

Current Status Report of Wetlands in Uttarakhand

Background

- Hon'ble Supreme Court in the writ petition no. 304/2018 directed that "each of the State/UT Wetland Authorities to complete ground truthing as well as the demarcation of wetland boundaries of each of the Wetlands which have been identified for their State by Space Application Center Atlas (SAC Atlas), 2021.
- The State Government of Uttarakhand constituted the Uttarakhand State Wetland Authority by letter number 757 (1)/X-3-18-09(01)2004 dated October 16, 2019. Along with this, **the State Level Technical Committee under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of Uttarakhand, and the District Level Technical Committee under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate and Divisional Forest Officer as member secretary.** Wetland Division, MoEF&CC has designated WWF-India as the Knowledge Partner for Uttarakhand State Wetland Authority (SWA).
- Member Secretary, SWA in letter no.846/T-86/SECCCD/2024-25, dated 18.12.2024 requested WWF India to help in planning and providing technical support in ground truthing surveys planned to be carried out across the state by the authorised representatives of UKSWA/forest department.
- The UKSWA and WWF-India have decided to complete the study in two parts:
- Geo-spatial analysis and data analysis to be carried out through technical support from Knowledge Partner WWF-India
- **Ground truthing and boundary demarcation surveys to be carried out by the District Level Technical Committee.**

The progress of the ground-truthing exercise thus far is as follows:

GIS Analysis (technical support from Knowledge partner WWF-India)

- The data on wetlands identified in SAC Atlas, 2021 shared by the Wetland Division, MoEF&CC was analyzed by WWF-India.
- The analysis of SAC data revealed the following:
 1. There are 192 Wetlands; out of which 09 are reservoirs, 100 are natural wetlands and 83 are part of existing rivers.
 2. Out of 09 reservoirs, 03 are inside protected areas (PAs) and 06 are outside PAs.
 3. Out of 100 natural wetlands, 21 are inside PAs and 79 are outside PAs.
 4. Out of 83 river parts, 48 are falling in both within PA boundary and outside, while 35 are falling completely outside PA area.
 5. Out of 192 wetlands, 89 are present in forest areas, 72 are present in non-forest areas and 31 are falling in both forest and non-forest areas

- Moreover, the analysis for the district-wise distribution of the wetlands has been carried out. The district-wise distribution is as follows:

S.No.	District	River	Wetlands	Reservoir/DAM	Total no. of Wetlands
1	Almora	2	0	0	2
2	Bageshwar	1	0	0	1
3	Chamoli	0	17	0	17
4	Champawat	1	1	0	2
5	Dehradun	10	3	1	14
6	Garhwal	24	5	1	30
7	Haridwar	15	26	0	41
8	Nainital	7	10	0	17
9	Pithoragarh	1	6	0	7
10	Rudraprayag	1	1	0	2
11	Tehri	3	0	1	4
12	Udham Singh Nagar	14	28	6	48
13	Uttarkashi	4	3	0	7
	Total	83	100	9	192

- Further analysis is being carried out to understand the wetlands located within forest and non-forest areas.

Ground truthing (carried out by District Level Technical Committee)

- Member Secretary, SWA, in his letter no. 924/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 04.04.2025, has already communicated to Chairman and Member Secretary of district level technical committees of SWA to complete the ground truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands within their respective districts and to communicate the same to the SWA. In the same letter, PCCF and CWLW have also been requested to instruct the concerned officers from their end.
- Furthermore, the Member Secretary, SWA in his letter nos. 1109/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1110/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1111/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1112/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1113/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1114/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1115/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1116/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1117/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1118/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1119/T-84/ Wetlands/2025-26 dated 11.09.2025, 1064/T- 84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 21.07.2025, 1065/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 21.07.2025, 1066/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 21.07.2025, 1067/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 21.07.2025, 1085/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 05.08.2025, 1086/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 05.08.2025, 1087/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 05.08.2025 and 1088/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 05.08.2025, 947/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 19.04.25, 965/T- 84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 05.05.2025, 966/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 05.05.2025, 967/T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 05.05.2025, 968/T-84/Wetlands/2025- 26 dated 05.05.2025, requested the District Level Technical Committee to share the information on ground truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands within their respective districts and to communicate the same to the SWA.

- Chairman technical committee of SWA has already conducted meetings on 04.04.2025 and 30.04.2025 and has instructed all the concerned departments to support the district level technical committees.
- The district level Technical Committee has been directed to adhere to the following action plan:

S.No.	Activity	May'25	Jun'25	Jul' 25	Aug' 25	Sept' 25	
1	Meeting with all district technical committees by HoFF, CWLW and Chairman, STC						
2	Training to district technical committees on use of mobile application developed by NCSCM						
3	Data compilation, validation and preparation of report for ground truthing						
4	Data compilation, validation and preparation of report for boundary demarcation						

- A meeting with all District Level Technical Committees was conducted under the chairmanship of HOFF(CWLW) and Chairman, State Level Technical Committee on 08.05.2025 (letter number 972/ T-84/Wetlands/2025-26 dated 07.05.2025) to instruct the District Level Technical Committee and concerned departments to provide information on ground truthing and boundary demarcation of wetlands.
- As of **October 16, 2025**, ground truthing reports for **149 wetlands** and boundary demarcation/delineation of **26** wetlands have been received.

S. No.	Name of the district	Total wetland as per SAC atlas	Ground truthing done	Boundary Demarcation/ Delineation
1	Almora	2	2	2
2	Bageshwar	1	1	Yet to be done by District Level Technical Committee
3	Chamoli	17	17	5
4	Champawat	2	2	Yet to be done by District Level Technical Committee
5	Dehradun	14	14	5
6	Garhwal	30	30	6
7	Haridwar	41	41	Yet to be done by District Level Technical Committee
8	Nainital	17	17	4
9	Pithoragarh	7	Yet to be done by District Level Technical Committee	Yet to be done by District Level Technical Committee
10	Rudraprayag	2	2	1
11	Tehri Garhwal	4	4	Yet to be done by District Level Technical Committee
12	Udham Singh Nagar	48	12	Yet to be done by District Level Technical Committee
13	Uttarkashi	7	7	3
	Total	192	149	26

