



Darwin Initiative Main: Final 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: no later than 3 months after agreed end date.

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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Resources 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	1 st September 2020 to 31 st January 2024
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	Radheeka Jirasinha, Matthew Simpson, Priyanie Amerasinghe and Matthew McCartney 14/06/24

1 Project Summary

The urban wetlands of Colombo, Sri Lanka (Figure 1), contain unique biodiversity that supports numerous livelihood services. The wetland complex is also recognised for the important role it plays in flood protection of the city. Despite their importance, wetland encroachment and destruction continues. Although, in recent years, increased attention has been given to tackling wetland loss, government agencies need greater community engagement and biodiversity

monitoring. This project developed a mechanism for aligning community wetland practices and monitoring with government policies. At the catchment scale, community best practices of wetland management, were promoted to safeguard biodiversity, improve livelihoods and secure the well-being of 2.3 million people directly or indirectly.

Colombo Wetland Complex (CWC)

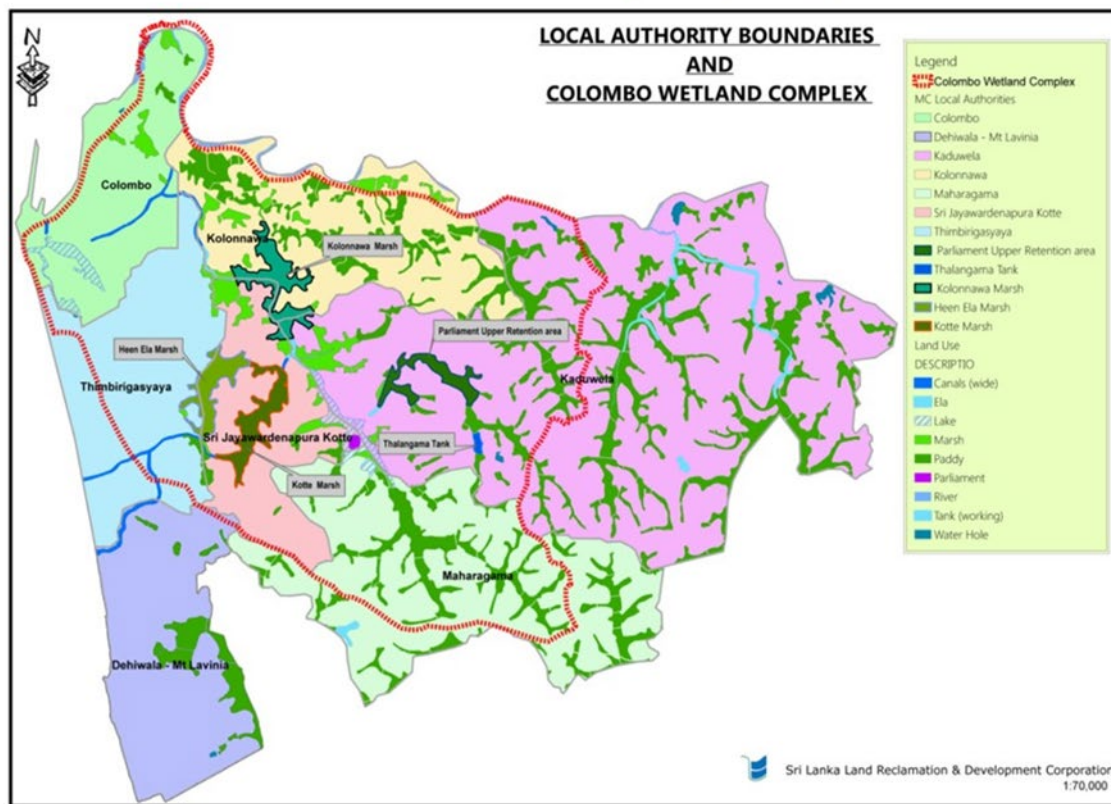


Figure 1: Map of the Colombo Wetland Complex (CWC)

The project aimed to address biodiversity loss and enhance livelihood opportunities of those living next to wetlands. The issues to be addressed were identified through consultation with a variety of stakeholders. In total we worked in 10 wetlands within the wetland complex (Figure 6), with 5 selected for initial engagement and a second group of 5 where interventions built from lessons learned in the first five.

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

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

At the end of the project the following were anticipated:

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.

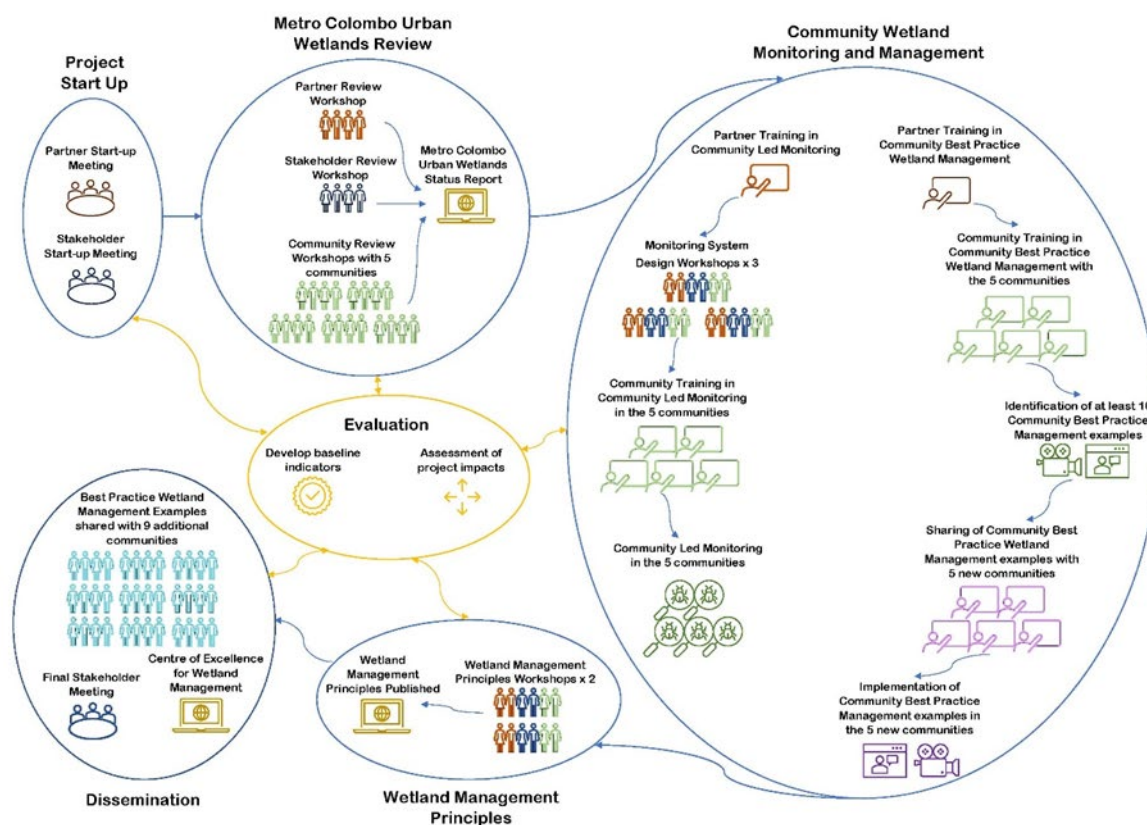


Figure 2: Schematic of the planned project delivery

2 Project Partnerships

The lead project partner, International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (Sri Lanka), was supported in terms of project management by the Cobra Collective (CC) (UK). The following partners were actively engaged throughout 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 were underpinned by long-term relationships with Colombo's community groups and key government agencies. Through extensive consultation during project development, communities and government agencies identified as a priority 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. Thus, the project was co-designed and delivered, with key groups in Colombo to deliver project outcomes.

Although COVID-19 restrictions on travel and in-person meetings significantly reduced planned engagement in the first 18-months, the project continued with online engagement. After, the end

of 2021, when covid restrictions were lifted, the project team significantly ramped up partner engagement. Despite difficulties caused by the economic crisis in Sri Lanka (e.g. fuel rationing and hyperinflation), interaction with partners and the 5 original wetland communities selected for monitoring/study continued 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 the appointed staff was to engage, coordinate and deliver community 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 also organized virtual WhatsApp meetings. Each group had community-level meetings and 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 videos in their own areas in addition to meetings held at the IWMI office for experience sharing and training. Each wetland community produced 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	Manosha Welikala (Female) – Agriculture Research and Development officer, Department of Agrarian Services	M.D.D Jayathissa (Female)	Mallika Padmini Perera (Female)
Madiwela	Hiranth de Silva (Male) – SLLDC	Jagath Wasantha (Male) Manoranjana Peiris* (Male)	N. Randika Perera (Female) Sathsara Pasan (Male)*

*New appointments when an incumbent left the program

The CC team conducted a 3-week visit to Sri Lanka from 17th January to 12th February 2022 (summary of meetings, Annex 5), and together with IWMI, worked closely with an identified Sri Lankan NGO, Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills, on the development of a mobile app for use by community members for wetland health monitoring (Activity 2.4). This partnership was further strengthened during the CC visit to Sri Lanka in February 2023, which provided support for the continued development and further testing of the mobile app.

During the CC team visit from the 09th – 18th February 2023, a face-to-face stakeholder workshop (5th stakeholder workshop, Annex 5) was conducted, which involved all partners, community representatives and interested stakeholders in wetland management. An interactive discussion session was held for participants of the online course on community environmental management (Activity 1.5), and a planning meeting was conducted for the five wetland communities.

In addition, work with 5 new communities (i.e. Kimbulawela, Madinnagoda, Crow Island, Attidiya and Mulleriyawa Lake, Kotikawatta) commenced in February 2023, creating and strengthening partnerships with government agencies and community members of each of the wetland sites, including officers of the Central Environment Authority (for Attidiya), representatives of the Sumithuru Parisara (environment) volunteer group (for Mulleriyawa), the Beach Park Management Society (for Crow Island) and farmer group/community members from Kimbulawala and Madinnagoda. Meetings were held with all new communities and participatory video training and filming took place to produce five additional videos (Activity 2.2).

During the CC team visit from the 10th to 17th August 2023, the 6th stakeholder (Annex 5) workshop was conducted. At this workshop, an overview of project progress and feedback was obtained from partners, community representatives and other stakeholders. Further, meetings with the new communities were conducted to finalise the best practice videos, and larger video screening events were conducted in Kottawa in coordination with the Agrarian Services Centre and Beddagana in coordination with the Divisional Secretariat (Activity 2.6, Annex 5).

Between September and October 2023, one-to-one meetings were conducted between the IWMI project team and the partner agencies (Annex 5) to continue the video mediated dialogue initiated at the stakeholder workshops, and to obtain their honest views and feedback on the project and inputs to the development of the wetland management framework. The draft wetland management framework was shared at a partner meeting in December 2023. It was reviewed and approved by the partners, before presentation at a high-level meeting in January 2024 (Annex 5). The high-level meeting was held at the Ministry of Environment, and the chief guest was the British Deputy High Commissioner, Mrs Lisa Whanstall.

In addition to the project partners, the project continued to have regular engagement with UNDP, and their Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (OP6/OP7). The programme provides financial assistance for initiatives of Civil Society Organizations and Community Based Organizations that contribute to the environment including wetlands in the Colombo Landscape. Dr Priyane Amerasinghe (IWMI) has been appointed as a National Steering Committee member of the programme for Operational Phases 6 and 7 (i.e 2021-2024) and is helping to coordinate activities and align project outputs as well as build synergies across projects. Her term has been extended for a period of 3 years (2024 to 2026) and is the current chairperson. The results of this project can now be directly utilised for the OP 7 projects being funded under the GEF-SGP program.

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). Formal reporting to the BHC was maintained 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 and was initiated in June 2023.

Additions - Achievements Lessons learned etc.

Usually, in their day-to-day activities, the partners deliver their mandates independently. This project was able to bring together key partners to work together especially engaging with the communities. Community voices were picked up throughout project duration which was a positive outcome. Continuous engagement was needed to keep the groups together, but because the Partners now realise that community action is important, we feel confident that the interactions will continue. Community engagement has now been embedded in the Wetland Management Framework which establishes ongoing engagement activities and has been co-developed with the partners.

The partnerships cultivated and strengthened through the project are continuing beyond the end of the project, including in the new Darwin "Rights of Wetlands" project but also in other ways. For example, IWMI participated and showcased the project outputs at the World Wetlands Day event organised by CEA in February 2024 and will participate in the Wetlands Link International Asia Oceania Conference organised by SLLDC in June 2024. IWMI is also working closely with SLLDC and other Government Departments in an FCDO funded project, that is valuing wetland ecosystem services in the Kalu Oya catchment, to the north of Colombo.

3 Project Achievements

a. Outputs

Output 1

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

In Year 1, we held a series of online meetings and workshops (Annex 5) with project partners and stakeholders requesting their data regarding the status of wetlands in Metro Colombo. We utilised the database of wetland stakeholders held by the National Wetland Steering Committee (NWSC) and networks of the project partners, to identify relevant wetland stakeholders to include within the project activities. The Biodiversity Secretariat, Ministry of Environment, on behalf of the project, invited participants to all official meetings. Following the meetings, we issued a questionnaire to all partners and stakeholders to help us understand the data and information they hold. In addition to the group meetings, we also met online with individual partners and stakeholders to discuss their data and information. The activity continued into Y2 as the task of collection and collation was delayed as partner and stakeholder staff were often in lockdown, due to COVID-19 restrictions, and unable to access data held at offices. The data collation and review were finalised in the reporting period Apr to Sep 2021.

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

The program was coordinated through the Biodiversity Secretariat. Following meetings in Year 1 an online questionnaire was developed, issued and analysed to understand partner and stakeholder individual perceptions of the status of the Colombo wetlands (63 respondents). The Project Partner Workshop and Stakeholder Workshop in June 2021 (Meeting report Annex 5) finalised and agreed on a set of criteria to identify wetland communities for the project to work with. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, meaningful interaction with the wetland communities themselves was not possible until January 2022, whereafter engagement with the communities was actively pursued (following national protocols for COVID-19), only to be further delayed due to the political and economic crisis in the country in mid-late 2022.

Activity 1.3 – Production of Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status Report

Data from Activity 1 and Activity 2 (despite the delays), including information from the online perception questionnaire, were collated to produce the Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report. This activity covered a period from 2016 to 2021 following the development of Wetland Management Strategy for Colombo (2016). This is attached to this report (Annex 5).

Activity 1.4 – Production of baseline indicators to assess project activities

The Project Partner Workshop and Stakeholder Workshops in Yr1 produced an initial list of project indicators which was finalised and agreed with the wider group in June 2021 (Activity 1.2, meeting report in Annex 5).

Activity 1.5 – Production of training materials

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 (<https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/index.php?categoryid=491>) has been translated into Sinhala (<https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/index.php?categoryid=531>) and Tamil (<https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/index.php?categoryid=532>) and all 3 versions are available on the Open University's OpenLearn Create platform.

Although the online course was designed for a range of abilities, knowledge and understanding, we recognised that not everyone, particularly from poor and marginalised groups, was able to access the digital information. We therefore ran face-to-face community workshops in January and February 2022, which were continued by project partners on a weekly basis. See Annex 5 for records of face-to-face meetings including breakdown of participants in terms of gender.

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 we held a weekly online meeting to discuss the topic and share experiences. This culminated in a face-to-face training session at IWMI in Colombo (31 participants, 18 Female, 13 Male) in February 2023 during the visit of the CC team (Figure 3) To date, the online course has been viewed by 7499 people with 469 people completing the course (English course – 445 people, Sinhala course – 9 people and Tamil course 15 people).



Figure 3: Participants at the community environmental management course workshop – 17th February 2023, held at IWMI

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 this training with face-to-face meetings in January and February 2022. Throughout the project period, we conducted other online training (e.g. development of the script for the videos) and face-to-face training courses for participatory video and other elements (see Annex 2).

Several additional training and engagement activities were identified and delivered that were not included in the original proposal and logframe but have contributed to the delivery of the project outcome and added value to the project. These are described below.

Funding was secured for Luisa Charles from the UK to support the monitoring aspect of the project. She was a double master's Design Engineering student at Imperial College London and the Royal College of Art, completing her final year project with the Imperial College Robot Intelligence Lab. As part of her Masters program she co-developed a low cost, citizen science un-manned Surface Vehicle (USV) kit for community water quality monitoring. She visited Colombo in April 2022 and held a series of training sessions and workshops with community groups to develop the USV water quality monitoring approach.

In conjunction with FOGSL, a school 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 to engage in wetland activities. A wetland and biodiversity awareness programme was developed and delivered at *Diyasaru* Wetland Park, where 137 children, across a range of ages, participated during the week (Table 2; Figure 4). Follow-up activities were organised with several additional schools which involved visits and presentations to school children and parents (Table 3; Figure 5).

Table 2: Number of school children that participated in the wetland 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

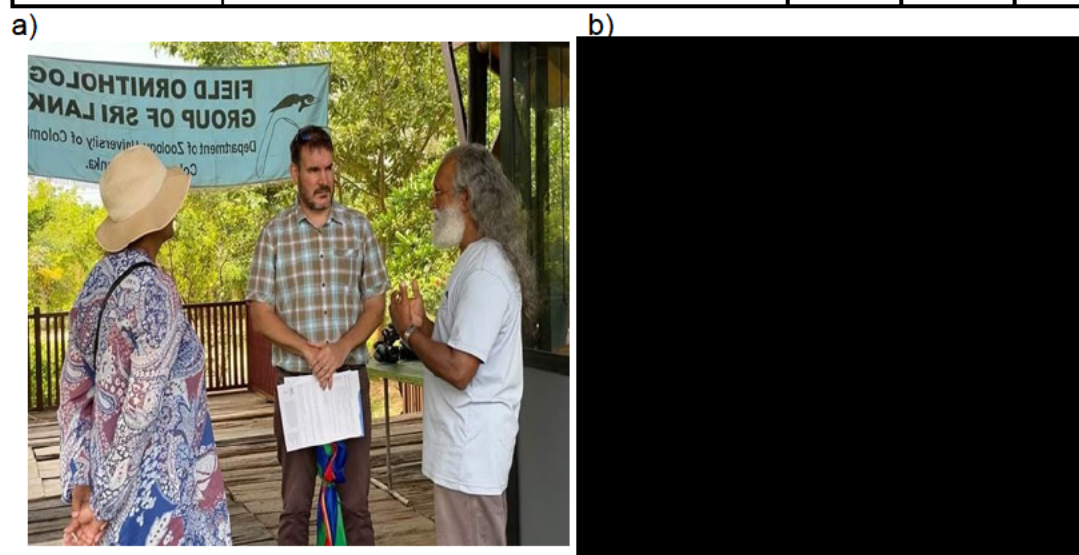


Figure 4: a) Andrew Price of the British High Commission visits Diyasaru Wetland park and meets with Dr Priyanie Amerasinghe of IWMI and Professor Kotagama of FOGSL during the schools program; b) Children participating in the schools program, learning about the robotic device used for water quality monitoring.

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



Figure 5: Schools involved in the extended schools program (a) Hindu College Rajagiriya; b) Vidyawardana maha vidyalaya, Rajagiriya.

A further 6-month Wetlands School Program (August 2023 – January 2024) was co-developed and implemented by partner FOGSL to continue the initial engagement with the schools into a more thorough wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services program. The report produced by FOGSL can be found in Annex 5.

Output 2

Activity 2.1 – Undertaking free, prior and informed consent process

The project was reviewed and approved by the IWMI Institutional Review Board (IRB) and given ethical clearance (number 2020_29). This includes the procedures proposed for free, prior and informed consent. The online course covers free, prior and informed consent in detail and we followed this up by introducing this topic in face-to-face meetings and workshops and have ensured that all participants understand and sign the consent form before contributing to the project. The English version of the project consent form is included in Annex 5. This includes all participants from the 5 recently selected wetland communities (see Activity 2.2). In designing and implementing the schools program, we liaised with the Ministry of Education and followed all advice on protocols for obtaining permission from school head teachers and parents before engaging with children.

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

Intensive efforts were made in January and February 2022 to engage five community groups within Colombo to introduce and identify community best practice wetland management. Meetings with project partners were held to finalise the communities to work with, identify project partner staff that would be involved in the community engagement and to identify community champions. Five communities were chosen, using co-developed criteria with partners and stakeholders, with very different contexts to understand the range of issues facing communities and the community best practice wetland management solutions occurring within Colombo (see Annex 5 for more details). The five communities were: Beddagana, Kolonnawa, Heen Ela, Madiwela and Kottawa (Figure 4).

The community groups identified the challenges they face, particularly flooding, economic pressures and pollution and identified community best practice wetland management solutions to these challenges. The community groups were trained in participatory video, and from 2022-2023 intensive interaction continued (i.e. weekly meetings) with these groups, in large part focused on the development of participatory videos. Each of the original 5 communities produced one video on best management practices and a second video on challenges faced living in a wetland area (i.e. a total of 10 participatory videos). The links to the videos are available here - [Darwin Project Sri Lanka - Participatory Videos - OneDrive \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

From January 2023 the process was extended to 5 new wetlands (i.e Kimbulawela, Madinnagoda, Crow Island, Attidiya and Mulleriyawa Lake), where more support was provided from the project team in the production of the videos due to the short time frame. A total of 5

videos were created and are available here: [Darwin Project Sri Lanka – Community Wetland Videos](#).

Activity 2.3 Design of the monitoring system with key stakeholders

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 (Wetland Journey) – that can provide evidence for wetland management and decision-making. These parameters are built into the citizen science app (section 2.4). Other individuals from NGOs and Societies were involved in using the wetland monitoring app. Data are presented in 3.4

Activity 2.4 Design and field testing of mobile App (Wetland Journey).

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 (see Annex 5 for more details). This app facilitates the reporting of wetland indicators that have been selected by communities and stakeholders themselves.

The Beta version of this app was field tested by the original 5 wetland communities and through the FOGSL school program. It can be found here <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.anku.WetlandApp>. The app is completed (with translations in Sinhala and Tamil) and was rolled out for use by communities and stakeholders to enable reporting on wetland indicators that they have identified as important (Annex 5).

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 app. Translated into Tamil and Sinhala and customised for the specific situation in Colombo the Mapeo app can be 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

Training workshops for community groups in wetland monitoring approaches were undertaken in January and February 2022. The questions for the monitoring app (Annex 5) were developed with community groups to monitor challenges such as pollution, flooding and biodiversity loss that communities highlighted were issues that they face. Two training sessions were undertaken with community groups in wetland monitoring approaches and in particular the use of the wetland monitoring app. Building on the wetlands week schools' program (Activity 1.6/1.7), partner organisation FOGSL conducted a 6-month program for the same schools on further wetlands and biodiversity monitoring including the use of the mobile app (report in Annex 5).

Activity 2.6 Sharing of community best practices with other community groups

In January 2023, the program was extended to 5 new wetland communities (i.e. Kimbulawela, Madinnagoda, Crow Island, Attidiya and Mulleriyawa Lake) (Figure 6). During the CC mission in February 2023, a site coordinator and/or community representative was identified for each of the new wetlands (Table 4). The mode of communication and coordination varied across the 5 new wetland communities, where the main focal point was a community representative, volunteer group representative or government agency representative. 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.

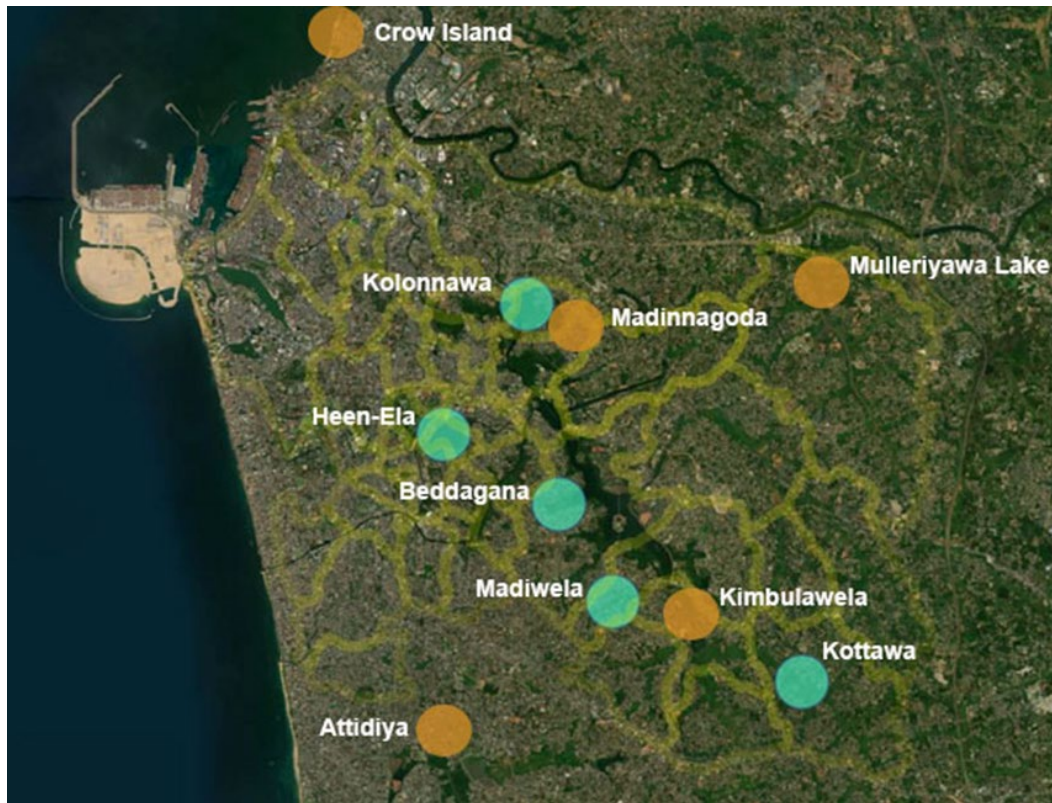


Figure 6: Map showing the location of the 5 original (green) and 5 more recently selected (beige) wetland communities. Legend for the colored dots.

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

Wetland	Site coordinator and/or Community representative
Attidiya	Nayana Wickramage (F), Coordinator of Programmes at Sobhaketha, CEA
Crow Island	Shantha Bandara, (M) Crow Island, Beach Park Management Society
Kimbulawela	W. Nishantha Perera (M), and Yamuna Edirisinghe (F)
Madinnagoda	Nihal Ranjith Madapatha (M), and Lakmali Munasinghe (F)
Mulleriyawa Lake	Nayana Getamanna (F), Technical Officer, Pradeshiya Sabha, Kotikawatta, Mullariyawa, and Hemasiri Amarasinghe (M)



Figure 7: Video screening event at Diyasaru Park – 20th January 2024

Activity 2.7 Identification of community best practices with new communities

New communities were identified from the initial list of wetland communities created through partner and stakeholder discussions (Activity 2.2). Several community meetings were held with representatives of the 5 new communities to introduce the project, identify best practices within

the communities, provide training in participatory video techniques, and support the production of the videos (Activity 2.8).

Activity 2.8 Monitoring of community best practice wetland management

Participatory video sessions were conducted with the 10 wetland communities and a total of 15 videos were made that highlight the social and environmental challenges the communities face and the best practice solutions they are implementing (Activity 2.2, 2.6). The questionnaires conducted at the end of the project period assess the engagement of the communities in wetland management compared to the start of the project (Activity 4.1, Stakeholder and Community Perception Survey, Annex 5).

Output 3

Activity 3.1 Analysis of community best practice wetland management monitoring data

The Wetland Journey mobile app dashboard provides ongoing data analysis for all users to investigate and download the monitoring data. Data can be downloaded here: <https://lookerstudio.google.com/embed/reporting/4de8b7b0-172d-4cfb-a086-1436ac6ee87c/page/4GKSD>

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

Following the one-to-one agency meetings with the partners of the project (Section 2), the need for the development of a wetland management framework incorporating wetland management principles in alignment with the National Wetland Management Strategy and Policy, was highlighted. The project team co-developed the wetland management framework (Annex 5) that includes the wetland management principles with the project partners, reviewed the draft framework at a partner meeting in December 2023, and with partner approval, presented the framework at a high-level stakeholder meeting at the Ministry of Environment in January 2024.

Activity 3.3 Production of wetland management principles on project website

The wetland management framework, incorporating the wetland management principles has been uploaded here: <https://cobracollective.org/portfolio/increasing-the-resilience-of-biodiversity-and-livelihoods-in-colombos-wetlands/>

Activity 3.4 Development of software platform to share monitoring data

EIL have developed a Colombo Wetlands Environmental Data Visualization Dashboard website <https://lookerstudio.google.com/embed/reporting/4de8b7b0-172d-4cfb-a0861436ac6ee87c/page/4GKSD>.

Data from the Wetlands Journey mobile app (Activity 2.4) can be uploaded to this site for comparison with other locations. This was field tested extensively with community members and other nature enthusiasts.

Activity 3.5 Develop communication network and information chain through partner organisations

The partner platform was developed and maintained throughout the project period and continues beyond the project. Regular stakeholder workshops, partner meetings and discussions continued online and in-person, and support extended among the partners for various awareness raising events and policy discussions (Section 2). A database of stakeholder contacts for wetland management was created and maintained throughout the project.

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 is assessed against these. Annex 5 provides a list of the agreed indicators developed. A baseline was developed at the start of engagement with communities in January and February 2022, through interviews and questionnaires. The impact of project activities was assessed against this baseline, by administering the same questionnaire at the end of 2023/2024 (Stakeholder and Community Perception Survey, Annex 5).

Output 5

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

At the proposal stage of the project, it was envisaged that a single centre of excellence would be established. However, as the project progressed and discussions continued among project partners and stakeholders it was decided that community led wetland monitoring and management should be embedded in all partner organisations through the formal establishment of the Colombo Wetland Management Framework (Annex 5). The framework ensures that all partners engage formally with communities at all wetlands through Wetland Delivery Boards and Wetland Engagement Champions for each wetland. Decisions made and activities implemented with communities at specific wetlands then cascade up to the Colombo Wetland Strategy Committee and ultimately up to the National Wetland Steering Committee. The implementation of the Colombo Wetland Management Framework serves as a virtual “hub” for the exchange of knowledge and collaboration on wetland issues in Colombo and Sri Lanka and ensures community led wetland monitoring and management best practice is disseminated to all relevant agencies and implemented across Sri Lanka

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

Dialogue, sharing of information and training between the original 5 communities and the new 5 communities occurred through the participatory videos on wetland management (Activity 2.6). In August 2023 workshops and community video screening events were held to facilitate knowledge and experience exchange to additional communities across Colombo. One video screening event was held at the Kottawa-Maharagama Agrarian Services Centre on the 7th of August 2023, and another was held at Beddagana in coordination with the Kotte Divisional Secretariat on the 14th of August 2023.

All videos developed by the 10 communities were showcased at an event open to the public on the 20th of January 2024 at Diyasaru Park (wetland park run by SLLDC) (Figure 7). The community representatives were invited to interact with and to introduce their videos to the public, which facilitated the sharing of challenges faced and best practices in wetland management. All communities, school program participants and the public were invited to the event.

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

The draft policy brief on the Colombo Wetland Management Framework is complete and will be ready for publication by August 2024.

Activity 5.5 Produce finalised pack of training materials

The full training courses delivered during the project are available online with access for all in the following languages:

- English - <https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/index.php?categoryid=491>
- Sinhala - <https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/index.php?categoryid=531>
- Tamil - <https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/course/index.php?categoryid=532>

Activity 5.6 Produce final reports

This report is the final report and output of the project.

Activity 5.7 - Share project outputs at national and international events

Presentations were given at public face-to-face and online events celebrating World Wetlands Day in 2022 and in 2023, 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 above event can be found here <https://youtu.be/6VshqUfatR0>

Dr. Priyanie Amerasinghe was in dialogue with the Sobhketha Radio program of the CEA, in Wetland Restoration. It was aired on 29 January 2023 through the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation.

In addition to the side event at the Convention on Wetlands Conference of Parties, findings and updates of the project were reported at the following:

- INTECOL Wetlands Conference - Christchurch, New Zealand and virtual – October 2021
- Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Conference – virtual – June 2021
- Society of Wetland Scientists Annual Conference in Spokane, Washington – June 2023

Activity 5.8 - Establish and regularly update project websites

Project pages have been established:

<https://cobracollective.org/portfolio/increasing-the-resilience-of-biodiversity-and-livelihoods-in-colombos-wetlands/>

<https://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/what-we-do/projects/show-projects/?C=1125>

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

The project team are planning 3 journal articles on the status of Colombo's wetlands, lessons learned during community engagement for wetland management including modifying community engagement techniques during times of adversity, and the inter-dependencies between communities and wetlands. It is planned that these papers will be completed by end of 2024.

Other activities

In addition, the project has actively engaged with the British High Commission in Sri Lanka, regularly updating them on project progress and developing a communication plan with High Commission staff. We have also supported a visit by Ambassador Ken O'Flaherty, Mr Andrew Price, Ms Ayuni Munasinghe (from the High Commission Communication team) to the Colombo Wetlands and had the opportunity to showcase the project. We have also established close collaboration with the UNDP GEF Small Grants Program in Sri Lanka. Dr. Priyanie Amerasinghe (IWMI) has been asked to sit on their Advisory Board and provides an opportunity to coordinate our project activities with other organisations within the programme. The project team have also been asked to contribute to the development of a Living Entities Policy which includes the legal recognition of wetland ecosystems.

b. Outcome

Outcome as in log frame:

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.

The project was successful in developing an understanding among community, government and non-government agencies about wetland status, issues, management approaches, legislation and policy. The sharing of the Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report, presentations and workshops helped deliver the initial engagement aspect of the outcome.

In 2022/23 we made significant progress working with local wetland communities and 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. This mechanism worked very well in obtaining and sustaining interest in the project from the local community members. The local coordinator (from IWMI) maintained regular communication (sometimes daily) with each of the site coordinators and all activities were relayed to partners via email/WhatsApp etc. The local coordinator conducted training sessions in the field when there was a need.

The participatory video approach 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 undertaking to address the concerns and manage wetland natural resources. The school program was extremely popular with teachers, pupils and parents, and led to an increased awareness of critical wetlands and biodiversity among the next generation.

The extension of the project to 5 new wetlands was successfully completed with lessons learned from the original 5 and interaction between community members being used to enhance community involvement and to initiate project activities speedily in the new sites. The launch of the wetland app Wetland Journeys has also been a powerful tool in engaging communities and the public to monitor wetlands.

The impact evaluation indicators developed for the project in the log frame were co-developed with project partners, stakeholders and communities. We have evaluated these against the BCF standard indicators and 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 the indicators are adequate to assess whether the outcome is achieved.

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

c. Monitoring of assumptions

In 2021, the COVID-19 situation and restrictions were a major risk to the delivery of the project outputs and achieving the project outcome. Travel to Sri Lanka for UK partners and face-to-face meetings in Sri Lanka were not possible due to travel bans and social distancing. This was particularly problematic for community training and engagement activities and also impacted meetings with partners and stakeholders. Sri Lanka was progressive in the vaccine coverage, for the Colombo area, however, there were delays of the supply due to unforeseen circumstances. During mid-end 2021, government offices were working at < 50% capacity, and IWMI offices at no more than 25% of staff in the office. The situation was monitored, activities adjusted and as it improved in 2022, face-to-face meetings and engagement with communities ensued.

The outcome and output assumptions (as well as critical conditions that were unforeseen) were monitored throughout the project, and the following is a summary of the assumptions and comments/observations.

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 break up demonstrations. Thereafter the government agreed on a loan package with the IMF, inflation stabilised somewhat (50% in March 2023), the Sri Lankan rupee strengthened against the dollar and fuel and cooking gas shortages 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 the project period.

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 remained committed to delivering the project throughout and were happy to continue allocating staff time to deliver project activities. The project management team was in regular contact with all government agencies and there is no doubt that the sense of teamwork instilled ensured government continued to participate throughout extremely difficult times.

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. Project partners remained flexible in their approach and continued to allocate staff time to delivering activities. Communities also remained engaged, though there were changes to community representatives for socio-economic reasons. Continued dialogue with communities and project partners and stakeholders allowed the project to respond to the challenges. The situation stabilised somewhat in the final year of the project 2023/24, however a major challenge faced was the exodus of people, especially educated young, seeking better livelihood opportunities abroad. This affected the project in the latter half of 2023, as some of the site coordinators and community representatives left the country. To address the gap in the final 6 months of the project period, internships were offered through IWMI, and the support of interns was obtained to maintain communication and conduct the remaining activities within communities (e.g. end of project questionnaires). The gender balance at meetings and within activities was also monitored and equal representation/participation ensured (Annex 5).

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: The project actively engaged with community groups, established and supported by project partners, in the first instance. This provided a solid base to then engage further with other communities and groups. These established networks were important for developing knowledge exchange. In 2022/23 we also developed a comprehensive school program that was extremely beneficial in not only increasing awareness and interest amongst school age children but also their parents and teachers. In 2023/24, the community-to-community engagement was strengthened to assist in the transfer of lessons learned in relation to community best practice and to foster pride in what communities were doing, with the belief that this would support the continuation of activities after the end of the project. Original community members assisted in the 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 project impact indicators were co-developed with project partners, stakeholders and community members. The indicators are aligned with the BCF standard indicators (see Annex 3). The project partners believed/accepted that these were 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 developed a communication and implementation network among government, non-government and community organizations and members. In 2023/24 this was built on through the school program, the community-to-community engagement, the video mediated dialogues (community to government, and community to the public), and through the co-development of the Colombo Wetland Management Framework. This enabled dissemination of project outputs during and the project and will continue to do so into the future.

d. Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty reduction

The intended project impact was 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.

In the early stages of the project period the project contributed to gaining a greater understanding of the biodiversity in Metro Colombo Urban Wetlands through the collation of data including ecological, hydrological, geo-spatial biodiversity data, ecosystem services, livelihood and well-being benefits, and risk and hazards. The data were reviewed and presented in the Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report (Annex 5).

The project contributed significantly to a shared understanding of the importance, status, challenges and threats to Colombo's urban wetlands among government, non-governmental organisations and communities. From 2022 – 2024, 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 year of the project, the work was 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. The project outputs, including the co-developed Colombo Wetland Management Framework, provides a sustainable legacy of the project, enabling actions and solutions towards effective sustainable wetland management.

An impact indicator framework was agreed by the project partnership, stakeholders and communities and was updated with the BCF standard indicator framework (Annex 3). These

indicators were used to assess the impact of the project on halting wetland loss, biodiversity protection, benefits for households and improved health and wellbeing.

4 Contribution to Darwin Initiative Programme Objectives

a. Project support to the Conventions or Treaties (e.g. CBD, Nagoya Protocol, ITPGRFA, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, UNFCCC)

The project contributed 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 also contributed to Sri Lanka's efforts in 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 assisted 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 enables 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) - The project has had direct liaison with Ramsar Focal point in 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. The project promoted the wise use of wetlands through community led management, and maintained reporting to the National Wetland Steering Committee, through CEA, DWC, IWMI and SLLDC, to integrate output into national wetland planning. Metro Colombo was awarded Ramsar Wetland City accreditation (2018) and the project supported stakeholder engagement/community management approaches required under the accreditation and under the Wetland Management Strategy 2016. In 2022, the project contributed to the Ramsar COP with a side event on wetland community management and continues reporting to the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel.
- Working with the Biodiversity Secretariat, Ministry of Environment, ensured that the work of the project aligned with government requirements under the above Conventions and ensured that all impacts are mapped against government initiatives.
- The project built 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.
- Project staff and partners contributed to 2022/2023 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.

b. 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, and 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, engagement of school children on waste management) 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.

c. Gender equality and social inclusion

The project positively encouraged the active participation of women in all project activities. We 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, felt comfortable sharing their opinions, experience and knowledge. We have disaggregated all meeting and workshop attendance data to track participation of both women and men (Annex 5). In 2023/24 our workshops and meetings had 56% participation from women and 44% participation from men (Annex 5).

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*” and “*learn new skills for the first time*”.

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

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board ¹ .	48%
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%

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.

The project board for this project includes the site coordinators and community representatives of the 5 original wetlands (8 women out of total 18), and IWMI and CC project teams (3 women out of total 5), as implementers of the project (total 11 women out of 23).

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.

Considering the focal points of the partner organisations for this project (6 partner organisations excluding IWMI/CC, out of which 3 focal points were women).

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.

d. Transfer of knowledge

A key feature of the project is the transfer of knowledge through the Colombo Wetland Management Framework. The findings and lessons learned through the stakeholder and partner meetings, the community workshops and meetings, the video mediated dialogues, the wetland status review, the wetlands school program and wetland monitoring tools were incorporated into the management framework. The framework aligns with the National Wetland Policy and Strategy, and it is envisaged that the framework will enable coordinated activities and investment towards wetland management in Colombo (Activity 5.2, 5.3, 5.7, 5.8).

e. Capacity building

Project partners and stakeholders gained experience in how to engage with communities in wetland management and monitoring. This has led to an increased capacity to effectively engage with communities through participatory techniques which was not previously the case, especially in government agencies. Experience on the project has enabled a number of community coordinators, from the government agencies, to gain promotion or find new employment.

Community representatives gained new skills in participatory video, experience of interacting with project partners and presenting at national forums. These transferable skills have built capacity in all 10 community representatives but particularly in five women who reported they had not been offered any opportunities such as these before and had previously not had the opportunity to pursue a career outside the home.

5 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 led the evaluation activities. We co-developed the project evaluation criteria with partners building on the project proposal, and these include the biodiversity, water quality and ecosystem service data gathered during the 2016 Wetland Management Strategy work as a baseline (Annex 5). The review of the wetland status (undertaken in 2021/22) provided data to inform the criteria and provided a baseline for the project. Questionnaires were completed by project partners, stakeholders and communities at the start of the project and were repeated at the end of the project to assess project impact and are reported in the Project Impact Report (Annex 5).

6 Actions taken in response to Annual Report reviews

Comments and feedback provided during the Annual Report reviews have been addressed and responses provided in the subsequent annual reports. Partners and key stakeholders were updated regularly and their feedback obtained on the project progress and reviews.

In the 2023 Annual Report review we were asked to respond to the following comments:

- Related to Activity 5.5, the logframe indicates that a finalised pack of training materials was completed and available online, but the main text states that this activity is planned for the final year. - this is now completed and course links are provided in Section 3.1 Outputs – Output 1 – Activity 1.5 above.
- The project worked with seven to ten schools, and pupils are now part of impact monitoring. The project has selected five schools to introduce an in-depth programme on wetland biodiversity and management (new schools?) The reviewer wonders whether issues relating to water conservation in schools and homes is included in the learning packages? - the schools program is reported in Section 3.1 Outputs – Output 1 – Activity 1.6 and 1.7 above and in the FOGSL report in Annex 5 but general topics related to impacts on wetlands including wetland hydrology and links to water use were included along with more detailed wetland biodiversity conservation information.
- The project could explain in a little more detail how pupils are involved in impact monitoring. - The pupils were instructed in wetland animal and plant identification and shown how to use the Wetland Journeys monitoring app developed by the project.

- The project should include a link to its videos, if possible, with the next report. Video links are provided in Section 3.1 - Outputs – Output 2 – Activity 2.2 above.

7 Lessons learnt

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

The flexible approach adopted by all partners and stakeholders to transfer activities online and their willingness to positively contribute to the project worked well. However, the need to transfer all activities online meant that the delivery of activities took longer than originally planned. Accessing wetland status data and information from partners and stakeholders was very time consuming at the start, due to most people working from home and not having access to servers containing data or staff having slow internet speeds at home. The project was designed to be highly participatory, and this was harder without face-to-face meetings. After face-to-face meetings started taking place, we initiated more active involvement of communities.

One element that worked very well was 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 was 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 program for schools was also very successful. This increased awareness and educated large numbers of school pupils and brought on board many teachers and parents who showed great interest in the project and what it is attempting. A key lesson learned is that engagement with schools provides an extremely beneficial access route to communities.

The development of the participatory videos took much longer than expected. Obtaining the footage, editing, and narration and subtitles, were all more complicated than anticipated, and community members required significant technical support to produce the videos.

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 applied in the case of the new wetlands that we brought into the project. In these we started to work with the schools from the outset and activities proceeded more rapidly.

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.

Flexibility in implementing activities – a lesson learned is that during the COVID period activities and communication took much longer than it would have done if we could have met face-to-face. To counter this, longer time periods and additional follow up to deliver activities was built into the project plan. Online questionnaires were developed to aid data sharing and communication and as discussed previously all initial training was transferred online. Even without the experience of COVID, it is clear that flexibility and the ability to adapt project implementation to the on-the-ground realities of working with communities is of paramount importance.

Adapting participatory video approaches to suit the local context – In some instances, providing technical support in the production of the videos enabled the community members to spend more time focusing on the message on wetland management conveyed through the video.

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).

8 Risk Management

We continued to manage the fall-out of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. This has not been easy, but we have managed to keep the project on track to meet the extended deadline in January 2024. A risk register was not a requirement at the start of this project but the below was subsequently incorporated.

Risk Description	Impact	Probability	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.					
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

¹ Likelihood: Almost certain (>80%), Likely (>50%<80%), Possible (>20%<50%), Unlikely (>5%<20%), Rare (<5%)

9 Sustainability and Legacy

The project engaged a large number of stakeholders (23 organisations) and developed a communication strategy with the Prosperity Division of the British High Commission. In the last year of the project, we have undertaken more communication and dissemination activities. In June 2023, we commenced activities in the new Darwin project entitled: *Rights of Wetlands Operationalisation for Biodiversity and Community Resilience* which will help support project staff beyond the project. 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.

The co-development of the Colombo Wetland Management Framework with project partners will ensure that the communication channels developed among communities and government agencies will continue beyond the project and that government agencies will engage with new communities across Colombo in wetland management and monitoring.

10 Darwin Initiative identity

All publicity material including project briefs and the project brochure (Annex 5), meeting and workshop presentations, official invitations, Ramsar COP side events etc. have included the

Darwin Initiative logo and explained where the funds for the project have come from and recognised the UK Government's contribution.

Among the project partners and stakeholders there is familiarisation of the Darwin Initiative which has been carried forward to the new Darwin project on Rights of Wetlands.

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.

IWMI news articles and blogs:

<https://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/news/colombo-wetlands-and-the-built-environment/>

<https://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/blogs/wetlands-humans-and-robots/>

11 Safeguarding

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	/No
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	/No
Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	No <i>[If yes, please provide their name and email]</i> The project did not have a specific Safeguarding focal point but the project coordinators for IWMI and CC provided this support and both IWMI and CC have safeguarding policies and protocols in place
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes/No <i>[If yes, please provide date and details of training]</i>
What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: % [and number] 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. The project did not have any safeguarding issues reported by project staff, project partners, stakeholders or community members.	

12 Finance and administration

a. Project expenditure

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2023/24 Grant (£)	2023/24 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				Travel costs for fieldwork and to wrap up the project were slightly less than anticipated
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				

TOTAL	£49,794	£49,794		
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Staff employed (Name and position)	Cost (£)
IWMI / Matthew McCartney / Project Leader	
IWMI / Indika Arulingam / Research Officer	
IWMI / Radheeka Jirasinha / Researcher	
Cobra Collective / Project Leader	
Cobra Collective / Technical support	
TOTAL	£14,941

Capital items – description	Capital items – cost (£)
N/A	
TOTAL	

Other items – description	Other items – cost (£)
TOTAL	

2. Additional funds or in-kind contributions secured

Source of funding for project lifetime	Total (£)
in-kind contributions	£ 145,138.00
TOTAL	£ 145,138.00

Source of funding for additional work after project lifetime	Total (£)
TOTAL	

3. Value for Money

13 OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section

The Colombo Wetland Complex, represents a vital ecological asset, supporting great biodiversity and significant ecosystem services, that underpin the livelihoods and wellbeing of many millions of people. Critical ecosystem services include flood regulation, food production and recreation. However, despite their recognized value, rapid urbanization and unsustainable land use practices continue to pose significant threats to the integrity of the wetlands.

Over the years, a series of management achievements have been realized to safeguard the Colombo Wetlands. Foremost amongst these was the establishment, in 2016, of a comprehensive urban wetland management strategy. However, fragmentation of institutional mandates and limited resources and enforcement capacity have since hampered effective implementation of the strategy. Greater collaboration between government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities is a prerequisite for more effective implementation of integrated management plans to ensure wetland preservation.

This project worked closely with government and non-government partners and local communities. It raised awareness both in partners and local communities of critical wetland issues and fostered understanding and engagement in efforts for wetland conservation. Very importantly it also brought about a change in attitude of government departments which now recognize the necessity of working in partnership with local communities in efforts to safeguard wetlands. Through the training provided and the development of the Wetland Journey app local communities are empowered to monitor wetland health and to contribute directly to discussions on wetland issues. A critical element of the project was the highly successful schools program that effectively educated children (the next generation of decision-makers) about the importance of wetlands, their biodiversity, ecological functions, and the significance of their conservation for sustainable development.

The project culminated in the development a Colombo Wetland Management Framework – co-developed and agreed by all partners - that represents a pragmatic approach to implementation of the management strategy. Building from an in-depth understanding of community challenges, needs and opportunities through community engagement champions and Wetland Delivery Boards in each wetland area, the framework represents the first ever attempt to bring the different parties together in a coherent way.

Through the concerted efforts of the project, we are confident significant advances have been made for safeguarding the Colombo Wetland Complex and ensuring continued ecological resilience and contributions to both biodiversity and human well-being.



Annex 1 Project’s original (or most recently approved) logframe, including indicators, means of verification and assumptions.

Note: Insert your full logframe. If your logframe was changed since your Stage 2 application and was approved by a Change Request the newest approved version should be inserted here, otherwise insert the Stage 2 logframe.

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>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.</p>			
<p>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.</p>	<p>0.1 A shared understanding among community, government and non-government agencies about wetland status, issues, management approaches, legislation and policy environment (yr 1).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>b) Biodiversity – Wetland area maintained with no net loss from baseline; spread of invasive species <i>Annona glabra</i>, <i>Salvenia molesta</i> and <i>Eichornia crassipes</i> 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</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>1.1 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>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.</p>

	<p>stable or increasing with respect to the baseline (yr 3).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>1.1 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).</p> <p>2.1 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</p>	<p>e) Engaged communities - Monitoring data collected by multiple people in multiple locations, recorded on software platform and included within impact indicator report published on project and partner websites (yr 2 & 3).</p> <p>2.1 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).</p> <p>3.1 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).</p> <p>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).</p>	
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	<p>short-term and longer-term impacts are realised (yr 1, 2 & 3).</p> <p>3.1 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.</p>		
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>1.1 Key stakeholders and communities engaged in documenting existing status (yr 1).</p> <p>2.1 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).</p> <p>3.1 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).</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>1.2 Report published on project and partner websites (yr 1).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>1.1 Training materials, presentations and reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop questionnaires to evaluate understanding and impact of community-led monitoring (yr 1 & 2).</p>	<p>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].</p>
<p>2. Community wetland monitoring and management.</p>	<p>2.1 Number of Community Best Practices for wetland management that lead to maximizing biodiversity,</p>	<p>2.1 Participatory videos and photostories available online on project website (yr 2 & 3). Annual</p>	<p>Communities will have a continued interest in the project, and knowledge exchange will be sufficient for</p>

	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>2.3 Number of communities and community groups trained in wetland monitoring [target: at least 10 with significant representation from women] (yr 2 & 3).</p> <p>2.4 Number of wetland areas where communities are recognising best practices [target: at least 5] (yr 2 & 3).</p>	<p>report on progress presented at stakeholder workshop (yr 2 & 3). Final report on Community Best Practices for Wetland Management (yr 3).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>2.3 Training materials, presentations and reports from workshops. Pre- and post-workshop questionnaires to evaluate understanding and impact of monitoring (yr 2 & 3).</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>beneficiaries to successfully understand and apply community best practices [partners have in-depth experience of 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].</p> <p>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].</p> <p>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].</p>
<p>3. Development of wetland management principles to guide community wetland management.</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>3.2 Information chain between communities and government decision-makers established (yr 2 & 3).</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>3.2 Monitoring data shared on software platform and records/reports of data recorded by decision-maker organizations (yr 2 & 3).</p>	<p>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].</p>

<p>4. Project impact evaluation.</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>4.1 Project impact indicator report published on project and partner websites and production of monitoring and evaluation participatory videos (yr 2 & 3).</p>	<p>Project indicators are robust and provide criteria suitable for assessment, including the benefits across gender and various livelihoods [A multi 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].</p>
<p>5. Community led wetland monitoring and management including best practices disseminated regionally and internationally.</p>	<p>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)</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>5.3 Record of dissemination platforms and events such as Ramsar COP</p>	<p>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].</p>

	<p>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).</p> <p>5.4 Website, with regular posting of content [target: 2 types of content posted per month] (yr 1, 2 and 3).</p> <p>5.5 Peer-reviewed journal articles published [target: 2 articles] (yr 3 and beyond).</p>	<p>and CBD COP side-events. Downloads of resources and online activity tracked (yr 3 and beyond).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>5.5 Number of articles submitted and then published to peer-reviewed journals (yr 3 and beyond).</p>	
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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 2 Report of progress and achievements against final project logframe for the life of the project

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
<p>Impact:</p> <p>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.</p>		<p>Stakeholders and communities across Colombo are now engaged in managing wetlands sustainably as a result of the project through the Colombo Wetland Management Framework, sharing of best practice community wetland management videos and the School Wetland Awareness Raising Program.</p>
<p>Outcome</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Insert agreed Outcome level indicators</p> <p>0.1 A shared understanding among community, government and non-government agencies about wetland status, issues, management approaches, legislation and policy environment (yr 1).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>b) Biodiversity – Wetland area maintained with no net loss from baseline; spread of invasive species <i>Annona glabra</i>, <i>Salvenia molesta</i> and <i>Eichornia crassipes</i> controlled within the 5 target wetlands from baseline and consensus framework for removal established. Populations of key plant, mammal and bird indicator species will</p>	<p>Report on progress towards achieving the project purpose, i.e. the sum of the outputs and assumptions</p> <p>0.1 Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report published, distributed and presented at project workshops. Best practice wetland management videos were shared between communities across Colombo, via community meetings and video screening event. Video mediated dialogue between communities and government agencies were conducted through one-to-one agency meetings and stakeholder workshops.</p> <p>0.2a) Best practices recorded and shared highlighting livelihood protection such as rice farming, farmers cooperation, organic farming, waste recycling payments etc. 15 community participatory videos made and shared and questionnaire report indicating livelihood protection activities delivered for communities.</p> <p>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. 15 community participatory videos made and shared and questionnaire report indicating biodiversity conservation activities widely undertaken by communities.</p> <p>0.2c) Best practices recorded and shared highlighting livelihoods such as rice farming that provide effective flood management. 15 community participatory videos made and shared and questionnaire report indicating wetland management activities delivered by communities to protect from and adapt to flood events.</p> <p>0.2d) Best practices recorded and shared highlighting livelihoods such as organic rice farming and waste collection and recycling that provide effective pollution control. 15 community participatory videos made and shared and questionnaire report indicating community wetland management activities increased to reduce wetland pollution.</p> <p>0.2e) Monitoring app is operational and communities can collect data that is shared via the web dashboard. Training in the use of wetland app occurred through community meetings and the 6-month school program, and through awareness</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
	<p>be stable or increasing with respect to the baseline (yr 3).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>0.4 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).</p>	<p>raising events to encourage more people to regularly collect data on wetlands and their biodiversity.</p> <p>0.3 Training and workshops for community members occurred regularly and the online training course had 7499 views and 469 completions (as of January 2024). The co-development of the wetland management framework (through one-to-one agency meetings, community feedback workshops, partner meetings), led to a good understanding of wetland management principles among community members and government agencies. End of project event with key stakeholders took place in January 2024 to showcase community videos, the wetland app and wetland management principles.</p> <p>0.4 Project impact evaluation has been ongoing through interviews and questionnaires but due to the COVID pandemic and the economic situation, the analysis was conducted at the end of the project period in 2023/2024 and reported in Annex 5</p> <p>0.5 The Colombo Wetland Management Framework was co-developed through dialogue with communities and government agencies and presented at a high-level stakeholder forum in January 2024.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
	<p>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.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>1.1 Key stakeholders and communities engaged in documenting existing status (yr 1).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>1.1 Key stakeholders and communities were engaged in Year 1. Partner and stakeholder workshops gender-disaggregated attendance records and reports. Annex 5.</p> <p>1.2 Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report was published and disseminated in Year 1.</p> <p>1.3 69 people trained in best practice wetland management during weekly training course and 7499 have accessed the material of the online training course and 469 have completed the online course.</p> <p>1.4 69 people trained in community led wetland monitoring during weekly training course and 7499 have accessed the material of the online training course and 469 have completed the online course.</p>
<p>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.</p>		<p>4 x workshops held; questionnaires sent to 22 organisations and one-to-one meetings held to gather data.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
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).		Stakeholder workshop in June 2021 finalised agreed set of criteria for wetland community selection. Community and stakeholder workshops initiated in January 2022. 2 x Stakeholder workshops held to discuss status
Activity 1.3 Production of Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status report.		Completed report (Q1) – see Annex 5
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.		Project Partner Workshop and Stakeholder Workshop produced an initial list of project indicators. Baseline indicators agreed and data collected through interviews and questionnaires (Annex 5) Project impact assessment report completed (Annex 5)
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 courses developed; 7 units within a Collection on the Open University's OpenLearn Create platform. Online training course produced in English, Sinhala and Tamil and launched in December 2021. Face-to-face community workshops in January and February 2022.
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. 469 people completed the course online.
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. 469 people completed the course online.
Output 2.	2.1 Number of Community Best Practices for wetland management that lead to maximizing biodiversity, and maintenance of household	2.1 15 community best practices for wetland management have been identified by the 10 wetland communities. Communities produced their own videos to share these best practices.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
<p>Community wetland monitoring and management</p>	<p>livelihoods, identified and recorded [target: at least 10 examples, with significant representation of women's role in management, from 5 communities] (yr 2 & 3).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>2.3 Number of communities and community groups trained in wetland monitoring [target: at least 10 with significant representation from women] (yr 2 & 3).</p> <p>2.4 Number of wetland areas where communities are recognising best practices [target: at least 5] (yr 2 & 3).</p>	<p>2.2 Wetland monitoring system including wetland monitoring app and website dashboard has been developed.</p> <p>2.3 5 community groups have been trained in wetland monitoring. – 146 individuals (59 women and 88 men).</p> <p>2.4 15 participatory videos from 10 communities completed.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1. Undertaking free, prior and informed consent process with key community groups engaged in the project (5 workshops).</p>		<p>Combined into online training course which was finalised December 2021. OpenLearn Create platform.</p> <p>Topic introduced in face-to face meetings and workshops (Q4). All participants have signed consent forms.</p> <p>Every group we have engaged with we have undertaken the free, prior and informed consent process with.</p>
<p>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</p>		<p>Using co-developed criteria (see 1.2) five wetland communities selected for 5 wetlands locations covering diverse contexts: Beddagana, Heen-Ela, Madiwela, Kolonnawa and Kottawa.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
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.		<p>Through workshops the communities identified challenges they face and best practice management solutions. They were trained in participatory video techniques and applied these.</p> <p>The 5 original wetland communities produced two best practice wetland management videos each (10 in total).</p>
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).		<p>A wetland monitoring system, the basis for the app, was co-designed with community members.</p> <p>Other initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A 2 month water quality monitoring campaign in Heen-Ela wetland (undertaken by an intern from Wayamba University – Gavindya Kawashi) ii) Development of a low-cost Unmanned Surface Vehicle for water quality monitoring. Developed by a UK engineering intern (Luisa Charles from Imperial College London) in conjunction with community youth groups and Sri Lankan academics. Funding from outside the Darwin project.
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.		<p>A local NGO - Emotional Intelligence and Life Skills who work with youth in the Kolonnawa was tasked with developing the wetland monitoring app incorporating the indicators developed in activity 2.3 (see annex 4)</p> <p>Mapeo an offline mapping tool has been customized for Colombo wetland monitoring. This includes translation into Tamil and Sinhala. It can be used by community groups to record what is happening in their wetland.</p> <p>A wetland monitoring app, Wetland Journeys, was co-designed with community members and is available to record a range of environmental and biodiversity parameters.</p> <p>The wetland app was promoted to new communities and within the school program to encourage widespread adoption.</p>
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.		<p>In person training workshops – including participatory video undertaken with community groups from all 5 wetlands in January and February 2022.</p> <p>Training in wetland monitoring occurred in the five original wetland communities and the Wetland Journey app was introduced to the children undertaking the school program.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
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 2023 and community best practice videos from the original communities were shared. The 5 new communities identified their best practices and co-created with the project team their own videos.
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 identified their own best practices to share with others. Participatory videos of these best practices have been started. 5 best practice videos were completed 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).		Questionnaires at the start and end of the project were used to assess improved understanding and implementation of community best practice wetland management. Report Annex 5.
Output 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 Wetland Management Principles produced from analysis of project findings and workshops with communities, partners and stakeholders. Included within The Colombo Wetland Management Framework (Annex 5). 3.2 Information chain between communities and government decision-makers has been established and formalised within the Colombo Wetland Management Framework (Annex 5).
Activity 3.1. Analysis of community best practice wetland management monitoring data to determine most effective community management approach.		Project data was analysed and discussed at workshops with communities, partners and stakeholders in 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).		Wetland Management Principles produced from analysis of project findings and workshops with communities, partners and stakeholders. Included within The Colombo Wetland Management Framework (Annex 5).
Activity 3.3. Production of wetland management principles on project website.		Wetland management principles posted on websites in 2024.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
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.		Wetland monitoring app dashboard created that allows anyone to download the data.
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.		The Colombo Wetland Management Framework, co-developed by project partners, continues and formalises the communication networks, established during the project, among communities, project partners and stakeholders.
Output 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).	Partner and stakeholder workshops finalised project impact evaluation criteria (Annex 4) 4.1 Baseline data collected. Impact assessment report completed (Annex 5)
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 (<i>Aganope heptaphylla</i> , <i>Aponogeton crispus</i> , <i>Nymphaea nouchali</i> etc.) and invasive		Partner and stakeholder workshops in Q1 2021/22 discussed and agreed criteria for project impact evaluation. Interviews and questionnaires were collected with government agency staff and community members as a baseline in 2021 and repeated in 2024 to establish the impact of the project.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
<p>species (<i>Annona glabra</i>, <i>Salvenia molesta</i> and <i>Eichornia crassipes</i> 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.</p>		
<p>Output 5. Community led wetland monitoring and management including best practices disseminated regionally and internationally.</p>	<p>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)</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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</p>	<p>5.1 The Colombo Wetland Management Framework embeds community led wetland monitoring and management within all project partner organisations</p> <p>5.2 Peer to peer knowledge exchanges conducted in 2023. (Annex 5)</p> <p>5.3 Side event was held at Ramsar COP14 in Switzerland and project team contributed to events at CBD COP. Project findings have been presented at a number of international conferences during the project.</p> <p>5.4 Websites established and updated. Section 2 and Annex 5.</p> <p>5.5 Three peer reviewed journal articles will be submitted in 2024.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
	<p>platforms and events [target: at least 3 events] (yr 3 and beyond).</p> <p>5.4 Website, with regular posting of content [target: 2 types of content posted per month] (yr 1, 2 and 3).</p> <p>5.5 Peer-reviewed journal articles published [target: 2 articles] (yr 3 and beyond).</p>	
<p>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.</p>		<p>The Colombo Wetland Management Framework embeds community led wetland monitoring and management within all project partner organisations. Project websites and the online training courses provide ongoing access to project resources and training opportunities.</p>
<p>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).</p>		<p>5 new communities identified and community to community knowledge exchanged occurred at 12 community representative meetings (2023) and 2 community film screening events (Annex 5)</p>
<p>Activity 5.3. Submit applications for side events at Ramsar and CBD CoPs.</p>		<p>Side event was held at Ramsar COP14 in Switzerland and project team contributed to events at CBD COP.</p>
<p>Activity 5.4. Develop policy briefings.</p>		<p>Draft policy brief on Colombo Wetland Management Framework developed but not yet published.</p>
<p>Activity 5.5. Produce finalised pack of training materials.</p>		<p>This has been produced in English, Sinhala and Tamil and is available online.</p>
<p>Activity 5.6. Produce final reports.</p>		<p>Report produced and submitted.</p>
<p>Activity 5.7. Share project outputs at national and international events (World Wetlands Day, World Environment Day etc.).</p>		<p>Project outputs were shared at World Wetlands Day events (2022/2023 and 2024) and at other international meetings.</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements
		<p>Project outputs were shared at two community film screening events in Aug 2023, high-level stakeholder workshop and video screening event for the public in Jan 2024 (Annex 5).</p> <p>Project findings have been presented at a number of international conferences during the project.</p>
Activity 5.8. Establish and regularly update project websites hosted by CC and IWMI.		Webpages have been established.
Activity 5.9. Draft and submit at least two articles to journals.		Three peer reviewed journal articles will be submitted in 2024.

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 (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)		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)		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	445 English 9 Sinhala 15 Tamil	489	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		493	493	300
DI-C14	14A: Dissemination workshops and conferences organized and 14B:	Number of government decision-makers attending	Number	Men	4	15	15	34	30

	Dissemination workshops and conferences presented at	project workshops and briefings							
N/A	21: Centre of Excellence for Community Led Wetland Monitoring and Management	N/A	Number		0		Established in 6 project partner organisations through Colombo Wetland Management Strategy	6	1
N/A	23: In-kind contributions	N/A			£4,800 Annual software costs £2,000 Training material Staff costs £28,246 Equipment £1000 Website £1000	£4,800 Annual software costs £2,000 Training material Staff costs £28,246 £30,000 mobile app funding Website £1000	£4,800 Annual software costs Staff costs £28,246 Conferences £6000 Website £1000 Materials £1500	£144,638	Predicted in-kind contribution £145,138
DI-C04	Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Report	Updated assessment of community use and wetland	Number		0	1			1

		status published for the Colombo wetlands							
DI-C01	Community best practice wetland management videos	Number of community wetland best practice videos published and endorsed for Colombo urban wetlands	Number		0		15 videos	15	10
DI-C01	Wetland management principles	Number of best practice guides on community wetland management practices published	Number		0		1	1	1
NEW INDICATORS FROM BCF LIST TO BE INCLUDED									
DI-B05		Number of people with increased participation in wetland local management organisations (i.e. participation in governance/citizen engagement)	People	Gender			Men 10 Women 15	25	
DI-A07		Number of government institutions/departments with enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity and associated poverty issues	Government Institutions	Local/national			7	7	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)
Metro Colombo Urban Wetland Status Report	Report	IWMI and Cobra Collective, 2021	Male and Female	Sri Lankan and UK	IWMI, Colombo	www.cobracollective.org
Colombo Wetland Management Framework	Report	Darwin Project Partnership, 2024	Male and Female	Sri Lankan and UK	IWMI, Colombo	www.cobracollective.org

Annex 5 Supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

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Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the Subject line.	
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.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 10)?	
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.	
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.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 10)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	