

## **World Wetlands Day 2005: Summary of activities reported from around the world**

**Ramsar Secretariat.** With the Scientific and Technical Review Panel meeting all around World Wetlands Day, the Secretariat drew upon the STRP's expertise by holding a **forum on "Natural mitigation of natural disasters"** on 2 February 2005. Among the participants were representatives of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Forests and Landscape, UNEP, UNHCR, WHO, WMO/GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management, FAO, CMS, CITES, International Association of Hydrologists, IUCN, WWF, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, IWMI, and European Space Agency. Following the debate the participants agreed a "declaration of principles" entitled "**Beyond the tsunamis: a way forward**" (PDF) and press releases on the event in both **English** and **French**. **Tobias Salathé** from the Secretariat also attended festivities in Cyprus (see Cyprus, below).

**MedWet Secretariat** (Athens, Greece). On the occasion of World Wetlands Day 2005, MedWet in collaboration with the **Educational Service of the French Embassy** in Athens hosted a roundtable discussion on 5 February on "International collaboration for protection of water and wetlands". The speakers were Mr **Stavros Kalogiannis**, Deputy Minister of the Environment and Public Works; Mr **Stavros Dimas**, Commissioner for the Environment, European Union; Mr **Peter Bridgewater**, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention; Mr **Alain Leplaideur**, representative of the Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD); and Mr **Spyros Kouvelis**, MedWet Coordinator. Simultaneous translation into French and Greek was provided, and refreshments were offered following the discussion.

**Mekong Basin countries.** **Sarah Wood** (sarah.mwbp@iucnlao.org), Regional Communications & Networks Coordinator, **Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme** (www.mekongwetlands.org), Vientiane, Lao PDR, writes: "For WWD 2005, a variety of activities were organised by the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation Programme (MWBP) at a number of sites in the four countries of the Lower Mekong Basin - Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, and Vietnam. MWBP, a joint programme of the four governments - **Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand** and **Vietnam** - managed by UNDP, IUCN - The World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Mekong River Commission (MRC), coordinated WWD activities to raise awareness of the Ramsar Convention, the importance of wetland resources, and the management challenges and sustainable use issues. Activities were fun and informative, and included field visits, essay and painting competitions, plays and dance performances, official meetings and lectures, boat races and fishing competitions. People of all ages and backgrounds were involved in the programmes, the activities received good media coverage, and the celebrations were heralded a great success." Here is a **brief summary report** and a **full illustrated report**, both in PDF format.

**Global Nature Fund.** **Bettina Jahn** (jahn@globalnature.org), Global Nature Fund based in Radolfzell, Germany, writes: "The East African Lake Victoria is the "**Threatened Lake 2005**", announces Global Nature Fund (GNF), an international foundation for the protection of environment and nature, in reference to the World Wetlands Day. GNF intends to draw attention to the drastic reduction of fish populations, the destruction of shoreline vegetation and wetlands as well as the increasing poverty of the people living around the lake." **Here is the GNF press release for WWD.**

**Albania.** **Violeta Zuna** (violetazuna@albmail.com), National Project Coordinator, **UNDP/GEF-MedWetCoast project**, Tirana, writes: "In the frame of the World Wetlands Day, the MedWet Coast Project organized an environmental competition

among two schools of Narta project site. . . . The purpose of the event was awareness raising among youngsters and pupils of local schools on protection status assigned for Narta ecosystem, acknowledging environmental values of their area and committing to higher nature conservation attitudes. In cooperation with "Adriatiku" NGO, Vlora District Education Directorate in collaboration with the schools of Novosele, Bishan, Poro, Delisuf, Dellenje, with the support of MedWetCoast Project." **Here is the brief illustrated report.**

**Argentina I. Jorge Cappato** (jorgecappato@arnet.com.ar), Director General, Fundación PROTEGER, writes: "I send you the Spanish resume of WWD activities promoted and coordinated by **Fundación PROTEGER** in Argentina and other South America countries." **Here it is. And the English.**



**Argentina II. Juan Ortiz Burgos**, Presidente, **Asociación Proteger** (aproteger@latinmail.com), está escribiendo: "Para todos aquellos que luchan por una mejor calidad de vida y por la inclusión, en este día tan significativo para el desarrollo sostenible, nuestro más sincero agradecimiento por proteger los humedales, para esta generación y las futuras ya que esa es nuestra responsabilidad. Feliz día internacional de los humedales. Desgraciadamente, nuestra **Reserva Ecológica Costanera Sur**, no tuvo por ahora el privilegio de ser dominado sitio Ramsar. Esperamos que los funcionarios del gobierno de la ciudad nos den una respuesta coherente el porque no elevaron esa información menor requerida por esa secretaria en tiempo y forma." **Más.**

**Argentina III. Lic. Sara Beatriz Sverlij** (ssverlij@medioambiente.gov.ar), Grupo de Trabajo de Recursos Acuáticos, Subsecretaría de Recursos Naturales, Normativa, Investigación y Relaciones Institucionales, Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable, está escribiendo: "Estimados colegas: en la Argentina se han realizado diversas actividades para celebrar el Día Mundial de los Humedales. Algunas de ellas se encuentran en la página web de la Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable, autoridad de aplicación de la Convención de Ramsar en el país: **http://www.medioambiente.gov.ar/calendario/dia\_humedales/2005/default.htm**. En esta página se enumeran los actos en las provincias de Corrientes, Chaco, Mendoza y Chubut, y se puede observar una gacetilla elaborada a tales efectos, que igualmente se envía como archivo adjunto."

**Argentina IV. Asociación ALIHUEN** (comentarios@alihuen.org.ar), Santa Rosa, Prov. de La PAMPA, Patagonia -- **Nota de prensa.**

**Argentina V. Teresa Moncarz** (acla@acla.org.ar), Coordinadora de Planificación Y Presupuesto, Asociación Civil Los Algarrobos, La Cumbre - Córdoba, está escribiendo: "Es con placer que le envío, en nombre de la **Asociación Civil Los Algarrobos** y especialmente, en respuesta al expreso interés de nuestro Presidente, el Sr. Andrés H. Joseph, copia del artículo que ACLA publicara en conmemoración del Día Mundial de los Humedales." **Más.**

**Argentina VI. Virginia Vuela** (coopreservanatural@Argentina.com) está escribiendo: "**Aquí** le mandamos el dibujo de Diego Guallan que fue el ganador y algunas fotos de los festejos, vemos primero cuando hicimos la caminata, le pusimos a la gente un monocular y realizaron avistaje de aves. La otra es los cartelitos que pusimos en el sendero para que reconocieran aves y plantas, luego siguen una foto de los chicos pintando y la otra de la entrega de premios y por ultimo el pasacalle que colgamos en **Villa del Mar**. Ahora si espero que reciban todo bien."

**Argentina VII. Diario El Chubut**, 21 de enero de 2005: La Dirección General de Conservación y Areas Protegidas de la Secretaría de Turismo del Chubut y la Administración del **Area Natural Protegida de Península Valdés**, informaron que Playa Fracasso será declarada sitio RAMSAR e incluida en la Red Hemisférica de Reservas para Aves Playeras. A tal efecto el próximo 2 de febrero se realizará un acto en el auditorio del Centro de Interpretación del Istmo Ameghino, en coincidencia con el Día Internacional de los Humedales. Al considerar que toda el área de Península Valdés ha sido identificada como uno de los principales humedales de la costa patagónica, nuestro país como signatario de la Convención Ramsar y participante de la Red Hemisférica, ha solicitado la inclusión de **Playa Fracasso** en ambos listados. Más.

**Australia I. Judy Harrington** (Judy.Harrington@sopa.nsw.gov.au), Environmental Ranger, Sydney Olympic Parklands, writes: "We have had very welcome rain here in **Sydney Olympic Park** today - so our wetlands are a bit wetter! We have modified the WWD poster for our own site, which was extensively modified and remediated for the 2000 Olympic Games. This poster will be used even past WWD for our Field Study Centre classes, where children from all over Sydney experience and learn about the wetlands of Sydney Olympic Park. These wetlands are a surprise right in the geographical centre of Sydney, with protected saltmarsh, an endangered frog and habitat for many birds, including migratory species. Today our Field Studies Centre staff are taking part in a training day, improving their knowledge and teaching skills about wetlands. Other staff are conducting water testing and monitoring the birds recorded here. On Australia Day, last week, many from the local community gathered in our parklands to celebrate their cultural diversity. We worked with the local children, talking about life in the lake - dipnetting for water bugs and using scopes to "spy" on the birds nesting on our island. Fledgling Darters were perched precariously on the edge of their nests, trying their wings before taking off. There are many new residents around our site and I lead early morning walks, opening their eyes to the wonders in the wetlands. Best wishes for all of the good work you do."

**Australia II. John Caven** (johncaven@optusnet.com.au), Conservation Officer/Secretary, Metropolitan Branch, Field and Game Australia in Bundoora, Victoria, writes: "This year's report will be very short due to heavy rains right across the state of Victoria which are essential for our great wetlands. Unfortunately this extreme weather event has caused the cancellation of our nest box installation for today." **John's report of Nest Box Research Program and WWD at Tanunda Wetlands can be seen here.**

**Australia III. Kylie Yeend**, Project Officer, Hunter Ramsar Communication Strategy (ramsar@wetlands.org.au), The Wetlands Centre, Shortland NSW, writes: "**Attached is a report on World Wetlands Day 2005 celebrations at The Wetlands Centre.**

**Australia.** This has been prepared by Pauline Price, The Wetlands Centre Visitor Centre Manager. I guess this may be uploaded to the Ramsar website? Thanks for your support." **Australia IV. Alison Beard** (Alison.Beard@deh.gov.au), Inland Waters Section, Dept. of the Environment and Heritage, reports: "The World Wetlands Day 2005 report is finally up on our website. The WWD web address is <http://www.deh.gov.au/water/wetlands/day/index.html> and the direct link to the report is <http://www.deh.gov.au/water/wetlands/day/report-05/index.html>. Please feel free to link to these websites." The report includes a summary of events all over Australia.

**Austria I.** "Im letzten Jahr ist es gelungen, die Zahl der österreichischen Ramsar-Schutzgebiete von 11 auf 17 anzuheben und damit wertvolle Feuchtgebiete in unseren Quellregionen zu schützen. Neben dem Schutz bekennen wir uns aber auch zum "wise use", zur nachhaltigen Bewirtschaftung von Wasserressourcen und Feuchtgebieten, wie es die Ramsar-Konvention vorsieht", erklärte **Umweltminister Josef Pröll** anlässlich des morgigen Weltfeuchtgebietstages. **Here is Austria's press release** (in German)

announcing the forthcoming designation of two additional Ramsar sites in honor of World Wetlands Day 2005.

**Austria II. Georg Scattolin** (georg.scattolin@wwf.at) of **WWF Österreich** writes: "To celebrate WWD 2005 and in order to broaden their view of Central European transboundary wetlands, staff members of the WWF Wetland Education Centre Seewinkelhof and of the Neusiedler See-Seewinkel/Fertö Hanság National Park organised a joint excursion to the trilateral Ramsar site "**Morava-Dyje-Floodplains**" (between the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria)." **Here is a brief report and photo.**

**Austria III.** Dipl.-Ing. Dr. **Gerhard Sigmund**, Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft, writes "Please find enclosed an **announcement for an Austrian WWD 2005 event in Styria**, a walking tour along the river "Mura" which forms the border to Slovenia in this area. The Austrian part of this transboundary wetland was nominated Natura 2000 area, the Slovenian part failed to do so due to existing plans for hydropower stations.... But I think it will soo be nominated Natura 2000 as well."

**Azerbaijan. Ministry Of Ecology And Natural Resources To Mark World Wetlands Day** [January 28, 2005, 14:20:47]: "The Azerbaijani Ministry of ecology and natural resources to be set out a number arrangements on the occasion of the World Wetlands Day which is marked every year on February 2. As was learnt correspondent AzerTAj from press service of the Ministry, that day at the **Shirvan National Park** to be held a seminar which will attend the scientific, representatives of public and international organizations." From the State News Agency in Azerbaijan.

**Bahrain. Khawla Al Muhannadi** (kmuhannadi@bahrain.gov.bh) writes that a Wetland Day Seminar took place on 2 February by the **Environment Friends Society (EFS)**, at the Environment Friends Society Premises at Hamad Town. **Here is the report and photos.**

**Bangladesh I. Quamrul Islam Chowdhury** (fejb@bangla.net), Chairman, Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB), writes: "Marking the WWD 2005, the **Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB)**, Department of Environment (DoE) , Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) are jointly organizing a Seminar titled "Cultural and Biological Diversity of Wetlands: There's wealth in wetland diversity - don't lose it!" at 3.00pm on February 2, 2005 at FEJB Conference Room at 42/1/Kha, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka. Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam MP will be the chief guest. State Minister of Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury MP and Environment Secretary Dr. Soaib Ahmed will be special guests. DG, DoE K M Ibrahim Hossain and BCAS Executive Director Dr. Atiq A Rahman will grace the occasion."

**Bangladesh II. Shariful Islam Jewel** (jewelsharif@yahoo.com), President, **Nature & Biodiversity Conservation Society**, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet, writes: "The Sylhet ragon is highly rich in wetlands among another regions of Bangladesh. The wetland of Hakaluki Haor, which is one of the biggest wetlands in South Asia, is situated in Sylhet, and the Ramsar site Tanguar Haor, but these haor are now in threatened condition due to destructive activities, mismanagement & lack of awarness, local people killing migatory birds & unsustainable use of wetland. For the first time of Sylhet region our society is going to celebrate WWD 2005 - we want to celebrate this occasion through rally, seminar, art /quiz competitions."

**Bangladesh III. Zakir Hossain** (Krisokersaar1@fastmail.fm), **Krisoker Saar (Farmers' Voice)**(www.farmersvoice.nav.to), writes: "Krisoker Saar (Farmers' Voice)



could integrate The World Wetland Day into its ongoing research, motivation and action pertinent to birds, wetlands and local fish conservation. The first event was organized on our National Victory day gathering. We built a large Heron structure, inserted oneself inside. And the heron walked through the festival holding a slogan "You will not die if you don't eat a natural bird". " [More details here.](#)

**Barbados.** First WWD celebration in Barbados. "The U.S Embassy Environment and Science officer, in coordination with the U.S. Department of State, assisted Barbados in organizing Barbados's first World Wetlands Day (WWD) celebration, which took place at **Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary (GHNS)** on February 2. GHNS is the largest remaining mangrove forest in Barbados and a national heritage site. The site is replete with flora and fauna. The opening ceremony featured an inspiring and informative speech by **Minister of Housing, Lands, and Environment Elizabeth Thompson**, as well as speeches by representatives of a local non-governmental organization and the University of West Indies. Over 170 schoolchildren and adults enjoyed tours of the sanctuary after the speeches. Both television and print media covered the event. Minister Thompson during her speech emphasized the importance of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and, in a surprise move, publicly committed Her government to having GHNS included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List)."

**Bolivia.** La Dirección General de Biodiversidad (dgb@mds.gov.bo), está escribiendo: " En el marco de los festejos del Día Mundial de los Humedales, la **Dirección General de Biodiversidad** dependiente del Viceministerio de Recursos Naturales y Medio Ambiente, como Autoridad Administrativa en Bolivia, ha realizado [una serie de actividades](#) con el objeto de dar a conocer a la población en general la importancia de los humedales y la Convención Ramsar en el ámbito nacional y mundial respectivamente."

**Cambodia I.** See **Mekong Basin countries** (above)

**Cameroon I.** **Martine Prins** (mail@martineprins.net), CEDC, Maroua, Cameroun, writes that the **Centre d'Etude de l'Environnement et du Développement au Cameroun (CEDC)** and **Aceen Action 21 (L'Association Camerounaise pour l'Education Environnementale)** both work in the Waza Logone floodplain and this year forces were joined to organise different activities around WWD. The three day event, featuring Ramsar materials, included discussions, hikes, drawings, and what may be the first World Wetlands Day football matches. [Here is her brief report.](#)

**Cameroon II.** **Jaff Francis Agiamntebom** (forestagrofor@yahoo.com), Coordinator of **Forest and Agro-Forestry Promoters** (FAP) based in NDOP, writes of WWD discussions held on the benefits of the Ndop floodplain in collaboration with FAP, a representative of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MINEF), traditional authorities, and local stakeholders. [Here is his brief illustrated report.](#)

**Cameroon III.** **Chi Napoleon** (nforpah@yahoo.fr) writes: "The 2005 WWD celebrations in **Bamenda**, Cameroon, started on the 7th of January by excursions to a potential Ramsar Site - Lake Awing - with guest expert from ITC, the Netherlands drilling students of The Bamenda University of Science and Technology, Department of Environmental Sciences and Water Resources Management with the use of the Global Positioning System. Lectures were given by Dr Allo Allo Andrew, head of Department and EDCIF President, and Chi Napoleon Forpah of the Watershed Task Group. On the 2nd of Feb the Forestry and Agroforestry Promoters (FAB) will continue with Sensitisation and Awareness in the Ndop Inland Freshwater Wetlands in Bamenda." [Here is the illustrated report \(PDF\).](#)

**Canada I.** **Maryse Mahy** (Maryse.Mahy@pc.gc.ca) forwards news that on the occasion of WWD 2005 the Honourable **Stephane Dion, Minister of the Environment**, signed the

nomination letter regarding designation for the Columbia Wetlands as Canada's newest Ramsar Site. "The designation will make this part of Canada even more internationally significant, as the Columbia Valley is next door to the Canadian Rockies World Heritage Site." **Here's a brief illustrated press release.**

**Canada II. Celina Tuttle** (celina.t@sympatico.ca) of the **Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists (MVFN)**, writes: "The MVFN works to increase public interest in and appreciation and respect for the natural world within the Mississippi River watershed. This area includes Mississippi Mills, Carleton Place, Lanark Highlands, Beckwith and surrounding areas. The group offers monthly events, from presentations to field trips, on a range of topics." **Here is the organization's press release for WWD 2005.**

**Canada III. Paresh Pandya** (ParishPandya@yahoo.com), **Faculty of Education, University of Windsor**, writes: "We have promoted the World Wetlands Day this year at Windsor City and county of Ontario . . . [and] have celebrated Wetlands week from February 1-7, 2005 at the University of Windsor and The Hindu Mandir Windsor." **Here is the thorough illustrated report.**

**Chile I. Humedales CAACH**(info@humedalescoquimbo.cl) está escribiendo: "Educadores y monitores de educación ambiental en humedales de Chile, Perú y Argentina sostendrán mañana una conversación vía Internet usando una aplicación de tipo conferencia, con el objetivo de intercambiar experiencias y aprendizajes obtenidos a partir del trabajo que desarrollan sus organizaciones en el ámbito local, regional e internacional. La actividad se realizará en adhesión al 2 de Febrero, Día Mundial de los Humedales, fecha de la creación de la Convención de Ramsar, con la participación de integrantes de las organizaciones chilenas Centro Neotropical de Entrenamiento en Humedales, CNEH y Corporación Ambientes Acuáticos de Chile, CAACH con sede en Coquimbo; la Asociación Naturaleza y Desarrollo, NADES, del Perú, de Arequipa y la Fundación Proteger - Amigos de la Tierra, Argentina cuya coordinación nacional está en Santa Fe." **Más.**

**Chile II.** Con actividad en día internacional de los humedales, **Acción por los Cisnes** inicia campaña de verano . . . "Este miércoles 02 de febrero se realizará la actividad "A rescatar el santuario", en la cual se exhibirán dos trailers (avances) de la película - documental "Ciudad de papel", y el documental "La tragedia del Santuario". La actividad se realizara el miércoles a las 21:30 hrs, en el Paseo Libertad, en el anfiteatro de la costanera. La actividad es organizada por Acción por los Cisnes y el Centro de Producción Cinematográfica de Valdivia y cuenta con el auspicio de Jirafa y Valdivia Film S.A." **Más.**

**Chile III. Diego Luna Q.**, Director (info@humedalescoquimbo.cl), está escribiendo: "Estimados amigos de Ramsar, La **Corporación Ambientes Acuáticos de Chile, CAACH**, en coordinación con el **Centro Neotropical de Entrenamiento en Humedales, CNEH** ha programado diversas actividades para el **Sistema de Humedales Costeros de la Comuna de Coquimbo**, en Chile, con motivo de la versión 2005 del Día Mundial de los Humedales. El programa diseñado para el WWD 2005 contiene una producción de registro audiovisual de "humedales desde el aire", una actividad de intercambio de experiencias entre niños de Chile y Perú vía internet; y una excursión ornitológica al Estero Pachingo con el grupo "Guardianes de los Humedales de El Tangué".

**Chile IV. Maria-Angelica Alegria Calvo** (maria.alegria@moptt.gov.cl), Jefa Area de Evaluacion de Recursos Hidricos, Encargada del tema Cultura del Agua, Departamento de Estudios y Planificacion, Direccion General de Aguas Ministerio de Obras Publicas in Santiago, has sent examples of a **poster and postcard** created in celebration of WWD 2005.

**China I.** On WWD, China's National Political Consultation Conference, China's State Forestry Administration and WWF jointly organized World Wetland Day celebration in

Beijing, with more than 400 people participating. The WWD activities included a ceremony for the new Ramsar site designations, awarding ceremony for the 16 team of "Wetland Ambassadors" from China, Cambodian and Vietnam, and the publication of "Wetlands: Homeland for Harmonious Co-existence of Human and Nature". **Here is a brief illustrated report of the ceremony**, and **here is WWF's press release** on the event.

China designated nine new Wetlands of International Importance for WWD, eight of which are in Qinghai and Yunnan Provinces and the Tibet Autonomous Region, all high-altitude marshes and lakes among the headwaters of the Yangtze, Yellow, and Yalu Tsangpo / Brahmaputra Rivers. **Here are descriptions of the nine new Ramsar sites**.

**Colombia I. Hector Morales** (hectorm8591@hotmail.com) está escribiendo: "La corporación para la recuperación de la Laguna de Tibabuyes Corpotibabuyes invita a la comunidad en general a celebrar el Día Internacional de los Humedales." **Aquí**.

**Colombia II.** La **Fundación Naturaleza Humana y del Medio**, se une a la celebración del día Internacional de los Humedales, haciendo un llamado a los medios de comunicación, organismos nacionales e internacionales, instituciones educativas, padres, docentes, jóvenes, niños y niñas, de la importancia de proteger y conservar estos ecosistemas. **Más**.

**Colombia III.** The **Fundación Gaïa Suna** (gaiasuna@yahoo.com), "amigos del patrimonio cultural y natural", near Bogota, has sent word of WWD celebrations at the **Parque Ecológico Distrital Humedal Juan Amarillo (Tibabuyes)** in collaboration with the Red de Humedales de la Sabana de Bogota nodo Tibabuyes. **Here it is (PDF, español)**.

**Colombia IV. Edinson Tigreiros Herrera** (edinson71@yahoo.com), **Guacará - Valle del Cuaca - Colombia**, está escribiendo: "te cuento que hoy 3 de febrero celebramos el Día de los humedales con 4 grupos de niños, realizando acciones de reconocimiento de nuestro humedal "videles", charlas sobre el humedal, concurso de pintura paisajística y liberación de alevinos entre otras. Luego estare enviando un archivo que recopile todo lo relacionado con la celebración. Espero seguir teniendo contacto contigo, pues estamos en preparativos para montar un Centro de Información y Documentación sobre Humedales en nuestra localidad, para lo cual tu podrías ser de mucha ayuda." **Fotos**.

**Colombia V. Angela Moncaleano** (amoncaleano@javeriana.edu.co), Docente Investigador, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, está escribiendo: "Les estamos enviando las memorias correspondientes a la celebración del día mundial de los humedales de este año, por parte de la **Pontificia Universidad Javeriana**, Bogotá- Colombia. Esperamos sean de su agrado, lamentamos la demora y esperamos poder seguir participando en la celebración de esta fecha tan especial aca en nuestro país." **Aquí**.

**Costa Rica. Jorge Gamboa Elizondo** (jorge.gamboa@sinac.go.cr), Gerencia ASP - SINAC, **Programa Nacional de Humedales**, está escribiendo: "Reciban un cordial saludo y el mejor de nuestros deseos que se encuentren muy bien, seguidamente les informamos sobre las actividades programadas por nuestra institución en conmemoración del día mundial de los humedales." **Aquí**.

**Cuba I. Dra Teresita Telleria** (teresita@fisica.uh.cu), Vicepresidenta **Pronaturaleza**, está escribiendo: "Como cada año desde desde 2001 al día mundial de los humedales dedicamos una emisión especial del programa radial Entorno, producción conjunta de la **Sociedad Cubana para la Protección del Medio Ambiente** y la emisora Habana Radio adscrita a la Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad de la Habana. En esta oportunidad transmitimos un programa radial dedicado en saludo al Día de los Humedales en el que se entrevista al Director del Ministerio de Ciencia Tecnología y Medio Ambiente en la **Ciénaga**

**de Zapata**, sitio Ramsar, mayor humedal cubano. La preservación de la biodiversidad de la zona estuvo entre los principales en la zona y se acompaña el programa con el trino de la ferminia cerverae. Proximamente y por esta vía les haremos llegar la grabación."

**Cuba II.** Dr. **Lucas Fernández Reyes** (lfernandez@geprop.cu), Coordinador **Red Iberoamericana de Humedales**, Subprograma XVII CYTED, Centro de Gerencia de Programas y Proyectos Priorizados, La Habana, está escribiendo: "La Red Iberoamericana de Humedales del Programa CYTED, en adhesión a las actividades por el Día Mundial de los Humedales, inicia en su Foro de Discusión Virtual la discusión del tema "La teoría de los pulsos de inundación en la producción pesquera". Los requisitos de participación y más detalles les serán enviados en el día de hoy por los coordinadores del Foro."

**Cyprus I.** Ramsar's **Tobias Salathé** participated in a special WWD event organised by the UNOPS programme management unit in Nicosia, coordinating the **Bi-Communal Development Programme in Cyprus** funded by USAID and UNDP. On 8 February, a conference on the wetlands of Cyprus was held in the centre of Nicosia, right on the line that has separated for more than thirty years the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities. Following the presentations and field trip to nearby sites, the participants concluded that Cyprus's wetlands are the precious ecological heritage of all Cypriots, and can only adequately be protected by coordinated efforts by all parts of society, involving all communities on the island. **Here is Tobias' brief report, the UNOPs press release, and a handful of photographs.**

**Cyprus II.** **Thomas Hadjikyriakou** (akrotiricentre@cytanet.com.cy), **Akrotiri Environmental Education and Information Centre Manager**, writes "I would like to express my sincere thanks, for your support to the events organised at Akrotiri wetlands, on the occasion of the WWD 2005. Your quick response to the request for material was unbelievable!! **Please find attached the final program of the events organised between 31 January and 8 February 2005, and photographs from the events.** I am sure that our cooperation will continue in the future, to the benefit of the environment and the local people."

**Czech Republic.** **Libuse Vlasakova** (Libuse\_Vlasakova@env.cz) writes that "I would like to inform the Secretariat of Ramsar Convention that the Czech Republic celebrated WWD on February 3 with declaration its eleventh Ramsar site - **Punkva subterranean stream.** The ceremony took place in **Sloup**, a small village in **Moravsky kras Protected Landscape Area.**" The Minister of the Environment participated, as well as representatives of the Czech Ramsar Committee, Nature Conservation Authority, Protected Landscape Area Authorities, South Moravian regional authorities, stakeholders, mayors of villages and regional TV. **Here is a brief illustrated report.**

**Dominican Republic.** **Juan Enrique García**, Cooperación Española, Proyecto Araucaria Bahoruco (bahoruco.rd@verizon.net.do), Santo Domingo, está escribiendo: "**Adjunto encontrará una breve relación** de las actividades realizadas en República Dominicana por el **Proyecto Araucaria Bahoruco** en coordinación con otras instituciones locales y la Secretaría de Medio Ambiente para su información."

**Egypt.** **Injy Galal** (medwetcoast@link.net), National Information Officer, **MedWetCoast - Egypt**, writes that following a seminar for journalists on WWD and a training seminar on Communication, Education and Public Awareness for rangers, celebrations targeted to young people were held in **Zaranik**, **Burullus**, and **Omayed**, with good attendance. **More details here.**

**France I.** **Sandrine Mouret** (sandrine.mouret@cg57.fr), Animatrice nature, Conseil Général de la Moselle, DEAT-DEER, **Lindre Basse** (www.domainedelindre.com), écrit:



"Notre première édition de la Semaine des Zones humides s'est très bien passée; je joins ici la revue de presse de cet évènement, le visuel de l'affiche finale ainsi qu'un petit bilan rapide de la fréquentation. Les posters et stickers de la JMZH ont été distribués aux enfants du mercredi récréatif et des écoles venues visiter l'exposition. Nous ferons je pense une seconde édition plus étoffé l'année prochaine. A très bientôt." [Read more here.](#)

**France II. Jacky Malotaux** (e.artiguelongue@naturemp.org), Présidente, **Nature Midi-Pyrénées**, Toulouse (www.naturemp.org), écrit: "Lorsque Nature Midi-Pyrénées s'est lancé pour la première fois dans l'organisation de la JMZH en Midi-Pyrénées, nous n'imaginions pas l'enthousiasme et l'ampleur qu'elle allait susciter tant auprès de nos partenaires que dans les média. Mais c'est surtout l'intérêt qu'a montré le public pour ces milieux riches et fragiles qui nous a touché et nous conforte dans la continuité de nos actions. Que toutes les personnes ayant participé à ce 2 février 2005 soient chaleureusement remerciées. Nous espérons qu'à travers cette sensibilisation, cette journée sera à l'initiative de multiples animations relatives aux zones humides, et pourquoi pas donnera une impulsion nouvelle en faveur de projets de préservation ou de restauration de ces écosystèmes. Aujourd'hui, un nouveau défi est lancé : celui de la qualité de l'eau et des milieux aquatiques dans notre bassin. Nature Midi-Pyrénées se mobilise d'ores et déjà pour vous informer sur la Directive Cadre Eau et dans le cadre de la vaste consultation du public, chacun d'entre vous sera invité à s'exprimer."

**France III. Julie Bayeul Molzino** (julie.molzino@wanadoo.fr), Chargée d'études, **Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux**, Cavaillon, écrit: "Je vous joins le bilan des journées mondiales des zones humides organisées par la Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux délégation **Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**. La LPO PACA se félicite de la forte mobilisation de ses membres pour célébrer la convention de Ramsar et sensibiliser le grand public à la diversité biologique et culturelle des zones humides. Dans le cadre de son année thématique agissons pour les oiseaux et les milieux aquatiques, douze lieux ont été animés par des conférences, sorties, expositions ou chantiers-nature pour la journée mondiale des zones humides. Nous remercions l'ensemble des bénévoles qui ont contribué au succès de ces journées et saluons les actions partenariales menées sur certains sites, avec des écoles, des associations, des mairies et des entreprises, qui démontrent que la protection des zones humides relève bien d'un intérêt collectif. Je vous remercie pour la diffusion de ce bilan collectif sur vos sites respectifs. Dans l'attente d'un même succès pour la journée Ramsar 2006, je vous envoie mes cordiales salutations." [Le bilan.](#)

**France IV. Thierry Roy** (grandvoyeux@free.fr), Eco-animateur du Grand-Voyeux, écrit: "Bonjour, Voici comme promis, mais avec un peu de retard, un petit bilan du week-end Ramsar au **Grand-Voyeux** (commune de Congis-sur-Thérouanne, Seine-et-Marne, France). Merci encore pour tous les documents que vous nous avez envoyés, et tout particulièrement pour les panneaux d'exposition qui nous ont été bien utiles." [Ici \(PDF\).](#)

**France V. Geneviève Magnon** (genevieve-magnon.cfd@wanadoo.fr) écrit: "Le 2 février est chaque année la journée mondiale des zones humides, dédiée aux sites de la convention internationale Ramsar. **La Communauté de communes Frasne-Drugeon**, forte de son site Ramsar du bassin du Drugeon souhaite vous associer à cette célébration annuelle qui prendra cette année la forme d'une conférence sur les oiseaux du bassin du Drugeon. Pour différentes, mais excellentes raisons, cette conférence aura lieu, non pas le 2, mais le 9 février, à 20h30 à la maison du temps Libre à la Rivière Drugeon. Dominique Michelat, aidé dans la préparation de ses différents compères ornitho, saura vous régaler pendant cette soirée où nous vous attendons nombreux. L'entrée est gratuite. A bientôt." [L'affiche.](#)

**France VI.** "En France, des batraciens de Notre Dame de l'Agenouillade aux oiseaux de la Réserve Naturelle Nationale du Bagnas, l'ADENA vous propose deux journées gratuites de découverte naturaliste sur des sites naturels d'un grand intérêt patrimonial, propriétés du

Conservatoire du Littoral." -- **Association de Défense de l'Environnement et de la Nature des pays d'Agde. Ici.**

**France VI. François Tron** (francois.tron@arocha.org), Responsable scientifique A Rocha France (www.arocha.org), écrit: "Voici un petit compte-rendu de notre animation Wetland Day: **A Rocha France** a donc invité les élus locaux + ASA Dessèchement de la Vallée des Baux + Agence Cigales (préfiguration Parc Naturel Régional des Alpilles) + Chambre d'agriculture 13 (Opérateur local N2K) + DDA services enviro + hydro + DIREN Services SPT & SEMER. Il s'agissait d'une sortie de terrain aux marais de l'Ilon (site d'étude historique d'A Rocha France), intitulée: "Valeurs et fonctions des zones humides de la vallée des Baux: quels avenir?". Cette animation visait à proposer une introduction écologique au monde des marais et aux dynamiques actuelles dans la **vallée des Baux**. . . . Tous les problèmes locaux ont été abordés (inondations, gestion de l'eau et des digues, alimentation de la nappe phréatique, qualité de l'eau, N2000...) et la réhabilitation des anciens marais à l'échelle de la vallée a été présentée sous le jour de l'intérêt général et des initiatives privées. Les élus ont été très attentifs, ont posé de nombreuses questions et même si ils n'étaient visiblement pas tous convaincus d'entrée, leur apport montre leur intérêt pour la question! **PDF.**

**France VII. Nicolas Lolive** (cpie.haute.auvergne@wanadoo.fr), animateur-chargé d'étude, **Centre de Ressources et d'Information sur l'Environnement, CPIE de Haute Auvergne**, Aurillac, écrit: "Le Centre de ressources et d'Information sur l'Environnement du Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement de Haute-Auvergne (Aurillac, Cantal) a profité de la journée mondiale des zones humides pour organiser une manifestation sur le sujet des zones humides à Aurillac (**affiche au format JPG**). Elle s'est déroulée durant l'après-midi du 02 février et proposait à tous de venir découvrir les zones humides au travers de nombreux documents variés : affiches, brochures, livres, plan de gestion, documents d'objectifs, CD-Rom, vidéos... et grâce au débat avec le personnel expert du CPIE. Nous avons eu une bonne couverture médiatique dans la presse locale (**voir revue de presse**) tant dans l'annonce de la manifestation que dans son compte-rendu. Ceci a permis une bonne fréquentation avec un public diversifié : professionnels, élus, enseignants, particuliers, lycéens... Nous avons répondu à leur besoin d'informations sur les zones humides du Cantal et nous avons essayer de les sensibiliser aux problèmes des zones humides d'une manière plus globale à l'échelle du monde entier. Cette année était une année test pour savoir si le public était intéressé par cette thématique. Il a répondu présent et nous espérons développer cette manifestation l'année prochaine."

**France VIII. Nicolas Guilpain**, Responsable environnement, Leucate (environnement@mairie-leucate.fr), écrit: "Comme prévu, veuillez trouver en PJ **un rapide compte rendu de la manifestation** organisée sur **la commune de Leucate** dans le cadre de la JMZH. En espérant que le succès de cette année soit à nouveau au rendez-vous pour les années à venir."

**France IX. Marc Barral**, Chargé de mission "lagunes", Pôle relais lagunes / CEN-LR écrit: "Veuillez trouver en fichier attaché, le détail des actions proposées en Languedoc-Roussillon pour la journée mondiale des ZH. Plus d'une quarantaine d'actions réparties sur plus de 28 sites sont mises en place par les associations et structures de gestion locales pour sensibiliser le grand public à la juste cause des zones humides. En plus de la plaquette "**programme de la manifestation**", veuillez trouver **l'affiche** réalisée pour cette occasion (sur le modèle Ramsar mais avec des photos typiques de notre région) et **la note** destinée aux journalistes. Je vous remercie par avance de l'échos que vous pourrez donner à cette manifestation qui prend chaque année une ampleur considérablement sur notre territoire." Visitez le site du pôle : [www.pole-lagunes.org](http://www.pole-lagunes.org).

**France X. Erica Taube** (etaube@club-internet.fr), **Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux Marseille**, écrit: " Merci pour votre envoi de matériel concernant la Journée Mondiale des Zones Humides 2005, dont nous avons fait bon usage. Je vous joins un petit compte-rendu de notre journée, et deux photos. L'une montre des enfants jouant au jeu de la Marelle ornithologique, dans laquelle il s'agissait de répondre à des petites questions portant sur les oiseaux d'eau. L'autre montre le public à notre stand d'information et dans l'exposition de photos d'oiseaux d'eau. Merci encore pour votre aide, et peut-être à l'année prochaine! " **La rapport (also in English)**.

**Germany I. Martin Schneider** (martin.schneider.jacoby@euronatur.org) of **Euronatur** (Stiftung Europäisches Naturerbe, or European Nature Heritage Fund) has sent the **following press release** (in German).



**Germany II. Hans-Christian Zirkenbach** (Hans-Christian.Zirkenbach@Landkreis-Stendal.de), **Landkreis Stendal**, Umweltamt, writes that two lectures were held in conjunction with WWD, one in Schollene about the European beaver *castor fiber* in the Ramsar wetland Niederung der Unteren Havel / Gülper See, Scholener See and another near the former village of Stresow about waterbirds and the Ramsar wetland Aland-Elbe-Niederung. **He has sent the Ramsar WWD 2005 poster in German translation.**

**Germany III. Dorothea August** has provided this **colorful, brief report** on WWD2005 activities at Helmestausee Berga-Kelbra.

**Greece I.** The Goulandris Natural History Museum, **Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre (EKBY)** near Thessaloniki issued a press release on World Wetlands Day emphasizing the importance of wetlands and using the example of the Lake Koroneia Ramsar site. **Here it is.**

**Greece II.** In addition to the roundtable mentioned above, MedWet is helping to organizing an art contest for students has been organized to complete this year's celebrations for World Wetlands Day. Students of all forms have been invited to submit artwork in the form of photographs or paintings to **the French Institute** in Athens. A selection of these works will be exhibited in the French Institute from 14 February – 3 March 2005. **Here is a brief PDF report of all of MedWet's activities for WWD 2005.**

**Greece III. Elena Makrigianni**, Public Awareness Officer in the **Evros Delta Visitor Center** (www.evros-delta.gr) writes: "WWD was celebrated in the Evros Delta Visitor Centre on Wednesday 2nd February. The celebration was funded for the fourth year running by the LIFE project *Restoration and Conservation Management of Drana Lagoon in Evros Delta*. The activities of the day were: video projection; educational games; handicrafts; and guided trips and birdwatching in the Drana lagoon. At the same time, parallel activities were held in the centre including: exhibition of children's paintings; distribution of printed material relevant to WWD; and a competition with gifts. . . . Thank you for one more year, WWD is an important part of our public awareness program and always a great pleasure to organise and implement!" **Photos.**

**Greece IV. Elissavet Tzovani** (ciks@otenet.gr), Public Awareness Officer, LIFE-Nature Project "Conservation Management of **Strofylia-Kotychi**", writes: "We are happy to inform you that the student photo contest with the theme "Pictures full of water from Strofylia and Kotychi" was a great success! There were 144 entries from 17 primary and secondary schools from the prefectures of Achaia and Ilia, to which the Ramsar site "Strofylia forest and Kotychi lagoon" belongs." **Here is the illustrated report.**

**Guatemala. Cecilia Cleaves**, Directora, Departamento de Educación y Fomento (eyfomento@conap.gob.gt), **Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas**, está escribiendo: "Es un gusto poderle enviar un resumen de las actividades realizadas en Guatemala en

conmemoración del día mundial de los humedales. [Adjunto archivo en word y tres fotografías.](#)"

**Hungary I. Georg Scattolin** (georg.scattolin@wwf.at) of **WWF Österreich** writes: "To celebrate WWD 2005 and in order to broaden their view of Central European transboundary wetlands, staff members of the WWF Wetland Education Centre Seewinkelhof and of the Neusiedler See-Seewinkel/Fertő Hanság National Park organised a joint excursion to the trilateral Ramsar site "**Morava-Dyje-Floodplains**" (between the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria)." [Here is a brief report and photo.](#)

**Hungary II. András Schmidt** (schmidt@mail.kvvm.hu) writes: "This year, we managed to organise a national event together with the Ramsar National Committee, the Koros-Maros National Park Directorate and the Szarvas Irrigation and Fisheries Research Institute. The event took place at the visitor centre of the **Koros-Maros National Park Directorate** at Szarvas. All ten national park directorates, all twelve water management directorates, local governments, etc had been invited. A radio report announced the event to the public on 29 January, and another, 30-minute report came on 4 February." [Here are further details and images of the poster and sticker.](#)

**India I. Dr. Ajit Pattnaik** (ajit@www.chilika.com), **Chilika Development Authority** in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, writes: "I am attaching to this message the celebration of WWD 2005 and the Asian Wetland Week 2005 for your perusal. This year children were the focus for celebration of WWD2005. The report may please be posted in the Ramsar website." [Here is his brief illustrated PDF report.](#)

**India II. Dr. Thupalli Ravishankar** (raviethonobotanist@rediffmail.com), Associate Director, **M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation** (www.mssrf.org), Kakinada, writes: "World Wetlands Day was celebrated at Corangi and Dindu villages abutting Godavari Mangroves in Tallarevu Mandal, in East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. A procession starting from Corangi - Dindu Villages to Corangi Forest Guest House was organized." [Here is the illustrated report of the occasion.](#)

**India III. Rishi Aggarwal** (mumbaimangroves@hotmail.com), Hon. Jt. Secretary, writes: "Hello everybody, I write from the **Mangrove Society of India (Mumbai Chapter)**. On 2nd February we are planning a mangrove meeting for World Wetlands Day. I thought I will keep the Ramsar Secretariat in the loop. In the wake of the Tsunami disaster it becomes all the more appropriate to speak for preserving the coastal ecology and regulating development in this fragile belt. We are holding this meeting in one of the largest grounds in Mumbai where political and other rallies are held. 300 people are expected to join for the rally. The political establishment and the business lobbies are working completely opposite to the Coastal Regulation Zone Act 1991 which prohibits any development 500 meters from the high tide line."

**India IV. Raju Das** (rajuda@sancharnet.in), Project Secretary, **Nature's Foster** (natures@sancharnet.in), Bongaigaon, writes: "I am sending this mail on behalf of Nature's Foster, a NGO working in the state of Assam, India, since 1991. We actively take part in the conservation of wetland and waterfowls in the area since its inception. As a result of our active participation two major wetlands (Urpada and Tamranga-Konora-bhairab complex) have been declared as IBA. Every year (December - February) we organize some awareness campaign for the conservation of waterfowl and wetland among the mass. We are getting good responses in these programmes. Thus for the occasion of World Wetland Day, 2005, if you have anything in store (poster, leaflets, sticker, etc.) you can send us on the address mentioned below. Which will give a new momentum in our activities and will help a lot to carry out the awareness campaign."



**India V.** Dr **R.K.Ranjan Singh** (ranjanrk@sancharnet.in), Secretary, Manipur Association for Science and Society (MASS), writes: "Please find enclosed **a brief report** of the commemoration of the World Wetlands Day in Manipur, organized by **Manipur Association for Science and Society** and **Citizens' Concern for Dams and Development**, Manipur on 2 February 2005 at Khuman Lampak, Imphal."

**India VI.** **Laxmikant Deshpande**, Education Officer, **Godrej Mangrove Project**, India, writes: "On the 2nd February, 2005, the World Wetland Day, an occasion to mark conservation of wetlands world over, was celebrated at Godrej Mangrove Project for the 8th consecutive year with a number of activities. This year, following events were conducted to celebrate WWD: Inauguration of Palms Garden, a joint venture of Godrej and Accenture; releasing a series of 8 posters on mangrove species found in Godrej vicinity; presentation by Mangrove Club members of Udayachal Highschool, a Godrej establishment; a mangrove trail for St. Anne's High school, New Bombay, and a slide show on mangrove ecosystem at Conservation Education Centre of 'Bombay Natural History Society'." **Here is the illustrated report.**

**India VII.** **Bibhab Kumar Talukdar**, Ph.D., Secretary General, Aaranyak, Guwahati, writes: "**Aaranyak**, a society for biodiversity conservation in North East India, has organized a three days eco-restoration workshop as part of the World Wetland Day celebration from 1-3 February 2005 at the Indian Institute of Bank Management, Guwahati, Assam. It is aimed to provide basic awareness and training to selected participants on the philosophy and principles of Restoration Ecology and the techniques and practices of Eco-restoration, restoration of wetland and forest ecosystems." **Here is the brief illustrated report.**

**Ireland.** **Michael Gunn** (gunnml@gofree.indigo.ie) writes: "The environmental NGO **Coastwatch** is organizing a day of information, discovery, fun, hard debate and hopefully some recommendations to be taken up by politicians. **Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council** is hosting the event and an exhibition. The aims are to raise awareness of wetland values, functions and urgent legal and policy reforms to protect them. Several schools are attending, key official wetland interests and Coastwatchers." **More information** and the **detailed programme (PDF)**.

**Italy I.** Dr **Aldo Cosentino**, Director General of the Direzione per la Protezione della Natura, writes: "For WWD 2005, the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory involved the management authorities of Italian Ramsar Wetlands in promoting suitable initiatives. For the occasion many management authorities organized free guided visits and workshops on cultural and biological diversity of wetlands." **Here is his listing.**

**Italy II.** At the **Parco del Delta del Po dell'Emilia-Romagna**, "La giornata prevede una escursione all'interno dell'oasi per vedere e "vivere" una zona umida, sentendo il freddo, camminando nella nebbia e apprezzando i profumi della terra; un laboratorio didattico/scientifico nel Museo delle Valli di Argenta, per osservare la vita che si trova in una goccia d'acqua prelevata dalle valli visitate, concluderà la giornata di conoscenza." **Here's a brief notice.**

**Jamaica.** Ms. **Marsha Mason** (MMason@nepa.gov.jm), Environmental Officer, Protected Areas Branch, National Environment and Planning Agency, writes: "The National Environment and Planning Agency hereby submit Jamaica's World Wetlands Day 2005 national report," and **here it is in PDF format.**

**Japan.** **Satoshi Kobayashi** (satoshi@kushiro-pu.ac.jp) writes: "**Japan Wetland Action Network (JAWAN)**, together with various local groups, has organized a Wetland Week in Japan, prior to the World Wetland Day in 2005. Dr Peter R. Baye, a wetland restoration

expert from USA, and Dr Satoshi Kobayashi, former Ramsar Secretariat member, visited several coastal wetlands in Japan from 22 to 31 January." **Here is his brief report.**

**Kenya I. Hadley Becha** (becha@eawildlife.org), Deputy Director Programmes, East African Wild Life Society in Nairobi (www.eawildlife.org), writes: "This report presents the outcomes of the WWD celebration held at Mata Center in Jipe location on the 2nd February 2005. **Tugurane Womens Group** convened the event, in conjunction with **East African Wild Life Society**. This is one of the CBOs involved in the Lake Jipe conservation initiative, which received funding from the UNDP/GEF/SGP and is in charge of Advocacy and governance issues. . . . Some of the CBOs and NGOs represented include Jipe Farmers Association, TRUE Kenya, Jipe Lake Youth Group, heads from different schools, and a representative of UNDP. 50 community members attended the event." **Here is his brief illustrated report.**

**Kenya II. Stephen K. Mailu** (skmailu@lvemp.or.ke), Management Information Systems Officer/R.O., **Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project** in Kisumu, writes: "Attached is a report from the WWD celebrations in the Lake Victoria Basin which was prepared by the Wetlands Management Component of the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project based Busia (Mr. Stanley Ambasa). A poster will be sent to you soonest as soon as we receive it from the wetlands people in Busia. This year, the celebrations were held in **Kingwal wetland** located along the River Yala Catchment, one of the major rivers flowing from the Kenyan Lake Victoria Catchment into Lake Victoria. The Kingwal wetland is popular as a habitat of the rare Sitatunga, crane birds and wetland forest of Syzygium sp. This is located along the Eldoret-Kapsabet road. We hope to cooperate in future world wetlands day celebrations." **Here are the illustrated report (PDF) and the poster.**

**Kenya III. Bernard Ogwoka** (bogwoka@yahoo.com) writes: "On 12th February 2005 World Wetlands Day was marked at **Lake Chem Chem in Malindi** with a local school and the community participating in performances and tree planting. Objectives of the day: 1. To involve students and communities around Lake Chem Chem in wetland conservation awareness campaign; 2. To empower both students and communities in wetlands biodiversity conservation and management; 3. Enhance an integrated/multiple sector approach in sustainable utilization of wetland resources for posterity." **Here is the brief illustrated report.**

**Lao PDR.** See **Mekong Basin countries** (above)

**Liberia. Ralph A. Woods** (ralphwoodsandson@yahoo.com), National Focal-Point in Liberia, writes: "I wish to say here that WWD was celebrated in a special way. The posters were distributed to wetland communities of major importance in Liberia under the Project, Post-Conflict Wetland Assessment. During the distribution to these areas, it was explained to community people how very important it is to use their wetland wisely. The message on the poster was explained for their understanding."

**Luxembourg. Marie-Paule Kremer** (Marie-Paule.Kremer@mev.etat.lu) writes that "we integrated Ramsar and WWD as special topics to the site of our ministry, the Portail de l'Environnement du Grand-duché de Luxembourg, with links to yours. For information, see: **[http://www.environnement.public.lu/conserv\\_nature/dossiers/Ramsar/index.html](http://www.environnement.public.lu/conserv_nature/dossiers/Ramsar/index.html)**."

**Madagascar. LALA Jean** (lala.jean@durrell.org) écrit: "Pour 02/02/05, nous avons le programme suivant - Au niveau national, notre Ministère de l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêts va organiser à Andasibe, Parc National du versant oriental de notre grande île, des manifestations pour sensibiliser officiellement la déclaration par l'Etat Malgache d'inclure la

zone humide d'Antorotorofotsy dans la liste des ceux qui ont déjà une importance interationale, un site Ramsar. . . . Nous, équipe de Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, menerons des activités dans trois lieux différents." [Plus d'informations.](#)

**Malawi.** **Hastings Maloya** (hastings@mountmulanje.org.mw), Programme Officer - Environmental Education, **Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT)** (www.mountmulanje.org.mw) has sent an MMCT [press release](#) on Malawi's wetlands on the occasion of WWD.

**Malaysia I.** **Jocelyn Maluda**, Kota Kinabalu City Bird Sanctuary Education Officer (kkcbs@tm.net.my), writes: "**Kota Kinabalu City Bird Sanctuary** recently held this event for WWD 2005 and we hope to be featured under Ramsar. Thank you for all the support that you've given us in spreading wetland awareness!" [Here is the brief illustrated report.](#)

**Malaysia II.** The **Star Online** newspaper has an article about Malaysia's intention to designate the Kuching Wetlands in Sarawak for the Ramsar List. [Here.](#)

**Marshall Islands.** **John Bungitak** (eparmi@ntamar.net) writes: "In the Marshall Islands, our delegation of four people from the Ministry of Education, Marine Resources Authority and Environmental Protection Authority went to **Jaluit Atoll**, a designated RAMSAR Site in the Marshall Islands." [Here is his brief illustrated report on the activities](#), including a school competition.

**Mexico I.** Following the high profile events of World Wetlands Day last year with 34 designations, this year Mexico continues to increase its number of Ramsar sites by adding four more to the List of Wetlands of International Importance. The new designations are a dune slack complex in the city of Veracruz, a national park in the island of Cozumel in the Caribbean, and a coastal lagoon and a mountain lakeshore in Michoacán state, where the WWD celebrations will be focused this year. [More.](#) / Tras haber designado un número récord de 34 nuevos sitios para la misma fecha en 2004, en esta ocasión México ha añadido 4 nuevos sitios a la Lista de Humedales De Importancia Internacional. Los nuevos sitios son un complejo de lagunas interdunarias en la ciudad de Veracruz, un parque nacional en la isla de Cozumel en el Caribe; así como una laguna costera y un sector de un lago de montaña en el estado de Michoacán, en donde las celebraciones se enfocarán este año. [Más.](#)

**México II.** Biol. **Carlos Eduardo Muñoz Cortés** (cmunoz@conanp.gob.mx), Dirección de Cooperación Internacional, **Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas** (CONANP), está escribiendo: "Te anexo algo de información para el evento de este 2 de febrero en México. Las actividades de algunos de nuestros sitios Ramsar se las he enviado a Iván por si acaso lo requieres." [Aquí.](#)

**México III.** **Ann Snook Cosandey**, Presidenta del Consejo Directivo, Amigos del Manatí AC (amigosdelmanatiac@hotmail.com), está escribiendo: "**Amigos del Manatí A.C** conjuntamente con el Sector Naval, la Dirección de las ANP-Chinchorro y Parques Arrecifes Xcalak, la CNA, el CMIRN- UQROO, el ITCH y ECOSUR como miembros del COMITÉ PARA LA PROTECCIÓN AL MEDIO AMBIENTE MARINO Y LA INVESTIGACIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA ZONA SUR DE Q. ROO los invitamos a participar y a difundir en sus medios respectivos el evento que se organizó para esta conmemoración." [Más.](#)

**México IV.** **Carlos Muñoz** (cmunoz@conanp.gob.mx), CONANP, está escribiendo: "[Envío los programas de los eventos](#) que tendremos en **Veracruz** sobre la Semana Estatal de los Humedales enmarcados dentro del día mundial de los humedales."

**México V. GOBIERNO DEL ESTADO DE YUCATÁN SECRETARÍA DE ECOLOGÍA, "DÍA MUNDIAL DE LOS HUMEDALES EN LA RESERVA DE DZILAM", PROGRAMA PRELIMINAR.**

**México VI. Carlos Muñoz** (cmunoz@conanp.gob.mx), CONANP, está escribiendo: "Como parte del día Mundial de los Humedales, en **Nayarit** celebrarán del 24 al 30 de enero el Primer Festival Internacional de las Aves Migratorias, siendo seleccionada a la Aboceta Americana como el simbolo del festival este año. Para el 2 de febrero se llevara a cabo un **Seminario sobre el Cocodrilo de río en San Blas**; Nayarit, llevandose a cabo la liberación de ejemplares por niños de primaria y secundaria, así como con jovenes de preparatoria de escuelas del mismo municipio. **Te envio anexo información del festival.**"

**México VII.** "El **Laboratorio Laguna de Sayula** (CUCBA, UdeG) planean una actividad en el Sitio Ramsar Laguna de Sayula, en coordinación con el H. Ayuntamiento de Amacueca, Jalisco, Semades, Semarnat Jalisco y el Ceas. Será el mismo 2 de febrero en el Ex-Convento "Dulce Nombre de Jesús" en el Mpio. de Amacueca, de 10:00 a 14:00 hrs., con la participación de ponentes con temas relacionados al Sitio y municipios aledaños. Así mismo se convocó al Mpio. de Amacueca a un concurso de dibujo infantil con el tema de los humedales, y ese día será la premiación, así como la entrega de constancias a los nuevos Promotores Ambientales, curso que convocó Semades previo a este evento. Te comparto también que ese día será la inauguración oficial de la página Web del Laboratorio, la cual ya está en línea (<http://www.cucba.udg.mx/sayula>), finalmente habrá un brindis."

**México VIII.** "El programa de actividades para el día 2 de febrero con motivo de la celebración de los Humedales, del **Parque nacional Lagunas de Montebello**, posteriormente te haré llegar la del Parque nacional Cañón del Sumidero) Campaña de limpieza del Parque en áreas colindantes a las lagunas en coordinación con SECTUR y con la participación del personal y prestadores de servicios turísticos. 2) Concertación del Programa de conservación y manejo conjunto con las presidencias municipales en el contexto de un humedal de importancia internacional. 3) Campaña de retiro de material combustible dentro del parque, dentro del programa de prevención de incendios en zonas colindantes con los humedales, con la participación de prestadores de servicios y ejidatarios de las comunidades aledañas al parque."

**México IX.** "1er Aniversario del **Parque Nacional Cañón del Sumidero** como sitio RAMSAR, en el Marco del Día Mundial de los Humedales 02 de Febrero del 2005. ACTIVIDADES - 1) Curso de Capacitación a prestadores de Servicios Turísticos del Parque Nacional Cañón del Sumidero en Desarrollo Empresarial para la conservación del sitio RAMSAR. 2) Difusión y concientización sobre la importancia del parque Nacional como HUMEDAL y Sitio RAMSAR, a los Alumnos del Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Chiapas. 3) Difusión ambiental sobre la importancia del Parque y su conservación como Humedal con reconocimiento como sitio RAMSAR. Así como, actividades de recolecta de basura con el grupo de Boy Scout de Tuxtla Gutiérrez, en el Parque Nacional Cañón del Sumidero. 4) Elaboración del Periódico Mural sobre la Importancia de los Humedales y su Conservación, con alumnos de la Esc. Primaria Leona Vicario. Así mismo, realizar actividades de Reforestación de Áreas Verdes de la Escuela. 5) Labores de limpieza y Saneamiento del Río Grijalva dentro del Parque Nacional Cañón del Sumidero."

**México X. César Iván Manríquez**

**Castro** (cesarivan25@hotmail.com), Coordinador Educativo, Pro Esteros, A. C., Ensenada, está escribiendo: "Trabajo en **Pro Esteros, A. C.** Nosostros nos dedicamos a la conservación de humedales costeros en Baja California, México. Quisiera ingresar a la página electrónica de Ramsar un reporte de las actividades que realizamos con motivo del





pasado 2 de febrero. Les envío un archivo en formato.pdf, espero que les sirva." [Aquí](#).

**Namibia.** **Romie Vonkie Nghiulikwa** (romie.nghiulikwa@undp.org), Environment Unit, UNDP-Namibia in Windhoek, writes that **UNDP Namibia** in conjunction with the Namibian Government is preparing for the WWD 2 February 2005 celebration.

**Nepal I.** Ms **Neera Shrestha Pradhan** (neera.pradhan@wwfnepal.org, <http://www.wwfnepal.org>), Freshwater Officer, **WWF Nepal Program** in Kathmandu, writes: "WWF Nepal Program joined hands with partner conservation organizations, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), Department of Forest (DoF) and IUCN and celebrated the World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2005 by organizing a sensitization workshop for environmental journalists in Kathmandu. The workshop consists of a detailed presentation by DNPWC on "Ramsar Convention and its implications in Nepal" and a documentary show on Beeshajar and Associated Lakes (Ramsar site in Nepal)." In related news, **Basant Subba provides another report** of the same workshop and news of a bird festival at the same time.

**Nepal II.** The **Friends of the Bagmati** [fob@dwarikas.com] write to inform us of the **Taudaha Jamboree 2005** WWD Celebration: "The Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) promoted the event, Taudaha Jamboree 2005; first ever event organized by Friends of the Bagmati and Tuadaha Yuwa Samiti to promote and conserve Taudaha Lake." **Here is the brief illustrated report in PDF format.**

**Nepal III.** **Achyut Dahal** (nrct@wlink.com.np), Coordinator, **Nepal River Conservation Trust (NRCT)** ([www.nepalrivers.org.np](http://www.nepalrivers.org.np)), writes: "Our organization is also launching the different program from the World Wetland Day to last year's. On 2nd February we are conducting the workshop for river guides and school children in Sindhupalchowk district of Nepal. From the same day we are conducting Annual River Festival 2005 on Bhotekoshi River which is famous for Bunjee Jumping and Rafting in Nepal."

**Nepal IV.** **Deependra Joshi** (djoshi@iucn.org.np), Programme Officer, **IUCN Nepal Country Office**, Kathmandu ([www.iucnnepal.org](http://www.iucnnepal.org)), writes: "Please find attached a **crisp report on the wetlands day celebrations** that IUCN Nepal successfully accomplished in Kathmandu and other Ramsar sites in Nepal. I am also attaching a few photographs in jpeg. Thank you and best regards."

**New Zealand.** According to the Web site of Fish and Game New Zealand, "The **Waikato** proved its environmental credentials on Sunday – World Wetland Day 2005 – when around 170 people turned up to celebrate the day and learn as much as they could about its themes this year. As well as to celebrate the launch of Fish & Game NZ's exclusive New Zealand Game Bird Habitat 2005 limited edition collectors' stamp. What was once an invisible event has grown enormously in popularity as worldwide the importance of fresh water – its increasing scarcity and conflict over use – has highlighted the role that wetlands play in sustaining water quality." **Here is the Waikato report**, and here is a Department of Conservation listing of **WWD activities all around New Zealand**.

**Panamá I.** Como parte de la celebración del Día Mundial de los Humedales se realizó la firma del Convenio de Cooperación entre la Ciudad del Saber y el Centro Regional Ramsar para la Capacitación e Investigación sobre Humedales para el Hemisferio Occidental (CREHO), con base en el cual ambas organizaciones que comparten intereses comunes en lo relativo a la capacitación e investigación sobre temas ambientales, acuerdan desarrollar acciones conjuntas encaminadas a fortalecer el trabajo que realizan. [Aquí](#).

**Panamá II. Eric E. Flores**, Presidente, **GITEC** (gitec15@hotmail.com), está escribiendo: "Con mucha alegría enviamos a ustedes **nuestro reporte de celebracion del Día Mundial de Humedales 2005**. Este año el evento tuvo lugar en el area protegida **Ciénaga de las Macanas**, en la provincia de Herrera y como seguimiento al evento del año 2004. Se celebró los días 26 y 27 de Febrero y fue posible gracias al apoyo de diversas organizaciones. Esperamos seguir recibiendo su apoyo, para continuar con nuestros esfuerzos en pro de la conservación y la difusión del conocimiento sobre los Humedales en Panama. Adjuntamos aquí dos fotografías preliminares y enviaremos dos imágenes más en otro correo por tema de espacio." **Reporte adicional.**

**Paraguay I. Lic. Levi Hiebert Funk** (levih@telesurf.com.py), Programas de CECOP Comunicación, Educación y Concienciación del Público, **Fundación Desdel Chaco** (www.desdelchaco.org.py), Asunción, está escribiendo: "Para el Día Mundial de Humedales elaboramos un folleto para promover la comunicación, educación y concienciación para el público." **Aquí.** "La Fundación DeSdel Chaco les presenta oficialmente su nuevo afiche para recordar el Día Mundial de los Humedales del 2 de febrero 2005, gracias a la cooperación de la USAID y Fundación Moisés Bertoni (Ramsar). El afiche (© FDSCH) se va repartir sobre todo en instituciones educativas como material de apoyo y además de esto a instituciones públicas en todo el país del Paraguay." **Aquí.**



**Paraguay II. Danilo A. Salas D.** (dsalas@mbertoni.org.py), Coordinador Comité Nacional de Humedales, Fundación Moisés Bertoni, Asunción, está escribiendo: "Respetados amigos, **Anexo el informe** de las actividades desarrolladas por el **COMITÉ NACIONAL DE HUMEDALES DEL PARAGUAY** con motivo del Día Mundial de los Humedales.

**Perú I. Manuel Ñique Alvarez** (maniqueal@yahoo.com), Universidad Nacional Agraria de la Selva, Tingo María, está escribiendo: "Con motivo del Día Mundial de los Humedales se inició la publicación de un listado de los principales humedales del Perú. La información recopilada está en la siguiente página web: <http://www.geocities.com/humedalesperu>. Esta lista que está clasificada por regiones naturales (costa, sierra y selva) estará aumentando conforme se reciba más reportes sobre humedales de las diferentes partes del Perú. El lema establecido es: CONOCER PARA CONSERVAR."

**Perú II. Humedales CAACH** (info@humedalescoquimbo.cl) está escribiendo: "Educadores y monitores de educación ambiental en humedales de Chile, Perú y Argentina sostendrán mañana una conversación vía Internet usando una aplicación de tipo conferencia, con el objetivo de intercambiar experiencias y aprendizajes obtenidos a partir del trabajo que desarrollan sus organizaciones en el ámbito local, regional e internacional. La actividad se realizará en adhesión al 2 de Febrero, Día Mundial de los Humedales, fecha de la creación de la Convención de Ramsar, con la participación de integrantes de las organizaciones chilenas Centro Neotropical de Entrenamiento en Humedales, CNEH y Corporación Ambientes Acuáticos de Chile, CAACH con sede en Coquimbo; la Asociación Naturaleza y Desarrollo, NADES, del Perú, de Arequipa y la Fundación Proteger - Amigos de la Tierra, Argentina cuya coordinación nacional está en Santa Fe." **Más.**

**Perú III. Coral Calvo Vargas** (coralcalvo@amauta.rcp.net.pe), **Proyecto Wakarpay, Asociación ANDES**, está escribiendo: "Ante todo para saludarlo y agradecerle su apoyo y el de la Convención en la labor que realizamos y especialmente por el apoyo recibido para la celebración del Día de los Humedales, el cual se celebró por primera vez en nuestra ciudad y en el que a su vez participaron muchas instituciones locales preocupadas por la conservación del Humedal Lucre - Wakarpay, pero lamentablemente no pudimos hacer entrega de los certificados como lo habíamos previsto, por la premura del tiempo y el formato PDF que

no nos lo permitió en se preciso momento. Bueno, le envió **un pequeño informe [PDF]** de las principales actividades realizadas en el evento."

**Perú IV. José Nunura Nunura** (jsnunura@hotmail.com) has sent a message from Dr. **Armando Arévalo Zeta**, Alcalde Municipalidad Distrital de Vice: "Apreciamos oportuno reiterarles nuestra permanente preocupación por éste moderno tratado intergubernamental sobre conservación y uso racional de los recursos naturales, especialmente como hábitat de aves acuáticas. Nos complace también informarles que desde el año 2000 a la fecha en nuestro gobierno local contamos con un registro actualizado de nuestra Biodiversidad, aves, peces, moluscos, invertebrados, mamíferos, insectos y protozoarios; constituyendo nuestro ecosistema de manglares el límite extremo sur en el Océano Pacífico de éste tipo de ecosistemas. A la espera de que con intervención de vuestra institución a futuro nos constituycamos en un sitio RAMSAR, conjuntamente con las lagunas de Ñapique y Ramón y el estuario de Virrillá localizados también en la jurisdicción de la Provincia de Sechura." **Programa.**

**Perú V. Cynthia Céspedes** (ccespedes@inrena.gob.pe), Coordinadora, Dirección de Planeamiento de Áreas Naturales Protegidas, Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales (INRENA), Autoridad Administrativa Ramsar del Perú, está escribiendo: "La celebración del día mundial de los humedales tiene como objetivos principales: - Contribuir al proceso de concienciación de la importancia de la conservación y uso sostenible de los humedales, así como difundir las funciones y valores que brindan estos ecosistemas. - Dar a conocer la importancia de conservar los sitios Ramsar en el Perú. - Promover la participación de instituciones locales (públicas y privadas), así como de la población local en las actividades de conservación de los humedales. Las actividades se llevaron desde finales del mes de enero hasta finales del mes de febrero, logrando la participación de instituciones públicas y privadas, universidades, poblaciones locales y sociedad civil en general." **Mas información aquí.**

**Philippines I. Marlynn Mendoza** (mmendoza@i-manila.com.ph), **Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau**, wrote: "Many of our offices nationwide signified their intention to join in the celebration. Their [planned] activities will be uploaded soon on our website [http://www.pawb.gov.ph/world\\_wetlands\\_day\\_2005.htm](http://www.pawb.gov.ph/world_wetlands_day_2005.htm)." **Here is a listing.**

**Philippines II. Ma. Dulce M. Cacha** (wetlands@psdn.org.ph), President of the Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands, writes: "The **Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW)**, the NGO focal point for the Ramsar CEPA Programme, in cooperation with its government counterpart, the **Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau**, has come up with a project to develop the National Wetlands CEPA Action Plan. In time for the celebration of WWD, a national workshop was conducted on 02 February 2005 to craft the first draft of the National Wetlands CEPA Action Plan. Thirty identified key stakeholders from all over the country gathered at the Visitors' Center of the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center to attend the workshop." **A brief illustrated report is here.**

**Philippines III. Eduardo M. Bisquera, Jr.** (edubisjr@yahoo.com), Regional Technical Director, PAWCZMS, DENR 9, writes: "Please find attached report on the activities undertaken during the World Wetlands celebration in the **Zamboanga Peninsula**, Philippines." **Here is the brief illustrated report in PDF.**

**Poland.** The people at the **Warta Mouth National Park** (edukacja@pnujsciewarty.gov.pl) have sent **a brief report** of their WWD activities, with a few photographs.

**Republic of Korea.** Dr. **Park, Eui-Joon** (ejpark98@me.go.kr), National Project Coordinator (NPC) of the UNDP/GEF Wetland Conservation Project in the ROK, writes: "The Ministry of Environment (MOE) in the Republic of Korea (ROK) is pleased to inform that we celebrated the 2005 WWD on 2-3 February 2005 in collaboration with Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Fisheries (MOMAF) and South Gyeongsang Province. Regarding the Ramsar Convention for the WWD since 1997, MOE and MOMAF have celebrated it alternately each year since 2002. The 4th ceremony for WWD in the ROK is MOE's turn. In line with the 2005 Ramsar slogan, "There's wealth in the wetland diversity - don't lose it!", MOE's theme is determined "Wetland diversity and wise use policy in the ROK". **Here's his brief illustrated report.**

**Republic of Moldova.** Dr. **Ion Bejenaru** (ion.b.fae@mediu.moldova.md), Ramsar Focal Point, Republic of Moldova, writes: We "organised the rich programme dedicated to World Wetlands Day (during one week). The programme included: one TV emission, three Radio emission, newspaper publication - one, university lectures (two universities), and a Ramsar Focal Point Meeting."

**Romania.** **Virgil Munteanu**, Governor of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (caftodor@ddbra.ro), writes: "Herewith **Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority Tulcea** is very pleased to report the programme of activities organised for the celebration of the environmental event World Wetlands Day. On the 2nd of February 2005, Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, in cooperation with schools from the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve area and from Tulcea, celebrated the International Wetlands Day." **Here is his well-illustrated report.**

**Samoa.** **Vainuupo Jungblut** (vainuupoj@sprep.org), Assistant Ramsar Officer, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) in Apia, writes: "The **Division of Environment & Conservation (DEC)** sent a media release about WWD 2005 out to their local newspapers for publication in both English and Samoan adding an article on the media release about the ratification by Samoa of the Ramsar Convention and a brief overview on the status and traditional use and conservation of their wetlands in Samoa."

**Sénégal.** La **Direction des parcs nationaux** (dpn@sentoo.sn) écrit: "A l'instar de la communauté internationale, le Sénégal a consacré les journées du 03 au 05 février 2005 à des manifestations de sensibilisation et d'information sur les enjeux planétaires de la conservation des zones humides, les écosystèmes les plus vitaux pour la préservation de la diversité biologique. Cette année, sous la maîtrise d'œuvre de la Direction des parcs nationaux, les manifestations commémoratives se sont déroulées à la **Réserve Naturelle d'Intérêt Communautaire de la Somone.**" **Le rapport.**

**Serbia and Montenegro.** "Novi Sad, 2 February: The Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia, Department in Novi Sad, celebrated [WWD]. . . . Gathering all the main regional stakeholders from the field of nature conservation including state institutions, experts, protected area authorities and NGOs, was a good occasion to present current achievements and plans related to conservation of wetland areas in Serbia. **Slobodan Puzovic** from the Provincial Secretariat for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development of Vojvodina presented the Special Nature Reserve Slano Kopovo, which was recently designated as a Ramsar site. The participants were informed on the new nominations for Ramsar designation, among which Labudovo okno is almost completed, while Gornje podunavlje, Karajukica bunari and Vlasinsko jezero are in preparatory process. For more information about these nominations contact **Boris Erg**, Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia, [berg@eunet.org](mailto:berg@eunet.org)."



**Seychelles. Murugaiyan Pugazhendhi** (p.murugaiyan@pps.gov.sc), Wetland Unit - Seychelles, writes: "WWD 2005 was celebrated in Seychelles with more emphasis on high altitude freshwater wetland - Mare Aux Cochons at Le Niole - Morne Seychellois National Parks boundary. Student representatives all the secondary schools (two from each school) participated in the nature walk, quiz, competitions and won prizes. Radio Am and media announced quiz questions on wetlands for the public." [Here is his well-illustrated report.](#)

**Spain I. Julián M<sup>a</sup> Cano Villanueva** (jcanovilla@eresmas.com) está escribiendo: "**La Ecoescuela del IES Poeta García Gutiérrez** ha celebrado el 2 de febrero de 2005 el Día Mundial de los Humedales. Es el quinto año consecutivo en que se conmemora esta fecha llevándose a cabo diversas actividades entre las que destacan las siguientes: 1) Reparto entre el alumnado de pegatinas y material relativo a los humedales. 2) Visita y estudio de la exposición "Plan Andaluz de Humedales" organizada por la Consejería de Medio Ambiente de la Junta de Andalucía con la colaboración del Ayuntamiento de Chiclana. Varios grupos de alumnos y alumnas de 4º de ESO, 1º de Bachillerato y Ciencias de la Tierra y el Medio Ambiente de Bachillerato analizaron el contenido de dicho plan y elaboraron informes al respecto. 3) Visita a la laguna de Jeli, perteneciente al Complejo Endorreico de Chiclana (Cádiz). Sustenta la figura de Reserva Natural y están siendo promovidas para alcanzar la concesión de zona Ramsar. El alumnado observó diferentes especies de aves y estimó su número aproximado. 4) Charla a cargo de don José Manuel López, asesor técnico de las lagunas en la Delegación Provincial de Medio Ambiente de Cádiz, sobre la laguna de Jeli."

**Spain II. Roberto González Argote** (rgargote@vitoria-gasteiz.org), Técnico del Centro de Estudios Ambientales, está escribiendo: "Estimados compañeros de Ramsar, Me dirijo a vosotros con la intención de haceros llegar una breve descripción de las actividades que el **Centro de Estudios Ambientales del Ayuntamiento de Vitoria-Gasteiz** ha programado para celebrar el Día Mundial de los Humedales en la ciudad de Vitoria-Gasteiz con motivo del Día Mundial de los Humedales 2005." [Aquí.](#)



**Spain III.** "WWF and Greenpeace say the Júcar-Vinalopó transfer is the coup de grace for the second largest wetland in Spain, the Parque Natural de La Albufera de Valencia. On the occasion of the World Wetlands Day on February 2, the organizations demand the stopping of the transfer, keeping in mind that Spain has lost 60% of her wetlands in the last 50 years." [Here is the press release.](#)

**Spain IV. Xabier Arana Eiguren** (xabier-arana@ej-gv.es), Director de la **Reserva de la Biosfera de Urdaibai** (www.euskadi.net/urdaibai), Dpto. de Ordenación del Territorio y Medio Ambiente, Gobierno Vasco, está escribiendo: "Estimados amigos y amigas: [Adjunto les remito el cartel](#) anunciador de la actividad organizada por la Reserva de la Biosfera de Urdaibai (País Vasco- Spain) en torno a la conmemoración del Día Mundial de los Humedales."

**Spain V. Marta Albares García** (malbares@jccm.es), Consejería de Medio Ambiente de la Junta de **Comunidades de Castilla-la Mancha, Delegación Provincial de Cuenca**, está escribiendo: "Le [adjunto informe de las actividades](#) que este año organizamos con motivo de la celebración del día mundial de los humedales. Finalmente me llegaron los CDs de los carteles, pero no a tiempo para poderlos utilizar en la publicidad de las actividades. Gracias de todos modos y un cordial saludo."

**Switzerland I.** The Government of the Secretariat's host country, Switzerland, has designated three valuable as well as very scenic Ramsar sites as part of its celebration of WWD. **Laubersmad-Salwidili** (1,376 ha) is a subalpine area of transitional and raised

bogs on the northern slopes of the Alps, in the north-central canton of Lucerne, and is part of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve "Entlebuch". The **Rhonegletschervorfeld** consists of the alpine region around the tongue of the Rhône glacier, the source of the mighty Rhône River, and **Vadret da Roseg** includes the alpine alluvial zone at the outflow of two glaciers in the far east of the country. [Here is the story](#) and [Switzerland's press release in PDF](#).

**Switzerland II. L'Etat de Genève, le Muséum de Genève**, ainsi que plusieurs structures associatives régionales organisent la quatrième édition d'observations ornithologiques (oiseaux d'eau et oiseaux migrateurs) pour le grand public genevois. Deux biologistes du Muséum de Genève seront présents sur les bords du Léman le dimanche 6 février 2005 à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale des zones humides. Des ornithologues, munis de télescopes, vous accueilleront de 10h à 15h à la jetée des Pâquis, au Jardin anglais et au centre nature de Pro Natura de la Pointe à la Bise (sur ce site de 14h à 16h) et répondront à toutes vos questions. Ils vous feront découvrir la richesse exceptionnelle du Léman, qui, en hiver, n'abrite pas moins de 80'000 oiseaux d'eau et presque autant de Grèbes huppés que la France entière. Pour en savoir plus: [laurent.vallotton@mhn.ville-ge.ch](mailto:laurent.vallotton@mhn.ville-ge.ch).

**Thailand I.** See **Mekong Basin countries** (above)

**Trinidad and Tobago. Nadra Nathai-Gyan** (wildlife@trinidad.net), Wildlife Section, writes: "The Wildlife Section and the Private and Community Forestry Unit of the Forestry Division in conjunction with the National Wetlands Committee hosted the opening of the **Nariva Swamp Field Station** and launching of a 14 - poster series on the theme of "Nariva Swamp Working for Us" to commemorate World Wetlands Day at the Kernahan Village, Nariva on 2nd February 2005. . . . The feature address was delivered by the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment, the **Hon. Penelope Beckles**, who formally opened the Field Station and launched the 14 interpretive posters." [Here is a brief illustrated report](#).

**Uganda. Odong Warns On Wetlands. New Vision (Kampala)**, February 5, 2005, by Gerald Tenywa and Eddie Ssejjoba. "**Environment state minister Jeje Odong** has called for the protection of **Nabugabo Ramsar site** in Masaka, in a bid to save the endangered species and promote tourism. Odong was last Wednesday speaking at the World Wetlands Day national celebrations at Nabugabo organised by the Wetlands Inspection Division. He also launched Nabugabo Ramsar site, which is recognised as a wetland of global importance. Ramsar is a city in Iran where the global Convention on wetlands was adopted about three decades ago. Under the Convention, ecologically sensitive areas (wetland) are set aside as Ramsar sites and attract global attention in terms of funding and guidance on sustainable use of wetlands. Odong also launched a handicraft shop and information centre at Ssunga village near Nabugabo."

#### **United Kingdom I. Helen**

**Harding** (Helen.Harding@defra.gsi.gov.uk) served as the focal point within the Ramsar Authority, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, for the distribution of Ramsar WWD materials in the UK, and she made [this collection of WWD plans](#) that came to her attention.



**United Kingdom II. Andy Wakelin** (andy.wakelin@which.net), on behalf of staff and volunteers at MBWC, writes: "The **Montrose Basin Wildlife Centre** in Scotland celebrated WWD 2005 with a display for visitors that ran from 24th Jan to 14th Feb (see pictures). This was composed of the poster, some of the pdf's from the ramsar.org website, the WWD 2002 screensaver and video and a modified poster (see attached) that was used to

advertise the special events. Also attached is the Scottish Wildlife Trust Press release that went to local papers." [Here is the illustrated report.](#)

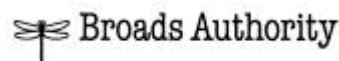
**United Kingdom III. Rachel Bryers** (rachel.bryers@ulsterwildlifetrust.org), Lagan Meadows Reserve Warden, Ulster Wildlife Trust (www.ulsterwildlifetrust.org), writes: "**The Ulster Wildlife Trust** ran a family fun day at Lagan Meadows Nature Reserve in Belfast, with guided walks and activities for all ages. Activities included pond dipping, scavenger hunt, frog art (see the photos to find out what that is!), bird watching, who-am-I game, and also information on the plants and animals found there, and on the different habitats and their importance. We had 12 adults and 12 children participating, which we were extremely pleased about, and all learnt something and had positive feedback about the event. In addition, the species list from the pond dipping activity has been compared with similar species lists compiled previously, to provide a useful indicator of any changes in water quality." [Here is a brief illustrated report.](#)

**United Kingdom IV. Nick Pinder** (Nick.Pinder@curraghswlp.dtl.gov.im), General Manager, Curraghs Wildlife Park (www.gov.im/wildlife), Ballaugh, **Isle of Man**, wrote: "The **Curraghs Wildlife Park** on the Isle of Man is situated adjacent to the Ballaugh Curraghs, the most important wetland conservation site on the island and a candidate Ramsar site. The Wildlife Park recognizes this by exhibiting mainly wetlands species (otters, tapirs, capybaras, various waterfowl, cranes, storks) and with its nature trail through 4 hectare of nature reserve within the boundary fence. 2005 is the Wildlife Park's 40th anniversary and we are keen to make it a special year by holding a series of events throughout the year in which we would like to include World Wetlands Day."

**United Kingdom V. Christine Reeves** (christine.reeves@hants.gov.uk), Visitor Promotions Officer, **Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership** in Aldershot (www.blackwater-valley.org.uk), sent this notice: "Guided Bird Walk. On World Wetlands Day this guided walk (about 1.5 miles) led by Colin Wilson looks at the birds at Moor Green Lakes Nature Reserve, an important wetland site within the Blackwater Valley. A little over 10 years ago the site was a worked out gravel pit with bare ground and empty lakes covering 36 hectares (90 acres). Today the Reserve comprises three lakes with gravel islands, beaches and scrapes, fringed by scrub and grassland with mature trees and hedgerows. The lakes are now best known for wildfowl and waders that visit every winter including wigeon, teal, gadwall and goosander. Over 200 bird species have been recorded here including lapwing, cormorant, possibly buzzard, kestrel and kingfisher."

**United Kingdom VI. Rachael**

**Miller** (Rachael.Miller@broads-authority.gov.uk), Events Ranger, **Broads Authority** (www.broads-authority.gov.uk) in Norwich, writes that WWD is being celebrated by a choice of guided walks through Stanley Carrs Nature Reserve near Beccles, a rare example of carr woodland regularly washed by the high tide, or the beautiful Hickling Broad nature reserve, owned and managed by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust on the River Thurne.



**United Kingdom VII.** The Department of Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (defra) has informed the Secretariat of its designation of three new Ramsar sites effective World Wetlands Day, 2 February 2005, all of them reef and shoal systems off-shore from the **Channel Island of Jersey**. With huge tidal ranges in the area of the Golfe de St-Malo along the northwestern coast of France, all three sites present an array of reef and intertidal habitat types. [Here are brief descriptions of the sites with some photos.](#)

**United Kingdom VIII. Joanne McMullan** (joanne@lnlb.org.uk), Administration Officer, Lough Neagh & Lough Bann Advisory Committees, Magherafelt, Northern Ireland (www.loughneagh.com), writes: "Please find information attached on a conference held on 2

February 2005 by the Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Advisory Committees, Northern Ireland for inclusion on your website." **Here is the illustrated report.**

**USA I.** The US State Department issued a press release on 31 January which begins: "On February 2, 2004, United States Embassies from South America to the Middle East will join their local communities to commemorate World Wetlands Day, an annual celebration of the vital importance of wetlands to the world's ecological health and of efforts to conserve these invaluable habitats." It continues by announcing the USA's list of three new Ramsar sites (of which two, **Grassland Ecological Area and Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve**, have already been added to the Ramsar List) in honor of WWD and in pursuit of the government's intention to launch "an aggressive new national initiative to move beyond a policy of "no net loss" of wetlands to an overall increase of wetlands in America". **Here is the press release.** Update: a description of the third new US Ramsar site, **Kawainui and Hamakua Marsh Complex** in Hawaii, can be found here.

**USA II. Molly A. Hetrick** (mhetrick@crcog.net, **www.CentreConnect.org/crpr**), Recreation Supervisor-Millbrook Marsh Nature Center, State College, Pennsylvania, writes: "The **Millbrook Marsh Nature Center** celebrated World Wetlands Day 2005 with a 2 hour program that focused on the importance of wetlands, studying our own wetland, and information regarding the Ramsar WWD. We began the program with a discussion of wetlands and then spent about an hour on a walk through the marsh. The weather was warm for February (about 40F) and there was about 6 inches of snow on the ground. With the snow cover and the brilliant sun and warmer than expected temperature, it was a breathtakingly beautiful walk! We observed animal tracks, looked for signs of spring (and found buds on trees), explored the different areas of the marsh, discussed the three streams that meet within the marsh, and did some birdwatching. We had 14 adults and 6 children attend the program, which was led by nature center staff and volunteers. It was a wonderful program and we plan to continue this in the coming years."

**USA III. Liza Crosse** (lcrosse@co.marin.ca.us), Administrative Aide to Supervisor Steve Kinsey, County of Marin, in San Rafael, California, writes: "Attached is the cover letter that requested the adoption of the resolution [on WWD]. **Marin County** is surrounded by water on three sides, and has many extraordinary wetlands so World Wetlands Day was a natural for us. For your information, both the resolution and the letter were drafted by a high school intern, **Brian Levin**, aged 17, who is enrolled in a unique "environmental academy" called "Seadisc" at Sir Francis Drake High School. It's a great program, a model for others. See the webpage for more information, you'll be moved I think. Brian is on the left in the group photo, giving the thumbs up. **http://drake.marin.k12.ca.us/academics/seadisc/homepage.htm**. Brian is also working on an effort by the Conservation Leaders Network to rally California's coastal governments to oppose offshore drilling and mining. Thanks for your efforts, and recognition of Ramsar for two of Marin's important estuaries, Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay." **The Marin Country resolution can be seen here.**

**USA IV. Royal C. Gardner** (GARDNER@law.stetson.edu), Vice Dean and Professor of Law at Stetson University College of Law in Florida and Vice Chair of the U.S. National Ramsar Committee, writes: "Dear Colleagues, To celebrate WWD 2005, **Stetson University College of Law** hosted a presentation on the efforts to restore the Mesopotamian marshlands in southern Iraq. Dr. Azzam Alwash, Director of the Eden Again Project, spoke to us live from Iraq via the Internet. A video of the presentation is now available on the Stetson web site. The press release is at **http://www.law.stetson.edu/communications/news.asp?id=148** and you can go directly to the video at **http://gpiis03.law.stetson.edu/media/on-demand/alwash.asx.**"



**USA V. Brian Lehman** (bl@mcopr.com) writes: "To celebrate World Wetlands Day in coastal Louisiana, which is also known as America's WETLAND, events and activities were held not only to show concern for the world's wetlands but also to raise awareness about the staggering rate at which America's WETLAND is disappearing and the impact of this loss on the state, nation and world. . . . In what is fast becoming a tradition for the administration of Governor **Kathleen Babineaux Blanco**, Governor Blanco signed a proclamation that renamed February 2nd as "America's WETLAND Day" in Louisiana." [Here is the press release.](#)

**USA VI. Montserrat Carbonell** (mcarbonell@ducks.org) posted a press release to the Ramsar Forum to the effect that: "New Education Partnership Highlights World Wetlands Day -- Ducks Unlimited & Project WET Join Forces". "February 2, 2005 - Memphis, TN - **Ducks Unlimited (DU)** and **Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)** today announced an education partnership to celebrate World Wetlands Day that will benefit water, wetlands, wildlife and people across North America. The new partnership between the world leader in wetlands conservation (DU) and the U.S. leader in water and wetlands education (Project WET) harnesses the power of both organizations to educate more and more young people about the importance of wetlands and water resources. The partnership is also part of DU's launch of its new continent-North American wide wetlands education program called Project Webfoot." [Here is the full text.](#)



**Uruguay I.** Liceo de San Javier (liceosj1@adinet.com.uy): "Se remite las dos actividades realizadas en **San Javier**. Informe de Presentación de los Humedales y 1er. Acta del grupo de trabajo. Próxima sesión el el día 16 de febrero a las 20:00 hs. en el Local Liceal. Agradecemos, cualquier sugerencia o recomendación, hacerlo saber cuanto antes, gracias." [Más.](#)

**Uruguay II. Rubén Oyarzábal**, Productor, Ecovivir (ecovivir@adinet.com.uy), está escribiendo: "Con motivo de celebrarse hoy el DIA MUNDIAL DE LOS HUMEDALES, tenemos el agrado de anunciarles la RE-EMISIÓN en TV para nuestro País del Documental para la Convención de Ramsar "CORREDOR DE VIDA", que aborda al corredor de humedales de los ríos Paraguay, Paraná y Uruguay como la unidad ecológica y social, así como los sitios Ramsar actuales y futuros, rescatando la importancia de los humedales para el planeta y para los seres humanos. El mismo ha sido realizado por la **Productora Uruguaya ECOVIVIR** con la financiación del **Fondo de Humedales para el Futuro de la Convención de Ramsar** y el **Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos**. Emisión: HOY 2 de FEBRERO, TVEo - Canal 5 a las 19:00hs. TV Ciudad a las 20:30 y 23:30hs."

**Venezuela I. Alejandro Luy** (comunicaciontv@cantv.net), Gerente General, **Fundación Tierra Viva**, Educación, Ambiente y Desarrollo, está escribiendo: "Desde 1999, Fundación Tierra Viva ha promovido distintas actividades para esta celebración, todas ellas en el marco de Programas y Proyectos que en pro del conocimiento y la conservación de los humedales ejecuta de manera continua en distintas regiones de Venezuela." **Foro: "Iniciativas para la conservación de los humedales de la Cuenca del Lago de Valencia", Foro: "Diversidad Biológica y Cultural de los Humedales del Delta del Orinoco", Triptico foro Día de los Humedales 2005 (PDF)** .



**Venezuela II. Fundación Tierra Viva** (comunicaciontv@cantv.net) - Nota de prensa, El Nacional - 02 de Febrero de 2005: "Basura y desconocimiento afectan la estabilidad de los humedales del país. La mayoría de la población ignora que Cuare, Los Roques, Tacarigua,

Los Olivitos y La Restinga son cinco de estos espacios protegidos internacionalmente por la Convención Ramsar. Hoy se celebra el Día Mundial de los Humedales." [Aquí.](#)

**Venezuela III. Alejandro Guerrero Laverde** (aguerre@ula.ve) está escribiendo: "En **Cúcuta**, en donde resido actualmente, se organizó la celebración del Día Mundial de los Humedales, el miércoles 2 de Febrero pasado. Se contó con la colaboración de la Cámara de Comercio de Cúcuta, entidad gremial que afilia al sector comercial de la ciudad (Cúcuta tiene 750.000 habitantes), para insertar el afiche (tamaño oficio) sobre la celebración Ramsar para éste año, en la edición del mismo 2 de Febrero, del diario regional La Opinión. . . . Se dictaron 28 charlas, dirigidas a los mismos colegio y universidades de la ciudad, logrando un auditorio estimado de cerca de 2200 personas en toda la ciudad; aun en éste momento, me encuentro haciendo la misma presentación a las entidades que la solicitan, sin costo alguno. El contenido de la presentación en power point, incluyó una leve explicación de cómo nació la Convención de Ramsar; su misión y objetivos." [Más.](#)

**Viet Nam I. Le Phat Quoi** (quoilp@hcm.vnn.vn) outlines "the activities held at **Lang Sen Wetlands Reserve Area**, Tan Hung district, Long An province, in the Plain of Reeds of the Lower Mekong Delta Basin. Under sponsorship of the Mekong Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Program, WWD was organized by Management of Lang Sen Wetland Reserve and Provincial Department of Science and Technology together. A number of activities were done to mark the event: Field excursion for secondary school students and teachers; Secondary school student's painting competition; Essay writing contest for secondary students; and Special presentations on biodiversity values and wiser use of wetlands." [Here is a brief illustrated report.](#)

**Viet Nam II.** "To celebrate World Wetland Day and highlight U.S. support for wetland conservation in Vietnam, Deputy Chief of Mission **John S. Boardman** will visit communities in Giao Thuy District, Nam Dinh Province on February 1, 2005. During the visit to **Xuan Thuy National Park**, Vietnam's only Ramsar site, Mr. Boardman will announce a small grant to support Con Lu Bird Conservation Club, Xuan Thuy National Park, and BirdLife International conduct community-based conservation activities." [Here is the press release in PDF.](#)

**Viet Nam III.** See **Mekong Basin countries** (above)

**Other: Taiwan. Chih-ying Lee** (cylee@wbst.org.tw), **Wild Bird Society of Taipei**, Guandu Nature Park Management Office, writes: "Many thanks for your understanding and kindly help! The Ramsar WWD materials will be very helpful for raising people's awareness of wetland conservation in Taiwan." [Here is the report on volunteer work on WWD to combat the problem of stray dogs in the Nature Park.](#)