



**UN**  
**2023 WATER**  
**CONFERENCE**

**NEW YORK**  
**22-24**  
**MARCH**  
**2023**

## **Climate Change, Wetlands and Women: Actions Towards Creating Resilient Communities and Ecosystems**

### **Virtual Side Event**

**Date: 20 March 2023**

**Time: 7 am EDT/, 4:30 pm IST/SLST, 5 pm BST**

**Zoom Meeting ID: 850 6142 4419**

**Passcode: 364685**

**Contact us: [jayati@saciwaters.org](mailto:jayati@saciwaters.org)**



**Register here**

### **Background:**

Wetlands are among the world's most precious ecosystems and are crucial for our survival. They are nature's defense against extreme climate change events and provide protection and help communities with climate mitigation and adaptation. It's an irony therefore that wetlands themselves are under threat due to climate change. Certain wetlands also face large scale modification due to direct anthropogenic activities. Women, particularly in rural areas play a pivotal role in getting water to their homes (provisioning) and manage and conserve water resources. As a segment, women are the most impacted by climate change events in wetlands. Change in wetland ecology because of climate change will increase the time and efforts put by women manifold, to access and manage safe water, particularly in vulnerable communities. Furthermore, although women are instrumental in securing access to water sources, they have a negligible voice in decision-making and in developing water policies in South Asia, which further pushes them to the borderlines of society.

It is in this context of Gender Equality and Wetlands, that the Ramsar Convention's Strategic Plan (2016-2024) recognizes the direct relevance of wetlands for achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5 on Gender Equality and Goal 6 on Water.

This 'action oriented' side event on Climate Change, Wetlands and Women will showcase illustrations from South Asian countries along with other global experiences, that provided with leadership opportunities, women have proved to be the real change makers leading to creating resilient communities and ecosystems. It will discuss the existing challenges, opportunities, and the way forward. The event will bring together experiences and perspectives from grassroots organizations, international developmental organizations, private sector, and state representatives.



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## Climate Change, Wetlands and Women: Actions Towards Creating Resilient Communities and Ecosystem

Moderators	Ms. Kusum Athukorala, GWP-SAS, Sri Lanka & Dr. Jayati Chourey, SaciWATERS, India
Opening Remarks	Ms. Mariet Verhoef- Cohen, WfWP, The Netherlands
Presentation-I	Speaker
Human Rights, Wetlands and Women: The Change Makers. (Experience sharing from the State of Maharashtra, India)	Mr. Manish Rajankar, FEED in Collaboration with SaciWATERS, India
Presentation-II	Speaker
From Crisis to Opportunity: Women and Climate Change in East Kolkata Wetlands	Ms. Dhruva Das Gupta, Society for Creative Opportunities and Participatory Ecosystems (SCOPE), India
Presentation-III	Speaker
Climate resilient women of Sundarbans coastal region in Bangladesh	Ms. Sanjida Yeasmin Shefa, BEDS, Bangladesh
Presentation-IV	Speakers
Wetlands Advocacy for Building Climate Resilience through School and Community Programs in South Asia.	Prof. Champa Navaratne, NetWwater, Sri Lanka for the WfWP and Ms. Mina Das, NISHTHA, India
Presentation-V	Speaker
Urban Wetlands and Disaster Risk Reduction in Emerging Global South Cities.	Dr. Misssaka Hettiarchchi, Australia
Presentation-VI	Speaker
How Secure Access to Water can Enable Greater Community Benefits. Case studies and Experiences from Australia.	Mr. Kanchana Karunaratne, Marsden Jacobs Associates, Australia
Presentation-VII	Speaker
Development, Environment, and Women: A Global Look at Issues, Opportunities and Advances in Reconciling Development and Environment with a Gender Equality Lens.	Prof. Olcay Unver, Arizona State University and Water Policy Group
The Way Forward	Dr. Christiaan Morssink, GWA, USA

