

## World Wetlands Day 2020



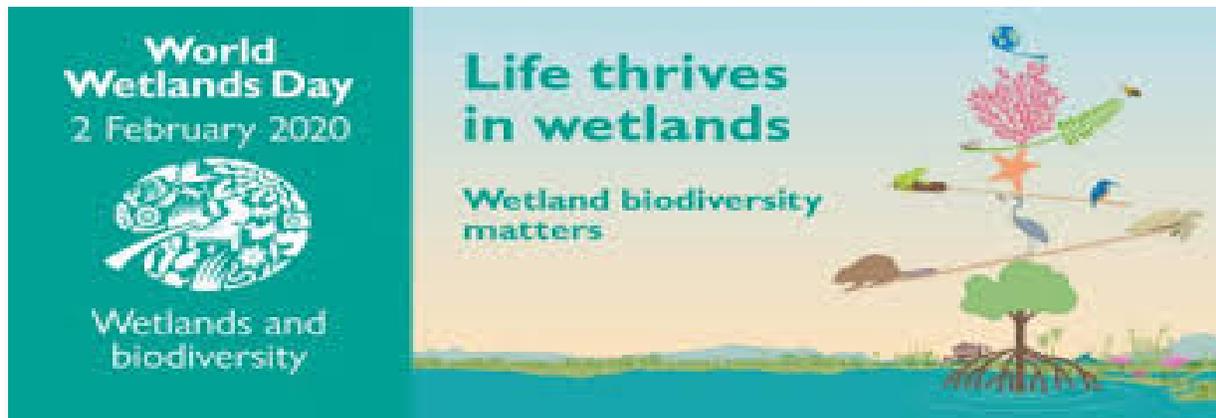
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Wetland biodiversity contributes to ecosystem resilience, clean water, water supply, storm protection, carbon storage, health and well-being, tourism and recreation and jobs.

Biodiversity is a foundational value of wetlands and an inherent part of the significance of these ecosystems. It is through wetland biodiversity that critical ecological processes are carried out. The contribution that wetland biodiversity has on broader environments, society

and economies has also been historically undervalued. This year we celebrate the great value of wetlands and their biodiversity. Happy World Wetlands Day. The World Heritage Convention works closely with other entities to protect the most important wetland systems in the world. Wetlands can be protected under different designations, whether by Ramsar, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program and others, and some of those overlap.



## World Wetlands Day 2020

*Wetlands and Biodiversity* is the theme for 2020. Wetlands are rich with biodiversity and are a habitat for a dense variety of plant and animal species. Latest estimates show a global decline of biodiversity, while wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests. This year's theme is a unique opportunity to highlight wetland biodiversity, its status, why it matters and promote actions to reverse its loss.

## World Wetlands Day

2 February each year is World Wetlands Day to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and our planet. This day also marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

## Wetlands

Wetlands are land areas that are saturated or flooded with water either permanently or seasonally. Inland wetlands include marshes, ponds, lakes, fens, rivers, floodplains, and swamps. Coastal wetlands include saltwater marshes, estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and even coral reefs. Fish ponds, rice paddies, and saltpans are human-made wetlands.

## How you can get involved

Join us as: **an event organizer, educator or participant**

### Organize an event

- Organize a conference or open day at a Wetland Centre or Wetland of International Importance.
- Invite wetland experts to explain the role of wetlands biodiversity
- Hold an exhibition to present and show case arts or photographs about wetlands.
- Organize a community walk, bike or run for wetlands.
- Plan a wetland clean-up day.
- Organize a photo or essay competition.
- Visit a Wetland of International importance in your country.

### Raise public awareness

- Share the outreach materials on your website, social media, newsletters or bulletin boards etc.
- Use the InDesign files to create your own materials such as T-shirts, Caps, Banners, etc.
- Translate the information materials provided into your own language.
- Write a blog or article in your local paper.

## Organize a classroom discussion

- Get students to think about how wetlands naturally help us cope with climate change.
- Hold a discussion on why wetlands continue to be degraded around the world and what actions are necessary to stop this loss.
- Organize a quiz about the different types of wetlands. Use the exercise to highlight the other multiple benefits of wetlands to people such as providing water, source of livelihoods.
- Organize a coloring competition for children. Use our Color-in poster for kids.





