

Colombo's Ramsar-Accredited Wetlands — Flood Buffering Under the Metro Colombo Programme (Sri Lanka)

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

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Colombo's remaining marshes, about 17% of the city area, are managed as flood infrastructure holding close to 40% of annual rainfall. Ramsar accredited Colombo as Asia's first capital 'Wetland City' in 2018, backed by a \$321m World Bank-funded urban programme.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
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 2026-09-26

[Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[IWMI: Colombo's wetlands and the built environment](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[FloodList: Colombo's wetlands float to top of flood prevention plan](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[Frontiers in Water: water-level fluctuation patterns in the Colombo wetland area](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

[Daily FT: Ramsar accreditation of Colombo wetlands](#) — accessed 2026-09-26

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