# Urban wetlands: prized land, not wasteland



Control flooding



Filter waste from water



Improve air quality





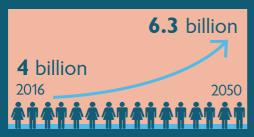
Promote human wellbeing



Source of livelihoods

#### While cities are GROWING

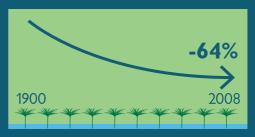
50% of the population live in urban areas today. By 2050 that number will increase to 66%



WORLD URBAN POPULATION, 2016-2050

#### Wetlands are DECLINING

More than 64% of the world's wetlands have been lost since 1900



**ESTIMATED WETLAND LOSS** 

## As demand for land increases, the tendency is to encroach on wetlands

Filling in wetlands disrupts natural water provision



Dumping rubbish degrades natural green spaces



Burning or draining peatlands releases CO<sub>2</sub>



Clearing mangroves and mining coral reefs can expose city coastlines to storms



### To make cities sustainable into the future: retain, restore and preserve urban wetlands

- Include wetlands in urban land use planning
- Preserve and restore urban wetlands

- Involve local residents in wetland management
- Reduce water consumption and harmful runoff









