

# What are wetlands?

All Contracting Parties entering into the Convention are included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance and must meet the international criteria set by the Convention. Under the Convention on Wetlands, "wetlands" are defined as the following, "For the purpose of this Convention wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, 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 six metres".

This is a wetland

Ponds



Rice Paddies

Marshes



Coastal Water up to 6m Deep



Rivers



Lakes



So is this

"My definition of a wetland: the area just beyond where one stops so as not to get brand new white shoes muddy."

Dr. Ted Hollis, Scholar of Environmental Literature

## Function of Wetlands

Wetlands function to purify water and promote biodiversity. They also serve as fishing, water, and scenic resources as well as a natural place where people can interact and enjoy nature. The benefits of a wetland extend far beyond just the area of the wetland itself.



Fishing Resource

All kinds of fish live in wetlands



A Place for Interacting with Nature and Recreation



Water Resource  
A natural water source



Biodiversity

A habitat for many living creatures



Water Purification

Bacteria and plants in a wetland make water clean



Scenic Resource  
Beautiful landscape