

Gopal Krishna Gokhale College, Kolhapur

Department of Botany

World Wetlands Day – 2nd February 2019

Theme: Wetlands & Climate Change

Dr. R. T. Patil

What is it all about?

1. What is Ramsar Convention?
2. What is World Wetlands Day?
3. What is Wetland?
4. Types of Wetlands.
5. Functions and services of Wetlands.
6. Threats to Wetlands.
7. How to improve the status of the Wetlands?

What is Ramsar Convention?

- Intergovernmental **treaty** (with 138 contracting parties)
- **framework** for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources;
- The main instrument through which the Convention works is the List of Wetlands of International Importance - **Ramsar sites** (recently there are 1328 sites with total area 1.11 mill. km²).

What is World Wetlands Day?

- The “birthday” of the Convention on Wetlands Conservation signed on the 2nd of February 1971;
- Aims to explain the importance of wetlands for the people;
- To clarify the multiple values and services that wetlands provide.

Types of Wetlands **(according to the Convention on Wetlands)**

- Inland Wetlands
- Marine/Coastal Wetlands
- Human-made wetlands

Inland Wetlands

- deltas;
- rivers/streams/creeks;
- freshwater lakes;
- marshes;
- pools;
- peatlands;
- freshwater springs;
- geothermal wetlands.



Marine/Coastal Wetlands

- Permanent shallow marine waters;
- Coral reefs;
- Rocky marine shores;
- Sand, shingle or pebble shores;
- Estuarine waters;
- Coastal saline and freshwater lagoons.

Marine/Coastal Wetlands



Human-made wetlands

- Aquaculture ponds (e.g., fish/shrimp);
- Irrigated land (rice fields);
- Seasonally flooded agricultural land (pastures);
- Salt exploitation sites;
- Water storage areas;
- Excavations (gravel/brick/clay pits);
- Canals and drainage channels;
- Wastewater treatment areas;

Human-made wetlands



Functions and Services of Wetlands

- Water storage and purification
- Biodiversity protection
- Sediment retention
- Groundwater replenishment
- Climate change mitigation
- Recreation/tourism
- Cultural value



Rice fields in India
(source: Ramsar Convention).

Threats to Wetlands

- building of dams
- channelization of riverbeds
- overexploitation of wetlands resources
- introduction of invasive species
- water pollution

Threats to Wetlands



Ways to Improve the Wetlands Status

- public awareness campaigns
- policy measures
- field actions
- financial mechanisms



Main messages

- Wetlands should be conserved because:
- they provide source of food;
- they are important reservoirs for water;
- they are natural wastewater treatment facilities;
- they mitigate the climate change effects.





Wetland water treatment pond in
Melitopol, Ukraine

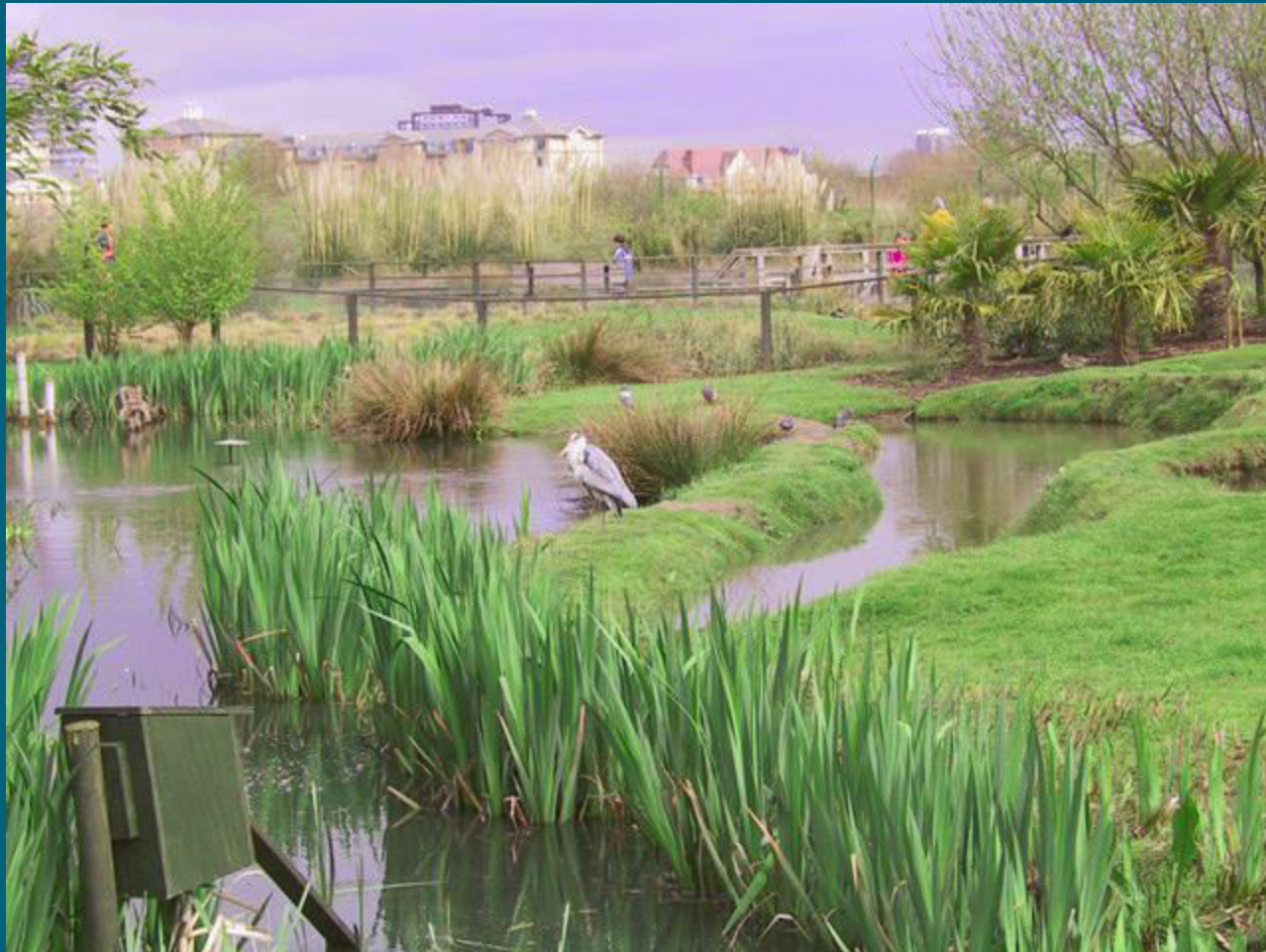
**Urban wetlands make cities liveable
by:Improving local air quality**



A photograph of a wooden boardwalk path winding through a dense field of tall green reeds. The path is made of wooden planks and is flanked by dark wooden posts. The reeds are tall and thin, with some showing signs of drying. The sky is visible in the background, appearing overcast.

**Urban wetlands make cities liveable
by: Providing green space for relaxation**

Chen Bridge, Henan, China



**Treating urban wetlands right: Preserve
and restore urban wetlands**

Treating urban wetlands right: Engage youth and community



Thank you for your attention!

