



## Project “Migratory Birds for People”

NEWSLETTER no. 6 (February 2011)

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### Introduction:

Dear colleagues,

The new year has started with much energy and commitment from the participants. During a 1 ½ days workshop firm steps were made to concise and define the ideas of the partners for the preparation of the Life +-Communication bid. Further information can be found in this newsletter. We thank those who travelled to

‘Aiguamolls de l’Empordà’ in Northern Spain and our hosts Sergio Romero and Ponç Feliu for their contribution to make this workshop a success.

On behalf of the steering group,  
Roelof Heringa

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### In supplement you find:

- **1. Mission project “Migratory Birds for People”**  
The steering group thought it might be useful to have our “dream” in writing to inspire you and to tell your colleagues what we would like to realise in this project.
- **2. List of participants / partners**

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### News from the network:



#### Naturum “Lake Tåkern”

The building of the new centre at Lake Tåkern can be followed on this link:

<http://www.lansstyrelsen.se/ostergotland/Projektwebbar/NaturumTakern/Startsida/>



#### WWT Welney Wetland Centre

*Leigh Marshall* wrote: ‘Good to have a very productive meeting (*in Spain*) with communications with the other centers in Europe. Recently we have had good numbers of swans and please see link below for info:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/norfolk/hi/people\\_and\\_places/nature/newsid\\_9378000/9378106.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/norfolk/hi/people_and_places/nature/newsid_9378000/9378106.stm)



*Bewick’s Swans*

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### Centre “Aiguamolls de l’Emporda

In January the area around the visitors centre El Cortalet is home to dozens of Storks.



*Photo: January 2011 nearby the office / visitor centre El Cortalet*

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### Uitkerkse Polder

In 2010 the Uitkerkse Polder attracted over 150.000 people. Over 10.000 people visited the visitorcentre, which was also the starting point for over 100 guided tours. Also last year the Uitkerkse Polder had an excellent breeding season for meadowbirds, with almost 200 breeding pairs of Black-tailed Godwit, 100 breeding pairs of Common Redshank, 85 breeding pairs of Avocet and over 500 breeding pairs of Lapwing. During the past weeks, over 100.000 geese (Pink-footed, White-fronted, Barnacle Goose,...) and tens of thousands of ducks (a.o. 20.000 Wigeons) fed on the salty grasslands of the Uitkerkse Polder. These large numbers of waterbirds attracted birds of prey such as White-tailed Eagle and Peregrine. Currently, the lower parts of the Uitkerkse Polder are inundated due to heavy rainfall during the last weeks. *(Bob Vandendriessche)*



*Uitkerkse polder*



### Oostvaardersplassen

In the end of 2010 Staatsbosbeheer has made an artificial foxhole with several webcams inside. At the moment two foxes are spotted regularly already in the hole. We hope that they will litter their cubs here.

Live images will be shown online from the beginning of March. The white-tailed eagles have re-built their nest again, which almost was destroyed by storm in 2010. The second nest is also in use again. We now have two pairs in the Oostvaardersplassen and we hope that we will have two breeding –pairs in the Oostvaardersplassen for the first time. Raven are also displaying again on the site. *(Wenda Kloen)*





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### 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop in “Aiguamolls de l’Empordà”, Spain, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2011

In the office of the Information Centre : El Cortalet , Catalonia gathered:

**Core team:** Chris Rostron, WLI, UK, Roelof Heringa, Staatsbosbeheer, NL, Sander Carpaj, WI, NL, Richard Lloyd, Consultant Europarc Consulting, UK, Natasha Cooke, WWT, UK

#### Centres:

Theo de Bruin, Staatsbosbeheer / Oostvaardersplassen, NL  
Ellen Hultman, Takern, S  
Leigh Marshall, Welney, WWT, UK  
Pons Feliu, Aiguamolls l’Emporda, E  
Ana Colomer, Aiguamolls l’Emporda, E  
Sergio Romero, Aiguamolls l’Emporda, E  
Cecile Mundler and Jeremiah Petit, Scamandre/Camargue, F  
Liesbet Cleynhens and Bob Vanden Driessche, Natuurpunt, B

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#### Migratory Birds for People – Notes from Aiguamolls, 25/26 January 2011

In these 1, 5 days we have discussed intensively about the details of the project in order to produce as much information and consensus about the content of the project and the requested budget as possible. This should provide Richard with enough information to go ahead with the writing of the project proposal for the EU-Life Communications bid.

We are now aiming for a total budget of 1.400.00 Euro (50% Life-funding).

The meeting was chaired by Chris and he wrote this memorandum (*which has been sent by email already*)

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#### Problem:

Wetlands on the N2K network are under-achieving their biodiversity conservation potential due to the fact that local decision-makers and the public are unaware of their international importance. This comes from a lack of effective communication tools on wetland sites and their visitor centres and lack of provision of information in an accessible format.

**Solution:** A strengthened international N2K network of wetland sites with engaged local stakeholders for biodiversity conservation through effective visitor centres.

#### Benefits:

Local action by motivated and informed decision-makers and the public. Showing where birds are at different times of year – increasing the interest of the site year round. Tracking that is updated for people. Relevant information is there already, but need to make it accessible through a common portal. Targeted information going from the bird directly to pupils and local people. Make it relevant to birds and their stories, to give an idea of what birds experience during migration. Personalise the bird to an audience. Result in positive action (letter writing, volunteering, campaigning etc).

#### Showing the impacts of the project:

Survey – baseline of understanding at local sites; downloads and use of website. Survey of people coming to the centre. Preparatory action led on by one of the partners. Add specific questions. And off-site – to schools, local government, local community group? Pre-project, so not funding for it. Welney to take a lead. Tied to wetlands. N2K? Ramsar? Birds / habitats directive? What is the connection between your local wetland and international wetlands?

Increase the understanding of the importance of a local site by showing it as part of a network delivering bird conservation. Not just one site alone. Provide information to convince local decision makers.

Currently there is a lack of presentation tools and information which engage the public effectively. Making science accessible, converging existing information into an accessible format. Messages about the importance of migratory routes not getting across. Migratory birds rely on a network for their survival. Managing the individual sites as part of a linked network is not happening.



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Threats: agriculture, drainage, invasive species, pollution, hunting, disturbance by aviation, recreation. Public as the means of changing long term management (visitors, politicians, business sector, farmers, recreation, local groups and community) Visitors not aware of the site as part of a network. Non-associated beneficiaries. Use original list of MBP members to gain ideas and input (even if not linked financially). Invite to conferences and meetings. Resources produced could be given or sold to non-core members to spread their value. Important to maintain the link with the wider wetland centre network through WLI / Eurosite etc.

#### Actions:

1. **Create a website** – usable from age 6+. Can put information in, and access information. Species, sites, other people actively doing things, on flyways, on resources that can be used locally. Open to non-core partners. Translate information from other websites e.g. Critical Sites Network. Short films uploaded? Show webcam streaming. Dedicated link pages to the local centres' websites.
2. **Web cams**. Installation and running of the cameras. Link to screens in the centre as well as the central website.
3. **Develop a bird tracking system**. Subscribe through website. Link to existing satellite tracking. Sightings at centres etc. Both hi-tech and low tech. Adopt-a-bird. Integrate CSN into this. Allow local people to input their own information.
4. **Communicating with local people**. Social network sites like facebook and twitter? Alerts to local schools, individuals and citizens (e-mail, text message etc).
5. **Films**. Images the same, but narration in different languages. Some professional footage. Some local film footage produced by local film makers. Centre partners to provide the translation of the script, but professionals do the voice over to maintain quality. Can be used in centre or on website / youtube. Film that could be broken into chapters. On various subjects: flyway, bird species, wetlands etc. Include local and amateur footage. Careful of expense.
6. **Interpretation**. Touch screens and display. Boards and information. Standard set of information sheets. Interpretation board about the project (requirement under LIFE). Walks and talks? Physical 3D globe showing flyways, obstacles etc. Orientation of birds using senses. Games. Flight simulator. Costs/benefit of migration. Climate change. Use Critical Sites Network as source. Demonstrations at centres of bird-ringing etc.
7. **Outreach programmes**. School visits, community groups, local government, businesses etc. Branding and promotion e.g t-shirts etc. Logo / brand? Mobile interpretation centre. Educational material for teachers (onsite and off). Volunteer support and training. Transport accessibility.
8. **Education**. Include migratory birds themes in curriculum. School visits to the sites. Educational material for teachers (onsite and off). Demonstrating bird-ringing to school children.
9. **Networking**: Information exchange / staff exchange and meetings. One visit per year? Final conference. Engage and invite other centres that are not part of the core group, particularly those in the country hosting the meet.
10. **Survey and monitoring**. Have to show the changes that are produced by the project. E.g. changes in attitude and behaviour of local people and decision makers.



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### Next steps:

Action	Action by:
Refine the project form and circulate	Richard Lloyd/ Chris Rostron/ Natasha Cook – by 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb
All to confirm figures with colleagues	all – 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Refine the actions; dates; deliverables; co-finance; by end of March.	Richard Lloyd to produce format
First draft by the end of April	
Final draft by end of May	

### Some pictures from the meeting in Spain:



*From left to right: Cécile, Sergio, Roelof, Chris, Richard, Ellen, Bob, Natasha, Theo, Liesbet, Leigh, Ponç, Sander*



Group in session



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Group in session



Yes, this is a Ramsar-site..!



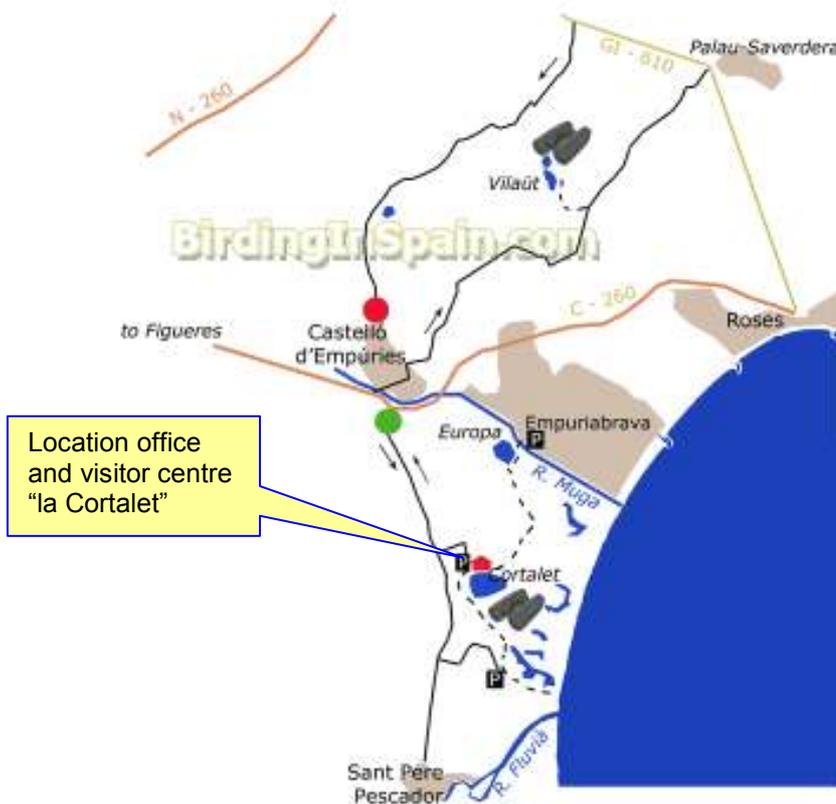
Good Spanish food...and wine...

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View from the meeting room at part of the reserve.



Cattle egret



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### Supplement 1.

#### Migratory Birds for People

#### Mission

European wetland sites make up a chain along bird migration routes, and many of these sites have visitor centres that function as ways to engage local people. They connect the birds and sites to the visiting audience, local citizens, children, birdwatchers and other lovers of these Natura 2000-locations. It is our dream to get these birds, their migration routes and their sites firmly in the hearts and minds of the European citizens. We want to really connect the Natura 2000 sites and their centres and emphasize their importance as a coherent system by which thousands and thousands of birds roam across Europe and Africa. The idea is simple. The chain of sites and related centres linked by migrating birds is also directly expressed in the centre itself. Modern digital equipment and technique play an essential role in this flow of information.

The first step is to collect data of birds flying over Europe and Africa in all directions. This can be done by radio- and/or satellite tracking, as well as through sightings from local birdwatchers. Data of existing and extended tracking programmes can be used and displayed on large screens in each of the partaking visitor centres all over Europe, raising awareness amongst visitors that their centre is an important part of a chain of similar ones. Through indicators and digital software, local visitors can collect extra information of the particular site the birds are residing at the specific moment.

The input for the information mentioned above, is gathered by local amateurs and committed visitors and contains, for example, local made films, pictures taken by amateur photographers and actual counts and other gathered data. Every visitor centre, being a meeting point and a centre of all sorts of activities, is creating a database of information, connected through an interactive website, specially developed for the project.

The most important connection will be made in the minds of the visitors. During a visit or by means of a website, a visitor is asked to connect him or herself to a migrating bird by leaving his/her e-mail address behind. Through this e-address, information is broadcasted periodically of where and when the bird is flying, nesting, foraging and resting. The information gathered is giving an extra and in-depth view of the local circumstances in which the ‘connected bird’ is living at that particular moment in time. Thus the person or group of young students that are connected are given real-time impressions of the circumstances and conditions in which ‘their’ bird is residing.

By this ‘broadcasting’ of information and creating a life-long connection with a bird or groups of birds, a deeper understanding will be created among European citizens of the value of Natura 2000 wetlands. More than before, people will be able to understand the importance of their site in relation to the migratory routes or the birds. Information is made easily accessible by sending email messages and using the website and social media. With this knowledge, support for the conservation and management of the local site will increase as well as the support for the other sites will grow. Not only will people be involved in their own community and their local Natura 2000 site and wetland, they will also become a stakeholder for the other European Natura 2000 Wetlands.

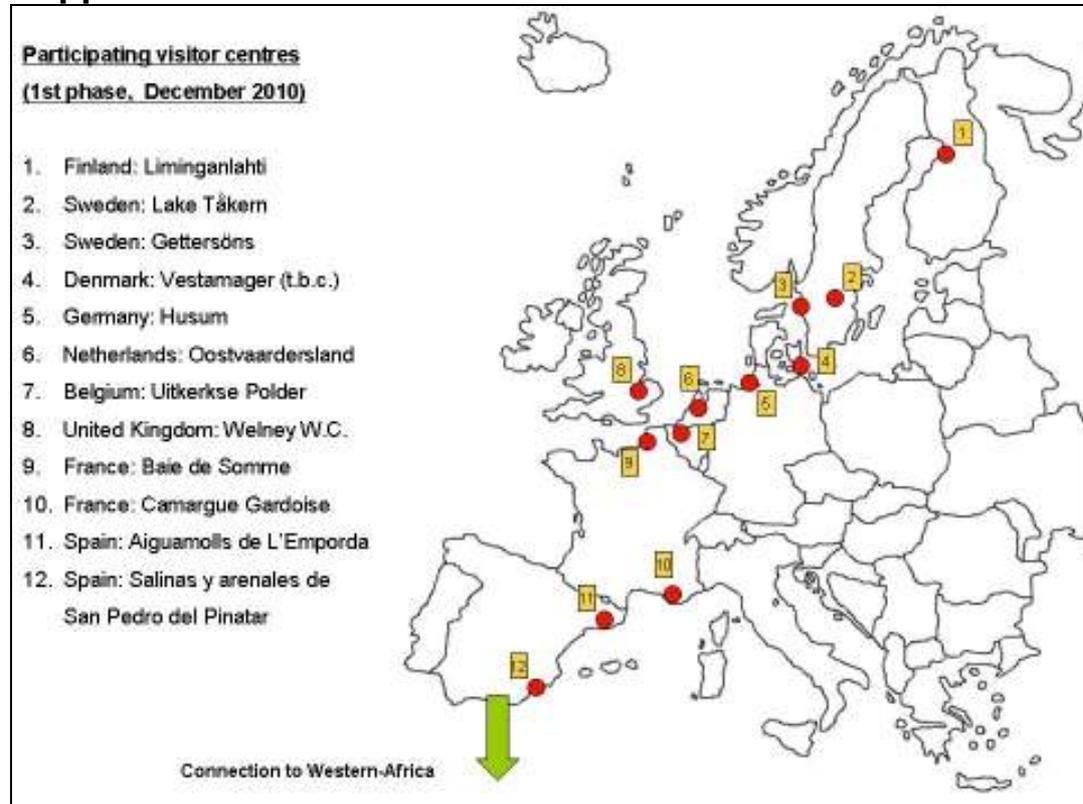
With the migration routes as central chain, sites, centres and people will get connected. A better understanding of the importance of the network of site is created and an increased co-operation among centres is established. Not just for the partners taking part, but as a start for a European collaboration among centres and their organisations illustrating the wonders of migrating birds and their wetlands.

*(December 2010)*

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Supplement 2.



**List of participants :**

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 <p><b>Netherlands: Infocentrum</b>  <b>"Oostvaardersplassen"</b>          [to be changed in visitor centre "Oostvaardersland" - 2012]  <b>Contact:</b> Wenda Kloen;          Tel: +31-320-254585          Mob: +31-621266674          Email <a href="mailto:w.kloen@staatsbosbeheer.nl">w.kloen@staatsbosbeheer.nl</a>          Website: <a href="http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl">www.staatsbosbeheer.nl</a></p>	 <p><b>Belgium:</b>  <b>Bezoekerscentrum Uitkerkse Polder</b>  <b>Contact:</b> Liesbet Cleynhens (Coordinator visitor centres for Natuurpunt.)          Coxiestraat 11, 2800 Mechelen            Tel: +32-15-29 72 20          Mob: +32-479839287          Email: <a href="mailto:liesbet.cleynhens@natuurpunt.be">liesbet.cleynhens@natuurpunt.be</a>  <b>And:</b> Bob Vandendriessche          Kuiperscheeweg 20, 8370 Uitkerke          Tel.:+32-50 42 90 40          Mob.: +32- 477757491          E-mail: <a href="mailto:bc.uitkerksepolder@natuurpunt.be">bc.uitkerksepolder@natuurpunt.be</a>          Website <a href="http://www.natuurpunt.be/blankenberge">http://www.natuurpunt.be/blankenberge</a></p>
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[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aiguamolls de l'Empordà](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aiguamolls_de_l'Empordà)

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#### Parque Regional Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

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[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)

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