



"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 13 (June 2012)



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Introduction:

Dear colleagues,

In this newsletter you receive news from your partners in our network.

Three wetland centres, in Finland, Sweden and Spain, will tell you about their new exhibition facilities!

A second attempt for a bid for funding from the LIFE+ Communication strand did not succeed, because we were not able to get the match finances we needed.

In order to start with more activities in the network, the core group has decided to launch a “plan B” with the title: **“Cooperation through enthusiasm and opportunity”**.

You will find the document in this newsletter. We sincerely hope that this will inspire you all to take action.

Please, let us know what kind of action would fit you best and we will be there to support you !

Have very nice and sunny holidays!

On behalf of the core group,

Roelof Heringa

(r.heringa@staatsbosbeheer.nl)

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- **List of participants / partners + contact details core group** **30**



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News from the network:



Finland : Liminganlahti conservation area:

The opening of the Finland’s first wetland centre at Liminganlahti !

The opening of the centre took place on the 27th April with a keynote speech from the Secretary of State in the Ministry of the Environment, Katariina Poskiparta, who expressed her hopes for its long-term success locally, nationally and internationally. We had a great pleasure to have also Sandra Hails from the Ramsar secretariat in the opening ceremony. The centre and the new exhibition is focussed on the birdlife of the Liminganlahti wetland and how it changes throughout the year. At the centre there is also a gift shop and restaurant. The opening on the 27th was followed on the 28th by an international bird photofestival that attracted over 2,500 visitors. For more information please visit us at www.liminganlahti.com



Best wishes, Sari



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Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern

Festive opening of the new NATURUM at Lake Tåkern 25th of May 2012 !

On Friday 25 May, King Carl Gustav from Sweden opened Naturum Tåkern. Five years ago, Östergötland County Administrative Board advertised an architecture competition on behalf of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency for a visitor's centre that would fit in with the natural environment at Lake Tåkern. Construction began in 2010, and the facility was opened by The King on Friday.



*Cutting the ribbon. Hampus and Jesper Nilsson hold the reed.
Photo: Göran Billeson/Östergötland County Administrative Board*

Nature guides from the County Administrative Board showed His Majesty the new facility, the bird watchtower and a film about the bird reserve at Lake Tåkern, as well as part of what will become Princess Estelle's fairytale path. County Governor Elisabeth Nilsson, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency's Director-General Maria Ågren and architect Gert Wingårdh took part in the opening ceremony.



An extract from the ballet Swan Lake was performed by Hanna Berglund, Cecilia Jacobsson, Alexandra Svensson and Emelie Söderström from the **Linköping Ballet Ensemble**.

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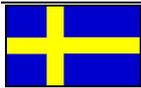
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Delphine Constantin from Norrköping Symphony Orchestra played the harp during the ceremony.



For more news a about this event: more pictures from our special “flying reporters” on page **26** in this newsletter.

Roelof Heringa



Sweden: Naturum Getterön

(this should have been published in the former newsletter ! My apologies to Linda Eklund. Roelof Heringa)

The White-tailed Eagle

The past winters many White-tailed Eagles have been observed along the west coast of Sweden. This winter twelve White-tailed Eagles have regularly been seen in the nature reserve of Getterön. It is of course the thousands of wintering geese that attracts the eagles. But this winter we have also started to feed the eagles.

This has activity has attracted many visitors. It is very easy to observe the magnificent creatures closeup from the hides next to the feeding ground.



To view pictures of the eagles go to our blog: www.naturumgetteron.se

Linda Eklund, manager Naturum Getterön



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Estonia: Matsalu Nature Centre

The steering group is in contact with Matsalu Nature Centre in Estonia. We hope that they will join the Migratory Birds for People -network.

Since the year 2008 Penijõe manor is the regional centre of Environmental Board. Here you can visit small nature exhibition, view slideshow or videos. Also it is possible to use the conference hall (for up to 50 people) and classroom. You can get additional information about the hiking trails, watching towers, catering and accommodation.

Matsalu Nature Centre is open (13.04 - 01.10):

Mo-Fri 9.00 - 17.00

Sat-Sun 10.00 - 18.00

From October 2nd - April 12th the centre is closed on Saturday and Sunday.



Additional information:

Contact: *Marju Pajumets*

Tel: +372 472 4236

E-mail: Marju.Pajumets@rmk.ee

Webpage: www.rmk.ee

Estonia



Lithuania: Nemunas Delta

Contact: Saulius Svazav [Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University]

Still pending; No message received.



Russia: CEPA , St. Petersburg

No message received.

*Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy and Yulia Danilova
Baltic Fund for Nature Of St.Petersburg Naturalists Society
Universitetskaya emb. 7/9-11
Saint-Petersburg*



Denmark: Nature Centre Vestamager

No message received.

Contact: *Stella Blichfeldt*



Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum

Our Nationalpark-Haus (i.e. the National Park administration, the Schutzstation Wattenmeer and the WWF) contribute to the "Brent Goose Days" (www.ringelganstage.de) which are carried out since many years on some special Wadden Sea islands, the "Halligen". Among the activities there is the "Golden Brent Goose Feather", which is awarded for outstanding contributions for the protection of Brent Geese and the Wadden Sea. This year the Golden Brent Goose Feather has been awarded to Andrew St. Joseph, a farmer from Essex, who started in the 70ies of the last century start the colour ringing of Brent Geese. In our region he helped very much to start the research on Brent Geese, which is one of the species which uses the Wadden with its entire population."



Picture: "Andrew St. Joseph (on the right) with Bernd Scherer from the ministry of environment in Schleswig-Holstein (photo: H.-U. Rösner)."

Kind regards,
Hans-Ulrich

*Dr. Hans-Ulrich Rösner
Head of Wadden Sea Office, WWF Germany*



United Kingdom: Slimbridge

New website

The WLI website is now available in Spanish, and has a MBP section that we can start to use to publicise and promote the initiative. Please take a look and let us know your comments. We hope that the new website will be easier to manage, and will offer a 'members only' section to allow us all to share developing material and new ideas. See <http://wli.wwf.org.uk/> for more. The web pages for WLI will be live from next week!

Chris Rostron, Head of Wetland Link International



the Netherlands : Oostvaardersplassen



At the heart of one of the most densely populated areas of Europe, in a country where every square meter of landscape has been meticulously shaped by man, lie the Oostvaardersplassen — a unique experiment in letting nature run its course. In just 40 years, 6,000 hectares of newly formed polder have transformed into one of Europe’s most important wetlands.

For most people the natural richness of this area is unknown. This will change in due course with the film project “The New Wilderness”.

EMS FILMS has obtained the exclusive rights to film all seasons in the Oostvaardersplassen and to disclose this splendid nature for the public.

Oostvaardersplassen de film is a spectacle, an ode, a visual tone poem, celebrating the stark beauty, raw wildness and sheer majesty of a unique natural monument — utterly different from the cultured landscapes found elsewhere in the Netherlands. Supported by the WNF in association with other public funding bodies and private investment, this 85 minute theatrical feature will chart the great cycle of life over a course of year, from birth through death to new life, forging a direct sensory and emotional connection with this thriving wetland and the many wild creatures that have made it their home.



Ruben Smit (cineast)

The Oostvaardersplassen have become an internationally recognized symbol of Nature’s dynamism and resilience, all the more remarkable when you consider its position: surrounded on all sides by human development – fast growing urban areas, expressways and a railway line. The contrast between human and natural worlds is typical to this area and will become a recurring theme in the film – underlying both the power and fragility of nature when left to its own devices.

This is a multimedia project with a strong educational focus. It is the intention is to develop a number of smaller programs specifically for schools alongside the main cinema feature film.

The film crew has started in October 2011 with the preparation. Filming has started and will continue until May 2013. The movie will be launched in **September 2013**.

More information and trailer on www.denieuwewildernis.nl

Heleen Visser, manager “Buitencentrum Oostvaardersplassen”



= Natuurpunt : visitor centre 'Uitkerkse Polder'.

After the annual MBP-meeting at the end of January in Blankenberge, we had some freezing cold weeks with temperatures dropping far below -10° , the canal being frozen and eventually ice skating was allowed on it. To avoid the disturbance of wintering birds, ice skating was not allowed on the ponds in the reserve itself (except on one).

March, April and May were generally wet and rather cold. Nevertheless, breeding birds were present in normal numbers. In the middle of May, we were surprised to discover a small group of **Black-winged stilts** (*Himantopus himantopus*). Currently some pairs are breeding close to a road, so photographers are delighted to come here during the morning or evening light. Two consecutive winters with short but harsh periods have eradicated the small breeding populations of Cetti's warbler and Zitting Cisticola in the region.



April the 15th we had our second 'Biomark' where local farmers sold organic products from their farms and local organisations informed the public about the importance of organic farming and healthy foods and drinks. Several visitors signed up for membership of Natuurpunt and the farmers were generally very pleased with all this attention.

The 12th of may, about fifty Natuurpunt managers from grassland nature reserves all over Flanders came to visit the Uitkerkse Polder, after having attended some lectures on the management of grasslands and meadow birds. As the Uitkerkse Polder is Flanders' most important breeding area for meadow birds, some examples of best practices were demonstrated in the field.

The same weekend – on World migratory birds day - , our colleagues from the Zwin visitors center offered their visitors a voucher for a free drink in the Uitkerkse Polder visitor centre. An offer one can't refuse...

Our visitor center recently welcomed three new volunteers. They will join the working group of volunteers who welcome visitors during opening hours. There would be no visitor center in the Uitkerkse Polder without them!

Since many years, during summer holidays, every single day a guided tour is organized by Natuurpunt somewhere along the Belgian coast, so in the Uitkerkse Polder. Again this summer many thousands of tourists will learn to know the hidden pearls of nature in the countryside.

Bob Vandendriessche,
visitor centre 'Uitkerkse Polder'.



= Visitor centre “het Zwin”

A short one from the Zwin

“We have reached another milestone in the building process: the preliminary design is finished! Now for the real work: building designs, permits, ... Time is ticking away – we have to finish certain stages of the building process by the end of 2013 (exhibition and outdoor elements) and/or the September 2014, if we want to be able to claim European funding within the projects REECZ and Natura People (sounds familiar to anyone?).



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On the plus side: we’ve been granted an increase of our budget for 2012, so we will finally be able to develop projects around the Zwin Nature Reserve aimed at scientific research, connecting businesses to nature (capturing economic benefits from nature, ambassadorship for the Zwin region) and public awareness (guide courses, ...).

Our first International Bird Migration Day was a small scale success – cooperation with several partners (Natuurpunt Knokke-Heist, Natuurpunt visitors centre “Uitkerkse Polder” and the community of Knokke-Heist) was wonderful. but preparation time (1 month) and timing (Mother’s Day) did not permit us to develop a large scale public activity. Next year perhaps?”



Regards,

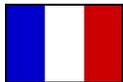


Wim De Roo
project coordinator REECZ and “Natura People”



France: Baie de Somme

No message received.



France: Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre,

No message received.



Spain: Aiguamolls de l’Emporda

Here come some last week pictures about birds in Aiguamolls. The shorebirds are sanderlings, which bred in N Europe and some of they stop in Aiguamolls in their way to the north European countries. A part from that, there is a picture of a Purple Heron, which have already started to breed in Estany de Palau and in La Massona. Also some spoonbills with a Purple Heron in Estany del Tec de Dalt. Finally, the small chick in my hand was a **Kentish Plover** I could help to escape from a roadside where some cars were driving fast to the beach...



Some interesting news about this breeding season in Aiguamolls are 4 species that may breed this year and which are really scarce in Aiguamolls (although some are common for you): A pair of shelduck are breeding in Estany



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d'en Túries. That is the second time in the history this birds breeds in Aiguamolls. A pair (maybe two) of lapwings also breed in Gallinera rice fields (they succeed last year, let's hope they do it again this spring time). Some Great White Egret are trying to breed in Estany de Palau, where two male bittern have been booming, and where some other birds (such as Purple Heron, Purple Gallinule, Little Bittern, Moustached Warbler, Savi's Warbler, etc.) are successfully breeding.

And finally, some Baillon's crake have been seen in good habitat and in good time of the year, in different places inside the Reserve. Let's hope all this species can finally breed in Aiguamolls. A part from that, storks are in record numbers (more than 60 pairs), rollers are doing good, marsh harrier are also breeding in usual numbers, etc.



A part from breeding news, a very important action we have made is improving the system of pumping water from the main channel to Estanys del Matà (Matà marshes), what has been quite expensive and took us some months, but finally it has been done. Now it's much easier to manage levels in Matà Marshes, as well as guarantee water inside the marsh whenever we want (although in summer, as it's a Mediterranean marsh it's good to dry it out). I also send you a picture (taken last year from and helicopter, but it's useful to know where Matà marshes are, and to realize how they look like).

*Ponç Feliu,
Aiguamolls de l'Emporda*

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Spain: Ebro Delta

MónNatura Delta – a new visitor centre in the Ebro Delta by Fundació CatalunyaCaixa

We are very pleased to inform the network of the inauguration of the new visitor centre in the Ebro Delta “Món Natura Delta”. This new centre is located in the old buildings of a fish farm next to la Tancada lagoon now owned by our Foundation. This infrastructure is actually next to one of the areas restored through the LIFE+ Project 09/NAT/ES 000520

“Habitat restoration and

management in two coastal lagoons of the Ebro Delta”... actually we’re very proud of the restoration



A natural world that lets you experience the true essence of the Delta

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process and invite you all to come and visit it with us. We already have Pied avocets (*Recurvirostra avocetta*), Little terns (*Sternula albifrons*) and Kentish plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) nesting next to the visitor centre only one month after finishing the restoration works!

MónNatura Delta is targeted to schools during weekdays and families and ornithologists over the weekends. The most valued assets of the centre according to the first thousand of visitors are: the recreation of the old salt pans (“salines”) to understand how salt is extracted from seawater, the lookout on top of the old offices building (Mirador 360°) and the video about the 4 seasons at the Delta in the museum building.

We hope you welcome you at Món Natura Delta soon!!!

You can find more info on the centre at :

www.monnaturadelta.com

And more about the life project

at: <http://lifedeltalagoon.eu>

Contact person for the Network:

Xavier Escuté

Wetland centre Ebro Delta

Next pages : Leaflet and pictures...

What is MónNatura Delta de l'Ebre?

MónNatura Delta de l'Ebre is a project devised by the Fundació CatalunyaCaixa, and inaugurated in 2012. It gives you the opportunity of taking a journey over land and sea, through fresh water and salt water, discovering the most amazing fish and birdlife...

Located in the Tancada lagoon, in an area remarkable for its wealth of wildlife, MónNatura Delta de l'Ebre lets you discover this rich natural environment in one of the most important wetlands of western Europe.

1 The salt pans: Visit the only full-scale recreation of one of the Delta's salt pans which is open to the public. In this area you can discover:

- How the salt pan operates and its purpose.
- The importance of salt in the history of the Delta.
- The different uses and qualities of salt, a product of great value, other than as a culinary seasoning.



2 Delta space: Discover the essence of the Delta on a unique journey which shows how the Delta was formed over the centuries, and experience the changing seasons throughout a year thanks to an audiovisual presentation showing the natural and traditional worth of these wetlands. You can also experience some special moments as you watch the wildlife of the Alfacada lagoon from the partially enclosed bird observatory.



3 360° Lookout tower: Enjoy wonderful views from one of the best viewpoints in the area. Telescopes are at your disposal for observing the great variety of aquatic birds that live and rest in the Tancada lagoon and the old Sant Antoni salt pans. You can see species such as flamingos, terns, waders, herons, etc.

From the 360° lookout tower you can see the different habitats typical of the Delta: the lagoon, salt pans, saltflats, beach, etc.



4 Landing stage and punting zone: Around the landing stage, you can see examples of traditional Delta fishing techniques such as the use of casting nets, dredging nets, eel and shrimp nets, etc. You can also go aboard the punts, the traditional means of transport in shallow water, and try your hand at another activity typical of the Delta.



5 Observation hut: Watch the wildlife in the old Sant Antoni salt pans, the ideal place to see waders, terns, avocets, and gulls. You can also learn about the LIFE Delta Lagoon Project, which has led to the recovery and transformation of the environment and has reestablished the biodiversity of the area.



6 Spanish toothcarp territory and salt marsh biodiversity: Discover the area's variety of saline vegetation and the way it has evolved in order to survive in this environment. You can also visit one of the Delta's main populations of Spanish toothcarp, a small fish endemic to the Iberian Peninsula which is now in danger of becoming extinct.



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ACTIVITIES



Visit: Follow a route through all the sites that make up this facility. Guided and unguided visits available.



Activities for schools: MónNatura Delta de l'Ebre offers teaching professionals an educational service to help them find out more about the Ebro Delta. Educational activities revolve around three themes: birdlife, salt, and fishing. In each of these areas we offer a programme of activities organized according to educational level. These activities complement the visit to the centre.



Activities for groups: MónNatura Delta de l'Ebre provides an exclusive group booking service, offering personalized attention to guarantee that visitors receive the best possible treatment at the centre. Groups can follow the route around all the different spaces and take part in guided activities such as punting.

Family Activities: At weekends, visitors can take part in a series of games and educational activities suitable for all the family.

SERVICES

MónNatura Delta also boasts a range of additional services which make a visit here even more enjoyable, such as the ornithologist's corner, the shop, and the relaxation area.



OPENING TIMES

Easter, July, and August:
Monday to Sunday, from 10.00 to 20.00
May, June, and September:
Tuesday to Friday from 10.00 to 18.00
Weekends and Bank Holidays, from 10.00 to 20.00
Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays and extended holiday weekends
From October to April:
Tuesday to Sunday, from 10.00 to 18.00
Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays and extended holiday weekends
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and throughout January



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GETTING HERE

- From Sant Carles de la Ràpita: Follow signs for Poblenou; go around the town and continue 5 km towards Platja del Trabucador. The entrance is on the left.
- From Sant Jaume d'Enveja: Follow signs for Els Muntells (TV-3405) for 15 km; just before arriving at the Eucaliptus housing estate, turn right towards La Tancada, and at the end of the road, turn right again. The entrance is 900 metres on the right.



FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

MònNatura Delta de l'Ebre

Llacuna de La Tancada
Carretera del Poblenou del Delta a les Salines
43870 Amposta (Tarragona)
Tel. 977 053 801

monnaturadelta@oscatalunyacaixa.com

www.monnaturadelta.com



On top of the buildingon top of the world !

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Magnificent view from the roof



The new theatre facility in MónNatura Delta centre



Spain: las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

Press bulletin for :

ACTIVITIES "WITH ART" TO ENTER THE WORLD OF BIRDS MIGRATORY DAY 2012.

The Visitor Centre Regional Park de las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar has been included in the international network 'Migratory Birds for People' (MBP), in order to raise awareness of citizens for the need to protect migratory birds and preserve the wetland habitat of these birds of passage.

The first weekend of May is celebrated as World Day of Migratory Birds and the Regional Park and

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Sandy Salinas San Javier has developed awareness and environmental education for more than 100 people from the general public and schools in the area and area school.

On 8 and May 15, 2012 95 students in a school environment of the Park participated in activities focused on raising awareness of the diversity of birds migration, the important roles they play in the environments they inhabit and how to contribute to the balance of life on our planet.

The following describes the activities:

- 1.** Birding Point, near the Visitor Center and where salt ponds begin, the first telescope was installed and binoculars were provided to observe the different birds of the salt marshes.
- 2.** Drawing and poetry workshop with the Japanese technique of "Haiku" on a template default groups and held a picture of the park and its birds, and a Haiku poetry. Haiku is one of the most beautiful forms of Japanese literature. This is a short poem. His account is descriptive, like a flash that illuminates a time and whose role is directed towards the nature referred to in the different seasons.
- 3.** Exhibition of the work done. The work produced in the drawing and poetry workshops have been scanned and sent to each participating school as center reminder of the activity, since the original exhibition has been mounted.

On 12 and 13 May several cuadernistas (urbansketcher, ruralsketcher), illustrators and nature lovers drawing in general) met to translate into their notebooks the reality of this protected natural area in the Region of Murcia. It wants with this practice, develop new approaches in the interpretation and communication on this wetland and migratory birds stop on their journey to complete their annual life cycle. This meeting was open to all (not reserved to professionals). One who loves drawing whatever their age and artistic ability is welcome. Each day was developed with a different route and various stops to cover the widest variety of items to draw. Below one of the drawings made by the participants.



One of the drawings

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Brochure for the event in las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

CUADERNISMO Y NATURALEZA EN EL PARQUE REGIONAL SALINAS Y ARENALES DE SAN PEDRO DEL PINATAR

La red internacional 'Migratory Birds for People', a la que pertenece el Parque Regional Salinas de San Pedro del Pinatar, nace con la intención de fomentar la sensibilización y concienciación de los ciudadanos sobre la necesidad de proteger las aves migratorias y conservar el humedal, como hábitat de paso de estas aves.

Con motivo de la celebración del Día Mundial de las Aves Migratorias, y dentro del programa de actividades que para esta fecha se ha organizado, queremos reunir durante los días **12 y 13 de mayo** al mayor número de cuadernistas (urbansketcher, ruralsketcher, ilustradores de naturaleza y amantes del dibujo en general) para que plasmen en sus cuadernos la realidad de este Espacio Natural Protegido de la Región de Murcia.

Se quiere con esta práctica, desarrollar nuevos enfoques en la interpretación y comunicación sobre este humedal como parada de las aves migratorias en su viaje hasta completar su ciclo vital anual. Esto no impide que la temática y las técnicas de dibujo sean tan variadas como este tipo de encuentros permiten.

PARTICIPANTES

Este encuentro está abierto a todos (no está reservado a profesionales). Aquel que ame el dibujo sea cual sea su edad y capacidad artística y quiera reflejar lo que ve en un cuaderno es bienvenido.

Para aquellos que no están familiarizados con el cuadernismo es interesante la lectura del Manifiesto Urbansketcher:

1. Dibujamos "in situ", a cubierto o al aire libre, capturando directamente lo que observamos.
2. Nuestros dibujos cuentan la historia de nuestro entorno, de los lugares donde vivimos y donde viajamos.
3. Al dibujar documentamos un lugar y un momento determinado.
4. Somos fieles a las escenas que presenciamos.
5. Celebramos la diversidad de estilos de dibujo y utilizamos cualquier tipo de herramientas y soporte.
6. Nos ayudamos mutuamente y dibujamos en grupo.
7. Compartimos nuestros dibujos en internet.
8. Mostramos el mundo, dibujo a dibujo.

PROGRAMA DE ACTIVIDADES

SÁBADO 12 DE MAYO DE 2012

10.00 horas. Encuentro de participantes en el Centro de Visitantes "Las Salinas". Visita a la exposición y entrega de plano con los puntos de encuentro para dibujar.

10.30 horas. Realización de itinerario por las distintas paradas: zona de charcas salineras, dunas, pinares y playas del Parque Regional Salinas de San Pedro.

17.00 horas. Para los que deseen continuar dibujando por la tarde se irá al puerto deportivo y a las instalaciones salineras.

DOMINGO 13 DE MAYO DE 2012

10.00 horas. Encuentro de participantes en el Centro de Visitantes "Las Salinas". Visita a la exposición y entrega de plano con los puntos de encuentro para dibujar (para aquellos que no hayan estado el sábado).

10.30 horas. Encuentro en el molino de Quintín. Realización de itinerario por las distintas paradas: Mota de los Molinos, zona de interés etnográfico y cultural del Parque Regional Salinas de San Pedro (molinos de viento, embarcaciones, vistas de las salinas y del Mar Menor, personas en movimiento).

13:30-14:30 horas. Exposición de los cuadernos realizados durante ambos días en el Área Recreativa del Centro de Visitantes "Las Salinas".

NOTA: en el Centro de Visitantes "Las Salinas" se facilitará información de los lugares más cercanos para comer (zonas de picnic, bares y restaurantes). Horario: de 10 a 14 horas y de 15 a 18 horas.
Teléfono: 968 17 81 39.
e-mail: infosanpedro@carm.es.

Parque Regional
Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

Urbansketch

Primer encuentro de dibujo al aire libre

12-13/mayo/2012

Región de Murcia

SE RECOMIENDA LLEVAR:

1. Gorra y ropa fresca y cómoda.
2. Agua.
3. Repelente de mosquitos.
4. Catalejo o prismáticos.
5. Materiales necesarios para el dibujo.

Itinerario día 12 por la mañana:
Salinas, pinar, dunas, playa, Mar Mediterráneo.

Itinerario día 12 por la tarde:
Puerto, salinas, instalaciones salineras, playa.

Itinerario día 13 por la mañana:
Salinas, Mar Menor, molinos.

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West-African Centres



- **Mauretania**
- **Senegal**
- **Guinea Bissau**

Abdoulaye Ndiaye and colleagues from Wetlands International West Africa have been working hard to promote the Migratory Birds for People-programme to their colleagues in the three wetland centres at Djoudj (Senegal), Bijagos (Guinea Bissau) and Banc D’Arguin (Mauretania). All three centres are keen to take part, and have now completed WLI member profiles, which will appear on the new website.

Chris Rostron

Meeting at the Wetlands International HQ in Ede (Netherlands), 13th of March 2012

Present: Abdoulaye Ndiaye & Taej Mundkur (Wetlands International) and Theo de Bruin & Roelof Heringa (Staatsbosbeheer).

During the meeting we discussed the Migratory Birds for People-programme and the essence of involving the partners in the West-African countries.

It was a very pleasant experience to sit round the table and to be able to speak about the “Migratory Birds for People”-program to each other directly.

Roelof Heringa



(from left to right: Abdoulaye, Roelof and Theo / picture: Taej)



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WLI and Ramsar

The Ramsar Conference of the Parties (COP) is taking place from the **6th to the 13th of July**, and is a great chance to meet with other wetland conservation colleagues, from both government and NGOs. We will take the opportunity to hold a WLI side event, talking about the link between flyways and wetland centre networks. This will involve key people from the steering group (Taej and Chris), as well as staff from other flyway initiatives, such as the East Asia Australasia Flyway Partnership and WHSRN in the Americas.

We will also have a booth at which we can display the MBP poster and materials, as well as broader WLI information, and hope to attend the Europe regional meeting. Having staff at the meetings and on the booth means we can also raise awareness of the programme with colleagues. This should really get the MBP work better known, and hopefully recruit some new members to the network.

Chris Rostron

Algeria wetland centre



Algeria has some amazing wetlands in the north of the country, called the Guerbes-Sanhadja wetland complex. The wetlands consist of dune slacks, the Oued (river) Kebir, coastal wetlands, wet woodland and marshes, a great diversity of wetland types and wildlife such as the endangered white-headed duck and the near threatened ferruginous duck.

Chris Rostron (WLI) and Matt Simpson (WWT Consulting) visited the wetland with colleagues from the Algerian forestry department, UNDP, and WWF Tunisia to advise on the creation of a new wetland education centre, planned at a forestry building.



Possible future Wetland Centre

Chris and colleagues in Algeria

We also met with local stakeholders to discuss the project, which was enthusiastically supported. A design will be produced soon, in time to take to the Ramsar COP.

Chris Rostron



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News from the Steering group

Migratory Birds for People – Project planning meeting Skype Monday 18th June, 2012, 10.30-11.30 CET

Attendees:

Chris Rostron, WLI, WWT
Theo de Bruin, Staatsbosbeheer

Apologies:

Aida, Friends of Aiguamolls
Liesbet Cleynhens, Natuurpunt
Roelof Heringa, Staatsbosbeheer
Taej Mundkur, Wetlands International, Netherlands
Abdoulaye Ndiaye, WI West Africa
Bob van den Driessche, Natuurpunt
Ellen Hultman, Lake Tåkern
Szabolcs Nagy, WI
Neil McIntosh, Eurosite
Benoit Marsall, Baie de Somme
Ponc Feliu, Aiguamolls

Need to value what we have, in terms of an identified network of active wetland education centres that regularly exchange information, share best practice, plan and develop work and meet annually. Our current activities of growing and strengthening the network, and regularly communicating, are important during these times of economic crisis, and will prepare us for future bids and project delivery once the economic situation improves.

The WLI website is being updated, and offers an opportunity for a dedicated space for us, that the core group can administer. We should use both the wider WLI-site and the dedicated "Migratory Birds for People" - pages to communicate and share resources better.

We need a promotional flyer or briefing note to give to people, that explains what "Migratory Birds for People" is and does so in an accessible and inspiring way, including some case studies of our centres. Highlight the value of our networking activities.

How can we get members more active? Although the core group meets regularly, would be good to get some more activity from the wider membership. This could be by holding more than one meeting per year, or encourage partners to visit each other's sites (could also do the centre audit) and then share their experience with wider group.

Need to link in to other, similar networks such as Eurosite, to piggy back on their events, and get members together.

Next one in Genk, Belgium, 22-25 October, would be useful to have a side event / meeting there, and possible trip to a wetland centre.

We will also have a side event at the Ramsar COP meeting which will include MBP, looking at the link between flyway projects and wetland centres.

Date of next meeting: No appointments made.

Theo de Bruin



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Migratory Birds for People, plan “B”

‘Cooperation through enthusiasm and opportunity’

Introduction

Migratory Birds for People stands for a network of wetland centres under the East Atlantic flyway.

Network-group: 16 European members and 3 African members. (State: June 2012)

Mission:

“An effective network of visitor centres across the East-Atlantic flyway connecting people to birds and promoting the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats”.

The programme aims to develop an active network and a dynamic co-operation of visitor centres along the East Atlantic Flyway, to tackle four key issues that we identified as:

- the lack of joint work and communication between wetland centres,
- the need for more people involved and attached to wetlands,
- the need for more and better tools and stories to communicate the importance of a network of wetlands for migratory birds
- the requirement to improve the conservation status of wetlands along the flyway.

Background

There is a poor awareness of the existence of the East Atlantic flyway among visitors and citizens in general and related to this, the chain of pearls consisting of NATURA 2000 sites and wetlands used by migratory birds. Visitors to a particular site are impressed by the overwhelming natural features and images of the individual site without a notion of the physical connection made by the birds to these other NATURA 2000 sites and wetlands and therefore for their critical important for the management of these migratory species. This lack of awareness is caused by a local or regional focus of most visitor centres due to a focus on local everyday issues by the centre staff, lack of access to appropriate information and modern awareness-raising equipment as well as the absence of an international network to support and sustain exchange information and experience sharing. This programme will initiate the co-operation and stimulate cooperation among the centres and provide modern up-to-date methods for the exchange of data, footage and other information on migratory birds.

Problem definition:

1. Knowledge of the unfavourable conservation status of the waterbirds of the Flyway is poorly known.

Migratory birds depend on a healthy flyway to complete their annual life cycle, but in some countries the habitats for these birds along the route are in poor condition due to internal and/or external factors. This loss of connectivity undermines the conservation status of birds across the entire flyway. Increased capacity and funds are required to improve the state of poorly managed habitats and are dependent on greater Public awareness and public support is needed for the right political decisions for the protection and management of these NATURA 2000 and other important waterbird sites.

For all partners (and African countries particularly), there is a lack of capacity and access to new tools and resources, but MBP aims to improve this situation, though not based upon actions supported by LIFE+ financial support.



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2. Lack of accessible information and stories about the (importance of the) flyway and linkage between wetland sites;

Better up-to-date flow and exchange of information about migratory bird flyways is needed between wetland centres.

The information available needs to be of better quality and more easily accessible; often it is presented in a foreign language, or developed in a country with different cultural ideas or it is presented too scientifically and using ‘in-crowd’ language;

The presentation of the information needs to appeal to the general public. Visitor centres need to use up-to-date communication tools and to be open to using new media;

Furthermore, visitor centres need better access to good stories, and be able to present it effectively to their visitors and local stakeholders. There should be an infrastructure which allows for networking and sharing of materials, tools and best practices. People should know who or which organization to approach or where such information can be obtained.

3. Centres are internally focussed;

Centres are often focused internally and information sharing between centres is not a priority due to high workload and limited resources. Attitudes need to change and resources found to build networking into internal planning, time allocated for it in projects and decision-makers made aware of the benefits of sharing and networking. International conservation of migratory birds relies on interconnectivity between conservationists working towards common targets.

Strategies:

1. Public Communication Strategy;

This strategy addresses the involvement of more people through use of higher quality of the available stories and information. It includes translation of material, adapting material into a clearer language fit to communicate with the general public and adopting new methods for communicating, e.g. using social media and online communities. It assumes that if visitor centres can improve the quality and presentation of the information (through exchange, translation and adaptation of current material, development of new stories) and use of more modern communication methods (social media, online community), then more information will be available, centres can improve the promotion of the importance of the flyway and more people will become involved and aware of the unique features of the flyway, the international aspects and the importance of each individual site, particularly the one nearby.

2. Capacity Building for Staff Strategy;

This strategy focuses on the sharing of information between centres and nature practitioners. It includes actions like developing a best practice guide on communication techniques, translation of materials, organizing on site events to share knowledge, social media workshop, etc.

3. Network Development Strategy and communication;

This strategy looks at the further development of the MBP Partnership. It’s important to let people know the MBP network exists and that sharing is beneficial. Actions include setting up a programme website, development of the newsletter, improving the Wetland Link International database of ?, and expanding the network to other important centres in the flyway.

4. Funding strategy

Some of the actions can be implemented without extra funding, but most require extra financial resources. The funding strategy will focus on looking for appropriate funding possibilities and forming project teams to develop applications.



Actions

So far the funding strategies - for different reasons - did not succeed in obtaining extra budget to carry out the programme. Nevertheless, given this situation, there are still several steps that can be taken in order to enlarge the level of networking and exchange of



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information. The most important element of the actions are our own enthusiasm, daily activities and immediate ‘wins’ from our collaboration.

Basically, not all actions will require extra money or other investments at this moment but will enhance the interaction within the MBP network.

Based upon the action plan and the given situation, the following actions are suggested:

1. Development of MBP Website

A special page devoted to MBP on the WLI-website, accessible for the general public and those who are interested with links tot the partners as well as to other interesting sites. WLI is taking the first steps in this development. Core group can have access to edit the site easily.

In this MBP digital domain, it would be helpful to have our protected platform with a members-only status where we can place our information, footage to be shared, data, etc.. The platform could also help us for an exchange of ideas, etc. WLI to take the lead in this.

Responsible: Chris Rostron, as part of WLI pages

One of the database issues can or maybe should be an overview of individual outreach-activities, thus being a source of inspiration to everyone taking part in management of visitors centres.

Another issue can be ‘social media’ and the use and outcome of it.

2. Interactive inventory

Based upon the ‘fresh experience’ of Theo and Roelof having visited Naturum Lake Tåkern, which was a very enriching experience on top of the the social and networking aspects, we should have an ‘interview meeting’ in one of the centres every year and have the ‘Interactive inventory’ taking up a substantial part of the agenda. Output will be a list with remarks made by ‘new but experienced eyes’ but above all colleagues sharing their view on an individual centre.

Suggestion: Liesbeth and Theo taking responsibility for preparation of this action.

3. Public Relations

- On international meetings present "Migratory Birds for People" in poster sessions, discussions, whatsoever. Develop updatable briefing sheet.
- For every local centre having connections with scientific institute and researchers; negotiate the options of presenting for a broader, international audience or having a dialogue.
- Active search for contacts for sharing/translating data, study reports, etc. towards public friendly use.
- Link in to other international networks that are doing similar thing, such as Eurosite, Wetlands International, Birdlife, and Ramsar.



Responsible: everyone

4. Individual actions in each centre

- Present the flyway as part of your individual exhibition; with stories from other centres as well
- Publicise the MBP poster.
- If possible - on one or more screens - internetlinks with webcams in other wetland and N2000 sites
- Computer with the CSN site accessible
- Visit other nearby or partner sites as part of your travels and update rest of the group.

Responsible: Everyone



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5. Exchange of information

- Sent around your monthly programme of activities and inspire other centres.
- Share extraordinary moments, press-releases and pictures with network colleagues.
- Give local news an international platform.

Responsible: Everyone; Roelof Heringa for newsletter; Chris Rostron and all for website update.

6. Focus on funding

Though the above actions can be done by just mailing around information and filling up our WLI MBP databases, some of us will have to concentrate on finding extra budget for organising meetings, investments, strengthening the African connection, the interactive inventories, the investment in webcams, hardware and other materials, staff-training, etc.. Some members out of the core-group should put extra effort in this action.

Responsible (suggestion): Chris, Roelof /Theo, Taej, and ???

Basically we can get started with our MBP networking and start working on the exchange of information, ideas and experiences. In my opinion, it will be a crucial step showing everyone the value of the network and enabling us to intensify the cooperation by more projects developed out of our action programme.

*Theo de Bruin &
Roelof Heringa
Staatsbosbeheer
Deventer, 21 06 2012*

Any other network news

- **Kind request for footage.** (repeated request)

Wetlands International are in the process of making a film on migratory birds and wetlands, which could also form a resource for each wetland centre as a movie in digital format with images that could be used for a “Migratory Birds for People”- presentation. We hope for your positive response and will of course discuss with you the conditions under which you would be willing to share this material with us.

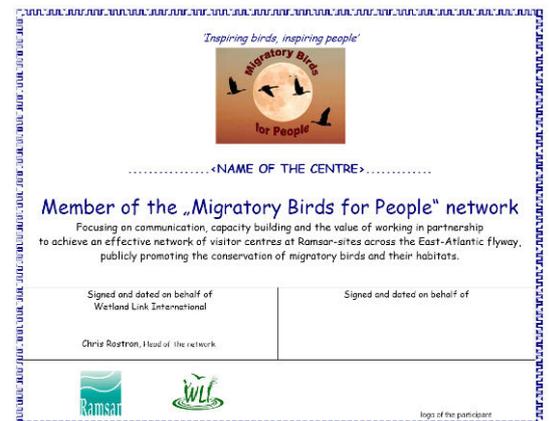


- **"Migratory Birds for People" certificate**

The steering group decided to develop a certificate by which the participating visitor centre can show that they are a member of the Migratory Birds for People- network.

During the MBP-workshop 2011 in Belgium a number of certificates were signed by Chris Rostron and received by the participants.

This certificate can still be obtained for free. Just write an email to r.heringa@staatsbosbeheer.nl and we will send you a certificate.





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The 22th - 25th of October, the Annual Conference of Europarc / Eurosité will be held in Genk (Belgium).

We are looking for a moment to organise a **“Migratory Birds for People”- side meeting** for the core-group during this conference; to be discussed in the next skype meeting. Chris will sent an invitation around for the meeting.

It is also an excellent opportunity to meet and greet many colleagues from all over Europe!

For more information about the Annual Conference, see also:

<http://www.eurosité.org/en-UK/content/eurosité-europarc-annual-conference-2012-reconnecting>



Ramsar COP11

6-13 July 2012
Bucharest, Romania

The Convention and tourism

The Ramsar Convention launched its focus on tourism and wetlands on 2 February 2012, World Wetlands Day, with the slogan “Wetlands and Tourism, a Great Experience”, in partnership with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The WLI side event will be on the 13th of July from 13.15 to 14.45.

In July 2012, the Convention will formally address tourism as one of the many ‘ecosystem services’ that wetlands deliver at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11) in Bucharest, Romania. The Conference will identify what countries need to do at national and local levels to ensure that wetland tourism is sustainable, consistent with the Convention’s ‘wise use’ principle, which will hopefully result in the adoption of a Resolution on tourism and wetlands. (See the Draft Resolution here).

Based on the fact there is a clear need to manage wetland tourism wisely through sound policies, planning, and awareness-raising – in other words, by putting the principles of sustainable tourism into action, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and UNWTO worked on a publication that highlights the considerable value of wetlands for tourism and the economic benefits that tourism can bring for the management of wetland sites that will be launched at COP11 on 9 July. Through case studies and other materials, this publication demonstrates the contributions that sustainable tourism practices in and around wetlands can make to conservation, poverty alleviation (through improvement of local livelihoods), regional and national economies, and support to local cultures. It also highlights the associated risks and impacts when tourism is not well managed and is not sustainable.



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Launch of 14 case studies on tourism in wetlands

For this publication, 14 case studies on tourism in wetlands, 13 of which are Ramsar Sites, have been selected to cover different wetland types around the world and to examine the diversity in the scale of tourism, the management processes in place, the many challenges encountered and, wherever possible, the management solutions employed. The full texts of the case studies include considerable detail on the scale of tourism and how it is being managed. [They can be viewed here.](#)

Best regards,

The Ramsar Secretariat

Sandra Hails

CEPA Programme Officer

Ramsar Convention Secretariat

28 rue Mauverney, CH-1196 Gland (Switzerland)

Tel. +41 22 999 0176; fax +41 22 999 0169

www.ramsar.org | Join us: www.facebook.com/RamsarConventionOnWetlands

The opening of the Naturum Lake Tåkern in Östergötland , Sweden 25th of May 2012

by His Majesty Carl Gustav , King of Sweden .



Entrance to the Naturum



all kinds of eggs at the entrance...



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*the new watch tower with the special bridge
for wheelchairs etc.*



View at lake Tåkern



the new centre



also facilities for blind people

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in the new centre



Memorial plaque for Dan Nilsson ,

initiator of the Naturum [† 7 October, 2011]

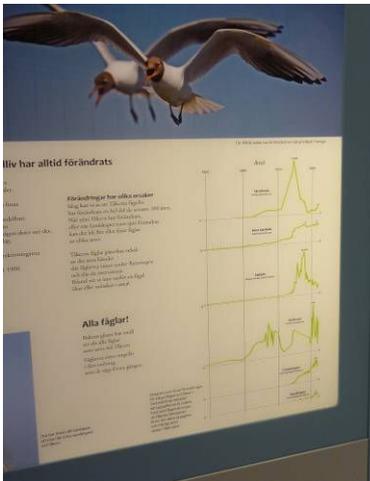


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Children's corner



All birds in wood at scale, excellent !



Your flying reporters... Theo & Roelof

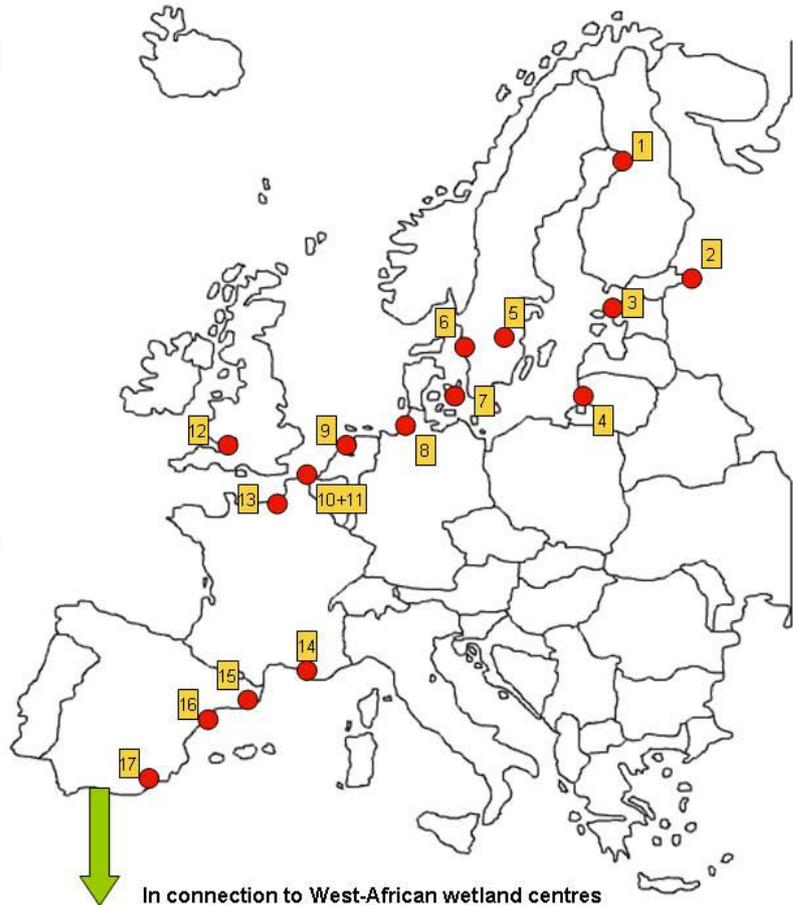


SUPPLEMENT: List of participants in Europe and West-Africa

Participating visitor centres (Europe)

(June 2012)

1. Finland: Liminganlahti
2. Russia : St. Petersburg [CEPA-team]
3. Estonia: Matsalu (proposed)
4. Lithuania: Nemunas Delta (proposed)
5. Sweden: Lake Tåkern
6. Sweden: Getterön
7. Denmark: Vestmager
8. Germany: Husum
9. Netherlands: Oostvaardersland
10. Belgium: Het Zwin
11. Belgium: Uitkerkse Polder
12. United Kingdom: WWT, HQ, Slimbridge
13. France: Baie de Somme
14. France: Camargue Gardoise
15. Spain: Aiguamolls de L'Emporda
16. Spain: Ebro Delta
17. Spain: Las Salinas de San Pedro



Finland :

Liminganlahti conservation area

Contact: Sari Airas, Programme manager Metsähallitus

Jukupolku 5, 85100 Kalajoki

Mob: +358-40-5016127

Email : sari.airas@metsa.fi

Website : www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/.../liminganlahti



Sweden:

Naturum Lake Tåkern

Contact: Ellen Hultman

Naturvårdsenheten Länsstyrelsen Östergötland

Tel: +46-13-196561

Mob : +46-703-776599.

Email: ellen.hultman@lansstyrelsen.se

Website:

<http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/OSTERGOTLAND/SV/DJUR->

[OCH-NATUR/FRILUFTSLIV/NATURUM-](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/OSTERGOTLAND/SV/DJUR-OCH-NATUR/FRILUFTSLIV/NATURUM-TAKERN/Pages/index.aspx)

[TAKERN/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/OSTERGOTLAND/SV/DJUR-OCH-NATUR/FRILUFTSLIV/NATURUM-TAKERN/Pages/index.aspx)

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Linda eklund@lansstyrelsen.se

Website: www.naturumgetteron.se



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Russia:

CEPA- St.Petersburg

Contact: Dr. Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy
Baltic Fund for Nature Of St.Petersburg Naturalists Society
Universitetskaya emb. 7/9-11
Saint-Petersburg
199034 Russia

Phone: +7(812) 328 96 20
Email: eugene@bfn.org.ru
Websites : <http://www.wwf.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/europe/nature-watch-baltic>
<http://web.me.com/naturewatch>.



Estonia:

PROPOSED: Matsalu visitor centre

Contact: Marju Pajumets (Visitor manager)
State Forest Management Centre
West-Estonia region
Matsalu Information Centre, Penijõe, 90305 Lihula, Läänemaa, Estonia
Tel: (+372) 472 4236
Email: marju.pajumets@rmk.ee
Website: <http://www.europarc-nb.org/protected-areas/estonia/matsalu-national-park>



Lithuania:

PROPOSED: NEMUNAS DELTA REGIONAL PARK

Contact: Saulius Svazav [Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University]
phone: +370-441 75050
website: www.nemunodelta.lt



Denmark:

Nature Centre Vestamager,
Granatvej 3-9,
2770 Kastrup
Contact: Stella Blichfeldt
Naturvejleder

Naturstyrelsen, Hovedstaden
Dir tlf.: (+45) 72543159
Mobile: (+45) 23730260
Email: stb@nst.dk
Website: www.udinaturen.dk



Germany :

Nationalpark - Haus Husum,
Hafenstraße 3,
25813 – DE Husum

Contact: Dr. Hans-Ulrich Rösner
Tel : +49-4841-6685-51
Email: rosner@wwf.de
info@nationalparkhaus-husum.de
Website: www.nationalparkhaus-husum.de

www.wwf.de/wattenmeer



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Netherlands:

Infocentrum “Oostvaardersplassen”

Contact: Heleen Visser; (*manager Buitencentrum Oostvaardersplassen (a.i.)*)

Tel: +31-320-254585

Mob: +31-621266684

Email heleen.visser@staatsbosbeheer.nl

Website: www.staatsbosbeheer.nl



Belgium:

Bezoekerscentrum Uitkerkse Polder

Contact: Bob Vandendriessche

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Mob.: +32- 477757491

E-mail: bob.vandendriessche@natuurpunt.be

Website www.natuurpunt.be/blankenberg

Bezoekerscentrum Het Zwin

Contact: Wim de Roo,

Project coördinator REECZ en Natura People

dienst MiNaWA, sectie NME, bureau 3.19

Provincie West-Vlaanderen

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W www.west-vlaanderen.be



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WWT Head quarters, Slimbridge

Chris Rostron (Head of Wetland Link International)

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)

Slimbridge, Glos GL2 7BT, UK

T +44 (0)1453 891214

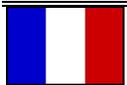
F +44 (0)1453 890827

M +44 (0)7906 564 641

Skype: Chris.Rostron1

E chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk

W wli.org.uk



France:

- **Baie de Somme**

contact: Patrick Triplet

Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme

1, place de l'Amiral Courbet

F 80 100 Abbeville

Tel :+33 (0)6 86 67 97 92

email: patrick.triplet1@orange.fr

website: www.baiedesomme.fr

- **Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre**, Syndicat Mixte pour la protection et la gestion de la Camargue Gardoise

1st contact : Cécile Mundler

Registered office : SMCG - Hôtel du Département - rue

Guillemette - 30044 NIMES cedex 9

téléphone : +33-4 66 76 78 55

Visitor centre : +Centre de découverte du Scamandre – Gallician – 30600 VAUVERT

Tel:+33-4 66 73 52 05

email : mundler@camarquegardoise.com

2nd contact: Jérémiah PETIT

Conservateur RNR du Scamandre

Responsable gestion-aménagement des domaines

Départementaux

*Centre de découverte du Scamandre

Route des Iscles – Gallician, 30600 Vauvert

Tel :+33-4 66 73 52 05

email : petit@camarquegardoise.com

website : www.camarquegardoise.com



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Spain:

1. Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Parc

Contact: Ponç Feliu and Sergio Romero

Information Centre : El Cortalet, Castelló d'Empúries (road to Sant Pere Pescador).

Tel.: +34-972 454 222.

email : pfeliu@serpa.cat and sromero@serpa.cat

website: [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aiguamolls de l'Empordà](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aiguamolls_de_l'Empordà)
www.iberianature.com

2. Ebro Delta

Contact: Xavier Escuté i Gasulla

Àrea de Territori i Paisatge

Fundació Caixa Catalunya

Provença, 261-265, 2n 2a / 08008 Barcelona

Tel: +34 93 484 70 08

Mob.: +34-661402678

xavier.escute@fcaixacatalunya.es

website: geographyfieldwork.com/Ebro%20Delta%20Natural%20Park

3. Parque Regional Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

- **Contact : Alfredo González Rincón**

Área de Conservación de Espacios Naturales del Litoral de la Región de Murcia

Dirección General de Medio Ambiente.

Consejería de Presidencia.

C/Catedrático Eugenio Úbeda, nº 3,

4ª Planta; Despacho 438,

C.P. 30008 Murcia.

Teléfono: +34-968.22.84.49

pr-salinasdesanpedro@listas.carm.es

- **Teresa López Aledo & Ana Navarro Sequero**

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30.008 Murcia

Teléfono: +34-968.17.81.39

Móvil: +34-648 540 987

Fax: +34-968 22 89 03

Email: teresa.lopez@lagenerala.com

Website: [http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar](http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salinas_y_Arenales_de_San_Pedro_del_Pinatar)

Participants in West-Africa : see next page

Participants in West-Africa

The wetlands we aim to connect are the **Banc D’Arguin** in Mauritania, the **Djoudj** in Northern Senegal and the **Bijagós Archipelago** in Guinea Bissau.



Banc d’Arguin, Mauretania

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In our previous newsletters we highlighted briefly
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“Inspiring birds, inspiring people”

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