

2 Aims

The GHWI approach aims to develop a standardised and compatible method that can be applied nationally and regionally in the greater Himalayan region². It aims to support initiatives for the conservation of wetlands, including high altitude wetlands, to do the following:

- Develop standardised field data collection sheets
- Provide core data and information on high altitude wetlands to Ramsar site and water resource managers, to research institutions in the region, and to international conventions and treaties on wetlands, climate change, biodiversity, migratory species and desertification as support for their implementation
- Analyse long-term trends in Himalayan wetlands and their natural resources
- Disseminate these analyses for wider consideration and application in the conservation and wise use of wetland resources
- Enable regular revisions and updates of information on wetlands of national and international importance in the Himalayan region
- Establish a regional web-based platform to share wetlands and water information as a tool for regional cooperation

The concept of this manual is to provide a step-by-step guide for compiling wetland inventory data that achieves the GHWI aims. The other distinguishing feature of the GHWI is its compatibility with an integrated river basin approach, which has been identified as the way forward for achieving conservation and wise use of Himalayan wetlands and biodiversity.

² The geographic qualifier 'greater Himalayan' is not very precise. ICIMOD's target area includes the Hindu-Kush, Karakorum, Pamir-Alay, and other neighbouring ranges along an arc extending some 3,500 km over all or part of eight countries from Afghanistan in the west to Myanmar in the east.