Wetlands are home to a wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, frogs, fish, plants and insects. A wetland provides food and provides a place to live. Did you know that the wattled crane needs wetlands for breeding?

Wetlands act like sponges holding water back in summer and releasing it slowly in winter, when the vegetation dies off. This ensures a more steady flow of water in a river downstream. They also help to replace groundwater.

Wetlands are nature's way of cleaning dirty water by acting as a filter, trapping sediments, dissolved nutrients and even germs. The water leaving a wetland is cleaner than the water entering it. Hooray! I am being cleaned!

Humans use wetland plants, like reeds, for thatching, basket weaving & traditional medicine. Wetlands are also used for fishing, bird watching & game viewing as they are beautiful areas.

Some humans do not value wetlands as they are drained; dammed; overgrazed; burnt; mined for their soils; and polluted by chemicals and litter. This destroys wetlands and their natural functioning. Some humans are working to repair these damaged wetlands.