

World Wetlands 2013- Albania & the FYR of Macedonia

In framework of World Wetlands Day, on 2 February, Joint WMC' Secretary for Ohrid and Prespa lakes organize a round table in Ohrid Macedonia. In this celebration are participated representative from local environmental NGO, government agencies, community groups and research institutes.

Based in that, the international theme for World Wetlands Day 2013 is Wetlands take care of water, both representative of Joint secretary, (Albanian and Macedonia) and experts from Hydro-Biological Institute Ohrid, have present important hydrological functions such as groundwater recharge, water quality improvement , and propose some actions by undertaking to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits and promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Mr. Dejan Panovski, Macedonian representative in this bilateral structure, presented a general information about wetlands, why are wetlands important, role of wetlands as vital link between land and water. Also Dejan presented new project financed by GIZ "conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at lakes Prespa. Phrid and Shkodra/Skadar", especially some data for 3rd component of this projec "wetland protection and restoration measures on Ohrid lake".

From the Albanian side Mr. Arian Merolli explained overall information about Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, as first modern treaty between nations aimed at conserving natural resources; what are Ramsar wetlands and criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance. Priority for the Albanian Government at the moment is to meets its obligations under the Ramsar Convention by providing national wetland policy through the development of programs to improve the management of wetlands.

The other participants in this activity proposed a package activities for communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Program based on the Ramsar Convention's Program.

Millenium Hotel February 2.2013

