Project "Migratory Birds for People"

NEWSLETTER no. 7 (April 2011)

Introduction:

Dear colleagues,
After our workshop in *Spain (see newsletter 6 / February 2011)* we got the message in February, that the board of WWT had rejected the proposal to have Wetland Link International as the lead partner in our project. This was a set back, but we are very happy to announce that Wetlands International has agreed to take the role as lead partner in the project. It was discussed that Richard Lloyd had done a lot of work already, but that now the bid was to be delivered in the Netherlands, this job should be finished also there. Therefore Staatsbosbeheer now has appointed Mrs. A. Perdok to write the application. *(read more in this newsletter).*We are very pleased that the process is 'on the move' again.

On behalf of the steering group,
Roelof Heringa

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. **(page 7)**
- **2. List of participants / partners** **(page 9)**
- **3. Information about Education programme Naturewatch Baltic at St.Petersburg of the Baltic Fund for Nature** **(page 12)**
- **4. and separate: an updated poster, to inspire you and your colleagues !**

News from the network:

Nature Centre "Vestamager"

We are pleased to announce that the nature centre "Vestamager" , near Copenhagen and managed by Natyrstyrelsen has joined the Migratory Birds for People-network.
We look forward to work with our contact Stella Blichfeldt and other colleagues in this Danish centre!
(R.H.)

Ramsar – CEPA team St. Petersburg

In order to 'link' the Migratory Birds for People-network to the network of visitor centres in Russia, we have contacted colleagues in Russia.
We received a message from St. Petersburg, that the CEPA team in the Baltic Fund for Nature, one of largest environmental NGOs in NW Russia, collaborating with RAMSAR, WWF Baltic Programme, IUCN etc. would like to join our network as participant.

Project "Migratory Birds for People"

NEWSLETTER no. 7 (April 2011)

Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy wrote:

"Last year, while visiting Chris Rostron (WLI & WWT) there was a decision to develop Russian branch of Wetland Link International network because it is slightly different from centres in Europe, so we are trying to do our best in the way of national coordination in it's development (the link to our profile at WLI website is here: http://www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/europe/nature-watch-baltic).
These activities are currently unfunded, thus now we just working with searching and inviting new participants and translating the WLI website into Russian for national use (it is a hard for many people to use resources from there since many distant regions are not "free" English -speakers).

Besides this work we are developing regional educational program "Naturewatch Baltic at St.Petersburg", modified from activities of 10-year international Naturewatch Baltic project held by WWF Sweden (find our website at http://web.me.com/naturewatch, unfortunately MS Internet explorer is the worst for browsing it, but firefox or opera are good).

So, you see here that we are not exactly a visitor-centre, but we spend a lot of time in developing wildlife education activities on existing nature protected areas having no centres but rich in wildlife, attractive for tourists, local people and school-teams having outdoor environmental component in their Curriculum. In this way we would be happy to take part in the Migratory Birds for People. Also we have many contacts in PA's in NW Russia, which were (are) included as 'a key areas of BFN projects, so that might be interesting."

[Dr. Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy]

Youth educational program "Naturewatch Baltic" at the Baltic Fund for Nature Saint-Petersburg, Russia

We look forward to work together with our colleagues in Russia and we hope that we can provide each other with good information and ideas.

More information can be found in **supplement 3.**

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust : Welney Wetland Centre to be replaced by Wetland Centre "Martin Mere"

WWT has decided the Martin Mere Wetland Centre in Lancashire to be the partner in the project. This is mainly due to the fact that the centre is to be restyled in the near future and therefore could benefit more from the project and at the same time provide co-funding.
Our contact person in this centre is: Andy Wooldridge.
www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/martin-mere

(R.H.)

The entrance to the visitor centre

Natuurpunt : visitor centre 'Uitkerkse Polder'.

After a very wet period during the first two months of the year with heavy snow- and rainfall, March and April were extremely dry with almost no rainfall in the low countries.
Last week, in the east of the country, we've seen the largest heath- and forest fires ever.
The polders however are in no risk of fires and meadow birds are returning swiftly to the Uitkerkse polder.
Lapwing chicks are even yet stealing the show on every excursion. Migrating species such as Spotted Redshank, Common Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper, Ruff and **Whimbrel** are often seen in small numbers.
So are Spoonbills and Purple Herons.
In the visitor centre people learn to know the looks and sounds of our most typical breeding species such as Black-tailed Godwit, Common Redshank and Avocet. At first impression, the long lasting winter has almost eradicated our Mediterranean breeding species such as Zitting Cisticola or Cetti's Warbler. Making small birds such as Bluethroat, Zitting Cisticola or Sedge Warbler known and loved by the public remains a real challenge for our nature guides!

[Bob Vandendriessche]

Aiguemolls de l'Emporda

Vilaut lagoon

Not too many news from Aiguamolls. Crisis is making lots of problems in our projects, but this is a good spring for our wetland because the amount of rain. Good levels of water in the reserves !!.
I send attached a photograph from the Vilaut lagoon completely full of ranunculus flowers. The picture was taken by Dolors Quer (our secretary). The last time we saw that was about 12 years ago.

[Sergio Romero de Tejada Martinez]

Naturum Lake Tåkern

Bird watching tower at Lake Tåkern

Progress on the building of the new visitor centre can be followed on the website: www.naturumtakern.se .

The annual "Day for Bird Watching" at Lake Tåkern is on the second weekend of May. It is at and around the new bird watching tower (see photo) with activities like ringing of birds.

[Ellen Hultman]

Project "Migratory Birds for People"

NEWSLETTER no. 7 (April 2011)

Meetings Working group in April 2011

In the office of the Wetlands International , Ede (NL) with SKYPE connection to Slimbridge and Dakar.
Attending:
Szabolcs Nagy, Wetlands International, Netherlands
Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Wetlands International, Senegal
Albertien Perdok, Consultant
Chris Rostron, WLI, WWT
Roelof Heringa, Staatsbosbeheer
Sander Carpaij, Wetlands International, Netherlands

Changes in the Working Group:
1. Sander Carpaij (who also attended the workshop in Spain in January) will replace Alex Kaat.
2. Szabolcs Nagy will also take an advisory role in the working group.

1. Process LIFE+ (Communication) funding:
Since WWT, UK decided that Wetland Link International should not be lead partner, Wetlands International (based in Ede, NL) has now decided to take this role in the "Migratory Birds for People"-project.
The preparation of the application for the LIFE+ Communication funding was well under way and Richard Lloyd (Europarc Consulting) has done a lot of work already. But due to the fact that the bid should now be done in the Netherlands, we have decided – in good consultation with Europarc Consulting - to have a writer in the NL. The contract with Europarc Consulting has been ended in mutual agreement and Staatsbosbeheer has contracted Mrs. Albertien Perdok MSc. (IBUMANA-Consulting) to finish the job for the Life+ application.

Albertien Perdok (IBUMANA Consulting)
p/a 2e Schuytstraat 206,
2517 TR The Hague (NL)
Tel: +31-628085431
Email: info@ibumana.com

Albertien will be working with us the coming months on the application which has to be finalised by 18th of July (at the latest). Szabocs Nagy (Wetlands International) will support Albertien in writing the application.
The actual situation is that the following participants in the project will also act as (co-funding) – partner: WWT (Marin Mere), UK / Naturstyrelsen (Lake Tåkern), SE / Staatsbosbeheer (Oostvaardersland), NL / Natuurpunt (Uitkerkse Polder), BE / Aiguamolls de L'Emporda, SP .
The partners will be asked to participate actively in the preparation for the EU-Life bid.

2. Connection with West-Africa:
From early on we have decided that we also should make a good connection and extension of the project with our colleagues in West Africa. After all, there are the wetlands where many of 'our' migratory birds are wintering! It is an important issue to exchange information about the circumstances for migratory birds in these countries. On the other hand the MBP-network might also support the colleagues in these visitor centres. We therefore have discussed to aim for funding from the Darwin Initiative (UK-Funding) West Africa bid.
Original plans were to run a 3 year project with a staff member funded in the region, based around identifying and linking up wetland centres, making a link with the European MBP partners, developing materials for outreach and education, creating livelihood and economic projects, delivering training and capacity building, and ultimately creating a regional hub to offer training and support and act as a longer term resource. These are largely still supported but need to be revised.

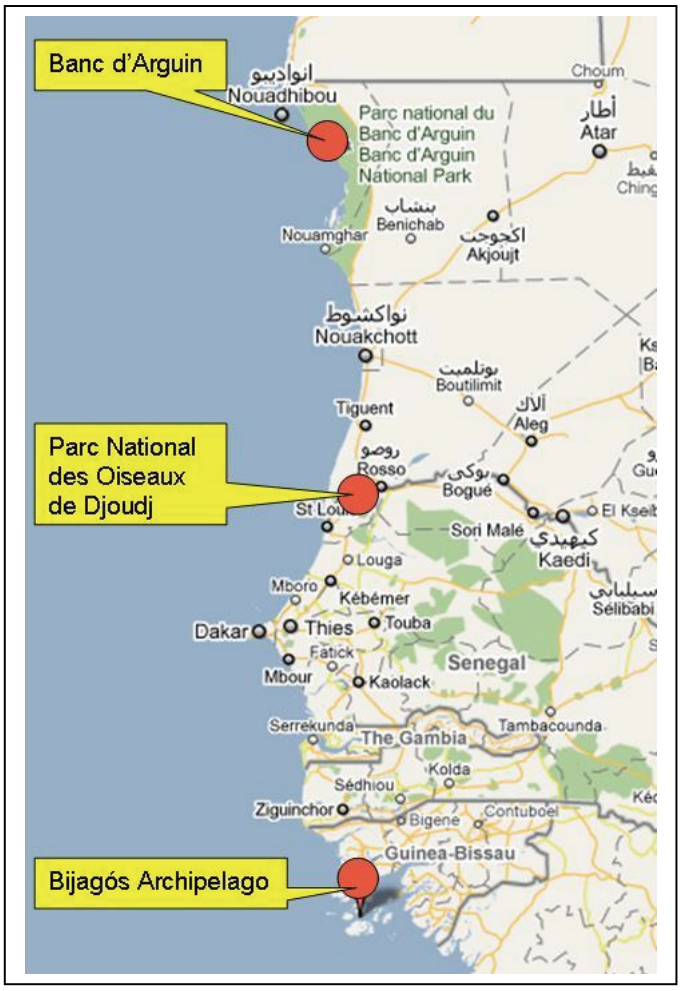
Project "Migratory Birds for People"

NEWSLETTER no. 7 (April 2011)

Our contact person for this region is: Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Wetlands International, Senegal.

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. Located in different countries, the ecological character, the local facilities as well as the local institutions managing these areas vary quite a lot. The first has a newly built visitor's centre backed by an international foundation, the second has a biological research station in place part of the national park authorities with an eye on eco-tourism, and the Bijagós is divided into different national parks that all fall under the national park authority.

Currently, Wetlands International Africa and Birdlife are starting a project aimed at conservation of migratory waterbirds in West Africa, which shows many touching points, and the aim is to connect the two projects in the Darwin bid.



WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY will be celebrated around the globe 14-15 May 2011 .

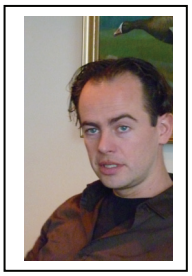
World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is a global awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats.
You find more information when you click to this link:
http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/2011/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9&Itemid=9

You may also click on the GLOBAL EVENT MAP, which highlights the places of action.
Among these is also our new participant in St.Petersburg (Russia). They organise two activities: "The geese capital - routes of spring" and "Gulf of Finland wetland birdwatching"

Contact details Working group:

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
E chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk
W wli.org.uk

Sander Carpaij (Communications officer, Wetlands International Headquarters)
Visiting address: Horapark 9 (2nd floor), 6717 LZ Ede, THE NETHERLANDS
Postal address: Postbox 471, 6700 AL, Wageningen, (NL)
Office Tel: +31 318 660910
Fax: +31 318 660950 E-mail: sander.carpaij@wetlands.org
Website: www.wetlands.org Skype: sandercarpay



Taej Mundkur (Programme Manager - Flyways, Wetlands International Headquarters),
Visiting address: Horapark 9 (2nd floor), 6717 LZ Ede, THE NETHERLANDS
Postal address: Postbox 471, 6700 AL, Wageningen, (NL)
Office Tel: +31 318 660910 (Direct 660940), Cell: +31 614987324
Fax: +31 318 660950 E-mail: taej.mundkur@wetlands.org
Website: www.wetlands.org Skype: taejmundkur

Theo de Bruin (Projectleader visitor centre, Oostvaardersland Staatsbosbeheer)
Staatsbosbeheer , Regional office Region East
Postbus 6, 7400 AA Deventer (NL)
T.+31-570747100 / M +31-63555985
E-mail: th.bruin@staatsbosbeheer.nl

Szabolcs Nagy (Programme Manager - Flyways, Wetlands International Headquarters),
Visiting address: Horapark 9 (2nd floor), 6717 LZ Ede, THE NETHERLANDS
Postal address: Postbox 471, 6700 AL, Wageningen, (NL)
Office Tel: +31 318 660910, Cell: +31
Fax: +31 318 660950 E-mail: szabolcs.nagy@wetlands.org
Website: www.wetlands.org Skype: szabolcsnagy

Roelof Heringa (Project manager & International affairs, Staatsbosbeheer).
Staatsbosbeheer , Regional office Region East
Postbus 6, 7400 AA Deventer (NL)
T.+31-570747100 / M +31-655306276
E-mail: r.heringa@staatsbosbeheer.nl

Supplement 1.

Migratory Birds for People

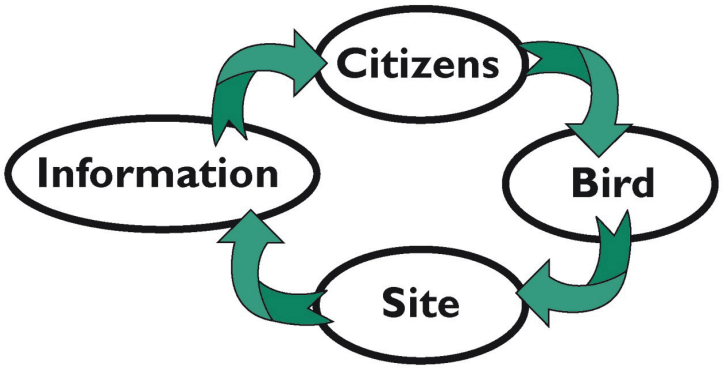
Mission

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.



[Theo de Bruin]

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)

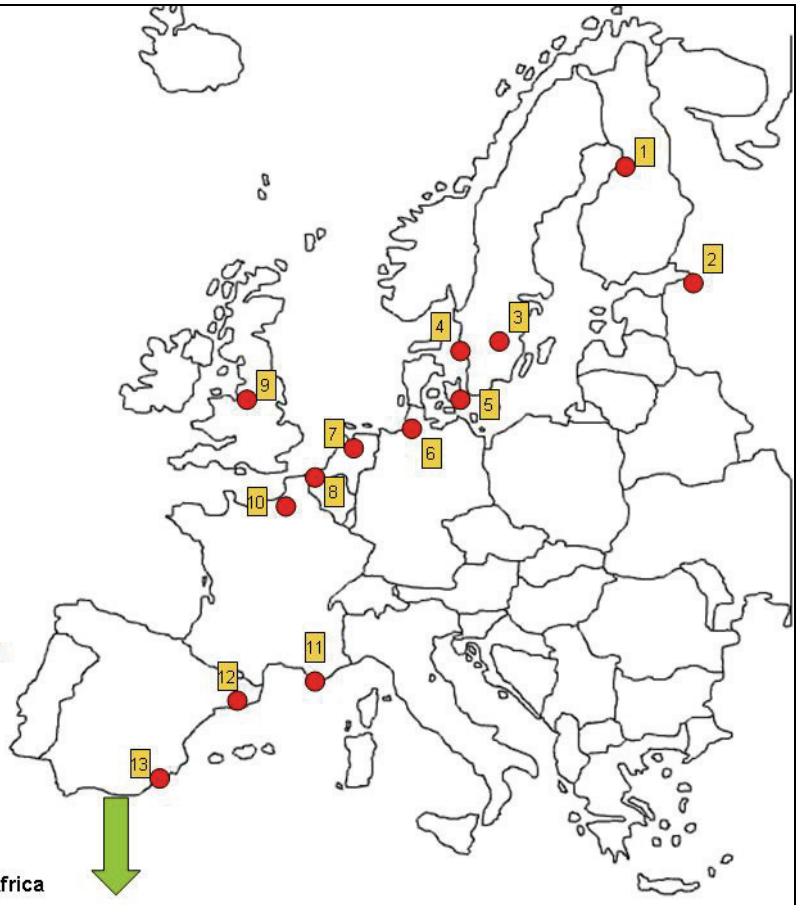
Supplement 2.

Participating visitor centres

(April 2011)

Financial Partners in red

1. Finland: Liminganlahti
2. Russia : St. Petersburg
3. **Sweden: Lake Tåkern**
4. Sweden: Gettersöns
5. Denmark: Vestamager
6. Germany: Husum
7. **Netherlands: Oostvaardersland**
8. **Belgium: Uitkerkse Polder**
9. United Kingdom: Martin Mere W.C.
10. **France: Baie de Somme**
11. France: Camargue Gardoise
12. **Spain: Aiguamolls de L'Emporda**
13. Spain: Salinas y arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar



List of participants :

Finland :

Liminganlahti conservation area
Contact: Sari Airas, Project 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 Täkern
Contact: Dan Nilsson, Länsstyrelsen, Östgötgatan 3, 58186 Linköping
T: +46-13196351
M:+46-705576351
Email: dan.nilsson@lansstyrelsen.se
Website: www.lansstyrelsen.se/.../**NaturumTakern**

For the time being replaced by :
Contact: Ellen Hultman
Naturvårdsenheten Länsstyrelsen Östergötland
T:+46-(0)13-196561
Mob : +46-703-776599.
Email: ellen.hultman@länsstyrelsen.se

Getteröns Naturcentrum, Avosetta AB
Lassavägen 1, 432 93 Varberg
contact: Linda Eklund
Tel:. +46(0)340 - 875 10
Office +46 340 – 10189
Mob. +46-703925389

	Fax +46(0)340 - 150 54 Linda.eklund@länsstyrelsen.se Website: www.getteron.com
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 +7(812) 328 96 20 Email: eugene@bfn.org.ru Websites : http://www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/europe/nature-watch-baltic http://web.me.com/naturewatch.	
Denmark: **Nature Centre Vestamager,** Granatvej 3-9, 2770 Kastrup **Contact:** Stella Blichfeldt Naturvejleder Naturstyrelsen, Hovedstaden Dir tlf.: (+45) 39 97 39 10 Mobil: (+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: roesner@wwf.de info@nationalparkhaus-husum.de Website: www.nationalparkhaus-husum.de www.wwf.de/wattenmeer
Netherlands: Infocentrum "Oostvaardersplassen" [to be changed in visitor centre "Oostvaardersland" - 2012] **Contact:** Wenda Kloen; Tel: +31-320-254585 Mob: +31-621266674 Email w.kloen@staatsbosbeheer.nl Website: www.staatsbosbeheer.nl	**Belgium:** **Bezoekerscentrum Uitkerkse Polder** **Contact:** Liesbet Cleynhens (Coordinator visitor centres for Natuurpunt.) Coxiestraat 11, 2800 Mechelen | Tel: +32-15-29 72 20 Mob: +32-479839287 Email: liesbet.cleynhens@natuurpunt.be **And:** Bob Vandendriessche Kuiperscheeweg 20, 8370 Uitkerke Tel.:+32-50 42 90 40 Mob.: +32- 477757491 E-mail: bc.uitkerksepolder@natuurpunt.be Website http://www.natuurpunt.be/blankenberge
United Kingdom: **WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre** **Contact:** Andy Wooldridge	**France:** • **Baie de Somme** **contact:** Patrick Triplet Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme 1, place de l'Amiral Courbet F 80 100 Abbeville

Fish Lane, Burscough
Lancashire
L40 0TA, UK

Tel: +44-1704 895181

Email andy.wooldridge@wwt.org.uk
Website : www.wwt.org.uk

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@camarguegardoise.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@camarguegardoise.com
website : www.camarguegardoise.com

Spain:

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**
www.iberianature.com

Parque Regional Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar
Contact : ??
Consejería de Agricultura y Agua.
Dirección General de Patrimonio Natural y Biodiversidad.
Servicio de Caza, Pesca Fluvial y Defensa del Medio Natural.
C/ Catedrático Eugenio Úbeda, nº 3, 30008 Murcia
4º Planta, Despacho 440
Tel: +34- 968228858
Mob.: +34-650955500
Email: ??
Website:
es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salinas_y_Arenales_de_San_Pedro_del_Pinatar

participant on waiting list (cc):
Ebro Delta
contact: Xavier Escuté i Gasulla
Àrea de Territori i Paisatge
Fundació Caixa Catalunya
+34 93 484 70 08
xavier.escute@fcaixacatalunya.es

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

-

Supplement 3

Education programme Naturewatch Baltic at St.Petersburg of the Baltic Fund for Nature

The Programme is directed to development of school and out-of-classroom environmental education. We also take part in popularization of the ideas of sustainable development and nature conservation of the Baltic Sea Region.

We work as the coordination and resource centre for the development of environment education and wildlife conservation projects in St.Petersburg and NW Russia. Our host institution, Baltic Fund for Nature (BFN), works with many protected areas in a region, including Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) – Beryozovie Isles (site #691), Kurgalskiy peninsula (site #690), Svir Delta (site #688) and Lebyazhye. The programme has own contacts with more than 100 schools and after-school educational youth clubs.

Our main goal is to increase understanding of wildlife by involving youth in regular observations in nature and project volunteer activities concerning nature conservation and biodiversity protection in North-Western Russia. Also we support large scientific and PA-management projects, coordinated by BFN with educational and PR component.

We conduct such activities as: educational trips, youth camps, wildlife watching, conferences for "youth scientists", seminars and trainings for teachers and university students, web-based activities (photo competitions, distant learning etc.). Also we prepare information and teaching materials about regional wildlife, watching and research approaches, methods of inserting nature component in school curriculum.

In 2009 we organized regional volunteers club. This network invites interested groups of youth in St.Petersburg, Leningrad Region, Karelia Republic.

In 2010-2011 more than 1000 students, teachers and other people took part in our activities.

Since 2010 we become a member of Wetland Link International network, our profile there is: http://www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/europe/nature-watch-baltic

Programme coordinator: Yulia Danilova, member of IUCN CEC (commission for education & communication) (Julia_danilova@bfn.org.ru)

Programme manager: Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy, Ph.D. (eugene@bfn.org.ru)

Our contact details are:
email: nwb@bfn.org.ru
tel. +7(812) 328 96 20
fax +7(812) 328 97 53
web: http://web.me.com/naturewatch

Address:
Baltic Fund for Nature
of St. Petersburg Naturalists Society
Universitetskaya emb., 7/9
Saint-Petersburg, 199034
Russia