

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 no exceed six metres".



Marshes Coastal Water up to 6m Deep



"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

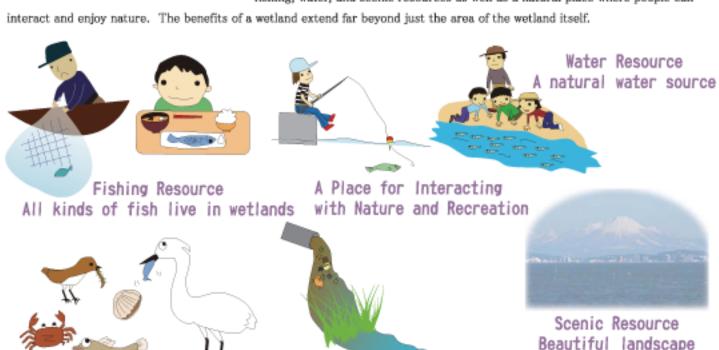
Function of Wetlands

Biodiversity

A habitat for many living creatures

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

Bacteria and plants in a wetland make water clean



Water Purification