

WETLANDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

WETLANDS ARE KEY TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE.

- Wetlands are our most effective land-based ecosystem for addressing the climate crisis. By absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing it in their soil and biomass, wetlands **help mitigate climate change**.
- Coastal wetlands, such as mangroves, **sequester carbon** up to 55 times faster than tropical rainforests.
- Peatlands, which cover only 3% of the Earth's land surface, **store 30% of all land-based carbon**.
- Climate change is heavily impacting wetlands through more severe and frequent droughts and increased evapotranspiration due to higher temperatures. At the same time, the loss of wetlands could worsen the impact of climate change, as these ecosystems **provide essential services** that mitigate the effects of climate change.
- When drained, dredged and degraded, wetlands can emit significant quantities of greenhouse gases. Wetland **conservation, restoration and wise use** can prevent emissions, and in many instances, sequester significant amounts of carbon.
- It's critical that wetland protection and restoration be recognized as effective **nature-based solutions** for climate adaptation and mitigation and that they be incorporated into climate plans and legislation at all levels of government.
- To meet the 1.5 °C Paris Agreement climate goals, we must prevent further conversion and drainage of intact peatlands and **restore 50% of all lost peatlands** before 2030.

