

# World Wetlands Day

2 February 2019



## Wetlands and climate change

Zambia's wetlands cover about 14% of the total land area and contributes to economic development through supporting various economic sectors such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries, forestry among others. They also support livelihoods and provide ecosystem services such as provision of clean domestic water, prevention of soil erosion, nutrient cycling and carbon sequestration. Wetlands in Zambia also play a key role in providing a habitat to many species of mammals and birds. Additionally, they are a rich source of fish as well as grazing ground for rural pastoralists.

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2 February to mark the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

The theme for Wetlands Day 2019 is “wetlands and climate change”, which aims to raise awareness about how wetlands can help solve climate change. Zambia has been experiencing effects of climate change resulting in extreme weather conditions, such as droughts, rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall patterns. Wetlands are a natural solution to the threats that climate change causes globally. Wetlands naturally absorb and store carbon, reduce floods and relive droughts. Therefore we must conserve, restore and protect our wetlands.

