



Global List of Wetland Accredited Cities

Why in News?

- **Indore and Udaipur** have become the **first two Indian cities** to be accredited as wetland cities under [the Ramsar Convention](#).

Key Points

- **International Recognition for Wetland Conservation:**
 - [The Wetland City Accreditation](#) recognizes cities that prioritize the conservation of their **natural and human-made wetlands**.
 - The Advisory Committee on Wetland City Accreditation **accredited 31 new cities**, including Indore and Udaipur, bringing the **global total to 74 accredited cities**.
- **Bhopal Misses Out on Accreditation:**
 - Bhopal, which was nominated alongside Indore and Udaipur, did **not receive accreditation due to concerns** about the ecological impact on [Bhoj wetland](#).
 - Citizen groups **raised concerns** about a **proposed road project cutting through the wetland's catchment area**, potentially threatening local water bodies and wildlife.
- **Criteria for Wetland City Accreditation:**
 - Cities must satisfy **six international criteria**, including:
 - Conserving wetlands and their ecosystem services.
 - Ensuring sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.
- **Global Status of Wetland City Accreditation:**
 - **China leads the global list** with 22 accredited cities, **followed by France** with 9 cities.
 - The accreditation program promotes the **sustainable use of urban and peri-urban wetlands**.

Wetland City Accreditation (WCA)

- The WCA is a **voluntary accreditation system established by the Ramsar Convention** during the **Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) 12, 2015** to recognize cities that have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands.
 - The WCA is **valid for 6 years**.
- The scheme **aims to promote the conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands**, as well as sustainable socio-economic benefits for local populations.

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