

World Wetlands Day 2013 observed by the Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP) in the Pabna Region, Bangladesh

Water is life. Water plays a crucial role in the preservation of our wetlands which act as natural reservoirs and are extremely rich in terms of both biodiversity and the ecological services that they provide.

“Wetlands Take Care of Water” is this year’s slogan of the **World Wetlands Day 2013** - It was observed by the Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP) in the Ganges–Jamuna floodplain in the Pabna region. In a day-long event that took place in the Chatmohor upazila of Pabna district, one of nine of the project’s working upazilas., discussions were held on the importance of wetlands, followed by ‘Folksong Drama Shows’ and distribution of World Wetland Day Theme Posters to the people.

The Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP) is a project of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh, implemented by the Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh (DoF), with technical support from “Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH” on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

On that World Wetlands Day 2013, WBRP organized activities in a way that ensured participation from all levels of stakeholders including community people, local government officials, representatives from different government departments, students, and many more. This day-long event comprised of discussion sessions on the role of wetlands as source of fresh water for consumption and agriculture, as source for fish and other water animals and plants, as well as on its role in water retaining capacities of the soils and the mitigation of climate change. Posters were produced and distributed to all levels of stakeholders in the entire project area and beyond to place special emphasis on that day. All the events were held adjacent to wetlands. All speakers requested the numerous audiences to take care and manage their own wetlands and biodiversity in a proper manner for future generations.

Discussion session on the importance of wetlands and water in relation to environment and climate change issue



Folksong Drama was arranged to aware people about wetland, water and biodiversity

After the discussion session, two separate folksong drama shows were organized in two different localities, Demra and Khagorbaria under Chatmohor upazila. Around one thousand local community members including local government officials, the Upazila Fishery officer, and WBRP personnel participated. This special folk drama focused on wetlands and was staged in a popular way for creating and increasing wider public awareness on the wetlands. The show demonstrated the significance of wetlands, wetland biodiversity, what to do to conserve them through music and performances.



GOPA Consultant Worldwide, the lead partner of WBRP along with the Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS) organized the events with overall assistance from DoF and GIZ.

