Wetlands are nature's way of providing water

A wetland is an area that is soaked with water, either permanently or seasonally, and is a distinct ecosystem. A wetland is recognised by special aquatic plants like sedges, bulrushes and reeds that are well adapted to water-saturated soils with low oxygen levels. Some common names for different types of wetlands are swamp, marsh and bog.

Wetlands are threatened and need to be protected for nature to do its work!

Wetlands are being destroyed by pollution such as chemicals and littering. Some people drain wetlands to mine it for peat soils and to obtain more farming land.

Pollution

Peat mining

Pollution

Alien plants

The RAMSAR Convention is an international conservation treaty to protect the world's wetlands.

South Africa is a member of RAMSAR.

What can you do to help?

- **Protect and conserve wetlands.**
- **Don't litter.**
- **Take part in wetland cleanups.**
- **Keep catchments healthy.**
- **Use water wisely.**

JNF Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre

Water Wise
RAND WATER

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