

## **State Wetland Authority Kerala (SWAK)**

State Wetland Authority Kerala (SWAK) is a statutory Authority in the State constituted as per the notification G.S.R. 1203(E) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) vide. G.O (Ms) No. 14/2017/Env. Dated 28.12.2017. SWAK is housed in the Directorate of Environment & Climate Change (DoECC) and function as a Nodal Authority for all wetland specific activities within the State. SWAK define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within the State considering sustainable use as being compatible with conservation and thus ecosystem functions and values are maintained or enhanced. SWAK also reviews integrated management plans for each of the notified wetlands and identifies mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing State/Union Territory level development plans and programmes.

### **Specific Guidelines and Call for Interns For ‘Ecosystem Character Assessment of Selected Wetlands in The State’**

State Wetland Authority is mandated for the notification of the Wetlands and designation of wetlands as Ramsar sites in the State. As part of these, SWAK is working on consolidating data regarding the **20 wetlands selected in phase-2**. Integrated Management framework benefits in achieving ‘sustainable management of wetlands through the gradual, continuous and holistic improvement of governance, including sustained efforts for the integration of institutional responsibilities, policy directions, stakeholder participation, scientific and traditional knowledge, and technological possibilities.

Out of the 20 wetlands in phase-2, preparation of brief documents of **Kadinamkulam - Anchuthengu Kayal, Poovar Pozhikkara and Killi are chosen initially**.

#### **Objectives to be covered in the Study**

1. Identification of unique characteristics of the wetland as per Ramsar Criteria including their evidentiary details.
2. Biodiversity Assessment (Flora and Fauna) and identification of Fish spawning/breeding grounds including their distribution in the wetland
3. Identification of Invasive alien flora and fauna and their spatial mapping
4. Physico-chemical characteristics of water including the trophic status (pH, Temperature, Salinity, Total Hardness, Turbidity, TDS, Transparency, Dissolved Oxygen, BOD, Phosphate and Nitrate)
5. Ecosystem services evaluation and value assessment (Provisioning, Regulating, Cultural and Supporting)

6. Threats Assessment (Human settlement, Water regulation, Agriculture and Aquaculture, Energy production and mining, Transportation and service corridors, Human intrusion and disturbance, Natural system modifications, Pollution, Invasive sp., Climate change, etc.)

7. Activities that need to be considered as rights and privileges of the community depending on the wetland

8. Any activities that need to be regulated/prohibited for the quality/health improvement of the wetland and to ensure its conservation

9. Boundary verification for major conflicts (along with SWAK team)

### **Wetlands to be covered under the assessment**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of Wetland</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>	<b>Minimum Number of Water Sampling Sites</b>
1	Kadinamkulam - Anchuthengu Kayal	Thiruvananthapuram	973.53	09
2	Poovar Pozhikkara	Thiruvananthapuram	83.44	04
3	Killi	Thiruvananthapuram	08.82	02

### **Who Can Apply?**

M.Sc. Environmental Science/Environment Management students/ or other relevant discipline who are in the second year of their master's degree or from Post-Graduates just passed out from recognized universities/institutions in Kerala can apply for the SWAK - Ecosystem Character Assessment Internship. The applicant must have experience and genuine interest in working on wetlands. The interns will be selected after a screening by the Internal Screening Committee of SWAK.

The interns will work closely with SWAK team and the Department head at the enrolled institute. Applicants will have to apply online by filling up the application form annexed. The applications are to be forwarded through the Head of the Department.

### **Selection process**

The interns will be selected after a screening by the Internal Screening Committee of SWAK.

### **Tenure**

Tenure of the internship will be for 2 months

### **Stipend for interns**

Rs.10,000/- per month

The maximum permissible amount that can be claimed as travel expense will be Rs.2000/- per month upon submission of duly signed request forwarded by the Head of the Department or faculty in charge.

### **Other Expenses**

Institutions with required lab facility should permit the students in testing of water samples. For institutions without a lab facility as demanded by the project, the cost for the analysis will be covered by SWAK at a lab accredited by NABL or PCB. The maximum permissible amount that can be claimed as analytical expense will be Rs.20,000/- for the 15

sampling sites upon submission of duly signed original bills by the Head of the Department or faculty in charge.

### **Internship Deliverables**

The recruited interns are required to submit the interim deliverables as and when the assignment progresses and finally all the deliverables to SWAK immediately after the completion of the project.

1. All the data collected as part of the project in digital format.
2. Brief Document of the Wetlands assigned to them.
3. Photographs/Short Videos taken during the field work.
4. Geo co-ordinates of the locations sampled.
5. Contact numbers of key persons relevant to specific wetland.
6. All the publications/secondary data collected for each wetland.

### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

1. The project will be sanctioned for a period of 2 months only.
2. Head of the Department or an assigned faculty from the students' institution should assist during the project and a review meeting to monitor the progress of the project will be conducted every two weeks by SWAK.
3. The students engaged in the internship will be constantly in touch with SWAK Professionals and the field work and data collection will be carried out under the guidance of SWAK Professionals. After the field work, the student has to perform the necessary analysis from a laboratory accredited by PCB or NABL and compile the data collected including secondary data if available and submit the results approved by the Head of the Department or faculty in charge along with digital deliverables two weeks after completion of the same.
4. The students will be awarded certificate of completion upon successful completion of the internship assignment.
5. An undertaking in prescribed format has to be submitted by engaged interns while sharing the kml/shape files of the draft wetland boundary and other spatial layers.
6. The institutions have to ensure the successful completion of the internship.

