



Project “Migratory Birds for People”

NEWSLETTER no. 4 (November 2010)

Deventer, November,

Dear colleagues,

After a long summer and hopefully for you also nice holidays, we have been working together to get the process towards the realisation of the project on the move. In this newsletter we like to share with you the latest “state of affairs” and we hope that you also will take the opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas with us.

Therefore we invite you urgently to go to page 3 of this newsletter, where you find the following questions :

1. **Do you endorse the elements of the project as outlined above?**
2. **Can you deliver the project at your wetland centre? How will it fit with your planned work?**
3. **What type of match funding could you provide? Please detail amount, whether capital or revenue, and how it helps deliver the outputs of the MBP project.**

Respond to Chris Rostron, chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk, by the 1st of December.

We are very glad that almost all participants now have signed in as member of the Wetland Link International-network! This is great and very stimulating, not only for the network, but also for us as steering group.

We wish you good reading!

On behalf of the steering group,
Roelof Heringa

(you may find names and details of steering group on page 7)

Changes in Steering Group:

Our member Keelin O'Connor (*Coordinator visitor centres Staatsbosbeheer*) has announced that she has to leave our group, because it can no longer be combined with her other functions. We have been very glad with her very stimulating input and are sad that she will not be longer part of the group. BUT when needed, we may still ask her advice...!

Keelin will be replaced by Theo de Bruin, who is project manager of the new to-be-built Oostvaardersplassen centre, Staatsbosbeheer.

Wetland link International:

This network organisation relies on an active membership to make the network interesting and useful. Here are 3 good reasons to join the network:

1. Share the knowledge. If you are just planning a centre, or you've been running one for years, WLI lets you promote what you do, or get advice and support from others across the globe. We also have active regional networks to support you closer to home.

2. Access resources. Running wetland CEPA activities is a specialised area of work. We have resources to help you find useful documents, plan CEPA activities, get free pictures for your publications and much more.

3. Get involved in international delivery. Global agreements on wetlands need people to deliver them on the ground. WLI provides support and co-ordination to make us more effective in getting messages out about climate change, biodiversity and water.



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For us as participants in the Migratory Birds for People-project it is extremely useful to have access to a website which highlights all the features of the other participants involved and therefore offers a platform also for communication. For your convenience : this is the direct link to the Europe-map where you may find your colleagues in the network: <http://www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/europe>

Finances for the project:

Crucial for every project of course are: finances. And for almost every project it depends on funding from a institutional resource (international and/or national) combined with co-financing from the participants and/or sponsoring.

In this case we rely on co-financing of all partners in combination with a funding from an EU-source.

The outcome of the co-finances can be doubled by the added funding.

We have made a very nice and ambitious programme for all visitor centres in the project, but what can be delivered depends on the amount of money available.

Summary of the Migratory Birds for People Project, 2010

Aims and objectives

The Migratory Birds for People (MBP) initiative aims to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands in the protection of migratory birds along western African-European flyways, through work between Ramsar wetland centres and with their local communities.

Objectives include:

- Improve communication between Ramsar wetland centres along the western African-European flyway.
- Develop innovative techniques to build relationships between wetlands centres and their local communities.
- Carry out monitoring and habitat conservation work to support migratory bird species.

Background

Wetland Link International (WLI), Staatsbosbeheer and Wetlands International (WI) have been working with 12 European wetland centre partners over the last year to develop the MBP project. WLI supports a network of wetland centres globally, and 10 of the 12 MBP centres are full WLI members. WI also has strong connections with wetland project in both Europe and West Africa. Staatsbosbeheer is currently working on a major new visitor centre development at the Oostvaardersplassen, which will also function as a focal point for the MBP network, both geographically but also in terms of supporting resource development. Skype meetings and one face-to-face meeting have already taken place, to develop the project. This has resulted in a draft work-plan with costings attached, that will be used as the basis for future funding bids.

Partners

The three lead partners are as above, WLI, WI and Staatsbosbeheer. The 12 centre partners are Lake Takern, Sweden; Getteröns Naturcentrum; Hyldevang / Nyord, Denmark; Oostvaardersplassen, The Netherlands; De Blankaart Nature Centre, Belgium; WWT Welney, UK; Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme, France; Camargue Gardoise / le centre du Scamandre, France; Aiguamolls de l'Emporda Natural Park, Spain; Parque Regional Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar, Spain; Nationalpark - Haus Husum, Germany; Liminghanlati nature centre, Finland.

Detailed bid for MBP

The next step is to put together a bid for the EU LIFE programme, under the information and communication funding stream. We aim to meet the LIFE deadline of May 2011, for a project to start in spring 2012, and will work with an external consultant to achieve this, liaising closely with the managers and staff of the 12 centres involved. We now have a consultant supported by



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Staatsbosbeheer who is tasked to prepare a LIFE bid with the partners, which will be submitted by WWT.

The bid will provide funding to support work both centrally through the three core partners, and at each of the wetland centre partners. However, we need also to identify match funding, which should be available as funded project activities, rather than in-kind staff time. Provisional estimates put the total cost of the project at just over 4 million Euros. The bid is likely to include:

Webcams. We aim to have a webcam at each of the site, with appropriate display equipment. This will allow local communities and schools to view what’s happening at their wetland centre, but will also allow centres to share activities between them long-distance.
Website. An important tool to pull activities and resources together. The site will be multi-lingual, provide downloadable resources, share information between partners and display information on birds and sites.
Films. WI has successfully put together several films on wetlands and species conservation. This will offer the opportunity to create a useful set of short films from different partners, that can be used to raise awareness, as part of education programmes, and to promote the MBP.
Community programmes. Working with local people is essential in order to gain support and understanding of wetland conservation. We aim to use the project to help reach out to local communities, to explain why wetlands and migratory birds are important. It will act to get people involved in their local wetland centres, visiting and volunteering to keep them busy and vibrant places. Education activities will also be included, broadening the range of resources for schools and information education, and making wetland centre more attractive to them.
Presentation and interpretation. Wetland centres rely heavily on good interpretation and exhibits, and these can often be costly to produce, particularly if they are good quality, durable and updatable. MBP will work with centres to produce interpretation and signage about the project themes of migratory birds, wetlands and local involvement, which can be produced in bulk and used at all centres.
Satellite transmitters and bird monitoring. Modern technology in transmitters and tracking allows us to accurately track migrating birds along their routes. However, this is still an expensive and complicated process, and will require a large input of time and funding over the lifetime of the project. However, it will be very useful to publicly demonstrate the wonder of migration, via the centres and the website, as well as providing valuable scientific data.
Critical Site Network (CSN) tool development. WI’s major piece of work recently is a web tool that shows the distribution, range and migratory routes of wetland birds, as well important bird areas and other species information. The MBP and the CSN tool complement each other well.

Partners are asked to consider this summary carefully, as we are conscious that although this will bring funding and resources, it also requires a lot of commitment and time from local centres, as well as considerable effort to identify match-funding. Please answer the following questions:

4. Do you endorse the elements of the project as outlined above?
5. Can you deliver the project at your wetland centre? How will it fit with your planned work?
6. What type of match funding could you provide? Please detail amount, whether capital or revenue, and how it helps deliver the outputs of the MBP project.

Respond to Chris Rostron, chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk, by the 1st of December.

Funding:

During our workshop in June we had Ms. Nicole Kerkhof, [Programme Adviser, Environment and Technology and Advisor LIFE+, Agentschap NL, The Netherlands] to join the meeting. (Agentschap NL is an agency of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. It carries out policy support for various ministries in terms of sustainability, innovation

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and international issues) and specifically helps to support applicants in the Netherlands to apply for Life+ projects.)

We discussed the project with her and she assured us that our project had good potential and advised us also about the way to go further.

The steering group has the intention to apply for a EU-Life bid in the Communication strand. We will also explore other EU-funding opportunities, but this will depend on the outcome of the Life-Communication funding. The call for tender is 1st of June 2011 and a lot of work needs to be done before that date.

It is crucial that we will have figures and commitment on the table for the co-financing of the participants. This will define our budget and programme.

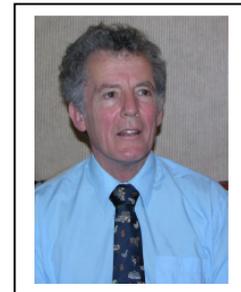
EU Life +	<p>Provides very good opportunity for strong structural support for the project (for a long term project). Many countries, partners and some centres have experience in running Life projects. New guidelines</p> <p>Requires detailed project proposal, complex and so time required, short timeline to meet September 2010 submission deadline. Useful to consider 2011 submission, recognising that this will delay support to the project until June/July 2012 if successful.</p> <p><i>Action agreed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staatsbosbeheer to take the lead to identify options to secure support from within Staatsbosbeheer to prepare the proposal, with close involvement of partners (submission date to be considered)
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Follow-up of the action:

Staatsbosbeheer has assigned EUROPARC-Consulting to deliver the project proposal and bid for EU-Life funding. The expert who will assist us is:

Richard Lloyd, Bristol (UK).

Richard has been working for EUROPARC Consulting for many years. His CV was adequate for us and Richard lives close to Slimbridge, which is no doubt an added advantage. We welcome Richard Lloyd in our team. On the 6th of December we have planned a work-meeting in the office of Wetland Link International in Slimbridge in order to start the process.



Richard Lloyd

Darwin Initiative	<p>This UK based grant is highly competitive but provides useful mechanism to secure information and input from west Africa and ensure that the network covers the whole flyway for the migratory waterbirds in western Europe. WLI could submit the proposal on behalf of partnership (subject to confirmation of WWT fund-raising team support and 2010 deadline)</p> <p><i>Action agreed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WLI to take the lead to identify options to secure support from within WWT to prepare and submit the proposal on behalf of partnership. This proposal will be developed in close involvement of partners (particularly WI) which has offices, ongoing activities and strong networks in west Africa.
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Follow up of the action: We are still waiting for a government announcement on the Darwin funding. It has not been officially cut, but there has been no news on it either. We are keeping an eye on it.

Draagvlak natuur (Netherlands)	<p>This is a Dutch government from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality provided as a subsidy for environmental work in the Netherlands, with a focus on environment education, information sharing and cooperation. A project up to 3 years could be developed, for about 250,000 E. It must be active in more than two Dutch provinces and focus on work in the Netherlands. It was agreed that the proposal would be developed such it generates a network focused educational/information resource with international input. The deadline for submission is 31 July 2010. Only a Dutch based foundation (such as WI) could apply.</p> <p><i>Action agreed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI to take the lead to prepare and submit a proposal, on behalf of partnership. This proposal will be developed in close involvement of network partners and locally with Staatsbosbeheer.
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Follow-up of the action:

Wetlands International has submitted the proposal, but we just received the message that the proposal could not be accepted by the Ministry . This , of course is a disappointing outcome, but we will take the comments into account for our Life-bid.



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Another kind request from the working group:
(because we have not had many reactions to date....)

One item we have planned for the project is to provide the participating centres with short films from the Ramsar-sites involved in this project. For this we need footage from each area and we hope you will be able to give us some information of what already would be available from your area. At this stage we do not need the images as such, but only the information. So please, send your information with some details, describing the images that are available. {e.g. habitat, species, season, length of footage, format,...}

Your information will be welcomed by Alex Kaat : email: alex.kaat@wetlands.org

Thanks for your cooperation!

News from the network:



Lake Tåkern , Sweden.

Danne Nilsson, manager of this area and responsible for the realisation of the new visitor centre, has sent the joyful message that the building of this centre has started with clearing the building grounds. We congratulate him and his team and wish them much success in this nice and exiting project!

You may follow their progress on :

<http://www.webbkameror.se/flash/!stostergotland/!stostergotland.swf> or www.naturumtakern.se

The foundations are now in place and the visitor centre is expected to be opened in Spring 2012.

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Oostvaardersland, The Netherlands

1. Preparations for the new visitor centre go ahead. The Environmental Assessment report is ready and the draft zoning plan for the municipality is ready and in procedure.
2. Start meeting with architect and landscape architect are scheduled for next week.
3. In September Staatsbosbeheer organised a “Science-day” in Oostvaardersplassen. This meeting and workshop with representatives from the ‘science & university world’ in September has turned out to be very successful.



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Cooperation to show international importance of Dutch wetland area

(Source: website Wetlands International)

23-Sep-2010

New visitors centre displays migratory bird flyways from the Arctic to Africa.

Wetlands International and Dutch nature organisation Staatsbosbeheer demand attention on the international importance of the Dutch Oostvaardersplassen as key link in migratory birds' networks of wetlands (flyway). The future visitors centre built by Staatsbosbeheer in Oostvaardersplassen will play an exemplary role in displaying intercontinental bird migration to its public. Wetlands International and Staatsbosbeheer formalised their cooperation by signing an agreement on Thursday 23 September in Lelystad, The Netherlands.

The extensive, undisturbed wetlands at Oostvaardersplassen are enormously important for migrant waterbirds and spectacular concentrations occur, especially in autumn and winter. Vast numbers of ducks such as Common Teal, Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail which breed in Scandinavia and Russia stop to rest and feed on migration. Many of these birds are stopping en route for southern Europe and even Africa, while others stay at Oostvaardersplassen throughout the winter. Migrants such as Eurasian Spoonbills (photo) and Pied Avocets follow the western seaboard of Europe to winter in Iberia and West African countries such as Mauritania. Oostvaardersplassen thus serves as a key staging (resting) and feeding area for migratory waterbirds between the Arctic and Africa. The site is also important for nesting birds and in the past few years, Great Egrets, Ospreys and White-tailed Eagles have all started breeding in the Netherlands for the first time, all at Oostvaardersplassen. It is also the site of the largest breeding colony of Great Cormorants in the country.

Wetlands International and Staatsbosbeheer will work together to present information to the public on the routes of the migratory birds at the proposed visitor centre to be built over the next two years at Oostvaardersplassen.. The spectacular concentrations in which waterbirds using Oostvaardersplassen occur, the amazing journeys they undertake and the way these change with the seasons, are guaranteed to evoke fascination and wonder. Wetlands International will provide detailed information on thousands of wetlands and on the millions of waterbirds that migrate between Eurasia and Africa.

On September 23rd, Chris Kalden, Director General of Staatsbosbeheer and Jane Madgwick, Chief Executive Officer of Wetlands International signed the agreement that made their cooperation on Oostvaardersplassen official (photo).

Oostvaardersland

The new visitor centre is expected to open its doors by the end of 2012. It will also be the gateway to a 15,000 hectare spectacular nature and recreation area in the Dutch province of Flevoland called Oostvaardersland. This will connect Oostvaardersplassen, adjacent areas and Horsterwold (a large deciduous forest) through the development of Oostvaarderswold (a corridor connecting both areas). Staatsbosbeheer expects to receive some 150,000 visitors to the centre each year.

The visitor centre will hold a public information, knowledge and debate function for the whole Oostvaardersland area. Staatsbosbeheer is also working with researchers from The Netherlands and abroad on a research programme to facilitate this development.

Staatsbosbeheer works for nature and people. The organisation manages 250,000 hectare of nature areas for the Dutch government. **Wetlands International** is a global organisation working to sustain and restore wetlands - such as lakes, peatlands, mangroves and swamps - and their resources for future generations.

For more information:

Alex Kaat

Wetlands International





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Contact details Working group:

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Theo de Bruin (Projectleader visitor centre, Oostvaardersland Staatsbosbeheer)

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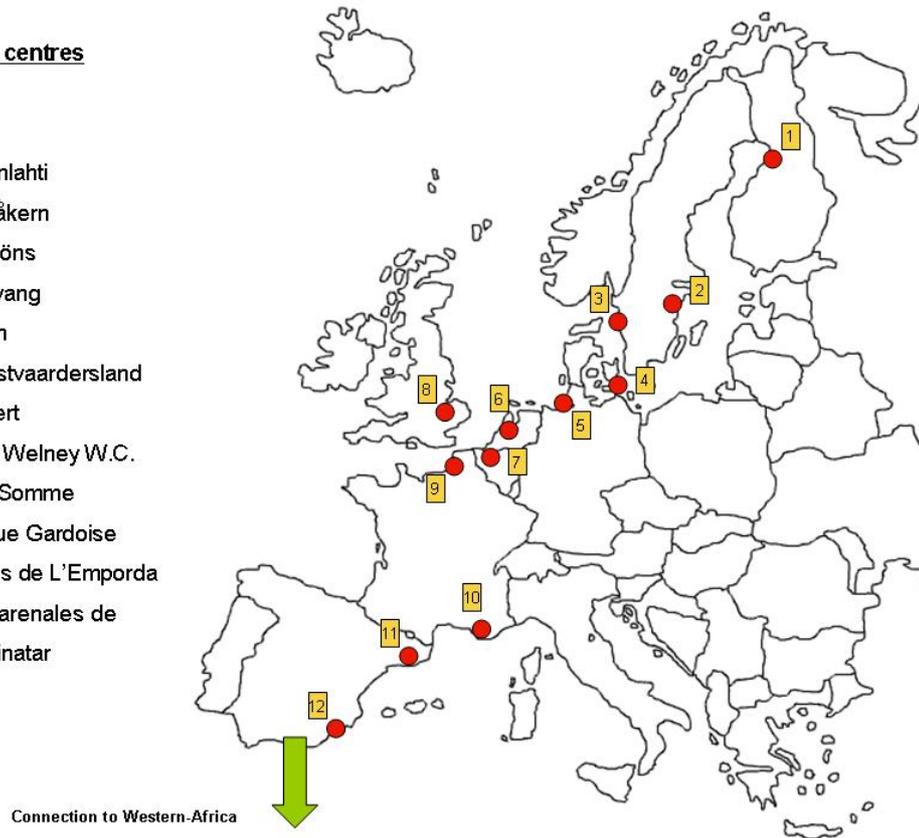
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ATTACHMENT :

Participating visitor centres (1st phase)

1. Finland: Liminganlahti
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. France: Baie de Somme
10. France: Camargue Gardoise
11. Spain: Aiguamolls de L'Emporda
12. Spain: Salinas y arenas de San Pedro del Pinatar



List of participants

1. **Finland** : Liminganlahti conservation area
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2. **Sweden:**
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 Email: dan.nilsson@lansstyrelsen.se

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3. Denmark:

a.

b. Hyldevang / Nyord

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www.fuglevaernsfonden.dk

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www.birdlife.org

4. Germany :

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Contact: Dr. Hans-Ulrich Rösner

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info@nationalparkhaus-husum.de

Web: www.nationalparkhaus-husum.de

www.wwf.de/wattenmeer

5. Netherlands:

a. Infocentrum “Oostvaardersplassen”

[to be changed in visitor centre “Oostvaardersland” - 2012]

Contact : Wenda Kloen;

T: +31-320-254585 / M: 06-21266674

E: w.kloen@staatsbosbeheer.nl

6. Belgium:

a. Visitor centre Blankaart (Natuurpunt)

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And: Liesbet Cleynhens (Coordinator visitor centres for Natuurpunt.)

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7. United Kingdom:

a. WWT Welney Wetland Centre

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b. **Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre**

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9. Spain:

a. AIGUAMOLLS DE L'EMPORDÀ NATURAL PARC (NE Catalonia, Spain)
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b. PARQUE REGIONAL SALINAS Y ARENALES DE SAN PEDRO DEL PINATAR

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