

Ramsar Sites in India

Prelims - Current events of national importance

Mains (GS I & III) - Distribution of Key Natural Resources| Conservation.

Why in News?

Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Dr. Musonda Mumba, recently said that India (89) has more Ramsar sites compared to China (82).

- Ramsar sites are **wetlands of international importance** designated under the **Ramsar Convention**.

Ramsar Convention is an international treaty that promotes the conservation and wise use of wetlands came into force in 1975.

- They are crucial for biodiversity conservation, water quality, and climate regulation.
- The wetland sites range from mountains to the sea.
- Wetlands are referred to as the **"Kidneys of the Earth"**.

In India

- At Present, India has 89 Ramsar sites, covering 8% of total wetlands area in India.

Newly Added Ramsar Sites, 2025	
Udhwa Lake	Jharkhand
Theerthangal	Tamil Nadu
Sakkarakottai	Tamil Nadu
Khecheopalri	Sikkim

- **Significance** - Wetlands represent the largest carbon reservoirs on the planet.
- They play a crucial role in purifying and filtering contaminated water.
- The availability of food is closely linked to the health of wetlands.
- Additionally, wetlands help to reduce the impact of extreme weather events.
- They also create employment opportunities and support sustainable livelihoods.
- Nearly half of all animal species rely on wetlands for their habitat and reproduction.

Wetland Conservation in India

- **Wetlands of India Portal**- Launched on October 2, 2021, by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC), this portal provides comprehensive information on India's wetlands.

- **National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas** - Prepared by the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, this atlas highlights the changes in wetlands across the country over the past decade.
- **Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM)** - Established in 2021, this center focuses on addressing research needs and knowledge gaps in wetland conservation.
- **Wetlands Rejuvenation Program** - Initiated by MoEFCC in 2020, this program aims to rejuvenate wetlands across India.
- **Integration with River Basin Management** - The Namami Gange program integrates wetland conservation with river basin management, serving as a model framework for the entire country.
- **National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems** - In 2013, the National Wetlands Conservation Program and the National Lake Conservation Plan were combined to create the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems.
- **Amrit Dharohar Scheme** - Key initiative aimed at optimizing wetland utilization.
- **MoEFCC's Wetlands Rejuvenation Program** - Launched in 2020, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) initiated the Wetlands Rejuvenation Program.
- **National Wildlife Action Plan** - The National Wildlife Action Plan (2017-2031) emphasizes the conservation of inland aquatic ecosystems, including wetlands.
- It advocates for a national wetlands mission to preserve these habitats, recognizing their importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- **Integration with Namami Gange** - On World Wetlands Day 2021, the Ministry of Jal Shakti highlighted the integration of wetland conservation with the Namami Gange program.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has pioneered initiatives that serve as models for wetland conservation nationwide.
- This includes developing health cards and management plans for 10 wetlands in each of the 50-plus Ganga districts, blending scientific expertise with community involvement.

Reference

[The Hindu | Ramsar sites](#)