



Date: 1– 4 December 2026

Location: Kolkata (*Rabindra Tirtha, New Town*) & Indian Sundarban

Hosts/Organizers: Global Nature Fund (GNF), Germany and Nature Environment & Wildlife Society (NEWS), India

Main Supporter: BMUKN – German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Climate Action and Nuclear Safety; IKI

About the Conference

The 17th Living Lakes Conference brings together the global Living Lakes network and partners to advance **resilient lake and wetland landscapes** as key solutions for biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation. Building on the International Climate Initiative “Living Lakes Biodiversity and Climate Project” (IKI-LLBCP), the conference will present concrete results from lake and wetland projects worldwide and highlight the Sundarban as a flagship region linking wetland conservation, climate resilience and sustainable development within international frameworks such as the Ramsar Convention and CBD.

Main topics of the conference

The conference focusses on how to scale up locally driven innovation for biodiversity and climate protection. The most important factors for a successful roll-out of effective and practicable solutions will be presented and discussed:

- **Create favourable Political Frameworks to support positive approaches**
 - How regional and national governments can and should support locally driven solutions
 - Which support can be provided by international conventions and organizations
 - Examples on how to ban unsustainable practises



- **Capacity Building on local and regional level**

- Living Lakes Academy, Sustainable Leadership Journey, Trainee Programme: Capacity building opportunities of the Living Lakes Network
- Citizen science approaches in lake management
- Using Digital Tools for Wetland Monitoring

- **New Financing Instruments for resilient Lake and Wetland Landscapes**

- Diversified Financial Support and Innovative Tools for Funding
- The Future of CSR- From Philanthropy to Investment in Nature
- Wetlands as a smart CSR investment
- IKI LLBCP Case Studies: financing models based on the LLBCP-Frontrunner and Replication projects

- **Stimulate Replication by efficient and effective Dissemination**

- Enable knowledge exchange and capacity building
- Replicate proven conservation approaches

These topics will be introduced by inspiring key notes and supported by parallel sessions:

- Strengthening wetland conservation Policy, Partnerships and the Ramsar Network
- Translating IUCN Motions into Action: Focus on overlooked high-altitude wetland ecosystems
- The Unseen Web: Conserving Lesser-Known Species for Functional and Resilient Wetland Ecosystems
- Coexisting with Wetlands: Regenerative Livelihood Practices for Healthy Ecosystems and Thriving Communities

In all programme items, particular attention is paid to the views of young people as they are the future in lake protection.

Furthermore, the role of women and their importance for resilient lake regions is highlighted through practical examples.



Target Audience

- Living Lakes Network members and partner organizations
- Public authorities and convention representatives
- Civil society: NGOs, community-based organizations, youth groups
- Donors and development partners
- Private sector: water, food, mobility, finance and related industries
- Municipalities and regional authorities, scientific and technical experts

Further Highlights

- Highly relevant inputs from practitioners for those responsible for lake management and concerned about resilience of lakes and wetlands
- Sound opportunity for networking and initiating joint activities
- Ramsar Wetland Cities roundtable and donor dialogues
- Field visits to Sundarban and surrounding wetland/restoration sites

Attendance by invitation only.

For more information on collaboration opportunities with Living Lakes, please contact: event.news@team-naturewildlife.org

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