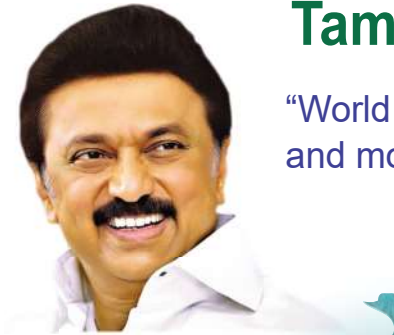


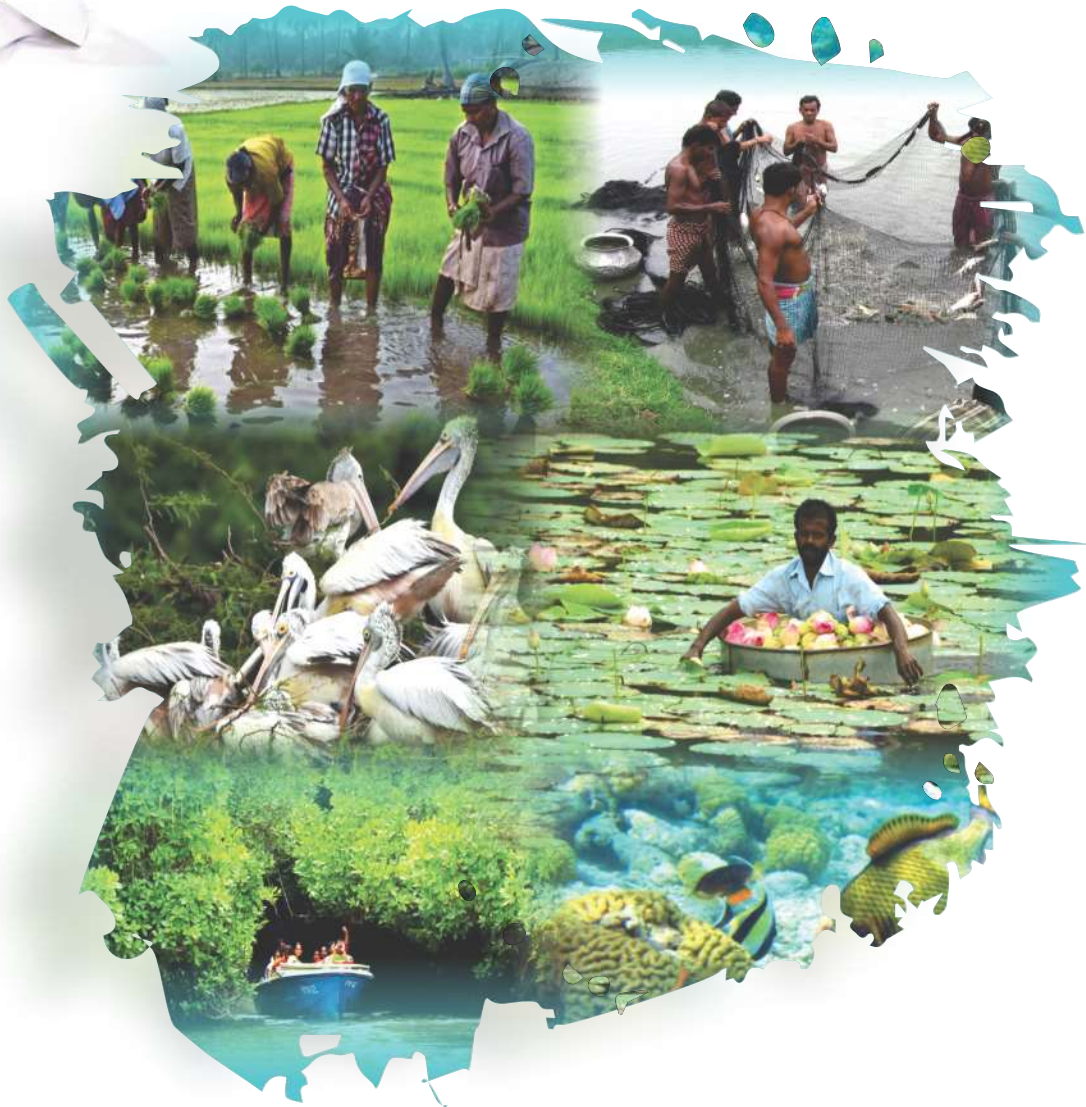


Environment, Climate Change and Forests Department

Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission



“World can't survive without water
and morality can't exist without rains.” (Thirukkural -20)



What are Wetlands?

Wetlands are areas covered with water throughout the year or for a particular period of time including marine water areas where depth at low tide is not more than 6 meters.

Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 Rule no. 2(g)



"Wetland" means an area 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 not exceed six meters.

It does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes;



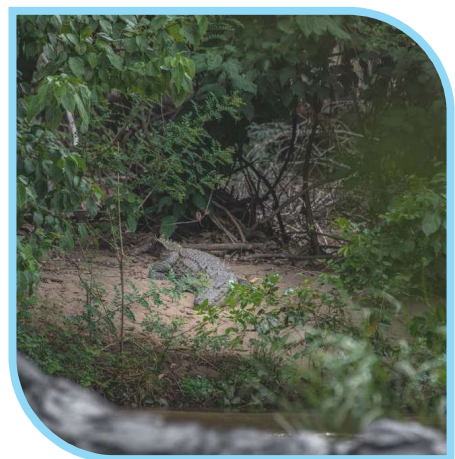
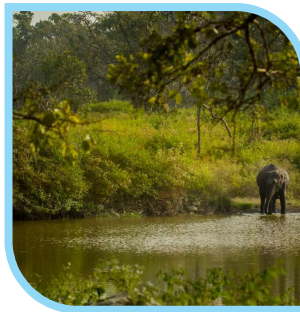
Scan this to know about
Wetlands (Conservation and
Management) Rules, 2017

Guidelines for implementing Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017

Para 3:

a) Wetlands designated by the Government of India to the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the provisions of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention).

b) Wetlands notified under the rules by the Central Government, State Government and UT Administration.





Para 4:

All Wetlands , irrespective of their location, size, ownership, bio-diversity, or ecosystem services values, can be notified under the Wetland Rules, except as given below

Human-made water bodies specifically constructed for :



- a) River channels;
- b) Paddy fields;
- c) Drinking water purposes;
- d) Aqua culture purposes;
- e) Salt production purposes;
- f) Recreation purposes;
- g) Irrigation purposes;



Para 5:

- ★ Human-made wetlands are defined as wetlands that are planned, designed and operated to meet a specific purpose (such as providing water for irrigation, producing fish through culture operations, producing salt, recreation, preventing salinity intrusion, flood control etc.). Only those human-made wetlands that have been built for purposes, are excluded from notification under these Rules.

Para 6:

Natural wetlands, partly or wholly used for purposes as mentioned above, attract the provisions of the Wetlands Rules.



Para 7:

Wetlands designated as Ramsar Sites may be notified under the Rules as per the process mentioned in paragraphs 57-65, even when partly or wholly overlapping with areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; State Forest Acts and amendments thereof; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and amendments thereof; Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and amendments thereof. Regulations for parts of wetlands overlapping with 4h-4j (supra) will, however, be as per the corresponding regulatory framework. Ramsar site areas, not covered under any of the overlapping laws and rules, will attract the provisions of the Wetlands Rules



Why are wetlands important to us?

- ✦ 50% of Worlds' drinking water comes from groundwater and wetlands are the major source of groundwater recharge.
- ✦ Natural water filters (removes dangerous pollutants from water)
- ✦ Support livelihoods and directly provide income to millions of families. (Fishing, agriculture, horticulture, tourism)
- ✦ Protect from natural disasters like floods. droughts. tsunamis and cyclones.
- ✦ Reduce threats of Global Warming
- ✦ Reduce soil erosion (protecting fertile upper layers of the soil important for production)
- ✦ Provide home to a wide variety of microorganisms, plants and animals
- ✦ Important for our survival and the environment.
- ✦ Acts as Recreational sites.

How should we take care of wetlands?

Do's



Learn about wetlands in your area



Register your group of friends as Wetland Mitras and help maintain wetlands



Spread awareness within your social groups



Explore the nature of wetlands and raise awareness of the connection between us, the soil and other living things

Don'ts



Do not dump wastes on wetlands



Do not poach birds and animals

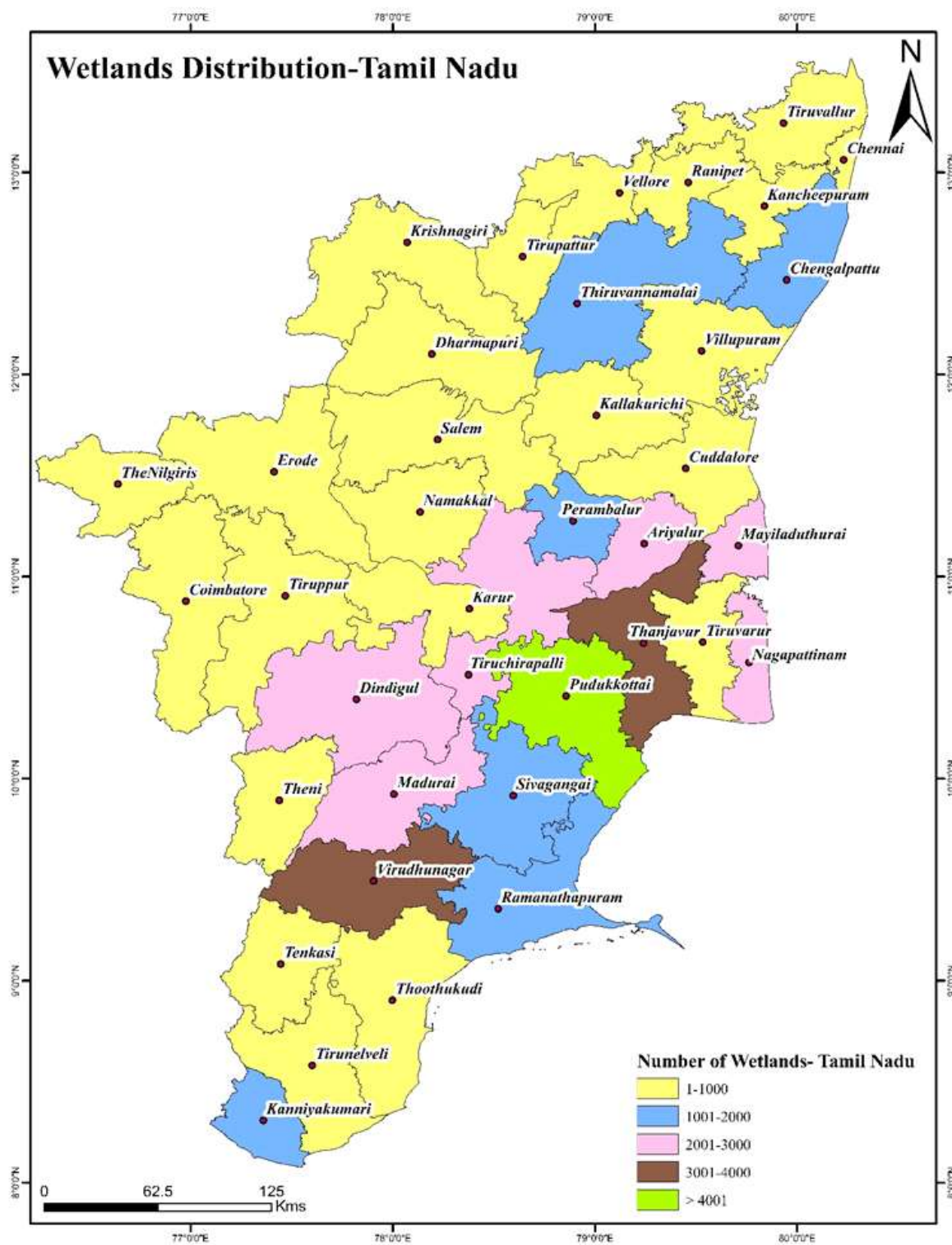


Do not destroy natural vegetation



Do not introduce any alien plants or animals (invasive species) into wetlands. (E.g., Release of aquarium fishes into a wetland)

Wetlands identified District Wise – Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ahmedabad, 2011



Wetlands and Biodiversity



Ramsar Sites

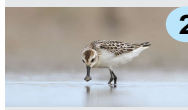
Ramsar Convention:

- ✦ It is an international agreement on the conservation of wetlands and their wise use. This is also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- ✦ In 1971, the treaty was signed in the city of Ramsar in Iran. The name Ramsar Convention was derived from the name of this city
- ✦ Under Ramsar Convention, there are nine criteria defined for a wetland to qualify as a Ramsar site and therefore Ramsar sites are selected subject to those conditions.

CRITERIA



- 1 Representative , rare , or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.



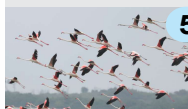
- 2 Supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.



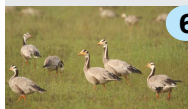
- 3 Supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.



- 4 Supports plant or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles or provides refuge during adverse conditions.



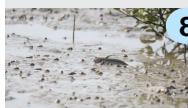
- 5 Regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds.



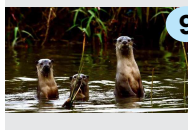
- 6 Regularly support 1% of individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.



- 7 Supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families.

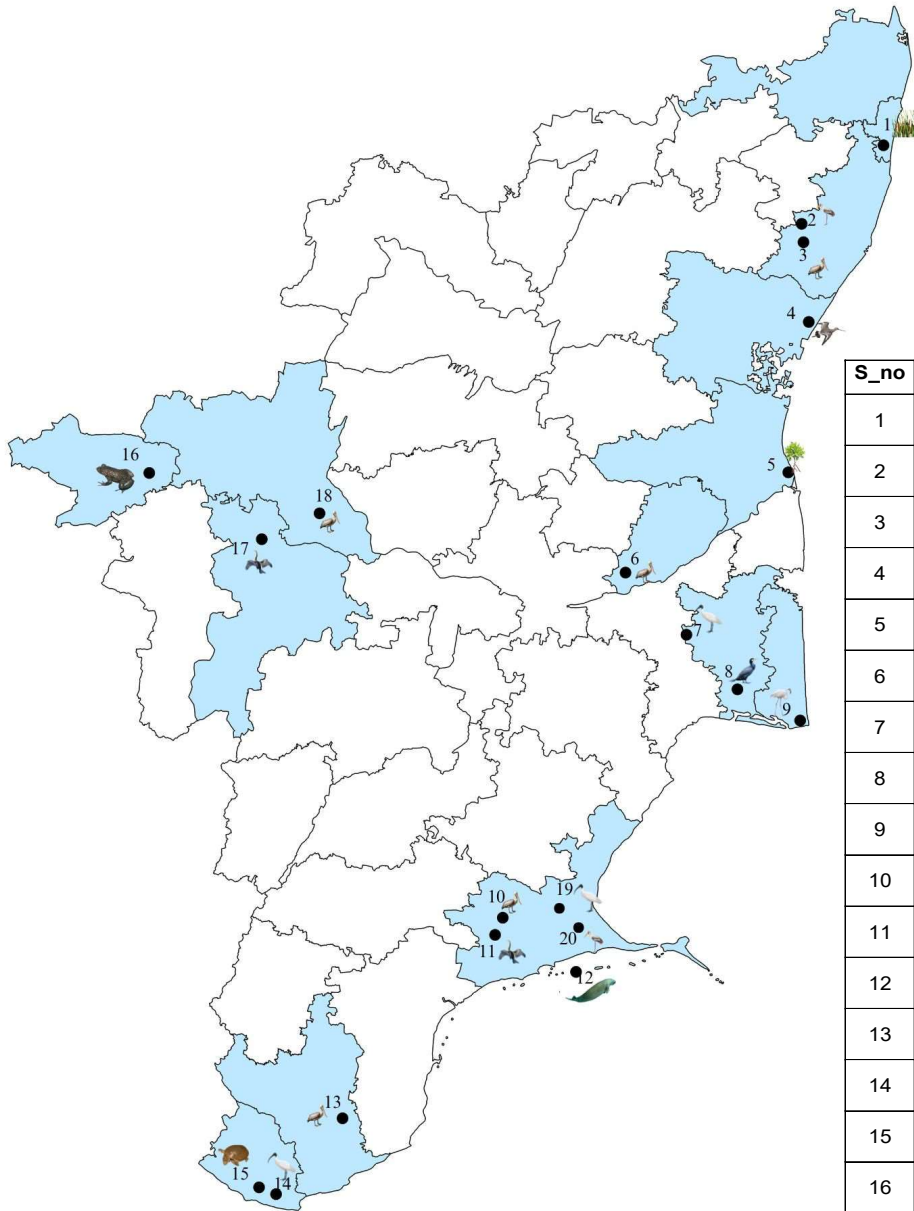


- 8 Important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery or migration path.



- 9 Regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of once species or subspecies of wetland-dependent non-avian animal species.

Ramsar Sites - Tamil Nadu



S_no	Name of the Ramsar Site	Area in ha
1	Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest (Chennai)	1,247.54 (698 ha R.F)
2	Karikili Bird Sanctuary (Chengalpattu)	58.44
3	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary (Chengalpattu)	40.35
4	Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary (Villupuram)	5151.60
5	Pichavaram Mangrove (Cuddalore)	1,478.64
6	Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary (Ariyalur)	453.7
7	Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary (Thiruvavur)	112.64
8	Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary (Thiruvavur)	43.77
9	Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary (Nagapattinam and Thiruvavur)	38,500
10	Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary (Ramanathapuram)	96.89
11	Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary (Ramanathapuram)	260.47
12	Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve (Ramanathapuram)	52,671.88
13	Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary (Tirunelveli)	72.04
14	Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex (Kanyakumari)	94.23
15	Vembannur Wetland Complex (Kanyakumari)	19.75
16	Longwood Shola Reserve Forest (The Nilgris)	116.007
17	Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary (Tiruppur)	125.865
18	Vellode Bird Sanctuary (Erode)	77.19
19	Therthangal Bird Sanctuary (Ramanathapuram)	29.295
20	Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary (Ramanathapuram)	230.49

Total Area = 1,00,880.787 ha



Ramsar sites & Eco system Services



Agriculture - Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary



Fishing - Point Calimere Wildlife Bird Sanctuary



Tourism - Pichavaram Mangrove

Ramsar sites and Biodiversity



Sea Turtle - Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve



Painted stork- Vedandhangal Bird Sanctuary



Bar Headed Goose - Vellode Bird Sanctuary



No. of Ramsar Sites in States of India

20	Tamil Nadu
10	Uttar Pradesh
06	Odisha, Punjab
05	Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir
04	Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan
03	Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Maharashtra
02	Haryana, West Bengal, Ladak
01	Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim, Jharkhand

Tamil Nadu



- Point Calimere Wildlife & Bird Sanctuary was the only Ramsar site in Tamil Nadu which was declared on 2002.
- After two decades, in the Year 2022 -13 Ramsar Sites, 2024 - 4 Ramsar sites and in the year 2025, 2 new Ramsar Sites have been designated respectively.
- Since then, the State of Tamil Nadu has 20 wetlands of international significance and tops the Country with most number of Ramsar sites.

India

- India became the contracting party of the Ramsar Convention on 1st February 1982.
- There are 91 wetlands of India that are declared as Wetlands of International Importance.



Countries



- Currently, 175 countries have become a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

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