

# World Wetland Day 2024: Promoting Wetland Conservation and Biodiversity

## Report

On February 2nd, 2024, the Department of Geology, in collaboration with the Departments of Botany and Zoology, marked World Wetland Day with a special event aimed at raising awareness about the importance of wetland conservation. The highlight of the event was an invited lecture delivered by Sri. P.A.V. Udayabhaskar, the Director of A.P. State Forest Academy. Students from all three departments and faculty have actively participated in the event, emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing environmental challenges. Dr. K. Ramchandra Rao, Principal of the College has presided over the event.

The World Wetland Day celebration commenced with welcoming the guests by Dr. M.R. Goutham, HoD, Geology. Heads of the Departments of Botany and Zoology Dr. A. Srinivasa Rao and Sri K. Durga Rao respectively have shared the dais in the event. An informative lecture by Sri. P.A.V. Udayabhaskar, who brought to light the significance of wetlands in supporting biodiversity, regulating water cycles, and providing essential ecosystem services. The event provided a platform for students to deepen their understanding of wetland ecosystems and the need for their conservation.

## Key points of the lecture

**1. Wetland Ecosystem Services:** Sri. Udayabhaskar emphasized the invaluable services provided by wetlands, including water purification, flood control, and carbon sequestration. He underscored the interconnectedness of wetlands with surrounding ecosystems and the importance of preserving these habitats for maintaining ecological balance.

**2. Biodiversity Conservation:** The lecture delved into the rich biodiversity harbored by wetlands, including a myriad of plant and animal species. Sri. Udayabhaskar highlighted the role of wetlands as critical habitats for migratory birds, amphibians, and other wildlife, stressing the need for conservation efforts to safeguard biodiversity hotspots.

**3. Community Engagement:** The event also focused on the involvement of local communities in wetland conservation initiatives. Sri. Udayabhaskar discussed the importance of stakeholder participation in sustainable wetland management, advocating for community-based approaches that integrate traditional ecological knowledge with modern conservation practices.

**4. Policy and Governance:** The lecture addressed the policy framework governing wetland conservation and management. Sri. Udayabhaskar highlighted the need for robust legislation and effective governance mechanisms to ensure the protection of wetland ecosystems against anthropogenic pressures and unsustainable development.

**Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** The participation of students from the Departments of Geology, Botany, and Zoology exemplified the interdisciplinary nature of environmental conservation efforts. The event facilitated knowledge exchange and collaboration among diverse fields of study, fostering a holistic understanding of wetland ecosystems and their conservation needs.

The World Wetland Day celebration, featuring Sri. P.A.V. Udayabhaskar's lecture, served as a platform to promote awareness and advocacy for wetland conservation. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and engagement with students, the event underscored the importance of collective efforts in preserving these vital ecosystems. Moving forward, such initiatives will continue to play a crucial role in promoting environmental stewardship and safeguarding the invaluable services provided by wetlands.

### Gallery

