

WWD 2010 - The Ramsar Secretariat, in partnership with the State of Geneva and NGOs, invited the public to participate in activities around Lake Geneva.

The 2010 WWD theme: Caring for wetlands - an answer to climate change- was celebrated on the first Sunday of February in Geneva for the 8th consecutive year.

This event was launched on the 2nd of February through a press conference in the Museum d'Histoires Naturelles of Geneva in the middle of the exhibition "Genève Contre Nature", closing that same week after a successful year of visits. Alice Cibois, researcher at the Museum, welcomed the participants, Alexia Dufour presented the Ramsar Convention and the 2010 theme for World Wetlands Day and finally Gottlieb Dändliker, working for the conservation of Flora and Fauna for the Canton of Geneva, presented restoration actions in 7 of the Canton's wetlands.

On the 7th of February, various stands from the "Département de l'intérieur et de la mobilité (DIM)" of the canton of Geneva, the « Musée d'histoire naturelle » from Geneva city, HEPIA Lullier school, the « Groupe des jeunes de Nos oiseaux-Genève », Pro Natura Geneva, the Association pour la sauvegarde du Léman », the Libellule, the Association GMC and the Fishing school Vulgata were present in the Jetée des Paquis along the Rade of Geneva.

This is a perfect location to celebrate WWD as the Rade is part of the Ramsar site « Rhône genevois-Vallons de l'Allondon et de La Laire », one of the 11 Ramsar sites in Switzerland. This site covers the shores of the lake in the city, the Rade and then the whole Rhône up to the French border, including the Allondon and La Laire Rivers.

It was the occasion to share knowledge and views with Geneva inhabitants walking along the lake. They could observe birds on the lake through a telescope, talk about issues of water management and fishing in Switzerland and learn more about wetlands in general. It was a great opportunity to talk about biodiversity of such important ecosystems. Mulled wine was available to warm people up after their leisurely stroll around the stands.

Many people walking in the cold wind asked: "Why do we celebrate WWD on a second of February !?" This was the occasion to remind them that February was chosen because of the signature of the Convention the 2nd of February 1971.

In La Pointe-à-la-Bise Pro Natura nature reserve, on the other side of the lake, people were able watch winter birds with the help of ornithologists and visit this beautiful last natural reed bed in Geneva.

The Ramsar Secretariat thanks all the local supporters of the Convention for their help in promoting the wise use of wetlands and water.

Ann Aldersey, Cathleen Cybele, Nadeezhda Alexeeva, Sandra Hails, Llewellyn Young, Alexia Dufour and Nathalie Rizzotti represented the Ramsar Secretariat.



Many stalls of associations, institutions and the Ramsar Secretariat were located in the Jetée des Paquis in Geneva.



At the Ramsar stall, kids could enjoy the WWD bird and kaleidocycle.



Inhabitants from Geneva learnt about Swiss fishes and their importance.



The Museum of Natural History taught people about the birds that are present in the Ramsar site.



Then, people could observe the real ones with specialists.



The Ramsar Secretariat staff was there the whole day to inform people.



La Pointe-à-la-Bise Pro Natura Nature Centre also welcomed people to observe winter birds and visit their centre.



The credits for the pictures go to: [Etat de Genève/DIM](#), [Alexia Dufour](#), [Denis Landenbergue](#), [Ann Aldersey](#).