

THREAT TO WETLANDS

Invasive alien plants

Erosion

Development within & around wetlands

Pollution and excess nutrients

Draining of water

Over grazing/tramping

Lack of buffer zones next to wetlands



INTEGRATED **ENVIRONMENTAL**
MANAGEMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Elsabe Kemp Hall, Beaconsfield
T 043 705 2986/82

WETLANDS



BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

INTEGRATED
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT
& **SUSTAINABLE**
DEVELOPMENT

WHAT IS A WETLAND?

As defined in the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) wetlands are land which is transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is at or near the surface, or is periodically covered with shallow water or would support vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soils. This includes springs, swamps, pans, lakes, estuaries and floodplains.

A wetland is any part of the landscape where water collects for long and often enough to influence the soil, plants and animals that occur there.

Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including the growing season.



HOW WETLANDS BENEFIT YOUR COMMUNITY

Wetlands can be natural filters of water through trapping pollutants, such as excess nutrients, disease-causing bacteria, pesticides and sediment.

Many species of fish utilize wetland habitats for spawning, food sources, or protection.

Flood control.

Wetlands can slow runoff water, minimizing the frequency streams and rivers reach catastrophic flood levels.

Ground water recharge and discharge.

Wetlands improve the quality of life in communities.

Improve water quality.

Increase hunting, fishing and recreation spending.

Source of food and medication.

