

Pallikaranai Marsh — A Ramsar-Listed Flood Buffer for South Chennai, Undermined by Continuing Encroachment

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Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Pallikaranai Marsh, a 1,247-hectare Ramsar wetland (designated 2022) in Chennai, buffers monsoon floods for the city's south and hosts 120+ bird species, yet has shrunk from roughly 6,000 to under 600 hectares since the 1960s despite a 2018 state restoration effort.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	3/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Tamil Nadu Forest Department \(Pallikaranai Marshland Reserve Forest\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Restoring Pallikaranai Marshland — Madras Musings](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

[Pallikaranai Wetland — EBSCO Research Starters](#) — accessed 2026-09-05

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