



## Project “Migratory Birds for People”

NEWSLETTER no. 2 ( May 2010 )

Deventer, 5<sup>th</sup> of May, 2010

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Dear colleagues,

With this second newsletter we will inform you about the latest developments in our project. By the end of 2009, we had developed the concept of a group of wetland centres at RAMSAR / NATURA 2000 sites, linked by the western European flyway, who intent work together to develop joint tools, share best practice and create new projects based on migratory bird conservation. (*List of these centres in attachment*)

At this stage 13 centres have joined and now we have partners in Finland (!), Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain, France and Spain.

In April we had again a fruitful meeting of the working group at the headquarters of Wetlands International in Ede (NL) .

The main topic has been the discussion about the results of the questionnaire. You will find this on page 2 and the report with the results in attachment 1.

We also decided to organise a workshop in June in the Netherlands; more details are to be found on page 4.

We wish you good reading and hope to meet in June!

On behalf of the steering group,  
Roelof Heringa

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We like to share with you the following actions which have been decided during this second meeting. [*with thanks to Taej Mundkur for the text from the minutes of the meeting*]

### **Actions arising:**

1. The draft project log frame would be further developed by partners – AK, KO and others to review log frame (in sequence).
  2. The updated draft project log frame would be sent to partner centres for their feedback and input (in advance of the June 4 meeting).
  3. A face-to-face project development meeting 4-5 June would be organised in the Netherlands (Staatsbosbeheer will host the meeting at an existing centre, such as Oostvaardersplassen). Invited centres would need to secure their own funding as no funding for participation was currently available. RH to prepare project development meeting agenda and advice on meeting facilities, accommodation and transportation arrangement/requirements.
  4. Specific funding opportunities with Darwin (KC), EU-Life and Eurosite (RH), LNV (TM/AK with KO assistance) to be pursued.
  5. Need to look at funding options to support project, to discuss at next meeting – all partners.
  6. Development of an e-group to aid communication of member centres and partners – CR to investigate/establish.
  7. Organisation of next meeting of working group proposed in Ede for 18 May 2010 (0830 UK time) – all partners.
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### Roles in the project:

The current and future roles of the project partners responsible for the project organisation were discussed, with each partner suggesting their potential role/responsibilities to include:

#### **Wetland Link International (lead partner):**

- Collecting and storing information of partner centres
- Development of a list server/forum for the network
- Advice on funding options
- Submitting bids and receiving funding on behalf of partners
- Linkage to WLI network members

#### **Wetlands International:**

- Advising on projects and opportunities
- Working with partners in development of project proposals for regional activities
- Provision of technical information on waterbirds and flyways (such as through the Critical Site Network Tool and the International Waterbird Census).
- Strengthening of linkages to Africa
- Providing access to films and other awareness information

#### **Staatsbosbeheer:**

- Initiating of the project
- Organising meetings, sharing information, etc.
- The future role of Staatsbosbeheer in this project will be internal discussed and defined further soon.

### The Questionnaire:

All partners have send in their points of view and suggestions in reaction to the questionnaire sent to them. Many thanks for your cooperation on this!

Chris Rostron has prepared a report about the results of the questionnaire, which is included at the end of this newsletter.

The highlights included:

- Respondents appeared to be more interested in the practical aspects of sharing knowledge and techniques, rather than joining virtual meetings or social networking sites. The emphasis on development of practical monitoring tools, staff support and funding support ranking high may reflect on the responsibilities of members in running the sites and interest to take a practical approach to the project.
- Respondents appear to have consulted with their directors / CEO's who were in agreement to sign off on the initiative, which is positive.
- Communication and coordination - the website, exchange visits, and newsletter were reported as the most popular choices.
- Information, support and resources - posters, data on bird movement, information from other centres and accessible scientific information are all popular.
- It appeared that the framing of the question on funding may have been interpreted by some to mean providing funds, although the focus had been in contributing to development of funding bids – and although they sought funding support, they appeared less keen to support funding bids (which is not necessarily the case).
- Suggestions for activities included:
  - Learning from each other for management and interpretation materials.
  - Extending the scope of the project through existing links to projects in Africa (e.g. from the Spanish partner)



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- Developing interactive means of linking centres, - such as through video links would allow each centre to watch the birds that visit it when they are at other sites.
- Exchange visits (annual?) to a member site would allow staff to swap ideas and information on best practice.
- A travelling display on what the network is / does, which could be produced centrally.

All in all, the information gathered was seen as positive and generally helpful in guiding further consultation and engagement with partners in development of a project.

It was recognised that there was likely to be quite a difference between centres, state of development (e.g. Oostvaardersplassen was developing a new centre and had substantial funding being allocated to it), in terms of capacity, focus, target audiences (visitors, scientists, policy makers, etc.), availability of audiovisual/video recording equipment, financial status and ability to access funds/resources, etc. The ability of centres to take on new work needs to be checked, even if we assume it fits into their existing work area.

The link to the wintering areas in Africa:

The interest of centres to involve Africa was seen positively by partners, as it showed that they were thinking about the needs of migratory species, particularly of threats in Africa and the need to raise awareness in their countries. Wetlands International has good contacts with national park offices and basic information centres in Djoudj wetlands in Senegal and Banc d'Arguin National Park in Mauritania, even if there may be no active wetland visitor centres in West Africa and Wetlands International would be keen to respond to this interest and develop options.



*Djoudj wetlands in Senegal*

More engagement with centres during project development through seeking of specific information was recognised as necessary.

It appeared that at this stage only 3 centres are member of Wetland Link International. It would be very pragmatic and sensible for all centres to enter this membership, which is for free. We all would benefit from the fact that this network then becomes also part of the global network for wetland visitor centres.

Chris Rostron will invite the participants to join an electronic chat group. Information about this will follow.

### Logframe

The group has been working on a so-called log-frame for the project. This document describes the goals and objectives of the project, the activities and expected results and also how the results can be monitored. A first draft has been written and this will be commented now by the other members of the group.

You all will receive the draft document soon after this newsletter.



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This document will be finalised during a workshop-meeting on the **3rd of June 2010** in the Oostvaardersplassen-area in the Netherlands.

### Partner-agreements

The draft partner agreement provided in advance by RH (developed by RH and CR) was welcomed. As the agreement would be useful to develop once the roles of organisations was clearer, it was agreed that this would be picked up after the June meeting.

### Funding

We have discussed the opportunities for funding for the project. These opportunities will be explored further by the members of the working group.

On the other hand there has also to be a certain amount of money to be available from the centres in the network. The ability of centres to contribute financially would need to be explored further with centre managers. As all centres run on low budgets, their ability to provide matching funds to a project was likely to be a minimum.

### Name for the project:

We have received some suggestions for the project which we have discussed among the working group. In the end it was decided that we should stick with the name “**Migratory Birds for People**”, symbolising the connection that should be made between the general public and the issues related to bird migration in Western Europe (and beyond towards Africa).

Linda Eklund from the Getteröns Naturcentrum in Sweden has kindly offered to look for a **logo** for our project. We hope to show this in due time!

The steering group,

Chris Rostron, Alex Kaat, Taej Mundkur, Keelin O'Connor and Roelof Heringa

## Workshop meeting in the Netherlands 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2010.



**We invite you all to join us in a meeting in the Oostvaardersplassen to meet each other and to discuss the content and details of our project.**

**There will be also an opportunity to visit the area on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June (in the morning).**

**Please send us your registration form before the 20<sup>th</sup> of May !**

**(see registration form in attachment in e-mail)**

**You only have to pay for your travelling costs and hotel costs.**



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### ATTACHMENT 1.

#### Attachment : Results questionnaire

#### Report from Migratory Birds for People (MBP)

##### Background

The MBP project has an active steering group that is keen to develop the project, linking Ramsar wetland centres along the Western European seaboard through migratory bird movements. 13 member centres have been contacted, and confirmed that they would be interested to take part.

A recent survey of the 13 members of the MBP project asked for their aspirations for the project based on their needs, but also what they could bring to the project. The partners had already been contacted and expressed their willingness to take part in the project, and this served to further shape how the project progresses.

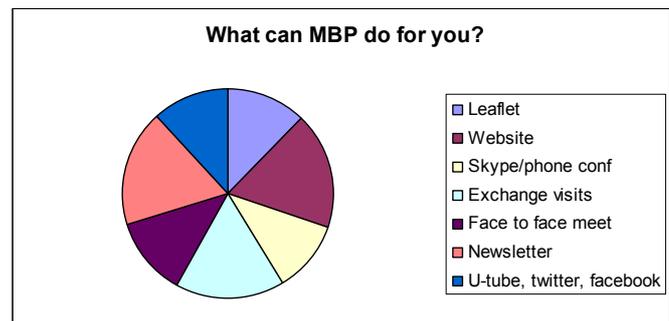
The survey was sent around at the end of February with a deadline of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April, and all questionnaires were received before that deadline.

##### Results

Of the 13 respondents, only 3 are currently members of Wetland Link International.

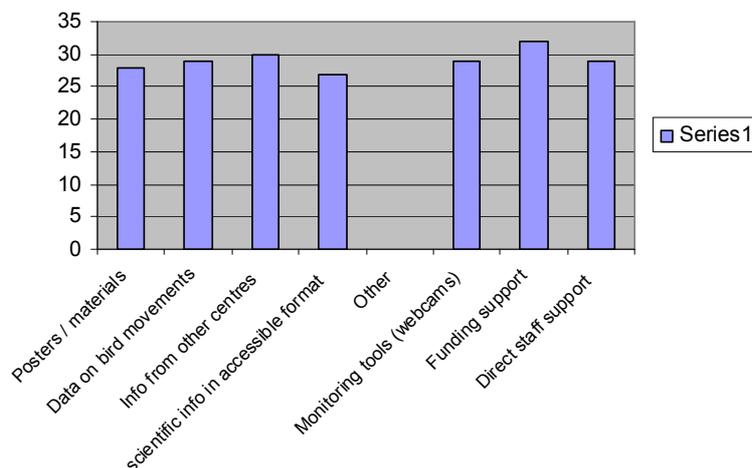
##### *Communication and coordination*

Of the choices listed, the website, exchange visits, and newsletter stood out as the most popular choices. Respondents were less keen on the leaflet, phone/skype conferences, face-to-face contact or social networking sites such as u-tube/facebook/twitter. It seems that the consensus is to create platforms that serve as a source of updatable but static information, and less interest in interactive contact which isn't focused at site level.



In addition, this might also be due to worries that language skills may hinder discussions, although everyone seems happy to work in English.

##### Information support and resources



##### *Information, support and resources*

Posters, data on bird movement, information from other centres and accessible scientific information are all popular. Another suggestion was a travelling display on what the network is / does, which could be produced centrally.



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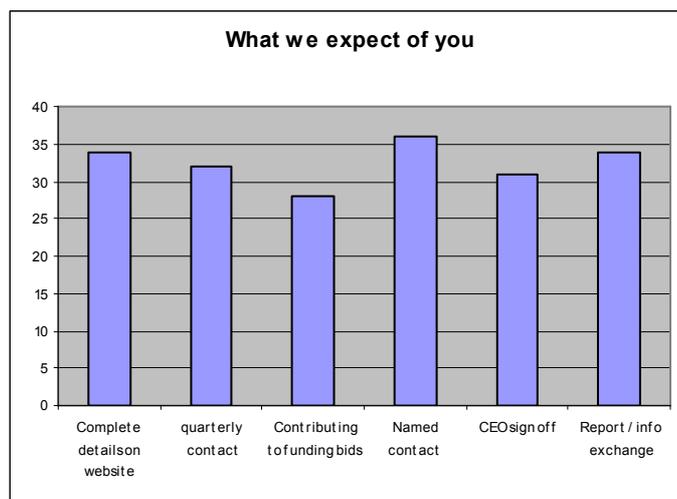
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Practical monitoring tools, staff support and funding support were also ranked highly, and seem to show that the members are keen to take a practical approach to the project. Suggestions for activities also indicated that learning from each other for management and interpretation materials would be useful.

### Member suggestions

In addition to previous comments, the members also suggested the following:

- Links exist to projects in Africa – could be useful to extend the scope of the project.
- Video links would allow each centre to watch the birds that visit it when they are at other sites.
- Annual visits to a member site would allow staff to swap ideas and information on best practice.



### Potential names for the partnership:

- Flying high
- Migratory Birds for People
- North Atlantic Flyway Partnership/Network
- WE Fly Network (Western Europe Flyway Network)
- People, Birds, Wetlands (PBW)

Chris Rostron  
7<sup>th</sup> April 2010

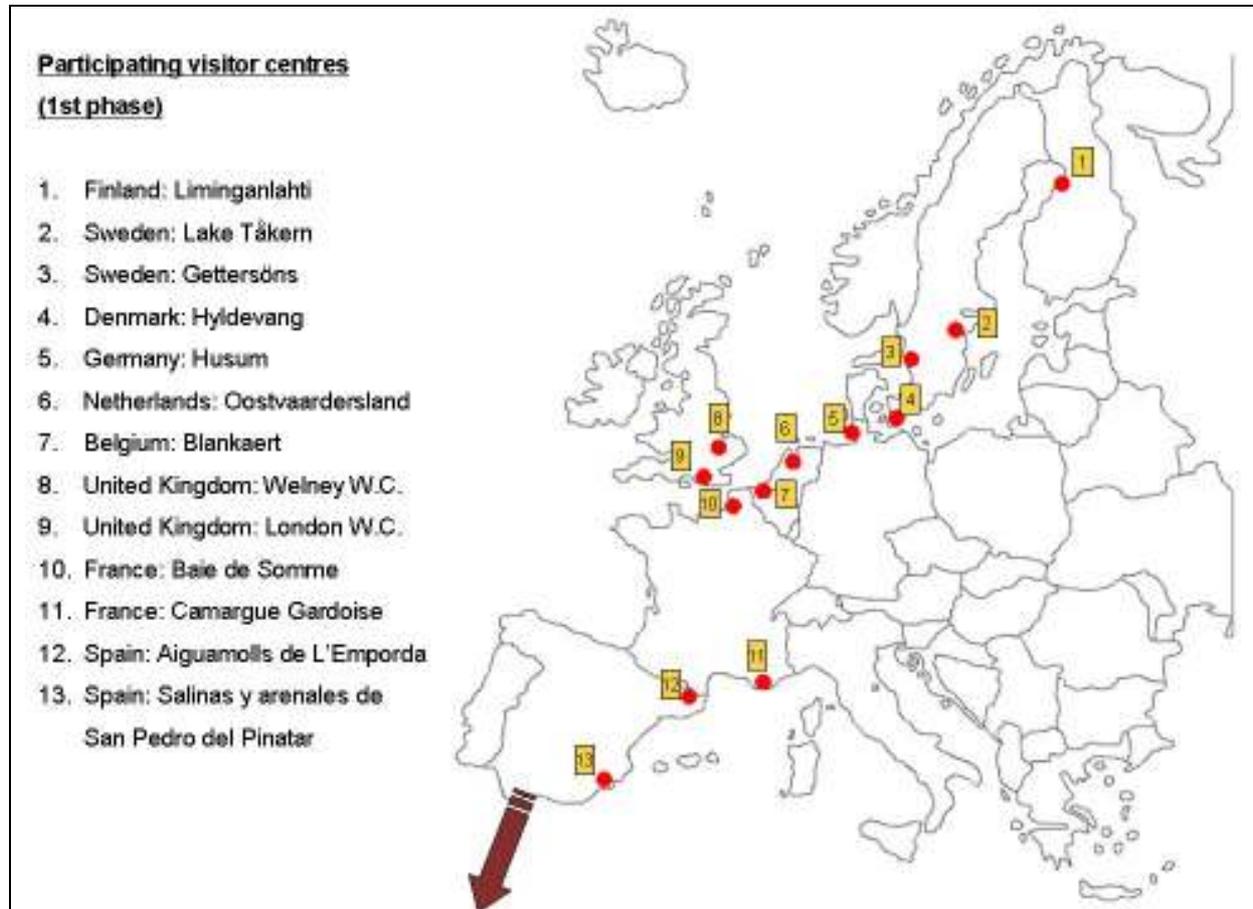


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### ATTACHMENT 2.



### List of participants

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### 5. Netherlands:

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