



RAMSAR WETLANDS SITES IN INDIA

Ramsar Convention:

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, also known as the Convention on Wetlands, is an international treaty that aims to conserve natural resources and the sustainable use of wetlands. The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Since then, almost 90% of UN member states, from all the world's geographic regions, have acceded to become "Contracting Parties".

Through this agreement, member countries positively commit to: –

- Wise use of all their wetlands
- Designating sites for the Ramsar List of "Wetlands of International Importance" (Ramsar Sites) and their conservation
- Cooperating on transboundary wetlands and other shared interests

There are currently over 2,400 Ramsar Sites around the world. They cover over 2.5 million square kilometres, an area larger than Mexico.

Wetlands:

The definition of the word 'wetland', under the Convention, is any land area that is saturated or flooded with water, either seasonally or permanently. Inland wetlands include aquifers, lakes, rivers, streams, marshes, peatlands, ponds, flood plains and swamps. Coastal wetlands include all coastlines, mangroves, saltmarshes, estuaries, lagoons, seagrass meadows and coral reefs.

Why Wetlands should be important?

Wetlands provide fresh water

Freshwater wetlands give us our water for basic drinking, cooking and washing needs and for irrigation.

Wetlands feed humanity

Rice, grown in wetland paddies, is the staple diet of nearly three billion people, and accounts for 20% of the world's food.

Wetlands are nature's shock absorbers:

The wetlands within river basins act as natural sponges, absorbing rainfall, reducing flood impact and this same storage capacity also helps safeguard against drought. Mangroves and coral reefs reduce the speed and height of storm surges and impact of tsunamis and hurricanes.

Wetlands are critical for biodiversity:

Wetlands are home to more than 100,000 known freshwater species, and this number is growing all the time. Wetlands are also essential for many amphibians, as well as for bird breeding and migration.

Wetlands create sustainable products and livelihoods:

More than 660 million people depend on fishing and aquaculture for their livelihoods. Wetlands also provide timber for building, vegetable oil, medicinal plants, raw material for weaving and fodder for animals.

Reason behind Degradation and loss of Wetlands

Recent estimates show that 64% or more of the world's wetlands have disappeared since 1900. Some of the main causes of the degradation and loss of wetlands are: –

- Major changes in land use, especially increased agriculture and grazing
- Water diversion through dams, dykes and canalization
- Infrastructure development, particularly in urban areas, river valleys and coastal areas.

Efforts taken by Ramsar Convention:

Together with the Contracting Parties, Partners and International Organization Partners (IOPs), the Ramsar Convention works to:

- Encourage policies and land use planning that integrate wetland issues
- Enthuse the public about the benefits and services that wetlands provide
- Ensure significant investment into increasing awareness by working with private sector actors such as DanoneEvian and Star Alliance
- Forge alliances that align private and public sector actors to reverse the alarming loss and degradation
- Develop financing sources for wetland conservation and management.

What are the Efforts towards Wetlands Conservation?

▪ Initiatives at Global Level:

- The **United Nations declared 2021-2030 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** with the aim to conserve and restore the terrestrial, aquatic and marine ecosystems.
- **Ramsar Convention**
- **Montreux Record**
- **World Wetlands Day**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has been implementing two schemes to conserve wetlands and lakes:

- **National Wetlands Conservation Programme (NWCP):** Launched in 1985, this program aims to address threats to wetland ecosystems and promote their conservation.
- **National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP):** This program is also implemented by the MoEFCC.

Other initiatives for wetland conservation include:

- **Mission Sahbhagita:** Launched in 2022, this mission aims to create a network of 75 wetlands that support water and food security.
- **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017**
- **National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA)**
- **Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme**

List of Ramsar sites in India

S. No.	State Location	Name of Site
1	Andhra Pradesh	Kolleru Lake
2	Assam	Deepor Beel
3	Bihar	Kabartal Wetland
4	Goa	Nanda Lake
5	Gujarat	Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary
6	Gujarat	Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary
7	Gujarat	Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary
8	Gujarat	Wadhvana Wetland
9	Haryana	Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary

10	Haryana	Sultanpur National Park
11	Himachal Pradesh	Chandertal Wetland
12	Himachal Pradesh	Pong Dam Lake
13	Himachal Pradesh	Renuka Wetland
14	Jammu and Kashmir	Hokera Wetland
15	Jammu and Kashmir	Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve
16	Jammu and Kashmir	Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve
17	Jammu and Kashmir	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes
18	Jammu and Kashmir	Wular Lake
19	Karnataka	Aghanashini Estuary
20	Karnataka	Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve
21	Karnataka	Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve
22	Karnataka	Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary
23	Kerala	Asthamudi Wetland
24	Kerala	Sasthamkotta Lake
25	Kerala	Vembanad Kol Wetland
26	Ladakh	Tso Kar Wetland Complex
27	Ladakh	Tsomoriri Lake
28	Madhya Pradesh	Bhoj Wetlands
29	Madhya Pradesh	Sakhya Sagar
30	Madhya Pradesh	Sirpur Wetland
31	Madhya Pradesh	Yashwant Sagar
32	Maharashtra	Lonar Lake
33	Maharashtra	Nandur Madhameshwar
34	Maharashtra	Thane Creek
35	Manipur	Loktak Lake
36	Mizoram	Pala Wetland
37	Odisha	Ansupa Lake
38	Odisha	Bhitarkanika Mangroves
39	Odisha	Chilka Lake
40	Odisha	Hirakud Reservoir
41	Odisha	Satkosia Gorge
42	Odisha	Tampara Lake
43	Punjab	Beas Conservation Reserve
44	Punjab	Harike Lake
45	Punjab	Kanjli Lake
46	Punjab	Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve
47	Punjab	Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary
48	Punjab	Ropar Lake
49	Rajasthan	Keoladeo Ghana NP
50	Rajasthan	Sambhar Lake
51	Tamil Nadu	Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary

52	Tamil Nadu	Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve
53	Tamil Nadu	Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary
54	Tamil Nadu	Karaivetti Bird sanctuary
55	Tamil Nadu	Karikili Bird Sanctuary
56	Tamil Nadu	Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary
57	Tamil Nadu	Longwood Shola Reserve Forest
58	Tamil Nadu	Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest
59	Tamil Nadu	Pichavaram Mangrove
60	Tamil Nadu	Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary
61	Tamil Nadu	Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex
62	Tamil Nadu	Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary
63	Tamil Nadu	Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary
64	Tamil Nadu	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
65	Tamil Nadu	Vellode Bird Sanctuary
66	Tamil Nadu	Vembannur Wetland Complex
67	Tripura	Rudrasagar Lake
68	Uttar Pradesh	Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary
69	Uttar Pradesh	Haiderpur Wetland
70	Uttar Pradesh	Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary
71	Uttar Pradesh	Parvati Agra Bird Sanctuary
72	Uttar Pradesh	Saman Bird Sanctuary
73	Uttar Pradesh	Samaspur Bird Sanctuary
74	Uttar Pradesh	Sandi Bird Sanctuary
75	Uttar Pradesh	Sarsai Nawar Jheel
76	Uttar Pradesh	Sur Sarovar
77	Uttar Pradesh	Upper Ganga River
78	Uttarakhand	Asan Conservation Reserve
79	West Bengal	East Kolkata Wetlands
80	West Bengal	Sunderbans Wetland



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