

Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS)

Indo-European Workshop

One-Health Monitoring of Tropical Wetlands

8th to 13th December 2025
Kochi, India

Apply before 25th October 2025



About the Workshop

Globally, wetlands are in a crisis, with unprecedented levels of loss and degradation. The *2025 Global Wetland Outlook* estimates that at least 400 million hectares of wetlands have been lost since 1970, with nearly a quarter of those remaining in a degraded state. Valuing, conserving, restoring, and financing wetlands is therefore a global priority to sustain biodiversity as well as critical ecosystem services, including water and food. The transdisciplinary *One-Health paradigm* which provides a holistic lens to explore the interconnected health of humans, animals and ecosystems, especially within and around protected or natural areas is emerging as a cornerstone of planetary health policies. The *One-Health* approach addresses how the general community perceives the link between nature and health, and combined with insights into the ecology of disease agents, this approach holds significant potential for effective ecosystem and people-health management.

The international workshop on ‘One-Health Monitoring of Tropical Wetlands (**#OHMTW 2025**)’ jointly organized by KUFOS, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and the University of Hasselt (Belgium), and funded by the DIOS Global Minds Project of the University of Hasselt, aims to provide participants with the knowledge and expertise required to integrate ecosystem health monitoring and science-policy translation into a multidisciplinary approach for managing tropical wetlands. Leading experts from Belgium, the Netherlands, and India will serve as resource persons for this one-of-a-kind workshop.

Who can attend?

#OHMTW is open to scientists, teachers, researchers, biodiversity managers, doctoral and master’s students working on any aspect of wetlands and aquatic biodiversity including areas such as fisheries, environmental studies, parasitology and aquatic animal health, toxicology and environmental health, socio-ecological systems, and natural resource management.

The number of participants will be restricted to 30. While applications will be reviewed, and participants selected based on alignment with the aims of the workshop, we are committed to diversity and inclusivity.

Speakers



Maarten Vanhove
University of Hasselt



Nikol Kmentová
University of Hasselt



Luc Janssens
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences



Jean Hugué
Open University of the Netherlands



A Biju Kumar
KUFOS



J.A. Johnson
Wildlife Institute of India



Workshop Structure and topics

The six-day interactive workshop will include conceptual and theoretical modules through expert talks and lectures, hands-on practical sessions, case studies, group discussions and problem-solving sessions, participatory insights and planning and developing action plan and draft policies.

The workshop will have an interdisciplinary focus, and cover a range of topics related to the ‘one-health monitoring’ including environmental health, bioindicators and disease ecology, ecosystem services, socio-ecological systems, nature-based solutions, stakeholder perceptions, and science-policy interface.

Registration and Workshop Costs



Registration fee for the workshop is INR 2500 (for Masters students), **INR 3500** (for PhD students and research fellows), and **INR 5000** (for all other categories of participants), and will include workshop materials, and working lunch and refreshments on all workshop days. The registration fee does not cover costs for accommodation, but the organizers will help in finding suitable places to stay, in and around the KUFOS campus.

Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies



Accredited with an 'A' grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) is India's flagship university for fisheries and ocean sciences. Located in Kochi, Kerala – the fisheries capital of India, KUFOS is uniquely positioned to contribute human resource for the fisheries and ocean science sector in the country. Since its inception in the year 2010, KUFOS, has over the years, emerged as a leading centre for excellence in education, research and outreach in fisheries, aquatic sciences, and allied areas. The University

offers undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs under four faculties – fisheries science, ocean science and technology, fisheries engineering, and fisheries management, and has produced several hundred undergraduates and graduate students. KUFOS is globally recognized for its work on aquatic biodiversity conservation, fish systematics, marine ecosystem health and monitoring, and polar biology, and is one of the few centers of higher education in the country with a membership in the U Arctic Consortium. With 'wetlands' as a major research theme, KUFOS has been actively engaged in the assessment, monitoring and conservation of the Vembanad Lake – a Ramsar wetland, on the banks of which the University is situated. OHMTW is part of the activities of the 'One Health monitoring meets the science-policy interface in tropical freshwater wetlands' a two-year project funded by the DIOS Global Minds Program of the University of Hasselt, Belgium with the University of Hasselt, Belgium as the implementing organization, and Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), Open University of Netherlands, University of Washington, and Université de Lubumbashi as international partners. www.kufos.ac.in

Venue

#OHMTW will be held at the KUFOS campus in Kochi. Located at Madavana along the arterial NH66 connecting Kochi to Alleppey and beyond, KUFOS is well-connected by air (36 km from Kochi International Airport), rail (13 km to Ernakulam Town & 10 km to Ernakulam Junction stations), and road (7 km to the Vytilla Mobility Hub). The nearest Metro Rail Station, including Water Metro is located at Vytilla (7 km) and offers connectivity to various parts of the city. <https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Kochi>

Workshop Partners



Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is a nodal national agency for research, training and capacity building in the field of wildlife conservation. WII offers training programs, academic courses and advisory services in wildlife research and management, and is one of the leading organizations engaged in biodiversity-related research in the country. www.wii.gov.in



Established in 2004, the IUCN SSC Freshwater Fish Specialist Group (FFSG) is a global forum for pursuing the conservation of freshwater fishes. Working across 17 regions, FFSG generates the science upon which freshwater fish conservation can succeed, supports best practices for both in-situ and ex-situ conservation, raises awareness on conservation related issues and inspires the next generation of freshwater scientists. <https://freshwaterfish.org/>

Workshop Coordinators

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