

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY CELEBRATION HELD AT AFEADENYIGBA IN THE KETA LAGOON COMPLEX RAMSAR SITE, GHANA ON SATURDAY 10TH OF MAY 2014

INTRODUCTION

This year's World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) was marked at Afeadenyigba, a community in the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar site on 10th May, 2014. The global theme for this year's celebration was "Destination Flyways: Migratory birds and Tourism" which highlighted the link between bird conservation, local community development and wildlife-watching tourism around the world.

The celebration was funded from a grant, kind courtesy of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) and supported by the Wildlife Division of Ghana Forestry Commission. The event started at 6.00am and ended at 12.45pm.

PARTICIPANTS: Thirty six (36) participants joined and participated in the celebration of the day's events. They included Nana Kofi Adu Nsiah, Executive Director of Wildlife Division of Ghana Forestry Commission; Richard Agorkpa, Executive Director of Friends of Ramsar Sites; Louis Agbey, Executive Director of LOCEK, an environmental NGO based in Tema; Mr C.C. Amankwa, Ramsar focal person and selected members of Environmental Clubs, a local environmental organization which works with children to appreciate the benefits of a clean environment.



SPEECHES-

Speeches were read by Abdul-Kareem Fuseini(Welcome Address), Nana Kofi Adu Nsiah, Richard Agorkpa and C.C. Amankwa.

ACTIVITIES

1. The day was preceded by a series of Radio announcements on two local radio stations (Hogbe and Jubilee FM Stations)and sensitization of the public on the significance of the event
2. Press release by the Wildlife Division in Accra on the Migratory Bird Day celebration at Keta
3. On the day of the event, participants were taken through a lecture on the following topics- identifying birds, Importance of birds to man, Seasons and Migrations, Flyways ,Traditional Uses of birds, Traditional beliefs and stories about birds, bird harvesting methods and its effect on bird populations, role of the youth in the conservation of birds.
4. Bird walk- A bird walk was organized from Havedzi to Afeadenyigba, a distance of about 3km. Participants especially the youth were taught i) how to use binoculars to view birds ii) bird identification and counting



CLOSING- The day's event finally ended at 12.45pm with a commitment from the youth to throw away all their catapults used in hunting and never again kill birds.

REFRESHMENT- All participants were refreshed after the event.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Wildlife Division

1. Nana Kofi Adu-Nsiah – Executive Director of Wildlife Division of Ghana Forestry Commission
2. Charles Amankwa- Ramsar Focal person
3. Abdul-Kareem Fuseini – Manager, Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar site
4. Cornelia Danso – Wildlife Officer, Tourism Development Unit, Accra
5. Donkor Iddrissu- Wildlife Protection Officer, Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar site
6. Seth Agbanyo – Technical Assistant, Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar site
7. Christopher Matsakawo- Technical Assistant, Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar site
8. Francis Tsitsikla – Wildlife Guard, Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar site
9. Hope Avuletey – Wildlife Guard, Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site
10. Okyere Samuel- Driver, Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar site
11. Sylvester- Driver, Wildlife Division Headquarters, Accra

Friends of Ramsar Sites

12. Agorkpa Richard, Executive Director
13. Laud Kwame
14. Moses Senaki
15. Patrick Sadey
16. Wisdom Sosu

Living On Concerned Environmental Knowledge (LOCEK), environmental NGO

17. Louis Agbey – Executive Director
18. Rev Agbeko – Director

Hogbe FM Station

19. Patrick DZRAMADO- News reporter
20. Jane Quarshie- photographer

Environmental Clubs

Members who participated were from four (4) surrounding communities. They are as follows:

21. Elikplim Tsitsikla
22. Elikplim Agblosu
23. Venunye Sowu
24. Patience Kporgbe
25. Bienvenu Dzawudo
26. Promise Zigah
27. Irene Kuvor
28. Simon Kuivi
29. Bless Wedzi

30. Godsway Kportufe
31. Prudence Kwame
32. Mary Logosu
33. Passion Wormegah
34. Phedelia Agblor
35. Jemima Ahedor
36. Grace Amable