

World Wetlands Day 2011 in Hungary

World Wetlands Day 2011 was celebrated in several Hungarian national parks. The central event was organised jointly by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Balaton Uplands National Park at the Siófok Town Hall, Siófok, on 2 February. Approximately 70 participants from environmental organisations, NGOs and local governments attended the event with presentations on the Ramsar Convention in general, the proposal for a new Ramsar site in the region and the threats posed by and possible tools against invasive species in wetlands. A 25 minute-long film was also presented on the wetlands of Hungary and the Ramsar Convention (directed by Zita Zachar).

After the morning session, participants visited the harbour of Siófok, where thousands of ducks were present on the open water surface, chiefly Goldeneye. A White-tailed Eagle was also seen making an attempt to hunt for ducks.

Other WWD2011 events in Hungary included a wetland forum in Szentendre with presentations and an exhibition on the conservation of local wetlands and several presentations at schools organised by the Zöld Út (Green Way) Amphibian Protection Society.