

**CELEBRATION OF
WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2012
CHILIKA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

To commemorate the 1st meeting of the convention on wetlands on 2nd February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, World Wetlands Day was celebrated on 2nd February at Chilika lake. This day presents us with a welcome opportunity to join together in acknowledging the benefits that we all receive from the wetlands, as well as to raise the awareness of the local communities who derive their livelihood about the importance of these vital ecosystems for our common future. The Ramsar Bureau (Secretariat) took a decision to observe the World Wetland Day on 2nd February from 1997. Chilika Development Authority have been observing WWD in and around Chilika Lake with the active participation of local communities, NGOs, CBOs, school children, local intellectuals, eminent dignitaries, religious leaders, political leaders, foreign delegates etc. since from 1997.

Chilika Lake

Considering the importance of the theme of the WWD 2012, major thrust was given to associate the NGOs and school children in and around Chilika in a big way for the celebration of WWD- 2012. Essay and drawing competitions on the theme of WWD-2012 i.e. "*Wetland Tourism – A great Experience*" was conducted in all the sectors of Chilika Lake to create awareness among them. The preparatory work began from



Celebration of WWD -2012 by School Children

December 2011 and 12 grassroot level NGOs worked hard to sensitize the students on the theme of the WWD-2012 and facilitated to conduct the essay and drawing competitions in ninety eight secondary schools in and around Chilika lake.

The drawing sheets and essays of the school students were evaluated centrally and winners of different ecological sectors were selected. The 2nd level competition among the zonal level winners was held on 29.1.2012 in the office of Chilika Development Authority, Bhubaneswar and the State level winners in both the

competitions were selected. All the winners of zonal level competitions and the state level competition were awarded with cash prize during the celebration of WWD- 2012. The drawings of the winners were displayed during the celebration which were appreciated by the participants. World Wetlands Day 2012 was observed at the Wetland Research and Training Centre of Chilika Development Authority in a befitting manner at Chilika Lake in presence of schools children, teachers, NGO partners, Government officials, local stakeholders and researchers.

The theme for celebration of WWD-2012 was “Wetland Tourism – A great Experience”. The Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority inaugurated the celebration as the Chief Guest and the Addl. Project Director, ICZMP, Odisha, DFO, Chilika Wildlife Division attended as the Guests of Honour. WWD-2012 celebration was attended by a total gathering of about 400 people.

The WWD-2012 poster designed by Ramsar Secretariat was re- produced in local language (Odia) using the template CD received from the Secretariat. The posters were distributed to other wetlands of the state and used during the celebration of WWD-2012.

Ansupa Lake

Ansupa lake is one of the largest natural fresh water lakes of the state located in Cuttack district , covers an area of 170 ha. It is an important site for birds, indigenous riverine fishes and supports the livelihood of local communities. To sensitize the school children essay and drawing competitions was organized among the school children of the



Delegates on dias



Winner of Painting Competition



Secondary schools located around Ansupa lake on the theme “Wetland Tourism – A great Experience”. The WWD- 2012 was celebrated at the foot hill of historical Sarandha hill and the Divisional Forest Officer, Athagrah Forest Division attended the celebration as the Chief Guest. Sri P.K. Sahu, (Retd) Joint



Participation of school children on WWD-2012

Director, Soil Conservation Department Odisha was the Chief Speaker during the celebration. The celebration was attended by 150 people which includes the local stakeholders, fishermen, school children and teachers, officials of Fisheries, Forests and Soil Conservation Departments. The winners of the competitions received cash prizes and certificate from the Chief Guest.



Winner of receiving certificate

Bhitarkanika

The World Wetlands Day was observed on 2nd February 2012 by Action for Protection of Wild Animals in collaboration with Mangrove Forest Division, Rajnagar, Eco Club, USSAK at Uchha Sikshya Srama Arua Kadaliban. The World Wetland Day was observed with school competitions, presentations, meetings and mangrove



Resource person on dias

plantations etc. The Director, APOWA, Mr. Bijaya Ku Kabi delivered the welcome and introduction on WWD followed by Mr. Manoj Kumar Satapathy, Eco club teacher, USSAK High school. The chief guest Dr Laxman Behera, ex-Director, Animal Resources Development



Children in the field

Department, Govt of Odisha was inaugurated the WWD 2012. Dr Behera addressed to the participants and stressed on the important role of the new generation in the future of Odisha.

The guest of honour Mr. Udaya Kumar Das, research officer, Wildlife Wing, Forest and Environment Department, Government of Odisha was talked about the importance of wetlands and mangroves for the environment as well as society. The chief speaker Dr Mihir Ranjan Pattnaik, Forest Range Officer, Mangrove Forest Division,



Mangrove plantation by students

Rajnagar was emphasized the role of forests and wetlands not only in our ecosystem, but more notably in our lives. The head master Mr. Ashok Kumar Bal was presided over the meeting. Finally, the chief guest distributed prizes to winner students of the essay competitions.

On the occasion of World Wetland Day 2012, school students, village youths, community volunteers were assembled in the 2nd February 2012 morning at Naranpur village under Rajnagar block with the strong belief that it's high time to get together to protect our environment and make our society more greener. They were participated in a mangrove plantation adjoining to their village, which organized by APOWA. We appreciate the active participation of the members of Binapani Youth Club, Naranpur in our plantation programme. Mr. Binod Acharya and Mr. Suwendu Behera, Forest Range Officer, local Mangrove Forest Division were also participated and encouraged to the participants. We are very thankful to Ramsar Secretariat for their inputs by providing poster and educational materials etc for the programme.

WWD celebration at Bonai

The Divisional Forest Officer, Bonai organised a programme on 2nd February 2012 involving the school children for celebration of World Wetland Day 2012. He used the re-produced WWD-2012 posters in local language by Chilika Development Authority.



School children observing WWD-2012