

THE VALUE OF WETLANDS FOR CITIES

According to the United Nations, 55% of the world's population currently lives in urban areas, with this number projected to grow to 68% by 2050. While wetland ecosystems are increasingly being recognized as highly valuable natural assets that provide a wide range of benefits to urban communities, the services they provide are under immense pressure due to rapid urban expansion and human activity. With 35% loss globally since 1970, wetlands are our most threatened ecosystem, disappearing three times faster than forests*.

This poster gives a snapshot of some of the most significant aspects of urban life and municipal management that wetlands improve and contribute towards.



Water resources

- Water supply & purification
- Stream flow regulation
- Wastewater treatment



Healthy ecosystems & biodiversity

- Habitat provision, ecological corridors & pollination
- Support the migration of species
- Erosion control & soil conservation



Culture, recreation & education

- Cultural, religious and aesthetic value
- Recreational spaces
- Educational resources



Climate regulation

- Carbon sequestration
- Disaster risk reduction: floods & fires
- Urban heat mitigation



Job creation & upskilling

- Training in wetland rehabilitation and management
- Tourism and recreational benefits
- Research opportunities



Livelihoods & poverty reduction

- Water supply
- Harvestable natural resources
- Agricultural benefits

