

-  Wetlands Transfer Units
-  Bird Protection League
-  National Council for Nature Protection
-  Ramsar France Association
-  National Bureau for Water and Aquatic Environment



## World Wetland Day

# REVIEW

○○○○● 2015 Edition

Between Land and Water, wetlands form a mosaic of various environments which are characterized by an exceptional biological richness and landscape diversity. Thanks to their ecological, hydrological and socio-economical functions, peatlands, lagoons, wet meadows, mangroves or forest ponds play an essential part in the proper balance of our planet. Yet, in spite of their crucial role, wetlands are in constant regression because of urban pressures, drainage or the loss of use and infilling. It is considered that 67% of French metropolitan wetlands have disappeared since the beginning of the XXth century.

During the seventies, it appeared necessary to take action to counteract the decline of wetlands and to preserve these remarkable environments. This is how, on February 2nd 1971, an intergovernmental Treaty for the conservation and the wise and sustainable use of wetlands was signed in Ramsar (Iran) and ratified by more than 160 countries throughout the world, including France.

This convention, known as the Ramsar Convention, embodies today one of the main foundation of public policies in favor of wetlands. Since 1997, February 2nd has become the symbolical date to celebrate the World Wetland Day.

In 2015, the Ramsar Secretariat chose the following topic to illustrate both the role of wetlands in regards to climate change and the engagement of the young generation :  
 “Wetlands for Our Future”.



# World Wetland Day



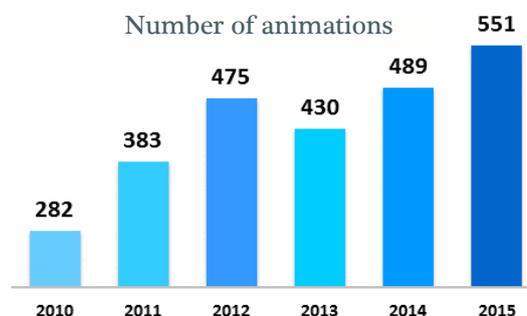
2015 Edition  
**REVIEW**

- World Wetlands Day is an international event honoring these environments. It enables the wider audience to discover their diversity and richness.
- For several days, associations, managers of natural areas, local authorities etc., propose numerous animations to heighten awareness among youngs and adults.

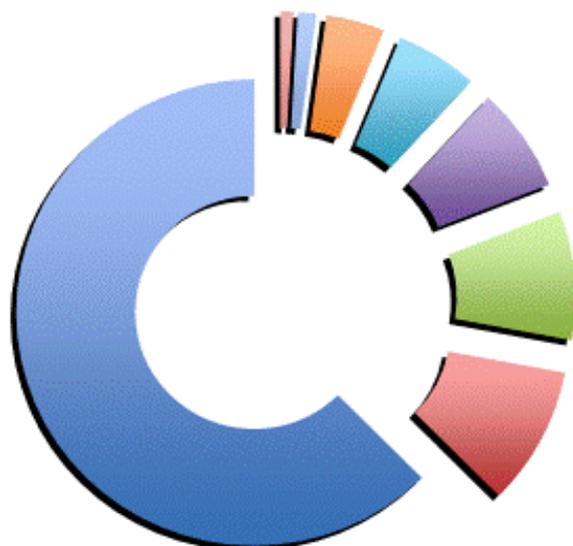
The Wetlands Transfer Units, the National Bureau for Water and Aquatic Environment, the Bird Protection League, National Society for Nature Protection with the support of Ramsar France Association mobilize on this occasion to coordinate these animations on the French Territory and to relay the message on a national scale.

**551** actions were proposed between January 24th and February 28th. Since 2010, the number of these animations within the frame of the national program has been progressing every year.

The whole program of these 2015 World Wetland Day animations is available on the wetlands national information portal at : Act > Ramsar and WWD > visitors.



## What are the proposed actions?



- Nature strolls 62.4%
- workshops 9.6%
- Conference-discussions 8.9%
- Exhibitions 7.3%
- worksites 5.6%
- Projection of films 4%
- Cultural activities 1.3%
- Slideshows 0.9%

## Some figures

- 281 organizations have participated in the 2015 WWD Edition
- 15% of the offered animations were related to the 2015 topic: « Wetlands for our Future »
- 83% of these animations were opened to the general public

Within the frame of the WWD, a large panel of activities is provided for the general public as well as for professional, to discover or get to know better French wetlands.

Though « Nature » strolls remain predominant, conferences, exhibitions, cultural activities represent 40% of these animations.

## OPENING OF THE 2015 WORLD WETLAND DAY EDITION



© Agence Caméléon/Tour du Valat

Animations linked with WWD last several weeks in France. Thus, for the past two years, a launching day has been organized. This year, it took place on February 2nd, at the Tour du Valat in the Camargue which is both the Birthplace of the Ramsar Convention and the first french designated site.

More than 80 participants answered the call of the 8 organizing bodies: elected officials, head of state services and public establishments, head of associations, lagoon managers, experts, young people and children came from all over France to meet and share in a very friendly atmosphere under a beautiful winter sun. Two round-tables were organized for local and national stakeholders in order to discuss the role of wetlands in regards to climate change and the mobilization of the young generation.

The pupils of Le Sambuc Elementary School (Arles) brought a message on the awareness of global warming for the French Minister in charge of Ecology, Ms. Segolène Royal.



© Agence Caméléon/Tour du Valat

« Even if our parents say we are painful, we will continue to tell them to make efforts. Even our schoolteacher committed to cycling to school »



© F. Thinzilal / PR MZHIVA

The day ended with tours on the Tour du Valat estate and the Camargue National Reserve.



## And on the French Ramsar sites?

In 2015,  
1 animation out  
of 4 was held  
on a Ramsar site

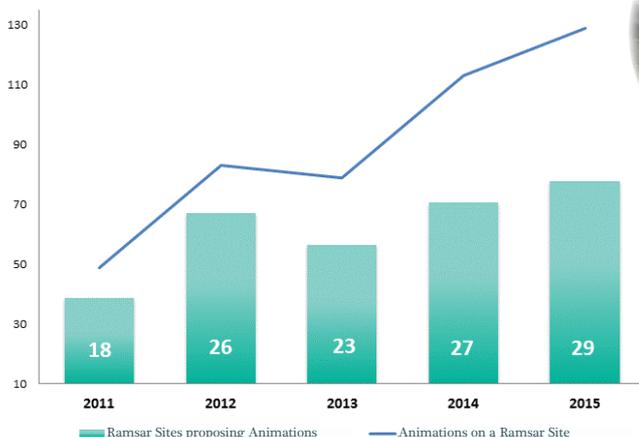
### The Ramsar Sites in France

Among the most iconic French wetlands, 43 were included on the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance, because of their special interest in the protection of water birds and the wise use of their resources.

These 43 sites represent a total of 3.55 million hectares :

- 32 sites in continental France (1.14 million hectares),
- 11 sites in French overseas territories and departments (2.41 million hectares).

In 2015: 29 French Ramsar sites took part in the WWD, proposing 129 animations.



© PNR des Caps et Marais d'Opale

The Ramsar France association, created in 2011, aims to raise awareness and promote the Ramsar label in France, improve the management of the Ramsar sites and encourage the designation of new sites.



# Goodies and Communication tools



The organizing bodies of the event thought of a set of communication tools (games, comics, posters...) for animation hosts.

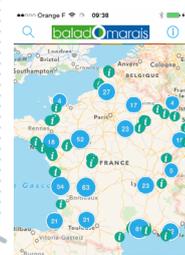
They are available on the national information portal on Wetlands at :

[www.zones-humides.eaufrance.fr](http://www.zones-humides.eaufrance.fr)

The dissemination of the information usually goes through social networks (Facebook, Twitter #JMZH).

Certified animations on the national wetlands information portal are available on the application.

**baladOmarais**



It enables, thanks to a smartphone and to geolocation, to find the next animation and information center in one's area.

The smartphone application is downloadable on Google Play and the Appstore.



## 2015 Partnerships

46 partners (associations, public authorities, and companies) came together to coordinate the 2015 WWD Edition in France and in French overseas territories.

Every year, more and more partners join the event. They participate in the preparation, the dissemination and the promotion. New partnerships come to life, depending on the topic chosen by the Ramsar Secretariat.

That is how, in 2015, the emphasis was led on programs meant for the young generation, among which were :

### STOCKHOLM JUNIOR WATER PRIZE



The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is a scientific award on the issues of protection, use and sharing of water. This competition brings together the world of research, companies, associations and the local water authorities on projects led by young people from age 15 to 20.

[www.juniorwaterprize.fr](http://www.juniorwaterprize.fr)

### YOUNG REPORTERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The program "Young reporters for the environment" addresses young people from age 11 to 21 and concerns a journalistic commitment in link with sustainable development issues.

Created in France 20 years ago, the program lives today in more than 30 countries around the world !

[www.jeunesreporters.org](http://www.jeunesreporters.org)



The event also relies on a media partner committed to the launching of the 2015 Edition of the World Wetland Day :

The free online environment journal **NEOPLANETE** presents the « eco-attitude » in an educational, glamorous and positive way.

- a daily web newspaper providing everyday info on anti-breakdown topicality. Actions, associations, testimonies but also cooking, beauty, fashion, travelling and children tips... all in a colloquial tone.
- radio podcasts with journalists and experts in the field of ecology. A daily innovative and quality content through interviews, histories...
- the first 24/7 web radio dedicated to the future of our planet.
- a free downloadable application for Androids, iPhones or iPads.

MORE INFORMATIONS ON THE NATIONAL INFORMATION PORTAL ON WETLANDS AT:

Act > Ramsar and WWD > Contest  
Act > Ramsar and WWD > Partnerships

# National coordinators



Pôle-relais  
Zones Humides

## WETLANDS TRANSFER UNITS

Created in 2001, in order to establish an exchange network for stakeholders concerned by the management and the restoration of wetlands, the five wetlands transfer units (certified by the French Ministry in charge of Ecology) are commissioned to capitalize and make available reliable knowledge on wetlands, to promote rational management and to coordinate the World Wetland Day.

- Peatlands - [www.pole-tourbieres.org](http://www.pole-tourbieres.org)
- Atlantic marshes, Channel and North Sea - [www.forum-zones-humides.org](http://www.forum-zones-humides.org)
- Mediterranean lagoons - [www.pole-lagunes.org](http://www.pole-lagunes.org)
- Ponds, inland wetlands, alluvial plain - [www.pole-zhi.org](http://www.pole-zhi.org)
- Mangroves and overseas wetlands - [www.pole-zh-outremer.org](http://www.pole-zh-outremer.org)

## NATIONAL BUREAU FOR WATER AND AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

The National Bureau for Water and Aquatic Environment (Onema) is a French public structure under the supervision of the Ministry for Ecology. It provides and organizes a high level of expertise in support to the conception, the implementation and the evaluation of water public policies. For the World Wetland Day, ONEMA mobilized with the transfer units in the improvement and animation of the national information portal on wetlands.

[www.onema.fr](http://www.onema.fr)



## NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR NATURE PROTECTION

The National Council for Nature Protection (SNPN) is an association of public interest acting for the protection of nature. It participates in the coordination of the World Wetland Day as Ramsar NGO correspondent in regards to the Communication, Education, Public Participation and Awareness (CEPA). It manages two national reserves also designated Ramsar site (Camargue and Grandlieu) and publishes, among other things, the Wetlands Information Journal (Zones Humides Infos).

[www.snpn.com](http://www.snpn.com)

## BIRD PROTECTION LEAGUE

The Bird Protection League (LPO) is an association of public interest dedicated to the protection of nature. Its mission is to protect species, to preserve natural areas, to educate and raise awareness about the environment. On this basis, the LPO organizes numerous events for the World Wetland Day together with the Ramsar Secretariat and Danone eaux France - Evian.

<http://jmzh.lpo.fr> - [www.lpo.fr](http://www.lpo.fr)



AGIR pour la  
BIODIVERSITÉ

## RAMSAR FRANCE ASSOCIATION

Ramsar France is an association that aims to promote the Ramsar label and improve the management of the Ramsar sites nationally. It has two objectives: to create a link between the French Ramsar sites, the french Ministry of Ecology and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention; and to play on the complementarity and solidarity between the French wetlands.

[www.zones-humides.eaufrance.fr/s-informer/association-ramsar-france](http://www.zones-humides.eaufrance.fr/s-informer/association-ramsar-france)

## FRENCH MINISTRY FOR ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY

The French Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy proceeds to implement a policy in favor of the preservation of biodiversity, the efficient management of resources and the protection of species and of natural environments: on this basis, it is commissioned within the national frame, to ensure the follow-up and implementation of the Ramsar Convention, and especially to animate the 2014-2018 French Wetland Action Plan.

While in 2015 the Ministry presents the Parliament with the first great law on biodiversity in the last 40 years, and while France is getting ready to welcome the Conference on Climate, wetlands represent more than ever a key issue in the struggle against climate change and its consequences.

[www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr)



National Information portal  
on Wetlands

[www.zones-humides.eaufrance.fr](http://www.zones-humides.eaufrance.fr)

