



World Wetlands Day

2 February 2018

Wetlands for a sustainable urban future



GUIDE FOR PARTNERS, EVENT ORGANIZERS AND EDUCATORS

About World Wetlands Day

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2nd February to raise global awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet. It also marks the date of adoption of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar. World Wetlands Day was celebrated for the first time in 1997.

World Wetlands Day 2018

Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future is the theme for World Wetlands Day in 2018.

Urban wetlands make cities liveable in many important ways. They reduce flooding, replenish drinking water, filter waste, provide urban green spaces, and are a source of livelihoods. These wetland benefits grow ever more crucial as the number of people living in cities has now passed the 4 billion mark and continues to rise. By 2050, 66% of humanity will live in cities, as people move into urban areas searching for better jobs. Unfortunately, most people are unaware of the value

and importance of urban wetlands. In fast-growing cities, wetlands are often viewed as wasteland; places to dump rubbish, fill in or convert to other uses. Scientists estimate that at least 64% of the world's wetlands have disappeared since 1900, while in parallel, cities have exploded in growth.

World Wetlands Day 2018 aims to raise awareness about how urban wetlands contribute to the future of sustainable cities.

Key messages

- Urban wetlands make cities liveable by providing multiple benefits such as; flood control, water supply, waste treatment, green space and livelihoods.
- Urban wetlands should be integrated into a city's sustainable future planning and development; not viewed as wasteland.
- Cities should adopt policies and actions which help conserve and promote urban wetlands.



#KeepUrbanWetlands
#WorldWetlandsDay
www.worldwetlandsday.org

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

I.C.L.E.I
Local
Governments
for Sustainability



World Wetlands Day
is made possible by the
Danone Fund for Water.



Get involved in World Wetlands Day

Partners, educators and event organizers:

Help create awareness

- Promote World Wetlands Day and the theme on urban wetlands on your website, on social media platforms, in newsletters or bulletin boards etc.
- Use the posters and hand-outs provided or create your own materials such as T-shirts, caps, banners etc. Indesign files are available and can be downloaded directly from: www.worldwetlandsday.org
- Translate the information materials provided into your own language.
- Write a blog or article in your local paper. Inform journalists and other media about how wetlands benefit cities, and how important they are for quality of life in urban areas.

Organize an Event

World Wetlands Day is a great way to bring people together to learn about urban wetlands and their benefits. Here are a few types of events to consider:

- Urban wetland field trip: Most cities have a wetland, maybe even a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site). Consult the list of Ramsar Sites by country at www.ramsar.org/sites-countries/the-ramsar-sites. Once on site, consider what the wetland does for the city. And enjoy bird-watching, hiking, a boat ride, or a swim.
- Conference or a talk featuring wetland experts, local people who make their living in wetlands.
- Exhibition to present and showcase arts or photographs about wetlands.
- Community walk, bike or run for wetlands.
- Public wetland clean-up day.
- Press conference to make an important announcement.
- Film viewing: bring people together to watch a film on wetlands.
- Organize a photo or essay competition on World Wetlands Day.

Register your event on the global map of events

- Sign up at www.worldwetlandsday.org
- Register your event by completing the online form.
- After the event, upload a report, more pictures, video and publicity material.

Invite the public to take action on urban wetlands

Partners and organizers can help extend the effect of World Wetlands Day. Invite the public to commit to concrete actions that help to conserve urban wetlands.

- Organize or join an urban wetland clean-up exercise.
- Become a wetland “Ambassador” who advocates for protecting local wetlands.
- Use water sparingly and avoid toxic products that could flow into urban wetlands.
- Support actions that seek to restore degraded urban wetlands.



Educators:

Classroom discussion ideas

After outlining the many ways that wetlands make cities more liveable, and how important they are for the sustainability of cities in the future, teachers could direct classroom discussions in several different ways:

- Ask students to describe why urban wetlands are such a valuable natural resource. Get them to think about how wetlands actually make cities more liveable.
- Compare and contrast the growth in cities with the decline in wetlands. Why do wetlands face such pressure from urban development? What can be done about it?

- Visit a local urban wetland and ask the students to reflect on how it benefits the city directly? What services does it provide? What can they do to protect it?
- Organize a colouring competition for children. Use our Colour-in poster for kids.
- Invite the children to talk about their colour in poster.
- Organize a quiz for students to test their knowledge on the different wetland types and how urban wetlands actually make cities more liveable.

Teacher resources on wetlands, urban wetlands and sustainable cities

The US Environmental Protection Agency has this list of teacher resources on wetlands including activities, curriculum guides and interesting links: http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/outreach/education_index.cfm#cg

Teacher's guide to sustainable cities with a strong biology and science orientation, aimed at grades 9-12, issued by The Nature Conservancy: www.natureworkseverywhere.org/asset/resources/Sustainable_Cities_Teacher_Guide_v1_2_8_2016.pdf

A brief but comprehensive overview of the growth of cities, from the United Nations:

The World's Cities in 2016 Data Booklet

www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/urbanization/the_worlds_cities_in_2016_data_booklet.pdf

A practical teacher's guide for a wetland field trip, including activities for four different age ranges: Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. <http://seas.umich.edu/ecomgt/pubs/wetlands/hennepin/App%205.PDF>

A teacher guide to wetland activities aimed at grades 4-5 covering key aspects including food chain, and water cycle. From Ducks Unlimited Canada: *Teacher's Guide to Wetland Activities* www.uaex.edu/environment-nature/wildlife/youth-education/TR%20Wetlands%20activities%20DU.pdf

For in-depth background:

Good academic overview of urban wetlands and their benefits: *People, Politics and Wetlands - The Importance of Urban Wetlands*

www.sopa.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/804522/1.01_The_importance_of_urban_wetlands.pdf

Urban wetland-related advice to policy-makers and practitioners from the Ramsar Convention:

Briefing Note 6 - Towards the wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands

www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/bn6.pdf

A study on how cities can maintain natural biodiversity, with many wetland examples, issued by the Convention on Biodiversity: *Cities and Biodiversity Outlook- Action and Policy*

www.cbd.int/doc/health/cbo-action-policy-en.pdf

The IUCN's *Integrated Wetland Assessment Toolkit*, a detailed (164-page) manual on how wetlands can be valued from many different perspectives: physical, biodiversity, services, livelihoods and policy planning: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/2009-015.pdf>

An in-depth study on the value of services that wetlands provide:

TEEB: The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands

www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/teeb_waterwetlands_report_2013.pdf



Publicity materials:

World Wetlands Day
2 February 2018



Wetlands for a sustainable urban future

To help support World Wetlands Day activities around the world, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention has produced a wide assortment of information materials, enabled by the support of our partners.

Logos

- Horizontal and vertical layouts

Posters

- Main poster
- Local event poster
- Colour-in poster for kids

Hand-outs

(also usable as posters or flyers)

- Urban wetlands: prized land, not wasteland
- Retain and restore: practical ways cities can manage and preserve urban wetlands
- Walking the talk: Urban wetlands, making cities liveable

These materials can be downloaded from www.worldwetlandsday.org

They can also be adapted to make them more relevant to your audience.

Powerpoint presentation

on how wetlands safeguard us against disasters.

Infographic

Video

E-mail signature

T-shirt design

Campaign Guide (this publication)

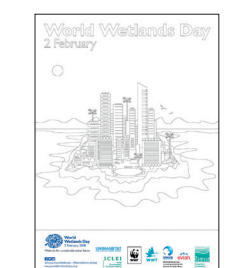
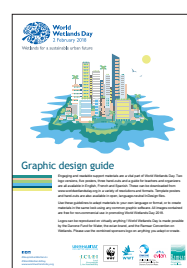
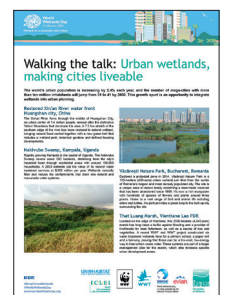
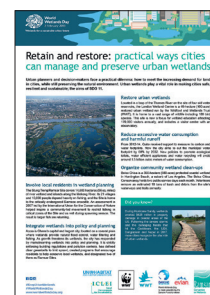
Graphic Design guidelines

Campaign website:

www.worldwetlandsday.org

Social media presence:

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/RamsarConventionOnWetlands/
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RamsarConv>
- Instagram: http://instagram.com/ramsar_convention_on_wetlands



Please promote and use the hashtag
#KeepUrbanWetlands
#WorldWetlandsDay

Contact us:

ramsar@ramsar.org
www.worldwetlandsday.org