

# THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF WETLANDS

WETLANDS ARE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTORS TO THE WORLD'S ECONOMIES.

- Wetlands are **highly productive** ecosystems that hold great value. They underpin a sustainable economic future, enhancing agricultural productivity, supporting fisheries and offering opportunities for ecotourism.
- Rivers and inland waterways play a vital role in **transporting goods and people** in many parts of the world.
- Wetlands provide more than **a billion jobs** and services – **valued at \$47 trillion** a year worldwide.
- When wetlands become degraded, the people who directly rely on them for their livelihoods – often the very poor – are driven into even deeper **poverty**. This has become a major concern for many governments, particularly in developing countries.
- The **interrelation between wetlands and livelihoods** is significant but often not fully appreciated by policymakers.
- Developing more **effective policies and wetland management strategies** requires more fully understanding how the loss and degradation of wetlands – and their ecosystem functions – affect people's incomes.
- Empowering people to make a decent living while ensuring that wetlands will always provide drinkable water, biodiversity, food and their many other benefits don't have to be conflicting goals. In fact, the **UN Sustainable Development Goals** underline that reducing poverty requires us to protect and restore ecosystems such as wetlands.
- Today, new and **innovative green jobs** are being created as gender-agnostic in wetland projects.

