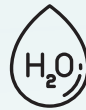


# Wetland Restoration: Why is it time?

## Wetlands are vital for humanity...

### Freshwater is rare. Wetlands provide most of it.

- Only **2.5%** of water on earth is freshwater, mostly stored in glaciers and aquifers.
- Less than **1%** is usable, **0.3%** is found in wetlands such as rivers and lakes.



### Wetlands store more carbon than forests.

- Peatlands cover **3%** of our planet yet store around **30%** of all land-based carbon.
- Coastal wetlands like mangroves sequester and store carbon up to **55 times** faster than tropical rain forests.



### Wetlands help us cope with storms and flooding.

- **60%** of humanity lives and works in coastal areas.
- Saltmarshes, mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs shield coastal communities in extreme weather.
- Inland, a single acre of wetland can absorb up to **1.5 million** gallons of floodwater.



### Wetlands are a source of livelihoods and food.

- More than a **billion** people live from fishing, aquaculture and tourism.
- Wetland paddies provide rice for **3.5 billion** people.

## But we're at a tipping point. Wetlands are disappearing.

### Wetlands are being lost three times faster than forests.

- They're the Earth's most threatened ecosystem.
- More than **80%** of all wetlands have disappeared since the 1700s.
- The trend is accelerating. Since 1970, at least **35%** of the world's wetlands have been lost.



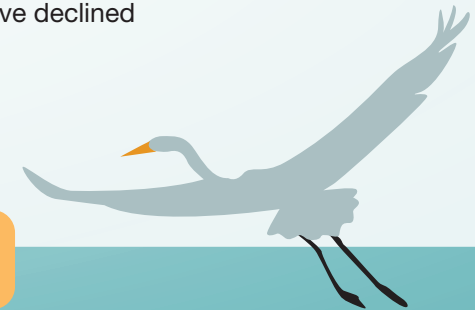
### Human activities are driving wetland degradation.

- Wetlands are being drained and filled in for agriculture and urban construction.
- Water pollution and overfishing are harming wetland ecosystems, along with invasive species.



### Wetland species are facing extinction.

- One in three freshwater species and **25%** of all wetland species face actual extinction from wetland decline.
- **81%** of inland wetland species and **36%** of coastal and marine species have declined in the last 50 years.



**Restoring lost and degraded wetlands is urgent!**