

**APPEAL FROM THE DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT FOR
WORLD WETLANDS DAY, 2022**

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2nd February. World Wetlands Day aims to raise global awareness about the vital role of wetlands for people and planet. Wetlands are fragile and sensitive ecosystems supporting unique habitats for plants, animals and providing livelihood to millions of people across the world. Wetlands are amazing at capturing and storing carbon. The Standing Committee of the Convention on Wetlands has approved the themes for World Wetlands Day 2022 as "**Wetlands Action for People & Nature**".

Wetlands are found in all countries across climatic zones - from the Polar Regions to tropical belts and from high altitudes to coastal areas and the arid and dry deserts. Wetlands include mangroves and marshes, peatlands, rivers, lakes and other water bodies, deltas, floodplains and swamps in forested areas, paddy-fields and coral reefs. Wetlands are protected places under UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). There are over 2,400 protected wetlands across the world.

Wetlands are crucial for a healthy planet: The health of people on our planet depends on healthy wetlands. "40% of the world's species live or breed in wetlands, yet they are disappearing three times faster than forests," says the UN Development.

- Wetlands are "Nurseries of life" - 40% of animals breed in wetlands
- Wetlands are "Lungs of the earth" - they clean the environment pollutants
- Wetlands are "Kidneys for climate change" - they store 30% of land based carbon
- Wetlands "Minimize disaster risks" - they absorb storm surge
- Wetlands "provide livelihood to one billion people"

On this day, All of us can contribute to the protection of the environment and to protect and conserve the Wetlands. I request all to take efforts to create awareness among the people to *Wetlands Action for People & Nature*.

Director
Department of Environment