

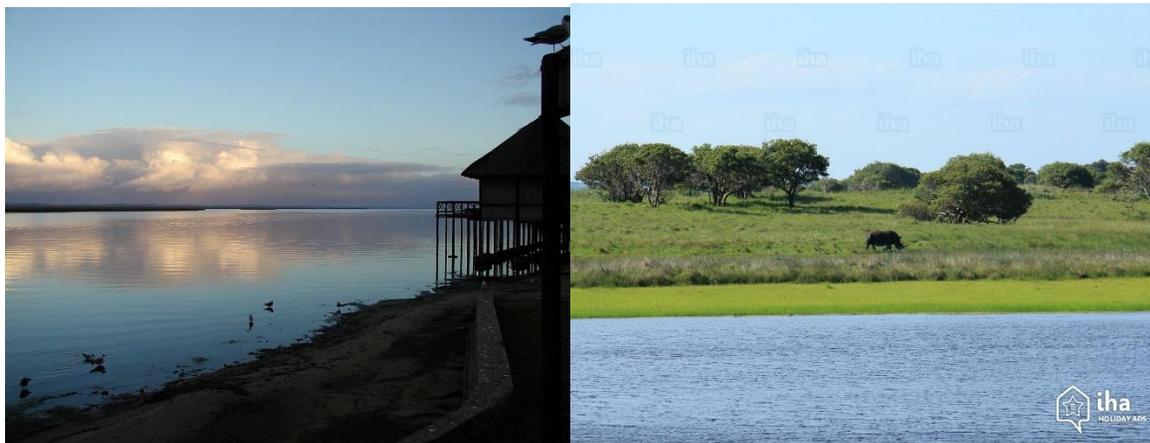
## NATURAL SCIENCES AND TECH GRADE 6

### WEEK 6 OF LOCKDOWN PROGRAMME

#### TOPIC 8: MIXTURES AND WATER RESOURCES

##### UNIT 2: Importance of wetlands

1. A **wetland** is an **area** covered by shallow **water** for most of the year.
2. Examples of wetlands are: • marshes • floodplains( vleis) •swamps • lakes and pans • seeps and springs • estuaries • river banks
3. The most well-known wetlands are the St. Lucia wetlands in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park in Kwazulu -Natal.



**St. Lucia Wetlands in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park in Kwazulu -Natal.**

##### Wetlands are important natural ecosystems

1. Wetlands provide a **habitat** and **breeding ground** for many animals, like **birds, frogs and fish**.  
Wetlands are **a source of water for plants and animals**
2. Wetlands are like **giant sponges**: Wetlands soak up water and store it.
3. During a drought, when there is not much rain, this stored water can **help to keep rivers and streams flowing** so that **animals and plants can stay alive**.
4. Wetlands are **natural filtration systems** for purifying water: As water flows through the wetland, it is **filtered**. Plants in the wetland trap soil particles and sediments, nutrients, as well as pollutants and disease-causing organisms which make the water unsafe
5. Wetlands **slow down flood waters**: Water that is 'in flood' flows so strongly and quickly that it becomes dangerous. It can drown people and animals and it can cause damage to property and also to the environment, through soil erosion. Floodwater slows down when it flows into a wetland, because the wetland is a large area that can hold a large amount of water.

## Impact of loss of wetlands for biodiversity and water quality

The world has lost half of its wetlands because the land has been used for **housing, agriculture and industry**.

### Wetlands and biodiversity

1. Wetlands provide a **habitat** to many different plant and animal species.
2. If the wetland is destroyed, many will die or move away. This reduces the **biodiversity** of the wetland ecosystem.
3. The **large variety of plants and animals** will decrease.



A variety of plants and animals found in wetlands

### Wetlands and water quality

1. Wetlands are important for **water quality**. This refers to how safe our water is to use.
2. Insoluble wastes such as plastics should not end up in a wetland.
3. Wetlands **remove soluble substances** found in soaps, insecticides and fertilisers that wash into the water.

3. **Bacteria and other germs** break down solid toilet waste and make it harmless.

Chemical pollutants such as heavy metals are trapped, but if they become concentrated in too large amounts, they need to be taken out by removing plant matter that has absorbed them.

4. In these ways, wetlands act as filters to clean water.

VISIT: **Wetlands in South Africa.** <https://youtu.be/q58oC3Nojco>

### **TASKS TO BE COMPLETED**

1. Activity 3...Page 97
2. Read the Case Study on page 98 and 99.
3. Answer the following questions:
  - a. Where is the Blesbokspruit wetland?
  - b. Name the plants and animals found in the Blesbokspruit wetland.
  - c. What role does the Blesbokspruit wetland play in the environment?
  - d. Explain how the quality of the water in the Blesbokspruit wetland is threatened.
4. Revision Activity... Page 100
5. Do your keyword test on **Thursday 14 May**. Use a page of lined paper. Write your name, the date, the heading, (Natural Sciences Keyword Test). Close your textbook and workbook. Write down the following 10 words on your page. Leave 2 lines after each word. This is the space for your answers. Once you have written all the words down, you may begin. **No Cheating!**
  1. **particles**
  2. **mixture**
  3. **hand sorting**
  4. **decanting**
  5. **sieving**
  6. **solution**
  7. **dissolve**
  8. **soluble**
  9. **insoluble**
  10. **solute**

**Once you have completed, ask an adult at home to mark it, or mark it yourself, using your workbook or textbook. Good Luck!**