

WWD in Ajara

The key message for World Wetlands Day 2013 – *wetlands take care of water* – at the global, regional and local level

2 February

WWD activities started on 30th of January. During the activity a nearby territory was cleaned.

It started at 10:30 at the palace of youth in Batumi. Among special guests were Minister of Nature protection of Georgia Khatuna Gogaladze, (this was a special visit of Minister of Nature conservation of Georgia to attend WWD in Ispani mire), Head of Biodiversity department Soso Qartsivadze, Ramsar focal point from Georgia Tamar Kvantaliani, Inga Nikagosian, Directorate of Nature protection of Ajara, Department of Tourism, Shota Rustaveli State University, Department of monitoring federal and regional, Federal and regional TV press. The palace of youth of Batumi presented numerous shows, Georgian folklore. The minister greeted students and congratulated on February 2nd. The students were gifted calendars, notebooks with Ramsar motto for 2013.

Afterwards, the event continued on Ramsar site. The event was attended by representatives of Kobuleti Protected Areas, Mtirala National Park and Kintrishi protected Landscape, representatives and decision makers from Kobuleti municipality, from forest department of Ajara, local dwellers. The minister and a new Ramsar focal point examined Ispani. TV reportage was prepared highlighting Ramsar site unique features and its conservation. Mr. Revaz Moistsrapishvili the director of Kobuleti Protected Areas received special thanks for good management.

Afterwards, the event continued in the premises of Kobuleti Museum. The event was organized by Sopo Tkhilaishvili, a resource specialist of Kobuleti Protected Areas. The pupils of public schools presented montage about February 2nd. Then pupils of Kobuleti public school # 1 presented a theater performance “Adventure of a small rain drop”. According to the plot a small rain drop was wandering in nature. Then it landed on Ispani Sphagnum pillow and promised Sphagnum not to abandon him. As IMCG says mire is fed by water, however a live Sphagnum peat bog means much more.

After the theater performance the pupils of Kobuleti Public School held a conference “Water, wetland, nature and a human being”.

The event was covered by local and national TVs.