



## **State Wetland Authority Kerala (SWAK)**

*4<sup>th</sup> Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal Complex, Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram-695001*

*Ph: +91471-2326264(Off); Fax: + 0471-2322554(Dir, Env't & Climate Change)*

*E-mail: [swak.kerala@gmail.com](mailto:swak.kerala@gmail.com) [swak.envt@kerala.gov.in](mailto:swak.envt@kerala.gov.in)*

### **CALL FOR PROPOSAL FOR A COMMISSIONED PROJECT: ANNUAL WATER BIRD CENSUS IN THREE RAMSAR SITES OF KERALA**

The State Wetland Authority Kerala under Department of Environment invites proposal in prescribed format on the topic “**Annual water bird census in three Ramsar Sites (Vembanad Kol, Ashtamudi & Sasthamkotta) of Kerala (2022-23)**”. Birds are at the apex of the food chain within wetlands and good indicators of ecosystem health. Wetlands serve as habitat for rich diversity of birds including number of migratory species. The study has to be completed within a period of one year.

The guidelines and application form are available on the website of the Directorate of Environment & Climate Change [www.envt.kerala.gov.in](http://www.envt.kerala.gov.in).

Investigators are requested to submit three hard copies of the proposals for office use through Registered/Speed Post by **26/10/2022** to the address given below. The proposals will be evaluated in the financial year 2022-2023.

#### **For further details please contact:**

The Member Secretary  
State Wetland Authority Kerala,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal Complex  
Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 001  
Phone: 0471-2326264

Email : [swak.kerala@gmail.com](mailto:swak.kerala@gmail.com), [swak.envt@kerala.gov.in](mailto:swak.envt@kerala.gov.in)

**APPLICATION PRO FORMA**

(To be filled in by the Principal Investigator)

1. Title of the Project :
2. Name and Designation of the Principal Investigator :
3. Name and Designation of the Co-investigator (s) :
4. Postal Address of the Principal Investigator (s) and Co-investigator (s) :  
(including e-mail id and Phone Number)
5. Name of the institution(s)/organization(s) in which the project will be carried out (Specify whether College (Government / Aided/ Autonomous/ Private), University Department, Government Institution, Non-governmental organization, etc.)
6. Name of other institution(s)/Organization(s) involved in the project (Specify whether College (Government / Aided/ Autonomous/ Private), University Department, Government Institution, Non-governmental organization, etc.)
7. Geographic location of research project site (latitude and longitude), wherever applicable :
8. Participation of public and private sector and/or other government ventures: (Please give details regarding sharing of work components, cost and outputs, including implementation arrangements, and modalities of achievement of the envisaged objectives against the stated milestones of work)
9. Duration of the Project :
10. Total amount of assistance required :
11. The detailed project proposal consists of the following :

Part I – An Abstract, not exceeding one page, describing the background, objectives, methodology and figures of quarter-wise budget and keywords (six words)

Part II – should contain the following

- a) State of Art of the subject: including work done in India and elsewhere
- b) Detailed literature survey (one page)
- c) Objectives
- d) Detailed methodology
- e) month-wise work plan & milestones
- f) Practical relevance/utility of the project
- g) Socio-economic and environmental relevance of the project

- h) Expected and other physical outcomes of the project
- i) Agencies which can utilize the results of the project
- j) Component-wise justification of the costing of the project
- k) Statement of originality and certification on No Duplication with existing work/ongoing projects

Part III - Biographical Sketch of the investigator(s) detailing research credentials and research papers published in the area of the proposed research project

Part IV - Facilities (equipments/instruments) available at institution(s)/ organizations for carrying out the project

Part V - Project budget in the prescribed format

<b>PROJECT BUDGET</b>		
<b>A</b>	<b>Salaries and Wages</b>	
1.	Technical staff or other personnel , if any	
	<b>Total Cost</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>Waterbird census in three Ramsar sites of Kerala</b>	
1.	Travel and field work for conducting waterbird census	
a.	Vembanad - Kol	
b.	Ashtamudi	
c.	Sasthamkotta	
2.	Documentation of bird census & publishing the results	
	<b>Total Cost</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>Breeding water bird investigation (Ashtamudi &amp; Sasthamkotta)</b>	
1.	Travel and field work for conducting breeding water bird investigation	
	<b>Total Cost</b>	

<b>D</b>	<b>Water Bird disease surveillance (Ashtamudi &amp; Sasthamkotta)</b>	
1.	Travel and field work for conducting waterbird disease surveillance	
	<b>Total Cost</b>	
<b>E</b>	<b>Contingencies</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>Other project Costs, if any</b> (specify please)	
<b>G</b>	<b>Institutional overheads</b>	
	<b>Grand Total</b>	

(Justification for amounts proposed under each head must be furnished with a view to justify its need and relevance to the project).

Place  
Date

Signature  
Name & Address of investigator

counter signed by  
The Head of the institution

(Seal)

COVERING LETTER FOR APPLYING FOR A COMMISSIONED PROJECT:  
“.....”

To

The Member Secretary  
State Wetland Authority Kerala  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, KSRTC Bus Terminal Complex  
Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram-695001

Sir,

A research project entitled“.....” is forwarded herewith.

It is certified that the same project or project with similar objectives has not been submitted to any other funding agency by the Investigator.

We have carefully read the guidelines of sanctioning the project and agree to abide by them.

The organization will provide all necessary infrastructural facilities (both laboratory and administrative) if the project is sanctioned.

The organization is fully responsible in regard to matters pertaining to the project.

Yours faithfully,

(Principal Investigator)

(Registrar/Director/Head of the Institution)

Date.....

Place.....

## ENDORSEMENT FROM HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION

(To be given on letter head)

Title of the Project:

The Institute certifies the participation of .....as the Principal Investigator and.....as the Principal Co- investigator for the project and that in the unforeseen event of discontinuance by the Principal Investigator, the Principal Co-investigator or any other equally qualified Investigator will assume the responsibility of the successful completion of the project (with due information to the SWAK).

Certified that the equipments and other basic facilities mentioned in the Part IV of Application Form and such other administrative facilities as per terms and conditions of the grant, will be extended to the investigator(s) throughout the duration of the project.

The Institute assumes to undertake the financial and other management responsibilities of the project.

Date:

Place:

Name and Signature of  
Head of the Institution

# **WATER BIRD CENSUS IN THREE RAMSAR SITES OF KERALA**

## **Guidelines for the submission of proposal**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

State Wetland Authority Kerala (SWAK) under Department of Environment housed in the premises of the Directorate of Environment & Climate Change (DoECC), function as nodal authority for all wetland specific activities within the State. The authority also identifies mechanisms for convergence with regard to implementation of integrated management action plans of notified wetlands through various line departments; issue necessary directions for conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies; undertake measures for enhancing awareness among stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands.

Implementation of the approved Integrated Management Action Plans (MAPs) of the three Ramsar sites Vembanad - Kol, Ashtamudi, Sasthamkotta is one of the impactful projects of SWAK. The approved Management Action Plan is proposed for 5 years.

#### **1.1. Monitoring of Water Birds:**

Water birds are one of the key indicators of wetland health. Wetlands provide feeding, foraging, nesting and roosting and habitats for these charismatic species. The information generated by monitoring the status of population of water birds over time is used to assess the health of the wetland ecosystem, identify wetlands of high importance for water birds, and take conservation measures such as designation as Ramsar Sites, or inclusion as priority wetlands within national programmes. Water bird census also provides an opportunity to promote awareness of wetlands. Water bird census conducted within the framework of Asian Water bird Census provides a useful information base for assessing species-wise regional and global population.

The current proposal for Annual Water Bird Census in three Ramsar sites of Kerala is for one year which may be extended as routine operational activity in the coming years for ensuring the better management and wise use of the wetland. The objectives of the scheme, procedures for applying and processing proposals for funding, norms for funding, conditions of support and dissemination of the findings are summarized as follows:

### **2. OBJECTIVES**

- To monitor the population status and distribution of wetland birds by regular, standardized counts in the 3 Ramsar wetlands of Kerala (Sasthamkotta, Ashtamudi and Vembanad Kol).
- To obtain information of water bird populations at wetlands in the region during the non-breeding period of most species (January), as a basis for evaluation of sites and monitoring of populations.
- To build the capacity of state/regional level networks to monitor water birds and wetlands through specialized training, awareness and participation.
- To train interested local community members and volunteers on identification and counting of birds so as to enable them in future conservation initiatives.
- To identify potential breeding areas and restore degraded areas to increase breeding habitats.
- To train the volunteers for general identification of traits of avian diseases.
- Community mobilization for controlling poaching and regulating the use of harmful agricultural chemicals in water bird congregation areas.
- Providing information on the conservation status of water bird species and wetland sites, for use by international agreements and other initiatives.
- To develop community oriented conservation strategies/action plan.

### 3. DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT

All the three Ramsar sites of Kerala; Vembanad-Kol, Ashtamudi and Sasthamkotta wetlands serve as habitats for a rich diversity of birds including number of migratory species. These wetlands are important stopover in the Central Asian Flyway. Therefore, a detailed water bird assessment and habitat mapping for these wetlands is highly essential. It is also proposed to ensure the participation of local communities in the assessment and conservation initiatives.

The activities to be conducted as part of the programme in the three Ramsar sites of Kerala are listed in table 1.

**Table 1: Activities to be conducted as part of the Water Bird Census**

Activities to be conducted during 2022-23	Name of Ramsar Sites		
	Ashtamudi	Sasthamkotta	Vembanad-Kol
Water bird Pre-census workshop			
Mid-winter water bird census			
Breeding water Bird Investigation- Initial Assessment			



### **3.1 Water bird Pre-census workshop**

A pre-census workshop for volunteers and local community members on protocol for water bird counting has to be organized in each three Ramsar sites.

### **3.2 Mid-winter water bird census**

In each three Ramsar sites, mid winter water bird census shall be conducted in January 2023 in the grids given in Fig. 1-3 in **Annexure**. The kmz files with grid layers of the 3 Ramsar wetlands are available in <https://envt.kerala.gov.in/2022/10/07/swak-call-for-proposals-annual-water-bird-census/>. In each given grid of the wetland, choose a one km transect in the wetland and survey it, listing and counting all bird species present. The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) methodology should be followed for listing the species. Survey each site in the given grids in a complete manner as possible, keeping track of total counts of species, while avoiding possible double-counting. Understanding the boundaries of a site or count area on the map is very important to ensure consistent coverage.

### **3.3 Breeding water Bird Investigation**

An investigation on the status of breeding water birds and its heronries shall be carried out in Ashtamudi & Sasthamkotta wetlands by surveying in the Kollam District during the first year and in all the three wetlands in subsequent years. During the investigation, information on the number of nests of each species, the number of adult and young birds present, the activity of the birds, details of the location, information of the nest tree, data on the nearby wetlands etc. shall be noted. The history of the heronry, disturbances and threats, if any, and the possible strategies for the conservation of heronry shall also be noted.

### **3.4 Water Bird disease surveillance**

Disease surveillance is of utmost importance for animal disease emergency preparedness particularly for the diseases like Avian Influenza. Hence initial level water bird disease surveillance is proposed in Ashtamudi and Sasthamkotta wetlands and in all the three wetlands in the coming years. The investigators are required to report any unusual sickness or mortality in poultry and other species of birds in areas surrounding Ashtamudi and Sasthamkotta wetlands. The roosting places of migratory birds should be aimed specifically. The frequency of sampling shall be once in a month from September to March period in the absence of Avian Influenza. However, more frequent monitoring shall be required during an Avian Influenza outbreak, adhering to all safety guidelines / protocols by WHO.

## **4. PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING**

### **4.1. Who is Eligible?**

Recognized R&D institutions, academic institutions, government departments and reputed non-governmental organizations who have background working experience in the project subject area/problems to be addressed.

A consortium formed by the above mentioned entities can also apply and funds will be dealt with the lead institution who might undertake a clear cut MoU /agreement with the joining institutions.

Non-governmental institutions should have declared mandate for environmental research and development, as evident from their by-laws and should be registered under appropriate laws and functioning for at least 5 years in the relevant field at the time of submission of the project.

### **4.2 Principal Investigators / Co-Investigator (s)/ Institution**

The Principal Investigator (PI) has the primary responsibility in implementing the project. The PI should have either Ph.D. or research/project experience in the subject area. If there is more than one investigator, it is necessary to ensure that the project is carried out by the project team in a cohesive manner. Periodic meetings of the team are essential for this purpose.

### **4.3 Procedure for Submission of Proposals**

- Three copies of the proposals to be submitted in the prescribed proforma as available in the DoECC website (Annexure I).
- The proposal should clearly describe the problem to be addressed, methodologies involved, and data sources and physical and financial timeline including budget details with month/quarter wise split up.
- The project time lines, milestones, and an indication of the expected output and outcomes should be clearly depicted in the project proposal.
- Salary of Principal Investigator (PI) / Co-PI will not be borne under the project, except very essential research fellowships for the project period, to be filled by eligible candidates as per CSIR/UGC norms.
- Proposals prepared by the Principal Investigator (PI) should be endorsed by the

Administrative Head of the Institution. In case, a proposal involves a network of research institutions, the PI would identify the Lead Investigator from each of the participating Institutions with the approval of the Heads of Institution.

- The proposal should accompany required details of the complete Team of Investigators comprising of their detailed resume, highlighting their academic backgrounds and publication records.

## **5. SCRUTINY OF THE PROPOSAL**

Proposals received will be duly acknowledged. The proposals will be examined by the Internal Screening Committee. Incomplete, diffused, repetitive and/or superfluous proposal(s) shall be rejected at this stage. The internal screening committee can call for a presentation of the proposal if necessary.

## **6. NORMS FOR FUNDING**

The applicant institution shall execute an agreement on undertaking with regard to the acceptance of the conditions for taking up the project as per the Terms and Conditions prescribed by SWAK. The full text of Terms and Conditions shall be appended to the agreement. After receipt of the duly signed agreement, the sanction order for the release of first installment of funds (50%) will be issued. The sanction order will indicate the budgetary allocation for the duration of the project under various heads. The total funds will be released in 3 installments in the order of 50:30:20.

The project becomes operative with effect from the date of receipt of the first installment by DD/NEFT/RTGS transfer by the implementing Institution. This date should be intimated by the Institution authorities/ Principal Investigator to the SWAK within 7 days from the receipt of fund. Extension of the project will not be permitted. If the project is not completed within the stipulated time, the entire project cost with interest as per the existing government approved rates should be remitted to SWAK.

The duration of the project is 12 months and the report should be submitted within the next one month. The second installment ie, 30% will be disbursed after the submission and appraisal of draft final report, Utilization Certificate (KFC Form 44) and Expenditure Statement. The remaining 20% of the fund will be released after the acceptance of final report by SWAK and settlement of funds received till then.

The implementing institution shall maintain a separate bank account exclusively for the project and it should be reported to SWAK and the interest accrued should be reflected in the

Statement of Income & Expenditure.

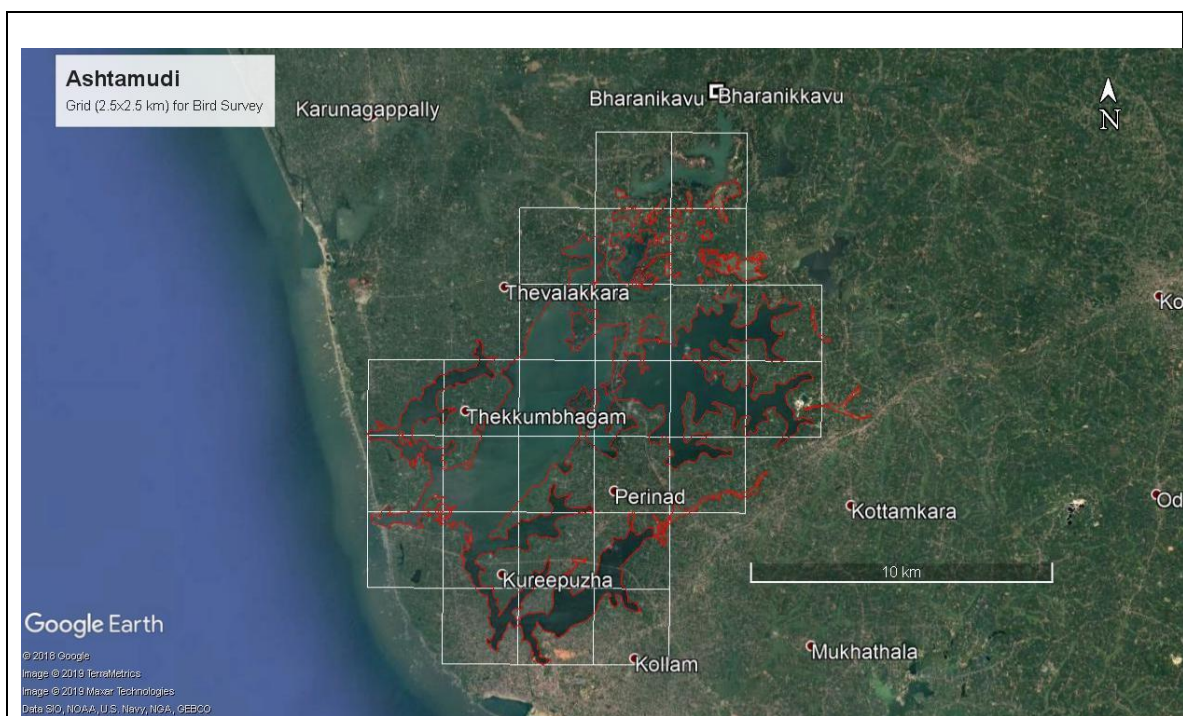
The draft final technical report, the audited Statement of Expenditure and the Utilization Certificates (KFC Form 44) are to be submitted before 2 months from the completion of the project duration.

## **7. ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

The Principal Investigator has to submit the draft Final Technical Report (FTR) (1 copy) to the SWAK before 2 months from the completion of the project along with other useful deliverables such as video clips, photos, digital data information including geospatial files. The PI should make a presentation before the Technical Committee/Scrutiny Committee and a panel of experts appointed by SWAK. The suggestions/ recommendation of technical committee should be incorporated in the Final Technical Report submitted. The applicant institution is bound to incorporate all the suggestions of the technical/scrutiny committee in the Final Report. Based on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, the SWAK would undertake the final acceptance of the Final Technical Report and, thereafter, the final settlement of accounts and closure of the project would be done.

**Fig. 1. Map of Sasthamkotta Wetland with 1 km grids****Fig. 2. Map of Ashtamudi Wetland with 2.5 km grids**





**Fig. 3. Map of Vembanad-Kol Wetland with 5 km grids**

