertaken and will be ongoing.

***Output 3* - Development of wetland management principles to guide community wetland management.**

Work to deliver this output has not fully commenced yet, but we expect to deliver the full programme of work as in the project plan (Annex 4) and detailed in the logframe. The data software web-based platform is designed to undertake basic analysis of the records collected by the mobile monitoring apps. This is presented on a web dashboard for all to access and see the status and condition of the wetlands and their biodiversity. We have established communication

networks among community groups and government agencies through regular meetings and workshops. These will be developed through a video mediated dialogue in 2023.

***Output 4* - Project impact evaluation.**

Project impact indicators have been finalised with partners and stakeholders and the first round of data collection in the form of questionnaires for partners, stakeholders and communities has been completed. Questionnaires and interviews will take place at the end of 2023 to assess impact.

***Output 5* - Community led wetland monitoring and management including best practices disseminated regionally and internationally.**

Dissemination is ongoing via the website, during World Wetlands Day activities, at side events at the Ramsar COP and at international meetings.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

In 2022/23 we made significant progress working with local wetland communities and have increased awareness and understanding amongst these communities, as well as government agencies, about wetland status and the critical role that wetlands play in the livelihoods of local urban communities in Colombo. This project has facilitated close collaboration between local communities and the government institutions working and responsible for the wetlands (e.g. UDA and SLLDC).

In 2022, we engaged site coordinators and community representatives in each of the wetlands (Table 1). This mechanism has worked very well in obtaining and sustaining interest in the project from the local community members. The overall local coordinator (from IWMI) has regular communication (sometimes daily) with each of the site coordinators and all activities are relayed to partners via email/whatsapp etc. The local coordinator organizes and conducts training sessions in the field when there is a need.

The participatory video approach has proved to be a powerful tool for bringing local communities together to highlight issues and concerns that they have as well as demonstrating to government decision-makers the efforts that the communities are making themselves to address the concerns and manage wetland natural resources. The schools program has been extremely popular with teachers, pupils and parents, and has increased awareness of critical wetlands and biodiversity to the next generation.

In the last 6 months the extension of the project to 5 new wetlands has been successfully initiated with lessons learned from the original 5 and interaction between community members being used to enhance community involvement and to establish project activities speedily in the new sites. The launch of the wetland app (section 2.4) has been delayed due to technical issues but beta testing with the community representatives is now ongoing. When launched, within the next two months, the app will be used by up to 200 community members who will carry out monitoring across the city.

The impact evaluation indicators (annex 4) developed for the project in the log frame were co-developed with project partners, stakeholders and communities. These are in addition to the project specific indicators which we have evaluated against the BCF standard indicators. We have aligned project indicators to match the BCF indicators where possible (annex 3). We have also added two standard indicators that we believe enhance the monitoring of the project progress towards the outcomes. We believe that together the impact evaluation and project indicators are adequate to assess whether or not the outcome is achieved.

Despite the COVID-19 delays and the impacts of the economic crisis that enveloped Sri Lanka in 2022, we are confident that we will achieve the project outcome at the end of the extended project timetable (i.e. by the end of the 6 month no-cost extension).

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome Assumption 1: Political and economic stability in Sri Lanka enables the project to be completed.

At the start of 2022/23 the economic situation in Sri Lanka deteriorated significantly; debt default and hyperinflation (80-90% food inflation), led to a very severe cost of living crisis, extended power cuts, fuel and cooking gas shortage, political turmoil and civil unrest. The government declared a state of emergency and the army was used to violently break up demonstrations. In recent months the government has agreed a loan package with the IMF, inflation has stabilised somewhat (50% in March 2023), the Sri Lankan rupee has strengthened slightly against the dollar and fuel and cooking gas shortages have eased.

Comments: Despite the challenging situation we managed to continue with project activities throughout the year, including using lessons learned during the Covid pandemic (e.g. the use of WhatsApp for community group communications when people could simply not afford or due to fuel shortages could not physically travel to meetings). Project partners – including government colleagues – remained committed to the project despite experiencing great individual hardship. Continual dialogue with communities enabled the project to adapt to the situation and engagement was maintained and indeed strengthened throughout 2022/23.

Outcome Assumption 2: Sri Lankan institutions, especially government agencies, remain committed to community led wetland management, biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation, respect for human rights and sustainable development, and are willing to implement community wetland monitoring and management approaches to achieve these goals.

Comments: Despite the pressures on government agencies and the economic impact (both on the institutions and the individual staff) they remain committed to delivering the project and are happy to continue allocating staff time to deliver project activities. The project management team are in regular contact with all government agencies and we have adjusted the work programme as required.

Output 1 Assumption 1, Output 2 Assumption 2 and Output 3 Assumption 1: Appropriate government, non-governmental staff and male and female community members are available to participate in stakeholder workshops, contribute to the baseline assessment and attend training and retain their roles during the course of the project.

Comments: Despite the very challenging situation project activities continued throughout 2022/23. Project partners remained flexible in their approach but continued to allocate staff time to delivering activities. Communities also remained engaged. Continual dialogue with communities and project partners and stakeholders allowed the project to respond to the challenges. It is hoped that a more stable situation persists for the final months of the project 2023/24. One critical issue now being faced is an exodus of people, especially educated young, seeking better livelihood opportunities abroad. To date this has not affected the project directly but is of concern for the future. We are also monitoring the gender balance at meetings and within activities and will undertake positive initiatives to increase participation if needed.

Output 2 Assumption 1: Communities will have a continued interest in the project, and knowledge exchange will be sufficient for beneficiaries to successfully understand and apply community best practices.

Comments: We are actively engaging community groups, established and supported by project partners, in the first instance. This has provided a solid base to then engage further with other communities and groups. These established networks are proving important for developing a knowledge exchange. In 2022/23 we also developed a comprehensive schools program that was extremely beneficial not only increasing awareness and interest amongst school age children but also their parents and teachers. In 2023/24, we plan to strengthen the community-to-community engagement to assist in the transfer of lessons learned in relation to community best practice and to foster pride in what communities are doing with the belief that this will enhance the chance

of activities continuing after the end of the project. Original community members have been assisting in training and sharing knowledge with new wetland site communities.

Output 4 Assumption 1: Project indicators are robust and provide criteria suitable for assessment, including the benefits across gender and various livelihoods.

Comments: The impact evaluation indicators (annex 4) have been co-developed with project partners, stakeholders and community members. The project partners feels that these are robust enough to assess the complex situation in Colombo and determine the impact of the project.

Output 5 Assumption 1: All government and non-government organizations will engage with the Community Led Wetland Monitoring and Management Centre once established.

Comments: The project has developed a communication and implementation network among government, non-government and community organizations and members. In 2023/23 this will be built on so that project outputs can be disseminated and enacted as the project progresses and beyond the project.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

The intended project impact is that engaged communities of Colombo manage wetlands sustainably and deliver: a halt to wetland loss and degradation; biodiversity protection; improved direct and indirect benefits for households; and improved health and wellbeing.

The project has contributed significantly to a shared understanding of the importance, status, challenges and threats to Colombo's urban wetlands among government, non-government and communities. In 2022/23, this was further strengthened by highlighting the vital role that wetland communities can play in managing and safeguarding critical wetland resources and biodiversity. Communities themselves have highlighted critical issues and, through participatory video, have shown how they themselves are addressing these issues. These videos have been well received by government decision-makers as well as other communities and are a powerful tool for illustrating community best practice in their own words. In the last few months the work has been extended to five new wetlands with lessons learned from the original five enabling much more rapid engagement of the local communities and roll-out of project activities.

In 2023/24 the focus will be on finalising the work with the communities in a way that leaves a sustainable legacy in each and consolidating the project findings in outputs that can be disseminated widely both in Sri Lanka and beyond. This will include guidance on the application of community wetland management best practice solutions that have been identified through the project and the conditions that enable the application of these solutions.

An impact indicator framework (annex 4) has been agreed by the project partnership, stakeholders and communities and has been updated with the BCF standard indicator framework. These indicators will be used to assess the impact of the project on halting wetland loss, biodiversity protection, benefits for households and improved health and wellbeing.

4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project is contributing to the following:

- Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) - This project supported Sri Lanka to deliver on the CBD and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan 2016-2022, specifically Aichi Targets: 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19. In 2023/24 it will also contribute to Sri Lanka efforts to contribute to several of the 23 targets (specifically those related to Goals A and B) in the new Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in December 2022.

- Convention on Climate Change (CCC) - The project will assist Sri Lanka fulfil its obligations under the convention and the Kyoto and Paris agreements in terms of both mitigation and adaptation.
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The wetlands app, currently being tested, will enable the collection of data on migratory bird species and the data collected will contribute to the evidence base for promoting species and habitat conservation.
- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) - at its core the project promotes the wise use of wetlands through community led management. We have been reporting to the National Wetland Steering Committee, through CEA, DWC, IWMI and SLLDC, so all outputs can be integrated into national wetland planning. Metro Colombo was awarded Ramsar Wetland City accreditation (2018) and the project will support stakeholder engagement/community management approaches required under the accreditation and under the Wetland Management Strategy 2016. In 2022, we contributed to the Ramsar COP with a side event on wetland community management and in the current triennium will report to the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel.

Working with the Biodiversity Secretariat, Ministry of Environment, ensures that the work of the project aligns with government requirements under the above Conventions and ensures that all impacts are mapped against government initiatives.

The project is building on several initiatives already developed within Colombo including the Wetland Management Strategy, produced in 2016, which called for greater community and stakeholder engagement, the development of community wetland management, increased capacity for wetland management among government agencies, improved monitoring and improved governance.

The project has had direct liaison with Ramsar Focal point, the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC). The representative from the DWC, Mr *Manjula* Amararathna is included as a partner and has attended all workshops and meetings.

Project staff and partners contributed to 2023 World Wetlands Day events, in Colombo organised by the Wetland Management Division of SLLDC and the National Wetlands Day by the Central Environment Authority and UDA.

5. Project support to poverty reduction

Colombo's wetlands are fundamental to the well-being of the 2.3 million people of Colombo, particularly the urban poor, with 60% of households directly benefiting from wetland livelihoods and products, such as fish and rice, and 100% receiving indirect benefits from flood protection, climate cooling and pest regulation. vegetable production, organic rice production, organic fertiliser production

In 2022/23 best practice wetland management solutions that enhance household livelihoods were identified and documented through participatory video. These include interventions that enhance agricultural productivity (e.g. improved water management for rice production in the Kottawa and Madiwela wetland, use of homemade organic fertiliser and farmer cooperation to rent and use equipment) as well as providing alternative direct livelihood opportunities (e.g. payments from a recycling company for waste found in the Kolonnawa wetland and re-purposing of waste products into household items). The wetlands and the ecosystem services provided have contributed to community coping strategies throughout the Sri Lankan economic crisis with a focus on urban agriculture and self-sufficiency to support local communities.

Although the poverty reduction benefits of the management solutions are not quantified in monetary terms one explicit benefit of the project is the enhancement of a community voice in decision-making. The videos have been well received by the government partners and provide evidence that will contribute to future policies, strategies and decision-making developed by the government partners in this project. A particular focus for government agencies has been urban agriculture and the lessons learnt from the project are contributing to improved policies.

Engagement and consultation between government agencies and local communities has often been limited when new projects have been initiated. Government agency staff that have been trained as part of the project and have been part of the participatory video process have indicated that taking a more participatory approach to community engagement is leading to more trust, understanding and better results for their project activities.

6. Gender equality and social inclusion

The project positively encourages the active participation of women in all project activities. We have attempted in all meetings and workshops to use participatory techniques such as Miro whiteboards with online meetings and post it notes for individual comments in face-to-face meetings so all participants, irrespective of gender, feel comfortable sharing their opinions, experience and knowledge. We are disaggregating all meeting and workshop attendance data to ensure we track participation of both women and men. If we notice that women are not participating then we undertake positive action to remedy this situation. In 2023/24 our workshops and meetings had 56% participation from women and 44% participation from men. The schools program had overall participation of 57% of female pupils and 43% male pupils.

In the development of the participatory videos we have actively sought the input of women and youth, thereby providing them with the opportunity to learn new skills and express themselves. In several of the wetlands the video producers, narrators as well as camera staff were women, many of whom expressed their pleasure in being able to do “something different”.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1].	N/A
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women[2].	50% (3 out of 6 partners)

In working with communities we have attempted to ensure representation and work across all social classes, including the poorest and most marginalized. Hence the community groups encompass people from all social strata and, working with community representatives, we have sought to get input from all.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are a key part of the project. This is demonstrated through Output 4 being dedicated to project impact evaluation. IWMI and the Cobra Collective are leading the evaluation activities. We co-developed the project evaluation criteria with partners building on the project proposal, These criteria will be used assess the project’s impact (Annex 4). These include the biodiversity, water quality and ecosystem service data gathered during the 2016 Wetland Management Strategy work as a baseline. The review of the wetland status (undertaken in 2021/22) provided data to inform the criteria and provided a baseline for the project.

Questionnaires have been undertaken by project partners, stakeholders and communities and these will be repeated at the end of the project to assess project impact,

[1] A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

[2] Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

8. Lessons learnt

What worked well and didn't work well in the past year?

The willingness, despite the economic situation in Sri Lanka, for government agencies and non-government agencies to commit staff time and resources to the project and for communities to be actively engaged in project activities. A key element of why this occurred has been the dedication of the implementing team in Sri Lanka who have worked very hard to engage with the communities (including in person meetings and WhatsApp groups etc.) and to communicate with partners, often at weekends and in evenings.

The schools program was also very successful. Not only did this increase awareness and educate large numbers of school pupils but also brought on board many teachers and parents who showed great interest in the project and what it is attempting. A key lesson learned this year is that engagement with schools provides an extremely beneficial access route to communities.

The development of the participatory videos has taken much longer than expected. Obtaining the footage, editing, and narration and subtitles, have all been more complicated than anticipated.

If you had to do it again, what would you do differently?

We would plan to work with schools to develop links with communities much earlier in the project than we did this time. This is a lesson that we have applied in the case of the new wetlands that we are bringing into the project. In these we have started to work with the schools from the outset.

What recommendations would you make to others doing similar projects?

The interaction with the community is key. However, building trust and commitment takes considerable time and effort, which is difficult to predict at the outset of a project. Nevertheless, this is a critical aspect of community projects so sufficient flexibility needs to be built into the project design to enable this.

How are you going to build this learning into the project and future plans?

The recent award of funding for a new Darwin project: *Rights of Wetlands Operationalisation for Biodiversity and Community Resilience* provides a great opportunity to build on lessons learned on working with communities in the current project, both in Sri Lanka but also in the other countries in which that project will work (i.e. Kenya, Ecuador, Guyana and Bolivia).

9. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Reviewers comments

1. *The project shows evidence of achieving its Outcome in technical, training, and governance aspects of wetland management. The quality of partnerships, co-design of activities, and local ownership of the process gives a reasonable likelihood of a long-term project legacy. Yet, as the report notes, it is too early to assess livelihood impacts, and there is little convincing evidence to show these will be met. More needs to be done to demonstrate a livelihood delivery pathway. If the project cannot do this, there would still be value in quantifying livelihood protection (DRR-related) from adverse environmental and climate-related impacts. Moving from a livelihood development direction to livelihood protection is viable and more easily verifiable.*
2. *The livelihood aspects of the project might be improved if it focused on livelihood protection through better wetland management. The logframe can quickly be revised to accommodate this if acceptable to Darwin.*

As a result of the reviewer's recommendations from the 2022 annual review we shifted the emphasis from assessing livelihoods via household incomes to assessing livelihood protection and in particular whether households were able to access direct and indirect wetland benefits. The best practice wetland community management participatory videos made by the communities, so far, have already identified approaches, such as farming cooperatives, organic farming, waste collection and payments for recycling that provide resilient livelihoods that support flood protection, pollution control and biodiversity

conservation. These approaches enable communities to continue to access both the direct and indirect benefits of wetlands.

10. Risk Management

In the past 12 months we have continued to manage the fall-out of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. This has not been easy but to a large extent we have managed to keep the project on track and we remain confident that, in the absence of any further crises, we can deliver this project by the extended deadline in January 2024.

A risk register was not a requirement at the start of this project but the below has been now developed for it.

Risk Description	Impact	Probability[3]	Gross Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Fiduciary (financial): funds not used for intended purposes or not accounted for (fraud, corruption, mishandling or misappropriated).					
Partners have excellent fiduciary track records over decades. However, organisations reliant on project funding may experience short-term cash flow challenges, and there is a risk that project funding is directed towards the support of core costs. Project equipment and resources (e.g. transportation budget) may also be used on non-project activities.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	Ongoing disbursement of funding reliant on partners meeting activity and project delivery as monitored informally in weekly meetings and formally in quarterly reports supplemented with evidence. If challenges emerge, project funding and responsibilities reallocated to other partners or new partners.	Minor
Safeguarding: 'doing harm' incl. sexual exploitation abuse and harassment, staff safety and welfare, or unintended harm.					
Partners are already implementing safeguarding best-practice. However, we always need to prepare for rogue individuals that may break codes of practice.	Moderate	Unlikely	Moderate	In addition to partner safeguarding policies and practices, the project implements its own protocol explicitly highlighting safeguarding within internal and external activities, e.g. community FPIC process will discuss safeguarding and will have safeguarding as a key component of the FPIC form.	Minor
Delivery Chain: the overall risk associated with your delivery model.					
Operational capacity of partner staff and support infrastructure (internet connectivity, communications network) is variable.	Moderate	Possible	Major	Delivery Chain Risk Mapping will implement monitoring processes and implement capacity building support. Contingencies will be established in order to manage infrastructural challenges.	Moderate
In-country civil unrest, natural disasters or emergence of disruptive Covid-19 variants.					

[3] Likelihood: Almost certain (>80%), Likely (>50%<80%), Possible (>20%<50%), Unlikely (>5%<20%), Rare (<5%)

The socio-economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic have resulted in an increase in poverty, inequalities and rising costs of living. This may trigger civil unrest within Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is also vulnerable to extreme weather events (e.g. flooding).	Major	Likely	Severe	Partners have institutional memory of adversity (e.g. extreme 2005 Colombo floods, ongoing Covid pandemic), developing effective mechanisms to mitigate and adapt to disruption. This includes ability to work flexibly in different locations at short notice, to manage activities remotely through communication tools such as WhatsApp, and to pivot resources to other tasks/partners.	Moderate
Attacks and pressure on in-country 'rights of wetlands' implementors					
Project partners and communities may be subject to attacks and pressure from parties intent on destroying wetlands for economic gain.	Major	Unlikely	Major	Partners are highly experienced in strategies for environmental protection, establishing an appropriate balance between delivering effective change while minimising risks to staff and participants.	Moderate
Escalating project costs					
Runaway inflation and mitigation strategies for challenges result in project budget not able to cover all envisaged activities	Moderate	Possible	Major	Project budget already has contingencies built into it forecasting moderate cost escalations. Some project costs could be reduced e.g. reducing number of individuals undertaking international travel, which would allow redistribution of budgets while minimising impact on project deliverables.	Minor

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Nothing to add here.

12. Sustainability and legacy

The project has engaged a large number of stakeholders (23 organisations) and developed a communication strategy with the Prosperity Division of the British High Commission. Our planned exit strategy is still valid and we will undertake more communication and dissemination activities now that we have started direct engagement with communities. In June 2023, we will commence activities in the new Darwin project entitled: *Rights of Wetlands Operationalisation for biodiversity and Community Resilience*. Many lessons learned – particularly in relation to working with communities – will be taken up in this new project which is working in Kenya, Guyana and Bolivia, as well as Sri Lanka.

13. Darwin Initiative identity

All publicity material including project briefs and the project brochure, meeting and workshop presentations, official invitations, Ramsar COP side events etc. have included the Darwin Initiative logo and explain where the funds, for the project, have come from and recognised the UK Government's contribution.

The project is a distinct project and referred to in all communications as the Darwin Initiative project.

Among the project partners there is familiarisation of the Darwin Initiative and we are building the same level of understanding among the wider stakeholder group.

IWMI and Cobra Collective have been publicising the project via their Twitter accounts @IWMI_ and @project_cobra, respectively and link to the @Darwin_Defra account.

14. Safeguarding

The project is covered by both IWMI and Cobra Collective safeguarding policies. The project went through the IWMI ethical review which included safeguarding.

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?		~~Yes~~/No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months		~~Yes~~/No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes/~~No~~ Matthew Simpson [redacted]	
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes/~~No~~	
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?		Past: 50% [5] from IWMI and Cobra Collective Planned: % [and number]
Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses. Through the schools program initiated in 2022/23 the project worked extensively with children. We worked closely with school principles and teachers to ensure that all school requirements and safeguards associated with working with children – to keep them safe from harm - were adhered to.		
Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify. In the coming 12 months we will continue the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process for engagement with all communities and schools as well as all the safeguarding required specifically for working with children.		

15. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure <u>during the reporting period</u> (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)	[redacted]			Following the lifting of CD19 restrictions we continue to revise project activities to ensure delivery of project objectives. This – including the schools program which was not previously an activity for the project – has necessitated more staff time.
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				

Travel and subsistence	[redacted]			
Operating Costs				Considerable devaluation of the Sri Lanka Rupee in 2022, although requiring some additional expenditure (e.g. need to pay travel costs where previously we hadn't done so) overall enabled a small saving in operating costs for a short period of time. Inflation has now largely removed this saving.
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	**107,007.89**	**108,288.10**	**-1%**	

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.	[redacted]	
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)		

16. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

Please note that we have included photographs in this section. If these are to be used more widely we would need permission from the schools involved. Currently we do not have this permission.

Wild about wetlands: a schools program in Colombo

The objective of the school program on wetlands established as part of the Darwin Project is to educate school children (age 14-17) on wetland ecology, biodiversity, and wise use. The initial community surveys carried out during the selection of wetland sites revealed that a large number of schools are found in and around the Colombo Wetland Complex (CWC). Colombo being a city built around wetlands these schools have a "living laboratory" to learn how wetlands function and their role in supporting nature and people.

With the support of the Zonal Education Department, we selected both national and provincial schools. We noted that many schools were underserved in terms of teachers and resources. The students, however, were very eager to learn about wetland topics. The program started with the introduction of a "wetland week" during which schools were invited to participate (Figure 9). The

Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka (Partner) led the program with support from the International Water Management Institute.

Later we visited the schools and conducted programs to engage them on a longer-term basis. Over 20 schools were contacted, and 7-10 schools (Figures 10 and 11) were selected for close engagement. Parents were also invited to participate so that we were able to cover a larger wetland community for the dissemination of project outcomes. The pupils were students studying either science subjects or Information Technology. We had meetings with school principals and teachers to see how such programs align with the school curriculum. By doing so, we were also covering some of the subject components of the school science syllabus where practical work is in most cases minimal due to lack of resources. Some of the classroom activities conducted are shown in Figures 12 and 13. We have also made the pupils part of the impact monitoring. In the first instance, we are testing the impact of knowledge and skills before and after the school program activities. Thereafter we will request pupils to collect the biodiversity indicators using the Wetland App developed for biodiversity monitoring (section 3 – activity 2.4). As an ongoing program, we have selected 5 schools to introduce an in-depth program on wetland biodiversity and management. This will take place starting from June 2023 for a period of 6 months as part of “after school” activities for selected pupils. We are encouraged by the feedback from schools that they would like to continue this as part of the science program of the schools.

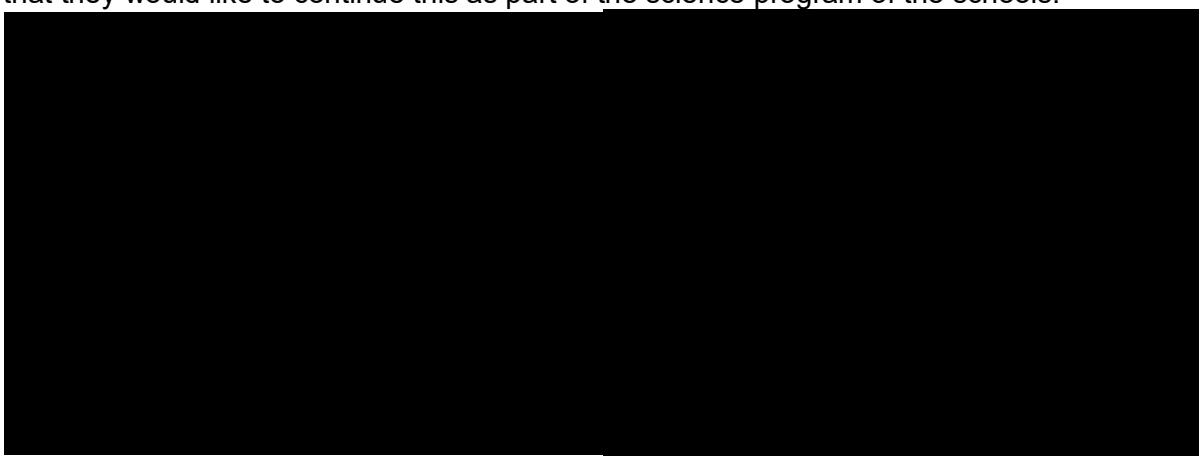

Figure 9: Wetland week school program for schools around the wetlands of Colombo

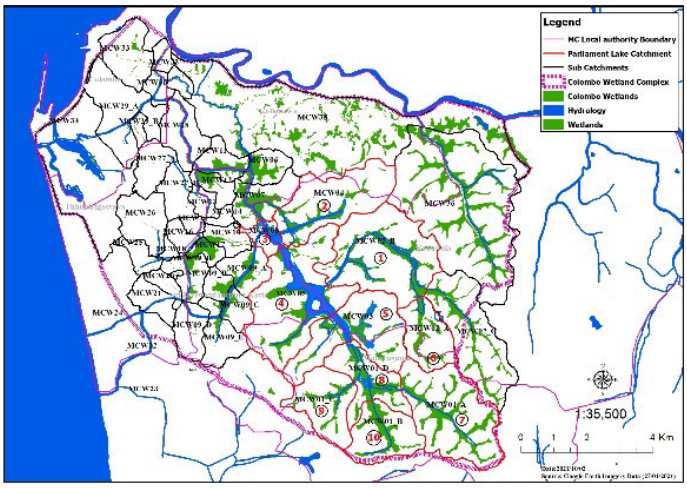

Figure 10: The wetland sub-catchments where the schools are located (MCW 1 – 10). MCW – Metro Colombo Wetlands

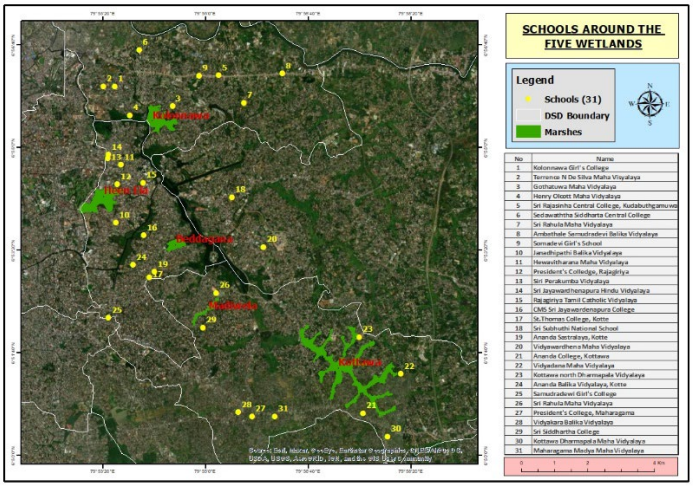

Figure 11: Cluster of schools selected with the help of the Zonal Education Department for the School Program on Wetlands.

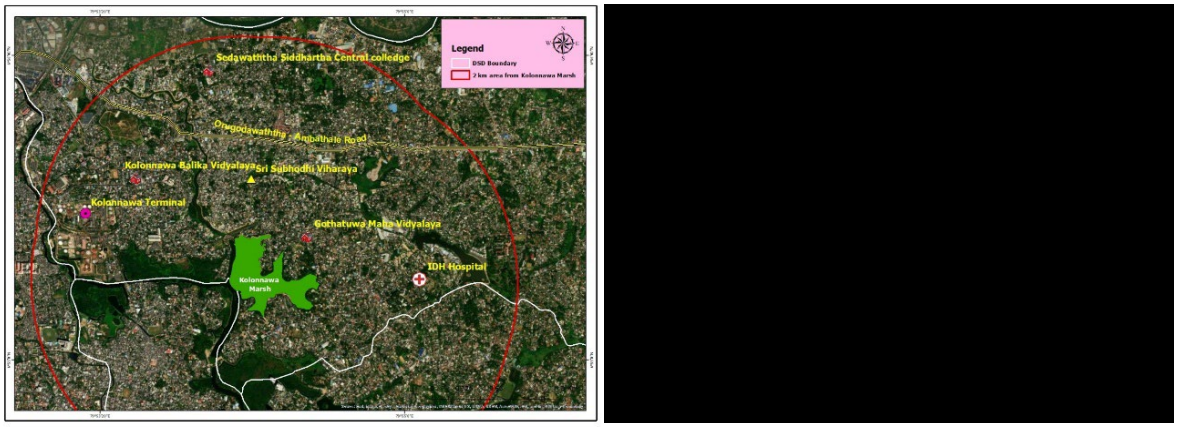

Figure 12: Classroom activities: Use of GIS maps to study the spatial distribution of wetlands.

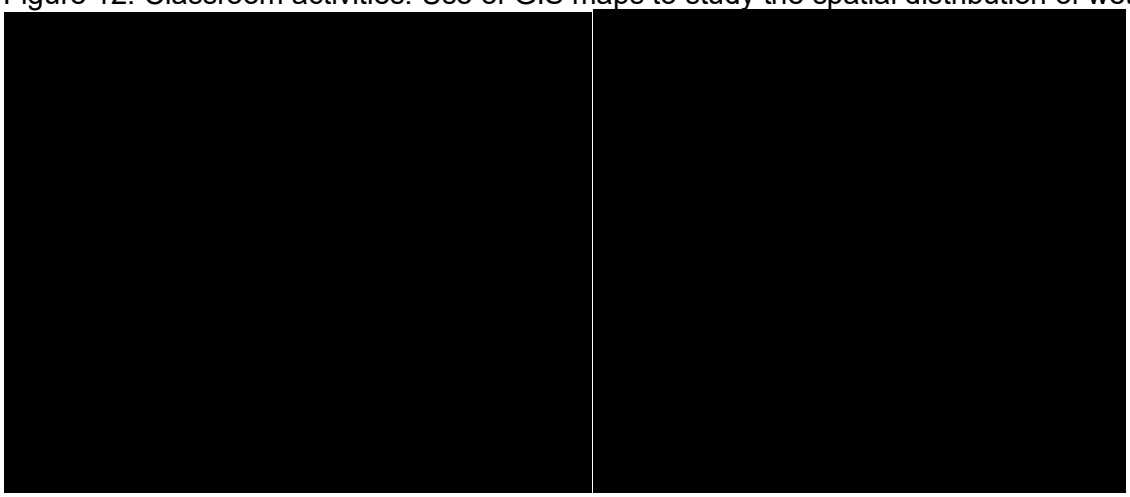

Figure 13: School children and parents (community) are learning about electronic devices used for wetland water quality monitoring.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2022-2023

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Engaged communities of Colombo managing wetlands sustainably and delivering: a halt to wetland loss and degradation; biodiversity protection; improved direct and indirect benefits for households; and improved health and wellbeing.			
Outcome Engaged communities monitoring wetlands, communicating to decision makers and managing their wetlands to protect biodiversity and to maintain essential wetland benefits to support the livelihoods of the urban poor.	0.1 A shared understanding among community, government and non-government agencies about wetland status, issues, management approaches, legislation and policy environment (yr 1). 0.2 a) Household livelihood protection - Maintenance of access to direct and indirect wetland benefits for at least 3,800 households (16,720 people) as a result of implementation of community best practices and management guiding principles identifying disaster risk reduction, and maintenance of household incomes, including those of women, from 2020 baseline for 16,700 people through disaster risk reduction strategies (yr 3). b) Biodiversity – Wetland area maintained with no net loss from baseline; spread of invasive species *Annona glabra*, *Salvenia molesta* and *Eichornia crassipes* controlled within the 5 target	0.1 Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report published, distributed and presented at project workshops. 0.2a) Best practices recorded and shared highlighting livelihood protection such as rice farming, farmers cooperation, organic farming, waste recycling payments etc. Evaluation at end of 2023 will assess full impact of project on communities. 0.2b) Best practices recorded and shared highlighting livelihoods that promote biodiversity conservation such as organic farming, waste collection and recycling, community group action against pollution. Evaluation at end of 2023 will assess full impact of project on biodiversity. 0.2c) Best practices recorded and shared highlighting livelihoods such as rice farming that provide effective flood management. Evaluation at end of 2023 will assess full impact of project on water and flood management. 0.2d) Best practices recorded and shared highlighting livelihoods such as organic rice farming and waste	Best practice wetland management videos will be shared with communities across Colombo via film festivals. Video mediated dialogue between communities and government agencies will take place. School program of biodiversity and wetland conservation will continue. Training in wetland app will continue with communities and schools to encourage more people to regularly collect data on wetlands and their biodiversity. Wetland management principles to guide community wetland management will be produced and shared. Project impact indicator assessment will take place via questionnaires and interviews. End of project event with key stakeholders will take place to showcase community videos, the wetland app and wetland management principles.

	wetlands from baseline and consensus framework for removal established. Populations of key plant, mammal and bird indicator species will be stable or increasing with respect to the baseline (yr 3). c) Water management - Existing degradation of wetland hydrological functioning halted or reduced, and flood risk reduced to greater than 1 in 50 year event protection as a result of monitoring and management (by end of yr 3). d) Water quality – increased adoption of sustainable wetland production, such as rice, resulting in 50% decrease in BOD, nitrogen and phosphorous pollution (by end of yr 3). e) Engaged communities - At least 200 community members regularly (once a week) using the environmental monitoring system and sharing results with government agencies, with significant representation of women (yr 2 & 3). 0.3 80% of household members (including women) in target communities (13,376 people) and government agencies (80 people) having good understanding of wetland management principles (yr 2 & 3). 0.4 Project impact evaluation undertaken routinely to assess progress against project baseline indicators and log frame,	collection and recycling that provide effective pollution control. Evaluation at end of 2023 will assess full impact of project on pollution. 0.2e) Monitoring app is operational and communities will collect data that will be shared via the web dashboard. 0.3 Training and workshops for community members has been ongoing and nearly 800 people have completed the online training course. Evaluation at end of 2023 will assess whether community and government agency staff have a good understanding of wetland management principles but training targets have been exceeded. 0.4 Project impact evaluation has been ongoing through interviews and questionnaires but due to the Covid pandemic and the economic situation analysis will occur in 2023. 0.5 Community wetland management is being developed through dialogue with communities and government agencies. An approach will be agreed in 2023 and shared with all.	

	identification of potential improvements and implementation of them to ensure there is effective delivery of the project and that short-term and longer-term impacts are realised (yr 1, 2 & 3). 0.5 Adoption of a community wetland management approach, within government agencies, communities and CSOs, that delivers biodiversity protection, sustainable livelihoods and improved well-being of residents.		
Outputs: **1. A robust evidence base of current wetland status and management within the Metro Colombo region and trained staff in community best practice wetland management and monitoring approaches.**	1.1 Key stakeholders and communities engaged in documenting existing status (yr 1). 1.2 Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report assessing key government, non-governmental, communities and stakeholders, information sharing networks, geo-spatial biodiversity data, ecosystem service, livelihood and well-being benefits, and risk and hazards (yr 1). 1.3 Number of staff from governmental and non-government organisations trained in the community best practice wetland management approach, including gender-inclusive methods [target: at least 30 with significant representation of women] (yr 1 & 2). 1.4. Number of staff from government and non-government organisations trained in gender-sensitive community-led monitoring and decision support systems [target: at	1.1 Key stakeholders and communities were engaged in Year 1. 1.2 Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report was published and disseminated in Year 1. 1.3 69 people trained in best practice wetland management during weekly training course and nearly 800 have accessed the online training course. 1.4 69 people trained in community led wetland monitoring during weekly training course and nearly 800 have accessed the online training course.	

	least 30 with significant representation of women] (yr 1 & 2).		
Activity 1.1 Review of all data related to Metro Colombo Urban Wetlands including ecological, hydrological, geo-spatial biodiversity data, ecosystem service, livelihood and well-being benefits, and risk and hazards.		Review carried out in Year 1.	No further work required as now complete.
Activity 1.2, Stakeholder and community workshops to discuss and assess existing status of Colombo wetlands from a stakeholder and community perspective (will include government agencies, local community groups, local conservation groups such as the Urban Fishing Cat Conservation Project, farmers groups, schools, universities, women's groups, CSOs – 7 workshops).		Workshops held in Year 1.	No further work required as now complete.
Activity 1.3 Production of Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report.		Report produced and published.	No further work required as course is now published.
Activity 1.4 Production of baseline indicators to assess project activities against. The baseline indicators will include the measurable indicators for the project outcome including number of community members engaged in environmental monitoring, perceived increase in access to and importance of direct and indirect wetland benefits to households, populations and presence/absence of habitat health indicator species, degradation of hydrological functioning reduced, flood risk reduced, wetland management principles produced and dissemination activities. These will provide the core baseline indicators but through the 7 workshops for 1.2 the baseline indicators will be expanded to include indicators relevant to the stakeholder groups such as rice yields, fishing catch, habitat extent, bird species present. The workshops and subsequent consultation will refine an agreed list that communities and project partners feel will fully assess the impact of the project.		Baseline indicators agreed and data collected through interviews and questionnaires.	Next round of interviews and questionnaires to assess impact will take place in 2023.
Activity 1.5 Produce training materials – CC has developed a comprehensive set of training materials for identifying and implementing community owned solutions through participatory methods. These will be made bespoke for the Colombo context and translated where required.		Online training course produced in English, Sinhala and Tamil.	No further work required as course is now published.
Activity 1.6 Online training course in the community best practice wetland management approach, including gender-inclusive methods (7 week online course) and ongoing training during community engagement activities.		Delivered in 2022/23 with 69 people enrolled for weekly course. Nearly 800 people taken the course in total.	We plan to run another weekly facilitated course in September / October 2023.
Activity 1.7 Online training course in gender-sensitive community-led monitoring and decision support systems techniques (7 week online course) and ongoing training during community engagement activities.		Delivered in 2022/23 with 69 people enrolled for weekly course. Nearly 800 people taken the course in total.	We plan to run another weekly facilitated course in September / October 2023.

2. Community wetland monitoring and management.	2.1 Number of Community Best Practices for wetland management that lead to maximizing biodiversity, and maintenance of household livelihoods, identified and recorded [target: at least 10 examples, with significant representation of women's role in management, from 5 communities] (yr 2 & 3). 2.2 Monitoring system designed, piloted and installed [target: fully operational in 5 wetland areas with significant representation of women involved in monitoring wetland fauna and floral biodiversity, livelihood and environmental parameters] (yr 2 & 3). 2.3 Number of communities and community groups trained in wetland monitoring [target: at least 10 with significant representation from women] (yr 2 & 3). 2.4 Number of wetland areas where communities are recognising best practices [target: at least 5] (yr 2 & 3).	2.1 15 community best practices for wetland management have been identified by the 10 wetland communities. Communities are producing their own videos to share these best practices. 2.2 Wetland monitoring system including wetland monitoring app and website dashboard has been developed. 2.3 5 community groups have been trained in wetland monitoring. 2.4 5 participatory videos are complete with a further 10 in production.	
Activity 2.1. Undertaking free, prior and informed consent process with key community groups engaged in the project (5 workshops).		Every group we have engaged with we have undertaken the free, prior and informed consent process with.	With new communities we engage with then we will also carry out the consent process.
Activity 2.2. Workshops with community groups to introduce community best practice wetland management approach concepts, techniques and how to identify best practice that maximises biodiversity, increases household livelihoods, increases access to direct and indirect benefits, maintains wetland area, allows judicious invasive species control, reduces flood risk and reduces agricultural pollution. Within the workshops community best practices for wetland management will be identified and recorded using participatory video and photography (1 week to do this. 5 workshops with 10 different community groups in five locations (Thalangama, Madinnagoda, Kolonnawa wetlands x 2 and Heen		5 wetland communities have been engaged and have produced at least one best practice wetland management video with the second in production.	The 5 original communities will finalise their 2 videos highlighting their examples of community best practice wetland management.

Ela). Best practices will also be documented with groups in the field following the workshops particularly to identify any seasonal differences in management approaches. Best practice champions will be identified during this process.			
Activity 2.3. Design of the monitoring system with key stakeholders and in particular real time flood forecasting initiatives. Agile prototyping will be undertaken in a participatory co-design approach (1 scoping workshop to produce design specification, questionnaire feedback on initial design developments, 1 prototype planning workshop and then 1 workshop to test the usability in the field).		A wetland monitoring system, the basis for the app, has been co-designed with community members.	No further work required.
Activity 2.4. Design and field testing of mobile App to monitor basic wetland physical, ecological and social characteristics. This will be building on the citizen science State of the World Wetlands survey undertaken in 2017 and reported at the Ramsar CoP13 in Dubai, October 2018 and the FOGSL citizen science activities within Colombo. It will involve a hackathon with community representatives familiar with app development and then development.		A wetland monitoring app has been co-designed with community members and is available to record a range of environmental and biodiversity parameters.	The wetland app will be promoted in the new communities and within the school program to encourage widespread adoption.
Activity 2.5. Training workshops for community groups in wetland monitoring approach (5 workshops in 5 wetlands (Thalangama, Madinnagoda, Kolonnawa wetlands x 2 and Heen Ela) with 10 community groups). Monitoring system will be installed in 5 wetland areas and monitoring undertaken.		Training in wetland monitoring has commenced in the five original wetland communities.	Training in wetland monitoring will continue for the new communities.
Activity 2.6. Sharing of community best practices with other community groups through workshops and identification of best practices by new communities (5 workshops with 5 community groups – 2 days each).		Workshops with 5 new communities occurred in the last quarter. Community best practice videos from the original communities were shared.	No further work required.
Activity 2.7. Identification of community best practices with new communities (5 community groups to identify best practice in 5 wetland locations) supported by the best practice champions identified in 2.2.		The new communities have identified their own best practices to share with others. Participatory videos of these best practices have been started.	Completion of best practice videos with the 5 new wetland communities.
Activity 2.8. Monitoring of community best practice wetland management (Project partners will monitor wetland best practice to identify improved understanding and practice through the most significant change participatory video method every 6 months).		Interviews to assess most significant change and questionnaires have commenced.	Monitoring will be ongoing in 2023.
3. **Development of wetland management principles to guide community wetland management.**	3.1 Analysis of monitoring data and community best practices resulting in the production of wetland	3.1 Analysis to be undertaken in 2023. 3.2 Information chain between communities and government decision-makers has been started but will be embedded during activities in 2023.	

	management principles to guide community wetland management (yr 2 & 3). 3.2 Information chain between communities and government decision-makers established (yr 2&3).		
Activity 3.1. Analysis of community best practice wetland management monitoring data to determine most effective community management approach.		Data collection is ongoing.	Analysis of data will occur in end of 2023.
Activity 3.2. Development of wetland management principles to guide community wetland management (Principles will be drafted based on the project data and the community workshops then used for consultation on the proposed principles).		Not commenced in 2022.	Wetland management principles to guide community wetland management will occur in 2023.
Activity 3.3. Production of wetland management principles on project website.		Not commenced in 2022.	Wetland management principles will be posted on websites in 2023.
Activity 3.4. Development of software platform to share monitoring data. Hosted on CC and IWMI websites and shared with other catchment initiatives such as the early warning flood forecasting being developed by SLLDC.		Monitoring data web-based dashboard has been developed.	Further testing and then promotion of web-based dashboard will occur in 2023.
Activity 3.5.Develop communication network and information chain through partner organisations to share community monitoring data on a regular basis with key government departments. Data and information will be shared through the project websites, integrated into water quality monitoring and early warning flood forecasting monitoring undertaken by SLLDC and reported regularly at the National Wetland Steering Committee meetings.		Discussions have started but this communication network is not yet established.	Communication network to be embedded in 2023.
4. Project impact evaluation.	4.1 Assessment of project impacts using developed project impact indicators against baseline assessment within the 10 target communities, the 9 dissemination communities and key government agencies. The baseline assessment will use comprehensive biodiversity, water quality and ecosystem service data gathered during the 2016 Wetland Management Strategy work. Evaluation components detailed in Activity 4.1. Participatory video monitoring and evaluation through interviews with key stakeholder groups (yr 2 & 3).	4.1 Baseline data collected. Impact assessment to be finalized in 2023.	

Activity 4.1. Assessment of project impacts using developed project impact indicators against baseline assessment. The agreed project baseline indicators identified in 1.4 will be determined at the start of the project and then reviewed at the end of year 2 and 3 to assess the impact the project is having. The assessments will be reported to all communities involved in the project, to project partners and published on the project websites. The assessment will take the form of participatory video interviews and questionnaires to assess social (including gendered), livelihood, ecosystem service benefits and economic indicators, analysis of monitoring biodiversity indicators such as presence and absence of animal species (Fishing Cat, Otter and Crocodile etc.), bird species (Stork-billed, Common, Pied and White-breasted Kingfishers, White Ibis, Lesser Whistling Teal, Purple Heron, Pheasant-tailed Jacana and Purple Swamphen etc.), plant species (*Aganope heptaphylla, Aponogeton crispus, Nymphaea nouchali etc.)* and invasive species (*Annona glabra*, *Salvenia molesta* and *Eichornia crassipes etc.)* and physical parameter data such as water quality, habitat modification etc., reviews of workshop and project output records, satellite imagery interpretation to determine wetland and invasive species extent, consultation with community groups and government agencies and review of the Project Equality Action plan.		Interviews and questionnaires have been collected with government agency staff and community members.	Interviews and questionnaires will be undertaken again in 2023 and analysed to assess change in the key project indicators.
5. Community led wetland monitoring and management including best practices disseminated regionally and internationally.	5.1 Establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Community Led Wetland Monitoring and Management within project partner and establishment of on-going programme of sharing best practice with communities as part of outreach activities of key government agency partners. (yr 3) 5.2 Number of community peer-to-peer knowledge exchange processes implemented between communities and community groups involved in wetland management in other areas of	5.1 This has not commenced yet but will be developed in 2023. 5.2 Peer to peer knowledge exchanges will commence in 2023. 5.3 Side event was held at Ramsar COP14 in Switzerland and project team contributed to events at CBD COP. 5.4 Websites established and updated. 5.5 Peer reviewed journal articles will be drafted in 2023/24.	

	Metro Colombo and within catchments adjacent to Colombo [target: within timeframe of project at least 3 communities in Metro Colombo and 3 communities each in 2 adjacent catchments] (yr 2 & 3). 5.3 Side events at Ramsar and CBD CoPs promoting community wetland monitoring and management. Policy briefings, training materials and reports shared at national and international platforms and events [target: at least 3 events] (yr 3 and beyond). 5.4 Website, with regular posting of content [target: 2 types of content posted per month] (yr 1, 2 and 3). 5.5 Peer-reviewed journal articles published [target: 2 articles] (yr 3 and beyond).		
Activity 5.1. Establish a Centre of Excellence for Community Led Wetland Monitoring and Management by having a dedicated open access data and resource hub on IWMI's website that shares case studies and monitoring data and trained IWMI staff that can train future staff, partner agencies and government staff in community led wetland monitoring and management.		Not undertaken yet.	To be commenced in 2023.
Activity 5.2. Workshops to allow community to community knowledge and experience exchanges with 3 new Metro Colombo wetland communities and 3 communities in each of two adjacent catchments (9 workshops).		Not undertaken yet.	We are planning on holding workshops as film festivals to showcase the community videos in different parts of Colombo and adjacent catchments.
Activity 5.3. Submit applications for side events at Ramsar and CBD CoPs.		Side event was held at Ramsar COP14 in Switzerland and project team contributed to events at CBD COP.	No further action required.

Activity 5.4. Develop policy briefings.	Not commenced yet.	Will be developed at the end of 2023.
Activity 5.5. Produce finalised pack of training materials.	This has been produced in English, Sinhala and Tamil and is available online.	No further action required.
Activity 5.6. Produce final reports.	Not commenced yet.	Reports will be produced in final quarter of the project in 2024.
Activity 5.7. Share project outputs at national and international events (World Wetlands Day, World Environment Day etc.).	Project outputs were shared at World Wetlands Day events and at other international meetings.	In 2023 outputs will be shared at international meetings and at an end of project event in Colombo.
Activity 5.8. Establish and regularly update project websites hosted by CC and IWMI.	Webpages have been established.	These will be updated with new information and outputs in 2023.
Activity 5.9. Draft and submit at least two articles to journals.	Not commenced yet.	This will commence at the end of 2023.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Engaged communities of Colombo managing wetlands sustainably and delivering: a halt to wetland loss and degradation; biodiversity protection; improved direct and indirect benefits for households; and improved health and wellbeing. .			
Outcome: Engaged communities monitoring wetlands, communicating to decision makers and managing their wetlands to protect biodiversity and to maintain essential wetland benefits to support the livelihoods of the urban poor.	0.1 A shared understanding among community, government and non-government agencies about wetland status, issues, management approaches, legislation and policy environment (yr 1). 0.2a) Household livelihood protection - Maintenance of access to direct and indirect wetland benefits for at least 3,800 households (16,720 people) as a result of implementation of community best practices and management guiding principles identifying disaster risk reduction, and maintenance of household incomes, including those of women, from 2020 baseline for 16,700 people through disaster risk reduction strategies (yr 3). b) Biodiversity – Wetland area maintained with no net loss from baseline; spread of invasive species *Annona glabra*, *Salvenia molesta* and *Eichornia crassipes* controlled within the 5 target wetlands from baseline and consensus framework for removal established. Populations of key plant, mammal and bird indicator species will be stable or increasing with respect to the baseline (yr 3).	0.1 Pre- and post-workshop (Activity 1.2) questionnaires to evaluate understanding and impact of best practice community wetland management approach (yr 1 & 2). 0.2 a) Household livelihoods - Household survey data showing maintenance of access to direct and indirect wetland benefits, maintenance of household incomes, and impact indicator report published on project and partner websites identifying risk reduction approaches (yr 3). b) Biodiversity - Project impact indicators for biodiversity in terms of habitat area, invasive species cover and key species recorded in impact indicator report published on project and partner websites (yr 3). c & d) Water management - Project impact indicator thresholds for water quality and flood risk from government and community water quality and water level monitoring recorded as achieved in impact indicator report published on project and partner websites (yr 3). e) Engaged communities - Monitoring data collected by multiple people in multiple locations,	**Outcome:** Engaged communities monitoring wetlands, communicating to decision makers and managing their wetlands to protect biodiversity and to maintain essential wetland benefits to support the livelihoods of the urban poor.

	c) Water management - Existing degradation of wetland hydrological functioning halted or reduced, and flood risk reduced to greater than 1 in 50 year event protection as a result of monitoring and management (by end of yr 3). d) Water quality – increased adoption of sustainable wetland production, such as rice, resulting in 50% decrease in BOD, nitrogen and phosphorous pollution (by end of yr 3). e) Engaged communities - At least 200 community members regularly (once a week) using the environmental monitoring system and sharing results with government agencies, with significant representation of women (yr 2 & 3). 0.2 80% of household members (including women) in target communities (13,376 people) and government agencies (80 people) having good understanding of wetland management principles (yr 2 & 3). 0.3 Project impact evaluation undertaken routinely to assess progress against project baseline indicators and log frame, identification of potential improvements and implementation of them to ensure there is effective delivery of the project and that short-term and longer-term impacts are realised (yr 1, 2 & 3).	recorded on software platform and included within impact indicator report published on project and partner websites (yr 2 & 3). 0.3 Household surveys and interviews indicating understanding of management principles in target communities and adoption within community wetland committees and adopted within government agency management guidance documentation and protocols (yr 3). 0.4 Project impact indicator report summarising project improvements implemented during the project and providing an assessment on progress regarding short-term and longer-term impacts published on project and partner websites (yr 1, 2 & 3). Government policy updates, CSO and community project activities, assessment of peer-to-peer knowledge exchange activities, web analytics data on the use and take up of the dedicated resources such as training materials and best practice guidelines, website resource downloads, journal citations, attendance numbers at dissemination side events and trained staff implementing the approach published on project and partner websites (yr 2 & 3).	

	0.4 Adoption of a community wetland management approach, within government agencies, communities and CSOs, that delivers biodiversity protection, sustainable livelihoods and improved well-being of residents.		
Outputs: **1. A robust evidence base of current wetland status and management within the Metro Colombo region and trained staff in community best practice wetland management and monitoring approaches.**	1.1 Key stakeholders and communities engaged in documenting existing status (yr 1). 1.2 Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report assessing key government, non-governmental, communities and stakeholders, information sharing networks, geo-spatial biodiversity data, ecosystem service, livelihood and well-being benefits, and risk and hazards (yr 1). 1.3 Number of staff from governmental and non-government organisations trained in the community best practice wetland management approach, including gender-inclusive methods [target: at least 30 with significant representation of women] (yr 1 & 2). 1.4. Number of staff from government and non-government organisations trained in gender-sensitive community-led monitoring and decision support systems [target: at least 30 with significant representation of women] (yr 1 & 2).	1.1 Stakeholder and community workshop gender-disaggregated attendance records. Reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop interviews with men and women/participatory monitoring and evaluation (yr 1). 1.2 Report published on project and partner websites (yr 1). 1.3 Training materials, presentations and reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop questionnaires to evaluate understanding and impact of best practice community wetland management approach (yr 1 & 2). 1.4 Training materials, presentations and reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop questionnaires to evaluate understanding and impact of community-led monitoring (yr 1 & 2).	Appropriate government, non-governmental staff and male and female community members are available to participate in stakeholder workshops, contribute to the baseline assessment and attend training and retain their roles during the course of the project [IWMI, SLLDC, UDA, CEA and FOGSL have long-term collaboration with relevant agencies/organisations within Sri Lanka, as well as experience of working with communities and organising events/workshops in Colombo].
2. Community wetland monitoring and management.	2.1 Number of Community Best Practices for wetland management that lead to maximizing biodiversity, and maintenance of household livelihoods, identified and recorded [target: at least 10 examples, with	2.1 Participatory videos and photostories available online on project website (yr 2 & 3). Annual report on progress presented at stakeholder workshop (yr 2 & 3). Final report on Community Best	Communities will have a continued interest in the project, and knowledge exchange will be sufficient for beneficiaries to successfully understand and apply community best practices [partners have in-depth experience of

	significant representation of women's role in management, from 5 communities] (yr 2 & 3). 2.2 Monitoring system designed, piloted and installed [target: fully operational in 5 wetland areas with significant representation of women involved in monitoring wetland fauna and floral biodiversity, livelihood and environmental parameters] (yr 2 & 3). 2.3 Number of communities and community groups trained in wetland monitoring [target: at least 10 with significant representation from women] (yr 2 & 3). 2.4 Number of wetland areas where communities are recognising best practices [target: at least 5] (yr 2 & 3).	Practices for Wetland Management (yr 3). 2.2 Reports detailing the monitoring system protocols, design and installed infrastructure. Data published in accessible database such as IWMI's Centre for Urban Water (www.curwsl.org) (yr 2 &3). 2.3 Training materials, presentations and reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop questionnaires to evaluate understanding and impact of monitoring (yr 2 & 3). 2.4 Participatory videos and photostories available online on project website (yr 2 & 3). Annual report on progress presented at stakeholder workshop (yr 2 & 3). Project impact indicator report (yr 2 & 3).	implementing peer-to-peer knowledge exchange at community level, and comprehensive evidence of effectiveness. Partners have also established community interest groups such as wetland community committees, farmer groups, self-help groups, women groups and youth groups which will be engaged through the project]. Appropriate government and non-governmental stakeholder staff are available to participate in capacity building activities and retain their roles during the course of the project [some of the relevant government agencies are partners on the project, whilst partners also have good working relationships with other stakeholders so can promote involvement in the project]. Workshop participants are willing to provide feedback on the impact of the training post-workshop [regular contact with participants will be undertaken post workshops to ensure continuity and engagement].
3. **Development of wetland management principles to guide community wetland management.**	3.1 Analysis of monitoring data and community best practices resulting in the production of wetland management principles to guide community wetland management (yr 2 & 3). 3.2 Information chain between communities and government decision-makers established (yr 2 & 3).	3.1 Draft principles and final principles published on project and partner websites and minuted as presented at annual project workshops and at the National Wetland Steering Committee (yr 2 & 3). 3.2 Monitoring data shared on software platform and records/reports of data recorded by decision-maker organizations (yr 2 &3).	Appropriate government, non-governmental and community stakeholders are available and willing to participate in developing wetland management principles particularly in relation to issues such as ownership, access and benefit sharing [partners have strong relationships with other government agencies, non-government organizations and community groups and will promote open dialogue to address key issues].
4. Project impact evaluation.	4.1 Assessment of project impacts using developed project impact indicators against baseline assessment within the 10 target communities, the 9	4.1 Project impact indicator report published on project and partner websites and production of monitoring	Project indicators are robust and provide criteria suitable for assessment, including the benefits across gender and various livelihoods [A multi

	dissemination communities and key government agencies. The baseline assessment will use comprehensive biodiversity, water quality and ecosystem service data gathered during the 2016 Wetland Management Strategy work. Evaluation components detailed in Activity 4.1. Participatory video monitoring and evaluation through interviews with key stakeholder groups (yr 2 & 3).	and evaluation participatory videos (yr 2 & 3).	stakeholder process will be undertaken to develop the criteria to fully reflect community and intra-community engagement with the monitoring programme, community access to benefits, biodiversity and water management. Indicators will only be chosen if they are easy to monitor and replicable over the project period].
5. Community led wetland monitoring and management including best practices disseminated regionally and internationally.	5.1 Establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Community Led Wetland Monitoring and Management within project partner and establishment of on-going programme of sharing best practice with communities as part of outreach activities of key government agency partners. (yr 3) 5.2 Number of community peer-to-peer knowledge exchange processes implemented between communities and community groups involved in wetland management in other areas of Metro Colombo and within catchments adjacent to Colombo [target: within timeframe of project at least 3 communities in Metro Colombo and 3 communities each in 2 adjacent catchments] (yr 2 & 3). 5.3 Side events at Ramsar and CBD CoPs promoting community wetland monitoring and management. Policy briefings,	5.1 Dedicated resources such as training materials and best practice guidelines, and trained staff at IWMI able to deliver and disseminate community led wetland monitoring and management. Launch event of new centre and programme of sharing best practice. Pre- and post-training questionnaires to evaluate understanding and impact monitoring. (yr 2 & 3). 5.2 Training materials, presentations and reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop interviews/participatory monitoring and evaluation to evaluate understanding and impact of community best practices approach (yr 2 & 3). 5.3 Record of dissemination platforms and events such as Ramsar COP and CBD COP side-events. Downloads of resources and	All government and non-government organizations will engage with the Community Led Wetland Monitoring and Management Centre once established [IWMI has long-term collaboration with relevant agencies/organisations within Sri Lanka, as well as experience of working with communities so is ideally placed to disseminate approaches refined within the project].

	training materials and reports shared at national and international platforms and events [target: at least 3 events] (yr 3 and beyond). 5.4 Website, with regular posting of content [target: 2 types of content posted per month] (yr 1, 2 and 3). 5.5 Peer-reviewed journal articles published [target: 2 articles] (yr 3 and beyond).	online activity tracked (yr 3 and beyond). 5.4 Number of postings of written and audiovisual content including participatory videos, photostories, briefings, reports and blog articles (yr 1, 2, 3 and beyond). 5.5 Number of articles submitted and then published to peer-reviewed journals (yr 3 and beyond).	

Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

1.1 Review of all data related to Metro Colombo Urban Wetlands including ecological, hydrological, geo-spatial biodiversity data, ecosystem service, livelihood and well-being benefits, and risk and hazards.

1.2 Stakeholder and community workshops to discuss and assess existing status of Colombo wetlands from a stakeholder and community perspective (will include government agencies, local community groups, local conservation groups such as the Urban Fishing Cat Conservation Project, farmers groups, schools, universities, women's groups, CSOs – 7 workshops).

1.3 Production of Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report.

1.4 Production of baseline indicators to assess project activities against. The baseline indicators will include the measurable indicators for the project outcome including number of community members engaged in environmental monitoring, perceived increase in access to and importance of direct and indirect wetland benefits to households, populations and presence/absence of habitat health indicator species, degradation of hydrological functioning reduced, flood risk reduced, wetland management principles produced and dissemination activities. These will provide the core baseline indicators but through the 7 workshops for 1.2 the baseline indicators will be expanded to include indicators relevant to the stakeholder groups such as rice yields, fishing catch, habitat extent, bird species present. The workshops and subsequent consultation will refine an agreed list that communities and project partners feel will fully assess the impact of the project.

1.5 Produce training materials – CC has developed a comprehensive set of training materials for identifying and implementing community owned solutions through participatory methods. These will be made bespoke for the Colombo context and translated where required.

1.6 Online training course in the community best practice wetland management approach, including gender-inclusive methods (7 week online course) and ongoing training during community engagement activities.

1.7 Online training course in gender-sensitive community-led monitoring and decision support systems techniques (7 week online course) and ongoing training during community engagement activities.

2.1 Undertaking free, prior and informed consent process with key community groups engaged in the project (5 workshops).

2.2 Workshops with community groups to introduce community best practice wetland management approach concepts, techniques and how to identify best practice that maximises biodiversity, increases household livelihoods, increases access to direct and indirect benefits, maintains wetland area, allows judicious invasive species control, reduces flood risk and reduces agricultural pollution. Within the workshops community best practices for wetland management will be identified and recorded using participatory video and photography (1 week to do this. 5 workshops with 10 different community groups in five locations (Thalangama, Madinnagoda, Kolonnawa

wetlands x 2 and Heen Ela). Best practices will also be documented with groups in the field following the workshops particularly to identify any seasonal differences in management approaches. Best practice champions will be identified during this process.

2.3 Design of the monitoring system with key stakeholders and in particular real time flood forecasting initiatives. Agile prototyping will be undertaken in a participatory co-design approach (1 scoping workshop to produce design specification, questionnaire feedback on initial design developments, 1 prototype planning workshop and then 1 workshop to test the usability in the field).

2.4 Design and field testing of mobile App to monitor basic wetland physical, ecological and social characteristics. This will be building on the citizen science State of the World Wetlands survey undertaken in 2017 and reported at the Ramsar CoP13 in Dubai, October 2018 and the FOGSL citizen science activities within Colombo. It will involve a hackathon with community representatives familiar with app development and then development.

2.5 Training workshops for community groups in wetland monitoring approach (5 workshops in 5 wetlands (Thalangama, Madinnagoda, Kolonnawa wetlands x 2 and Heen Ela) with 10 community groups). Monitoring system will be installed in 5 wetland areas and monitoring undertaken.

2.6 Sharing of community best practices with other community groups through workshops and identification of best practices by new communities (5 workshops with 5 community groups – 2 days each).

2.7 Identification of community best practices with new communities (5 community groups to identify best practice in 5 wetland locations) supported by the best practice champions identified in 2.2.

2.8 Monitoring of community best practice wetland management (Project partners will monitor wetland best practice to identify improved understanding and practice through the most significant change participatory video method every 6 months).

3.1 Analysis of community best practice wetland management monitoring data to determine most effective community management approach.

3.2 Development of wetland management principles to guide community wetland management (Principles will be drafted based on the project data and the community workshops then used for consultation on the proposed principles).

3.3 Production of wetland management principles on project website.

3.4 Development of software platform to share monitoring data. Hosted on CC and IWMI websites and shared with other catchment initiatives such as the early warning flood forecasting being developed by SLLDC.

3.5 Develop communication network and information chain through partner organisations to share community monitoring data on a regular basis with key government departments. Data and information will be shared through the project websites, integrated into water quality monitoring and early warning flood forecasting monitoring undertaken by SLLDC and reported regularly at the National Wetland Steering Committee meetings.

4.1 Assessment of project impacts using developed project impact indicators against baseline assessment. The agreed project baseline indicators identified in 1.4 will be determined at the start of the project and then reviewed at the end of year 2 and 3 to assess the impact the project is having. The assessments will be reported to all communities involved in the project, to project partners and published on the project websites. The assessment will take the form of participatory video interviews and questionnaires to assess social (including gendered), livelihood, ecosystem service benefits and economic indicators, analysis of monitoring biodiversity indicators such as presence and absence of animal species (Fishing Cat, Otter and Crocodile etc.), bird species (Stork-billed, Common, Pied and White-breasted Kingfishers, White Ibis, Lesser Whistling Teal, Purple Heron, Pheasant-tailed Jacana and Purple Swamphen etc.), plant species (*Aganope heptaphylla, Aponogeton crispus, Nymphaea nouchali etc.)* and invasive species (*Annona glabra*, *Salvenia molesta* and *Eichornia crassipes etc.)* and physical parameter data such as water quality, habitat

modification etc., reviews of workshop and project output records, satellite imagery interpretation to determine wetland and invasive species extent, consultation with community groups and government agencies and review of the Project Equality Action plan.

5.1 Establish a Centre of Excellence for Community Led Wetland Monitoring and Management by having a dedicated open access data and resource hub on IWMI's website that shares case studies and monitoring data and trained IWMI staff that can train future staff, partner agencies and government staff in community led wetland monitoring and management.

5.2 Workshops to allow community to community knowledge and experience exchanges with 3 new Metro Colombo wetland communities and 3 communities in each of two adjacent catchments (9 workshops).

5.3 Submit applications for side events at Ramsar and CBD CoPs.

5.4 Develop policy briefings.

5.5 Produce finalised pack of training materials.

5.6 Produce final reports.

5.7 Share project outputs at national and international events (World Wetlands Day, World Environment Day etc.).

5.8 Establish and regularly update project websites hosted by CC and IWMI.

5.9 Draft and submit at least two articles to journals.

Annex 3: Standard Indicators

Table 1 Project Standard Indicators

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
DI-A01	6A: Training in community best practice wetland management approach (Partner and stakeholder staff)	Number of government officials and other stakeholders trained in community best practice wetland management	People	Men	0	30 (16 men)			30
DI-A01	6A: Training in community led monitoring and decision support systems (Partner and stakeholder staff)	Number of government officials and other stakeholders trained in community led monitoring and decision support systems	People	Men	0	21 (14 men)			30
D1-A01	6A: Training in wetland monitoring (community representatives)	Number of community representatives trained in wetland monitoring	People	Men	0	146 (88 men)			60
D1-A01	7: Online training course in community wetland monitoring and management	Number of government officials and other stakeholders enrolling and completing the online training course in wetland monitoring and management	People	English, Sinhala and Tamil versions	0	20	256 (English) 18 (Sinhala) 9 (Tamil)	256 18 9	350
DI-C17	11A: Peer reviewed journal articles	Number of unique papers submitted to peer reviewed journals	Number	None	0				2
DI-C16	12A: Wetland status database	Number of unique records added to project created database on Colombo wetland status	Number	Biodiversity; Wetland health; Wetland threats	0				300
DI-C14	14A: Dissemination workshops and conferences organized and 14B: Dissemination workshops and conferences presented at	Number of government decision-makers attending project workshops and briefings	Number	Men	0				30
N/A	21: Centre of Excellence for Community Led Wetland Monitoring and Management	N/A	Number		0				1
N/A	23: In-kind contributions	N/A			[redacted] Annual	[redacted] Annual			Predicted in-kind

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
					software costs [redacted] Training material Staff costs [redacted]	software costs [redacted] Training material Staff costs [redacted] [redacted] mobile app funding			contribution [redacted]
DI-C04	Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Report	Updated assessment of community use and wetland status published for the Colombo wetlands	Number		0	1			1
DI-C01	Community best practice wetland management videos	Number of community wetland best practice videos published and endorsed for Colombo urban wetlands	Number		0				10
DI-C01	Wetland management principles	Number of best practice guides on community wetland management practices published	Number		0				1
NEW INDICATORS FROM BCF LIST TO BE INCLUDED									
DI-B05		Number of people with increased participation in wetland local management organisations (i.e.	People	Men					

DI Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with DI Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
		participation in governance/citizen engagement							
DI-A07		Number of government institutions/departments with enhances awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues	Government Institutions	Local/national					5

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	X
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	N/A
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	N/A
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 16)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	