# **BRIEF DOCUMENT OF KADALUNDI**

State / Union Territory

: Kerala

Name and address of person(s) compiling this information :

1. Member Secretary, State Wetland Authority, Kerala (Director, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Kerala), 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, KSRTC Terminal Complex, Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram-1.

### Section 1: Identification, Location and Jurisdiction

**1.1** Name of the Wetland (Alternative names, including in local language should be given in parenthesis after official name): **Kadalundi Kayal** 

1.2 Name of the Village	e(s), Tehsil(s), Municipal area (s):
Villages	: Vallikkunnu
Panchayats	: Kadalundi, Vallikkunnu

- **1.3** District(s) in which wetland complex is located: Malappuram
- 1.4 Geographical coordinates (Latitude and Longitude, to degree, minutes and second)

Latitude	: 11°7′28″ to 11°8′01″N
Longitude	: 75°49'36" to 75°50'20"E

**1.5** Name of the Department / Agency which has jurisdiction over the wetland / wetlands complex:

Local Self Governments, Irrigation Department, State Wetland Authority Kerala and the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (in CRZ Area)

### **Section 2: Site Characteristics**

2.1 Area of wetland / wetlands category (ha) :103.77

2.2 Wetland type (Please tick appropriate categories and sub-categories)

Category	Subcategory			
□ Natural (Inland)	D Permanent lakes			
	□ Seasonal/ intermittent lakes			
	Permanent streams/ creeks			
	Seasonal/ intermittent streams/ creeks			
	□ Oxbow			
	□ River floodplain			
	Permanent freshwater marshes			
	□ Seasonal/ intermittent freshwater marshes			
	□ Shrub-dominated wetlands			
	Tree-dominated wetlands			
	Geothermal wetlands			
	□ Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems			
Natural	Coastal lagoon			
(Coastal)	Estuary			
	Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats			
	Mangroves			
	Coral reefs			
☐Human-made	□ Aquaculture pond			
	Tank			
	□ Saltpan			
	Dam/Reservoir			
<b>3</b> Depth (m)	: Data not available			
<b>4</b> Elevation (m above m	ean sea level) : 0 to 1320 (Including Zone of Influence)			
5 Water regimes				
<b>a</b> ) Main source of wa	ter (tick all applicable)			
Rainfall	Groundwater Catchment runoff Direct / indirect inflo			

b)	Water permanence		
	Mostly permanent	☐Mostly intermittent	
c)	Destination of water from wetland		
	Feeds groundwater	downstream catchment 🗖 To river	✓ To sea
d)	Water pH		
	$\Box \text{Acid} (< 5.5) \qquad \checkmark \text{Circumne}$	utral (5.5 – 7.4) <b>D</b> Alkaline (> 7.4)	Not known
e)	Water salinity		
	□Fresh (< 0.5 g/l) □ Brackish ( □Hypersaline (>40g/l)	(0.5 – 30 g/l) □Euhaline (30- 40 □ Not known	g/l)
f)	Nutrient in water		
	Eutrophic Mesotrophic	□Oligotrophic □N	ot known
<b>2.6</b> Cli	matic setting		
	a) Annual Rainfall (mm)	: 3610	
	b) Temperature (°C)	:Minimum 28.2, Maximum 29.7	
	c) Humidity (%)	: Specific data not available	
2.7 Are	ea of zone of influence (in ha)	: 118798.46	
<b>2.8</b> Ma	ajor land use within zone of influence	(provide as approximate % of cate	hment area)
	Forests	: 11.29	
	Plantation	: 01.09	

Agriculture : 39.11

Settlements (Rural) and (Urban)	: 47.71
Water body	: 0.80
Industrial	: 0.01

2.9 Map of wetland complex and zone of influence (To be collected from KSREC)

## Section 3: Biodiversity

**3.1** Notable plant species present in wetland:

Mangroves are the key attraction of the wetland. The species include *Bruguiera cylindrica*, Sonneratia alba, Rhizophora mucronata, Excoecaria agallocha, Acrostichum aureum, Acanthus ilicifolius, Avicennia officinalis.

Ten species of mangrove associate flora are also documented. They include *Derris* trifoliata, Acrostichum aureum, Premna serratifolia, Terminalia catappa, Thespesia populnea, Cerbera odollam, Morinda citrifolia, Ipomoea violacea, Ipomoea pes-caprae

A total of 111 species of phytoplankton were recorded from the Kadalundi estuary during 2018-2019. These phytoplankton belonged to five major groups viz., Bacillariophyta, Miozoa, Cyanobacteria, Chlorophyta and Charophyta. Majority of the species (66 species) belonged to the group Bacillariophyta, while Miozoa, Cyanobacteria, Chlorophyta and Charophyta were 26, 5, 6 and 8 species respectively. Seagrass species identified is *Halophila beccarii* 

**3.2** Notable animal species present in wetland:

Migratory bird species includes Thalasseus sandvicensis, Chroicocephalus ridibundus, Tringa totanus, Tringa nebularia, Pluvialis fulva, Numenius phaeopus, Anhinga anhinga, Calidris alba, Pluvialis squatarola, Limosa limosa, Limosa lapponica, Calidris tenuirostris, Thalasseus bengalensis, Calidris alpina, Charadrius dubius, Himantopus himantopus, Ardea alba, Ardea cinerea, Sula dactylatra.

14 species of molluscs were found here, which belonged to 13 genera under 9 families and 7 orders. They are Saccostrea cucullata, Magallana bilineata, Polymesoda bengalensis, Telescopium telescopium, Meretrix casta, Tegillarca granosa, Cerithidea cingulata, Clypeomorus batillariaeformis, Neritina violacea, Cassidula nucleus, Perna viridis, Perna indica, Mytella strigata, Modiolus sp.

#### Arthropods include Scylla serrata, Penaeus indicus, Penaeus monodon

*Acromitus flagellatus* (Jellyfish) are also seen in the region. They are generally inhabitants of coastal waters, but at times they are found to enter the Kadalundi wetland and have been recorded even up to 3 km upstream, indicating their tolerance to low salinities. Their occurrence is more during November to February.

59 species of fin fishes are reported here. They are Megalops cyprinoides, Anguilla bengalensis bengalensis, Anguilla bicolor, Sardinella dayi, Sardinella longiceps, Rastrelliger kanagurta, Anodontostoma chacunda, Nematalosa nasus, Stolephorus commersoni, Thryssa malabarica, Thryssa mystax, Thryssa dussumieri, Chanos chanos, Arius maculatus, Mystus gulio, Strongylura strongylura, Aplocheilus lineatus, Platycephalus indicus, Thysanophrys sp., Lates calcarifer, Ambassis commersoni, Ambassis gymnocephalus, Ambassis gymnocephalus, Terapon theraps, Sillago sihama, Lactarius lactarius, Caranx sexfasciatus, Caranx ignobilis, Caranx heberi, Carangoides malabaricus, Carangoides coeruleopinnatus, Leiognathus blochii, Leiognathus splendens, Leiognathus brevirostris, Lutjanus argentimaculatus, Lutjanus fulviflamma, Lutjanus russellii, Gerres filamentosus, Gerres limbatus, Monodactylus argenteus, Scatophagus argus, Etroplus maculatus, Etroplus suratensis, Liza macrolepis, Liza parsia, Liza tade, Liza melanoptera, Mugil cephalus, Eleutheronema tetradactylum, Glossogobius giuris, Siganus canaliculatus, Siganus javus, Siganus vermiculatus, Acanthopagrus berda, Ostorhinchus fasciatus, Trypauchen vagina, Thunnus sp., Cynoglossus macrostomus, Psettodes erumei, Pseudorhombus elevatus, Chelonodon patoca

There four species of shrimps viz., *Fenneropenaeus indicus, Penaeus monodon, Metapenaeus monoceros* and *Metapenaeus dobsoni* are recorded from the wetland

A total of nine species of true mangrove crabs includes *Scylla serrata*, *Scylla tranquebarica*, *Thranita crenata*, *Grapsus albolineatus*, *Metopograpsus latifrons*, *Metopograpsus thukuhar*, *Dotilla myctiroides*, *Parasesarma plicatum*, *Austruca perplexa* 

22 individuals of smooth-coated otter, *Lutrogale perspicillata* are reported from the Kadalundi-Vallikunnu Community Reserve.

**3.3** Species of conservation significance (rare, endangered, threatened, endemic species):

Seagrass species Halophila beccarii is listed as vulnerable (VU)

The Great knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) is listed as an endangered species (EN), Oriental darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*), Black-headed Ibis (*Threskiornis melanocephalus*), Eurasian curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Black-tailed godwit (*Limosa*)

*limosa*), Eurasian oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) and the Woolly-necked stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) are listed as Near Threatened (NT).

Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*), Black kite (*Milvus migrans*) and Shikra (*Accipiter badius*) are listed in the Schedule I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The smooth-coated otter, (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) is listed as Vulnerable (VU)

**3.4** Major plant invasive alien species

No data available

**3.5** Major animal invasive alien species

No data available

# **Section 4: Ecosystem services**

Importance	Relevant for the site (please tick yes or no)	If Yes, Details (up to 50 words for each category)
Source of drinking water for people living and around	□Yes ✓No	-
Source of water for agriculture	Yes <b>N</b> o	Agriculture is the main source of income for the local residents in addition to fisheries
Fisheries	✓ Yes □No	Fishing by gill net, cast net, hook and line, traps, oyster picking, Aquaculture (fish seed production, mussel farming). Two groups of fishermen operate the specially designed bamboo fence, locally called 'thada'. Oyster picking is also one of the high-income generation avenues for the fishermen
Cultivation of aquatic food plants	TYes No	-
For buffalo wallowing and use of domesticated animals	□Yes ✓No	-
Medicinal plants	TYes No	-

Buffering communities from extreme events as floods and storms	✓ Yes	□No	Not assessed quantitatively
Groundwater recharge	✓ Yes	□No	Not assessed quantitatively
Water purification	✓ Yes	□No	Not assessed quantitatively
Acts as a sink for sediments	✓ Yes	□No	Not assessed quantitatively
Has significant cultural and religious values	✓ Yes	□No	Kadalundi-Chaliyam-Beypore region had trade relations with foreign countries like Rome and Arabia.
Is a site for recreation and tourism	✓ Yes	□No	People often visit the site for recreation purposes. Eco-tourism is gaining momentum in the Kadalundi-Vallikunnu Community Reserve with an increase in the number of tourists
Supports noteworthy plants species	₽Yes	□No	Supports plant species as mentioned in section 3.1
Supports noteworthy animal species	₽Yes	□No	Supports animal species as mentioned in section 3.2
Site of high congregation of migratory water birds	₽Yes	□No	As mentioned in section 3.2, migratory birds are reported in the wetland region.
Supports life cycle of fish or amphibians	∎Yes	□No	Supports life cycle of species mentioned in 3.2
Mining	₽Yes	□No	Kadalundi Grama Panchayat permits mining of sand in a limited way
Any other, please list			

# Section 5: Pre-Existing Rights and Privileges

Nature of right and	<b>Relevant for</b>	Does this	Brief description (up to
privilege	the site	negatively impact	50 words for each
	(please tick	the wetland's	category)
	yes or no)	ecological health?	
Community Fishing (without	✓ Yes	□Yes □No	In the mangrove laden
any lease or permission from	□No	✓ Not assessed	area, the fisheries and
government department)			allied activities are of
			prime importance. Major

Nature of right and	<b>Relevant for</b>	Does this	Brief description (up to
privilege	the site	negatively impact	50 words for each
	(please tick	the wetland's	category)
	yes or no)	ecological health?	
			section of the local folks
			routinely engage in
			fishing activity either as
			their main occupation or
			subsidiary activity for one
			or two hours of the day.
			Fishing as main
			occupation provides full
			day employment (about 8
			hours per day) primarily
			for males. The females
			after their household
			activities devote 3-5
			hours per day for allied
			fishing like mussel
			extraction and dry fish
			production. A study may
			be required to assess the
			fish diversity and the
			impacts of community
			fishing here.
Fishing under lease from	✓ Yes	□Yes □No	Large scale cultivation of
government department	□No	☑Not assessed	green mussels is
			undertaken in the region.
			The local self government
			and Central Marine
			Fisheries Research
			Institute (CMFRI) Kochi
			have initiated a few
			schemes for promoting
			mussel cultivation. The
			local people have been
			engaged in mussel
			farming as a primary or
			secondary occupation.

Nature of right and	<b>Relevant</b> for	Does this	Brief description (up to
privilege	the site	negatively impact	50 words for each
	(please tick	the wetland's	category)
	yes or no)	ecological health?	
Harvest of plants (without	□Yes	□Yes □No	-
any lease or permission from	No	□Not assessed	
government department)			
Harvest of plants under lease	□Yes ☑No	□Yes □No	-
from government department		□Not assessed	
Agriculture or horticulture	☑ Yes	□Yes ☑No	Small scale agriculture is
within wetland	□No	□Not assessed	a source of income for the
			local residents. This
			include paddy cultivation,
			coconut and vegetables
Grazing	□Yes	□Yes □No	-
	No	□Not assessed	
Religious practices	🗖 Yes 🔽	□Yes □No	-
	No	□Not assessed	
Withdrawal of water for	□Yes	□Yes □No	-
domestic use	No	□Not assessed	
Withdrawal of water for	□Yes	□Yes □No	-
agriculture or fisheries	No	□Not assessed	
Bathing or wallowing of	□Yes	□Yes □No	-
domestic animals	✓ No	□Not assessed	
Plying of boats	✓ Yes	□Yes □No	Boats are used here for
	□No	Not assessed	fishing and local
			commuting.
Any other, please list here	□Yes □No	□Yes □No	
		.□Not assessed	

**Section 6: Present and Potential Threats** 

Threat	Degree	Present or Potential	Additional
			information, if any
Changes in water	□High	Present	Changes in the
inflow and outflow	☐Medium	□Potential	inflow and outflow
	Low		were reported; but
			not assessed
Dollution			Water pollution due
ronution	D High	Present	water pollution due
	Medium		to waste dumping,
	Low		land reclamation, and
			unscientific mining
			are reported in the
			wetland. The major
			source of pollution
			near the estuary
			includes sewage and
			faecal disposal,
			pesticides and
			chemical fertilizers
			from paddy fields,
			retting of coconut
			husk, slaughterhouse
			waste and domestic
			wastes.
			Plastic waste dumped
			into the river are
			settled in the
			mangroves which
			cause serious
			problems to the
			functioning of the
			mangrove ecosystem.
Mining	□High	Present	Although the
	☑ Medium	D Potential	Kadalundi Grama
			Panchayat permits
			mining of sand in a
			limited way from

Threat	Degree	Present or Potential	Additional
			information, if any
			quite a distance from the Kadalundi bridge, large-scale illegal mining is taking place in the estuary.
Encroachment	□High	Present	Kadalundi is
	🗹 Medium	□Potential	currently subjected to
	□Low		acute pressure of
			rapid development
			activities. The
			industrial activities,
			urbanization,
			infrastructure
			development,
			unauthorised
			encroachment of the
			public areas near
			estuary are
			happening. Initially
			most of the
			encroachments were
			for agriculture
			purposes, later these
			areas were reclaimed
			and used for various
			other purposes.
			Encroaching
			mangrove areas and
			clearing it for
			tourism, recreation
			and other purposes
			causes siltation
			leading to vertical
			shrinkage and related
			problems like salinity

Threat	Degree	Present or Potential	Additional
			information, if any
			intrusion, ecological
			disturbances and
			biodiversity loss.
Any other, please list	□High	DPresent	
	□Medium	□Potential	

Section 7: Activities Proposed to be prohibited (other than those listed in Rule 4(2) of Wetlands Rules)

Activity	Prohibited within wetlands or zone of influence	Details of specific area wherein activity is prohibited	Name of department / agency responsible for regulation	Additional information, if any
	<ul> <li>Wetland /</li> <li>Wetlands</li> <li>complex</li> <li>boundary</li> <li>Zone of</li> <li>influence</li> </ul>			

# Section 8: Activities Proposed to be regulated

Activity	Place a tick mark if relevant	Regulation within wetlands or zone of influence	Level of regulation (in terms of people, restricted area or any other)	Name of department / agency responsible for regulation	Additional information, if any
Withdrawal		Wetland /	Within the wetland	Wetland Management	Need to take
impoundmen t/diversion or any other	<b>⊡</b>	w etiands complex boundary	wettand	Unit, SWAK, Irrigation Department, KCZMA	permission for large scale hydrological interventions,

Activity	Place a tick mark if relevant	Regulation within wetlands or zone of influence	Level of regulation (in terms of people, restricted area or any	Name of department / agency responsible for regulation	Additional information, if any
bydrological		Tone of	other)		from the
intervention		influence			Wetland Management
					Unit/SWAK
Discharge of treated sewage/ effluent / wastewater		<ul> <li>Wetland /</li> <li>Wetlands</li> <li>complex</li> <li>boundary</li> <li>Zone of</li> <li>influence</li> </ul>	Within the wetland	Wetland Management Unit, SWAK, PCB	Need to take prior permission for large scale discharge of treated sewage/efflu ent from the Wetland Management Unit/SWAK
Aquaculture, agriculture and horticulture activities within the wetland boundaries.		<ul> <li>✓ Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary</li> <li>□ Zone of influence</li> </ul>	Within the wetland	Wetland Management Unit, SWAK, Fisheries/Agr iculture Department/ KCZMA	Need to take prior permission for large scale aquaculture/a griculture activities from the Wetland Management Unit/SWAK
Soil erosion and sand mining/silt removal		Wetland / Wetlands complex boundary Zone of influence	Within the wetland	Wetland Management Unit, SWAK, Soil Conservation Department	Need to take prior permission for large scale silt removal (> 0.5 ha area spread / > 250m length

Activity	Place a tick mark if relevant	Regulation within wetlands or zone of influence	Level of regulation (in terms of people, restricted area or any other)	Name of department / agency responsible for regulation	Additional information, if any
					stretch) from the Wetland Management Unit/SWAK
Any other, please list		<ul> <li>Wetland /</li> <li>Wetlands</li> <li>complex</li> <li>boundary</li> <li>Zone of</li> <li>influence</li> </ul>			

## Section 9: Activities Proposed to be permitted

Activity	Place a tick mark if	Within wetlands or	Additional
	relevant	zone of influence	information, if any
		U Wetland / Wetlands	-
		complex boundary	
		□ Zone of influence	

# Section 10: Listing of Available Scientific Resources Used

- 1. CWRDM, 2017. Detailed Project Report of Kadalundi Ecosystem. Centre for Water Resources Development and Management, Kozhikode.
- 2. Bindu, K. B. and Jaypal, G , 2016. Environmental status of Kadalundi river basin in Kerala a case study of Kadalundi estuary,
- Vinod, K., Asokan, P.K., Joshi, K.K., Narayana Kumar, R., Zacharia, P.U., Molly Varghese, Jasmine, S., Anasukoya, A., Kunhi Koya, V.A., Ansar, C.P. Nikhiljith, M.K.Vijesh Vallikunnu, Palot, M.J., Dinesan Cheruvat and Gopalakrishnan, A. 2020. Glimpses of biodiversity in the Kadalundi-Vallikunnu Community Reserve, the first Community Reserve

of Kerala. CMFRI Special Publication No. 139, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, India, 116 p.

- 4. Ramya A, P., Kaladharan, K, Vinod, P. K. and Ashokan, Present status of *Halophila beccarii* sea grass bed in Kadalundi Community Reserve, 2019, ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi, India.
- 5. Kunji M.K.V., 2012. Empowerment of community reserve stakeholders for livelihood enhancement and conservation of natural resources at Kadalundi and Vallikunnu Panchayat. Kerala Forest Research Institute, Thrissur.
- Varghese, M., Vinod, K., Gireesh, R., Anasu Koya, A., Ansar, C.P., Nikhiljith, M., Sheeba, K.B., Asokan, P.K. and Joshi, K.K., 2022. Distribution and diversity of phytoplankton in Kadalundi estuary, southwest coast of India. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of India*, 64(1), pp.50-56.

## CHECKLIST

- **Z** Responsible agency has been clearly identified and details of contact person included
- Wetland/ wetlands complex boundary has been delineated using GIS and firmed up by adequate ground truthing
- ☑ Wetland/ wetlands complex map has been provided at required scale
- **D** Zone of influence has been delineated and included in wetland map or a separate map
- ☑ Wetland zone of influence is sufficient to manage all activities
- Site's importance have been listed, and for major categories, justification is provided
- Site's biodiversity values are listed, and for major categories, justification is provided
- ☑ List of pre-existing rights and privileges is provided
- Consistency or inconsistency of pre-existing rights and privileges is indicated to be best of available knowledge
- $\blacksquare$  Threats to site are listed, and for major categories details are provided
- □ Activities prohibited, beyond those already listed in Rule 4(2) have been mentioned
- □ List of activities to be regulated within wetlands and zone of influence is provided
- □ List of activities to be permitted is provided

# Annexure I:



# Annexure II :

