

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

The Ramsar Convention is the only global environmental treaty that deals with a particular ecosystem. The treaty was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and the Convention's member countries cover all geographic regions of the planet.

The Ramsar mission

The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".

The Convention uses a broad definition of the types of wetlands covered in its mission, including lakes and rivers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands and peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine areas, mangroves and coral reefs, and human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans.

The Wise Use concept

At the centre of the Ramsar philosophy is the "wise use" concept. The wise use of wetlands is defined as "the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development". "Wise use" therefore has at its heart the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources, for the benefit of humankind.

List of Ramsar sites in India

Wildlife of India

The **list of Ramsar sites (related to wetland) in India** comprises Indian wetlands deemed to be of "international importance" under the Ramsar Convention. For a full list of all Ramsar sites worldwide, see the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance.



According to WWF-India, wetlands are one of the most threatened of all ecosystems in India. Loss of vegetation, salinization, excessive inundation, water pollution, invasive species, excessive development and road building, have all damaged the country's wetlands.^[1]

List of Ramsar sites (as of September 28, 2012)

Sr. No.	Name	Location	Designated	Area (km ²)
1	Ashtamudi Wetland	Kerala 8°57'N 76°35'E	19/08/02	614
2	Bhitarkanika Mangroves	Orissa 20°39'N 86°54'E	19/08/02	650
3	Bhoj Wetland	Madhya Pradesh 23°14'N 77°20'E	19/08/02	32
4	Chandra Taal	Himachal Pradesh 32°29'N 77°36'E	08/11/05	.49
5	Chilika Lake	Orissa	01/10/81	1165
6	Deepor Beel	Assam	19/08/02	40
7	East Calcutta Wetlands	West Bengal	19/08/02	125
8	Harike Wetland	Punjab	23/03/90	41
9	Hokera Wetland	Jammu and Kashmir	08/11/05	13.75
10	Kanjli Wetland	Punjab	22/01/02	1.83
11	Keoladeo National Park	Rajasthan	01/10/81	28.73
12	Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh	19/08/02	901
13	Loktak Lake	Manipur	23/03/90	266
14	Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary	Gujarat	24/09/12	123
15	Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu	19/08/02	385
16	Pong Dam Lake	Himachal Pradesh	19/08/02	156.62
17	Renuka Wetland	Himachal Pradesh	08/11/05	.2
18	Ropar	Punjab	22/01/02	13.65
19	Rudrasagar Lake	Tripura	08/11/05	2.4
20	Sambhar Lake	Rajasthan	23/03/90	240
21	Sasthamkotta Lake	Kerala	19/08/02	3.73
22	Surinsar-Mansar Lakes	Jammu and Kashmir	08/11/05	3.5
23	Tsomoriri	Jammu and Kashmir	19/08/02	120
24	Upper Ganga River (Brijghat to Narora Stretch)	Uttar Pradesh	08/11/05	265.9
25	Vembanad-Kol Wetland	Kerala	19/08/02	1512.5
26	Wular Lake	Jammu and Kashmir	23/03/90	189

References

1. There are total 25 recognized Ramsar sites in India. "New Wetland Centre Inaugurated," WWF-India (January, 2006)
2. The Annotated Ramsar List: India
3. "Ramsar List". Ramsar.org. Retrieved 31 March 2013.

Notes prepared by:

Dr. Asheesh Shivam Mishra
Asst. Professor & Head,
Department of Zoology,
Nehru Gram Bharti (Deemed to be University)
Prayagraj, U.P.