

What is a wetland??

- ▶ *A **wetland** is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, such that it takes on the characteristics of a distinct ecosystem.*
- ▶ ***Depth is generally not more than six metres at low tide.***
- ▶ *Ecotone between terrestrial and aquatic eco-systems.*
- ▶ *According to WWF-India, wetlands are one of the most threatened of all ecosystems in India.*



Wetlands or Wastelands?

- ▶ *Nutrient Retention:* Wetlands cycle both sediments and nutrients balancing terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- ▶ *Retain water during dry periods,* thus keeping the water table high and relatively stable.
- ▶ *Vital role in water cycle:*
Capturing and holding rainfall and snowmelt, retaining sediments.
- ▶ *Water purification:* The groundwater that humans depend on for drinking and other uses is cleaned and purified by wetlands – Lakes, bogs, marshes, swamps, and other wetland areas actually make our water drinkable.



- ▶ *They trap 20% of all carbon emissions naturally.*
- ▶ *A barrier to erosion:* They slow down floodwaters, they help stop erosion on beaches and riverbanks, and they make local weather patterns less extreme.
- ▶ *Treasure of biodiversity:* Wetlands host a variety of habitats, diversity of life as well as some threatened and endangered species.
- ▶ *Wetlands are vital to fish & reduces city temperature.*
- ▶ *Wetlands also provide:*
 - ▶ *Fuel wood , Salt , Traditional medicines (e.g. from mangrove bark)*

