



Government Denies Threat to Bhoj Wetland

Why in News?

Recently, The Union Government has denied that the [Ramsar site, Bhoj Wetland](#) in Bhopal faces threat of delisting from the [Ramsar Convention list](#).

Key Points

- According to the sources, a proposed road through the Bhoj wetland catchment prompted a local activist to file a complaint against the wetland to the Ramsar Conventions secretariat.
- [The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change \(MoEF&CC\)](#) is implementing the [National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems \(NPCA\)](#) for conservation and management of wetlands in the country, including Madhya Pradesh.
 - The scheme covers activities such as [wastewater treatment](#), **shoreline protection, in-situ cleaning, stormwater management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness, and community participation.**

Bhoj Wetland

- The **Bhoj Wetland**, also known as **Bhopal Lake** is a **designated Ramsar site** and hence, a **wetland of international importance (Ramsar Convention 1971)**.
- It consists of two contiguous human-made reservoirs -
 - "**Upper Lake**" - created in the 11th century by construction of an earthen dam across the Kolans River.
 - "**Lower Lake**" - constructed 200 years ago, largely from leakage from the Upper lake. It is surrounded by the city of Bhopal.

National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)

- NPCA is a **single conservation programme for both wetlands and lakes**.
- It is a **centrally sponsored scheme**, currently being implemented by the **Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)**.
 - It was **formulated in 2015** by merging of the National Lake Conservation Plan and the National Wetlands Conservation Programme.
- NPCA seeks to **promote better synergy and avoid overlap of administrative functions**.