



**Report**  
**on**  
**World Wetlands Day 2022**

**World  
Wetlands Day**  
2 February 2022



Wetlands Action for People and Nature

Organized by

**ENVIS Resource Partner**

on

**Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement  
Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding  
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)  
Coimbatore**

## **World Wetlands Day 2022 Celebrations by IFGTB ENVIS**

As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB), ENVIS Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement at the Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore commemorated World Wetlands Day 2022 on 02.02.2022 by organizing an awareness campaign. The main objective of the campaign is to create awareness among students and general public about the significance of wetlands. As a part of this commemoration, an online awareness quiz on the current year's theme "Wetlands Action for People and Nature" was also conducted to peoples of all walks of life from 10.01.2022 to 31.01.2022. Both the events were registered in the worldwide events organized by World Wetlands Authority ([www.Ramsar.org](http://www.Ramsar.org)).

During her introductory remarks, Dr Rekha R Warriar, Scientist F and ENVIS link officer explained world wetlands day also marks the date of the adoption of convention on wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. In her awareness lecture, she highlighted that 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. This year's theme is a timely reminder that while paying attention to our future, we must also recognise the critical action that needs to be taken in order to take measures to conserve wetlands and their habitats, she added.

Dr C Kunhikannan, Director, IFGTB inaugurated the campaign and released the awareness poster and 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

411 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 wetlands was released during the occasion and its digital copies were shared with all the stakeholders. Awareness handouts were disseminated to school children and general public. Dr S. Vigneswaran, Senior Programme Officer, ENVIS proposed vote of thanks. The awareness campaign can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/SXUSW6DrN1U>.















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*In collaboration with*



ENVIS RP on Wetland Ecosystems including Inland Wetlands  
 Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History (SACON)  
 Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu



Jammu & Kashmir ENVIS Hub  
 Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing  
 Jammu & Kashmir

## WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2022

Theme: Wetlands Action for People and Nature

Wetlands as Biodiversity Hotspots provide habitats for a large number of endemic, threatened as well as migratory species. Wetlands have intrinsic cultural value and are part of the cultural and religious fabric. Coastal wetlands like mangroves, coral reefs, mudflats and estuaries act as physical barriers limiting damaging effects of storm and tidal surges. They act as 'kidneys of landscapes', purifying water by locking up pollutants in their sediments and vegetation

### India and Wetlands

- India nearly has 4.6% of its land as wetlands that cover an area of 15.26 million hectares.
- India became a party to the 'Convention on Wetlands', also known as the Ramsar Convention on 1st February 1982.
- There are 47 Ramsar sites in India. These are wetlands deemed to be of "international importance" under the Ramsar Convention.
- India has an area of 10,90,230 hectares under the list of Wetlands of International Importance.
- India stands first in South Asia and third in Asia in terms of number of designated Ramsar sites.
- Sundarbans is the largest Ramsar Site of India.
- Chilika Lake (Orissa) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were recognized as the first Ramsar Sites of India.
- Uttar Pradesh has the most number of Ramsar Sites in India.

