

After 20 years, Tamil Nadu Wetlands get International Recognition through Ramsar Certification

Three wetlands, **Pallikaranai Marshlands in Chennai** and **Karikili Bird Sanctuary** in Chengalpattu District and **Pichavaram Mangrove** in Cuddalore District are now recognized as Wetlands of International Importance, i.e., Ramsar Site, which is a wetland site designated to be of international importance under Ramsar Convention.

The **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance** is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is also known as the **Convention on Wetlands**. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the convention was signed in 1971. The aim of the Ramsar convention was to conserve wetlands and promote sustainable use of their natural resources. Ramsar identifies wetlands of international importance, especially those are habitats for birds.

This Government have taken several initiatives and efforts for protection and conservation of State's unique and pristine natural ecosystems. **Tamil Nadu Wetlands Mission** is one of such initiatives of this Government for conservation and wise use of natural wetlands. The Recognition under Ramsar Convention will be helpful for national action and international cooperation regarding the conservation of wetlands, and wise sustainable use of their resources.

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