WETLANDS are ...

What can we get from wetlands?
- clean water
- fishing
- hunting
- dark soil
- reeds for roofing
- medical plants
- mats and baskets
- vegetables and fruits
- a supplier of water for you and your garden
- very important for you!

Creation of wetlands takes thousands of years, the process is very slow.

But destruction can be within few years!

Use wetlands wisely!

Agriculture in a valley wetland with a stream

**Current state**
- ditches in the wet zone make soil dry
- fruits and vegetables are directly planted in the drained zone
- no more plants in the channel - raised plots in the dry zone

**Improved state**
- waterlogging-tolerant plants like Reeds and Madumbe in wet zones
- dont fell trees, they provide shade for other plants
- let plants in the channel grow

Usually, plants grow around and inside the channel. They reduce the water flow and keep water in the area. This is good! If you remove these plants, the land around the channel will get dry.

Agriculture in a pan

**Current state**
- ditches make soil dry
- fruits and vegetables in the wet zone extract much water - raised plots in the dry zone make soil more sandy

**Improved state**
- cattle and reeds in the wet zone
- Madumbe grows well in moist zones
- garden plots in drier zones

The garden plot is raised, dark soil is dug out and added on top. Soil is no longer protected from wind and sun. It gets dry and sandy, cultivation becomes difficult.

Agriculture in a Swamp Forest

**Current state**
- wet zone is cultivated
- ditches make soil dry
- plants are removed from the channel
- soil on the edges has become too sandy to cultivate

**Improved state**
- do not use the Swamp Forest for agriculture
- You may use the water from swamps but cultivate madumbe and bananas just outside their edge
- soil will be moist enough for cultivation outside the Swamp

Do not dig ditches in the swamp! Ditches effect that water sweeps out valuable nutrients and soil, and soon the site gets sterile and useless. Close the drain to keep water in and plant madumbe - they love wet dark soils.