Valuing water and wetlands

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Statement by Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands, on the occasion of World Water Day 2021

This year’s World Water Day theme of “valuing water” aims to increase understanding of water’s true, multidimensional value, such that we will be better able to safeguard this critical resource for the benefit of everyone.

If we are to value water, we must also better understand and value water’s source, wetlands. We cannot disconnect water from wetlands. Less than 1% of water on Earth is usable freshwater and this usable water is mostly stored in wetlands such as rivers, streams, lakes, marshes, estuaries and aquifers.

We demand more fresh water, yet destroy the means by which we get it. Nearly 90% of our wetlands, including rivers, lakes, marshes and peatlands have vanished, and we continue to lose wetlands three times faster than forests. We must better understand and value the role of wetlands in providing water.

Read the full statement here.
Project Syndicate article by Martha Rojas Urrego: Overcoming water scarcity naturally

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