

# Visit by the Ramsar Secretary General to Oman and the UAE

14 May 2013

United Arab Emirates  
Oman

From 27 April to 3 May 2013, the Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands, Mr. Anada Tiéga led a small team from the Secretariat of the Convention to the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates.



Mr. Anada Tiéga and H.E. Mr. Mohammed bin Salim al Toobi

In Oman, Mr. Tiéga met with the Minister of Environment and Climate Affairs, H.E. Mr. Mohammed bin Salim al Toobi, and congratulated him on the country's accession to the Convention on Wetlands as its 167th Contracting Party. They also discussed providing support for the implementation of the Convention in the country, such as in establishing a national wetland committee, the drafting of a national wetland action plan, and reviewing existing environmental legislations to ensure that they are compatible with the principles of the conservation and wise use of wetlands as outlined under the Convention on Wetlands.



Mangrove nursery at Qurm Nature Reserve Ramsar Site

Afterwards, the Secretariat team visited the newly designated Qurm Nature Reserve Ramsar Site and met with the team from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) who are working with MECA to develop the Qurm Environmental Information Centre (QEIC).



Mr. Anada Tiéga and H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad

Mr. Tiéga then travelled to the United Arab Emirates where he met H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, the Minister for Environment and Water. Mr. Tiéga thanked the Minister for the support of the UAE for the implementation of the Convention at the national and international level. He also congratulated the UAE for the recent designation of the Khor Kalba and Al Wathba Ramsar Sites, the third and fourth Ramsar Sites in the country respectively. Discussions also included cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands at the national and regional level.





Visit to a birdwatching hide at Ras Al Khor Ramsar Site

During his stay in the UAE, Mr. Tiéga went on to visit three of the four the Ramsar Sites in the UAE, at Ras Al Khor, Khor Kalba and Wadi Wurayah, and held meetings with the authorities responsible for the environment in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Fujairah and Sharjah municipalities.



Anada Tiega with H.E. Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi, Emir of Fujairah Emirates (third from left)



View of the Khor Kalba Ramsar Site

*Report by Lew Young, Senior Regional Advisor for Asia-Oceania. Photographs by Lew Young and EWS-WWF.*

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