



Report
on
World Wetlands Day 2023

**World
Wetlands Day**
2 February 2023



It's time for wetland restoration

Organized by

**EIACP Programme Centre Resource Partner on
Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement
ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)
Coimbatore – 641 002**

World Wetlands Day 2023 Celebrations by ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP

As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) and Mission LiFE, EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) RP at the ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore commemorated World Wetlands Day 2023 by organizing an awareness campaign. The campaign's primary goal is to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands among students and the general public. As a part of this commemoration, an online awareness quiz was also conducted to peoples of all walks of life from 18.01.2023 to 02.02.2023. Both the events were registered in the worldwide events organized by World Wetlands Authority (www.Ramsar.org).

Dr C Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE -IFGTB inaugurated the campaign and released the awareness poster. Director spoke on the various benefits provided by the wetlands. They provide enormous benefits to society including: freshwater and purifying and filtering harmful wastes from water; a source of foods, including fish and rice which account for about 20% of the world's nutritional supply; act as buffers for extreme events and help reduce risks from flooding and drought; help combat climate change through providing protection from extreme weather events, with peatlands alone storing more than twice as much carbon as all the world's forests; as a source of livelihoods for countless numbers of people; as well as supporting a vast array of biodiversity, he added.

Dr Kunhikannan also explained that despite from their benefits, wetlands continue to be lost at an alarming rate. The conservation and restoration of wetlands must be a given high priority. There is increasing concern to conserve and restore perishing wetlands and endangered habitats to achieve ecological sustainability, he added. Director urged all to start restoring wetlands, which is the need of the hour.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist F and Coordinator EIACP PC RP in his awareness lecture highlighted the theme "Wetlands Restoration" and explained that wetlands are acting as important carbon sinks, in mitigating climate change. There are 75 Ramsar Sites in India and they serve as abode of many threatened species of flora and fauna including 213 species of fish and 74 amphibians. Sundarbans, the world's largest halophytic block harbours two globally threatened species of mangroves. Sunderbans is the largest wetland in India and Renuka Wetland in Himachal Pradesh is the smallest, he added. Dr Warriar emphasized that Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar Sites in India with 14 Indian Wetlands. Ashtamudi Wetland, Sasthamkotta Lake, Vembanad Kol Wetland are the three wetlands in Kerala out of which Sasthamkotta lake is the largest fresh water wetland in Kerala.

Participants from different walks of life participated in the online awareness quiz and E Certificate awarded to all the participants. An awareness poster highlighting the significance of wetland restoration was released during the occasion and were shared with all the stakeholders. Awareness handouts were disseminated to school children and the general public. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Programme Officer, EIACP PC RP proposed vote of thanks.







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WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2023

Theme: Wetlands Restoration

Revive and restore degraded wetlands

35% of the world's wetlands have disappeared in the last 50 years

7 benefits of restoring wetlands

A well restored wetland can provide many of the services performed by the original natural wetland. Here are seven ways restored wetlands can benefit us directly:

- 1 Revive biodiversity**
40% of the world's species live or breed in wetlands. Restoring wetlands powers the local food chain and attracts wildlife.
- 2 Replenish and filter water supply**
Wetlands naturally filter water, remove pollutants and boost the local water supply.
- 3 Store carbon**
Specific types of wetlands, especially peatlands, mangroves, intertidal marshes and seagrass beds are exceptionally efficient carbon sinks.
- 4 Blunt the impact of floods and storms**
Restored wetlands can act as sponges against excess rainfall and flooding, buffer coastal storm surges, and can shield communities in extreme weather.
- 5 Improve livelihoods**
Wetlands create livelihoods in fishing and aquaculture, and also provide goods like reeds and grasses. These opportunities often benefit indigenous populations.
- 6 Boost eco-tourism**
A restored wetland can be a sustainable magnet for visitors; a natural attraction that draws tourists along with opportunities to serve them.
- 7 Enhance well-being**
Revitalized wetlands provide a place to relax, experience nature – and enjoy sense of satisfaction at their resurgence.



Source: World Wetlands Authority

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