

World Wetlands Day: “Wetlands and Tourism – A great experience”

The world wetlands day was also observed in Bhutan with the theme “Wetlands and Tourism – A great experience”.

The Watershed Management Division under the Department of Forests and Park Services in collaboration with WWF-Bhutan, Royal Society for Protection of Nature, worked together with the community of Phobjikha and Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Administration and other relevant stakeholders to celebrate the first ever in Bhutan - World Wetlands Day. With relevance to the theme, the celebration was successfully conducted in Phobjikha under Wangduephodrang dzongkhag as it is a famous tourist destination and shall most probably be the first wetlands in Bhutan to be declared as a Ramsar Site.



In the inaugural session, the Chief Guest – Director General of the Department of Forests and Park Services highlighted the benefits of wetlands, the Royal Government of Bhutan’s soon accession to the Ramsar Convention and credited the efforts of the Watershed Management Division in bringing forward to the government the importance of accessing the convention. There was also a presentation from the Watershed Management Division sensitizing the participants on wetlands and its function, the Ramsar Convention and benefits of accessing the convention. The presentation also mentioned the works thereafter in the designation of a Ramsar site and the benefits that shall follow.

Prizes were also given to the winners of the art competition which was conducted in the Phobjikha valley. The art competition was also based on the same theme “Wetlands and Tourism” and the effect of wetlands and tourism to the livelihood of the communities in Phobjikha.



The celebration made aware to the community on wetlands having a pivotal role in influencing the landscape dynamism to sustain life and safeguard the environmental integrity and how wetlands are valuable as wildlife habitat, as sources of perennial water, for agriculture, for a rich biodiversity, for economics, for soil conservation, for carbon storage and climate change mitigation and also in a cultural and historical context.