

World Migratory Bird Day 2014

Celebration of event at Songor Ramsar Site and Biosphere Reserve, Ghana



The global theme for the celebration is “Destination Flyways – Migratory Birds and Tourism”. The theme focuses on the role sustainable tourism can play in conserving one of the world’s true natural wonders, the spectacular movements of migratory birds along their flyways. In the long term, awareness will be created in communities that receive these birds during the migratory journey.

The event was celebrated on 10th May 2014, in two small but highly populated coastal communities (Pute and Totope), located on the narrow sandy strip between the lagoon and the sea. The communities are located in the core zone of the Ramsar site, a significantly important ecosystem type that receive about a third of the migratory bird population that visit the site. Songor is located between latitudes 06° 00’25’’N and 00° 19’E and 05°45’30’’N, 00° 41’40’’ E, and occupies an area of 51, 133.3 hectares.



Portion of the core area that receive significant species of migratory birds during the wintering period

Though on recess, the kids numbering over 80 came to observe the day to support bird conservation effort. They were involved in cleanup activities between the beach and the lagoon. Tourism thrives in clean and sustainably green environment, while birds visit less polluted sites - this set the tone for the cleanup in the morning that lasted over one and half hours.



Briefing before and during the cleanup activities

The kids then visited the lagoon site to observe the few birds that were feeding. They were taken through step by step bird identification, data collection and organization, management intervention in bird conservation and the need for their involvement as important stakeholders no matter how young they were. We called them the “second eye” of conservation.

They all had a hand on demonstration of the identification equipment. All of them were able to tell the color and local names of the birds they saw by using the telescope and the binoculars.

They were refreshed after wards and promised not to kill or trap migratory or residents birds. The local media was present to cover the program.

They were however disappointed that there were only few birds during the date set for the celebration. They suggested that, if could be done during the peak bird season to make the event practical and exciting.



The program was supported by Wdden Sea Flyway initiated and the Wildlife Division of The Forestry commission.

Special thanks to Assemblyman of Pute and the community volunteer at Totope who jointly organized the kids for the program and also Radio Ada, the parents of the kids who provided logistics for the cleanup.