

Summary of the National Training Programme on “Audit of Conservation and Management of Wetlands and Coastal ecosystems” (25th to 29th August 2025)

International Centre for Environment Audit & Sustainable Development (iCED) organised a National Training Programme on “Audit of Conservation and Management of Wetlands and Coastal ecosystems” from 25th to 29th August 2025 at its own campus. A total of 24 participants from 09 field offices including 06 Group officers participated in the training programme.



Group photo of NTP on “Audit of Conservation and Management of Wetlands and Coastal Ecosystems”

Ms. Meena Bisht, Director (Training & Research), iCED, welcomed participants, outlining the programme's focus on ecological, legal, economic and audit aspects of conservation and management of wetlands and coastal ecosystems through expert sessions and case studies.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Abhishek Gupta, Director General, iCED emphasized the importance of ecosystem conservation amidst climate change and urbanisation, highlighting auditors' roles in evaluating governance and sustainability. He encouraged participants to share feedback to support continuous improvement of future programmes. During this five-day training programme, experts from IA&AD and various reputed organizations delivered the sessions. The session-wise details are outlined below:

S. No	Session & Date	Resource Person	Session/s
1.	Session I & II 25th August 2025	Dr. Ritesh Kumar, Wetland International South Asia	Overview of Wetlands and Coastal Ecosystems: Ecological Importance and Threats
2.	Session III & IV 25th August 2025	Dr. Asha Giriyan Hadkar, Senior Fellow, TERI Goa	Climate Change: Its impact on Coastal Ecosystem

3.	Session I & II 26th August 2025	Dr. Pravakar Mishra, Scientist G (Retd.), NCCR, Chennai	Legal and Policy Framework in India (Wetland Rules 2017, CRZ Notifications, Biodiversity Act, Ramsar Convention, etc.)
4.	Session III & IV 26th August 2025	Shri Shardul Kothari, Rajasthan Wetland Authority, Jaipur	Conservation of Wetlands in Rajasthan : Case Studies
5.	Session I & II 27th August 2025	Dr. T. V. Ramachandra, IISc, Bengaluru	Economic Valuation of Wetlands
6.	Session I & II 28th August 2025	Dr. M. P. Punia, Scientist, Birla Institute of Scientific Research, Jaipur	Use of Geospatial Technology in Conservation of Wetland, and Coastal Ecosystem Studies
7.	Session III & IV 28th August 2025	Shri Arif Hussain Sheikh, DAG, O/o The Pr. AG (Audit), Punjab	Audit of Conservation and Management of Dal Lake : A Case Study
8.	Session I & II 29th August 2025	Ms. Monisha T M, Director, O/o The PDA (Central), Bengaluru	Challenges and Opportunities in Auditing Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Conservation Measures: Experience Sharing

During the pre-vaedictory session, 4 group presentations were made by the participants on topics as below:

1. Auditing the effectiveness of Coastal Ecosystems conservation strategies
2. Auditing the effectiveness of Wetlands Rejuvenation and restoration strategies
3. Auditing the effectiveness of implementation of lake restoration and conservation strategies
4. Auditing the implementation of Island Coastal Regulation Zone (ICRZ) Plan and Integrated Island Management (IIM) Plan

These presentations were structured to address risk factors, audit objectives, audit criteria, scope, and key lines of enquiry for auditing each topic. The presentation by Group 4 led by Shri Anuj Sharma, DAG O/o The Pr. Accountant General, Uttarakhand, Dehradun was very much appreciated. He was subsequently invited to develop the work into an auditing framework and contribute an article on this theme to iCED's upcoming edition of Green Files.

These group presentations were critically reviewed by the DG, iCED and feedback were conveyed to the groups to make this exercise resulting into development of possible audit frameworks which could be used in future audits. The overall average feedback rating was 9.25 out of 10, with the session on “Challenges and Opportunities in Auditing Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Conservation Measures” rated highest.

Dr. Abhishek Gupta, Director General, iCED in his valedictory address, appreciated the programme's relevance and participant engagement, urging application of the learnings to enhance transparency, governance, and conservation efforts. The event concluded with group presentations and an audit strategy discussion.