

Wetlands Day 2007 in Cameroon

Yaoundé - Cameroon Wetlands day 2007 celebration in Cameroon had a special thrill with activities ranging from educational programmes for secondary school and university students to a special "March for fish". With support from WWF and MTN, the Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection (MINEP) went beyond the practice of symbolic celebration of the day only in Cameroon's capital, Yaoundé. This year witnessed popular participation in at least six of the Country's ten provinces.

In Yaoundé, apart from radio programmes and interviews on the theme of the day, WWF organized an academic forum that brought together about a hundred final year high school students from different schools. For over four hours, WWF team and students (all clad in Wetlands Day T shirts) had interesting lectures, exchanges, projections and debates.

A WWF led team also organized a thrilling academic discussion event at the University of Dschang (in the West province of the country) with some 500 students participating and clamouring for more of such educative exercises. The over 300.000 residents of Kumba, in the South West province had an opportunity to learn about RAMSAR as a WWF - MINEP team led a march dubbed " March for fish" for over 4 kilometers from the city center to the Barombi Mbo crater lake. With about 100 students from various schools on the march, administrative and local authorities were formally and properly schooled on the importance of the lake which also serves as the main source of drinking water for the area. Lake Barombi Mbo was last year designated as a Wetland of International Importance, coming on the heels of the designation the Waza Logone Flood Plain.

Various activities involving the local population were organized in Waza, Garoua and Yokadouma. The activities included sensitization campaigns among fish mongers (Garoua and Waza) and radio quizzes. In all 2007 World Wetlands Day goes down on the record as the most popular with activities spanning several localities throughout Cameroon.



Laurent Somé, (middle) WWF Representative in Central Africa joins students in to take part in the academic forum



Students in the South West of Cameroon commemorate the day at the Ramsar site of Lake Barombi Mbo (background) at the outskirts of Kumba town.



In the North of Cameroon, activities brought together hundreds of fish mongers in the local open market place.



Fish dancer...



Fish lectures...



Fish harvest