

**Communication, capacity building, education, participation
and awareness (CEPA):
World Wetlands Day themes for 2025, 2026 and 2027**

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to decide the themes for World Wetlands Day 2025, 2026 and 2027.

1. World Wetlands Day has been celebrated on 2 February since 1997. Through Decision 19.10, the Standing Committee at its 19th meeting in 1996 urged all Contracting Parties to observe World Wetlands Day by organizing and undertaking national public activities and events to raise awareness of the benefits of wetlands. World Wetlands Day is the single most important communication and national awareness-raising event for wetlands.
2. An umbrella theme is selected each year to highlight the benefits of wetlands for people and the health of the planet. The previous themes are listed at Annex 1 below. The Secretariat produces information and outreach materials that are relevant to the theme in the official languages of the Convention. These materials facilitate and support the outreach activities of Contracting Parties and partner organizations. The Secretariat also undertakes a global outreach campaign to increase the visibility of World Wetlands Day globally. Since 1997, Danone has funded the development and production of materials for World Wetlands Day.
3. Standing Committee members have in previous years selected the World Wetlands Day themes based on criteria such as:
 - a. Correspondence with the theme of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
 - b. Declaration by United Nations Agencies of themes with a similar focus;
 - c. Highlighting important benefits of wetlands; and
 - d. Demonstration of the relevance of wetlands within current international science and policy agendas.
4. The above-listed criteria ensure that each World Wetlands Day theme is a topic of current relevance, promotes national and international awareness, stimulates actions on the issue and attracts and mobilizes a diverse audience and actors.

Proposed themes for 2025, 2026 and 2027

5. The Standing Committee is invited to decide on proposed themes for the coming three years (2025, 2026 and 2027) allowing Contracting Parties, the Secretariat and partner organizations to

benefit from advance planning. Listed below are the recommendations of the Secretariat for consideration and decision.

- 2025 Protecting wetlands for our common future (proposed COP15 theme)
- 2026 Wetlands for sustainable cities
- 2027 Wetlands and indigenous knowledge: Preserving cultural heritage

Other suggestions for consideration:

- Wetlands and sustainable agriculture
- Connected wetlands: From the mountains to the sea

6. Following a decision on themes by Contracting Parties, the Secretariat will seek guidance from communications professionals on the exact wording to use for each selected theme to ensure applicability and relevance across the languages of the Convention.

Annex 1

Previous themes for World Wetlands Day

2024	Wetlands and human wellbeing
2023	Wetland restoration
2022	Wetlands action for people and nature
2021	Wetlands and water
2020	Wetlands and Biodiversity
2019	Wetlands and Climate Change
2018	Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future
2017	Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction
2016	Wetlands for Our Future: Sustainable Livelihoods
2015	Wetlands for Our Future
2014	Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth
2013	Wetlands Take Care of Water
2012	Wetland Tourism: A great experience
2011	Forests for water and wetlands
2010	Caring for wetlands – An answer to climate change
2009	Upstream, Downstream: Wetlands connect us all
2008	Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People
2007	Fish for tomorrow?
2006	Livelihoods at Risk
2005	There's Wealth in Wetland Diversity – Don't Lose It
2004	From the mountains to the sea – Wetlands at work for us
2003	No wetlands – no water
2002	Wetlands: Water life and culture
2001	A wetland world – A world to discover
2000	Celebrating our wetlands of international importance
1999	People and wetlands- the vital link
1998	Importance of water to life & role of wetlands in water supply
1997	WWD celebrated for the first time