



**Report**  
**on**  
**World Wetlands Day 2024**

**World  
Wetlands Day**  
2 February 2024



**Wetlands and  
Human Wellbeing**

**Organized by**

**EIACP Programme Centre Resource Partner on  
Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement  
ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding  
(Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education)  
Coimbatore – 641 002**

## **World Wetlands Day 2024 Celebrations by ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP**

As part of Mission LiFE, EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme) Programme Centre (erstwhile IFGTB ENVIS) at the ICFRE - Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, Coimbatore commemorated World Wetlands Day 2024 by organizing an awareness campaign. The campaign's primary goal was to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands among students and the general public. The event was registered in the worldwide events organized by World Wetlands Authority ([www.Ramsar.org](http://www.Ramsar.org)).

Dr C Kunhikannan, Director, ICFRE -IFGTB inaugurated the campaign and released an awareness poster on the current year's theme "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing". Wetlands, hosting over 100,000 species, provide essential freshwater and contribute significantly to global food production, exemplified by wetland-grown rice, a staple for three billion people. Moreover, wetlands act as natural shock absorbers, mitigating rainfall impacts and reducing flood and storm surge risks. They help combat climate change through providing protection from extreme weather events, as a source of livelihoods for countless numbers of people; as well as supporting a vast array of biodiversity. There is increasing concern to conserve and restore perishing wetlands and endangered habitats to achieve ecological sustainability. Dr Kunhikannan urged all to start restoring wetlands, which is the need of the hour.

Dr Kannan CS Warriar, Scientist G and Coordinator EIACP Centre in his awareness lecture explained that wetlands are acting as important carbon sinks, in mitigating climate change. "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing", is about the interconnectedness between wetlands and various aspects of human health. There are 75 Ramsar Sites in India and they serve as abode of many threatened species of flora and fauna including 213 species of fish and 74 amphibians. Sunderbans is the largest wetland in India and Renuka Wetland in Himachal Pradesh is the smallest, he added. Dr Warriar emphasized that Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar Sites in India with 14 Wetlands. Ashtamudi Wetland, Sasthamkotta Lake, Vembanad Kol Wetland are the three wetlands in Kerala out of which Sasthamkotta lake is the largest fresh water wetland in Kerala. Though wetlands are rich with biodiversity, they are disappearing three times faster than forests, he added.

ICFRE-IFGTB EIACP PC RP also participated in the Mega Exhibition at Sirpur Lake, Indore, Madhya Pradesh organized by Wetlands Division, MoEFCC, GoI. The mega exhibition was inaugurated by Shri Mohan Yadav, Honourable Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in the august presence of Shri. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Honourable Environment Minister for State, Dr. Musonda Mumba, Secretary General

of Ramsar Convention and Dr Beom-Sik Yoo, Senior Advisor. Eco-friendly products made by the GSDP trainees, LiFE products and various awareness materials were exhibited. Officials from MoEFCC, Madhya Pradesh Government, school students and general public visited the stall.

An online awareness quiz and a mobile photography competition were organized as part of the campaign and people from different walks of life participated. E-Certificates were awarded to all the participants. Copies of the awareness poster released were shared with all the stakeholders. Awareness handouts were disseminated to school children and the general public.









**EIACP Resource Partner on Forest Genetic Resources and Tree Improvement  
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# WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2024

Theme : "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing"

World Wetlands Day 2024 is a global event dedicated to recognizing the significance of wetlands, which encompass a wide range of habitats, including marshes, swamps, bogs, and mangroves. These ecosystems play a crucial role in maintaining water quality, supporting biodiversity, mitigating climate change and providing livelihoods for millions of people worldwide.

## Benefits of Wetland Ecosystems



**Controls Flood**



**Provides Clean Source Of Water**



**Improves Air Quality**



**Helps sustain healthy livelihood**



**Filters out toxins & adds in nutrition**



**Habitats to hundreds of species, including the endangered ones**

*A world without wetlands is a world without water*