

Botswana's Report on the Commemoration of World Wetlands Day 2009



Kgosi Kgweetsi, traditional leader welcoming people at the commemoration

Botswana commemorated World Wetlands Day on February 7th at Mopipi village within the Boteti Sub District. The day was commemorated through various activities starting with a wetlands march from the village traditional meeting place (kgotla) to the venue of the event.

The occasion was graced by community members, government, private sector, NGO's representatives and members of the diplomatic core. There were exhibition stalls where institutions/organizations show cased their efforts in promoting environmental man-

agement. Prices were awarded to institutions/organization that had the best stalls.

One of the highlights of the day was tree planting. A total of 50 indigenous trees were planted to mark the commemoration of the day. The trees were planted in a fenced community plot acquired some years back to address problems of desertification in the area through tree planting.

The traditional leader of Mopipi Village (Mr. Kgweetsi) welcomed people to his village while the District Officer for Boteti Sub District Ms B. Modise introduced guests. The director of Environmental Affairs Mr. S. Monna gave the objectives of the day.

The key note address was given by the Assistant Minister of Local Government and Member of Parliament for Boteti South constituency Hon. L.T. Mokalake. In his key note address, the Hon. Mokalake pointed out the benefits of wetlands to human kind and other biological diversity and the threats posed by human beings through unsustainable utilization of the wetlands resources. He called for individual, community and national commitment to the protection and conservation of wetlands



Early birds at the wetlands march

and the environment at large in order to secure the future of the next generations.

The day was also celebrated through traditional songs, dances and poems by various groups and individuals. GABS FM one of the private radio stations in the country broadcast the event live.

Primary schools in the Boteti area were engaged in an art competition based on the wetlands day theme, the results of which were announced at the event. Prices were awarded to the winners of the art competition and to the best exhibition stalls by the Senior Assistant Council Secretary for Boteti Sub District Ms N.S. Sekape.



One of the participants planting a tree



A student receiving a prize for art competition from Ms. Sekape



Assistant Minister, Hon L.T. Mokalake, giving a key note address