

World Wetlands Day 2005 -- from the Secretary General
15/10/2004

**"There's wealth in wetland diversity
- don't lose it!"**

Dear World Wetlands Day promoter!

Thank you for your interest in promoting World Wetlands Day, a day designed to draw attention to the need for wise management of the world's wetlands.

This year we are featuring the critical link between cultural and biological diversities: many of the world's wetlands owe their existence and continued vitality to cultural practices, or are conserved because of cultural needs. Thus maintenance of biological diversity in wetlands is often closely linked with the lives and beliefs of people. Of course, the other side of the coin is that people can misuse wetlands and cause loss and damage to the biological diversity - and at the same time to cultural diversity!

We have designed a poster and stickers to reflect this conundrum, and hope you can take this message to local communities to reinforce good practices, and help change bad ones.

This World Wetlands Day is also important, as it marks the start of a year in which we hold our 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and which starts an International Decade of Water, to be launched on World Water Day, the 23 of March.

2005 therefore is a big year for Ramsar, for wetlands and for water - please continue to play your part in raising and maintaining awareness of these critical issues.

With thanks, and Happy WWD!

Peter Bridgewater