



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

Biodiversity of inland waters is an important source of food, income and livelihood. Other values of inland waters biodiversity include: maintenance of hydrological balance, retention of nutrients and sediments, and provision of habitats for various flora and fauna.

# INLAND WATERS BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Inland water ecosystems are vulnerable to climate change because freshwater species are experiencing **DECLINES IN BIODIVERSITY FAR GREATER THAN THOSE IN MOST TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS.**



For example, **MORE THAN 20% OF THE WORLD'S FRESHWATER FISH SPECIES** have become **EXTINCT, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED** in recent decades.

Wetlands are the world's primary carbon sequestration mechanism, especially in the peatlands of the boreal regions, and tropical peat swamps and forests. **PEATLANDS** are recognized as the **MOST EFFICIENT TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEM IN STORING CARBON.** While covering only 3% of the Earth's surface area, their peat contains as much carbon as all terrestrial biomass, and twice as much as all forest biomass. Degradation of peatlands is a major and growing source of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

Conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands, particularly peatlands, are essential and cost effective measures for long-term climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as for the maintenance of biodiversity.

