

Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), Bangladesh observed World Wetland Day-2010

On the 2nd of February, Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS) observed World Wetland Day 2010 through one of its project titled "Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP)". This is a project of the Department of Fisheries, Government of Bangladesh funded by government of Federal Republic of Germany through gtz. As lead partner of this project, CNRS observed WWD-2010 in association with the Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh; Local Government and gtz. The day observation was arranged in one of the three project sites, in Bera upazilla located in the Pabna district. Pabna lies in the Jamuna-Ganges floodplains in the mid-north part of Bangladesh. The project intervenes with the degraded wetlands within this area with an objective to revive the lost biodiversity and enhancing fish production and thereby uplifting the livelihood of rural vulnerable people.

The events that were organized for the day included Wetland Day Rally, Discussion Session, Documentary show titled "*The story of Baikka beel*" for the locals. But most importantly, the program addressed particularly for the children of the locality by organizing the "World Wetland Day 2010 Art Competition" in the Nakalia-Sharashia Banik High School. The theme for the competition was "Wetlands Around You". Wetland awareness Toys, Stickers, Sun-Caps, Leaflets were shared with them. All the participants received recognition certificates for their enthusiastic participation. Three best paintings from each of three groups also received awards. Later two eco-friendly animated movie "*Over the Hedge*" and "*Evergreen*" were shown for the children.

Based on this year's theme for the day "Caring for Wetlands-an answer to Climate change", materials *vis.* Poster, sticker, toy-bird designed by Ramsar were adopted and suited to local wetland conditions for the day-observation and were distributed among the mass people.

The discussion session followed the World Wetland Day 2010 Rally where all level stakeholder participation was ensured. Local Government representatives; fishermen association leaders, local elites, representative of poor resource user community and the project officials were the discussants of the session. The speakers emphasized on the significance of wetlands, essentiality of their conservation and enhancement of biodiversity. In addition they remarked that "The issue of climate change is an issue no more for the scientists but for the common people". Only recently the COP15 has been staged and the entire world was highly concerned about what the outcomes might be. One thing was evident that the climate change is an issue, the entire human civilization got to work for hand in hand and with utmost sincerity. As a signatory country of Ramsar Convention-1971, Bangladesh is quite serious to revive its lost and degraded

wetland ecosystem as far as possible. In addition, the country is keen to look into climate change issues, as it is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. However, one remedy we could try from our level is protecting wetlands that Bangladesh takes pride in. Both the theme and this year's slogan for the day, "Caring for wetlands - an answer to climate change", clearly emphasize the links between the significance of wetlands and the climate change. Evidently, protecting the biodiversity of wetlands we have, recovering the threatened wetlands could be our sole option to diffuse the adverse impacts that climate change is threatening us with.

The local important personalities being present in the event encouraged the locals on the importance of the day. Both local and national electronic and print media covered the event.



Children engrossed during the World Wetland Day 2010 Art Competition in Nakalia -Sharasia Banik High School, Bera, Pabna, Bangladesh organized by CNRS



The World Wetland Day 2010 rally in Bera, Pabna organized by CNRS

জলাভূমি সংরক্ষণ

জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনরোধের উপায়



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বিশ্ব জলাভূমি দিবস

Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP)

সহযোগিতায়
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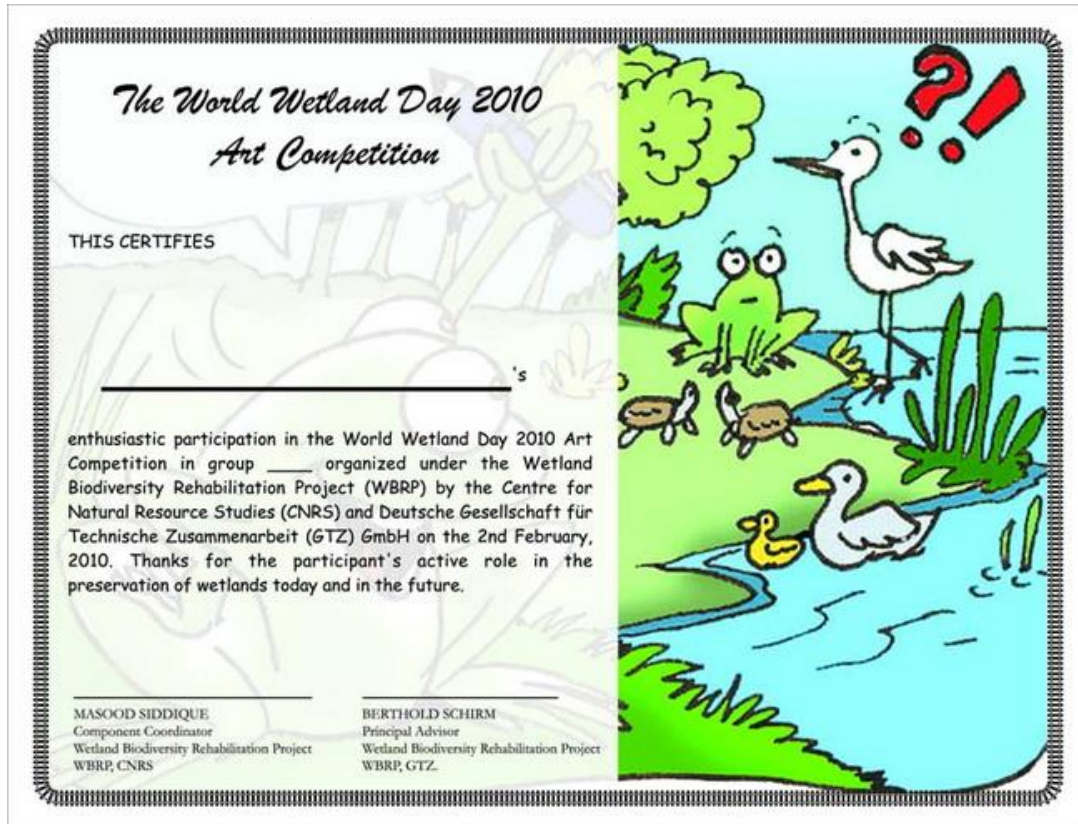
Poster for WWD 2010 from CNRS, Bangladesh



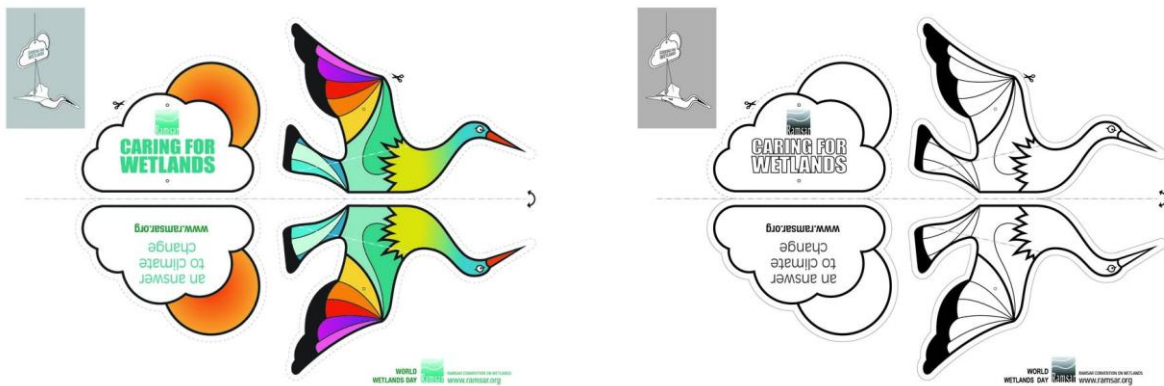
Leaflet for WWD2010 from CNRS, Bangladesh



WWD2010 Sticker for children from CNRS, Bangladesh



WWD Art competition certificates from CNRS, Bangladesh



WWD2010 Toy-bird from CNRS, Bangladesh