

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: ARKAVATHY RIVER BASIN

Through the Climate Solutions Partnership, WWF-India and HSBC are demonstrating Nature-based Solutions to restore rivers, wetlands, and catchments across Bengaluru, Doddaballapura, and the Arkavathy Basin. By addressing pollution, groundwater stress, and unplanned urbanisation, the initiative strengthens ecological health and climate resilience across urban and peri-urban landscapes. The approach integrates on-ground restoration, science, and community stewardship to enable long-term wetland management.

30 km
of the Arkavathy River rejuvenated

425 ha
of wetlands restored

49
Wetland Health Cards created for 1700 ha of wetland area

1,200
mitras enrolled and capacitated

4
Ramsar sites declared, bringing 5,470 ha of wetlands under enhanced management

Bashettihalli Wetland, part of a cascade of four wetlands in the Upper Arkavathy basin, once sustained irrigation, drinking water, and livelihoods for surrounding villages. However, catchment degradation and disrupted hydrological connectivity led to the wetland drying up, reducing its ecological and social functions. In response, a multistakeholder-led rejuvenation programme was initiated between 2016–2019, bringing together major stakeholders including the district administration, Gram Panchayats, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board, Doddaballapura Industries Association, key industries, local communities, and WWF-India. Guided by scientific assessments and participatory planning, the initiative focused on restoring hydrology, improving water holding capacity, and strengthening participatory management.



NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: BASHETIHALLI WETLAND

64%
increase in total water volume

70%
expansion in water spread area

Bird diversity increased
to 83 species, up from 35 in 2017

Over 7,000 people
and 125 industries benefited with improved water quantity

Improved
Wetland Health Score rating from Low (2017) to High (2019)

© WWF-India