

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 local communities** – including women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities.

