



Project “Migratory Birds for People” (provisional work title)

NEWSLETTER no. 1 (January 2010)

Deventer, 29th January, 2010

Dear colleagues,

By the end of 2009, we had developed the concept of a group of Ramsar wetland centres, linked by the western European flyway, who will 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 11 centres have joined in and we are still waiting for confirmation of two other centres in Finland and Germany.

We started 2010 with a very fruitful meeting of the working group in January. Gathered at the headquarters of Wetlands International in Ede (NL) were: Alex Kaat (Communications and Advocacy manager, Wetlands International Headquarters), Taej Mundkur (Programme Manager - Flyways, Wetlands International Headquarters), Keelin O'Connor (coordinator visitor centres Staatsbosbeheer), Chris Rostron (Head of Wetland Link International, London) [via SKYPE-connection] and Roelof Heringa (International affairs, Staatsbosbeheer).

We would like to share with you the following actions which have been decided during this first meeting. *[with text from the minutes from the meeting by Taej Mundkur]*

Action – The working group has decided to follow a bottom-up approach. Therefore a questionnaire to seek Members Profile and a project-related questionnaire will be developed/updated, circulated and analysed as a basis for further definition of the project - lead by Roelof and Chris. This questionnaire will be sent to all partners .

Action - Current list of centres expressing interest in the initiative to complete the project-related questionnaire and the members profile questionnaire – lead by Roelof

Action - A WLI webpage for the partnership and network initiative would be developed – by Chris. So even with no new funds, as a minimum it would be possible to encourage such a network to be established.

Action – A collaboration agreement (MoU) for the three project partners would be developed - Roelof and Chris to draft for review of the partners.

Action – WLI, Staatsbosbeheer and Wetlands International will look at funding options to discuss at next meeting. For the visitors centres, it would be good to see if additional external funding is needed to cooperate in the initiative and if there are options in the various countries to seek support (cofunding)..

- The next meeting of the working group is proposed for 14 April [08.30 UK time]. We then will discuss the results of the questionnaires as the basis for developing the content of the logframe for the project.

Roles in the project:

We briefly discussed the different roles of the members of the working group.

Chris offered for WLI to take the lead in some of the initial activities, particularly as it was possible to bolt on these activities to the ongoing work of the WLI. However, the initiative was seen to be a joint initiative involving WLI, WI and Staatsbosbeheer.

Communication mode for the partnership would be primarily through a regular mail updates and a joint web-area (developed by WLI). The first issue would be linked to the outcomes of this first meeting, followed by the questionnaire. However there is still was a need for clarity on partnership organisational issues that remain to be discussed and solved.



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Communication with partners: We intend to send out newsletters by email and communication will also be made available in due time at the WLI website. For your information I include a document with information about Wetland Link International. [see also: www.wwt.org.uk/wli and www.wetlands.org]

Name for the project:

For the time-being the work title for this project has been “*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).

But we are still seeking for maybe a better suggestion, so we hope that you will join us in a ‘brainstorm’ on this!

The working group,

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

Contact details Working group:

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ATTACHMENT

Migratory Birds for People

1. Finland: (search)
2. Sweden: Lake Tåkern
3. Sweden: Gettersöns
4. Denmark: Hyldevang
5. Germany: Husum
6. Netherlands: Oostvaardersland
7. Belgium: Blankaert
8. United Kingdom: Welney W.C.
9. United Kingdom: London 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

1. **Finland** : in touch with CEPA focal point, and the secretary of the NorBalWet initiative (Tiina Niikonen) / **still searching**
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 Park Superintendent Metsähallitus,
 Southern Finland Natural Heritage Services
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2. **Sweden:**
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4. Germany : GERMANY –

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Web: www.nationalparkhaus-husum.de
www.wwf.de/wattenmeer

5. Netherlands:

- a. Infocentrum “Oostvaardersplassen”
[to be changed in visitor centre “Oostvaardersland” -2011]
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6. Belgium:

- a. Visitor centre Blankaart (Natuurpunt)
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7. United Kingdom:

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- b. Camargue Gardoise /le centre du Scamandre
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9. Spain:

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 - b. PARQUE REGIONAL SALINAS Y ARENALES DE SAN PEDRO DEL PINATAR
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