

Urban wetlands and Governance challenges in the two Indian mega cities of Chennai and Bengaluru

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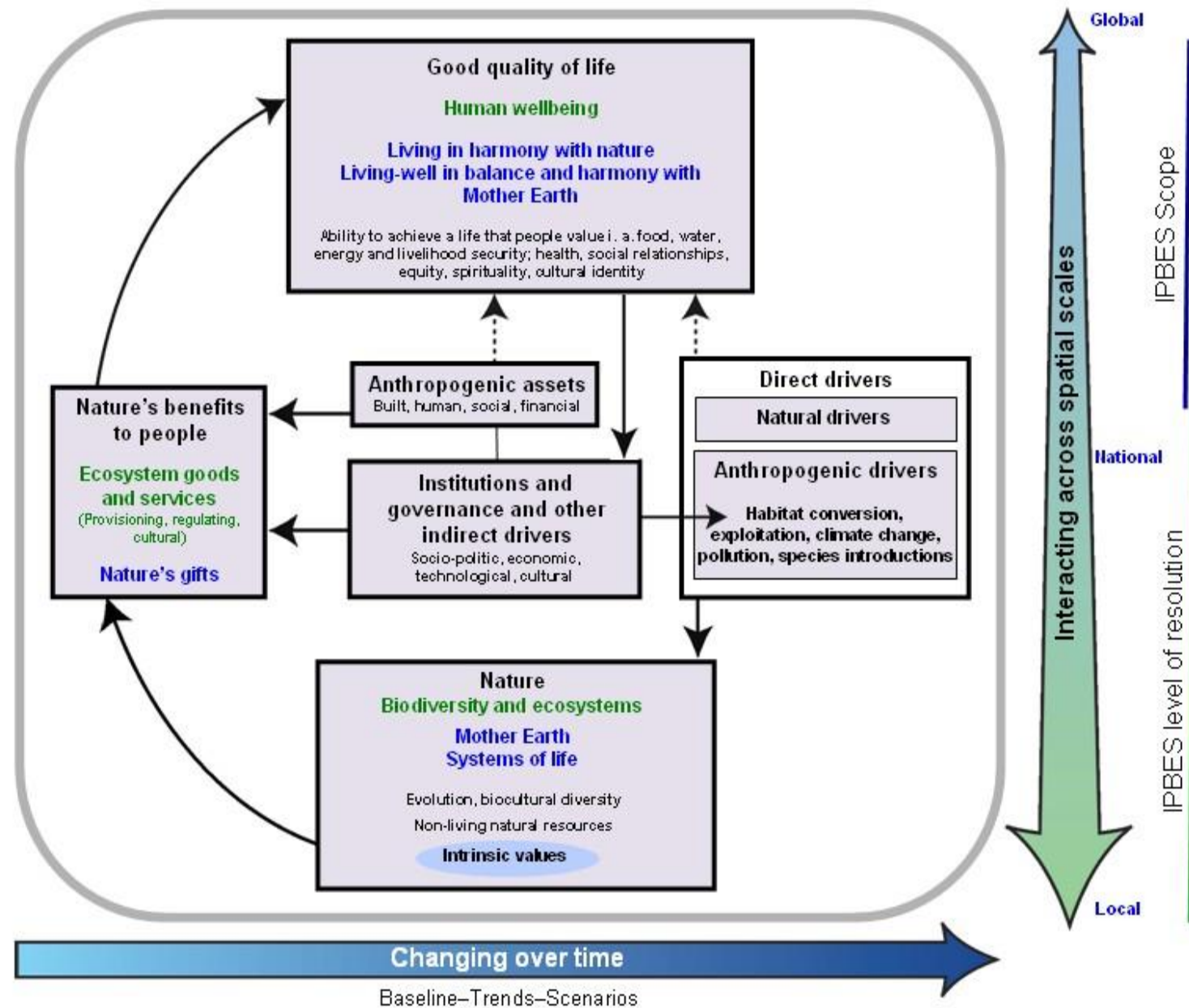
National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, India

8 November 2017

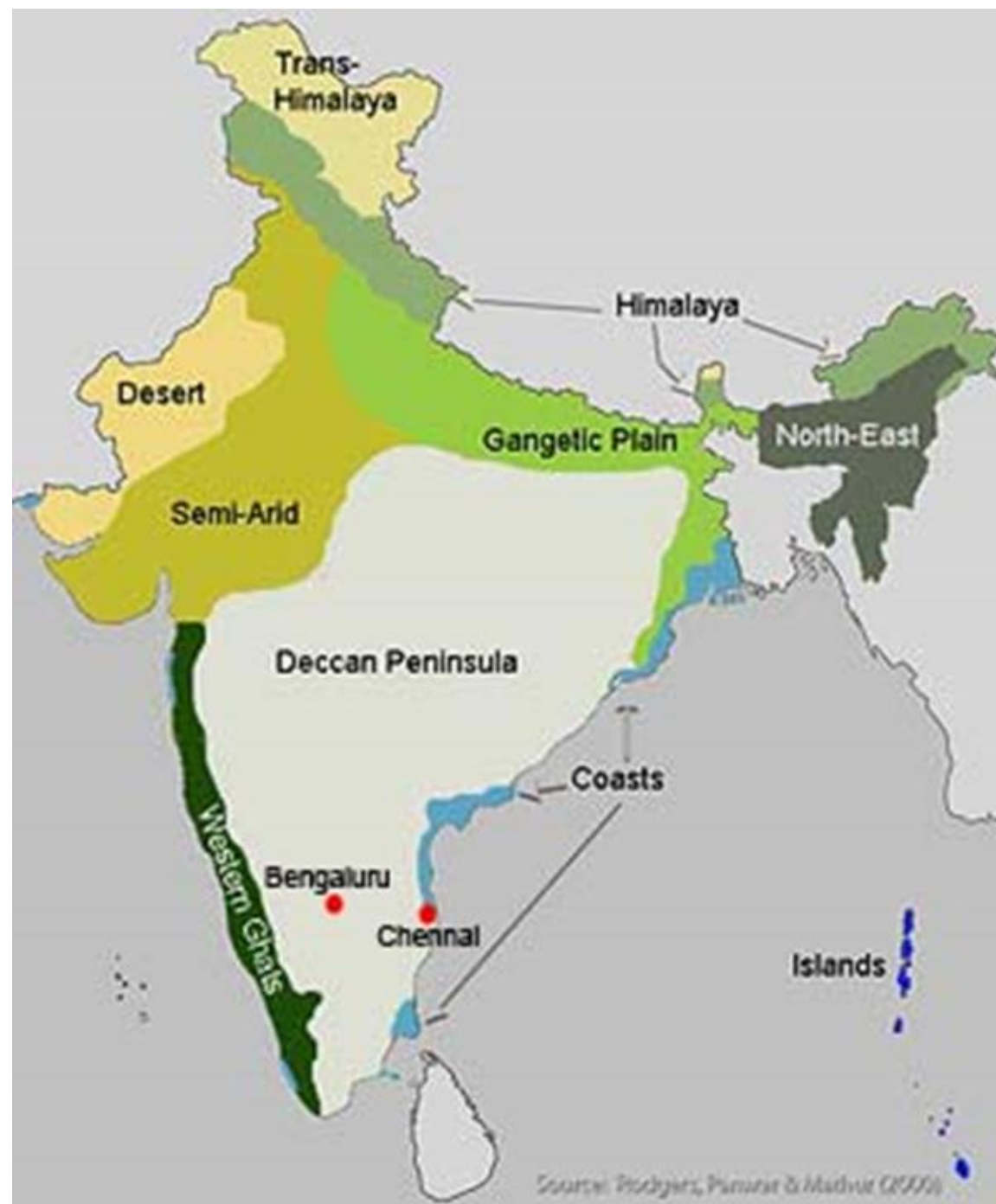
8th Asian Wetland Symposium, Saga, Japan

An Overview

- Based on a study that used the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services_Conceptual Framework (IPBES_CF) to study 'Cities and Biodiversity'
- Governance accorded a central role in it
- Two of the largest Indian cities, less than 500km apart, 2 distinct biogeographic zones
- Interrogating
 - Key elements and actors in wetland governance
 - Does science inform policy?
- Thoughts on the way forward



**The IPBES
Conceptual
Framework**
source:
www.ipbes.net



India's 10 Biogeographic Zones

Source: Rodgers and Panwar, 1988





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Fig 2.1 Wetland map of 1973



Number of waterbodies: 379

Fig 2.2 Wetland map of 1996

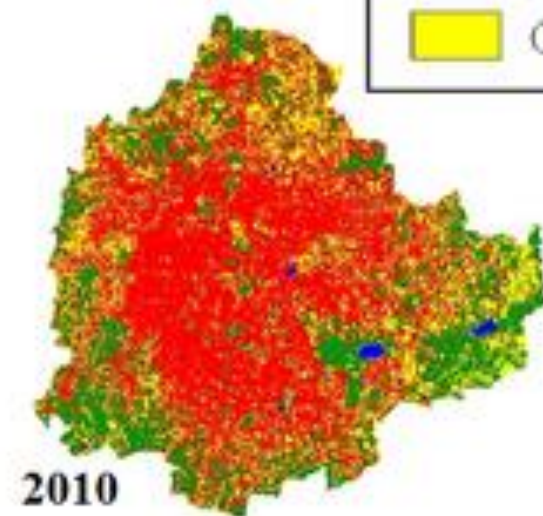
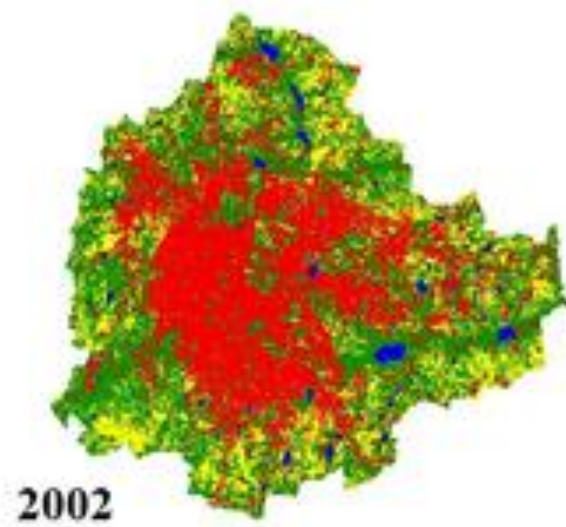
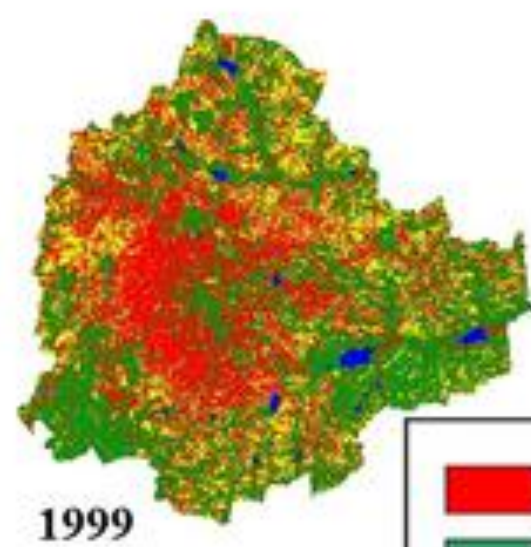
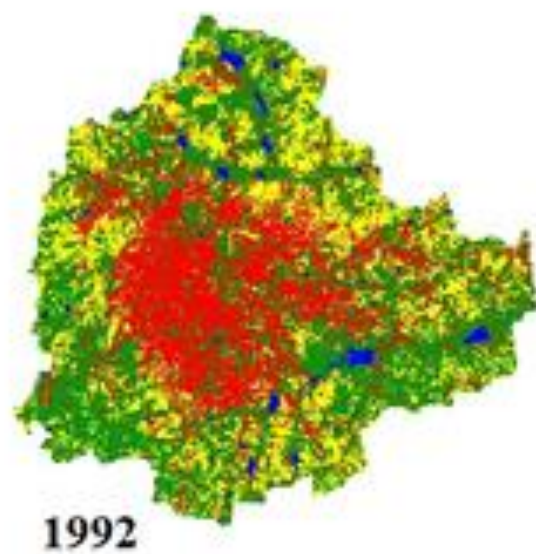
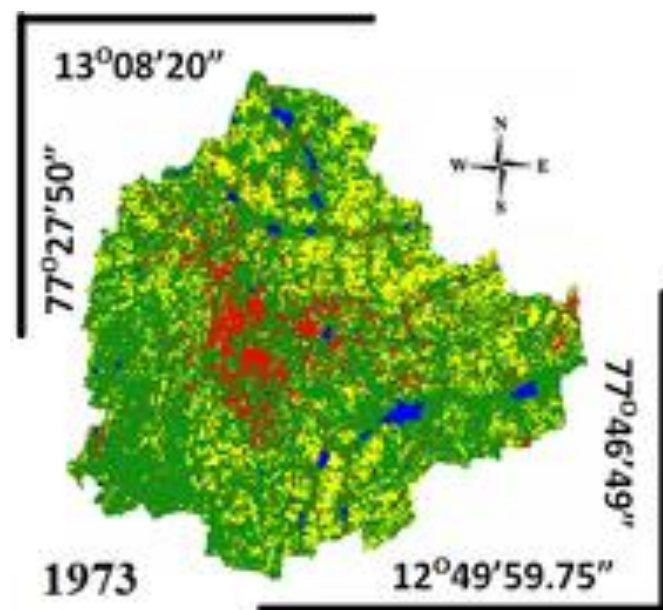


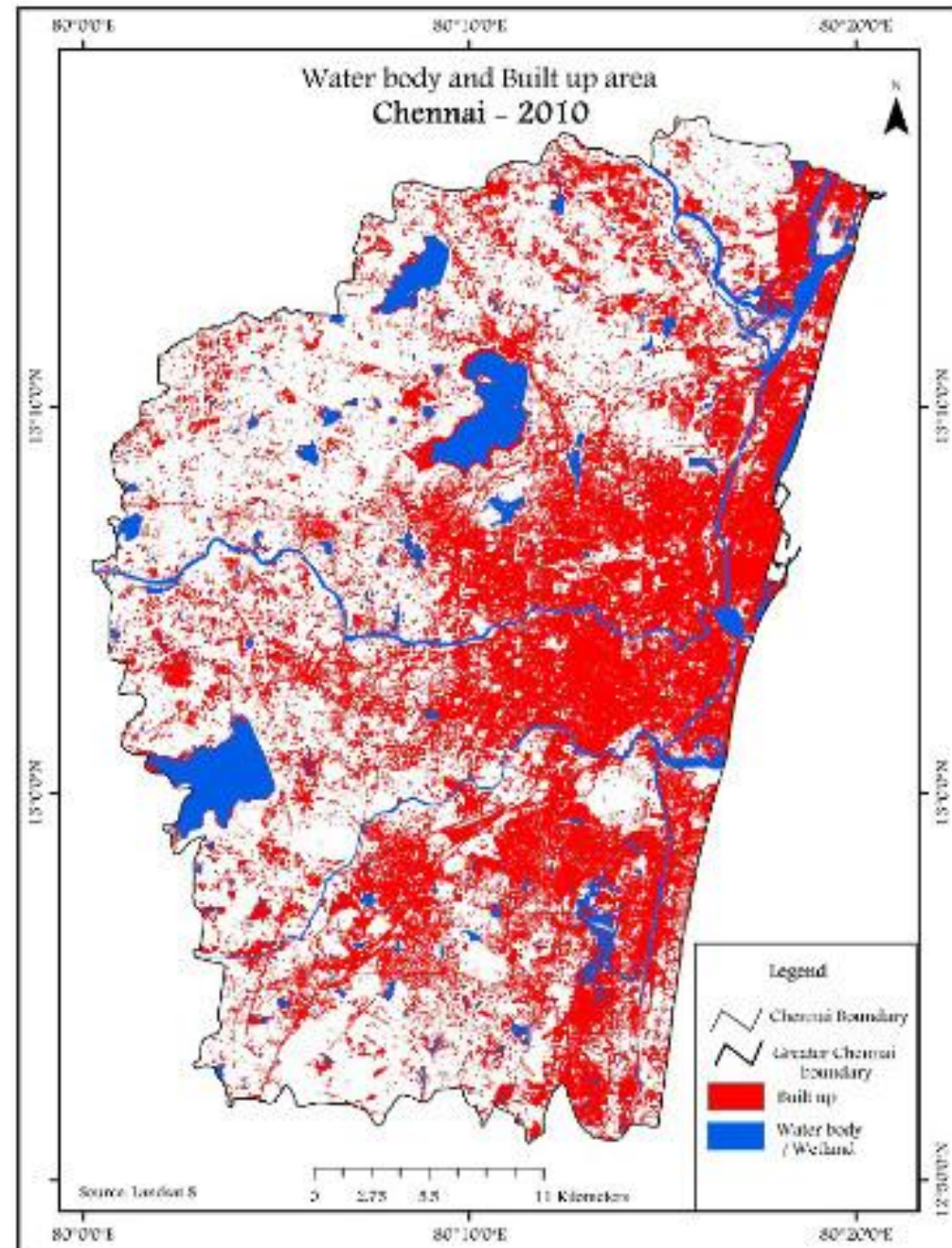
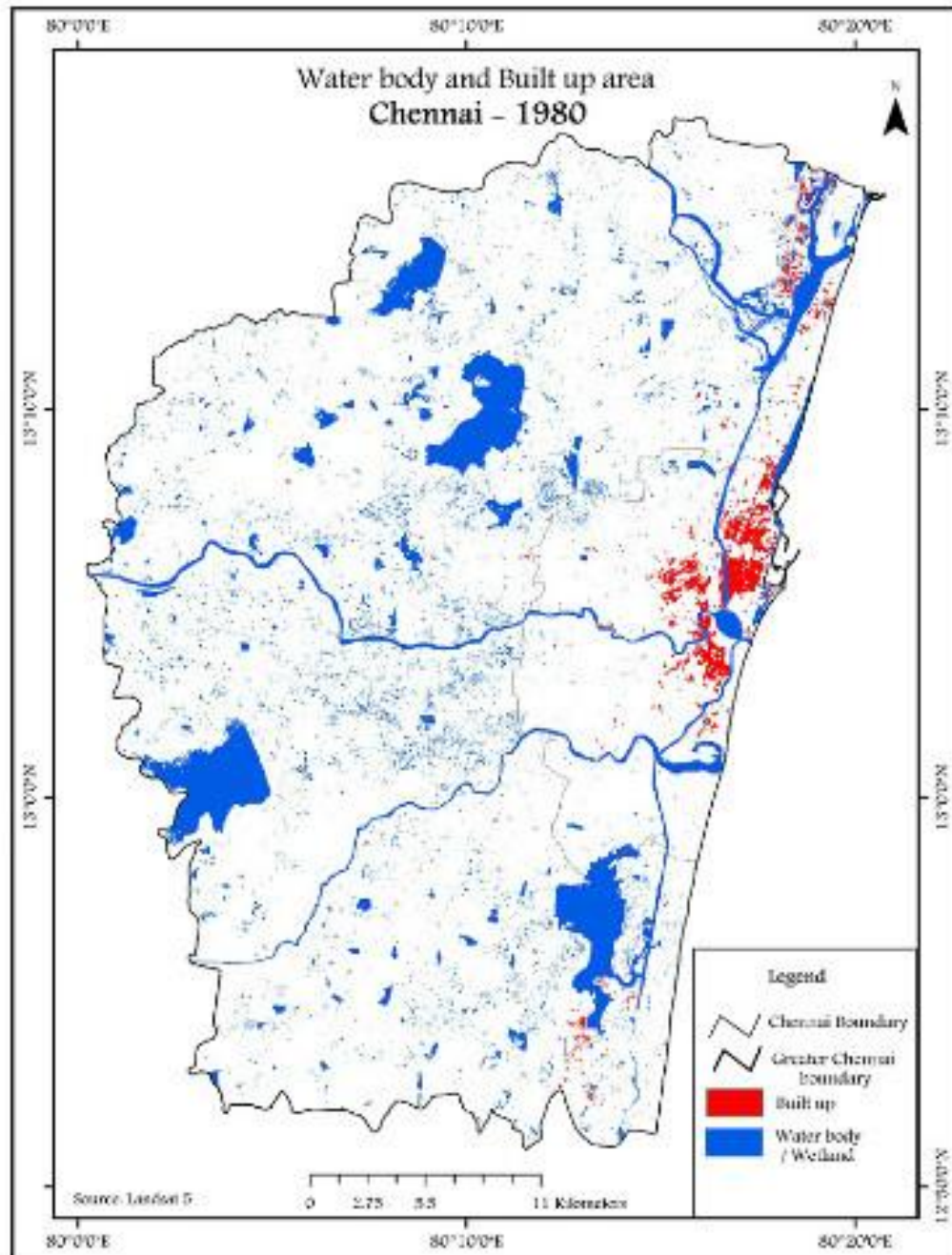
Number of waterbodies: 246

Source (this and next pic): Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

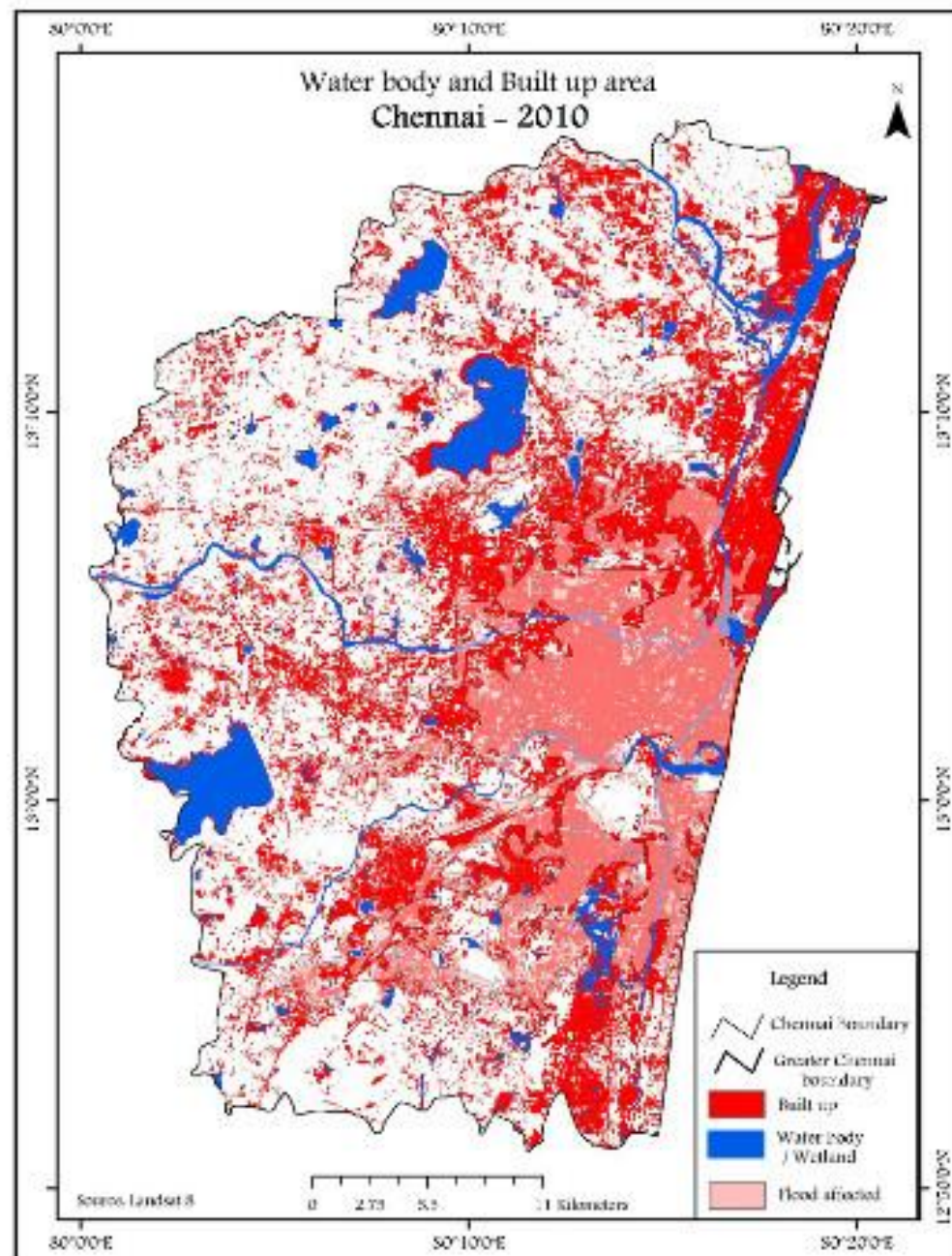
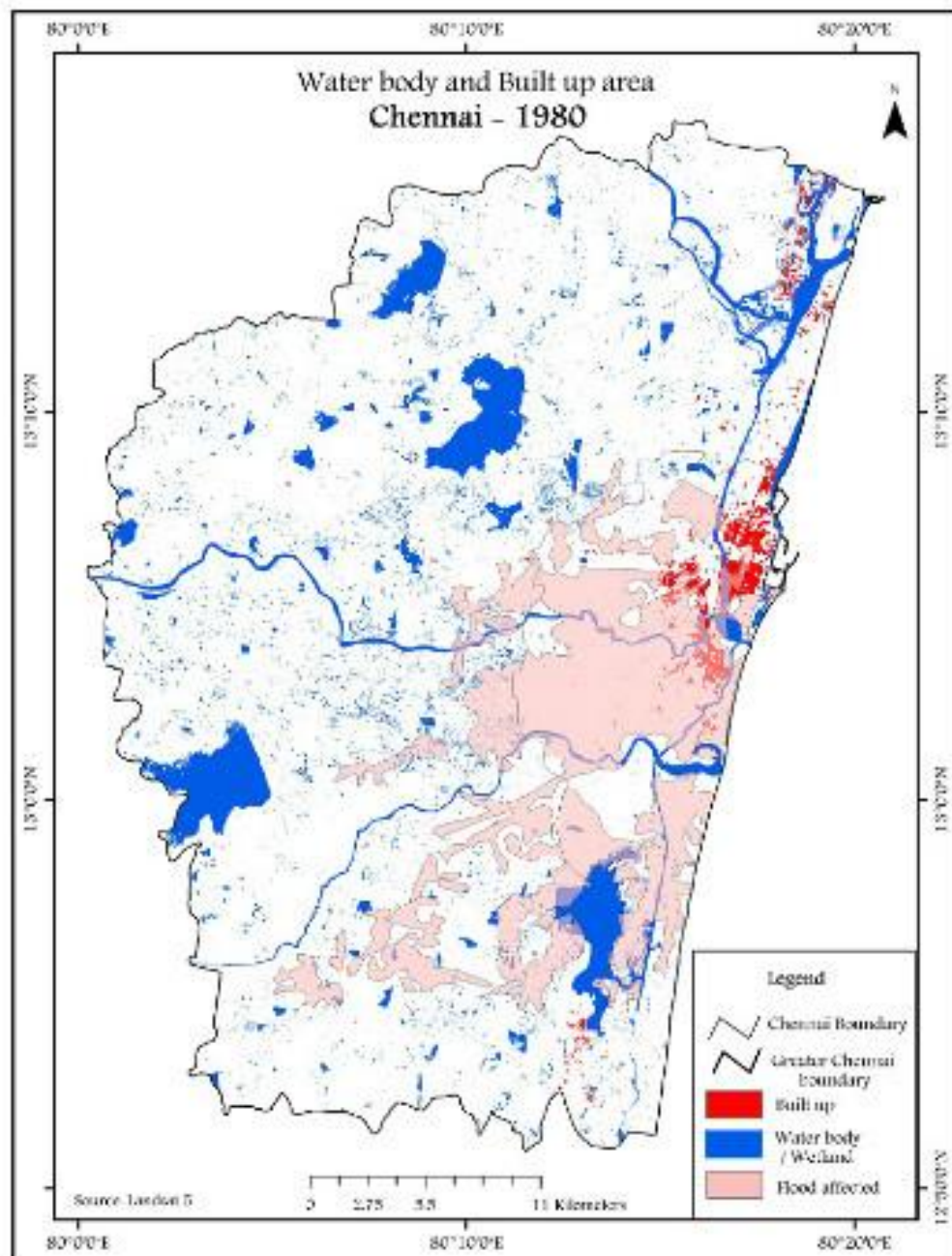
Scale :
Source :

1: 50 000
Survey of India





Source:
Care
Earth
Trust,
Chennai



'Governance'

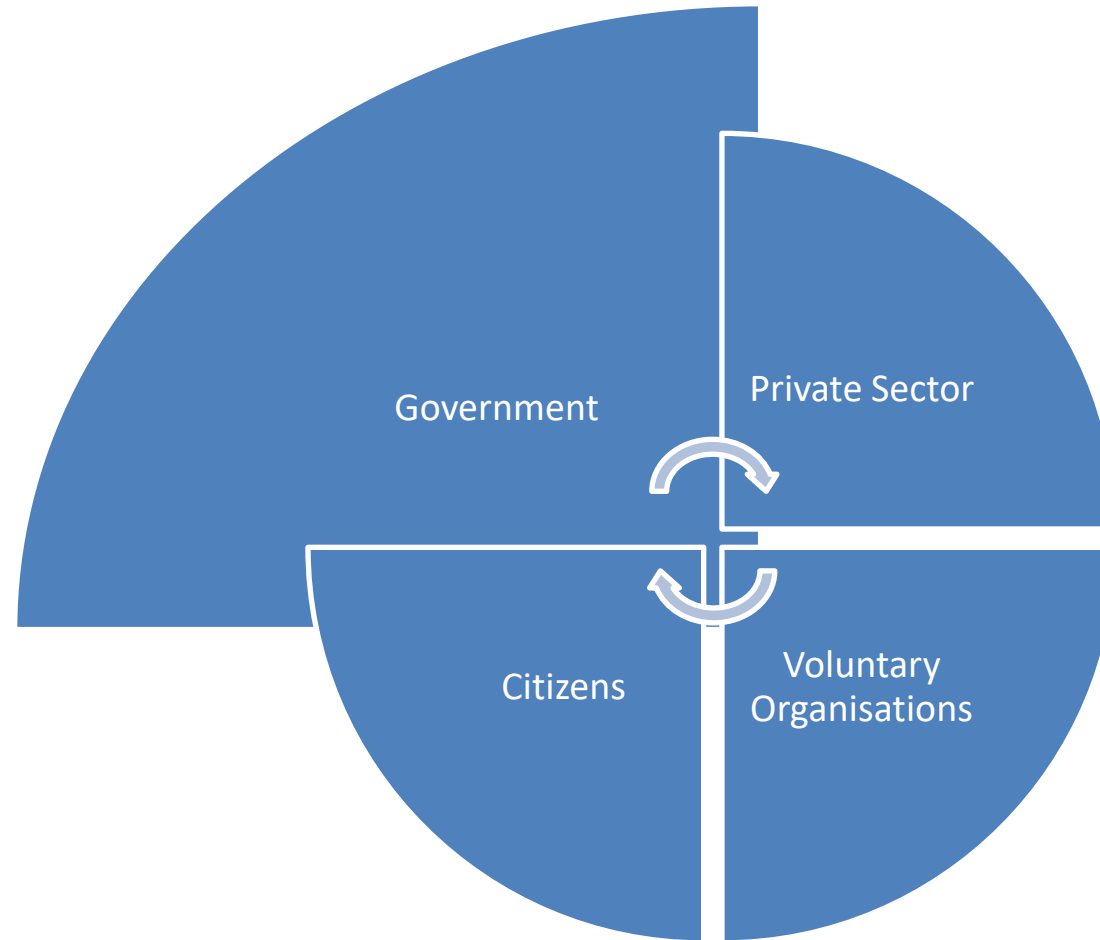
Public Administration (Osborne, 2006)

- a central role for the bureaucracy in policy making and implementation;
- the 'politics–administration' split within public organizations (in theory);
- a focus on administering set rules and guidelines
- a commitment to incremental budgeting;

New Institutionalism (Hewitt, 1998)

- Institutional reform to include the private sector and voluntary organisations in decision making
- Strengthening civic cultures, promoting voluntary action and improving the societal basis for democracy
- Improving public sector management
- Introducing accounting and auditing practices
- Supporting decentralisation of certain public services in keeping with the subsidiarity principles

Multi-stakeholder governance



Urban Wetland Governance

- Government quadrant
 - relevant legislation
 - institutions, actors and finances available for the important task of ‘governing’ wetlands
 - Awareness levels; synergy or lack thereof, within the local administration of cities.
- The Private Sector : real estate sector for residential buildings
- The role of voluntary organisations and citizens

Array of policy and legislative measures

- The Indian Fisheries Act – 1897,
- The Indian Forest Act – 1927,
- Wildlife (Protection) Act – 1972,1991
- Environmental (Protection) Act – 1986,
- Coastal Zone Regulation Notification – 1991,
- National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development – 1992,
- National Policy And Macro level Action Strategy on Biodiversity-1999,
- Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 replacing the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010.

Institutions, actors and finances: the mixed bag

- ENVIS, NGT

Bengaluru	Chennai
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palika (BBMP)	Greater Chennai Municipal Corporation – Department of Parks, Town Planning, Solid Waste Management
Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA)	Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA)
Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)	Chennai Metro Water
Lake Development Authority (LDA)	Department of forests
Department of Forests, Ecology and Environment	
State Biodiversity Board	

Concluding thoughts

- Awareness levels, missing synergies – the need for more ‘deliberative democracy’ in the ‘liberal framework’
- Influencing more ‘drivers of biodiversity loss’ sectors – at all levels

Thank you