

Wetlands and Livelihoods

WETLANDS PROVIDE JOBS AND HELP ERADICATE POVERTY

- Wetlands provide more than **1 billion** livelihoods across the world – delivering food, water supplies, transport and leisure.
 - More than **660 million** people depend on fishing and aquaculture for a living.
 - Almost **1 billion** households in Asia, Africa and the Americas rely on rice growing and processing for their main livelihoods.
 - Half of international tourists seek relaxation in wetland areas, supporting **266 million** jobs in the travel and tourism sectors – which is **8.9%** of the world's total employment.
 - Wetlands offer economic opportunities for indigenous populations, including traditional livelihoods that entail harvesting and processing medicinal plants, dyes, fruits, reeds and grasses.
 - Farmers and herders look to wetlands for a consistent water supply for livestock grazing.
- Ongoing wetland loss is driving a vicious cycle of declining biodiversity and deepening poverty.
 - The Sustainable Development Goals underline that we must protect and restore ecosystems such as wetlands to reduce poverty.

