

# World Day of Wetlands February 2, 2026 Wetlands and traditional Knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage

## What is a wetland?

Wetlands are fascinating areas where water and land meet: ponds, marshes, peat bogs, mangroves, floodplains, wet meadows, and lagoons. These remarkable ecosystems cover less than 6% of the Earth's surface but are home to more than one-third of all species. February 2 marks the signing of the Convention on Wetlands, which was concluded in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. This international convention commits governments to protecting these ecosystems. Today, more than 170 countries participate in it.

## Did you know?

Wetlands store twice as much carbon as all the world's forests combined.

They are home to 40% of all species, despite covering only a small area.

More than 1 billion people depend on wetlands for water and food. Wetlands support the 1.4 billion people whose livelihoods rely on fishing.

## Why protect wetlands?

### 🌿 For biodiversity

Wetlands serve as ecological corridors that are essential to the survival of wildlife.

### 🛡️ For the protection against risks

They absorb water like natural sponges, reducing flooding, limiting bank erosion and protecting coastlines from storms.

### 🌡️ For climate

Wetlands are champions of carbon storage: they accumulate more than all the forests in the world combined, thus fighting against climate change.

### 💰 For the economy

They provide fish, plants, fodder and create opportunities in ecotourism, fishing and sustainable agriculture. Their global economic value amounts to \$47 billion.

## The urgent need to act

change threaten these valuable ecosystems.

## World Wetlands Day – Programme

Welcome and official opening

Scientific talks on:

Wetlands in Algeria

The Ramsar Convention

Ramsar-listed wetlands in Algeria

Presentation on the progress of the application for the Ramsar classification of certain wetlands in Khenchela Province, in coordination with the Khenchela Directorate of Forests

Photographic exhibition on wetlands

Poster session on wetland-related themes

Afternoon:

Scientific field trip to one of the sebkhas in the Khenchela region

## Scientific committee

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Dr. Larbaa Rabeh

Dr. Dali Naouel

Pr. Kadi Kenza

Pr. Houha Balgacem

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