

## World Wetlands Day in Latvia

**During World Wetlands Day the Latvian Nature Conservation Agency and Natural History Museum of Latvia organized a meeting that brought together various stakeholders related to wetland management and protection in Latvia.**

Discussion was related to those Latvian wetlands which are included in the Ramsar Convention's List of Wetlands of International Importance as well as other valuable wetlands for possible inclusion in the Ramsar network, in order to promote their sustainability. In Latvia there are six wetlands, which are on the Ramsar List - Lake Kanieris, Lake Engure, Teiči and Pelečāre swamps, Lake Pape, Lake Lubana wetland complex and North swamps.

During the meeting several reports about different plants and insects as essential wetland components were presented. Best practices of wetland management and environmental education experiences also were discussed.

The event provided a great opportunity to share experiences among different stakeholders involved in wetland management. Discussions lead to the formation of new ideas and helped participants to understand the main wetland issues to which Latvian nature conservation organizations should pay more attention. For example, it was agreed to continue discussions and foster some, important wetland inclusion into Ramsar network as well as to devote more attention to wetland centre formation and development which could help to raise public awareness about wetland importance and services, which they produce.

During the Wetlands day some educational events for pupils and students in Latvian schools were also held – educational presentations, workshops and quizzes about Ramsar convention, wetland management and protection were organized.

