



Gujarat Forest Dept to Pay Villagers for Collecting Plastic Waste Near Nalsarovar

In a major initiative to conserve the fragile ecosystem of the Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, the Gujarat Forest Department has launched a comprehensive Plastic Waste Management Project to reduce plastic pollution in and around the Ramsar-designated wetland. As part of the project, the Forest Department will pay villagers for collecting plastic waste near the Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary.

The project aims to tackle the growing threat of plastic waste while promoting environmental awareness and creating livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary was designated a Ramsar Site (Wetland of International Importance) under the Ramsar Convention in 2012. Located along the Central Asian Flyway, the sanctuary serves as a vital wintering and stopover habitat for hundreds of thousands of migratory birds from Central Asia, Siberia and Europe.

“By establishing a scientific plastic waste management system around this globally important wetland, we aim to eliminate plastic pollution and protect Nalsarovar’s unique ecosystem,” said Arjun Modhwadia, Minister for Forests and Environment.

“The ₹2.94-crore project has been approved under the Project for Eco-Restoration in Gujarat (PERG), supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It is being implemented by the Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Wildlife Division, Sanand, in collaboration with local gram panchayats, Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) and community members,” an official said.