

Colombo Wetland Management Strategy — Ramsar Wetland City Flood Buffer

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Sri Lanka

Quality score: 67/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Colombo's 2016 Wetland Strategy protects a 1,900-hectare wetland complex absorbing roughly 40% of the city's floodwater; Sri Lanka must keep 90% intact to hold flood losses under 1% of GDP. In 2018 Colombo became the first capital named a Ramsar Wetland City.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	3/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation / Ministry of Environment](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Sri Lanka You Can Trust: Colombo's urban wetlands](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[UNDP: Enhancing socio-ecological resilience in Colombo's urban wetlands](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[GFDRR/World Bank: Urban Wetlands Management in Colombo](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

[Urban Nature Atlas: Beddagana Wetland Preservation](#) — accessed 2026-09-02

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