

Celebration of Wetland Day, 2nd Feb 2019

Photo Contest on the theme 2019

“WETLAND AND CLIMATE CHANGE”

Organized by Department of Environment and Climate Change, Haryana
Various Definitions of Wetlands

Wetlands occur **where water meets land**. They include mangroves, peat lands, marshes, swamps, ponds, lakes and deltas. Wetlands are broadly defined as a ‘*variety of shallow water bodies and high groundwater environments that are characterized by permanent or temporary inundation, soils with hydric properties, and plants and animals that have adapted to life in saturated conditions*’ (Lewis, 1995). Generally, two types of wetland definition are in vogue, one which looks wetlands as ecotones, i.e. transition zone between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and the other which treats whole water body as a wetland keeping in view management perspectives.

The amount of water present in a wetland can vary greatly. Some wetlands are permanently flooded, while others are only seasonally flooded.

Different plant communities may be found in different types of wetlands, with each species adapted to the local hydrology (the quantity, distribution and movement of water throughout a given area).

Many birds, insect and other wildlife species are completely dependent on wetlands for critical stages in their life cycles, while many other species make use of wetlands for feeding, resting or other life activities.

Two of the most commonly used definitions are as under:

i. US Fish and Wildlife Service (Cowardin *et al.*,1979)

“Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water level. For

purposes of this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: 1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; 2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and 3) the substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water level at some time during the growing season of each year”.

Cowardin et al, (1979), associated wetland to its hydrological, ecological and geological aspects, such as: marine (coastal wetlands including rock shores and coral reefs, estuarine (including deltas, tidal marshes, and mangrove swamps), lacustrine (lakes), riverine (along rivers and streams), and palustarine ('marshy'- marshes, swamps and bogs).

ii. Ramsar Convention (1971, 2013)

“Submerged or water saturated lands, both natural and manmade, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water, the depth of which at low tide does not exceed 6 meters” (www.ramsar.org).

Article 2.1 further provides that wetlands ‘may incorporate riparian and coastal zones adjacent to the wetlands, and islands or bodies of marine water deeper than six meters at low tide lying within the wetlands’.

International Theme of World Wetland Day (WWD) 2nd Feb 2019 is “Wetlands and Climate Change”

The wetlands play a crucial role in recharging of the aquifers, conserving flora and fauna biodiversity and providing various ecosystem services.

For celebrating the World Wetland Day 2019, the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Haryana is organising a Photo Contest – on **Wetlands in Haryana**.

To participate in this contest:

Identify a wetland, click its photograph and describe the flora, fauna, area and type of wetland and send it to the departmental email-id: envecoclub@gmail.com

- Click a photograph of the Wetland (Areas of land that are either temporarily or permanently covered by water) nearby your school, office or home and send it to the e-mail id: envecoclub@gmail.com
- One person can upload only one photograph with size not exceeding 750 kb.
- This contest is open to the all citizens of India.
- Each entry should include the name of photographer and complete address along with phone number and e-mail id.
- These simple questions written below should be answered along with the photograph:-
 - What is the location of the wetland where photo has been clicked?

- What are the common/scientific names of the Flora (Plants) present?
- What are the common/scientific names of the Fauna (Animals, Birds etc) present?
- Do any migratory birds visit this area?
- Are they well preserved?
- Have there been any changes in these wetlands due to climate change?
- Do you have any suggestion for its management?
- How biodiversity and water availability in wetland can help to reduce the effects of climate change?

Prize:

Rs 2100/- cash prize shall be awarded for the 1st position and the 2nd and 3rd runner-ups will get cash prize of Rs 1100/- and 500/- respectively.

Last date for receiving the entries is **15th Feb, 2019.**