



Balance Between People & Nature
Pulicat Lake, India

Photographed by Staffan Widstrand

GNF-LL Conference 2014, Nanchang
CReNIEO

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Dense Settlements

Pulicat Lake, South India



*Dense settlements by the Lake
and the sea side*

*Population in South Pulicat –
40,000 in 40 Villages with
10,000 fishermen*

Dense settlements resulted in:-

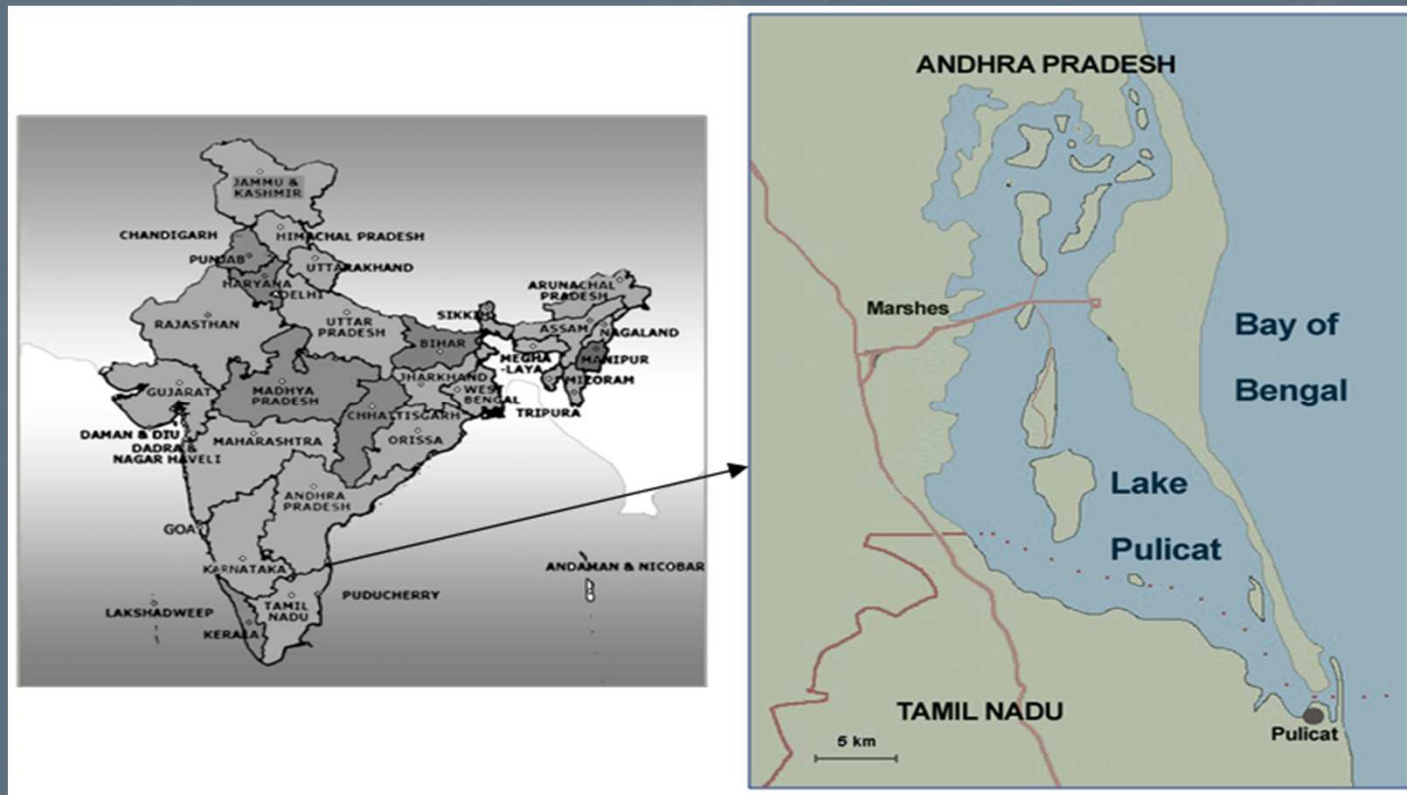
- *Poor sanitation*
- *Scarcity of drinking water*
- *Competition for dwindling fish catches.*

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Pulicat Lake

Pulicat Lake, India- Ancient Dutch settlement and port



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Geolocation and Lake Demographic

*Pulicat Lake, 461 sq. Kms.
- 59Kms North to South
Maximum Width 19Kms.
Ave. Depth 1.5m*

*Connects to the Bay of Bengal
Through a bar mouth about 20 m
wide low tide 40 m high tide.
Monsoon time upto 500 meters*

Pulicat lake -13°24' to 13°47' N 80°02' to 80°16' E



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Lake Produce

Pulicat Lake is famous for prawns, shrimps and crabs



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Post Tsunami

Post tsunami –Pulicat bridge provided road transportation and hastened housing and other construction activities



Pre-Tsunami



Post-Tsunami



Challenges faced by Pulicat fishermen

- *Fish catches per capita is dwindling*
- *Lack of skills other than fishing*
- *Population growth*
- *Near collapse of traditional fishing methods – time, gear and regulations called *padu*.*
- *Pollutants from agriculture, aqua farms and industries*
- *Aftermath of cyclones*
- *Bar mouth siltation and closure*
- *Reluctant to go to new housing settlements*



CReNIEO's Interventions to lessen the stress on the lake

- *Started development operation in 1984*
- *Teaching the youth alternative occupational skills*
- *Establishing more than 350 women self help groups with access to bank credit for small businesses*
- *Income Generating Programmes*
- *Enabling people to access government schemes*
- *Sanitation*



Main Focus On Biodiversity Restoration

- *In Partnership with Global Nature Fund –Since 2009*
- *Biodiversity Restoration – Mangroves and associate trees*
- *Environmental education*
- *Livelihoods & Sanitation*
- *Species inventory*
- *In degraded areas, improving hydrology through network of canals*
- *Making areas conducive for Juvenile fishes to grow*



Mangrove Restoration – South Pulicat Lake



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A group of approximately ten flamingos is shown standing in shallow, clear water. They are scattered across the upper half of the frame, with their long necks and legs clearly visible. The water reflects the birds and the sky.

Canal Network – Ecological Mangrove Restoration



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Biodiversity Restoration Work



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Education



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Main Focus Area

CRenIEO started an English medium school in 1988 - giving the economically backward children wider opportunities for higher education and taking up other trades when they grow up.





Requirements for Sustaining our 30 year Interventions

- *Up scaling the quality of Education of our rural school & enabling post school children for higher education and to compete with urban based school Children.*
- *Inculcating in children the responsibilities of preserving and conserving the nature*
- *Up scaling our lake biodiversity activities*
- *Improve accessibility to drinking water and sanitation for Pulicat homes*



Thank You!