

Advancing Development: Community Swaraj

*Workshop on*  
**Community led Green Recovery  
Initiatives in Point Calimere Wetland**

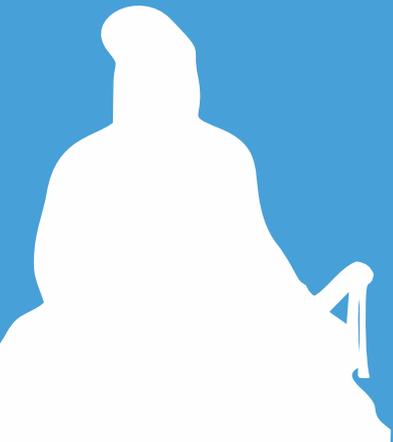
**Madurai Symposium 2021**

DHAN Foundation, Madurai  
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*Organized by*



Coastal Conservation and Livelihood Programme



## Rationale

Wetlands are one of the most productive ecosystems that have played a major role throughout human history by providing crucial services to dependent living beings. India has a wealth of wetland ecosystems that support diverse habitats and has recently designated its 46th Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site). Wetlands have been under constant threat of environmental degradation due to natural as well as anthropogenic activities. The wise use of the rapidly depleting wetland resources is a global concern today. During the past few decades, many efforts have been made world over to prevent exploitation of these ecosystems. Holistic and integrated planning for the conservation and preservation of wetlands resources is gaining momentum. Being diverse, the conservation measures for each wetland vary accordingly.

Considerable efforts have been put in by the Government of India to evolve institutional mechanism for conservation of wetlands. Some of these are National Committee on Wetlands, National Committee on Mangrove and Coral

reefs. These committees advise the Government on policy guidelines, identification of priority wetlands for intensive conservation and monitoring, implementation of management action plans, research and preparation of an inventory of wetlands.

Despite their values and the potential policy synergies, wetlands have been, and continue to be, lost or degraded by various factors. It is estimated that nearly one-third of Indian wetlands have been lost and converted for alternate uses for the last three decades. This has triggered biodiversity loss, changes to ecological functions and changes to ecosystem service flows with subsequent impacts on the health, livelihoods and wellbeing of communities and economic activity.

## Point Calimere Wetland

Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary along with the Great Vedaranyam Swamp was declared as a RAMSAR Wetland Site (No.1210) at the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8) held at Valencia from 18-26th November 2002. The total area of the Point Calimere Wetland Complex is 38500 ha situated in Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur and Thanjavur Districts. Point Calimere Wetland



Complex is a mixture of Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests, tidal mudflats, tidal creeks, lagoons, swamps, backwaters and mangroves.

The wetland ecosystem of Point Calimere provides many services to the people living in the area. Acting as a breeding ground for the fishes, habitat for many birds and animals, it protects the coastal line from soil erosion and other natural disasters. People indulge in many livelihood activities such as in-land fishing, agriculture, aquaculture, herbs collecting, salt making, etc.

But in the recent decades the bio-diversity rich eco system is been seriously impacted by many factors. By this context it's collective responsibility to protect and manage the bio-diversity rich eco system, In particular, the community members lives around the site are plays crucial role to protect and conserve the highly sensitized eco systems for the benefit of intact living being around the site.

By concerning this GIZ has extended financial and technical support to initiate community led green recovery measures in Point Calimere Wetland complex.

### Objectives

1. To sensitize the importance of Point Calimere Wetland and its services among the fringe villages of PCWC (Point Calimere Wetland Complex)
2. To comprehend the factors and activities affects the Wetland and evolve the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders on implementing green recovery measures and conserving the PCWC.
3. To understand the ways and means for effective community led implementation of green recovery measures in PCWC.

### For Whom

People Institutions, Traditional Fishermen Associations, Research Institutions, Fisheries Department, Forest Department NGOs and international Development Agencies.

### About Coastal Conservation and Livelihoods Programme

DHAN Foundation responded immediately after the tsunami in 2004 and took up relief works. After the relief phase, DHAN took up the task of enabling the restoration of livelihood activities in the affected regions. It has now evolved into a full-fledged and area-based programme. The programme follows an integrated and holistic approach to address the issues in livelihoods and conservation of coastal ecosystem without upsetting the social fabric and cultural identities of communities. Presently, CALL programme is been working in Palk Pay, Gulf of Mannar and Coromandel Coast of Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. This Programme has sustainable people organizations by involving the most vulnerable communities, marginalized fishing communities, affected coastal farmers and affected women families. The major focus the programme is, conserving coastal natural resources such as coastal eco-system, marine bio-system, water bodies and coastal farm system to reduce poverty and vulnerability, and thereby to make fisheries and coastal agriculture as sustainable. Along with this, ensuring sustainable livelihoods for fish folk is the key intervention strategy of CALL programme.



## **Date and Venue**

The workshop (hybrid mode) will be held on October 26, 2021 Tuesday at DHAN Foundation, Madurai, Tamil Nadu from 10.00 am. to 5.00pm. The following webinar link is given below:

Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/oag-ezpj-iqb>

*For further information, please contact*

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