

February 2024

Environmental Message

World Wetlands Day

Wetlands encompass areas such as inlets, canals, and sloughs that flood periodically. They provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals, and they play a critical role in the water cycle. February 2nd is celebrated as World Wetlands Day. Wetlands are a valuable biodiversity that provide water quality, store carbon, provide clean drinking water, and protect against floods and droughts. Unfortunately, many wetlands have been lost due to human activities. Wetlands are being destroyed primarily by unsustainable agricultural practices. Wetlands are drained and filled to create arable land. Wetlands near urban centers and cities have been polluted by urban activities and further degraded by transpiration. Wetlands are also being lost due to sea level rise and temperature changes.

Wetlands are also important for food, water, biodiversity, and livelihoods. Freshwater wetlands are the primary source of protein for over a billion people. Agriculture accounts for over 60% of water withdrawals. Wetlands hold and provide most of our freshwater resources. About 40% of the world's land animals depend on wetlands. In addition, many of the wetlands used by migratory birds are being lost due to human activities. Wetlands provide over a billion livelihoods across the world, including food, water, and leisure. Almost a billion people in Asia, Africa, and the Americas rely on freshwater and resources for their livelihoods.

Wetlands are incredibly important for our planet and development. Any benefits listed about

to learn more about World Wetlands Day visit www.worldwetlandsday.org

