



Addressing Pollution in Ashtamudi Lake

Source: [TH](#)

The **State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC)** in Kerala, appointed by the [National Green Tribunal](#), has recommended urgent projects to **prevent the illegal discharge of biowaste**, including faecal sludge, into **Ashtamudi Lake**.

- A preliminary examination indicates the presence of an [excessive algae bloom](#) is attributed to the discharge of biowaste and septage into the waterbody.
- **Ashtamudi Lake:**
 - A designated [Ramsar site](#), located in **Kollam district, Kerala**, is a vital part of the [backwater ecosystem](#) and is often referred to as the gateway to Kerala's backwaters.
 - Covering 170 square kilometers, it has a unique eight-armed shape and is fed by the **Kallada River**, eventually draining into the [Arabian Sea](#).
 - Historically, it has been an important trade center and is known for its traditional coir industry.
- **Government Initiatives to Protect Wetlands:**
 - [Wetland \(Conservation and Management\) Rules, 2010](#)
 - [National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas](#)
 - [Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management \(CWCM\)](#)
 - [Amrit Dharohar Scheme](#)

RAMSAR CONVENTION

About

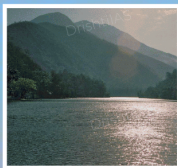
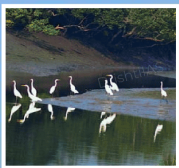
- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
- Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- Largest Ramsar Site in World: Pantanal: South America

Montreux Record

- Adopted in Montreux (Switzerland) in 1990.
- Identifies Ramsar sites that need priority conservation attention at national or international level.

Wetlands

- A place in which the land is covered by water – salt, fresh, or somewhere in between – either seasonally or permanently.
- Take many forms including rivers, marshes, bogs, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, billabongs, lagoons, lakes, and floodplains.
- World Wetlands Day: **2nd February**



India & Ramsar Convention

- Came into force in India: **1982**
- Total Number of Ramsar Sites: **85**
 - Chilika Lake (Odisha), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Harike Lake (Punjab), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Wular Lake (Jammu and Kashmir), etc.
- Related Framework in India
 - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands.
 - The 2017 Rules decentralise wetlands management and provide for the constitution of the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority.

Key Facts

- Largest Ramsar Site: Sunderbans, West Bengal
- Smallest Ramsar Site: Vembannur Wetland Complex, Tamil Nadu
- State with the maximum number of Ramsar Sites: Tamil Nadu (14)
- Wetlands in Montreux Record:
 - Keoladeo National Park: Rajasthan
 - Loktak Lake: Manipur



Read More: [Wetlands](#)

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