



Thailand

Bird Conservation Society of Thailand Celebrates World Wetlands Day 2011

Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST), BirdLife International in Thailand, engaged in many celebrations of the World Wetlands Day 2011. The Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) organised the WWD 2011 celebration at Maruay Garden Hotel on 2nd and 3rd February 2011. BCST presented a booth to promote the importance of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper one of the species found in the Khok Kham area, a proposed Ramsar Site. During these two days, there were



presentations of the results of wetland conservation actions implemented by a private company and the local community. BCST supported the local community from Khok Kham area to join the WWD celebration.

BCST worked very closely with ONEP and Mr. Simba Chan from BirdLife International Asia Division, to advance the proposal to designate Khok Kham as a Ramsar site. On 10th February, they carried out a

meeting in Pantai Noorasing School - Khok Kham area -, Samutsakhon province. This meeting was aimed at increasing local community understanding about the role and importance of wetlands; sharing the rationale for the designation of Khok Kham area as a new Ramsar Site; clarifying the process of designation of a Ramsar Site; and presenting an overview of the importance of the Ramsar Convention for Thailand. The meeting was attended by the main stakeholders of the area including the local government, villagers, and the head of village.



Likewise, the 10th Shorebird Conservation Festival was held on 27th February 2011 at Khok kham area, Samutsakhon province. BCST co-organised the Festival with the local authorities, local



conservation group and the Tourism Authority of Thailand and provided technical and financial support. The BirdLife Partner invited 15 organisations to present a booth during the festival fair. There were five governmental organizations: ONEP; Wildlife Conservation Office; Natural and Environment Conservation Center of East Mahachai; Samutsakhon Science Centre for Education; Education and Sustainable Development Centre. Other civil society organisations present were: Khok Kham Conservation Club; Thaibirder; Savebird; Banlatwithaya School and

Rangsit University, and four bird shops.

The “10th Shorebird Festival” gathered more than 500 people that included local people, school students; university students; local conservation groups, government officials, tourists from Thailand and tourists from other countries. Many students from schools located around the area visited the festival (212 students from 11 schools) that was broadly covered by national media (presence of TV3, 5, 7 tv channels and local newspapers).

This festival had several motivating activities such as a shore birdwatching event led by members of BCST. Furthermore, BCST set up 3 different stages for education, seminar, and activity. The main purpose of the festival was to raise awareness and promote the importance of the conservation of the natural habitats and the wildlife existent in the Khok Kham area.

