

UP-SCALING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH ECOSYSTEM-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

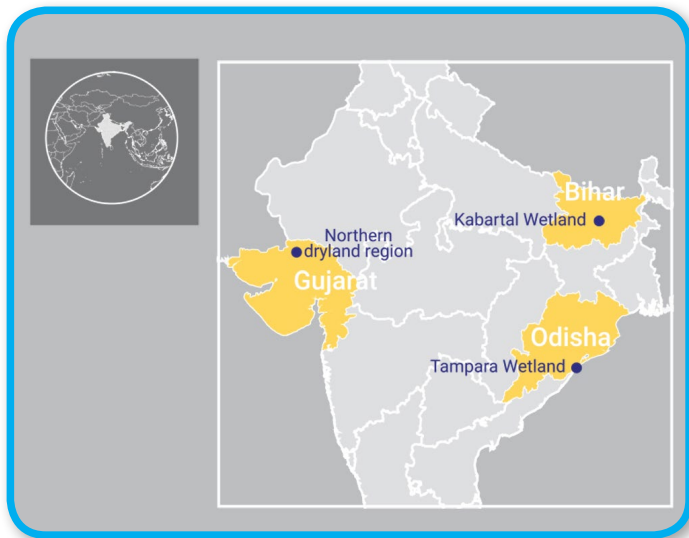


Fig.1:Map of the Project Sites

Project overview

Project location: India

- Tampara Wetland, State of Odisha
- Kabartal Wetland, State of Bihar
- Northern dryland region, State of Gujarat

Key risks being addressed: Wetland degradation reduces community resilience against water-related hazards such as floods, droughts, and storm surges

Project period: May 2019- September 2022

Project objectives:

- **Overall objective:** Strengthened resilience of 60,000 women and men to water-related risks and national upscaling model for improved water management.
- Establishing/showcasing a (national upscaling model)

Project budget: 603,480 USD

- Over 10 years the present value of net benefits is 14,2 Million USD, including reduced property damage, income losses, carbon capture & sequestration (UMass-Amherst, 2022)

Project Results



Capacity Building

- 32 Community Based Organisations (CBOs) trained in support of ecosystem restoration with risk reduction activities.
- 224 Women (members of Self Help Groups) trained on sustainable livelihoods and wetland wise use.
- 11 Task Force groups comprising over 150 wetland champions are established and actively engaged in wetland conservation/Eco-DRR.
- 1,500 fishermen sensitized on wetland management and sustainable fishing.



Policy and Practice support

- Supporting State Governments in enhancing management regimes of the two wetlands to achieve conservation and wise use-goals.
 - Development of Integrated Management Plans for Kabartal (newly designated Ramsar site) and Tampara wetlands (a proposed Ramsar site, expected to be designated in remaining project period)
 - Implementation of community-based wetland management actions in Tampara basin to enhance community resilience
- Kanwar Nature Club and Fish Co-operative are strongly advocating for protection of wetland biodiversity and its values.
- 5 Panchayats (local government institution) have incorporated a myriad of Eco-DRR measures in their annual developmental plan (GPDP).
- Organised a regional consultation workshop with Ramsar focal points and site managers to develop guidelines on Eco-DRR for Ramsar site managers.
- Partnered with National Institute for Urban Affairs and World Resources Institute for constitution of the India Forum for Nature-based Solutions.



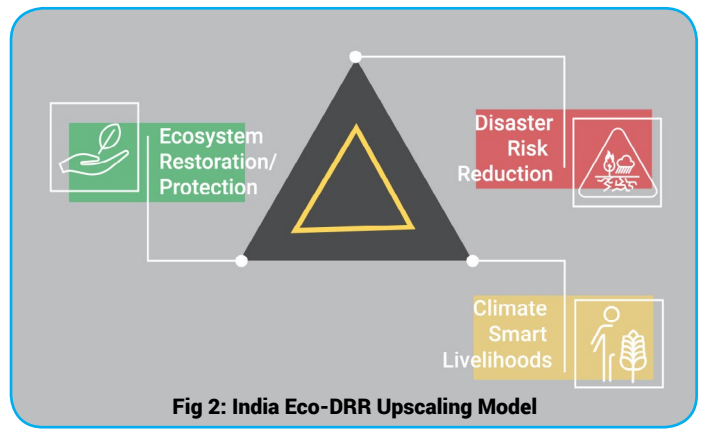
Field implementation for resilience-building

- 29,216 beneficiaries reached of which 36 percent are women.
- 3,312 hectares (ha) of wetlands and community common pool resources (ponds, drainages) are protected and restored.
- Local farmer and fisher communities are adopting sustainable livelihood practices to reduce direct dependence on the wetlands through measures like organic farming, discontinuing use of zero-size fish nets and ecosystem management.

Each Eco-DRR project has developed a replicable model for upscaling community resilience through three core components of Eco-DRR:

- Ecosystem Restoration/Protection
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Climate Smart Livelihoods

In India, there is a greater emphasis on Ecosystem Restoration and Protection through a focus on water-related, risk sensitive wetlands restoration and capacity-building activities (Figure 2).



Eco-DRR upscaling model: Integrate Eco-DRR measures on improved water management into local development plans and schemes (such as disaster, wetlands and rural employment) through capacity-strengthening and participation of communities and (local) governments.



Ecosystem Restoration/Protection

- Empower CBOs such as Fish Cooperatives, Women Self Help Groups and others to identify, restore, and protect ecosystems with wetlands management plans;
- Restore natural water regimes of wetlands, natural vegetation, rainwater harvesting, efficient use of water, and blending wetland ecosystem functioning with built infrastructure.



Climate Smart Livelihoods

- Local communities are empowered to engage with the local government for the resourcing and implementation of various social upliftment schemes such as MNRREGES and Jal Jeevan Hariyali Mission;
- Local community networks form the core of community centric wetland stewardship programme, for livelihoods enhancement.



Disaster Risk reduction

- Landscape scale risk assessment include ecosystem services and are embedded within community-based disaster risk reduction planning;
- Regeneration of natural water sources (village ponds) around wetland basins to improve water security during dry season.

Key Implementing partners: Wetlands International South Asia; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC/Indian Red Cross), Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS), Pallishree and Panchayat Raj Institutions.



Fig 3: Bamboo island in Tampara basin Odisha



Fig 4: Risk profiling with Women Self Help Group



PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE



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