

WORLD WETLANDS DAY REPORT

BULGARIA 2013

Prepared by: Neli Arabadzhieva: NGO CEPA, Green Balkans NGO

The World Wetlands Day Was Celebrated by Numerous Events in Bulgaria

This year the original Ramsar poster for the World Wetlands Day was translated into Bulgarian language and was issued by **Green Balkans NGO**. The posters were delivered to the Ministry of Environment and Water (MoEW) and from there were disseminated to the regional inspectorates of the Ministry and other NGOs, which intended to celebrate the date. Green Balkans NGO disseminated the posters to the Directorates of the Bulgarian Nature Parks,



which are not part of the system of the environmental ministry, but are also important stakeholders. Numerous were the events throughout Bulgaria by which the World Wetlands Day was celebrated in 2013.

In Plovdiv, Bulgaria, the celebrations started even on the 1st of February. The Bulgarian NGO CEPA focal point Neli Arabadzhieva



(Green Balkans NGO) participated in the organized by **East Aegean Sea River Basin Directorate** educational event with children from three schools. The event was opened by the Director of the Directorate – Mrs. Atanaska Tuntova and the Bulgarian coordinator for the Ramsar Convention - Mrs. Aylin Hasan from the **Ministry of Environment and Water**. The children were presented with several interesting interactive lessons for the importance of wetlands and the biodiversity they shelter. The children also participated in many interesting games related to



wetlands and received awards provided by the Ministry of Environment and Waters.

In the evening of the 1st of February volunteers and friends of Green Balkans NGO, experts from the MoEW and the East Aegean Sea River Basin Directorate, vegans, environmentalists and artists gathered in the organized by Green Balkans NGO eco-artistic workshop dedicated to the wetlands. The event included presentations, water-related games, fine-art improvisations and vegan food tasting. Focus of the event was the responsible nourishment and the relation



between vegan philosophy and the sustainable management of water on the planet. The second

important topic was the constructed wetlands as a sustainable, aesthetic and biodiversity-friendly method for purification of wastewater from households and settlements.



Green Balkans NGO celebrated the date also on the 2-nd of February. The volunteers of the organization organized the traditional birdwatching stall on the south bank of the Maritsa River within the town of Plovdiv. The volunteers introduced the importance of wetlands and the rich biodiversity they shelter to all the visitors of the information stall. Green Balkans NGO held an information campaign also in the town of Pomorie at Pomorie Lake Visitor Center. The visitors were introduced with the importance of the wetland which is in the Ramsar list of

wetlands of international importance.

Students from the town of Vratsa celebrated the world wetlands Day in “Natura” visitor center of **Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park**. The students from Secondary School “Hristo Botev” and Primary School “Kiril i Metodiy” presented their own interpretation on the topic for the ecological and economic importance of wetlands. With drawings, essays and photos the students showed their personal suggestions for sustainable management of water. During the event the students also learned more about the wetlands on the territory of the nature park and the way they are managed.



In the visitor center of **Persina Nature Park** at the Danube River was also held an event with students. The focus of the event was a presentation on the topic “Wetlands take care of water” made by Ivan Hristov - an expert from WWF. During the event were awarded the winners from the essay competition “If I was a bird for one day”. The students and all other visitors also participated in an open-air game called “Find the hidden message”.

In the town of Ruse the world Wetlands Day was celebrated traditionally by the **Regional Health Inspectorate** together with their partners from **Rusenski Lom Nature Park** and the Students from two local schools – Secondary School for Mathematics “Baba Tonka” and Primary School “Luben Karavelov”. The students made their own presentations on the topic of wetlands and provoked a larger discussion. They also participated in a number of wetland related games.

The **Museum of Natural Science in Burgas together with Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation** organized a competition for design for information materials dedicated to one of the Bulgarian Ramsar Sites –Atanasovsko Lake.

“**Balkani**” **Wildlife Society** in partnership with the **Regional Inspectorate for Environment and Waters – Sofia** made presentations on the topic of wetlands in schools in the town of Dragoman and in the village of Aldemirovtsi.



The Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds organized events in several towns in Bulgaria. In the town of Varna were organized both an artistic atelier and an exhibition. The topic of the atelier was the waterfowl. During the event were awarded the winners from the competition for drawings on the topic “Pages from the life a Red-breasted goose”. In the green education center in the town of Shabla was organized a presentation for the importance of wetlands. In the town of Ruse was organized an artistic workshop on the topic “A water-colour model of a bird”. In Ruse was also organized a presentation on the topic “Mid-winter count of the waterfowl.” In Plovdiv the organization made a presentation in Secondary School “Patriarh Evtimiy” and also organized a birdwatching stall near the Maritsa River. In the town of Pazardzhik the Bulgarian Society for Protection of Birds organized a presentation together with the Regional Inspectorate for Environment and Waters. The presentation was made before children from Pazardzhik and Belovo. In the town of Svishtov at the Danube River the organization made several

events – construction of platforms for pelicans, birdwatching with students, presentation in the Secondary School “Dimitar Blagoev”.

For more information: narabadzhieva@greenbalkans.org

