



# World Wetlands Day

2 February 2018

Wetlands for a sustainable urban future



## Wetlands for our future

Wetlands are some of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth and are home to a wide variety of plants, animals, insects and birds.



**Knysna**

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## Frogs are bio-indicators

The presence of frogs indicates a healthy ecosystem. They play an important role in pest control, eating large numbers of flies, ticks and mosquitoes.



## Wetland plants love water

Wetland plants are known as hydrophytes or 'water-loving' plants. They are able to purify water by filtering out heavy metals and other toxins. They also provide food for people and animals, as well as a habitat for birds.



## The benefits of wetlands

1. Wetlands reduce the impact of floods and droughts.
2. They purify water and replenish rivers and streams.
3. Wetlands protect our coastlines.
4. Wetlands provide homes for many animals and birds.



## More protection needed

Only 10% of South Africa's wetlands are fully protected, with 8% partly protected.



## Birds in wetlands

The wetlands of southern Africa are of international importance as they are the southern destination for many migratory wading birds. Many species of birds use wetlands for feeding, breeding and nesting.



## What you can do to help our wetlands

Never dump waste in wetlands; take shorter showers; recycle household rubbish, make sure batteries do not end up in landfills; and use organic fertilizer in your garden.



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