



Bashettihalli Wetland & its Cascade Wetlands

Located within the Arkavathy basin, amid a textile industrial park in Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Karnataka.

Bashettihalli Wetland		
Co-ordinates	13.267938, 77.555974	
Wetland Area	19.5 hectares	
Catchment Area	5 square kilometer	
Command Area	50 acres	
Waste Weir	1	
Sluice Gate Inlet	1	
channels River	2	
basin Birds	Arkavathy	
	83 species	

Ecosystem Services

Flood Control

Biodiversity

Water Purification

Ground Water Recharge

Microclimate Moderation

Aesthetic & Heritage Values

Livelihood

Food & Fodder



Before Rejuvenation - June 2016



After Rejuvenation - June 2019

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER SUCCESS STORY: BASHETTIHALLI WETLAND, KARNATAKA

The Drying Wetland

Until four decades ago Bashettihalli Wetland was an important source of irrigation and drinking water for its residents and nearby villages. However, due to catchment degradation and loss of connectivity between the catchment and the cascading wetlands, the hydrology of the wetland degraded. Leading to the total drying of the wetland for more than two decades.

The water in the wetland area was present only in small puddles. In 2015, the water covered an area of 0.45 ha i.e. 2.3% of the actual wetland area. People started to use the area to graze cattle and to travel to Basheththalli industrial area. Further, solid waste was being dumped in and around the Wetland which deteriorated the water quality and led to loss of biodiversity. The wetland which used to render important ecosystem services like ground water recharge and carbon sequestration earlier was no longer capable of doing so.



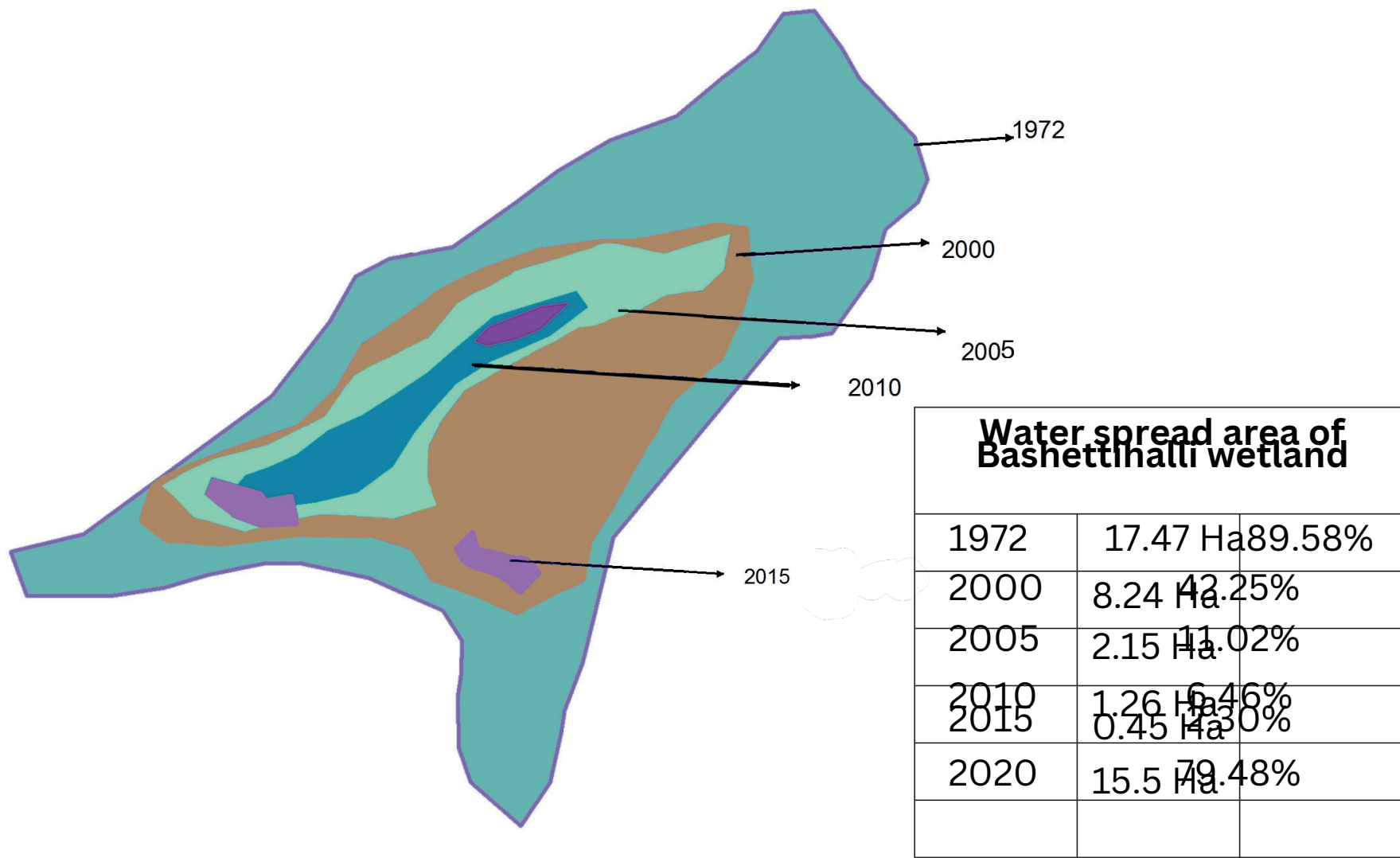
Before Rejuvenation - June 2016

The Rejuvenation

A wetland rejuvenation programme was planned, a joint initiative with a Multistakeholder Committee, chaired by District Commissioner, Bengaluru Rural District with other members like Bashettihalli Gram Panchayat (Now upgraded to Town Panchayat), Zilla Panchayat, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board, Doddaballapura Industries Association, Key Industries, local NGOs and community members, and WWF-India, supported by Nokia. With the committee now involved in every step, after a number of technical studies and management plans a detailed restoration plan was prepared.

The Multistakeholder led action plan

- Re-establish hydrological connectivity between the cascade wetlands and independent catchment.
- Scientific assessment of accumulation in the wetland and desilting to increase the water storage capacity. Desilting and clearing thick jungle growth in the channels. Also maintaining the slopes for easy flow of water to wetland.
- Multiple awareness, engagement and the training programmes for stakeholders and community members.

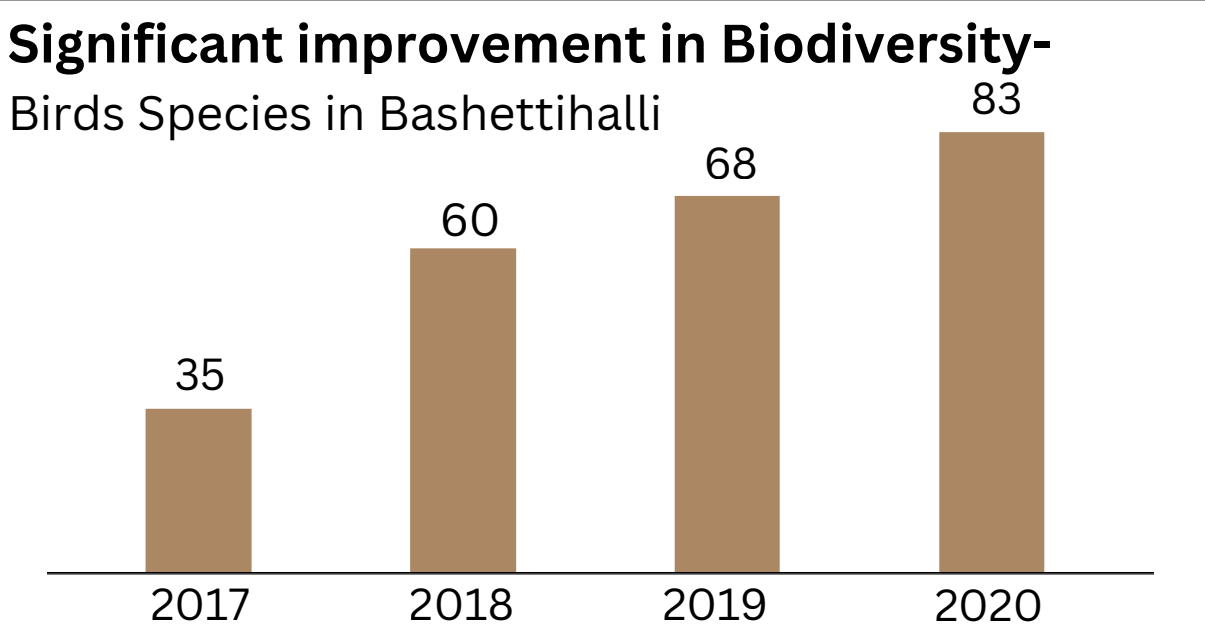


The Impact

- A 64% increase in the total volume of water, and a 70% increase in the water spread area in Bashettihalli and improved water holding capacity of cascade wetlands. Recharge of the defunct borewells in 2 villages around the cascade wetlands. The improvement in groundwater and overall wetland quantity & quality benefitted 7000 villagers from 4 villages and 125 industries; the wetland over flowed in 2022 after 30 years contributing to River Arkavathy. 1.7km of the hydrological channel was restored, and 1.9 Lakh Cubic Meters of silt was excavated through scientific desilting plan. The multistakeholder approach used proved to be a model for community led wetland rejuvenation. Planted more than 1250 native saplings in the catchment, helping arrest silt inflow and increase carbon sequestration. Engaged more than 10,000 stakeholders in varied activities through awareness and outreach activities. WWF-India and the Multistakeholder Committee were awarded Water Sustainability Award 2021-22 for their joint efforts by TERI, IWA and UNDP . According to the Wetland Health Card, the Health Category of the wetland went from Low in 2017 before rejuvenation to High in 2019 after rejuvenation.



After Rejuvenation - June 2019



The Way Forward

WWF-India and the Multistakeholder Committee along with the support from HSBC will take up rejuvenation of 43 wetlands with an objective of increasing the resilience of communities against the impacts of climate change.



Multistakeholder Committee Meeting

2000s

2016-19

Present