

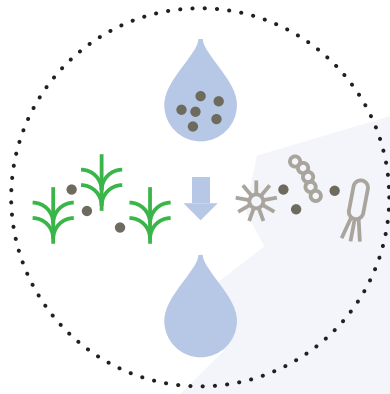
WHY NILE BASIN WETLANDS MATTER: PROVIDING MULTIPLE AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE IN THE NILE BASIN

Nile Basin wetlands supply water, protect people from floods, reduce droughts, control erosion, improve water quality and hydrology, critical habitat for biodiversity, store carbon, support livelihoods and provide other functions critical to achieving sustainable development within the Nile Basin. Some of the basin's wetlands are designated as Protected Areas, Migratory Birds Flyways, Important Birds Areas, World Heritage Sites, Key Biodiversity Areas as well as Wetlands of international importance (Ramsar Sites). Yet, these valuable eco-systems are threatened by pollution, siltation, conversions into agricultural land, settlement, infrastructural development, climate change and deforestation.



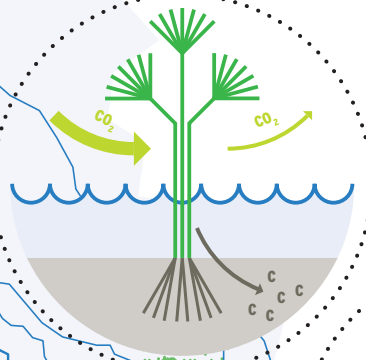
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION: WETLANDS PROVIDE VALUABLE ECOSYSTEMS FOR OUT-DOOR LEARNING AND RESEARCH

Nile Basin wetlands offer field laboratories for learning and doing research on natural ecological processes, functions and succession among others.



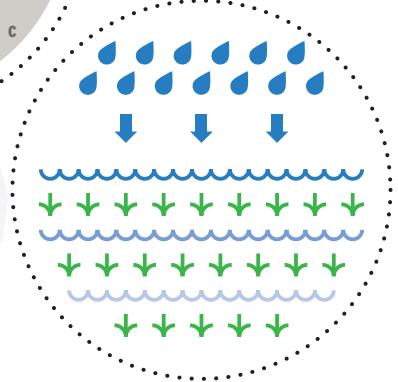
WATER SUPPLY AND PURIFICATION: WETLANDS ENSURE FRESH WATER

Wastewater is largely discharged into the Wetlands without any form of treatment. The abundant plant and microbe life in wetlands retain, absorb and breaks down contaminants and assimilate into their biomass, which helps clean water for different uses like drinking, irrigation and supporting aquatic lives.



CLIMATE REGULATION: WETLANDS PROVIDE RESILIENCE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Nile Basin wetlands are sources of and sinks for greenhouse gases. They help to moderate local and regional temperatures, precipitation, and regulate other climatic elements and processes.



FLOOD AND DROUGHT MITIGATION: WETLANDS ARE NATURE'S SHOCK ABSORBERS

During heavy rainfall, Nile Basin wetlands reduce stream speed and act as natural sponges that absorb water, which reduces flooding and delays the onset of droughts. Wetlands are a natural buffer during extreme weather.



HABITAT AND LIVELIHOODS: WETLANDS ARE CRITICAL FOR BIODIVERSITY

Wetlands are home to over 100,000 known fresh-water species globally. They are essential for many amphibians, mammals, reptiles and bird species. Wetlands also provide important fibre, fuel and food products like fish and support people that earn their living directly from fishing, aquaculture and tourism.

WHAT IS A WETLAND?

A wetland is an area covered or submerged by surface or groundwater supporting plants and animals, typically adapted for life in water-saturated soil conditions. The term "wetland" is applied to a broad range of different habitats and ecosystems including swamps, flood plains, seasonally flooded grasslands, the edges and shallow waters of rivers and lakes, estuaries and coastal marshes, as well as mangroves and peat bogs. It also includes man-made or constructed wetlands.



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