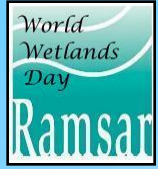


World Wetlands Day

What is it all about?

1. What is Ramsar Convention?
2. What is World Wetlands Day?
3. What is Wetland?
4. Types of Wetlands.
5. Functions and services of Wetlands.
6. Threats to Wetlands.
7. How to improve the status of the Wetlands?



What is Ramsar Convention?

- Intergovernmental **treaty** (with 138 contracting parties)
- **Framework** for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources
- The main instrument through which the Convention works is the List of Wetlands of International Importance - **Ramsar sites** (recently there are 1328 sites with total area 1.11 mill. km²)

What is World Wetlands Day?

- The “birthday” of the Convention on Wetlands Conservation signed on the 2nd of February 1971
- Aims to explain the importance of wetlands for the people
- To clarify the multiple values and services that wetlands provide
- Aims to promote the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands

What is Wetland?

- Static water body - like a lake, or fast flowing water -like a river
- On the coast or inland
- In the mountains or in the plains
- Natural or human made
- Freshwater or marine
- 6% of the surface of the Earth



Types of Wetlands

(according to the Convention on Wetlands)

- Inland Wetlands
- Marine/Coastal Wetlands
- Human-made wetlands

Inland Wetlands

- Deltas
- Rivers/streams/creeks
- Freshwater lakes
- Marshes
- Pools
- Peat lands
- Freshwater springs
- Geothermal wetlands



Marine/Coastal Wetlands

- Permanent shallow marine waters
- Coral reefs
- Rocky marine shores
- Sand, shingle or pebble shores
- Estuarine waters
- Coastal saline and freshwater lagoons



Human-made wetlands

- Aquaculture ponds (e.g., fish/shrimp)
- Irrigated land (rice fields)
- Seasonally flooded agricultural land (pastures)
- Water storage areas
- Excavations (gravel/brick/clay pits)
- Canals and drainage channels
- Wastewater treatment areas



Functions and Services of Wetlands

- Water storage and purification
- Biodiversity protection
- Sediment retention
- Groundwater replenishment
- Climate change mitigation
- Recreation/tourism
- Cultural value



Rice fields in India

(source: Ramsar Convention).

Threats to Wetlands

- Drainage and filling
- Building of dams
- Channelization of riverbeds
- Overexploitation of wetlands resources
- Introduction of invasive species
- Water pollution



Ways to Improve the Wetlands Status

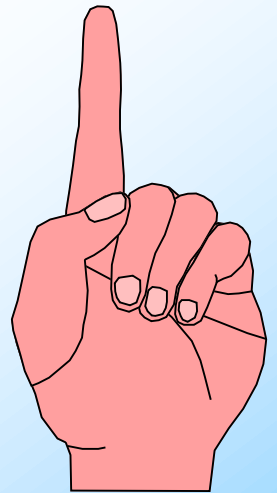
- Public awareness campaigns
- Policy measures
- Field actions
- Financial mechanisms



Main messages

Wetlands should be conserved because:

- They provide source of food
- They are important reservoirs for water
- They are natural waster water treatment facilities
- They mitigate the climate change effects



**Thank you for your
attention!**

