

The focus of Environment Information System (ENVIS) is to disseminate environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and researchers across the world.

The CERC-ENVIS Resource Partner focuses on 'Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products' This bi-monthly e-bulletin features latest news, developments and innovations in the field.

## Eco product

### Restoration of wetland vegetation using soil seed banks

The restoration of degraded wetland ecosystems and the recovery of its biodiversity are important global issues. Soil seed banks are utilized as the source of plant recolonization. To restore lakeshore vegetation in Lake Kasumigaura, Japan, lake sediments containing the seed banks were spread thin (~10cm) on the surfaces of artificial lakeshores. In total, 180 species, including six endangered species and 12 native submerged plants that had disappeared from the above-ground vegetation of the lake were recorded in five recreated lakeshores (total area, 65,200m<sup>2</sup>) during the first year of the restoration. The restoration project has a contribution to the establishment of ecologically sound revegetation techniques. The study is published in *Landscape and Ecological Engineering* in 2006



Source: <http://bit.ly/2T2chGQ>

### Ramsar Convention: Conservation of Wetlands

Wetlands are vital for human survival. They are among the world's most productive environments; cradles of biological diversity that provide the water and productivity upon which countless species of plants and animals depend for survival. Wetlands provide freshwater supply, food and building materials, and biodiversity, to flood control, groundwater recharge, and climate change mitigation.

The increasing loss and degradation of wetland habitat for migratory water birds was the motive behind the adoption of **Convention on Wetlands** in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 which came into force in 1975. Managing wetlands is a global challenge and the Convention presently counts **171 countries** as Contracting Parties, which recognise the value of having one international treaty dedicated to a single ecosystem.

The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands. This 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. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) provides administrative services to the **Convention on Wetlands**. The Convention Secretariat follows IUCN procedures and policies as applicable. The Convention works with a diverse global network of partners to meet its objectives. They range from other global conventions and agencies, to international and national non-governmental organisations and prominent private companies.

In 1974, the Cobourg Peninsula in Australia was designated as the world's first Ramsar site. The largest sites are Ngiri-Tumba-Maindombe in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Queen Maud Gulf in Canada. Each site covers over 60,000 square km area.

The countries with a larger number of **Designated Wetlands** are the United Kingdom (175), Mexico (142) and Spain (75). In terms of the surface area covered, the countries with a larger wetland surface are Russia (140,323,767 ha), Brazil (26,794,454 ha) and Bolivia (14,842,405 ha).

The convention entered into force in India on 1 February 1982. 37 sites are designated as **Wetlands of International Importance** (Ramsar Sites), with a surface area of 1,067,939 hectares.

Source: <http://bit.ly/32vhEBD>, <http://bit.ly/396SGuP>

## Green Issue



### Indian wetlands declared sites of international importance

According to India State of Forest Report, 2019, the country has 62,466 wetlands covering 3.83% of its recorded forest area. To preserve the ecological character of wetlands of international importance in the signatory countries India has added 10 more wetlands to sites protected by the Ramsar Convention. This brings the total number of Ramsar sites in India to 37. Maharashtra got its first Ramsar site and the list aims to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands. These are crucial for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of their Ecosystem components, processes and the benefits.



Source: <http://bit.ly/2wRy23H>

### Restoring the degraded wetlands through livelihood programmes

To build resilience against the impact of climate change, the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have joined together to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands in the coastal region aimed at restoring them through coastal livelihood programmes. MoU is to develop a mobile app and a centralised web portal with a complete database of wetlands that are smaller than 2.25 hectares in the country. The collaborative initiative helps to develop a comprehensive wetland information system which can facilitate the village level wetland advisories to the local people by scientific communities.



<http://bit.ly/2T2umEG>

## Live and Let Live

Wetland systems directly and indirectly support lakhs of people, providing goods and services to them. Save the wetland, save the biodiversity.

## Eco tip

Visit CERC-ENVIS website [www.cercenvnis.nic.in](http://www.cercenvnis.nic.in) and <https://www.facebook.com/EcoProductsEcoLabeling> to know more about our activities.

**Consumer Education and Research Centre**

"Suraksha Sankool", S. G. Highway, Thaltej, Ahmedabad - 380 054. Tel : 079-27489945/46, 27450528, 27438752/3/4 Email : [cerc-env@nic.in](mailto:cerc-env@nic.in), [cerc@cercindia.org](mailto:cerc@cercindia.org)