

VIBRANT GANGA 



# STAKEHOLDERS FOR GANGA AQUALIFE CONSERVATION

ACHIEVING  
COHERENCE  
IN DIVERSITY



National Mission  
for Clean Ganga



भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान  
Wildlife Institute of India



History demonstrates the intimate connection between the sustainability of a river ecosystem and the stability of human communities, their economic and social development. The Ganga River flows across five Indian states within its 2525 km stretch wherein the social, cultural and economic aspects of the local people are intricately linked with the aquatic ecosystem.

**The multiplicity and diversity of stakeholders within the Ganga River system and the conflicting use of its goods and services makes it one of the most dynamic and challenging river systems for conservation planning. The fragmented state of the river and the high degree of unsustainable resource use scenarios aggravate the urgency to conserve what is left of the river system and its biodiversity with active participation and cooperation of its stakeholders.**







# WHO ARE THESE STAKEHOLDERS?

Being a dynamic river system, the Ganga River has far-reaching impacts on the lives of the people. Apart from providing resources, the Ganga River has significant cultural and religious values. It also supports unique assemblage of aquatic diversity. Thus, stakeholders of the Ganga River can be any individual or organisation who are directly affecting or is affected by any decision concerning it.



## WHAT IS AT STAKE?

1

The integrity of the Ganga River system.

2

A vast natural resource base that is the source of livelihood to more than one-third of the country's population.

3

High biological and ecological values, maintaining the goods and services provided by the river.

4

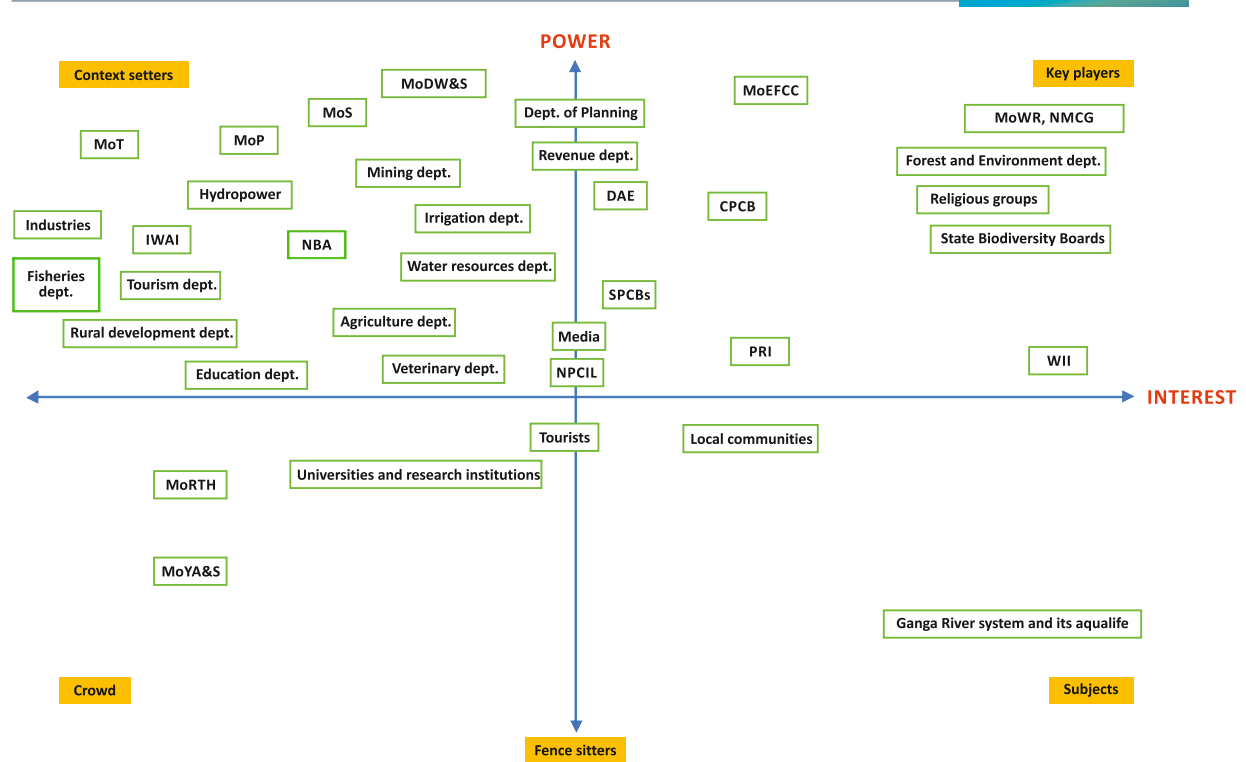
Diverse and endemic aqualife with high conservation values, more than 50% in the threatened categories of the IUCN Red List.



# STAKEHOLDERS OF THE GANGA RIVER

The Ganga River system has multiple stakeholders at different spatial scales, each with its own unique relationship and role with respect to the river. For ease of understanding and analysis, these stakeholders can be categorized into four broad categories, based on the type and level of power they hold and their interest in biodiversity conservation. They are described below-

## WHO'S WHO OF THE STAKEHOLDERS OF THE GANGA RIVER



**Key players** are the change makers, those who are actively involved in either planning or execution of the river conservation plan. They have both the interest and power to acquire information, funds and manpower to carry out the conservation activities with ease. Key players include MoWRRDGR, NMCG, CPCB, etc.

**Context setters** have high levels of power but low interest for biodiversity conservation. This may be attributed to the different priorities and goals of these stakeholder groups. Context setters of the Ganga River include MoP, MoS, hydropower etc.

**Subjects** are the victims, with high levels of interest due to dependence on the Ganga River for their survival and livelihood but have low power. The Ganga River, its aqualife and the local people living on its banks are the subjects.

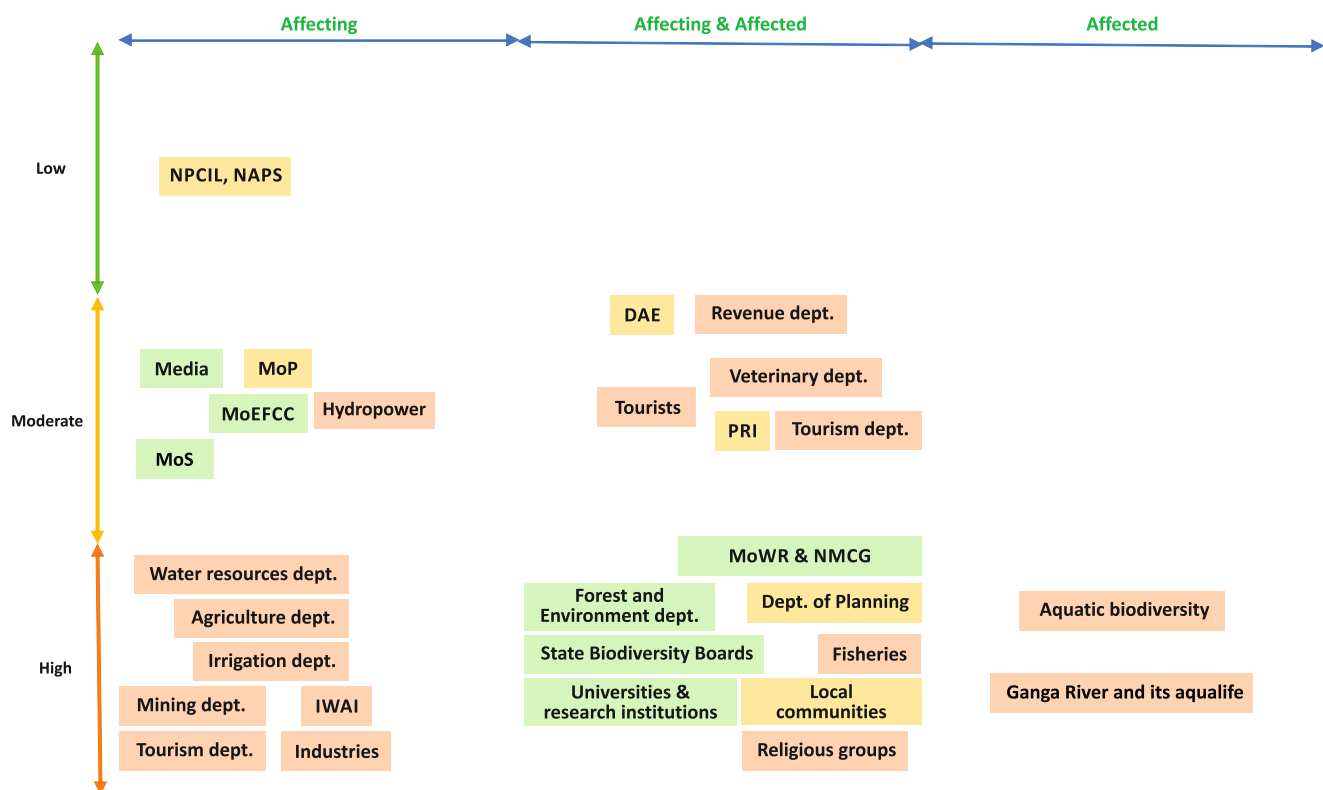
**Crowd** includes the bystanders, i.e., the ones with neither the power nor the interest for the cause.

**Fence sitters** are neutral. They have high power but no commitment, hence their interests are flexible according to the situation. They can be fitted into any of the four categories and if persuaded can be great supporters of conservation issues. Fence sitters of the Ganga River include the media, tourists, NPCIL.



# THE AFFECTING AND THE AFFECTED: ANALYZING STAKEHOLDERS OF THE GANGA RIVERSCAPE

The stakeholders of the Ganga River through their individual and cumulative actions are either positively or negatively affecting the ecological functioning of the river system and its aqualife. Some stakeholders are both affecting and getting affected by the loss of aqualife. Fishing communities, tourist, local communities thus are in this group, where the availability of fishes and other resources is contributing to their livelihood, but on other hand their over-exploitation are resulting in diminished availability of these resources. Understanding the type and scale of these impacts is important for making progress towards integrating the stakeholders in the riverscape and take a holistic approach to conservation planning.



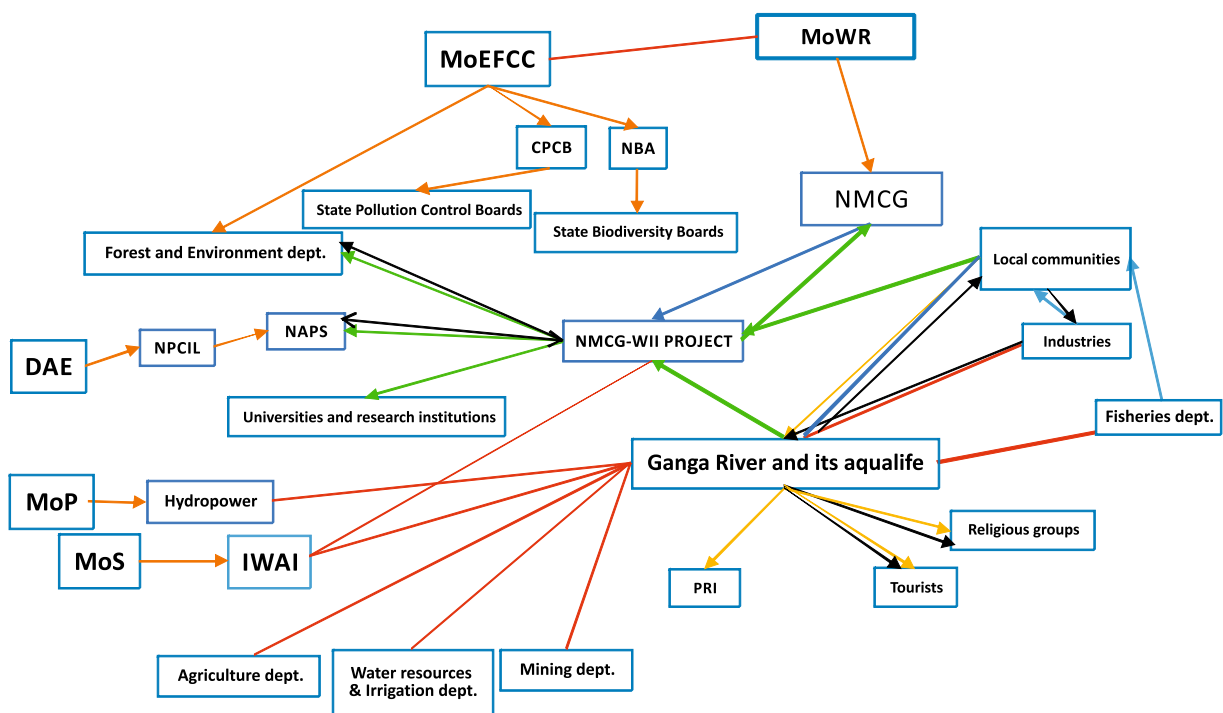
- Positive
- Negative
- Both positive & negative

**RECOGNISING LEVELS AND PATTERNS  
OF STAKEHOLDER ACTIONS AND  
INTERACTIONS ON THE GANGA RIVER**

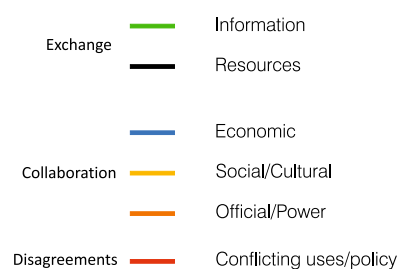


# BUILDING STAKEHOLDER NETWORKS

The interactions between the various stakeholders through - the exchange of information (scientific and/or technical) and/or resources, collaborations (economic, social and official/political) and disagreements contributes to shaping the Ganga riverscape. A network perspective provides a lens for studying the effects of socio-political systems on an ecosystem and highlights the need to optimize the trade-offs between different network structures. The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) through its National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is manoeuvring the Ganga River restoration by building a huge network of collaborations and information exchange system.



## A NETWORK PERSPECTIVE TO STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS





# BUILDING CONSENSUS THROUGH DIALOGUE: LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD



The inequalities among the various stakeholders leads to instability in the functioning of the river ecosystem and its dynamics. Inequalities may be defined by a stakeholders' ability to procure financial assets, access information and issues, and access to basic amenities as well as natural resources. Mobilising capacities at all levels by building alliances and networks, strengthening informal institutions by building chains of accountability and bringing clarity and transparency in the formal networks through dialogue and advocacy is key to bringing a balance. The subjects are the most affected stakeholders of the river and are thus dependent on the Key Players for maintaining a balance between conservation and development. Training and capacity building for these stakeholders on ecological flows, water governance and benefit sharing, and dialogues for consensus building are prerequisites.

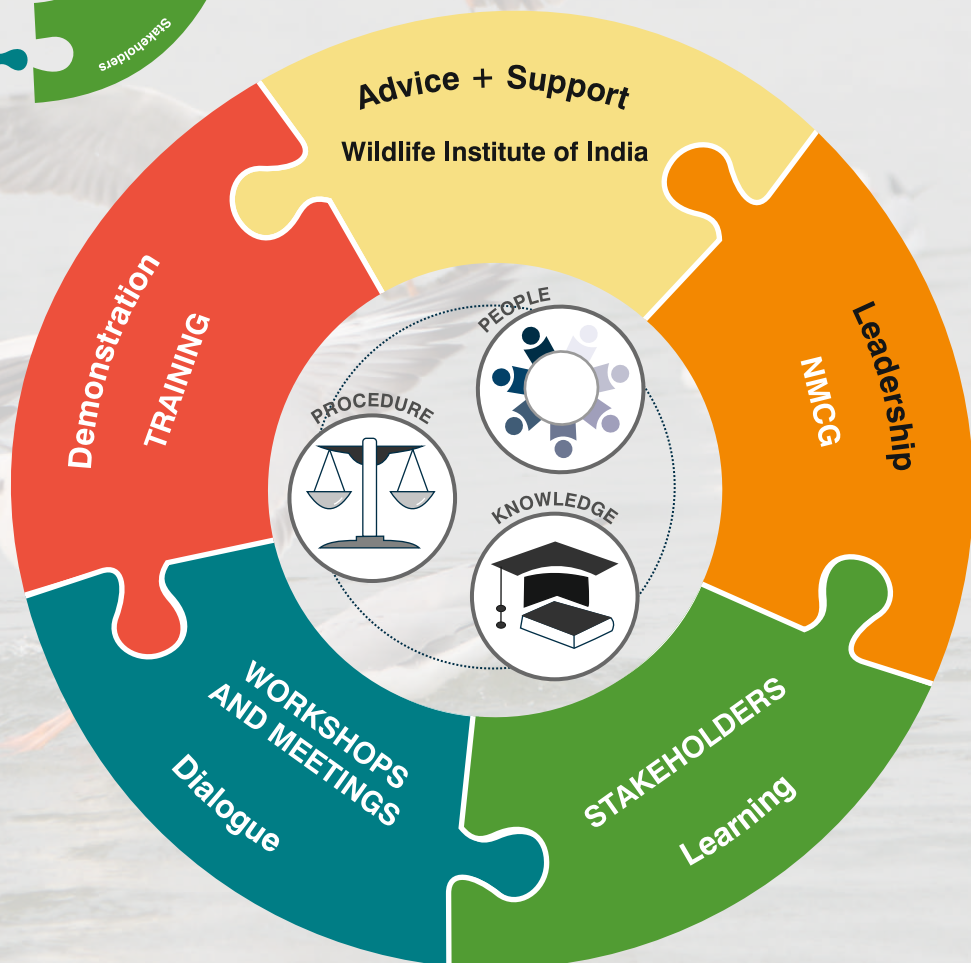


**THE ROUND TABLE  
DIALOGUE: BUILDING  
CONSENSUS**





**A HOLISTIC APPROACH  
TO CONSERVING THE  
GANGA RIVER AND ITS  
BIODIVERSITY**



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**MoEFCC-** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**MoWR-** Ministry of Water Resource, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

**NMCG-** National Mission for Clean Ganga

**CPCB-** Central Pollution Control Board

**NBA-** National Biodiversity Authority

**DAE-** Department of Atomic Energy

**NPCIL-** Nuclear Power Cooperation India Ltd.

**NAPS-** Narora Atomic Power Station

**MoP-** Ministry of Power

**MoS-** Ministry of Shipping

**IWAI-** Inland Waterways Authority of India

**PRI-** Panchayati Raj Institutions

**WII-** Wildlife Institute of India