



# STATUS OF WETLANDS IN INDIA

ENVIS Resource Partner on Environmental Biotechnology

Hosted by: University of Kalyani, West Bengal

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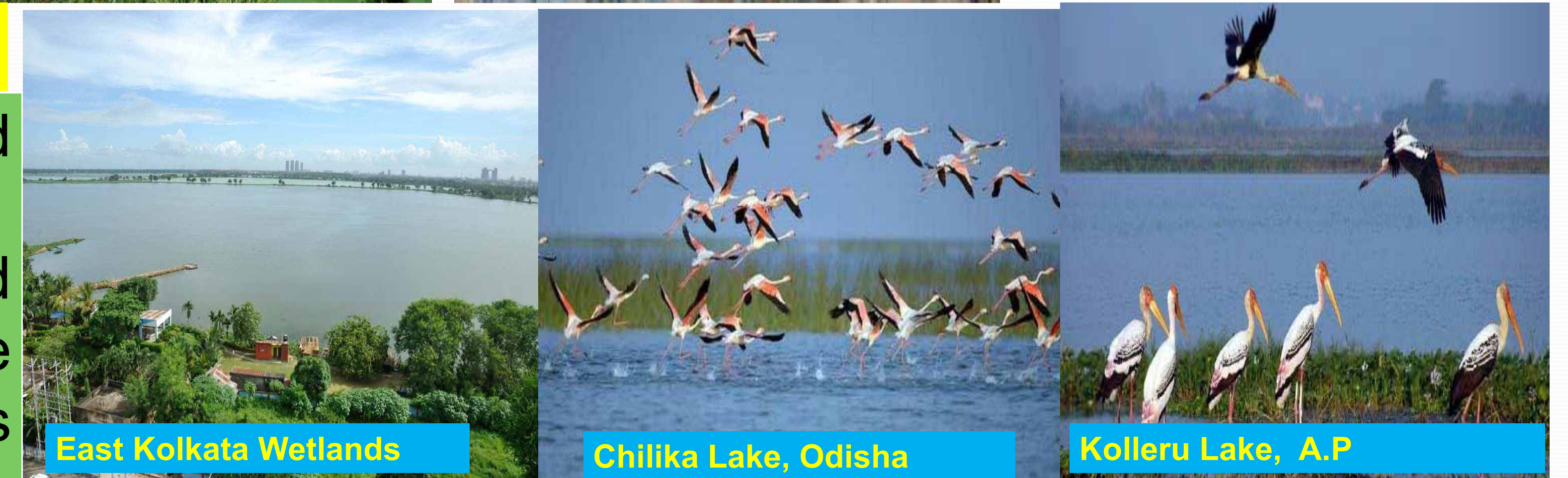
World Wetland Day 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021: Wetlands and water

- ✓ Wetland defines as 'areas of marsh, fen, peat land or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing.
- ✓ Wetlands support vegetation adapted to the wet conditions (hydrophytes), and conversely are characterized by an absence of flood-intolerant vegetation.
- ✓ World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on **2<sup>nd</sup> February** to raise global awareness about the value of wetlands for humanity and the planet.
- ✓ World Wetlands Day has a different theme and message on a relevant subject set each year by the **Ramsar Secretariat**.
- ✓ **"Wetlands and water"** is the theme for World Wetlands Day 2021.



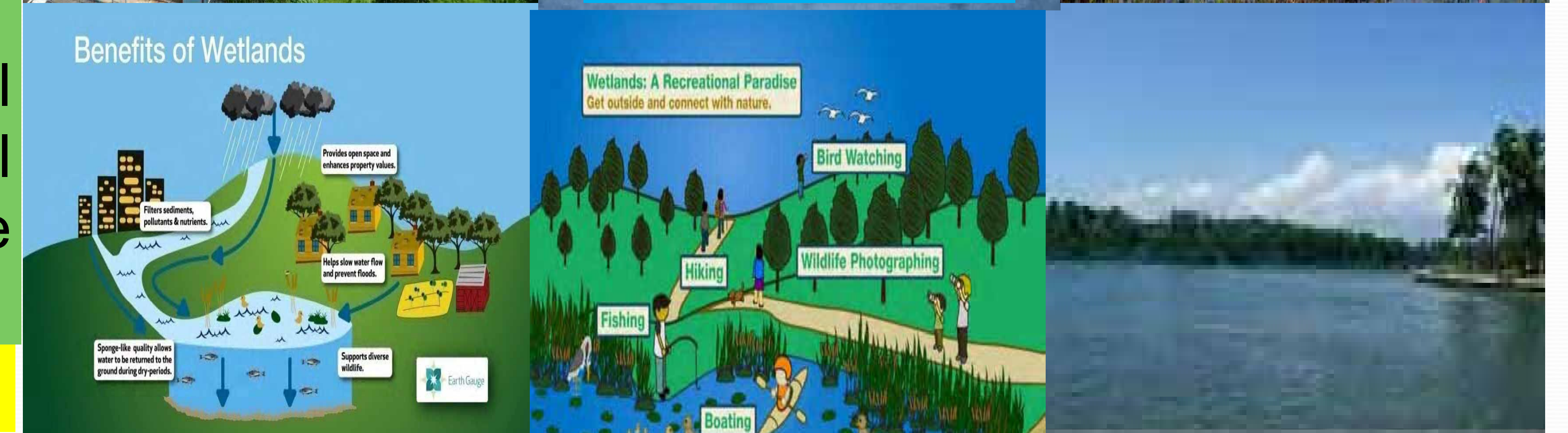
## RAMSAR CONVENTION FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION

- ✓ Today, the Ramsar List is the world's largest network of protected areas.
- ✓ The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty for wetland conservation and it is adopted in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, the 'Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat'.
- ✓ The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".



## Ramsar Sites of India

- There are a total of 2400 Ramsar Sites around the world.
- India has 42 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) and this is the highest in South Asia (As of December 2020).
- **Chilika Lake** in Odisha (1165 sq.km) is the largest Indian Ramsar site.
- Renuka Wetland (0.2 sq.km) of Himachal Pradesh is the smallest Ramsar Site in India..
- The Ramsar Convention helps for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.
- The **East Calcutta Wetlands** of West Bengal, covers 125 sq.km. declared as Ramsar site in 2002
- The wetlands are also used to treat Kolkata's sewage, and the nutrients contained in the wastewater sustain fish farms and agriculture.



## Wetland Functions

- Regulation functions:** describe the capacity of ecosystems to regulate essential ecological processes and life support systems on Earth.
- Carrier functions** describe the space or suitable substrate needed for the conduct of human activities such as living, cultivation and recreation.
- Production functions** describe the resources provided by nature, including food, raw materials for industrial use and genetic raw material.
- Information functions** describe the role played by natural ecosystems in the maintenance of mental health by providing cognitive development, spiritual inspiration and scientific appreciation of the world.

## Conclusion:

Let us commit to making our cities liveable by taking actions today to retain, restore and preserve the wetlands.