

WWF-Bhutan

WWF-Bhutan helps conserve wetlands through the Saving Wetland Sky High (SWSH) Initiative.

The SWSH is a regional effort of the WWF network to conserve high altitude wetlands in the Himalayas.

The program supports conservation of wetlands through wise use of wetlands by promoting local culture and tradition ensuring ecosystem functions and services through research and financial support.



WETLANDS

take care of

WATER



For more information contact:
WWF Bhutan Program Kawajangsa, Thimphu-Bhutan;
Tel: +975-2-323316/528 Fax: +975-2-323518, Website:
www.wwfbhutan.org.bt

© J. Lhendup/WWF



World Wetland Day

Every year, 2nd February is celebrated as the World Wetlands Day commemorating the establishment of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands on 2nd February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

The convention undertakes actions aimed at conservation of wetlands around the world.

Bhutan joined the Ramsar Convention on September 7th 2012 as the 161st contracting party.

Bumdeling in Trashiyangtse and Khotokha in Wangduephodrang now bear the flags as two of the Ramsar wetlands of international importance.

Both sites are important winter habitats for the endangered Black-necked Cranes.

Why care?

- » Wetlands are reservoirs of freshwater that is critical to sustain life, agriculture and other economic activities such as hydropower generation.
- » Wetlands provide extremely important habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals.
- » In Bhutan, lakes are considered as an abode of God and are devoted to different Gods and local deities.
- » Wetlands are increasingly threatened owing to fragmentation caused by urbanization. Threats are further fuelled by pollution and changing water quality.
- » Bhutan is now witnessing an increasing trend of natural disasters like floods and landslides.



What wetlands are?

Wetlands are land areas that are covered by water or are near water bodies all year or for varying periods of time during a year.

Wetlands include glacial and freshwater lakes, marshes and bogs, open running water (springs, streams, and rivers), agricultural wetland and artificial wetland (hydropower dam-reservoirs, aquaculture, sewage ponds, fishery pond, etc.)