

New Ramsar Centre begun in Lower Austria

2 June 2004

Austria

Groundbreaking for the Ramsar Centre

On Friday 21st of May 2004, the groundbreaking ceremony for a new Ramsar Centre took place in the town of Schrems (Austria). Together with representatives from the town of Schrems, WWF Austria, Ramsar OEG, and representatives both from nature conservation and tourism of the Government of Lower Austria, and with guests from the Czech Ministry of Environment, the Austrian Minister of Environment Josef Pröll marked the important step for this outstanding project.

This centre is located in the area of the Ramsar site "Waldviertel ponds, peat bogs and flood plains" and close to the Czech Republic with its Ramsar sites "Trebon fish ponds" and "Trebon mires". It will highlight the beautiful sceneries of the "Waldviertel" area with its fish-ponds, peat bogs and natural rivers and will offer insights into habitats and views on landscapes. It will be a visitor centre that serves as a focal point for all kinds of wetland topics in the region. The cooperation between nature conservation and other sectors such as tourism or agriculture within a real "wise" regional development has been an important target of the Ramsar Convention for many years and will thus also be one main focus in the work of the RamsarCentre.

The project is funded by the town of Schrems and WWF Austria and financially supported by the EcoPlus, the Business Agency of Lower Austria.



Spatenstich, or groundbreaking ceremony



Environment Minister Josef Pröll



-- contributed by Mag. Michaela Bodner, Ramsar-Stadtgemeinde Schrems OEG

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