



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES  
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

**Statement by Dr Musonda Mumba, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands  
on the occasion of World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2025**

Life thrives in wetlands, and human life depends on them. Wetlands provide the home or breeding ground of many endangered and threatened species and a multitude of endemic plants and animals can only survive in certain wetland locations. Beyond the clean water and food that wetlands provide, they help protect against natural disasters by mitigating the impact of storm surges, floods and droughts.

Healthy wetlands are critical for climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity and human health. Yet, unsustainable development, pollution and climate change continue to threaten these essential ecosystems. Protecting wetlands for our common future requires collaboration on policies, regulations and community initiatives that spur effective conservation and sustainable wise use.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year on 2 February. The commemoration raises awareness and increases people's understanding of the critical importance of wetlands. In every corner of the world, human beings have depended on wetlands for centuries--drawing sustenance, inspiration and resilience from these important environments.

In this regard, the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands invites you to join the World Wetlands Day celebrations on 2 February 2025. The theme for the day is **"Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future"**.

Additionally, World Wetlands Day 2025 is of particular significance, as it shares the same theme with the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (COP15) – scheduled for 23-31 July 2025 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. Every three years, representatives of the governments of each of the Contracting Parties meet to take decisions on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and to agree on a work program for the next three years.

In conclusion, for World Wetlands Day 2025, I invite you to take action in three ways:

- Make conscious choices to stop polluting wetlands;
- Join the global effort to conserve and sustainably manage wetlands; and
- Take part in wetland restoration efforts locally.

Be a part of the solution by making a proactive effort and sharing your stories of wetland conservation with the Secretariat and others. Engage with us this World Wetlands Day and follow the celebrations across our social media platforms.