

Migratory Birds for People

Online Annual Meeting 2020



Key topics:

Work affected, but continues, by pandemic

2021 work plan

Renewed partnership with Eurosite

Working towards 2021 hybrid meeting in Senegal & online

Possible project with Youth Engaged in Wetlands

Engagement on EU ban on lead shot in wetlands

Possible projects on dam removal and free flow of rivers

Optics for Africa to continue and expand to guidebooks

Vote on theme for World Migratory Bird Day

When: 12 November 2020

Summary: At least 35 people logged in to the meeting; more than that attended because groups of up to three people shared connections in Wetlands International and Urdaibai Bird Center. We also had guests from the Ramsar Secretariat.

Usually we would congregate at a wetland centre, eat together, have an excursion around the wetland, and of course meet to learn from peers' efforts and to plan for the next year.

This year we met online, starting with live birding in the lagoons around EVOA in Portugal. We then replicated the arrival by everyone introducing themselves, and sharing brief updates. We had three presentations from external groups with whom we could collaborate; and then six members reported their activities for the year and two shared campaigns with which we could also engage.

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External presentations & partnerships



WWT Welcome, James Robinson, Director of Conservation

As Bewick's swans arrive at Slimbridge, happy to see everyone who was here last year, now online; while sad not to be in Senegal as intended. Well done for continuing to work as much as you could this year. Welcomes the international engagement. Looking forward to building MBP links with AEWA, Ramsar, and Eurosite.



Youth Engaged in Wetlands Network Lead, Elise Alelly

International voluntary network launched at Ramsar CoP13. Global platform to empower young people in wetlands. Flyway Youth Forum about to launch with East Asia-Australasian Flyway Partnership, Chris on Advisory panel. Connecting scientists, activists, artists, youth leaders, along flyway. Interested in creating likewise on our flyway.



#PowerofWetlands ambassador Hugo Ferriera

#PowerofWetlands

EU Solidarity Corps volunteering, and French Service Civique have been a fantastic opportunity, changed his life. Recommends EU-based MBP members take part. He already had a biology and ecology education, but solidarity Corps gave more adventurous opportunities, in Camargue. Helps provide accommodation etc that smaller organisations might not.



World Fish Migration Foundation, Pao Fernández Garrido

Europe's rivers have 1 000,000 barriers and huge decline of freshwater fish. Want to see rivers full of fish again. Small team with many volunteers globally. Connect, inspire, share information. All sorts of public and family events; also make documentaries, and EuroFishing Song Contest. Birds, fish and rivers are linked, so hopes to connect and collaborate with MBP members.



Eurosite, Tilmann Disselhoff, President

Thrilled to re-sign the Friendship Agreement and looking forward to continuing this very fruitful cooperation between our two organisations. Tilmann and Chris Rostron printed out the updated agreement and signed them individually; they will post a copy to each other.



See videos of these presentations on [MigratoryBirdsForPeople.org!](https://migratorybirdsforpeople.org/)

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MBP Member topics



WWT Learning Hub and videos



Joanne Newbury/Connor Walsh WWT created materials to help families forced into home-schooling. Sessions are categorised as formal or family fun; and then according to topics. Each includes a lesson plan according to age (5 – 7, 7 – 11), then an activity with a video and activity sheet. Next is a quiz (according to age) with separate answers; and a 'lockdown logbook'. Most of these are PDFs for home-printing.

Making an app for wetland hikes

Anja Szczesinski: WWF and IWSS decided to award tender to a big app developer which offered 'white-label' apps, where the app was pre-made and WWF simply added the content and visuals; this also enabled access to the developer's platform which increased reach, moving advertising cost upfront. Reporting shows this is reaching very widely among hikers. Worked with Wadden Sea World Heritage on visuals and content.



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Ramsar France Seminar, and travelling art exhibit



Audrey Cadou: The travelling art exhibition they showed us last year is in place with multiple facets per exhibit, setting the contemporary scene and sometimes including sound, with text in French and English; it presents wetlands in art in western Europe through history, which is full of ambivalence and contrasts.

Also, they hosted the 12th Ramsar France Seminar. Like a TV show, a journalist moderated, with guests remote. Chris & Edorta contributed. 130 participants, 20 speakers .

Lekki Conservation Centre

Abidemi Balogun: Success story of urban wetlands conservation. In Lagos state, on the Lekki axis, which is a fast developing area, preserving the wetland amid development. Centre is a flagship project of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation. Includes flood abatement, carbon, and air quality ecosystem services as well as ecotourism, education, and habitats. Has diverse fish populations and spawning areas and hosts research students. Number of ecotourists grew from C. 8000 in 2004 to C. 120,000 in 2018.



Baltic Fund for Nature



Eugene Genelt-Yanovskiy: Priozersk, a Finland/Russia border town on a river. They are collaborating with a Finnish government agency. The location is a fortress from 1300s, so they not allowed drill holes etc because of old building; permanent exhibition looks temporary! Aiming to open on WWD. There is a team of five, plus volunteers. Exhibits are wood rather than taxidermy, and some sound exhibits too.

Wetlands International—Africa

Youssoupha Sané & Ibrahim Hama: Apologies that we couldn't meet in Senegal! Communities and schools kept engaging despite pandemic. They have used the Optics for Africa binoculars with children, and the map on WMBD in October. There were six Saloum schools in May webinar. Mangrove clubs network relevant for annual meeting. Working on a film in 2021. Youssoupha is a young wetlands champion, passionate about enthusing teachers and children in behaviour change.



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MBP Member topics

Lead gun shot ban over wetlands.

Ruth Cromie: Hunting with a shotgun with lead shot, most falls into water/ground, birds eat it; If you eat those birds, you're exposed too. Unnecessary because non-toxic alternatives cost the same. After 5 years, lead shot about to be banned in the EU, over wetlands. European Parliament vote in two weeks. MBP agreed to logo on letter to MEPs.

2: Could those in EU countries also write to local MEPs? Also Tweeters, look out for #BanLead and #LeadisPoison and share widely over the next two weeks! Retweets of posts by @WWTworldwide and @BirdLifeEurope will help extend their reach and impact.

Tagus estuary airport campaign

Ian Barber: site is under immediate threat from a proposed new airport which is being challenged by a consortium of NGOs in the Portuguese courts. As part of international effort for one of Europe's most important wetlands the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative (EAFI) and the RSPB are supporting the court case by gathering and analysing data from across the flyway. The estuary is a vital stop over and wintering site for a huge number of shorebirds and waders from across Europe and Africa. Ian is keen to hear from anyone who can help with the following information:



Bird tracking or ringing data - projects that are doing research on waders either in your country or elsewhere

Direct conservation effort - as well as the direct impact on birds using the estuary in Portugal, we are also wanting to construct a case to show the economic damage the airport might do by impacting on existing conservation work for waders in countries outside of Portugal. We are keen to hear about any ongoing conservation work for waders in your country or elsewhere. This may take the form of monitoring or ongoing management of areas that support these wader species.

Corona-Tip

Sandra Paiva, EVOA has found a low-cost and effective way to give people access to telescopes in a low-risk way: simply by attaching a smartphone to the camera and opening the camera app. This way you can zoom the image to fill the screen, so people can see the image without physical contact. And it helps to point out exactly which bird you're describing! There are many adaptors available to attach a phone to a telescope.

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Workplan 2020/2021



Work area	Activities	Timeline	Who
Communications	Updating the new website and profiles Roelof and Audrey continue with the newsletter Social media. Jelke and Connor on the social media guide	End 2020 Ongoing ?	CR/CW RH/AC JB/CW
Annual meeting	Saloum, Senegal. Aim for usual time of year, but check if Autumn/Winter 2021 might be higher risk for COVID and make travel harder. Make it a hybrid meeting to allow everyone to participate even if they can't travel.	October 2021	CR/WI Africa/ All
World Migratory Bird Day	Theme to be defined, but will be based around 'Singing, soaring and flying like a bird.' Birds and schools initiative – continue with plans for francophone, Anglophone and possible Russian and Portuguese links?	May and October 2021	CW/CR/ AC/ EGY/SP
Africa	Optics for Africa. Continue to collect optics through WWT and other partners. Ensure delivery to Africa partners, particularly at the Annual Meeting. Possibly extend the collection to birding books as well?	Ongoing; annual meeting	CR/CW/All
Youth	Work with partners to set up some kind of youth network aligned to migratory birds in the East Atlantic Flyway. Link to youth activities of IWSS, Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Hub and EAAFP.	Ongoing	CW/CR/AS AEWA
Lead shot and Dam removal	Send letter of support from MBP group and individuals to lobby their MEPs. Dam removal project through WWT and partners. If LIFE bid successful, work with centres near a river	Immediate Late 2021 If successful	CR and all
Resources	Finish and distribute the guidebook the map Deliver the social media guide	By May 2021	CW/CR CW/JB

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Programme & replay



Video	Links	Topic/Activity	People	Notes
	●	Live birding from Tagus Estuary	Sandra Paiva, EVOA	
All-round greetings, intros, updates				
		WWT Welcome	James Robinson	WWT
▶	●	Youth Engaged in Wetlands (YEW)	Elise Allely-Ferme	YEW
▶	●	Volunteering in Europe	Hugo Ferreira	Power of Wetlands
▶	●	World Fish Migration Day	Pao Fernández Garrido	World Fish Migration / Dam Removal Europe
MBP member presentations				
	●	WWT learning Hub	Joanne Newbury	WWT Washington
	●	Making an app for wetland hikes	Anja Sczezesinski	WWF/IWSS
	●	Ramsar France Seminar; travelling exhibition	Audrey Cadou	Maison du Lac de Grand Lieu
	●	Lekki Conservation Centre	Abidemi Balogun	Nigerian Conservation Foundation
	●	Priozersk exhibit	Eugene Genelt-Yanovskiy	Baltic Nature Fund
	●	Wetlands International West Africa	Youssoupha Sané & Ibrahim Hama	Wetlands International West Africa
MBP Planning & Discussion				
		Review since last Annual meeting	Chris Rostron	WWT
	●	Lead shot ban in EU		
		Finalise 2021 workplan	All	
▶	●	Eurosite & MBP Friendship Agreement	Tilmann Disselhoff, Jelke Brandehof, Chris Rostron	Eurosite, WWT.

The PDF version of this report includes links to ▶ videos of some of the meeting and a list of ● links the participants shared.

Visit migratorybirdsforpeople.org for news and links to our social media output, and [this link](#) for the contact details and presentations.

The Meeting in Numbers

Presenters were in nine countries. The gender split was female: male 7:5, and continental split Europe: Africa 10:3.