

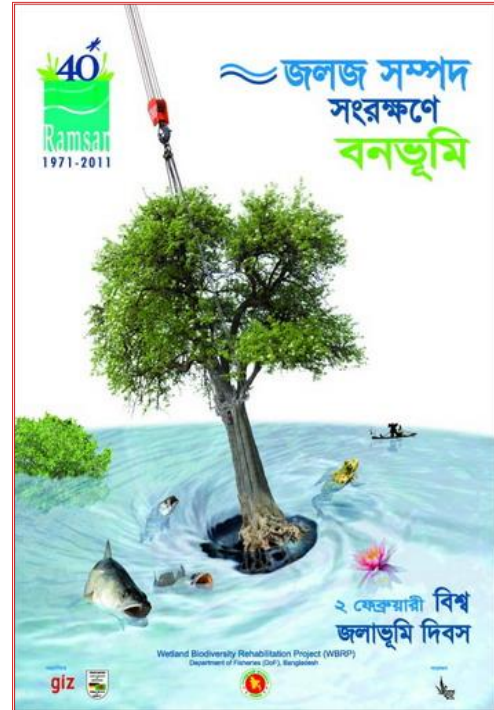
## World Wetlands Day 2011 Observed by Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP) in Pabna, Bangladesh

Forests play a crucial role in the hydrological cycle and consequently play a vital 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. In context to the theme – “Forests for Water and Wetlands”- **World Wetlands Day 2011** was observed, by Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP), in Ganges–Jamuna floodplain in Pabna. It was a three-day long event with series of different activations that took place within their working area - Bera, Sujanagar and Sathia upazilas of Pabna.

The Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (WBRP) is a project of 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 World Wetlands Day 2011, WBRP organized the event with many different activities that ensured participation from all levels of stakeholders including community people, local government officials and influential, representatives, students and many more. This three-day long event comprised of separate group quiz competitions (for students from class 8 -10 in each upazila), wetland visit for the school students, rallies and gatherings, discussion sessions on importance of wetlands and public awareness raising special folk shows on wetlands. To mark the event posters t-shirts and caps were produced and distributed to all levels of stakeholders in the project area.

The Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS), lead partner of WBRP along with the local partners- ASEAB, JSKS and UDPS organized the events with overall assistance from DoF and GIZ.



**Group Quiz competitions: A total of 10 schools participated in the group quiz competition and the Winners of the competition were awarded.**



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2011 WBRP organized a wetland visit for students of three schools, at Gangvanga-Katiadaha beel in Sathia. The participants of the tour spent the whole day near the Gangvanga beel watching and learning about the beauty, ecosystems, ecological linkages and mechanisms in wetlands. The wetland visitors also learned about the past conditions of wetlands in those areas from experienced local people.



Later on they reflected the experiences they gathered from the trip, in a Wetland Art competition. The winners were awarded with crests while all participants received certificates of appreciation.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of February separate rallies were brought out in three Upazilas to note the Wetlands Day 2011 in participation of community people, local government officials, Upazila Fishery officers, locals and WBRP personnel. After the rally, three discussion meetings in three different places were held on Importance of Wetland Biodiversity, and personnel from different government departments, local government and community leaders participated there. Afterwards, winners of group quiz competition received crests, consolation prizes, and certificates of appreciation. The same day, a special folk drama show on wetlands was staged for raising awareness in Kashinathpur, Bera. The show demonstrated the significance of wetlands, wetland biodiversity, what to do to conserve them through music and performances.

