

MAKING WATER SENSITIVE CITIES IN GANGA BASIN AIMED AT IMPROVING RIVER HEALTH/FLOWS

Urban Lakes and Waterbodies Management



Structure of Presentation

In this session will be discussing on CSE's approach for urban lakes and waterbodies management in India

- Research Aim, objectives, Structure and Methodology
- Issues, challenges and opportunities
- Model Framework for Urban Lake Management Plan CSE's approach
- Menu of Strategies Watershed focused Strategies | Shoreline Stabilization
 Strategies | Management Strategies | In- Lake focused Strategies
- BMPs for Urban Lake Management in India



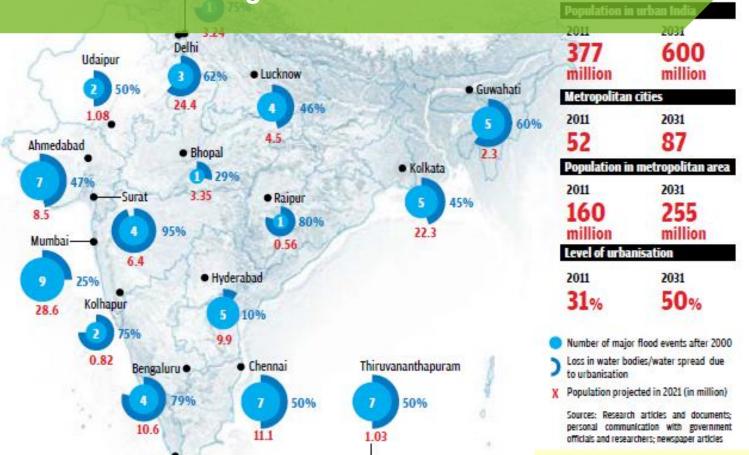
Some facts and Statistics on Waterbodies in India and the global

AAFTI

Indian Cities losing it's waterbodies Over the Years

Losing base

So, the question is, where did the half of the total lakes, i.e. 117 million lakes (not necessarily urban) worldwide would go in around 2 decades??



117 Million Lakes Found in Latest World Count (not necessarily urban) (2014)

Using satellite photos and computerized mapping technologies, an international research team (Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON)) counted all of the lakes on Earth. They found about 117 million lakes, covering almost 4% of the world's land surface, not counting the glaciers on Greenland and Antarctica.



The latest number is smaller than the previous statistical estimate of 304 million lakes. Large-and intermediate-sized lakes, such as Lake Baikal, dominate the total surface area of lakes on Earth, contrary to what was found using statistical methods.

"size-distribution of water bodies decrease drastically across altitude, where 85 percent of lakes, and 50 percent of lake area, and 50 percent of total lake perimeter are located at altitudes lower than 500 meters (about 1,600 feet) above sea level."

Of the total, about **90 million lakes are in the smallest size category, between 0.2 and 1 hectare** (0.5 to 2.5 acres) in size, according to the study. This means that about **27 million** of the world's lakes are what I would refer to as "bigger than a farm pond."







Source: Why Urban India floods, CSE.

Urban lakes form vital ecosystems supporting livelihood with social, economical, ecological and aesthetic benefits.

Significance of Urban Lakes

Biodiversity at Chilika lake

Improve Water Quality

Managing Urban Water Cycle

Supporting Bio diversity

Ecological/ Environmental Benefits

Important part of the Urban Water Cycle Fostering bio- diversity, flora and fauna. Supports migratory species.



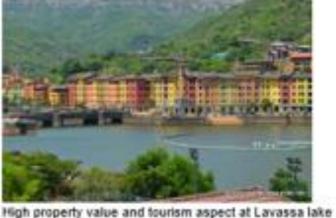
Educational Benefits

Recreation/social Public Space

Spiritual/ Religious/ Cultural Activities

Social/ Cultural Benefits

Benefits of Public Health
Educational Benefits
Recreation (for swimming,
boating and taking a leisurely
walk around it)
Provide both cultural and
natural landscapes.
Spiritual/ Religious/ Cultural
and Traditional Activities



iter Supply

nagement (Flood Control Mitigation)

iter Harvesting

water Recharge

em services as astructure

astructure

Fulfill a flood control structures for mitigation purpose.

Regulating river flows, e.g. Hoover Dam on the River Colorado and the Bhakhra and Nangal Dams on the Sutlej in India.

Store Rainwater/ Water Storage, Part of overall storm water drainage system

Urban Lakes acts as retention and detention structures holding back peak flows and moderating storm water impacts.

Recharge role, stored water slowly percolates into aquifer.

Modern role that urban lakes play as recipient of treated wastewater.

Economical Benefits

Livelihood Benefits
Means of Communication
Recreation (for swimming,
boating and taking a leisurely
walk around it).

Value

Tourism

Mean

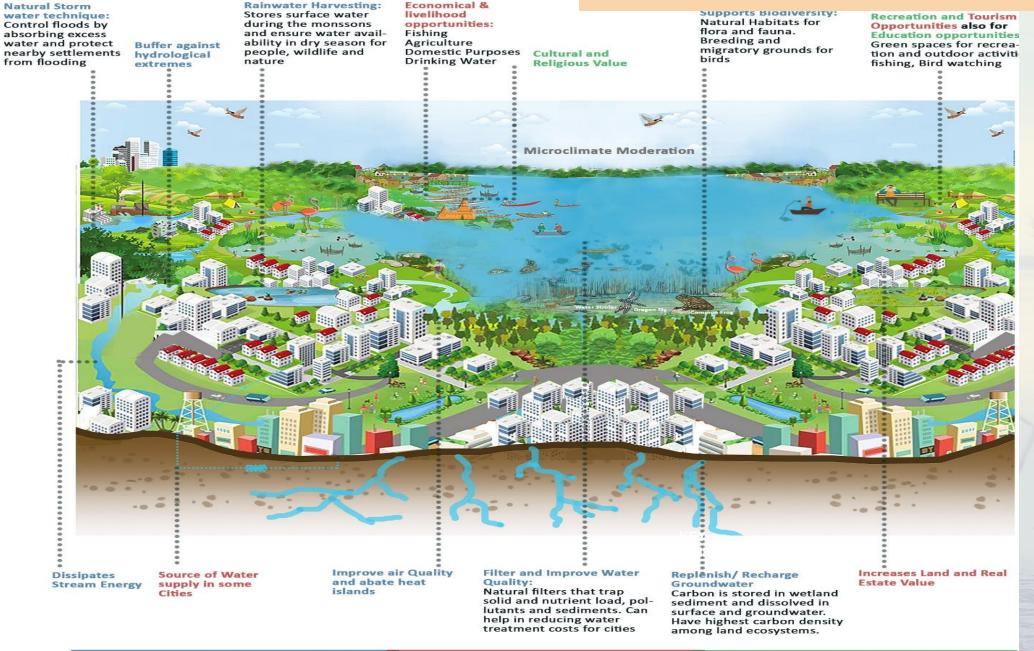
Hydropower energy generation.

Increase amenity and property values.

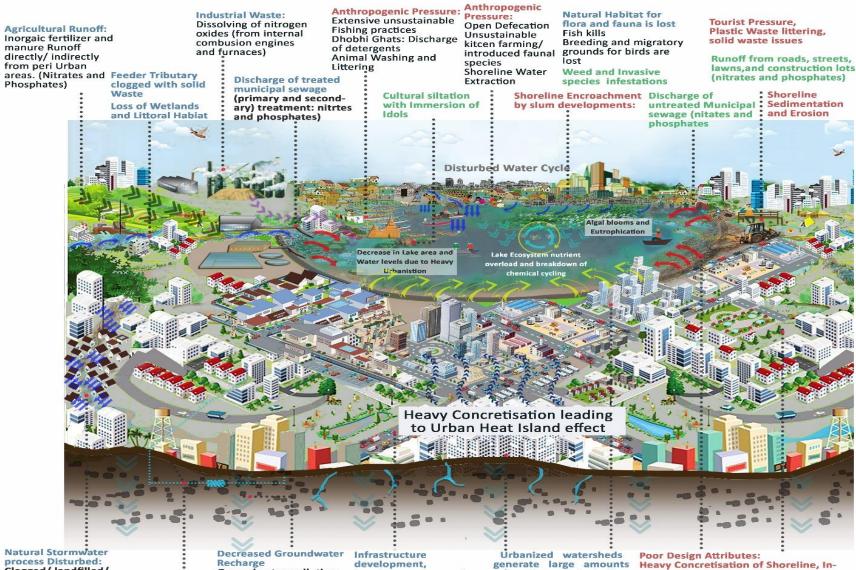
The salt lakes yield common salt. For example, Sambar lake

¥

What an Urban Lake has to offer???



Phosphates)



Natural Stormwater process Disturbed:

Clogged/landfilled/ encroached ntural drains leads to increased floodwater in Lake due to frequency in monsoon season

Water Shortages

Groundwater pollution due to lake water pollutants

housing pressure and encroachments

have resulted in converting all urban lakes into hyper eutrophic state.

of pollutants, including eroded soil from construction sites, toxic metals and petroleum from roadways, industrial and commercial areas, and nutrients and bacteria from residential areas.

Poor Design Attributes: Heavy Concretisation of Shoreline, Intensive development of real estate, Deforestation, Change of Landuse

: Shoreline

Urbanised catchment attributes (e.g. increased impervious area, loss of infiltration, directly connected drainage infrastructure)

What an Urban Lake become in our cities???

INDIAN CONTEXT EXAMPLES



Bellandur Lake, Bengaluru catches fire due to The illegal dumping of waste mixed with mass untreated sewage.



Cultural Siltation: Idol Immersion at Hussain Sagar Lake, Hyderabad



Weed and Invasive species infestations at Dal Lake, Kashmir



Dead fish washed up on the banks of Ulsoor Lake in 2016.

Photograph: Jagadeesg Nv/EPA

exploited water

resources

Research aim, objectives and methodology

This research is an attempt at assisting practitioners and government agencies to prepare an urban lake management plan to look at it holistically in order to conserve, revive and manage them through short-, medium- and long-term sustainable solutions.

Its purpose is to explore possible innovations both structural and non-structural. The guide highlights the key elements of an 'urban lake management plan' focusing from the watershed to shoreline to the lake itself moving to long-term planning and management approach

The objectives of this study are to:

- 1. To sensitize practitioners regarding the existing issues and importance of urban lakes in India
- 2. To provide various approaches focusing catchment/watershed analysis and water quality enhancement
- 3. To provide interventions aligned with strategic goal aim to address urban liability, livelihoods, equity and social justice through a sustainable urban lake management plan.
- 4. To highlight the need for preparing short, medium and long-term strategies for sustainable implementation of Urban Lake Management Plan
- 5. To showcase the case studies elaborating urban lake management plans in India and across the world.



Need for the study

AAETI

Presently under the government schemes like Jal Shakti mission, AMRUT 2.0, s and Namami Gange, the revival /rejuvenation of water bodies is observed through a *piecemeal approach with short term measures like cosmetic beautification, enhancing recreational activities, addressing immediate solid waste dumping into waterbody, surface cleaning, using/storing treated wastewater to revive lakes.*

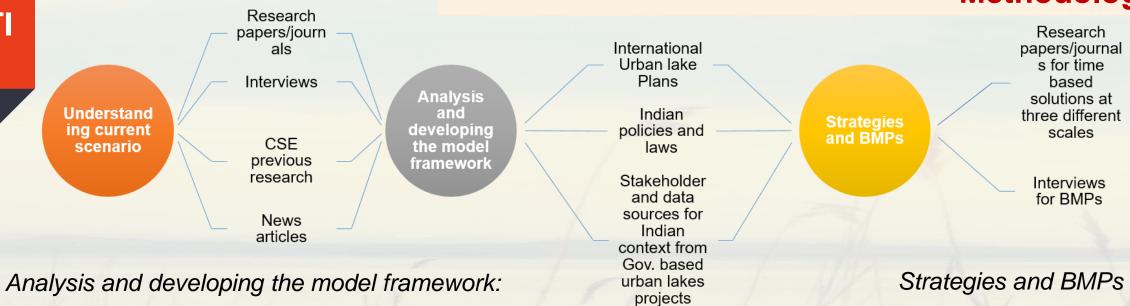
Under these projects, the *catchment of the water body is often ignored or mismanaged*. Although, many cities have initiated the work towards rejuvenation of waterbodies, the long-term approach is still missing.

Since the lake is a reflection of its catchment area, it is essential to understand the significant changes or trends concerning the primary land uses within the catchment area/watershed of the lake.

Presently, there is *hardly any approach which defines the comprehensive planning process* for preparation of action plans for lake rejuvenation considering its watershed area. It is essential to have a document which guides how to develop a good lake management plan with clear understanding of lake's watershed area, specific goals, objectives, and time-based action plans. Focusing on planning process rather than quick-fix solutions makes the lake rejuvenation a manageable process. However currently, lake management in India is project oriented and not comprehensive.



Methodology



Objectives	Chapters	Content
ctive 1	Introduction	 Significance of urban lakes Need for the guide Scope of guide Methodology of the report Target group Key issues observed under 'Urban Lake Management' in India Target group
Objective	Understanding urban lakes	 What are urban lakes Lake and Watershed Interaction Policies and programmes for urban lakes management Governance of urban lakes Stakeholders and their linkages with Urban Lakes Importance of local communities as stakeholders



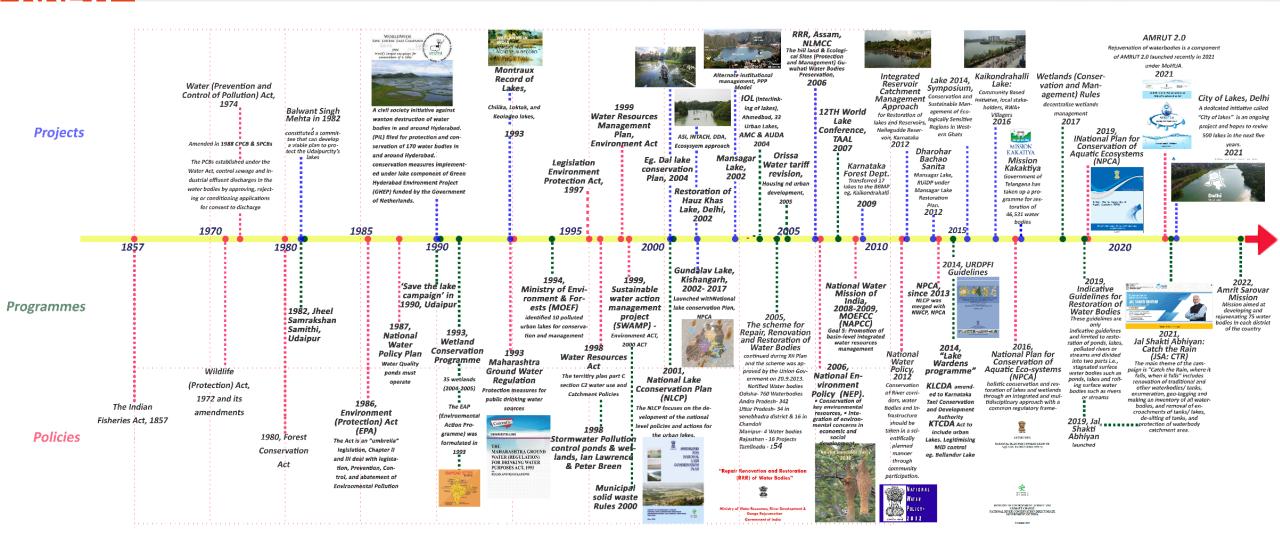
AAETI

Objectives	Chapters	Content		
3 Model Framework for Urban Lake Management Plan	 Stakeholder Analysis Gather Information and Identify Concerns Characteristics of watershed/ Catchment Physical features of the lake Hydrological values Ecological features Status Report Identification of issues and Data Analysis Develop Vision, Goals and Objectives 			
Objective 2 &	`Take Actions	 Menu for strategies Watershed focused Strategies Shoreline Stabilization Strategies Management Strategies Land use Planning of Waterbody in Master Plan Proposed Institutional Set-up Regulations and enforcement Stakeholder's involvement and engagement Public Education and Outreach Revenue generation opportunities The In- Lake focused Strategies 		
	Evaluat e, Monitor the plan	 Re- asses and Modify/ Update Plan Economic valuation of urban lakes 		
Objective 4	Case studies and BMPs	 International BMPS Indian case studies Examples of existing ULMPS all over the world 		



AAFTI

Timeline of policies and guidelines relevant to lakes





Key issues in 'Urban waterbodies management' in India

Issues that are difficult to see with naked eyes

Insensitivity of masterplan towards water bodies and floodzone area

Lack of acknowledgement of a Waterbody as a Land Use/ Water Use Category in *Master Plan,* Land Records

- Urban lakes/ wetlands are rarely recorded under municipal land laws, so they are not recognised.
- Lack of attention towards conserving and regulating floodplains of water bodies have increased the threat of urban flooding
- There is no legal protection for city lakes, catchment and drainage systems. Hence many urban water bodies and their catchment have been encroached upon or taken away for housing and other buildings.

Inventory of Waterbodies

No city has a public inventory of waterbodies, on a GIS platform with information relating to physical features, ownership, catchment details, socio-economic linkages, rights and privileges **Stakeholders? Technical capacities Community?**

Unclear roles and responsibilities among agencies currently undertaking different aspects of waterbodies management, leading to either overlaps or gaps in management and stakeholder conflicts

Lack of Awareness, poor community participation

Lack of awareness and commitment from public and politicians with poor stakeholder participation

Insensitivity towards science of waterbodies

Poor understanding of the lake dynamics: Catchment, shoreline, buffer area, in-lake ecology and processes.

Lack of a national/state policy, legislation, appropriate action plan and guidelines, manuals on nature – based – solutions

The existing legislation and policies are mostly declarative, they *lack established targets or prioritised planned actions.*

They generally are *focused on fast track development programmes* (including cosmetic beautification of shoreline, ecologically insensitive chemical & expensive mechanical methods) and *lack holistic approach*.

Definition of Urban Lake according to National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP)

The definition provided by NLCP is based on broad hydrological and morphometry criteria of a lake.

According to NLCP, a water body should have a minimum water depth of 3m and should cover a water spread of more than ten hectares to be considered as a lake and have no or very little aquatic vegetation (Forests, 2010)".

The definition provided under the guideline of NLCP acknowledges only broad hydrological criteria to define a water body as a lake.

This definition ignores the fact that the water depth and spread keep changing every year depending on the various environmental factors.

In fact, there are very few urban lakes that fit into this definition since most of them occupy a small area, are seasonal and shallow.

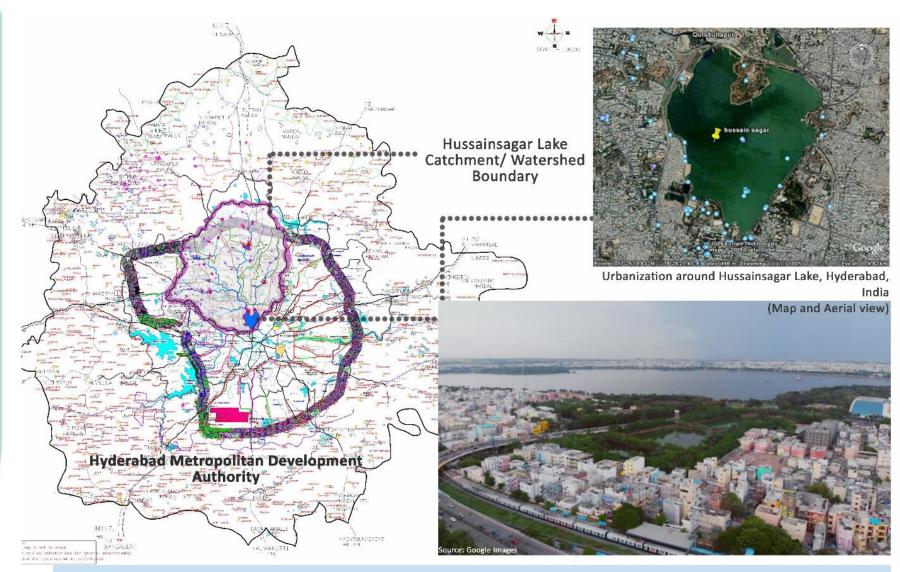


AAETI What are Urban Lakes?

Case 1

The apparent definition of urban lakes seems to those located entirely within city limits (census town) or likely urbanisable areas in the master plan and directly surrounded by urban developments, with some recreation facilities limited to the shoreline area (parks, playgrounds).

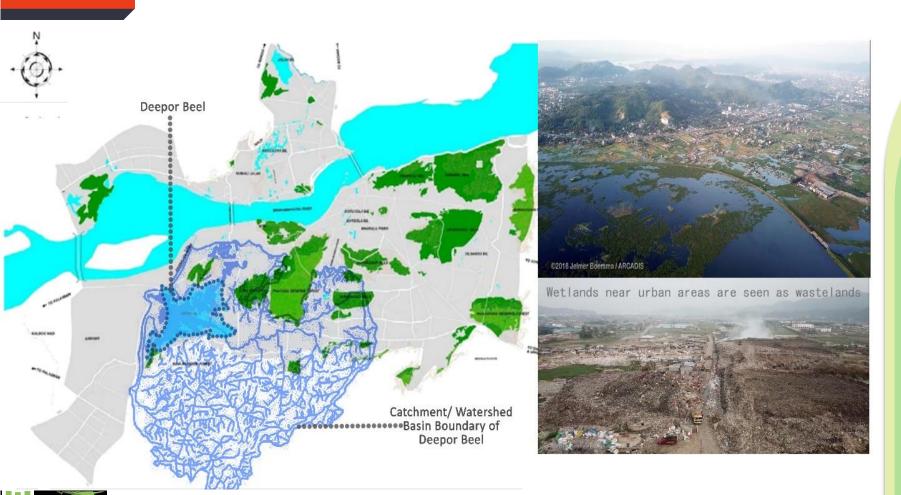
Hussainsagar Lake in Hyderabad, Shahpura Lake in Bhopal can be alled true urban lakes.



Map of Hussainsagar Lake with its catchment and Development authority Boundary, Hyderabad, India (In context with the definition)

How Can we define Urban Lakes?

What are Urban Lakes?

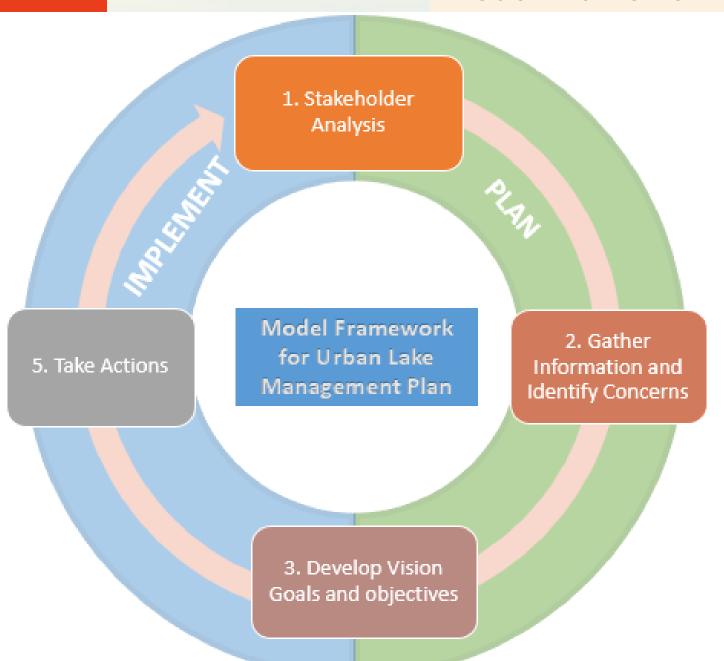


Map of Deepor Beel with its catchment being city boundaries, Guwahati, India

lakes The which are predominantly affected by human urban population and their damage basin dominated by urbanization, rather than geology, soils or agriculture. Such lakes, are lakes situated only partially within city limits, or attached but not necessarily surrounded entirely by city development but can urbanise in future.

Lakes in India like Deepor beel, Guwahati, Assam; or Loktak Lake in Manipur would come under this category.

Model Framework for Urban Lake Management Plan



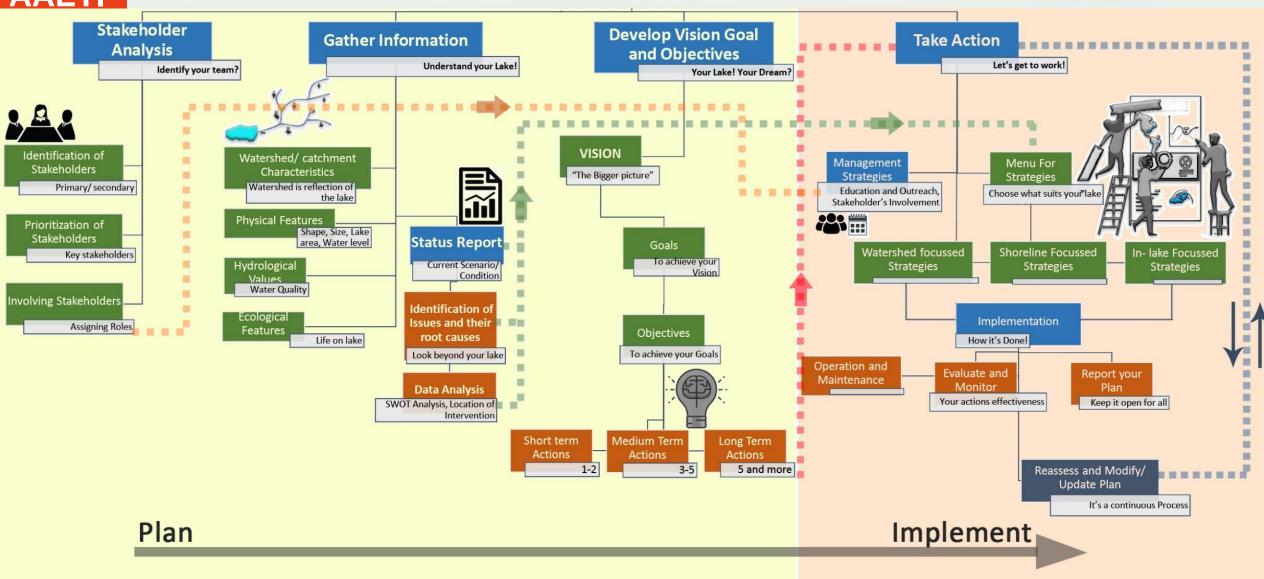
The development of a successful lake management depends on the fact that each lake and its associated catchment is unique by its physical characteristics, the assemblage of living and non-living components in its surroundings, geographical location on the landscape and anthropogenic uses and dependency.

At the same time, lake management process is a fluid process altogether.

To have a systematic approach for conservation, protection, management and restoration of an urban lake, this model framework provides step to step guidance to move forward for sustainable urban lake management Plan

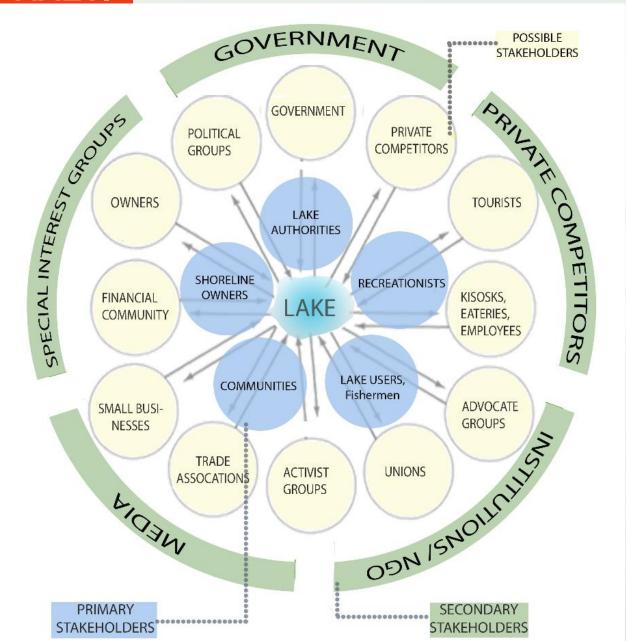
Hierarchy of steps for model framework for Urban Lake Management Plan

AAETI





AAET



Identification - Identification of Stakeholders and their Selection.

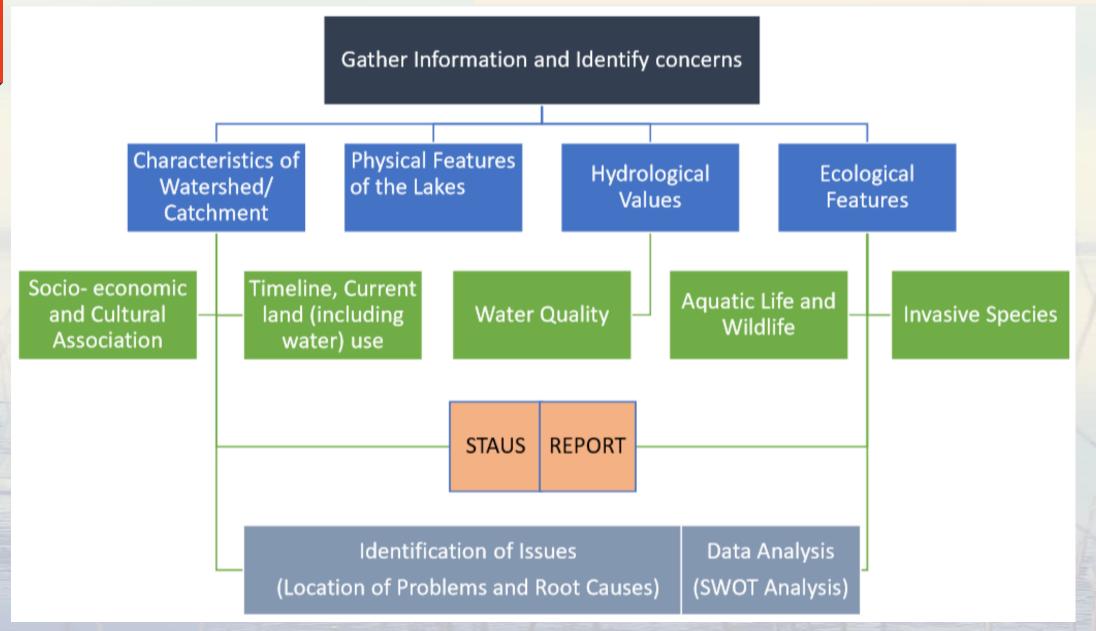
Prioritization - Assessment of the stakeholder's interest, importance and influence.

Involvement - Summarizing a participation strategy and public outreach.

	Stakeholders	Returns	Rights	Responsibilitie s	Relationships
User Communities/ Business	Fisherman Recreationists Owners at Shoreline etc.	For domestic purposes Income from selling fish	The relevant national policies, laws, regulations, and local custom promotes sustainable fishing	Compliance with provisions in the community lakes management plan, laws, regulations and local rules	Fisherman depend on wetlands for food and income. They are governed by community institutions and local govt.
_					
Government	Municipal Government State Government Central Government	₩.			
Interest	etc. Institutions and NGO's				
Special	Conservation Clubs				

for Analysis of stakeholders involved in the utilization and management of urban lakes

Gather Information and Identify Concerns





Methodology for Gathering Information, Data Analysis and Identification of Issues

Source: CSE, 2020 - 2022

Develop Vision, Goals and Objectives

Objective 1:

At least 50 % of Long Lake owners carry out best management practices to reduce runoff to the lake.

Objective 2:

Reduce internal loading from lake sediments by 90%

Objective 3:

Engage and support agricultural producers in reducing runoff to Long Lake.

Short Term Actions

Provide information about residential best management practices in meetings, personal visits, newsletters, and emails.

Share in the cost of project installation if funds are available from the LLPRD, grants, and other sources.

Provide recognition in the form of a sign or dark marker to raise interest, and/or consider a special listing in the homeowner's directory with permission from the landowner.

Medium Term Actions

Teach residents about residential best management practices at workshops, demonstrations, and tours.

Provide free design assistance for water quality landscaping and habitat improvements to lake residents if funds are available from the LLPRD, grants and other sources.

Assemble and train volunteers and provide volunteer support for project installation.

Long Term Actions

Evaluate to track best management practices implemented and determine next steps.

Different methods and examples are available for each step

<u>Actions</u> describe specific ways the group will reach its objectives.

Objectives refer to specific measurable results for the group's broad goals.

<u>Goals</u> describes what the group is going to do and why they are going to do it. These are like a vision but more concrete and action-oriented.

Your vision communicates what your group believes are the ideal conditions for your community ("the dream"

Long Lake Plan Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Actions 2014-2023

Long lake is a healthy, recreational lake with clean water and diverse native fish, wildlife, and plants. Vision: "The Dream"

Goal 3:

Goal 1:

Minimize

nutrients.

sediment, and

other pollutants

that flow to the

lake from its

watershed

Goal 2:

Preserve and

Enhance lake and

Shoreline fish and

wildlife habitat

Lake residents and visitors understand the components of and the means to support a healthy lake.



Source: https://www.co.polk.wi.us/vertical/Sites/%7BA1D2EAAA-7A29-46D6-BF1A-12B71F23A6E1%7D/uploads/Long Lake Lake LMP 2013(2).pdf

Source: CSE, 2020 - 2022

Take Actions

AAETI

Management

members, local officials,

and children to improve

limiting human activities

lake conditions by

Type of action plans tailored for type of lake management plan

Restoration

certain amount

balanced fishery

Re-establish a

in the lake.

Revenue generating Protection Oriented

ivianagement	Revenue generating		Restoration
oriented Action Plans	Action Plans	Action Plans	Oriented Action
			Plans
The action plans	The action plans	Action plans focussing on	The actions plans
focussing on informed	focussing on	protecting the ecosystems	focussing towards
management	generating revenue by	of lake	restoring the in-lake
recommendations to	introducing new		processes directed at
address the issue	activities in and around		large-scale
	lake however, also		manipulations to
	keeping in		make significant
	consideration that eco-		changes or
	sensitivity		improvements
	Is not compromised		
For example	For example:	For example	For example;
Education programmes	Recreation	Prevent the	 Reduce in-lake
of the general public,	activities along the	introduction of non-	phosphorus
lake Association	urban lake-fronts, if	native species	levels to a

Protect current natural

areas, feeder channels

and command areas of

lake.

shorelines, catchment •

promoted in well

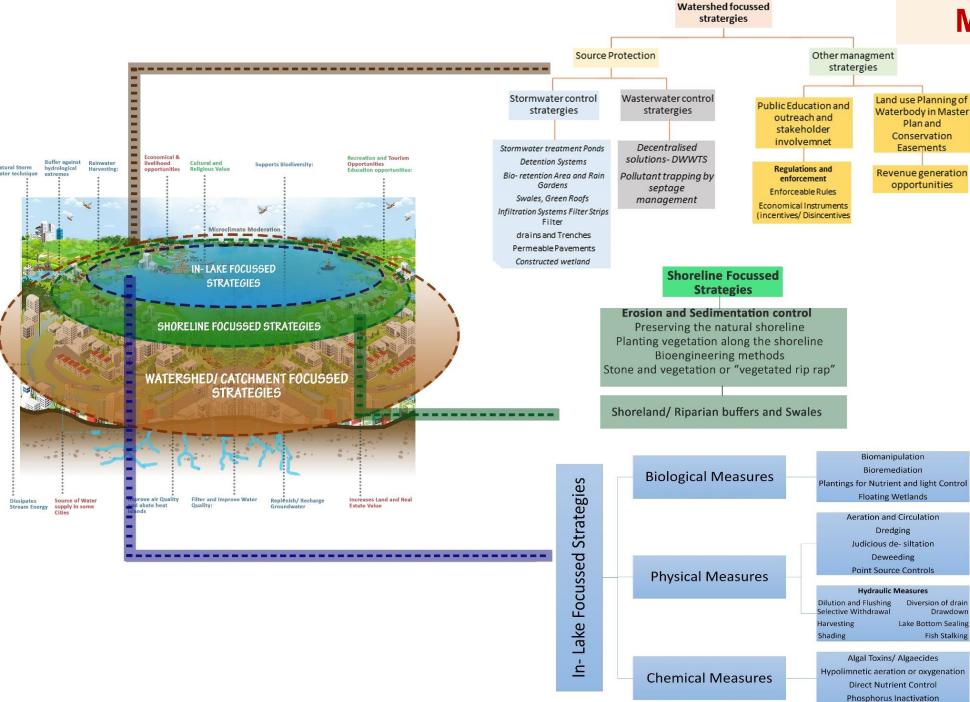
a new revenue

serve as

planned methods, can

generating measure

The **selection** of the right technology (for protection and restoration oriented action plans, Refer table) for lake protection and restoration will vary from lake to lake depending on the time as well as area/ scale of intervention for restoration. This divided can be into three approaches Watershed focussed Strategies, Shoreline focused Strategies and In- Lake focussed Strategies.



Menu for Strategies

For each of the interventions in the graphic, the technology has been explained (guidance) briefly with diagrams for understanding, Advantages and Disadvantages/Limitations has been reviewed and also a case study representing that intervention has been given

Watershed focused Strategies



Urban stormwater management	Domestic wastewater pollutant control	Shoreline Stabilization			
a) Stormwater treatment ponds b) Detention systems, c) Bio- retention areas and Rain gardens, Swales d) Infiltration systems e) Permeable Pavements f) Wetland Protection and Restoration g) Constructed	 a) Decentralised waste water treatment systems at neighbourhood scale b) Pollutant trapping by managing septic system 	 a) Erosion and Sedimentation control Preserving the natural shoreline Planting vegetation along the shoreline Bioengineering methods Stone and vegetation or vegetated rip rap a) Shoreland/Riparian buffers and Swales 			

Wetlands



Shoreline Stabilization Strategies

Methods: NOT to be preferred!



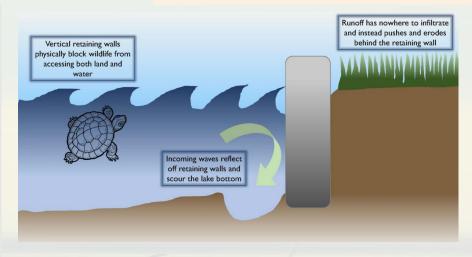
Solid vertical walls are hardscaping methods used to stabilize a shoreline, whether they are made of concrete, railroad timbers, or gabion baskets, these walls create a sterile disconnect between the water and upland areas, and eliminate the littoral habitat needed by fish and wildlife. By disrupting the natural transition between the two zones, vertical retaining walls physically block turtles, frogs, waterfowl and other wildlife that require free access to both land and water as part of their life cycle.

Retaining walls:

Hard pavements:

Cosmetic Beautification of a lake's shoreline in the name of 'Restored lake's surface:

Beyond the introduced non- native plants, heavy concretisation, jogging tracks and fancy infrastructure, systemic faults remains constant for instance; runoff fr non- point sources, continued inflow of untreated sewa dumping of solid waste on lakebeds, tourist pressure, unchecked encroachments and poor maintenance.









What to be done: Shoreline Stabilization Strategies

- a) Erosion and Sedimentation control
- Preserving the natural shoreline
- Planting vegetation along the shoreline
- Bioengineering methods
- Stone and vegetation or vegetated rip rap
- a) Shoreland/ Riparian buffers and Swales



Management Strategies

The most common non-structural strategies management (Management oriented and Revenue generating Action **Plans**) includes the measures that can help changing of the practices that causes the problems in the first place. It may include land use planning laws and enforcement, building codes and byelaws, and assessment information research public and resources awareness programmes.

Management strategies focussing on lake as well as watershed considers all of the environmental, cultural and biological factors affecting the lake and sets a higher priority on finding lasting solutions than on pursuing quick, cosmetic treatment of symptoms.

The effective long-term management strategy includes the *combination of watershed*, *shoreline and in-lake based management*.

1. Land use Planning of Waterbody in Master Plan and Conservation Easements

- 2. Proposed Institutional Set-up
- 3. Regulations and enforcement
- 4. Enforceable Rules
- 5. Incentives and Disincentives
- 6. Stakeholder's involvement and engagement
- 7. Public Education and Outreach
- 8. Revenue generation opportunities

Water linked livelihood

Increased tourism potential

Increased Business opportunities, commercial ventures related to lakes

Increased Property Values

Employment through Pisciculture and Animal husbandry

Employment through cottage industry like pottery

Employment through tourism infrastructure maintenance and temporal activities

Each of these measures are detailed out and also presents a case example where these have been undertaken



Biomanipulation Bioremediation **Biological Measures** Plantings for Nutrient and light Control Floating Wetlands Aeration and Circulation Dredging Judicious de-siltation Deweeding Point Source Controls **Physical Measures Hydraulic Measures** Dilution and Flushing Diversion of drain Selective Withdrawal Drawdown Harvesting Lake Bottom Sealing Shading Fish Stalking Algal Toxins/ Algaecides Hypolimnetic aeration or oxygenation **Chemical Measures Direct Nutrient Control** Phosphorus Inactivation



For each of the interventions in the graphic, the technology has been explained (guidance) with diagrams, Advantages and Disadvantages/Limitations has been reviewed and also a case study representing that intervention has been given

In- Lake focused Strategies

The in- lake management approach is generally a **short term solution** for lake management plan.

These actions are generally done to *manage eutrophication*, restore lake depth, enhance fisheries or increase the area of lake for recreation and used to control invasive species.

In-lake activities caters to the symptoms and may succeed for the short term, but more often misses out on the source of these problem long but term holistic sustainability and solutions will often support the prioritization watershed based corrective actions or can be assured with combination of watershed, shoreline and In-lake focussed management strategies.

Evaluate and Monitor effectiveness of Implemented Actions

BMPs for Urban Lake Management in India

- Case Study: Upper and Lower Lakes, Bhopal (India)
- 2. Case Study: Hussain Sagar Lake, Hyderabad (India) Enforceable Rules
- 3. Case Study: Dal Lake, Srinagar (India)
- 4. Case Study: Pichola and Fatehsagar Lakes, Udaipur (India)

Monitoring	Evaluation
Clarifies program objectives.	Analyzes why intended results were or were not achieved.
Links activities and their resources to objectives.	Assesses specific casual contributions of activities to results.
Translates objectives into performance indicators and set targets.	Examines implementation process.
Routinely collects data on these indicators, compares actual results with targets.	Explores unintended results.
Reports progress to managers and alerts them to problems.	Provide lessons, highlights significant accomplishment or program potential, and offers recommendations for improvement.

Evaluation is compliment to monitoring when a monitoring system sends signals that the efforts are off track. (For example, the target population is not making use of the services, that costs are accelerating, that there is real resistance to adopting an innovation, and so forth), then good evaluative information can help clarify the realities and trends noted with the monitoring system.



Summarising ...

- Urban waterbodies management needs to *focus on resource sustainability*, to *build local water resources*, and *strengthen resilience* against climate change.
- Approach for waterbodies rejuvenation needs to start with *analysing the catchment*, the *linkages* of the waterbody with stormwater, groundwater and wastewater, and with *buffer* area management and *water quality* enhancement. Moving *beyond the piecemeal approach and cosmetic beautification*.
- Concepts of biodiversity are essential for successful waterbodies rejuvenation
- Extensive **stakeholder** review and **active community participation** are essential for sustainable project implementation
- Land use planning (masterplan, etc.), inventory of waterbodies, are key for protection and future use of waterbodies of Delhi
- Drop the 'model project / one-size fits all' approach and focus on context-based analysis and solutions for
 waterbodies rejuvenation and management. It must be noted that once the lake is deteriorated it can never
 achieve or restored to its original physical, chemical and biological conditions. However, the lake's current
 degraded condition can be improved and strategies could be applied to maintain the improved condition
- The long-term sustainability and holistic solutions will often support the prioritization of watershed based corrective actions or can be assured with a combination of watershed, shoreline and In-lake focused management strategies
- The 'lake management plan' is a fluid and continuous process altogether which requires constant reassessment and modification when required





Thank you



Senior Research Associate
Urban Water and Waste Management
Shivani.y@cseindia.org

Depinder Singh Kapur

Programme Director Water Programme, CSE <u>dkapur@cseindia.org</u>

