# Wetlands: functions, Ramsar and wise use

Connect wetland ecology and Ramsar conservation with Indian protected habitats

## Wetlands and habitat conservation

### Ecological functions

- Wetlands include marshes, lakes, floodplains and mangrove habitats.
- Many store floodwater, trap sediment or filter pollutants; functions vary by site.
- They support aquatic life, waterbirds and local livelihoods.

### Ramsar recognition

- The Ramsar Convention was adopted in Iran in 1971.
- A Ramsar Site is a wetland recognised as internationally important.
- This recognition differs from national-park or sanctuary status under domestic law.

### Wise use

- Maintain ecological character through an ecosystem approach to sustainable use.
- Monitor water, habitats and species rather than counting designated sites alone.
- Conservation and suitable local livelihoods can be planned together.

### Amrit Dharohar

- Launched in 2023 to promote the conservation values of India's Ramsar sites.
- Links wetland conservation with local participation and livelihood opportunities.
- Keep this programme distinct from a changing list of newly designated sites.

**REMEMBER** Ramsar lists important wetlands; wise use protects their ecological character and benefits over time.



**Sources & practice** · Ramsar Convention — Wise use of wetlands · Ramsar Convention — Wetlands of international importance · MoEFCC — Save Wetlands Campaign and Amrit Dharohar
mindmapsforupsc.com/mindmaps/pet-wetland-wise-use/?lang=en