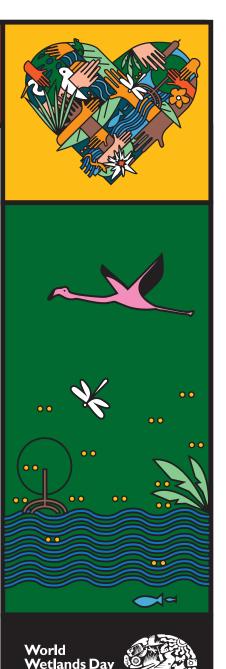
THE BIODIVERSITY OF WETLANDS

WETLANDS SUPPORT AN INTRICATE TAPESTRY OF LIFE.

- Wetlands link habitats and facilitate the movement of species. This role as a **connecting ecosystem** is vital for maintaining genetic diversity and healthy populations.
- Wetlands support 40% of all known plant and animal species. This includes many endangered, threatened and endemic species that can only survive in certain wetland habitats – and nowhere else.
- Freshwater wetlands are **hotspots for biodiversity**, hosting almost all amphibians, half of fishes and over one third of vertebrates.
- Wetlands are often hydrologically connected to agricultural, industrial and urban areas.
 This leaves them vulnerable to various types of pollution that threaten their biodiversity even when the pollution source is at a distance.
- Invasive alien species often outcompete native biodiversity, thereby contributing to wetland biodiversity loss.
- Ensuring biodiversity-inclusive urban planning is critical for a sustainable future.
- Our ability to sustainably conserve, manage and restore wetlands and their biodiversity requires the knowledge, experience and involvement of Indigenous Peoples and Iocal communities – including women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities.



2 February 2025 **✓ Protecting wetlands**

for our common future

