

# **IMPACT OF TOURISM ON WETLANDS**

**Searching for a sustainable  
coexistence**

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# Presentation Outline

- Definition & brief Introduction of Wetlands
- Types of Wetlands
- Importance of Wetlands
- Wetlands & Ecotourism
- Issues Affecting Wetlands
- Environmental Risks affecting Tourism in wetland areas
- Implementation Strategy
- The End

# Definition & Introduction of Wetlands

- Wetlands includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.
- Wetlands are home to some of the richest biodiversity on the planet and the ecosystem services they provide play an essential role in sustainable development impacting directly the lives of millions of people worldwide, most especially the poor, who depend on the essential ecosystem services wetlands provide.

# Types of Wetlands

1. Estuarine Wetlands: i.e. deltas, tidal marshes, and mangrove swamps
2. Marine Wetlands: i.e. coastal lagoons, rocky shores, and coral reefs
3. Riverine Wetlands: i.e. wetlands in the channels of rivers and streams
4. Lacustrine Wetlands: i.e. wetlands around lakes
5. Palustrine Wetlands: i.e. wet meadows, bogs, potholes and palayas.
6. Man-made wetlands i.e. Fish ponds, Irrigation schemes, Salt pans, Reservoirs etc

# Importance of Wetlands

- Regulatory functions – they regulate ecological processes that contribute to a healthy environment
- Carrier function – provide space for activities i.e. human settlement, energy production etc
- Production functions – provide resources i.e. food, water and raw materials
- Information function – contribute to mental health by providing scientific, aesthetic and spiritual information

# Issues Affecting Wetlands

- increasing demands for water services in all sectors of the economy i.e. agriculture, industry ,tourism etc
- climate change and its predicted impacts rises in sea temperature and sea level
- increasing globalization of economic development, affecting agricultural, fisheries and other natural resources products
- the changing role of national governments through increasing privatization of services
- increasing land-use pressures
- increasing population pressure
- Deforestation of major water catchment areas

# Environmental Risks related to Tourism in Wetland Areas

- Construction of tour related infrastructure i.e. access roads, airports etc disturbs living conditions of protected species
- Construction of tourist facilities i.e. golf courses can have an impact on flora & fauna
- Transportation via boats, canoes, rail etc causes noise pollution, injury or death to marine and land species
- Illegal hunting or fishing activities depletes species
- Tourists demand for freshwater increases depletion of wetlands waters
- A growing tourist industry in a wetland area may cause rapid urbanization increasing demand for land adjacent to wetlands

# Strategies for addressing wetland issues

- Planning and Implementing a comprehensive protection strategy
- Preparing and following an integrated sustainable tourist plan
- Implementing a land and water use plan.
- Involving stakeholders of wetlands
- Encourage building capacities of local communities to manage and benefit from wise use of wetlands.
- Supporting research and education activities
- Monitoring tourism in wetlands & hefty fine for offenders
- Building environmental & cultural sensitive facilities

# THANK YOU

