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- ▶ More than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of endangered species rely on Wetlands for their survival.
- ▶ An acre of Wetland can store more than a million gallon of water.

# Wetlands Day 2019



## WHAT ARE WETLANDS? WHY DO WE NEED TO CONSERVE THEM?

Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods during the year. This includes all lakes and rivers, ground water aquifers, swamps, marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas, mangroves, coastal areas, coral reefs and all human-made sites such as ponds, paddy fields and reservoirs.

*Theme of World  
Wetlands Day 2019:*

*Wetlands and  
Climate Change*

## Wetlands are Nature's Water Filters

### Wetlands provide large number of Ecosystem Services to us.

Some of these include:

- Help prevent floods and recharges the ground water
- Provide habitat for urban biodiversity
- Act as natural filter against water pollution
- Site for recreation and ecotourism amidst the hustle and bustle of city life

### Major Types of Wetlands

- Marine: including lagoons, rocky shores, sea grass beds and coral reefs.
- Estuarine: including deltas, tidal marshes, mudflats and mangrove swamps.
- Riverine: along rivers and streams.
- Lacustrine: associated with lakes.
- Palustrine: marshes, swamps and bogs.
- Constructed wetlands: mainly for waste water treatment purpose.



The soil, rich microbial activity and presence of algae and other plants make Wetlands an excellent Carbon Sink. Wetlands therefore help us in fighting climate change.



### Why are Wetlands Threatened?

Wetlands, especially in urban areas like Delhi, face a constant threat of being filled up and converted into real estate. In doing so, the residents living around filled up wetlands are exposed to flood (short-term) and drought (long-term) related disasters. Delhi has already lost hundreds of wetlands in this way and many more are being lost even today. In addition to this, wetlands are also threatened with water pollution and destruction of rainfall run-off channels.



# Help Protect Our Wetlands

## HOW CAN YOU HELP

### Ramsar Convention

Wetlands are being lost due to increasing demands of the growing human population. Over-exploitation of the remaining wetlands is threatening their capacity to provide essential services.

To tackle this challenge, a Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance was signed for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in Ramsar in Iran, in 1971.

27 Wetlands in India are identified as Ramsar sites and are carefully monitored.

- Make yourself aware about the presence of wetlands around you. Learn their importance and make others aware too.
- Report illegal activities like dumping of waste or filling up of wetlands to your local authorities.
- Grow native species of trees and plants around the wetlands.
- Use non-toxic, chemical (especially phosphate) free detergents and cleaning liquids and be mindful of the waste water flowing from your house.
- Do not litter, especially around the wetland.
- Visit the wetland(s) around you frequently and encourage others to do so as well. Organise waste pickup/ cleaning drives around the wetlands.
- Join any Government initiative or campaigns and support programmes by NGOs aimed at conserving our wetlands.



Scan QR code to share the location of a wetland near you.



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Learn more ▶ ▶ ▶