



# EIACP

## AN EIACP NEWSLETTER

### Nagaland



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## Editorial

On World Wetlands Day, the World Health Organisation celebrates the vital role of wetlands in safeguarding human health and wellbeing amid the changing climate. Wetlands including marshes, swamps and floodplains are nature's buffer against climate change. They absorb excess rainfall, reduce flooding risks and help to protect critical infrastructure including health facilities. Land areas that are saturated or flooded with water either permanently or seasonally are known as wetlands.

World Wetlands Day provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the vital connection between wetlands and human well-being. From mighty inlets, mangroves and mud flats, to floodplains, peat bogs, fishponds and rice paddies, wetlands are extraordinary ecosystems. They provide us with fresh water and food, supporting the livelihoods of over one billion people globally.

They store water during times of drought, absorb water during floods, filter pollutants and they help to provide clean drinking water and water for crops. This issue highlights the importance of wetlands and their conservation and the observation of World Wetlands Day in different parts of the state in Nagaland.



*EIACP (Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity building and livelihood Programme) is a project of the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India*

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

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# Introduction

**W**orld Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on 2nd February and it aims to raise global awareness of the vital role of wetlands for people, flora and fauna. This day also marks the anniversary of the Convention on Wetlands, which was adopted as an international treaty in 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

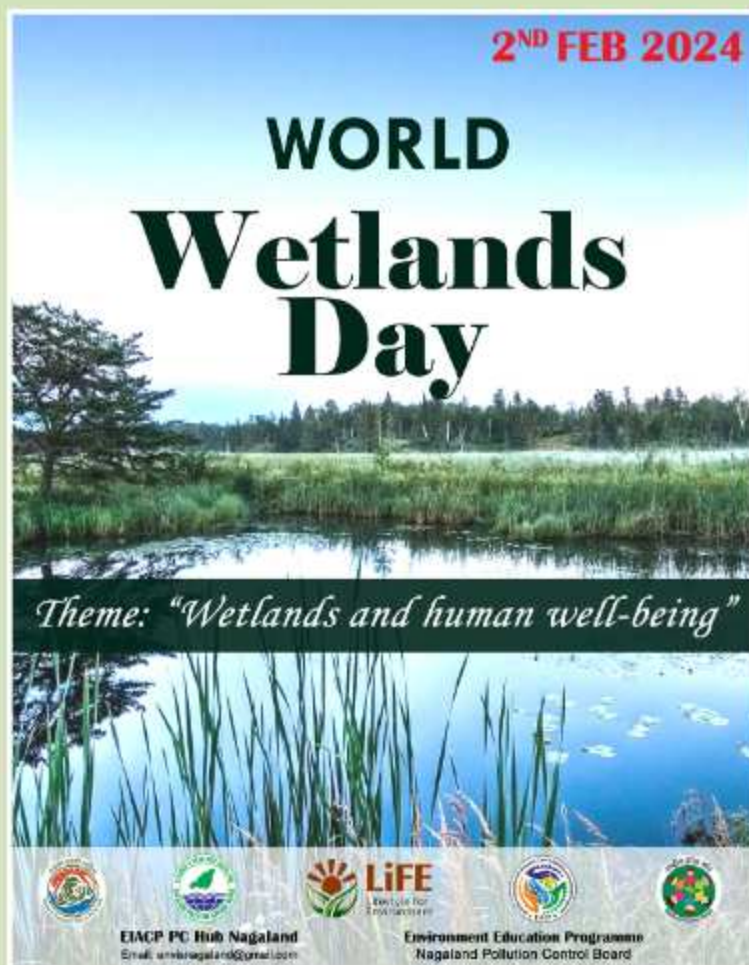
## About Ramsar Convention:

The signing of the Convention on Wetlands took place in 1971 in the small Iranian town of Ramsar. Since then, the Convention on Wetlands has been known as the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an international treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

## Objectives of the Ramsar Convention

- To stop the worldwide loss of wetlands and promote their conservation.
- To promote the wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- To cooperate internationally on wetland conservation and management.

**THEME:** This year's theme emphasizes the critical role that wetlands play in supporting human well-being across various aspects of life. Focusing on "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing" will serve as a call to action for individuals, communities, and governments worldwide to recognize the vital importance of wetlands and take concrete steps to protect them from the present and future generations. It also highlights the importance conservation and sustainable use of wetlands for the human well-being





## What is a Wetland?

A wetland is a distinct ecosystem that is flooded or saturated by water, either permanently or seasonally. These areas have unique characteristics that differentiate them from both terrestrial and aquatic environments.

## Types of Wetlands

The Convention on Wetland uses a broad definition of wetlands that includes both freshwater and marine and coastal ecosystems such as all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, Peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas, and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fishponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.

*There are different types of wetlands as follows:*

- Inland wetlands: Marshes, lakes, rivers, floodplains, peatlands and swamps.
- Coastal wetlands: Saltwater marshes, estuaries, mangroves, lagoons and coral reefs.
- Human-made wetlands: Fish ponds, rice paddies, salt pans etc.

## Importance of Wetlands

- Wetlands are important for humanity but it is at a tipping point.
- Only 2.5 % of the water on earth is freshwater, mostly stored in glaciers and aquifers, less than 1% is usable, and 0.3% is found in wetlands such as rivers and lakes.
- Wetlands store more carbon than forests. Coastal wetlands like mangroves sequester and store carbon up to 55% times faster than tropical rainforests.
- It helps to cope with storms and flooding. Inland, a single acre of wetland can absorb up to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater.
- Wetlands are a source of livelihoods and food. It provides rice for 3.5 billion people and more than a billion people live from fishing, aquaculture, and tourism.

## Benefits of restoring Wetlands

- Revive Biodiversity: 40% of the world's species live or breed in wetlands. Restoring wetlands powers the local food chain and attracts wildlife.
- Improve Water Quality: Water can intercept runoff from surfaces before reaching open water and remove pollutants through physical, chemical, and biological processes. It also provides cost-effective alternative to traditional wastewater and stormwater treatment.



- Acts as a source of water: Wetlands serve as a primary source of freshwater. Over 95% of the available freshwater is found in aquifers, making them the most important source of drinking water and irrigation.
- Serves as flood and storm buffers: They reduce droughts and serve as flood buffers. It operates as sponges in the upper part of a basin, absorbing precipitation and snowmelt and allowing water to gently percolate into soil.

## Threats to Wetlands

- Pollution: Runoff from agricultural land, factories, and urban areas pollutes wetlands and harms their ecosystems.
- Habitat destruction: Draining, dredging, and filling wetlands for development destroys critical habitats for plants and animals.
- Climate change: Rising sea levels, changes in precipitation patterns, and increased temperatures threaten the health and survival of wetlands.

## Ways to protect wetlands

- Educating or raising awareness among citizens about the importance of wetlands and their role in maintaining the balance of our planet.
- When developing wetlands, use environmentally friendly methods that minimize the impact on the ecosystem. This can include using permeable pavements, preserving existing vegetation, and avoiding construction in sensitive areas.
- Minimizing the impact of recreational activities such as boating and fishing on wetlands. This can include enforcing regulations and providing education to recreational users on the importance of protecting wetlands.
- Creating wetlands reserves to preserve them for future generations. These reserves can be used for research, education, and recreation while providing habitat for wildlife.
- Reducing the amount of pollution entering wetlands, as pollution can have a significant impact on wetland ecosystems. This can include reducing the use of chemicals and plastics, properly disposing of waste, and limiting the discharge of pollutants into wetlands.
- Implementing effective water management practices that regulate the flow of water can help in reducing the risk of floods and droughts and improve the health of wetland ecosystems.



# World Wetlands Day

## CELEBRATION

Along with the rest of the world, the Environmental Information Awareness Capacity Building & livelihood Programme (EIACP) Nagaland Pollution Control Board observed World Wetlands Day under the theme "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing" in collaboration with Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), at Half Nagarjan in Dimapur district, by organising an awareness programme along with a Drawing competition. The programme was attended by 226 students along with one teaching faculty.



The welcome address was shared by Mr. Lephizo Apon, Graduate Teacher, GHSS Dimapur and at the end of the programme, the vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. Nannenlo Semy, IT Officer, EIACP.



**Mr. Lephizo Apon, Graduate Teacher, GHSS Dimapur**



**Mr. Nannenlo Semy, IT Officer, EIACP.**



Ms. Khriehunuo Rutsa, the Programme Officer, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the importance and benefits of restoring wetlands and how we can contribute to their conservation. She emphasized the critical role that wetlands play in supporting human well-being across various aspects of our lives. Ms. Lashikali Chishi, the Information Officer gave a presentation on Mission LiFE and also stressed all the seven themes associated with Mission LiFE. Followed by a combined pledge-taking session by all the participants and teaching faculty.



**Ms. Khriehunuo Rutsa, Programme Officer, EIACP**



**Ms. Lashikali Chishi, Information Officer, EIACP**



**Pledge-taking session on Mission LiFE during World Wetlands Day Celebration**





## **DRAWING COMPETITION** under the theme **“Wetlands and Human Wellbeing”** on occasion of **World Wetlands Day**

To observe the important day, a drawing competition under the theme, “Wetlands and Human Wellbeing”, was also conducted where students from classes 6-8 participated in the Drawing competition. The winners of the Drawing Competition were given certificates and prizes.

### **The winners of the Drawing Competition (Class 6-8) are as follows:**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Prize : Reshmi Das, Class - 7**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize : Leya, Class - 7**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize : Gita, Class - 8**

### **Five consolation prizes are as follows:**

- **Sujang, Class- 8**
- **Abida Begum, Class-6**
- **Manwang, Class- 6**
- **Henkhogin, Class- 8**
- **Denja, Class- 7**







*The winners & the winning Drawings of the Drawing Competition on account of World Wetlands Day on the theme "Wetlands and Human Well-being"*

## World Wetlands Day celebration in different parts of Nagaland:

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India launched a year-long campaign named "Save Wetland Campaign" (SWC) in 2023 as a people's movement to celebrate, revive and rejuvenate wetlands. Different kinds of awareness activities were conducted from 15.01.2024 onwards, by different schools, colleges and universities, to sensitise students all across the state of Nagaland on the importance of wetlands and their conservation, which are highlighted in this issue.

- **TUENSANG DISTRICT:** The Eco club schools under Tuensang district organised different activities like mass awareness rallies, cleanliness drives of ponds, and compounds, interactive sessions like seminars and various competitions like essay, speech, painting and poster competitions.







- **CHUMOUKEDIMA DISTRICT:** The Eco club's schools and colleges under Chumoukedima district conducted seminars on the topic "Wetlands and Human wellbeing", cleaning fishery pond and also organised various types of competitions like Report/paragraph writing, drawing, painting, essay, poster and PowerPoint Presentation competitions for commemorate World Wetlands Day.





- **PHEK DISTRICT:** The Eco club schools and colleges under Phek district conducted seminars under the theme “Wetlands and Human Wellbeing” and organised field visits to nearby wetlands areas of the schools, and plantation and cleanliness drives were also conducted.





- **WOKHA DISTRICT:** Little Angels School and Mount Carmel School Wokha organised an Essay competition and seminar respectively to commemorate World Wetlands Day under the theme “Wetlands and Human Wellbeing”.



- **PEREN DISTRICT:** The eco club schools under the Peren district organised various seminars under the theme “Wetlands and Human Wellbeing” and also conducted plantation drives, Recycling drives and interactive workshops to celebrate World Wetlands Day.







- **LONGLENG DISTRICT:** The eco club schools under Longleng district organised various seminars under the theme “Wetlands and Human Wellbeing” and also conducted poster-making competition and painting competitions to celebrate World Wetlands Day.





- **MON DISTRICT:** The Police Unit School, Mon conducted a painting competition and St Joseph School, Mon conducted both an Essay and Painting competition to commemorate World Wetlands Day under the theme “Wetlands and Human Wellbeing”.



- **DIMAPUR DISTRICT:** The Eco club schools under Dimapur district conducted various seminars under the theme “Wetlands and Human wellbeing” and also organised various competitions like drawing, painting, poster making, spot essay competitions and also plantation of flowers around the school compounds, to commemorate World Wetlands Day.







- **KOHIMA DISTRICT:** World Wetland Day was observed on 24th and 25th January 2024 at Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Sechu Zubza and Fernwood School respectively. A drawing, painting and Essay writing competition was organised to celebrate World Wetlands Day.







- **KIPHIRE DISTRICT:** The Eco Club of Green Sprouts School organising a drawing competition on account of World Wetlands Day on 22nd January 2024 under the theme "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing"

- **ZUNHEBOTO DISTRICT:** The Schools and colleges under Zunheboto district organised various activities like cleaning community spring water ponds, placing placards on the importance of wetlands, poster-making competitions and also an essay writing competition to celebrate World Wetlands Day.

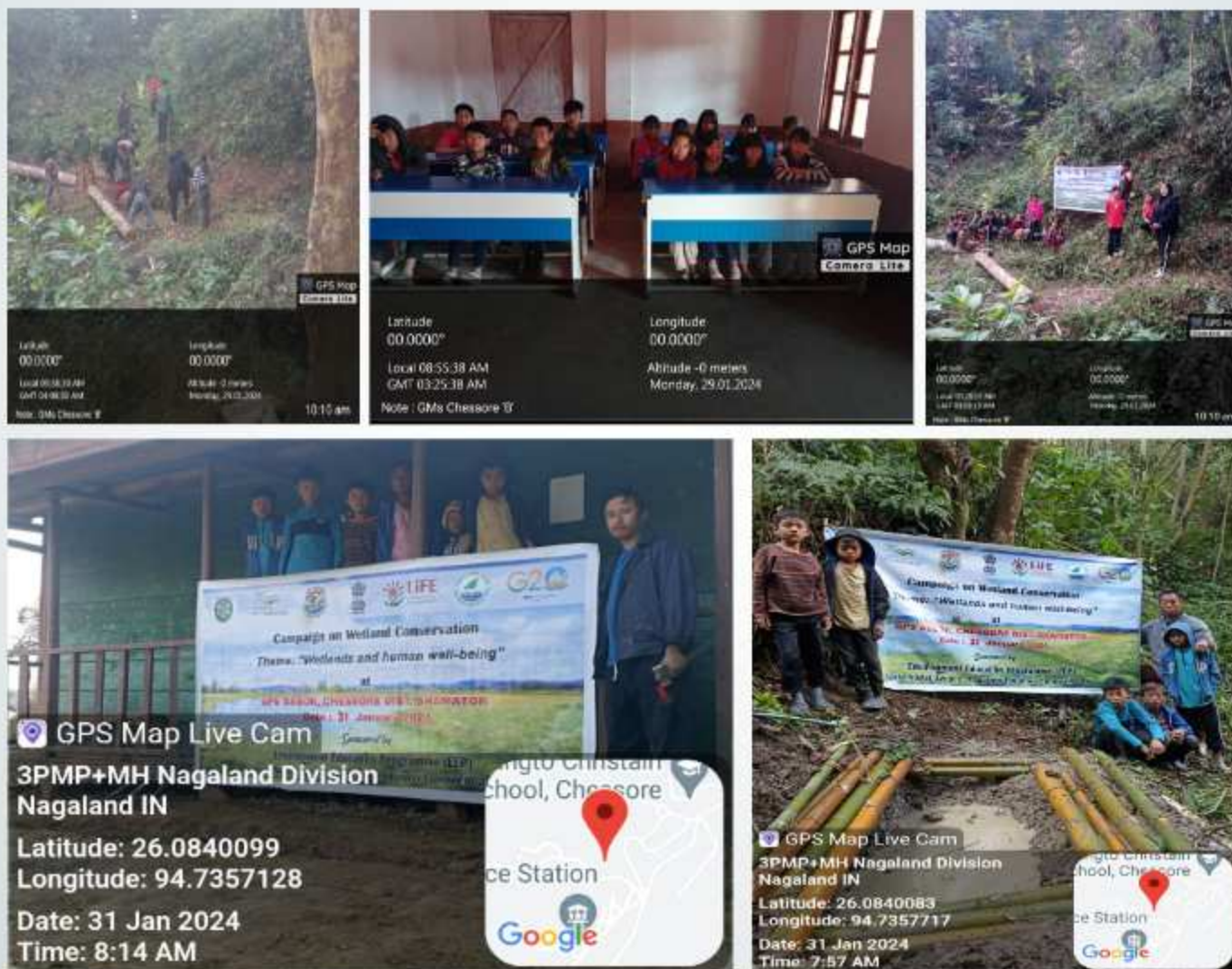


- **MOKOKCHUNG DISTRICT:** The school under Mokokchung District conducted various seminars including cleanliness drives and plantation drives to celebrate World Wetlands Day.





- **SHAMATOR DISTRICT:** The Government Middle School Chessore B and Government Primary school, Assor, under Shamator district organised a seminar, a field trip, and cleaning of ponds and surroundings to commemorate World Wetlands Day on 29th January 2024.



ALL QUERIES AND FEEDBACK REGARDING THIS NEWSLETTER CAN BE SENT TO:

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