

## **ECO-INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BECOME REPULSIVE? PULICAT LAKE (Ramsar site) – A CASE STUDY**

**V. MADHASURESH<sup>1</sup> AND V. NAGARAJAN<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Reader, Department of Geography, Madras University, Tamilnadu. E-mail: madhasuresh@hotmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Research scholar, Department of Geography, Madras University, Tamilnadu

Pulicat lake spreads, across Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh states , is the second largest brackish water lagoon in India . it lies approximately 60km north east of Chennai, Tamilnadu and the maximum width of the lake at its center is about 19 km .in general a brackish water area may be divided into wet lands and deep water habitats and Pulicat lake is a classical example of this type.

The wet lands extends 59km north-south and runs parallel to the coast of the bay of Bengal. About four rivers supply fresh water into the lake during rainy season and these sources flow from north to south. The Buckingham canal which is important to pulicat lake is provided with inlets and outlets at various places to maintain a static water level . sea water enters into the canal during high tides and diffuses into the lake and this process is very important for the recruitment of fishes and prawns into the lake.

Up to 1950s there was more than one bar mouth connecting the lake with the sea which kept the water mass in circulation. This contributed to keeping the D.O content of the backwater at safe concentration for the biota and facilitated the ingress and egress of marine animals into and out of the lake.

About 1,25,000 people directly or indirectly depend on this ecosystem for their livelihood. The abundance of phyto and zooplankton in the southern tip of pulicat lake, both in quality and quantity is directly reflected in the fish yield of the southern sector .  
( 130 to 200 percent higher than the northern sector ). The average animal production is approximately 350 tonnes. The Tamilnadu Forest Department has established a bird sanctuary in the southern tip of pulicat lake.

By considering the functions and values of pulicat lake system , the IUCN has declared this lake as Ramsar site of international importance. Worldwide Fund for nature (WWF India) has classified pulicat lake as a protected area.