



Rajasthan

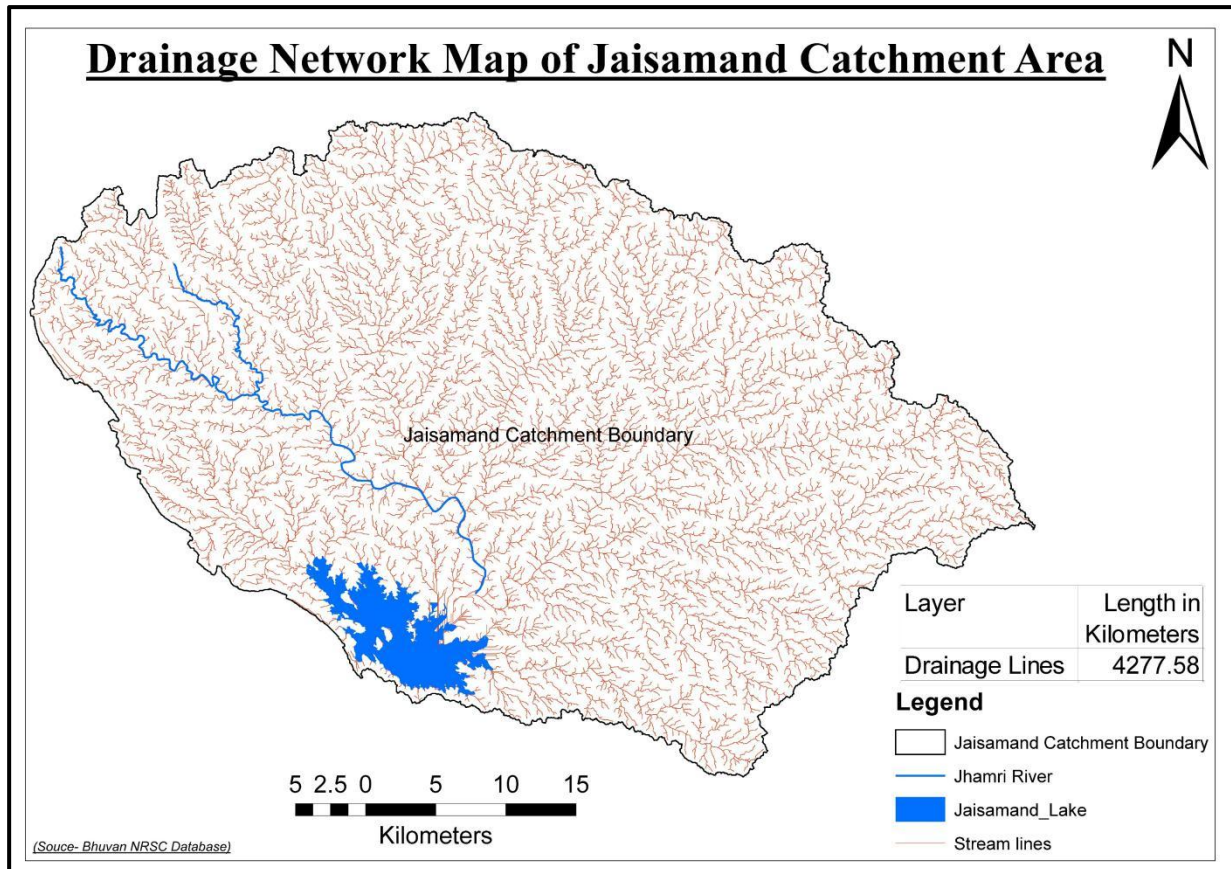
Matsya

Sangh

(Logo awaited)

## Jaisamand Consortium Call for World Wetland Day 2025<sup>1</sup>

*Wetlands and people*



Drainage line of Jaisamand Catchment area: Map prepared by Surender Singh Rathore GIS Analyst JJVS

<sup>1</sup> Jaisamand Consortium Partners: Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti (JJVS), Pryatana Samiti (PS), Hanuman Van Vikas Samiti (HVVS), Rajasthan Matsya Sangh (Jaismand).

Facilitating organisations: Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD), Saint Mary of the Angels, Fatehpura (SMA) and Institute for Ecology and Livelihood Action (IELA)



**Background:** World Wetlands Day has been celebrated on 2 February since 1997. Through Decision 19.10, the Standing Committee at its 19th meeting in 1996 urged all Contracting Parties to observe World Wetlands Day by organizing and undertaking national public activities and events to raise awareness of the benefits of wetlands. World Wetlands Day is the single most important communication and national awareness-raising event for wetlands.

**World Wetlands Day** is an environmentally related celebration which dates back to the year 1971 when several environmentalists gathered to reaffirm protection and love for wetlands, which are water ecosystems containing plant life and other organisms that bring ecological health in abundance to not only water bodies but environments as a whole. The World Wetlands Secretary Department is originally from Gland, Switzerland. The adoption of the Ramsar convention in the Iranian city of Ramsar occurred on February 2, 1971.

For more details see:

<https://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>

<https://sdg.iisd.org/events/world-wetlands-day-2024/>

Theme for World Wetland Day 2025: Wetlands and people

**Jaisamand Consortium** came into existence in 2007 to help facilitate a basin level approach to development in Jaisamand Catchment area. Over the last 17 years of its existence. Jaisamand Consortium Partners have worked on integrated land use development in 20 Panchayats of Jaisamand covering 77 villages of Jaisamand between 2007 and 2017.

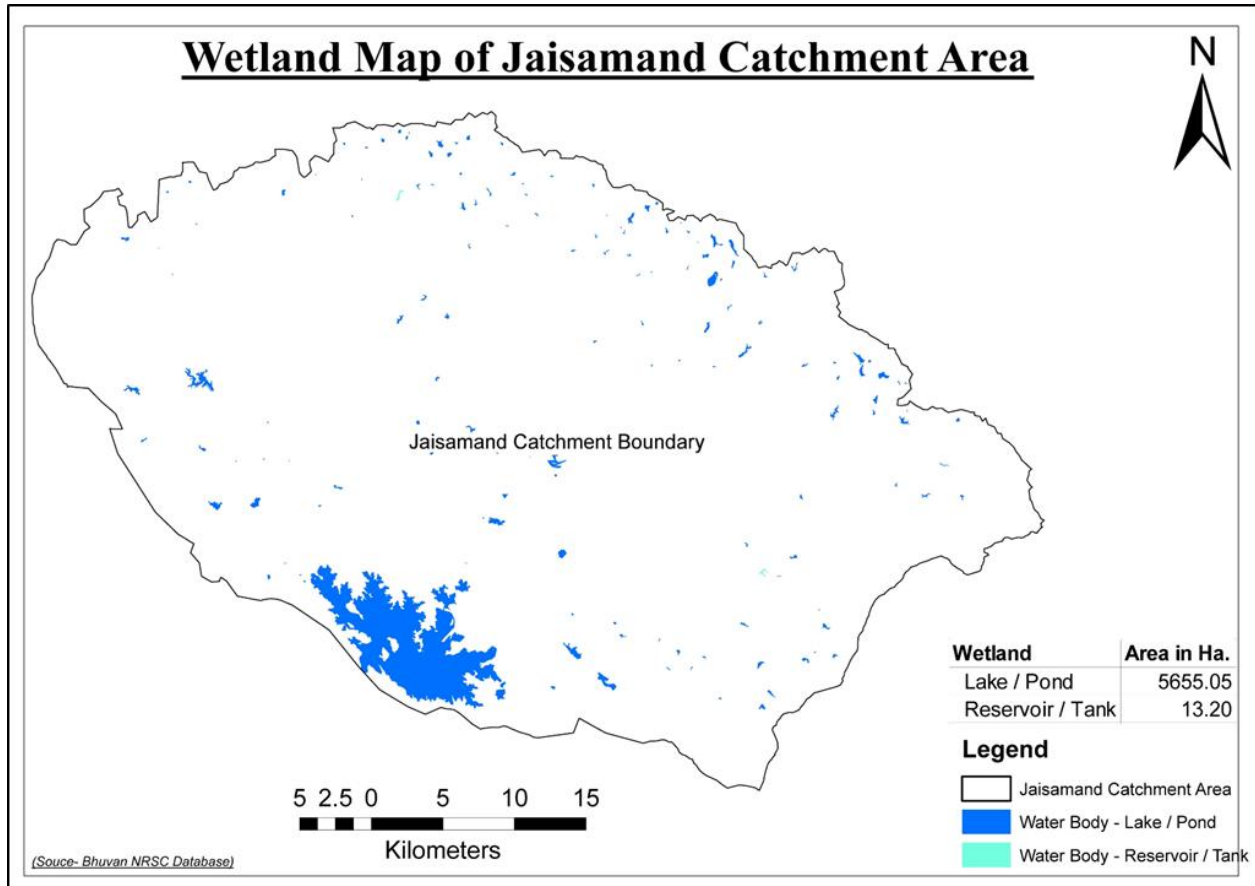
The lakes/ ponds in Jaisamand Catchment area cover 5,655.05 hectares and the water in water bodies tanks cover 13.2 hectares. The drainage lines of Jaisamand Catchment area cover 4,277.5 Km covering a total of 5.39% of the total land area of Jaisamand Catchment area (calculation done by Surender Singh Rathore, GIS analyst at Jagran Jan Vikas Samiti - JJVS). Given that Jaisamand Lake accounts for more than 60% of this region, the inclusion of Rajasthan Matsya Sangh as a member of Jaisamand Consortium provides for a comprehensive approach to the land use of the region. Hence in the meeting at JJVS office at Udaipur on 21<sup>st</sup> January, it was decided that a joint programme commemorating World Wetland Day 2025 would be conducted.

### **Important Issues:**

There are two major rivers flowing through the region namely Jhamri and Gomti. Jhamri river basin covers 79,667.53 hectares and has 2.95 devoted to water bodies.

Rajasthan Matsya Sangh currently working in with 23 fisheries cooperatives in Jaisamand and in Mahi, Kadana Dams also, highlighted the issues related to the destruction of fish habitat including the upper catchment areas which were used as breeding grounds by the fish. This destruction has resulted in decline of fish catch, loss of the fish biodiversity and spread of Tilapia an invasive fish species which devours everything else.

The question of large scale presence of invasive species was related to habitat destruction and loss of pollinators, insect predators like frogs which have also caused the outbreak of cerebral malaria in some pockets. While mining and stagnant water may be a cause in some cases, the loss of habitat for frogs, dragonflies, earthworms, pollinators and other ‘human friendly’ species in addition to monoculture plantation and cropping systems is also the major cause of disease spread not only in human beings but animals and biodiversity as well.



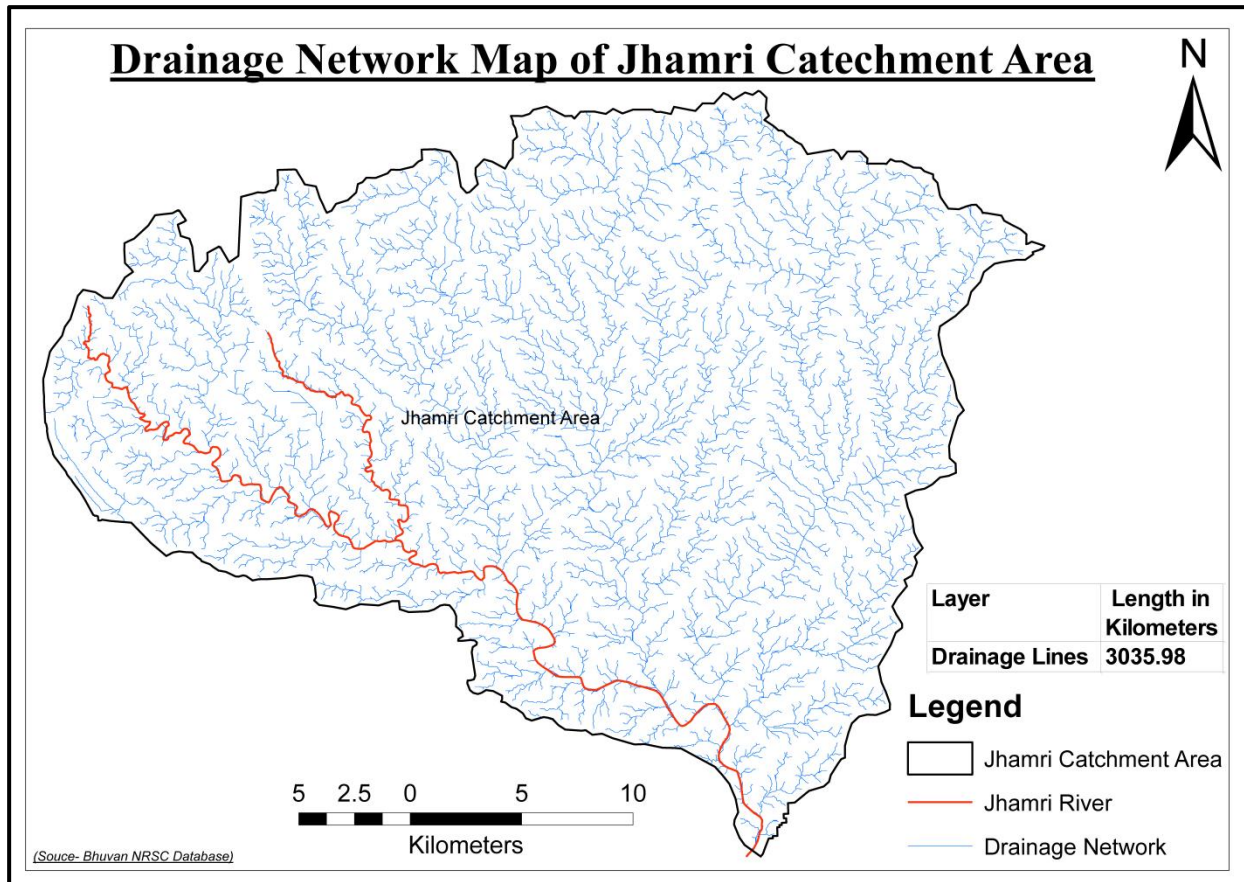
Wetland Map of Jaisamand Catchment area: Map Prepared by Surender Singh Rathore GIS analyst JJVS

Some case studies related to the wetlands have already been prepared by the members of Jaisamand Catchment Area, IELA, SPWD and SMA.

<https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/The-Wetlands-of-Menar-beckon.pdf>

[https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/State\\_of\\_Fisheries\\_and\\_Fishermen\\_Cooperatives\\_in\\_Rajasthan.pdf](https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/State_of_Fisheries_and_Fishermen_Cooperatives_in_Rajasthan.pdf)

[https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Report-of-World-Wetland-Day2024\\_IELA-Partners\\_FINAL-compressed.pdf](https://ielaind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Report-of-World-Wetland-Day2024_IELA-Partners_FINAL-compressed.pdf)



Drainage Map of Jhamri Catchment Area: Map prepared by Surender Singh Rahore GIS analyst JJVS

### **Jaisamand Lake and Wildlife sanctuary an IBA site**

**AVIFAUNA:** This freshwater lake attracts a large number of migratory and resident birds. The islands with large reed beds provide safe nesting sites. More than 200 bird species are reported from the lake and its surrounding land area (Sharma 2002). The site qualifies Biome-11 criteria. BirdLife International (undated) has identified 59 species in this biome, out of which 27 are found here. Besides these, the lake harbours large congregations of about 20-25,000 Coot *Fulica atra*, as well as Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* and Greylag Goose *A. anser* (Raza Tehsin pers. comm. 2003). Species population estimates are not available but it is likely that many species would qualify A4i criteria (populations exceed the 1% threshold of their biogeographic populations). For instance, Wetlands International (2002) estimates that the total population of Common Coot in South Asia is 15,00,000. This IBA supports 1% population. This site is, therefore, selected as an IBA principally based on the A4i and A4iii criteria. It also holds Critically Endangered species such as the Oriental White-backed *Gyps bengalensis* and the Longbilled *G. indicus* vultures but these species are widely distributed and Jaisamand does not have particularly significant populations. The wetland and the surrounding forest constitute this IBA.

**OTHER KEY FAUNA:** Leopard *Panthera pardus* is the top carnivore. Other predators include Jungle Cat *Felis chaus* and Striped Hyena *Hyaena hyaena*. Common Langur *Semnopithecus entellus* is the only primate found in the Sanctuary. Other typical species

of dry tropical forest and scrub forest dwellers such as Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*, Chinkara *Gazella bennettii*, Spotted Deer *Axis axis*, Sambar *Cervus unicolor* and Bluebull *Boselaphus tragocamelus* can be commonly sighted. Reptiles include: Starred Tortoise *Geochelone elegans*, Monitor Lizard *Varanus bengalensis*, Indian Rock Python *Python molurus*, John's Earth Boa *Eryx johnii*, Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosus*, Common Krait *Bungarus caeruleus*, Indian Cobra *Naja naja* are also in the Sanctuary.

<https://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/jaisamand-lake-and-wildlife-sanctuary-iba-india/summary>

#### **Baghdarra Nature Park an IBA Site:**

AVIFAUNA: More than 130 bird species are reported from this IBA site (Sharma 2002). The site qualifies as biome 11 (Indo-Malayan Tropical Dry Zone). Sarus Crane has been observed frequently, possibly coming from other lakes of Udaipur (Satish K. Sharma pers. comm. 2003).

OTHER KEY FAUNA: Other important fauna includes Leopard *Panthera pardus*, Jungle Cat *Felis chaus*, Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*, Indian Fox *Vulpes bengalensis*, Porcupine *Hystrix indica*, Black-naped Hare *Lepus nigricollis*, Common Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsi*, Marsh Crocodile *Crocodylus palustris*, Brahminy Skink *Mabuya carinata*, Monitor Lizard *Varanus bengalensis*, John's Earth Boa *Eryx johnii*, Rat Snake *Ptyas mucosus*, Cobra *Naja naja* and Russell's Viper *Daboia russelii*.

<https://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/bagdarrah-closed-area-iba-india/summary>

#### **Other issues:**

The impact of Industrial activity, mining and agriculture on water quality and its consequent impact of agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing need to be examined a little more carefully. This will help to have a better perspective on the water borne disease vectors in the region and its relation to the loss of habitat for amphibian and fish populations in the region.