



Resources Centre for Sustainable Development

Partners in Sustainable Development

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Dear Friends

Ecosystems are the planet's life-support systems and human health is strongly linked to the health of ecosystems to support the needs of human biology for food, water, clean air and relative climatic constancy are basic and unalterable. Approximately 60% of the global ecosystem benefits to support life on Earth are being degraded or used unsustainably. Degradation of wetland fisheries and agro-ecosystems are factors in the malnutrition of some 800 million people around the world. While water-associated infectious diseases claim 3.2 million lives, approximately 6% of all deaths globally.



Assam is dotted with innumerable fresh water wetlands (locally called beel) and ox-bow lakes (era suti), covering a total area of 101 232 ha in 3 513 wetlands, which plays a significant role in flood attenuation and other environmental functions and in the state's rural economy. The ever increasing loss of natural floodplain wetland ecosystem of Assam to land reclamation, land use change and pressure for natural resources by an ever growing population and natural hazards is leading to serious environmental and ecological concerns.

On the World Wetland Day we take the opportunity to request every one to join hands to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general and the Ramsar Convention in particular for the "wise use" of all wetlands.

Please visit http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-63-78%5E24106_4000_0__

Kind regards
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