



Celebrate World Wetland Day at Aammiq, Saturday February 2nd 2008



It has been a wet week in Lebanon, and it may be that you have not been so grateful for wetlands as you have picked your way through the flooded streets trying to hold on to your umbrella in the howling gale! But, actually, despite recent rains, we are experiencing a slow drying of the climate, with winter storms coming later in the season and rain and particularly snow fall gradually decreasing. One unexpected consequence of this was seen on Christmas day when a large section of the Aammiq wetland reedbed burnt. To have a fire so late in the season is very unusual and bears testimony to the recent dry winters and very hot summers Lebanon has been experiencing. Fortunately, although a set back for wintering birds, reed beds recover quickly and fire is a natural part of the ecosystem that Mediterranean wetlands are well able to cope with. However it is a wake up call to the consequences of global warming which ironically wetlands are in the vanguard of protecting us against.

Did you know?

- Wetlands may store as much as 40% of global terrestrial carbon
- Wetlands play a crucial role in flood control
- Wetlands help recharge underground aquifers that store 97% of the world's unfrozen fresh water.
- Coastal wetlands play a critical role in many parts of the world in protecting the land from storm surges and other weather events
- One billion people eat fish as their primary source of protein. The majority are marine fish, 2/3 of which rely on coastal wetlands at some stage of their life cycle.
- Plants and soils in wetlands play a significant role in purifying water removing high levels of nitrogen and phosphorous
- Freshwater wetlands hold 12% of all animal species
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In celebration of World wetland day Cyclamen and A Rocha invite you to spend the day with us at Aammiq wetland on Saturday 2nd February. If you would like to join us please contact Nassim Yaacoub for booking, travel details and options.

Tel: 04 41 98 48

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Best wishes,

The A Rocha Lebanon team

PS look out for our article in An Nahar on Monday!

Thanks for reading to the end. Don't forget to visit our website: www.arocha.org

Best wishes, The A Rocha Lebanon Team lebanon@arocha.org

A Rocha Lebanon newsletters are available in 2 languages!!!

If you are reading this newsletter in English but would prefer to have it in Arabic, email us and we will send you your preferred version.



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Together, caring for God's creation