



Second Pan Cyprian Celebration of the World Wetlands Day



Cyprus Centre for Environmental Research and Education
Saint Nicolaos Akrotiri

Cyprus, along with many other countries (150) around the world, which are signatories to the Ramsar Convention, celebrated the World Wetlands Day, February 2nd, with events aiming in raising public awareness for the many and important functions of wetlands, not only for the conservation of their ecological balance but also for the resources which they provide supporting the prosperity and the growth of human societies.

2^{ος} Παγκύπριος Εορτασμός Παγκόσμιας Ημέρας Υγροβιοτόπων από το Κυπριακό Κέντρο Περιβαλλοντικής Έρευνας και Εκπαίδευσης



World Wetlands Day 2006

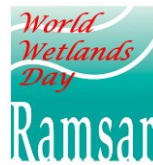
Παγκόσμια Ημέρα Υγροβιοτόπων 2006

29 Ιανουαρίου 2006

Αγρόκτημα Αγίου Νικολάου
Ακρωτήρι



Πρόσκληση - Πρόγραμμα



Κυπριακό Κέντρο
Περιβαλλοντικής Έρευνας και Εκπαίδευσης



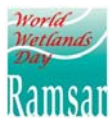
Ομοσπονδία Περιβαλλοντικών
και Οικολογικών Οργανώσεων Κύπρου



Υπηρεσία Περιβάλλοντος
Υπουργείου Γεωργίας, Φυσικών Πόρων και Περιβάλλοντος



Hundreds of people along with representatives of Government ministries, and environmental organizations as well as representatives of the church, participated in this year's Second Pan Cyprian Celebration of the World Wetlands Day. The event was co-organised by the Cyprus Centre for Environmental Research and Education CY.C.E.R.E. (Kipriako Kentro Perivallontikis Erevnas kai Ekpedeuschis-KY.K.P.E.E.) the Federation of Environmental and Ecological organizations of Cyprus and the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment on Sunday the 29th of January, at the

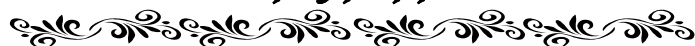


Cyprus 2nd Pancyprian Celebration of the World Wetlands Day

Saint Nikolaos Farm in the Akrotiri Peninsula, a site famous for its high and rare ecological value.

Wetlands and Water: Supporting Life, Sustaining Livelihoods

Πρόγραμμα



- 3:00 μ.μ. Προσέλευση
- 3:15 μ.μ. Παγκόσμια Ημέρα Υγροβιοτόπων 2006 – Μήνυμα της Γραμματείας της Σύμβασης Ραμσάρ από τον Επιστημονικό Υπεύθυνο του Κυπριακού Κέντρου Περιβαλλοντικής Έρευνας και Εκπαίδευσης Δρ. Ανδρέα Χατζηχαμπή.
- 3:20 μ.μ. Χαιρετισμός από τον Επίτιμο Πρόεδρο του Κυπριακού Κέντρου Περιβαλλοντικής Έρευνας και Εκπαίδευσης Πανιερώτατο Μητροπολίτη Λεμεσού κ.κ. Αθανάσιο.
- 3:25 μ.μ. Χαιρετισμός από τον Βουλευτή του Κινήματος Οικολόγων Περιβαλλοντιστών, Μέλος της Επιτροπής Περιβάλλοντος της Βουλής, κ. Γιώργο Πεردίκη.
- 3:35 μ.μ. Χαιρετισμός από τον Πρόεδρο της Ομοσπονδίας Περιβαλλοντικών και Οικολογικών Οργανώσεων Κύπρου κ. Παντελή Μεταξά.
- 3:45 μ.μ. Παρουσίαση με θέμα «Υγροβιότοποι: Σημασία, απειλές, διαχειριστικές δράσεις με την υποστήριξη του προγράμματος LIFE-φύση» από τη βιολόγο Κατερίνα Καρή. Συμβουλευτική Εταιρεία Ατλαντίς Ατδ.
- 3:55 μ.μ. Ομιλία με θέμα «Η Σύμβαση Ραμσάρ και η σημασία της για τους υγροβιότοπους της Κύπρου» από τον Λειτουργό της Υπηρεσίας Περιβάλλοντος κ. Δημήτρη Κουτρουκίδη.
- 4:15 μ.μ. Συμβολική Δεντροφύτευση.
- 4:30 μ.μ. Δεξίωση

Wetlands and Water: Supporting Life, Sustaining Livelihoods



The Despotiki Lake, one of the most important wetlands of Cyprus, exists within the natural domain of the Cyprus Centre for Environmental Research and Education. The Lake constitutes the last Cypriot and also European freshwater habitat which is of crucial ecological importance for the migratory birds. An anthropogenic lake which satisfies on one side the human needs for irrigation and on the other the needs of the several million birds which cross this corridor annually, as well as of a variety of other animal and plant species.

This significant double role of the Despotiki Lake, which Supports Life and Sustains Livelihoods, was the core message of the second pan Cyprian celebration.

The pancyprian celebration of the World Wetlands Day in the Saint Nikolaos Farm has become henceforth an annual initiative. An event which symbolizes at the same time, one of the most important environmental actions for the environmental movement of Cyprus, to save the important wetlands of Akrotiri peninsula from its obvious and also continuing destruction, and from the deterioration of the peninsula's natural landscape.

The event included Messages from the Minister of Education and Culture, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, the Environmental Committee of the Cyprus Parliament, the Bishop of Holy Church of Limassol, and the President of the Federation of Environmental and Ecological Organizations of Cyprus.



It deserves to be mentioned that the event took place in the completely equipped conference room of the newly completed buildings of the Cyprus Centre for Environmental Research and Education in Saint Nicolaos Akrotiri.

Many Elementary and High schools from all over Cyprus participated in environmental education projects for the ecosystems and the fauna of Akrotiri peninsula organized by the Cyprus Centre for Environmental Research and Education. More than 3000 students participated to the environmental education programs of CY.C.E.R.E. watched the ecological documentary film produced by the CY.C.E.R.E. and participated in field workshop as well as in other activities in the environmental education laboratory of the center.



The celebration ended with a walk around the Despotiki Lake and a symbolic planting of trees.

Dr. Andreas Hadjichambis
Scientific Responsible of the
Cyprus Centre for Environmental Research and Education

Contact information:
Cyprus Centre for Environmental Research and Education
www.imlemesou.org/imlkykpee.html
E-mail: a.chadjihambi@cytanet.com.cy
Agiou Andreou 306, P.O.Box 56091, 3304 Limassol Cyprus
Tel.: 25864351 / Fax: 25371548

