# “Migratory Birds for People”

**NEWSLETTER no. 8 (September 2011)**

## Introduction:

Dear colleagues,
We realise that it has been quiet for some time, also due to summer holidays, but in the meantime a lot has happened. In this edition of our newsletter we will inform you about the progress we have made and the decisions that had to be taken in order to optimise the **programme** "Migratory Birds for People" and to strengthen the network.

Yes, the working group has decided to change *‘project’* to *‘programme’*, as we feel that the work and actions in this network should not be restricted by the limitations of a ‘project’.

On behalf of the steering group,
Roelof Heringa

**In supplement you find:**

- **1. List of participants / partners**
- **2. and separate: an updated poster (edition August 2011), to inspire you and your colleagues !**

## News from the network:

We have received the following items from the network:

**Finland** : **Liminganlahti conservation area:**

The First Wetland centre of Finland will be build to Liminganlahti as part of a Liminganlahti Nature Centre.
The new birdlife exhibition of the Nature Centre will have own section for the Ramsar Wetlands.
The opening of the new Centre will be in April 2012.
Liminganlahti Nature Centre will be part of the network of Nature Centres of Metsähallitus (www.outdoors.fi).

Sari Airas, Projektipäällikkö
Metsähallitus

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### Naturum Lake Tåkern

The new naturum Takern now has a roof!
On August 24, the workers at the site of the wetland centre naturum Tåkern were celebrated with a "roof-party". It is a tradition in house-building to have a party when construction has come as far as completing the roof.
After several years of planning, seaching for finance and a long process of architect-competition with the winning company beeing world famous Wingardhs, it is extremely satisfying for us nature guides to see the actual house taking real form. Being able to walk inside, to stand in the exhibition hall or the reception area, it immediately starts us imagining all the enthusiastic visitors we will meet there next year.
The opening date is sometime around May 25, 2012.
As for now we are meeting visitors in the new bird tower next to the main building.
Pictures of the house under construction can be seen in this slideshow:
http://www3.lansstyrelsen.se/_ostergotland/Projektwebbar/NaturumTakern/bilder/Bildgalleri_utstallningshuset.htm

On the day of the "roof-party", media was invited to visit the construction site and study how the reed is attached to the building by experts from Poland. One web-tv channel made the following newsreport (in Swedish): http://www.corren.se/ostergotland/mjolby/?articleId=5750639
Translation of my comments, summarized: *"It feels wonderful to stand here today and have a house with a roof on. A real visitors centre well on its way! The reeds on the building have an educational value, because as guides we are always stressing the importance of large reeds for our most popular birds - the great bittern and the bearded tit."*

Some 10.000 greylag geese and a couple of thousand cranes are gathering in the nature reserve Takern at this time of year, feeding and preparing for winter migration. Whole families of hobby’s who have been nesting all around the lake are out catching dragonflies. Within a week or two, they will have left us for their long journey to southern Africa.

Ellen Hultman
Manager of naturum Takern, Sweden

- The managers of the visitor centres at the Ramsar-sites “Het Zwin , Belgium and “Ebro Delta”, Spain have asked the working group to join the Migratory Birds for People - programme. We will discuss their application and publish our conclusion in our next newsletter. R.H.

## News from the Working group ---- period May – August 2011

### 1. Meetings:

We have had several (SKYPE-)meetings with the members of the working group and with colleagues from Belgium and Sweden to discuss progress and actions.

Before the summer the meetings were aimed at the preparation of the bid for LIFE+ - funding. (closing date: 18th of July).
Albertien Perdok ( Ibumana Consulting ) has worked very hard, stimulating ànd accurate in order to get the bid for Life+ funding (Communication) in the Hague in time and most of the partners were confident that we were on schedule with this.
In the first week of July we were informed by WWT in Slimbridge that they would not be able to deliver their signatures in time – among other considerations. This was a very disappointing message, but we are now looking forward again and happy to continue with the program and possible future projects.

In our meeting in August we discussed the situation and concluded that it will be necessary further strengthen our partnership before starting another process for a bid on EU-funding. We also decided that we should continue with our work, building the network and starting with local and national initiatives. *(see notes below)*
We therefore organised a meeting on the 6th of September in **Brussels**, just before the start of the Eurosite Annual Conference, which took place 7th and 8th of September (see also: www.eurosite.org) .
*(see notes below)*

Grand place, Brussels

**Minutes** (succinct) from the (Skype-) meeting **d.d. August 25th.** (*with thanks to Albertien*)

**Attendance:**

- Chris (Wetland Link International)
- Ellen (Naturum Tåkern)
- Liesbeth (Natuurpunt)
- Roelof and Theo (Staatsbosbeheer)
- Szabolcs (Wetlands International)
- Albertien (Consultant)

**Meeting notes**

**Ad. 1 – Welcome**

Due to technical problems we started 30 minutes later than planned. Albertien welcomed all and went through the agenda, describing the aimed result of each agenda item:

- Defining lessons learnt from the LIFE+ application 2011
- Develop outline for continuing the partnership
- Discussion and decision about applying for LIFE+ 2012
- Discuss and decide on roles and responsibilities within the partnership
- How to make use of Albertien's remaining time

Chris chaired the meeting and Albertien made notes.

**Ad. 2 – Looking back and lessons learnt**

Main points summarized in the table below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Planning | Planning of the LIFE+ needs better attention if we apply again. We need to take into account the time needed to consult colleagues and collect signatures. |
| Choice for LIFE+ | Even though LIFE+ seems like a good funding option, it might not be the best option for this partnership and the content of plannend actions. The LIFE+ requirements are tough and they strain the project budget due to high overhead costs and strict administrative rules. The co-financing rate and heavy role for the lead partner also forms a challenge. |
| Communications | Meeting face-to-face is very useful and works better than Skype. We have had some face-to-face meetings with good results, but we should have done this more often in order to get mutual agreement and commitment for a more detailed proposal. |
| Change of leadership | WWT dropping out delayed the process with about two months. When Wetlands International took over, the project was not in a good planning stage because the availability of time was already a too limited (in retrospect). |
| Commitment | All partners should make a clear commitment, both by investing time and starting with fundraising a year ahead of submission, to ensure sufficient co-financing. |
| "Fragile" partnership | Working together on certain topics and developing a joint bid was still very new for the partners involved. This made the partnership fragile, and an existing and strong cooperation besides the LIFE+ project (development) is advisable. |
| Roles and ownership | Partly due the change of leadership from WLI to Wetlands International, it was unclear who was leading the project, who would make final decisions and what each partners was expected to deliver. |
| Underestimation | The amount of work this LIFE+ application took was largely underestimated by most of the partners. People lacked the time, also due to unclear planning and leadership, to deliver in time. Planning go –no go moments could help here. Also, the amounts of actions were too ambitious for the partners and project. |
| Logframe / joint vision | There was not a clear logframe / problem which linked all the partners and the different actions together. Partnership should be based on a common vision, and link all actions together through that vision. |

**Ad. 3 – Continuation, short and long term**

Whether or not a new LIFE+ bid will be submitted in 2012, it is important to start implementing some of the actions described in that application. We can distinguish between three types of actions:

1. Expanding and developing the current network of wetland centres;
2. Strengthening the network through sharing common tools and experiences;
3. Implement actions that are site specific that possibly aid the network.

Starting the cooperation between the partners can be done right away on issues that allow it. We can pursue funding for all the actions. For type 3 action (site-specific), we can also use local funding options. Which funding options are available and defining which actions allow immediate implementation and which are better pursued in a funding bid, should be outlined in an action plan.

This action plan incorporates the current information and ideas developed in the 2011 LIFE+ bid, distinguishing between the three types of actions and pointing out which actions need funding and which can be implemented now. The action plan will be developed during a face to face meeting on September 6th 2011, 13.00-19.00hrs in Brussels. Cooperation between partners is the main goal: communicating about wetlands and raising awareness. More partners are to be included when implementing the action plan, especially in France, Spain and West-Africa.

Chris says he is willing to take a lead here, as he sees this as part of his work at WLI.

**Action points**

- Roelof will inform partners of latest developments through the network newsletter;
- Roelof will present the MBP Programme during a 5 minute speech at the Eurosite Annual Conference in Brussels (7-8 Sept.);
- Chris and Albertien prepare for the Brussels meeting;
- Everybody thinks about alternatives for funding on local, national, European level.

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**Workshop Summary - September 6th , 2011, Brussels** (*with thanks to Albertien*)

*Introduction*
On Tuesday, September 6th 2011, several of the MBP programme partners, met in Brussels for a workshop to discuss the way forward. We had half a day available, a full agenda, and we covered the most important issues with some good discussions. Below I would like to summarize some highlights of our meeting. For more details, please contact Roelof Heringa or Chris Rostron.
Our goal was to develop a shared vision, a general outline and an agreed action planning of the Migratory Birds for People Programme, to bring further the cooperation and the exchange of experiences between partners.

*Highlights of the workshop*
Following some debate, we concluded with the following vision for the MBP programme:

**"An effective network of visitor centres across the East-Atlantic flyway promoting the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats".**

After everyone agreed with the above vision statement, we took the time to develop a situation and problem analysis. This exercise allowed us to see which strategies and related actions would affect which 'problem'.
The actions and strategies that came up are similar to those of December 2010. But how the actions relate to each other and how to prioritize has become clearer.
A good example is the availability and quality of information and stories about migratory birds. This is caused by two things:
a) centres are focused internally and lack the time, means or incentive to share;
b) information is not available in a suitable language or it is presented too scientifically.
Several solutions and actions to tackle these issues are:

1) the further development of the existing CSN tool for a larger public (external);
2) organizing MBP events on site for exchange (internal) and
3) translation of current information (internal).

A more detailed outline of the situation analysis and the related actions is available through Chris Rostron.

*(Chris, Szabolcs, Roelof, Theo, Bob, Liesbeth)*

*our brainstorm notes*

*Way forward*
We concluded our meeting with developing a first outline of an action plan, which will be further advanced in the following months. Most important for you is the intended meeting for the wider network, including ***all*** partners, to be organized at the end of 2011. Your input will be sought for the MBP programme and we will then also take the opportunity to share experiences with each other. More information will follow in future copies of this newsletter.

It was a great meeting and I look forward to see how the MBP programme will progress.

With kind regards, Albertien Perdok

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**Connection with West-Africa:**

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

Currently, Wetlands International Africa and Birdlife are starting a programme aimed at conservation of migratory waterbirds in West Africa, which shows many touching points, and the aim is to connect the two programs in the Darwin bid.
A first attempt to get funding from Darwin for this project was not successful. However we will continue our efforts to get financial means for this part of the programme.

*Chris Rostron and Szabolcs Nagy*

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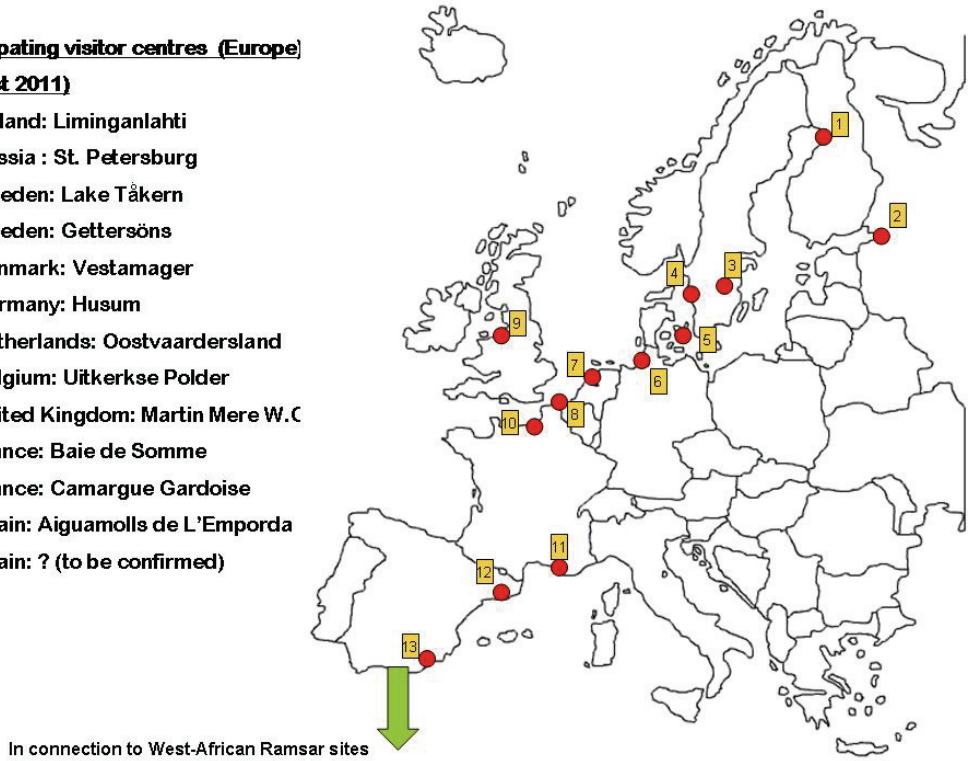
# Supplement : List of participants in Europe and West-Africa

**Participating visitor centres (Europe)**
**(August 2011)**

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: ? (to be confirmed)




**Finland** :

**Liminganlahti conservation area**
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www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/.../liminganlahti

**Sweden:**

**Naturum Lake Täkern**
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**Russia:**

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http://web.me.com/naturewatch.

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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;
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**United Kingdom:**

**WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre**

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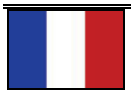

**France:**

- **Baie de Somme**

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

**1st contact** : Cécile Mundler
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Visitor centre : +Centre de découverte du Scamandre – Gallician – 30600 VAUVERT
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email : mundler@camarguegardoise.com

**2nd contact: Jérémiah PETIT**
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website : www.camarguegardoise.com

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**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 :** ??

**AT THIS MOMENT THE CONTACT WITH THIS CENTRE IS ON HOLD and we are looking for an alternative in southern Spain.**

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

## 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

**Parc National Djoudj,** Senegal

**Bijagós Archipelago,** Guinee Bissau

Our contact person for this region is:
**Abdoulaye Ndiaye**, Wetlands International, Senegal.
The individual centres have not yet confirmed their involvement in the programme.