

“PROTECT WETLANDS FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE”

The 2nd of February each year marks an international or global celebration of wetlands. This day is declared by the Ramsar Convention which was adopted in Iran in 1971. The aim is to raise global awareness annually about the vital role of wetlands for people and the planet.

A wetland is a place in which the land is covered by water (salt, fresh or somewhere in between) either seasonally or permanently. There are different types of wetlands which are:

Inland Wetlands, which are: marshes, lakes, rivers, floodplains, peatland and swamps.

Coastal Wetlands, which are: salt-water marshes, estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and coral reefs.

Human-made Wetlands, which are fishponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and saltpans.

Wetlands play a significant role of:

Supporting a variety life on earth;

Helping with Climate Change mitigation;

Contributing to the economy through enhancing agricultural productivity, fisheries, opportunities for ecotourism; and

Serving as nature’s protectors in case of floods, drought, erosion and storm surges amongst others. For this year we celebrate World Wetlands Day under the theme “Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future”, which highlight that our actions should urgently protect wetlands for the welfare of all people and that the future generations can continue to benefit from all that wetlands provide. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on wetlands (COP 15) will be held under the same theme in Zimbabwe Victoria Falls on 23-31 July 2025.

Some of the actions for protecting wetlands are to:

Stop pollution of wetlands;

Be part of the international community to conserve and manage wetlands sustainably;

Adopt, clean, rehabilitate and restore wetlands near you;

Create awareness and educate people about wetlands through various communication platforms;

Report illegal activities and actions in wetlands;

Plant indigenous trees, shrubs and flowers to preserve the ecological balance of local wetlands;

Conserve wetlands water.

Conduct regular monitoring and research to understand the health, biodiversity and ecological functions of wetlands;

Encourage responsible development practices that prioritize the preservation of wetland ecosystems opportunities; and

Support the implementation and enforcement of environmental laws.

Let us be part of the solution to “protect wetlands for our common future”

#ActForWetlands