

An aerial photograph of a tropical village. A wide, calm river flows along the left side of the frame. The village is built on a narrow strip of land, with numerous houses featuring corrugated metal roofs. The area is densely populated with palm trees and other lush greenery. A dirt road winds through the village. In the background, there are more trees and a small pond.

WHAT IS A WETLAND WORTH?

2018 WORLD WATER WEEK IN STOCKHOLM

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Historically, very little but attitudes are changing

- For centuries, considered useless or even harmful
- Drained & filled for agriculture & cities
- About two-thirds lost in the last century
- Now increasingly recognized for multiple values



Value for our planet

- Immense biodiversity & vital ecosystem services
- 35% of earth's terrestrial carbon – twice that in forests – stored mainly in peatlands



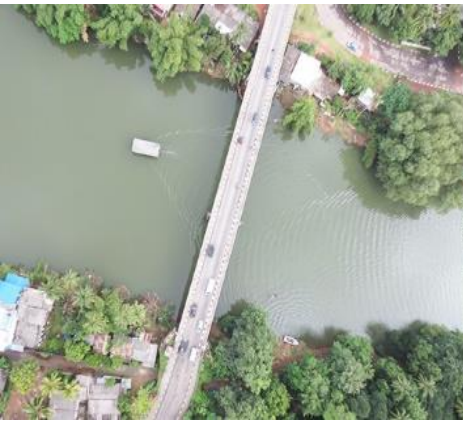
Value for our food

- Food, nutrition & livelihoods for millions of rural men & women from fisheries & agriculture
- Agriculture is also a driver of degradation and loss



Value for our cities

- Buffer against storms & floods
- Local food supplies, transportation, jobs, recreation & tourism
- Pollution filtering & heat reduction to make cities more livable



How much value and for whom?

- Total estimated monetary value: **US \$36.2 trillion annually**
- Much of this outside markets & often ignored
- Need to better understand these values – to stop degradation
- Need to understand who benefits & how – to pursue equity



The bottom line

- Wetlands are among the most valuable ecosystems on earth
- The cost of continued loss & degradation is borne most immediately by the poor, vulnerable & future generation
- But ultimately – all humanity will pay the price

