



Government of Sikkim  
Forest and Environment Department

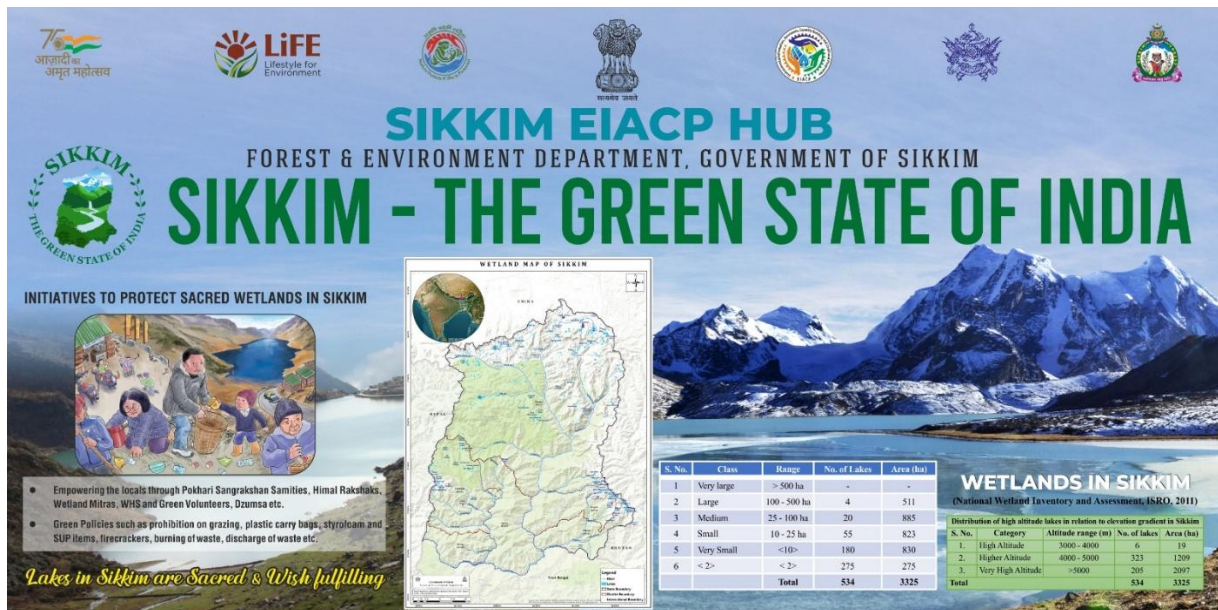
# REPORT ON CELEBRATION OF WORLD WETLANDS DAY

February 2, 2025

  
**SAVE  
WETLANDS  
CAMPAIGN**  
JAN 14th - 2nd Feb 2025



*Report by*  
**Sikkim EIACP Hub**  
Forest and Environment Department  
Government of Sikkim, Gangtok



**REPORT SUMMARY:** On February 2, 2025, Sikkim celebrated World Wetlands Day, marking a historic milestone in its conservation efforts with the recognition of Khachoedpalri Lake as the state's first Ramsar Site.

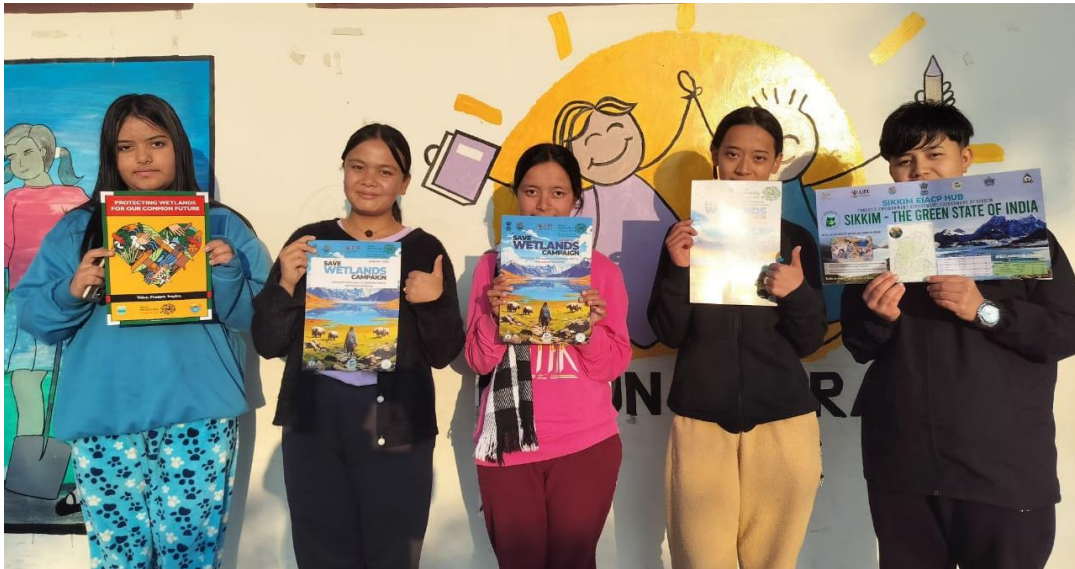
2000 volunteers participated in cleanup campaigns, tree plantings, and awareness campaigns at important wetland locations, including Marchak, Assangthang, Chemchey, Jorethang, and Khecheopalri Lake, as part of the Save Wetlands Campaign (January 14–February 2, 2025).

Honoring World Wetlands Day:

- Cleanup campaign and environmentally friendly garbage management projects in Tungkyong Dho (Dzongu).
- School bag distribution, cleanup effort, and conservation awareness in Tsomgo
- Lake. Birdwatching, a nature walks, and talks about Khachoedpalri Lake's designation as a Ramsar Site.

Khachoedpalri Lake's Ramsar designation is a significant step in Sikkim's environmental conservation efforts, guaranteeing international backing for wetland preservation while encouraging sustainable ecotourism and wildlife conservation.

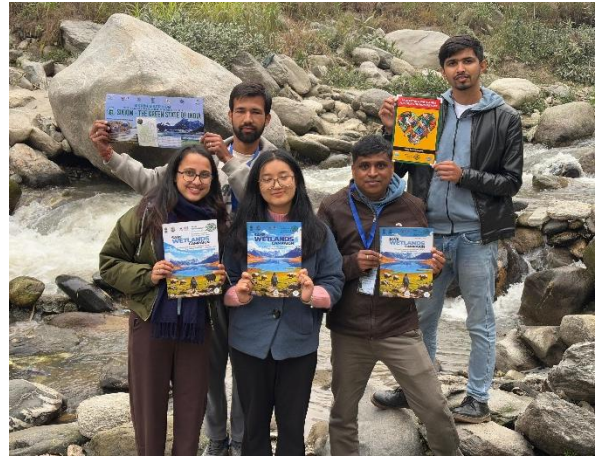
## Save Wetlands Campaign in Sikkim (January 14 – February 2, 2025)



The Save Wetlands Campaign, held across various locations in Sikkim from January 14 to February 2, 2025, saw the active participation of approximately 2000 youth volunteers, along with local stakeholders, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and community members. The initiative aimed to restore and protect wetlands through activities such as cleaning drives, plantation efforts, and awareness programs. Key events took place at Marchak (East Sikkim) and Assangthang (South Sikkim), Chemchey and Polok (Namchi District), Jorethang Maghe Sankranti Mela and Barthang Bermiok, Health & Wellness Centre and Ralang Monastery, Khecheopalri Lake (Gyalshing District), and Resithang (Gangtok). Volunteers engaged in wetland conservation, native species plantation, and community awareness, highlighting the crucial role wetlands play in ecological balance, biodiversity, and cultural heritage.

The campaign successfully fostered environmental responsibility and community-driven conservation efforts. Moving forward, sustained initiatives, increased community participation, and educational programs will be essential in ensuring long-term protection of Sikkim's wetlands.





## World Wetlands Day Celebration at Tungkyong Dho (Dzongu)



On February 2, 2025, the Environment and Soil Conservation (E&SC) Division of Mangan District celebrated World Wetlands Day at the First Biodiversity Heritage Site, Tungkyong Dho, in Hee Gyathang GPU, Dzongu. The event was attended by distinguished guests, including the Panchayat president, vice president, and members, along with the ACF Dzongu (E&SC), Range Officer Mangan (E&SC), BMC Chairperson (Hee Gyathang GPU), and all field staff of E&SC Mangan. Observed annually on February 2nd, World Wetlands Day aims to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands and commemorate the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in 1971. This year's theme, "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future," highlights the need for conservation efforts. The celebration at Lake Tungkyong Dho included a briefing on the significance of World Wetlands Day, followed by a cleanliness drive at the biodiversity site. Additionally, eco-friendly garbage bags were distributed to attendees, promoting sustainable waste management practices. The event demonstrated the commitment of the Environment and Soil Conservation Division, along with local authorities, to the protection and conservation of wetlands in the region.



## World Wetlands Day Celebration at Tsomgo Lake

On February 2, 2025, World Wetlands Day was celebrated at Tsomgo Lake with the participation of the Forest and Environment Department, G.B. Pant Institute, and community members. The event aimed to raise awareness about wetland restoration and conservation, emphasizing the significance of preserving these vital ecosystems. As part of the celebration, a cleanliness drive was conducted to maintain the ecological integrity of Tsomgo Lake. Additionally, school bags were distributed to school-going children, reinforcing the importance of education in environmental awareness. The event served as a platform to educate the community about the need for wetland conservation, highlighting their role in sustaining biodiversity and ecological balance. This initiative demonstrated the collective commitment of stakeholders to protecting wetlands for future generations.



## World Wetlands Day 2025 Celebration at Khachoedpalri Lake



Gyalshing, February 2, 2025: The Forest and Environment Department, Gyalshing District, celebrated World Wetlands Day at Khachoedpalri Lake, aligning with this year's theme, "Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future." The event was graced by DC Gyalshing, Mr. Tenzing D. Denzongpa, as the Chief Guest, along with respected Lamas from Khachoedpalri Gumpa and senior officers from the Forest and Environment Department and IPR Department. Among the notable attendees were Mr. Kshitij Saxena, IFS DFO(T) Gyalshing, Mr. Narsing Rai, DFO(E&SC) Gyalshing, Ms. Nisha Subba, DFO(WL) West, Ms. Bhumika Rai, DFO(KNP) Gyalshing, Mr. Krishna Limboo, DIO (IPR) Gyalshing, and Mr. Puran Sharma, ACF(E&SC) Gyalshing. The event commenced with a nature walk and birdwatching session around the periphery of the sacred Khachoedpalri Lake. Mr. Sonam Yongda, President of Khachoedpalri Panchayat cum Khachoedpalri Pokhari Sanrakshan Samiti (KPSS), formally welcomed the gathering. Following this, DFO(T) Gyalshing highlighted the ecological significance of Khachoedpalri Lake, which has recently been designated as a 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention.

A brief session was conducted to explain the importance of this recognition. DFO(E&SC) Gyalshing further emphasized the critical role of wetlands in the ecosystem and provided insights into various conservation initiatives undertaken by the E&SC Division in the region. In the subsequent session, Mr. Lakpa Sherpa, an expert birder from Yuksom, spoke about the ecological significance of birds and how Khachoedpalri Lake serves as a crucial habitat for migratory birds in the Himalayan region. In his concluding remarks, DC Gyalshing congratulated the Government of Sikkim and the Forest & Environment Department on this historic achievement, marking Khachoedpalri Lake as Sikkim's first Ramsar Site.

He commended the milestone as a significant step in the conservation efforts of the department and urged all stakeholders to collaborate towards the sustainable management and preservation of the lake. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Mr. Tenzing W. Bhutia, Range Officer (Yuksom T/KNP), marking a successful observance of World Wetlands Day 2025.





## **Khachoedpalri Lake gets designated as first Ramsar Site of Sikkim**



Picture: (Left) Khachoedpalri Lake. (Right) Dr Pradeep Kumar, Secretary and Mr Udai Gurung, CF(Wildlife) presenting the certificate to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay)

### **Sikkim achieves a New Milestone in Conservation: ‘Khachoedpalri Lake’ gets designated as first Ramsar Site of Sikkim, the Wetland of International Importance**

On the World Wetland Day i.e. 2nd February 2025, Sikkim celebrated the acknowledgment of its efforts in conservation. The sacred “Khachoedpalri Lake” has been designated as Ramsar Site. This is for the first time that any lake from Sikkim has been designated as Ramsar site.

A Ramsar site is a wetland site designated to be of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention ( also known as "The Convention on Wetlands", an international environmental treaty signed on 2 February 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, under the auspices of UNESCO). Wetlands on the Ramsar list are designated for their high value to the country and the world for the ecosystem services and benefits provided. The Ramsar Convention now recognizes this lake among the world’s most ecologically significant wetland areas, for its vital role in supporting diverse ecosystems, wildlife, and local communities. As the sacred Khachoedpalri Lake is known as a "wish fulfilling lake", folklore and legends associated with it are many. The folklore has generated deep religious interest too. The lake is enveloped in a dense forest cover of temperate vegetation and bamboo. Ecotourism, promoted with the involvement of local communities, not only provides economic benefits but also controls deterioration of biodiversity in the surroundings. This prestigious recognition marks a pivotal moment in Sikkim’s commitment to preserving the rich biodiversity and cultural heritage of this pious lake and also marks a key milestone in Sikkim’s environmental conservation efforts.

This Ramsar designation ensures that Khachoedpalri Lake will receive international attention and support for its protection. It opens doors for more sustainable management practices,

improved conservation efforts, and a global platform to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands in mitigating climate change. Now with international attention in the area, eco-tourism initiatives will thrive, allowing local communities to benefit economically while also preserving the wetlands. Several efforts for listing lakes in Sikkim under Ramsar Convention were made earlier too but they were not successful. This recognition has been possible with the Government of Sikkim's relentless efforts and coordination across several ministries and establishments. As we celebrate this achievement, we also recognize that the work doesn't stop here. This milestone represents an opportunity for all of us—Sikkimese people, government agencies, Khachoedpalri Pokari Sarankshan Samiti and other environmental organizations, to unite in safeguarding the future of Khachoedpalri Lake. Together, we can continue to nurture and protect this natural treasure for generations to come.

Let's celebrate this remarkable achievement and redouble our efforts to protect the natural world.

*Source:* Press Release from Forest and Environment Department, Government of Sikkim



*Picture:* The Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh presenting the Ramsar Site Certificate to the Government of Sikkim represented by Shri S. Elamurugannan, Conservator of Forests (Working Plan), Forest and Environment Department at Parvati Arga Ramsar Site, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh on February 2, 2025.



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES  
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

This is to certify that

***Khachoedpalri Wetland***

has been designated as a

**Wetland of International Importance**


and has been included in the  
List of Wetlands of International Importance  
established by Article 2.1 of the Convention.  
This is Site No: 2560

Date of designation: 2024-07-15

A blue ink signature of Dr. Musonda Mumba, consisting of several overlapping loops and a final flourish.

Dr. Musonda Mumba  
Secretary General  
Convention on Wetlands

## News & Social Media Coverages of Khachoedpalri Lake gets designated as first Ramsar Site of Sikkim

 **Prem Singh Tamang-Golay**   
Feb 2 · 

Heartiest Congratulations to the People of Sikkim!

I am proud to announce that the Khachoedpalri Wetland in West Sikkim has been officially designated as Sikkim's first Ramsar Site, marking a historic milestone for our state in global wetland conservation. This recognition, announced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change ahead of World Wetlands Day, is a testament to Sikkim's unwavering commitment to preserving our rich ecological and cultural heritage.

This remarkable achievement brings global attention and support to our efforts in climate change mitigation through the protection of wetlands. The Khachoedpalri Wetland, renowned for its ecological significance and cultural importance, will now benefit from enhanced conservation measures and the promotion of sustainable tourism in the region.

With this, India's Ramsar site count rises to 89, showcasing our nation's dedication to protecting its invaluable wetlands.

This is indeed a proud moment for Sikkim and reflects our ongoing commitment to biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.

Let's continue to work together towards a sustainable future!





**Government of Sikkim** ✓

2 February at 10:48 · 🌐



Press Release from Forest Department

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### Government of Sikkim's post





**News Update**

# **Khecheopalri Wetland Achieves Ramsar**