

To celebrate World Water Day on March 22, 2012, **University of Miami** Professor and award-winning filmmaker **Sanjeev Chatterjee** (“One Water”) will launch the website, **eastkolkatawetlands.org**, to explore the important issues surrounding the endangered **East Kolkata Wetlands**, the largest multi-use wetlands in the world.

Sometimes called the “kidneys of Kolkata (Calcutta),” the East Kolkata Wetlands encompasses 30,000 acre and provides clean water through natural wastewater treatment and thousands of tons of fish and vegetables a day to people in the major city of Kolkata, in India. More than 50,000 people depend on the wetlands for their livelihood. But in recent years the East Kolkata Wetlands has become a target of encroaching urban development despite being named a Ramsar site in 2002.

Chatterjee, an electronic media professor at the **School of Communication at UM**, spent six months working with students at Jadavpur University in India to produce multimedia stories and videos about the plight of the East Kolkata Wetlands. They interviewed all the stakeholders, including biologist, fish farmers, developers, and families living near the wetlands. His students have taken this issue to other young people, ages 18-25, in the U.S. and abroad, via social media on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/eastkolkatawetlands), and are receiving thousands of page views each week.