

# What are **URBAN** Wetlands?

Wetlands are land areas that are flooded with water, either seasonally or permanently. Urban wetlands are found in and around cities or their suburbs. They include rivers and their flood plains, lakes and swamps as well as coastal variants such as salt marshes, mangroves and coral reefs.



Great Salt Lake, Kanchipuram

## Urban Wetlands: prized land, not wasteland



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As demand for land increases, the tendency is to encroach on wetlands

- Half of humanity about 4 billion people live in urban areas today. By 2050 that proportion will reach 66% as people move to cities.
- As cities expand and demand for land increases, the tendency is to encroach on wetlands, they are degraded, filled in and built upon.

Yet when left intact or restored, urban wetlands make cities liveable



Korattur Lake, Tirunelveli

To make cities sustainable into the future:  
**retain, restore and preserve urban wetlands**

- Include wetlands in urban land use planning
- Preserve and restore urban wetlands
- Involve local residents in wetland management
- Reduce water consumption and harmful runoff



**World  
Wetlands Day**  
2 February 2018

Wetlands for a sustainable urban future



**ENVIS Centre on  
Wetland Ecosystems including Inland Wetlands**