

## U.S. Embassy Ghana Commemorates Martin Luther King Day and 2013 World Wetlands Day (WWD) in a Combined Event



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said:

**"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"**

On February 2, to commemorate 2013 World Wetlands Day, and mark Martin Luther King Day as a day of community service, the Regional Environment Office (REO) and Public Affairs Office of US Embassy in Accra, Ghana, organized a volunteer wetlands cleanup. The cleanup was arranged in collaboration with the Ghana Wildlife Society, the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission, Birdlife International, and Friends of Ramsar Sites, and attracted an estimated 150 volunteers.

The event, held at the

Densu Delta Ramsar site on the western edge of Accra, drew participants from the U.S. Embassy, the Lincoln Community School, a neighboring village, and various NGO groups. Local and regional government officials also attended. The wetlands have been heavily impacted by illegal settlements and dumping by the local community, and the event proved to be an excellent opportunity to highlight the problem and help educate the local population.

In addition to cleaning up a portion of the wetlands, vol-



US Embassy Staff talking to GBC

unteers were treated to guided bird watching activities and a tour of the Panbros Salt Industry salt pans that occupy the eastern border of the wetlands. REO provided illustrated leaflets and posters that

### The pictures below show community members and volunteers cleaning up the wetlands

present a broad look at wetlands and water to all the participants. The volunteers were very enthusiastic and many committed to participate in future World Wetlands Days and other events.

The Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) covered the event airing reports on both radio and television. An organized group of photo-bloggers called PhotoWalk-GH also documented the

event, and their work is being featured on both their Facebook page (<http://on.fb.me/XRwqY>) and U.S. Embassy's Facebook page (<http://on.fb.me/XRei35>).

