The information on Wular submitted to the Ramsar Convention by the Indian Government is typed below:

Wular (Jammu and Kashmir)

Location: 34°16'N - 74°33'E. Situated in the district of Bandipur, Jammu and Kashmir State.

Area: 18,900 ha

Degree of protection: This lake has been identified as one of the sites for conservation and management by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The programme is being implemented by the State Steering Committee.

Site description: Wular is the largest freshwater wetland in India which is surrounded by high mountain ranges on the north-eastern side. River Jhelum passes through the lake at Babyari and leaves it at Ningli. A number of wetlands like Malgam, Nygam, Nawgam are located at the fringes of this lake in the Baramula District of Kashmir, which are important for sustaining a large population of both migratory and resident birds. The lake is covered by dense growth of macrophytes, particularly *Trapa natans* which provides substantial revenue to the State Government.

Criteria for inclusion:
- International and National importance: The wetland acts as a huge reservoir and absorbs high flood water of the river Jhelum. It is home to a number of migratory and resident birds. Besides, it is also a source of revenue to the State Government in terms of license fee and cost of various products from the lake.
- Changes in ecological character: The conservation of lake area for fuel wood plantations and paddy cultivation compounded with the problem of siltation have resulted in shrinking of wetland area. Large proportions of the lake area has been concerted for different landuse purposes like plantations, paddy cultivation and miscellaneous purposes. The lake is covered with a thick growth of *Trapa natans* which provides a good revenue to the State Government. Decrease in biological diversity and loss of some important endemic and endangered species due to human pressures on the wetland are quite apparent. The effluents brought by the river Jhelum and a large number of villages located in the lake shore area have resulted in deterioration of water quality.
- Management practices: State Government has prepared an Action Plan for development of the catchment area and control of soil erosion. A comprehensive scheme is also being developed for management of the lake on sound ecological basis.
- Principal reference material: Reference material has been collected from the University of Kashmir, records from the Forest Department, Revenue Department, Soil Conservation Division and other allied departments.