

World Wetlands Day

2nd February, 2021

“Wetlands and water”, the theme for World Wetlands Day 2021, shines a spotlight on wetlands as a source of freshwater and encourages actions to restore them and stop their loss.



Ameenpur Lake, Telangana



Pocharam Lake, Telangana



What Wetlands do?

Fresh and saltwater wetlands sustain humanity and nature. They support our social and economic development through multiple services:

Store and clean water

Wetlands hold and provide most of our freshwater. They naturally filter pollutants, leaving water we can safely drink.



Keep us fed

Aquaculture is the fastest-growing food production sector, while inland fisheries alone provided 12 million tones of fish in 2018.



Underpin our global economy

Wetlands, the most valuable ecosystem. More than one billion people rely on wetlands for income.



Provide nature a home

40% of the world's species live and breed in wetlands. Annually, about 200 new fish species discovered in freshwater wetlands. Coral reefs are home to 25% of all species.



Keep us safe

Wetlands provide protection from floods and storms with each acre of wetland absorbing up to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater. Wetlands help regulate the climate change.



- Only **2.5%** of water on Earth is fresh water, less than **1%** of freshwater is usable.
- Rivers & lakes hold **0.3%** of surface water



We use **10 billion tons** of water everyday:

- **70%** used for food cultivation
- **22%** consumed by industry and energy
- Water use increased six fold in 100 years and rises by **1%** annually



Wetland loss impact

- Nearly **90%** of the world's wetlands lost since 1700's.
- **25%** of all wetland species and 1 in 3 freshwater species face extinction.
- Reduction in surface and groundwater, resulting in increasing competition for water.



Few solutions

- Stop destroying, start restoring wetlands
- Don't dam rivers or over extract from aquifers
- Increase water efficiency, use wetlands wisely
- Address pollution, clean up fresh water sources
- Integrate water and wetlands into development plan and resource management