"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 28 (November, 2017)

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Introduction:

Dear colleagues,

In this autumn-edition 2017 of our MBP –Newsletter, we have the pleasure to present the notes of our successful MBP-Annual Meeting in Remerschen (Luxembourg), as well as received messages from the MBP-network (and beyond!).
This edition will appear in an English and a French version.
This is possible thanks to the kind help of Audrey Cadou (Lac-de-Grand-Lieu, Fr).

Enjoy reading!

On behalf of the core-group "Migratory Birds for People"-network,

Roelof Heringa and Audrey Cadou

Check also our website: **www.migratorybirdsforpeople.org**

MBP is also on FACEBOOK : www.facebook.com/migratorybirdsforpeople

Our MISSION can also be found on: www.facebook.com/migratorybirdsforpeople

P.S.: your feedback is always welcome! / vos commentaires sont toujours bienvenus!

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In order to make this newsletter more accessible, we now have put in 'hyperlinks' for your convenience. Look in the index below for the underlined item you want to read and search for the item in the document by clicking "Ctrl + Click left"

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"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

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News from the "Migratory Birds for People"- core group

Report from the 8th Annual Meeting of MBP 2017

Theme: *" Successful international communication for conservation"*

Venue: Biodiversum, visitors & nature center, Remerschen, Luxembourg

8th to 11th of October 2017

The 2017 annual MBP meeting was hosted at the wetland centre Biodiversum Remerschen, Luxembourg.
22 participants took part (**see appendix I**) mostly arriving on Sunday the 8th October, spending two days meeting and sharing information, and leaving on Wednesday the 11th. The MBP group would like to express their gratitude and thanks to Patric, Isabelle and the team at Biodiversum Remerschen for such and excellently organised meeting, and for the very impressive centre that they run.

Monday 8th October

Chris introduced the purpose and structure of the meeting, and gave a brief summary of the background of MBP and activities over the last year, highlighting key achievements in building activity in West Africa with new members and a newsletter, holding skype conference with schools for World Migratory Bird Day and maintaining a high level of communication between partners generally.

Patric and Isabelle then led a tour of the centre, which we completed in 2015 and has been open to the public for just over a year. The centre was built and is owned by the local authority administration, and run with staff from the administration and from a local NGO, BirdLife Luxembourg (Patric and Isabelle). There is a small charge for the centre, but no shop or restaurant/café so not much opportunity for generating income. The wooden structure is based on an upturned boat, and built with sustainability in mind, including underfloor heating systems powered by water-source heatpumps, from cables laid in the lake itself.

The group was impressed with the design, but also with the exhibits and interpretation of the centre. This is a mix of traditional panels and models, but also has innovative exhibits such as the 'night room', a dark room with audiovisual exhibits, and a globe projection which can show a huge range of displays and be changed by the user.

One of the key challenges is the number of languages that visitors require. In Luxembourg the official languages include Luxembourgish, French and German, and visitors also request English and other languages. The signage is in the three official languages, but the staff are considering how to improve this.

A group discussion covered the following:

- Keep messaging short and to the point, that way it can be included in more languages on fixed displays.
- Rely on graphics, pictures and signs rather than language to avoid the usage of too much text.
- Use something like an audio guide, which the user can select their own language on.
- Produce printed materials in different languages that can accompany a visit.
- Try to have staff that can communicate in a number of languages, even just for basic terms that will help a visitor to experience the centre better.
- Provide QR codes or links so that visitors can use their smartphones / tablets to download information and guidance.

Presentation session I. Talks were then given by participants, which you can download in PDF format from our website (see the link).
After lunch, we did a practical group exercise on subjects set by our hosts. Each group gave a presentation of their findings on the topics of: 'our birds' – how to encourage groups to realise that migratory birds are other people's birds too; improving the web conference for World Migratory Birds Day; communication to visitors why it might be necessary to kill / remove invasive bird species; running activities for children's birthday parties on site.

Our hosts then took us to a local organic winery to hear about their methods and taste some of their wines, followed by dinner.
Jelke (Eurosite) and Chris (MBP) 'officially' signed the updated **"Friends of Eurosite" agreement with MBP.**

Tuesday 9th October
Presentation session II.
Chris gave a presentation on a more detailed analysis of MBP's activities and what has gone well, as well as what we need to improve on. He also showed the new WLI website, and we had a discussion about how the MBP page could be incorporated, who used the site, and how it could provide a useful 'sorting tool' to allow visitors to the website to find what they need (other members, regional initiatives and resources, for example).

Theo talked about funding preparations to date, and explained a bit more about how the EU LIFE funding system works. Deadline of September next year. Although Russian and African partners can't apply for LIFE funding, they could apply to other funding streams to complement the project. MBP is still interested in how to find something to support a communications bid, which links directly to biodiversity gains. He continues to work on this with colleagues in Natuurpunt, Belgium, and some key wetland centres, but if anyone is interested please get in touch.

Gabin presented on the situation for migratory birds in Africa, and how wetland centres and conservation work is dealing with this in West Africa particularly. Key challenges are the lack of trained staff / capacity, outdated or insufficient communication materials and infrastructure on site, insufficient financial and other resources, and little political support. You can see his presentation on the MBP- web page.

Read also his reflection on the Annual Meeting on the page:
MBP-West-Africa (Senegal)

Gerold talked about the Waddensee Flyway Initiative, what they are doing in terms of supporting local partners to deliver conservation action and to collect and share data on birds. He also mentioned that there are many wetland centres along the Waddensee, some of which already belong to MBP (Husum, Terschelling, Vadehavet) but most of which don't, particularly in Germany / Denmark. Gerold to support us to make contact.

Jelke gave a presentation on how we can make better use of social media, focussing on how we currently use FaceBook and Twitter and some hints and tips about what there tools offer, including analytical tools and options to build contacts. See brief guidance document here.
Site visit around Remerschen, looking at outdoor teaching facilities, the hides, habitat management and challenges that the site faces.

Presentation session III. Oostvaardersplassen, Terschelling, Urdaibai, Het Zwin, Americas (from Pato Guerrero, the WLI intern), Flight of the Swans and Eurosite Twinning.

Olivier and Audrey proposed that they would like to hold **the 2018 Annual Meeting at their wetland centre the Maison du Lac de Grand Lieu near Nantes, France.** All accepted their generous offer, and we aim to meet there on the **25th and 26th of September** (a break from tradition, with arrival on a Monday, meeting Tuesday and Wednesday, and leaving Thursday).

We covered a huge amount during these two days, and as a 'reward' we all took part in Roelof's Euro-cocktail evening with food and drink that partners had all brought with them.
Then entertainment, including songs, accordion and guitar playing and even some dancing!

Outcomes:

* Guide to multilingual communication;
* strengthen links between core members;
* workshop on social media;
* on-site learning from the wetland centre itself;
  see actions in appendix II

With many thanks to our hosts:
Patric Lorgé and Isabelle Zwick.

See also: **Contribution by Patricio Guerrero, Chili**
And: **Contribution by Leo Declerq, Belgium**
And: **Contribution by Gabin Agblonon**

Appendix I List of participants 8th MBP-annual meeting in Luxembourg

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
Edorta Unamuno, Isabelle Zwick, Audrey Cadou, Olivier Hubert, Jelke Brandehof, Theo de Bruin, Leo Declerq, Gerold Luerssen, Gabin Agblonon, Chris Rostron, Jeanine Keurentjes, Hans-Erik Kuypers, Eugene Genelty-Yanovskiy, Wanda Bakker, Patrico Guerrero, Malin Granlund-Feldt, Patric Lorgé, Yulia Danilova, Roelof Heringa.

Appendix II

Work area	Activities	Who?	By when?
Strategy plan	Update the long version and produce summary for use with partners and other external audiences	CR and MBP committee	November 2017
Fund-raising	Develop approach to LIFE with relevant partners. Work with Natuurpunt and contact MBP partners again to identify potential support	Theo de Bruin	Ongoing
Website	- Develop WLI pages that create useful format to make resources, partners information and particularly regional initiatives easy to find - Integrate MBP pages within WLI site - Consult with MBP partners to ensure this works for everyone	CR and MBP committee	End 2017
World Migratory Bird Day	- Plan and deliver web conference with schools and sites - Use fewer, more targeted messages, share local name for the birds - Flexibility on producing a film, ppt or other and use these separately to the skype discussion - Maison du Lac de Grand Lieu to lead on the Francophone version	CR and MLGL (Maison du Lac de Grand Lieu) to lead	May 2018
Africa	- Twinning between partners to provide support - Ensure African representative(s) attend(s) Nantes annual meeting - Continue development of MBP Africa network - See if there is appetite for European MBP partners visit	CR, GA, MLGL and Blandine Melis	Ongoing
More materials available in multiple languages	Increase French language communications (Newsletter, website, social media). Possible increased funding from WWT to cover this.	CR	Ongoing
Produce guidance on social media	Facebook – continue to use and promote		Ongoing
	Short document summarising Jelke's talk and giving advice to partners	Malin, Edorta, Leo (CR)	?
Multilingual guidance	Produce short guidance on multilingual interpretation / centre comms	CR and JB	End 2017
Waddensee connections	Continue regular contact with Gerold Luersson Dutch partners to join the trilateral government meeting in 2018 Check with Husum and Vadehavet on activity (GL) Suggest new MBP members from wetland centres of Waddensee (GL)	GL, Suzanne	Mid 2018
Report back from MBP annual meet 2017	Produce short report and list of actions Produce short film based on interviews and footage from the meeting	CR; PG	November 2017

PROJECTS:

Life project Awareness Campaign about the relevance of wetlands for migratory birds

Update LIFE proposal (October 2017)

In recent months we have been working with new energy to a LIFE communication project. Consultation has been done with the Staatsbosbeheer Oostvaardersplassen and Staatsbosbeheer NP Biesbosch. Natuurpunt Belgium has shown a serious interest in the project just like WWT did too.

In a first skype-meeting flagship species are defined: osprey, curlew, black tailed godwit and sandwich tern. Also a first thougth about communicative actions was given. Project could focus on

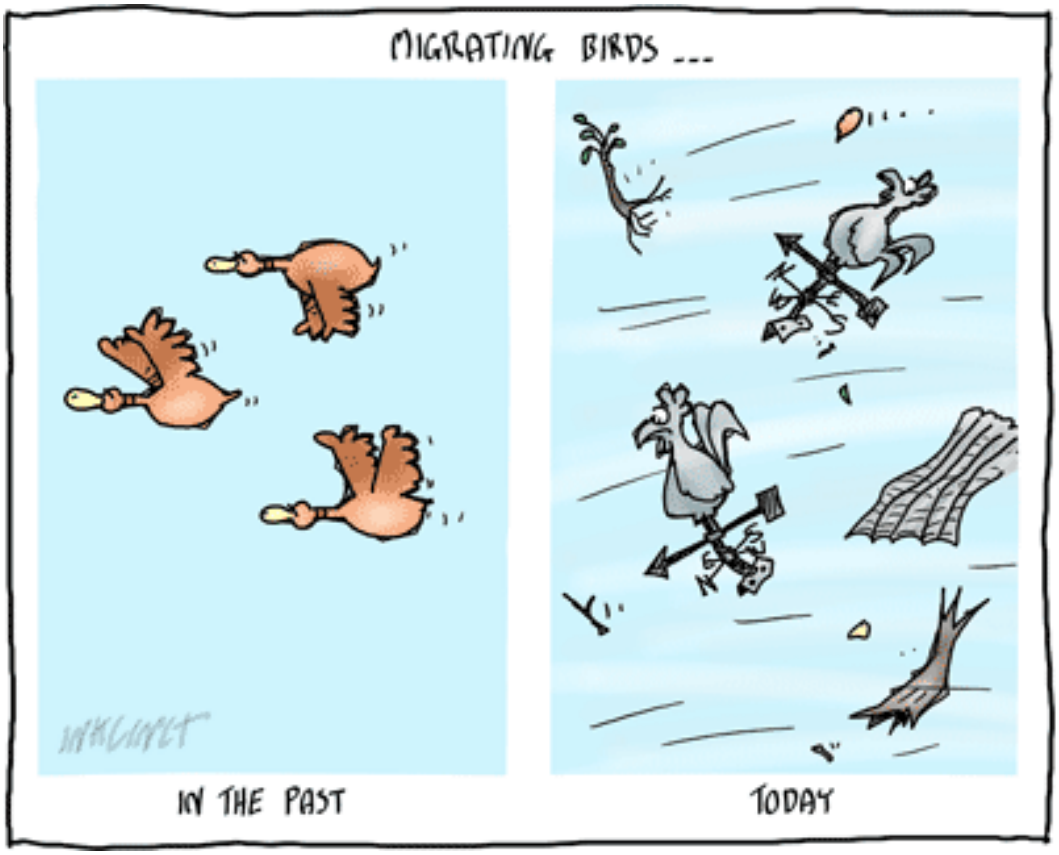
- use of social media
- role of wetland centres
- training of groups
- creation of ambassadors who are the first in the field to spread the messages
- Focus on local entrepreneurs, citizens, young people, hunters and farmers.

- Development small showcase and demonstration projects for well-targeted groups, especially local communities; those local projects should also contribute to (other) local threats
- Involvement of scientists and outcome of research, translated to the audience

At this moment the organisations mentioned above, are reflecting on their contribution to and their role in the project.

The aim is to submit the LIFE application in 2018 call.

Please, consider joining this exciting project and send me your interest.
For more information, please contact: Theo de Bruin; theodebruin@nlrnt.nl



News from the network:

Chili : Wetlands International / P. Guerrero

Story about MBP meeting: Migratory birds, languages and people:

I am Patricio Guerrero from Chile doing an internship as part of the Wetland Link International (WLI) in Slimbridge, England. My background is in the NGO sector, where I work to strengthen citizenship in environmental matters; wetlands, their biodiversity and educational tools. In addition, I have worked on local campaigns to establish a protected area for the **dunes and wetlands of Putú** as a Nature Sanctuary in the coastal zone of the of Maule region, Chile, an important site for resident and migratory birds.

During my internship on WLI, I will work on developing links with the members and organizations throughout the American continent, and to progress the work that WLI has been doing across the world. Last month, I had the opportunity to participate in the 2017 Annual Meeting of the MBP network that took place at the fabulous Biodiversum Centre at Remerschen, Luxemburg.

The main focus of meeting was "Successful international communication for conservation" at a suitable location on the border of three countries, with a 4 different languages. I noticed that the participants worked together on the best ways to involve people at each place across the flyway. Migratory birds clearly make a connection between the continents and. support an enormous amount of initiatives focussing attention on how to protect the important natural sites that are also used to inspire, recreate and learn about natural ecosystem and its characteristics.

I was very happy to be invited, and to share the situation in Latin America, and certainly I receive many ideas to share when I get back. It's vital to have more of these forums where we share information, and get inspired about different experience. Thanks a lot MBP!

Patricio Guerrero A.
WLI Intern

Finland : Liminka Bay Visitor Center

Autumn has arrived and at the moment only wintering species and Whooper Swans are still here. Since nesting and growing seasons were delayed, due to cold spring, we had many lingering bird species still here much later than in recent years.
At the visitor center, the biggest news is the new guided tour in our exhibition. Tour has been planned specially for visually impaired people. This free of charge product has also been tested in front of the media and feedback from the journalists and blind people was great!

Simple things like replicates of bird eggs, real feathers and dawns, sound records, reeds and other plant material and artificial bird models are nice touchable and hearable things to utilize in the guidance. We warmly encourage you all to consider also the special groups in your centers!

Picture from the visually impaired man feeling the model of Black-tailed Godwit has been taken by Merja Aakko/Metsähallitus.

Best regards,

Liminka Bay Visitor Center

liminganlahti@metsa.fi

Norway: Fetsund Lenser, Nordre Øyeren wetland centre

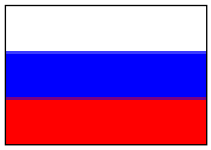
This year we brought our local fifth graders to a great spot in the nature reserve to observe and talk about the migrating birds that frequently visit us every year. Everyone was given a set of binoculars so they could see exactly what we could, and if was very popular amongst the students. We did a little quiz after the session that the students found entertaining. Bringing the local schools into the nature reserve is something we hope to do further as these kids will (hopefully) take care of our local wetlands in the future and understand the importance of why we have them.

In terms of the **World Migratory Bird Day**, we celebrated it with many free family activities around our wetland center. Some of the activities included the migratory bird game where kids are supposed to "survive" as a migratory species in an obstacle course. You were also able to borrow our "bird pack" which has a kit of questions, binoculars and other items on which you could go for a walk around the area to look at and study birds. Another activity was an activity leaflet that had a few questions and fun games for kids in it, also relating to wetlands and migration.

Another project we tried this year was an open event two times a week, where anyone could come learn about **bird feeding** during the winter months. Quite a few people showed up and we also gave them an introduction in submitting birdlife they observe through a Norwegian website called artsobservasjoner.no which many appreciated being told about.

During our "Wetland day for kids" this autumn we had a lot of new activities and some new outdoor exhibitions. More than 500 people came – and enjoyed the day!

Henning and Trude



Russia: CEPA-team St.Petersburg

The Baltic Fund for Nature (BFN) became a partner of Barents-Baltic Nature and People programme, collaboratively implemented by WWF, Coalition Clean Baltic and WWF and more than 20 regional partners in Russia (http://www.ccb.se/bbnp/).

The BBNP programme is focused on three regions of Russia: Kalingrad Oblast, St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast and Murmansk.

Within the programme BFN is involved in the following activities:

- Awareness raising about marine and coastal spatial planning
- Public participation in management of river valleys
- Development of volunteering for coast restoration
- Supporting the wildlife watching and nature tourism
- Promotion products from small nature-friendly farms

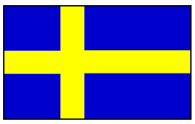
In Leningrad region, BBNP Programme focuses most of activities on the southern coast of the Russian part of the Gulf of Finland (the Baltic Sea), where two Ramsar sites are located – Kurgalskiy Peninsula and Lebyazhye.

There already has been a Wadden Sea case study during the Baltic Sea Days 2017 forum, and a seminar on conservation of Atlantic salmon, resulting in a creation of advisory team consisting of managers, researchers and business representatives.

Another action is the involvement of local society in coastal management and nature conservation with:

- Public events
- Creating nestboxes for birds and bats
- Information panels

Evgeny & Yulia



Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern

Restoration

Last winter a large restoration was carried out outside naturum Tåkern. New islands for breeding purposes as well as improvements to already existing islands were made. All the reed growing on the small breeding islands has been removed and a fiber cloth was added to prevent the reed from coming back. It is easier for the black-headed gulls to nest at islands without reed. The black-headed gull is somewhat a key species. There are a lot of other species of birds breeding in close proximity to the black-headed gull colony. The reeds were removed from the shoreline also, to get the birdwatchers a better view of the water and to attract more waders. The birds seemed to like the improvements. The

black-headed gulls had a reasonably good year. And there were little ringed plovers breeding on some of the new islands, which is highly unusual. A visitor's center like naturum is a good place to show the conservation measures taken to ensure the survival of some birds.

Drought
This year, and least, has been exceedingly dry. The water level in Tåkern was worryingly low in spring and summer. It affected the songbird population in the lake; it has been a bad year for reed warblers and sedge warblers. The dry weather contributed to fewer insects, thus less food for the birds. In the beginning of autumn it rained a lot and now the lake is almost back to normal.

Bearded reedling and Great egret

It was not a bad year for every bird in the vast reeds. The **bearded reedling** must have had a great summer with a lot of chicks surviving, because now when you walk thru the reeds there are calling sounds from everywhere. If we were to venture a guess, there are probably about 10 000 of them around the lake at the moment. Another bird that has been in high numbers this year is the great egret. The great egret is seen every year but there are usually just one or two, this year a total of 13 has been seen at the same time.
The great egret is probably breeding in Lake Tåkern soon, even though it is very rare in Sweden.

School activities
At naturum Tåkern we have a lot of activities for schools. This year we have been concentrating on ecosystems and the role the birds play in that intricate web. We have also watched the birds resting at the lake, spring and autumn, when they are migrating. They are always amazed at how far and at what speed the birds are migrating.

Record of resting geese
Speaking of migrating birds; this autumn, for the second year in a row, there was a record number of resting grey lagged geese. In early September, there were almost 20 000 grey lagged geese in Tåkern at the same moment.

(report by Hanna Hederberg, Naturum Tåkern)

Malin Granlund Feldt (Manager and nature guide, Naturum Tåkern visitor center, Sweden)

Links:
Film on Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=470rIpScgRU
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/p/BT8wmTajeOt/?taken-by=naturumtakern

Sweden: Naturum Getterön

The autumn birds are starting to arrive to Getterön's nature reserve. During the last three weeks, there have been observations of whooper swan, white-fronted goose, bean goose and pink-footed goose. Also, a huge number of wigeons were temporarily resting at the reserve a while ago. The number was counted to almost 2000 wigeons!

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The weather has been peculiar throughout September and October. In the beginning of September, it was raining heavily and during it rained constantly for one week. Though the end of the month the weather was wonderful with the sun shining and the temperature were almost 20 degrees Celsius. This has made it possible for many birds to start their journey to their winter areas. Lots of passerines and birds of prey have been seen in huge numbers migrating.

In the writing moment, the autumn storms have reached the Westcoast once more. Last week when hard winds were blowing a **black-browed albatross** flew along the coast. It was discovered north of Getterön and then it flew past Varberg during the night or early morning and was discovered a bit further south of the Westcoast the next day. All bird watchers who didn't get to see the albatross have their hopes up once more.
Maybe, if we're lucky, it will come back!

Kind regards!
Linnea Henriksson
October - 2017
Naturum Getterön

Denmark: Amager, Copenhagen

Contact: Rune Schulz & Jes Aagaard

Denmark: Vadehavscentret, Ribe (at the World Heritage Site Wadden Sea)

Contact: Klaus Melbye

Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum

Nationalpark-Haus Husum, at the World Heritage Site Wadden Sea

Contact: Hans-Ulrich Rösner

Netherlands: Terschelling

News from the Noordsvaarder, western part of Terschelling

During the MBP-Annual Meeting in Luxembourg we said something about a new project on the Noordsvaarder we started last season: 'protecting migratory birds' with the aim of successful breeding. On this part of the Island it is especially about the protection of the Dwarf tern and the Ringed plover.

During breeding season, volunteers and staff members of Staatsbosbeheer have supervised this area. With a new birdwatcher and enthusiastic volunteers, it was a successful project.
The tasks were among others to inform people, monitoring and supervise access to breeding area.

On Friday, October 13th, Staatsbosbeheer invited all volunteers for an excursion to the Noordsvaarder by horse and carriage. This excursion was organized to give an overview of the result of the work and as a show of appreciation for all volunteers.
During the Annual Meeting we also promised to pass the result to you all:

Breeding area from 10 April to 21 August 2017

Ringed plover	3
Nordic Tern	1
Dwarf tern	30

Outside breeding area

Ringed plover	11

Visistors

Hikers/passerby	2800
Conversations	1255
Entering breeding area	232

With kind regards,
Feline Zwaan
Wanda Bakker
Staatsbosbeheer Terschelling (the Netherlands)

Netherlands: Buitencentrum "Oostvaardersplassen" (1)

The programme: ´World Migratory Birds Day 2017´: Title: "Migratory Birds Under Scrutiny"

- Presentation on migratory birds: "Trekvogel onder weg" (Dutch) at the highschool "Groenhorst College" Almere.
- Visit Oostvaardersplassen (wetlands):
  - Birdwatching at the lookout point Jan van de Boschpad (Almere).
  - A guided visit to the restricted areas in an electric vehicle (ecokar).
- Creating a video about the Oostvaardersplassen for the WLI / MBP webpage.
- Participate in the video/skype conference.

Evaluation on "World Migratory Birds Day 2017" / report date: 22th of June

- **Skype with the island of Terschelling**

We will contact again with Staatsbosbeheer Terschelling in order to see for another opportunity for a skype-meeting. On the 11 of May the group at Terschelling was at a place with insufficient WIFI.

- **Footage**

The footage of the meeting has been placed on a USB-stick and will be send to Chris Rostron together with an book about Oostvaardersplassen (in English). The footage is impressive with birdlife.
The English teacher and all pupils involved are thanked for their commitment and nice results.

- **Evaluation:**

Findings children, teachers, Staatsbosbeheer

- **Children and their parents**:
  The project was much welcomed by the children. Some parents have also received enthusiastic responses. During the skype-meeting, the students were pleasantly surprised that they could express themselves well in English and that it was very nice to skype with other children from other countries and to understand each other. They liked to find out that what they learn in practice also works.
- **Teachers**:
  The project fits 100% in the need to contact children directly with nature. The combination of several subjects, English and nature-related subjects, is considered very positive. But it is important that more attention be given to the subject, because the "a ha" or "yes" effect will be better and will be more hanging during the visit to the Oostvaardersplassen. They then can recognize many more birds and then they also remember them more easily. We will investigate the possibilities for next school year. We also want to thank the other two teachers involved for their contribution, which made this pilot to have a positive result.
- **Staatsbosbeheer volunteers**:
  One organizer is certainly not enough and also vulnerable. Written communication with England was not easy (came well through with the help of the volunteer's sons). There is already a promise that Inge Haagens (currently Chairman of the "Bird and Nature Guard Flevoland") will be organizing next year. Then we also have the opportunity to take a look at bird ringing, for example.
  Katja de Jong (guide in training) Harry Enting (driver eco-car), Frank Galle and Adrie Katsman as experienced birders contributed to this pilot. Thanks to all three for their cooperation.

o Organization

• Start earlier with an extensive program
• Include 2 volunteers SBB and involve the Bird Nature Protection Working Group.

o Communication

The communication must be in the hands of a person who is proficient in his English speaking communication. The communication between the teachers and the organizer was via mail and was positively experienced.

o Presentation

The presentation is considered to be sufficient in terms of retaining the attention of the children. Not too long and fascinating enough. It is also a very enthusiastic class.

o Technical support

As far as the location is concerned, we must determine where we can hold the Skype session. The technical realization of the internet connection and the installation of the necessary program did not go as desired. Of course, the ICT environment within the school is highly protected and of course this also interferes with external contacts. A Webcam or camera will be finer because then the whole class can be present at the skype-meeting. Now we only had a limited group. Uptime testing was a great idea. Make a test connection.

o Planning for next year.

There are three classes on this level next year. The wish is to extend this project to three classes. A learning program will be prepared in advance. We will start with that program in January 2018.

Also the approach at Staatsbosbeheer will be discussed as well as an inventory of the possibilities for pupils to take part in nature in Oostvaardersplassen, but possibly also in Almeerderhout.

• Other business:

Patricia becomes increasingly enthusiastic about what we can do next year.
In the coming year, the topic of 'Sustainable Nature' will be an important theme.
Gert Jan will speak with Hans-Erik Kuypers (Warden OVP) and Jeanine Keurentjes (Manager Buitencentra OVP) to see how we can contribute.

Finally:

We can look back on a particularly fun and well-run pilot.
The conclusion is: Next year, pick up again with three classes.

(Report by Gert-Jan Knoet)

Contact: *Hans-Erik Kuypers*; *(warden Wetland centre)*

Netherlands: Buitencentrum "Oostvaardersplassen" (2)

Geese do not fly under the radar anymore 28th of September 2017

The Oostvaardersplassen is an area where thousands of geese arrive throughout the year. Geese staying in the area during the day are accurately tracked by monitoring from an airplane. The 'Bird and Nature Guard Flevoland' performs a number of sleeping place counts each year, which provides valuable information, but so far we have not been able to map out the exact movements of the geese during the night.

In the first two weeks of October (2017) a pilot will be started in the Oostvaardersplassen with a radar, that also can record at night how many geese are in the area and where they are. We do this for a better understanding what impact the geese in the area at night have on the system. On the one hand, to monitor the effect of these geese on the nutrient cycle of the Oostvaardersplassen.

Because the geese feed during the day outside the Oostvaardersplassen, they take nutrients from the outside to the Oostvaardersplassen, which then come into the system via the droppings, but in the morning they can also transport nutrients from the Oostvaardersplassen to the outside. On the other hand, geese can also graze at night, affecting food supply for other plant breeders in the system. In this way we hope to get additional information on the regular sleeping place and geese counts executed by the 'Bird and Nature Guard Flevoland'.

In this pilot, geese will be counted by a radar for 24 hours on three different days in the first two weeks of October (each year the arrival of a few tens of thousands of birds). After two weeks, the radar will disappear from the area again. If this method proves to be successful, we will investigate to what extent the methodology could be integrated into the ongoing monitoring of the Oostvaardersplassen.

In case you want to see more about this item, please go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDZycWLz0IE

Warden Mikal Folkertsma in Oostvaardersplassen

Netherlands: Biesbosch

Contact: Thomas van der Es, Staatsbosbeheer

Luxembourg: Biodiversum Remerschen

Contact: Patric Lorgé,

Nature centre "het Zwin"

The 'small' advantages of a warm network.

Being member of the MBP network has not only the big advantage of having the opportunity to participate in the annual reunion, which means lots of interesting information in a very warm-hearted atmosphere.

It also gives us the possibility of getting answers to questions asked by our visitors, data we need for our centres and more.

For the Zwin Nature Park during the last year we contacted several of our colleagues and we always received interesting information and very friendly replies.
We were calling on Spain: Edorta Unamuno (Urdaibai Bird Center) for information on technical aspects of their superb telescope-screen system, on Ponce Feliu (Aiguamolls) for the question on storks wading in the Mediterranean, on Russia Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy (BfN) whether he knew of pictures of black-tailed godwit with chicks, a similar question for Oostvaardersplassen, on Sweden for information on ringing birds, …

I myself I am ashamed that I was not able yet to go to Amaya for the BirdFlyway, but I am very nearly ready with the preparation for it. All this -seemingly small- advantages were of great help and it is reassuring that we have the possibility of given so much information to the public with the back-up support of so many wetland centres.

Many thanks to the whole network; it is a real pleasure to participate in it.
Roelof and Chris many thanks, hope the MBP will flourish further on.

Leo Declercq
Environmental Education
Zwin Natuur Park
www.zwin.be

Informatiecentrum Uitkerkse Polder

Breeding birds in the Uitkerkse Polder in 2017

For years, the number of breeding meadow birds increased in the Uitkerkse Polder. The increase was noticeably similar to the growth of the reserve area. However, This has changed in the last five years: despite the continued growth of the reserve, the number of pasture birds did not increase, and for some species even a slight decrease. At first sight no reason for panic: meadow birds have a year with less chicks, but they live long enough to catch up with bad years afterwards. In addition, we can assume that Uitkerke also has to reach the maximum possible breeding birds.
However, it became apparent that we should really worry: cold and especially long-lasting droughts in spring appear to a regular phenomenon and meadow bird populations appear to be in decline everywhere. This has been evident for several years, e.g. the Godwit, but since 2016 there are also alarming reports about more common species, such as the Lapwing, whose international decline is a recent 30% decline.

For the Uitkerkse Polder management team it has been clear for a long time: the only possible response to the problem of drought was an active water level management and the creation of buffer zones. The concrete means for this was found in the Netherlands, where **solar panel pumps** are used for water level management in pasture areas. In 2016 we have installed a first solar panel pump in Uitkerke. With this we were able to steer the water level in 4 ha of grassland. In March 2017 we added three more, in each case for pasture birds, key core areas. That was too early, because 2017 became a disaster for pasture birds. Thanks to the solar panel pumps, the damage could be limited.

The breeding season started well: the water level was ok, March was hot, most of the pasture birds were present in normal numbers. However, from early April to mid-May it became cold with night temperatures below zero. As a result, all of the chicks hatched in March. Moreover, from April to June, there was hardly a drop of rain. Pools, puddles and ditches dried out rapidly, pasture birds began to leave the completely dry plots in May. They partly moved to the low core areas, where from the middle of May a lot of chicks could grow up. This was also the case in the four wet zones, but unfortunately, two of the pumps fell out. Here the breeding birds left again. However, in the other two wet zones, the results were spectacular, including large numbers of Godwits, Redshanks and Avocets, a critical species such as the Garganey and, moreover, an influx of Stilts, possibly due to drought in the southern breeding areas.

Concluding: 2017 was a bad year for meadow birds for the fifth consecutive year. It was even the worst year since the establishment of the nature reserve. In order to maintain the population, sufficient juveniles must be able to grow up each year to compensate for the natural mortality of older birds. If that does not happen, the population will decrease. That's what we now see happen.
Climate change, and especially the extreme droughts in spring, are the main cause, but their adverse effects are hampered by human activities: the continued loss of grasslands and the dewatering management of the polder boards. The recent collapse of populations Lapwings is the sad consequence of this.

In the Uitkerkse Polder we could somewhat reduce the damage by means of targeted interventions. Traditional management is not enough, increase of water level is the crucial factor. By installing solar panel pumps we were able to safeguard some important core breeding areas for pasture birds. In the next few years, we will therefore create more recovery zones. As long as the government and the polder

boards refuse to take into account the natural values in terms of water level management, that is the only solution.

Report by: Franky Beidts, Dirk Content, Geert Declerq, Filip Vanhee, John Van Gompel

Contact : Anneleen Lybeer

United Kingdom : Slimbridge

Contact: Chris Rostron

United Kingdom, Welney

Contact: Leigh Marshall

France: Baie de Somme

Fabian Jansen
Responsable d'explotation Maison de la Baie de Somme.
80230 Lancheres
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Mobile: +33 632547881

To watch a short movie about Baie the Somme: go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alsaB4qSEjw

France: La Maison du Lac De-Grand-Lieu.

Incredible Travellers through Wetlands!

and…. a kind request for cooperation from MBP-partners…

Since 2014, the Grand-Lieu Lake Centre has proposed to the public a guided tour on heritage interpretation and environmental education. The interpretation path (between the Centre and the lake) and the pavilion (in front of the lake) are mostly focused on raising awareness and bird watching.

The centre hosts a permanent exhibition and several temporary exhibitions.
Among the various exhibitions hosted since the opening, two have been carried out by the staff, and a third one is currently under development.
The former exhibitions were: « The Monsters of the Lake», about the research of the famous biologist, Jean Rostand, about polydactyl frogs at Grand-Lieu, and « The Guerlain Years », about the uses of the lake during the 20th century.

The « **Incredible Travellers** », will be about migration of wetland species and will be presented to the public next spring.

"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 28 (November, 2017)

Animal migration is an unavoidable topic, widely covered in environmental education centres, however the subject will be treated from an original approach. We will not only deal with birds, we will also present migration or dispersal in other freshwater species.
The species of birds, illustrating the exhibition, are present on the Lake of Grand-Lieu, but also in your area, that is why **we are soliciting your participation**!

Indeed, we would like to contact the members of the MBP to ensure **the real-time transmission of the videos** of your watching areas and thus to associate you with the exhibition.
The images from four interpretation centres would be displayed simultaneously, which can be a "window" on your wetlands. The objective is to be able to observe migratory birds on their flyway along the East Atlantic coast.
We sincerely hope that this project will attract your attention, as we believe that this initiative is consistent with the actions of the MBP.

For any information, please send your mails to a.cadou@maisondulacdegrandlieu.com

Contact : Olivier HUBERT (Directeur) and **Audrey CADOU** (Ecologist)

La Maison du Lac de Grand-Lieu
Rue du Lac – 44830 BOUAYE
Tel. : 02 49 10 90 01
Mob. : 06 12 23 47 83
www.maisondulacdegrandlieu.com
Rejoignez-nous sur Facebook

Spain: Urdaibai Bird Center

The third issue of the digital magazine URDAIBAI RESERVE is published.

Have a look at the news happened during summertime at the Urdaibai Bird Center and the reserve.
Urdaibai Bird Center is proud to present the third issue of the Digital Magazine URDAIBAI Reserve, the central theme of which is summer.
Discover the natural and cultural diversity of the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve through its beautiful images and texts.
Featuring forests, birds, people, animals and incredible journeys, the magazine is a window onto the reserve in summer.
Open it and take in the views of this magical place, The Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve.
https://goo.gl/d7Btyi

Don't miss it!

Contact: Jose Unamuno & Edorta Unamuno

Please have also a look at the webcam of Urdaibai
Perhaps you can connect it to one screen in your centre.:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=XQiAZv5f5M8

Spain: Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

Contact: Ponç Feliu, Visitor centre Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

Spain: Ebro Delta

Contact: Xavier Escuté

Spain: las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

Contact : Teresa López Aledo, Dirección General de Medio Ambiente -Consejería de Presidencia de la Región de Murcia

Portugal : Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area

Contact: Sandra Paiva Silva

MBP Africa

Banc d'Arguin, Mauritania

Contact: Mr Yelli Diawara

Parc National Djoudj, Senegal

Reflection on the MBP- Annual Meeting 2017 by Gabin Agblonon, Wetlands International Afrique

After several attempts in the past, the Luxembourg rally at the beginning of October 2017 was the very first opportunity to realize the opportunity to attend an annual meeting of the Migratory Birds for People Network. So through my modest person, the African side and especially the three centers / sites of West Africa currently members of the network, we were able to share verbally what is done globally in terms of activities on the ground.

This gathering was a window open to the world and through which we tried to share our successes while also highlighting the difficulties encountered, the challenges that arise, the prospects in view as well as the support we need for a good and better development of the actions that are taking place.
A forum for reflection and discussion, this meeting also allowed us to discuss the opportunities for collaboration that we can seize to better know, improve and even enrich what we do. We were given the space to discuss a number of ideas for initiatives that would increase awareness of the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats in our spaces, particularly through school children and other members of the community. local communities at the site level.

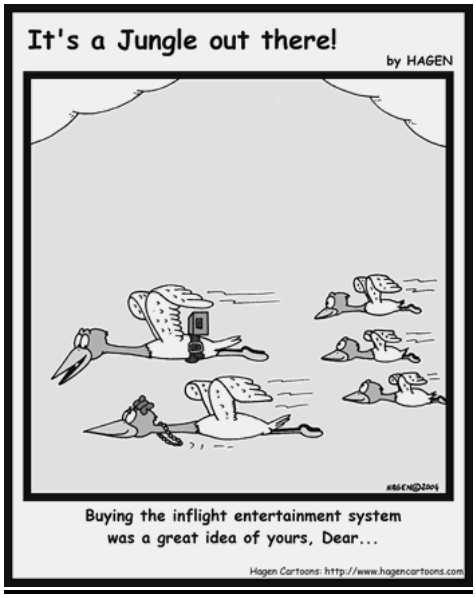
The network constitutes a real integration lever by which we can strengthen ourselves in terms of improving technical skills, in terms of exchanging experiences that can be put to use, but also through the forum of communication, sharing and dissemination of information offered by the MBP network.
Looking at all of these potential insurmountable benefits, but also in continuity with what we are already doing as Wetlands International, we are encouraging centers and other sites at the level of Africa and particularly in the Atlantic-East flyway to join the network. In doing so, the efforts of communication, education and public awareness made locally will be consolidated for more actions and mobilization for the conservation, protection and enhancement of migratory waterbirds for the benefit of men.

More influence and growth on the MBP-network in Africa!

Gabin Agblonon
Project manager
Wetlands International Africa

Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea-Bissau

Contact: Mr Meio Dia, coordinator of Reserva da Biosfera do Arquipélago de Bolama Bijagós

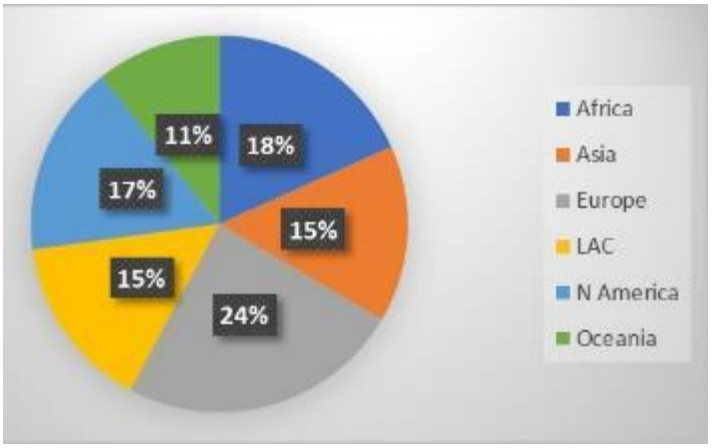


Other MBP- network news

World Wetland Survey

WWT/WLI worked with the World Wetlands Network (WWN) and the Society of Wetland Scientists to run a citizen science survey of the status and trend of wetlands in 2017. We had over 600 responses, of which 541 were usable, from across 92 countries and in seven languages. There was a good spread across the regions of the world with at least 50 from each continent.

The survey results are only just in, so the coordinating group will work on the results and announce them shortly, but they are giving some great indications of how wetlands are doing according to those that work and live in them.



The data will show what the key pressures are per region and whether they are increasing or reducing, if the size and quality has changed, whether Ramsar designation is positive in protecting wetlands, as well as giving us a great insight into who the respondents are.

Detailed results will be released in the next couple of months.

Contact Chris Rostron for more information, or see the brief initial report here.

MBP congratulates Prof. Dr. Theunis Piersma !

British *Marsh Award for International Ornithology* won by Theunis Piersma

(Source: Google)
Jury: "Scientific work of high policy relevance"

Professor Theunis Piersma, of the University of Groningen and of the NIOZ Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, has been awarded the prestigious Marsh Award for International Ornithology by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). The award, which is presented annually, is given to an individual scientist whose work on the international stage has had a significant influence on British ornithology. This year, the Marsh Award for International Ornithology has been awarded to Professor Theunis Piersma in recognition of his scientific work on migration, ecology and evolution of birds and other taxa.
Using Red Knots and Black-tailed Godwits as the main study species, Theunis and his group established a framework to predict the physical attributes and behaviour of individuals based on climatic, disease and food related factors. His work as also focused on the evolutionary trade-offs involved in predation and anti-

predatory behaviour across different species along the food chain. This work, in particular, holds high policy-relevance, as it informs on the risk of overexploitation of marine areas as well as our countryside.
Professor Piersma was also one of the driving forces in establishing the Global Flyway Network, which focuses on long-term demographic studies of shorebirds to identify natural selection pressures on this beleaguered group of birds.

Professor Theunis Piersma, said, "The Marsh Award is a fantastic recognition of what we have been trying to achieve as an international team, carefully deciphering the ecological factors determining their distributions and numbers, what these epic migrants have to say about the state our shared world. As deeply amazing the shorebirds are in their own right, they also have a role for us to play as the canaries in the global coal-mine."
As well as a leading academic, he is also a dedicated mentor to the younger generation of scientists. He has supervised 50 PhD students and 20 postdocs, and he and his team hosts visiting students and scientists from all over the World.

News from our MBP-partner EUROSITE:

2017 Year of Twinning

The concept of twinning European cities is already well known, now Eurosite aims to make the twinning of natural sites just as widespread and talked about. We are well placed to do this – twinning is in our DNA. Established in 1989, Eurosite evolved out of the *European Natural Sites Twinning Programme*, which linked 33 sites across Europe since 1987. This programme demonstrated the clear demand for knowledge-exchange on practical nature management and two years later in 1989, the Eurosite network was born.
To commemorate 30 years of twinning and celebrate our activities in this field, we have proclaimed 2017 as the **Eurosite Year of Twinning**.

Twinning sites is a core Eurosite tool for knowledge-exchange. Eurosite members interested in twinning are able to take advantage of Eurosite's expertise and services in this area to establish a twinning, including support with:

- Finding a twinning partner from within (and occasionally outside) the network
- Developing a Twinning Agreement to formalise the cooperation
- Promoting and publicising the twinning
- Ongoing support and guidance on achieving the goals of the twinning throughout the twinning period (typically four years)
- Neutral mediation in the unlikely case of a disagreement

The twinning partners decide the purpose, content and duration of their joint work. To find an appropriate partner, please check the Eurosite Twinning Partner Search Board »

Twinning types

There are typically two types of twinning. The first is the more traditional **twinning between organisations or natural sites**. The focus of these twinnings could, for example, be on the transfer of knowledge from one site to another, or on the exchanges of staff, volunteers and students.

If partners prefer to collaborate on specific research projects or the development of mutually interesting projects, they can also choose a **thematic twinning**. This type of twinning focuses on a specific theme (e.g. communication, recreation, climate change mitigation, the protection of a certain species) and can involve all kinds of stakeholders, such as site managers, municipalities, local communities, tourist organisations and businesses.

Themes currently in consideration for a thematic twinning:

- Natural grazers;
- Working with farmers in and around protected sites;
- Natura 2000 sites as touristic (eco.. education..) destinations;
- Successful Climate Change adaptation projects;
- Invasive Alien Species;
- Involvement of volunteers in site management activities.

Read more? Link: http://eurosite.org/site-management/twinning

TWINNING FRAMEWORK

Our 2016 twinning workshop in the Netherlands started the process of developing a **Natura 2000 Twinning Framework**.

The framework is expected to be published later this year

"Migratory Birds for People" certificate

The core group has a certificate available by which the participating visitor centre can show that they are a member of the `Migratory Birds for People`- network.

This certificate can be obtained for free.

Just write an email to **r.b.heringa@gmail.com** and we will send you a certificate.

Ce certificat peut encore être obtenu gratuitement.
Il suffit d'écrire un courriel à **r.b.heringa@gmail.com**
et nous vous enverrons un certificat.

"Migratory Birds for People" T-shirt and Mug.

We have created our own MBP-t-shirt. (price: approx.. € 10,= / excl. mailing costs)

Please let me know if you are interested and send me your details about number and size .
You could also obtain your own MBP-mug.
The price of this item is: € 5,= (excl. mailing costs)

Send your message to:
r.b.heringa@gmail.com

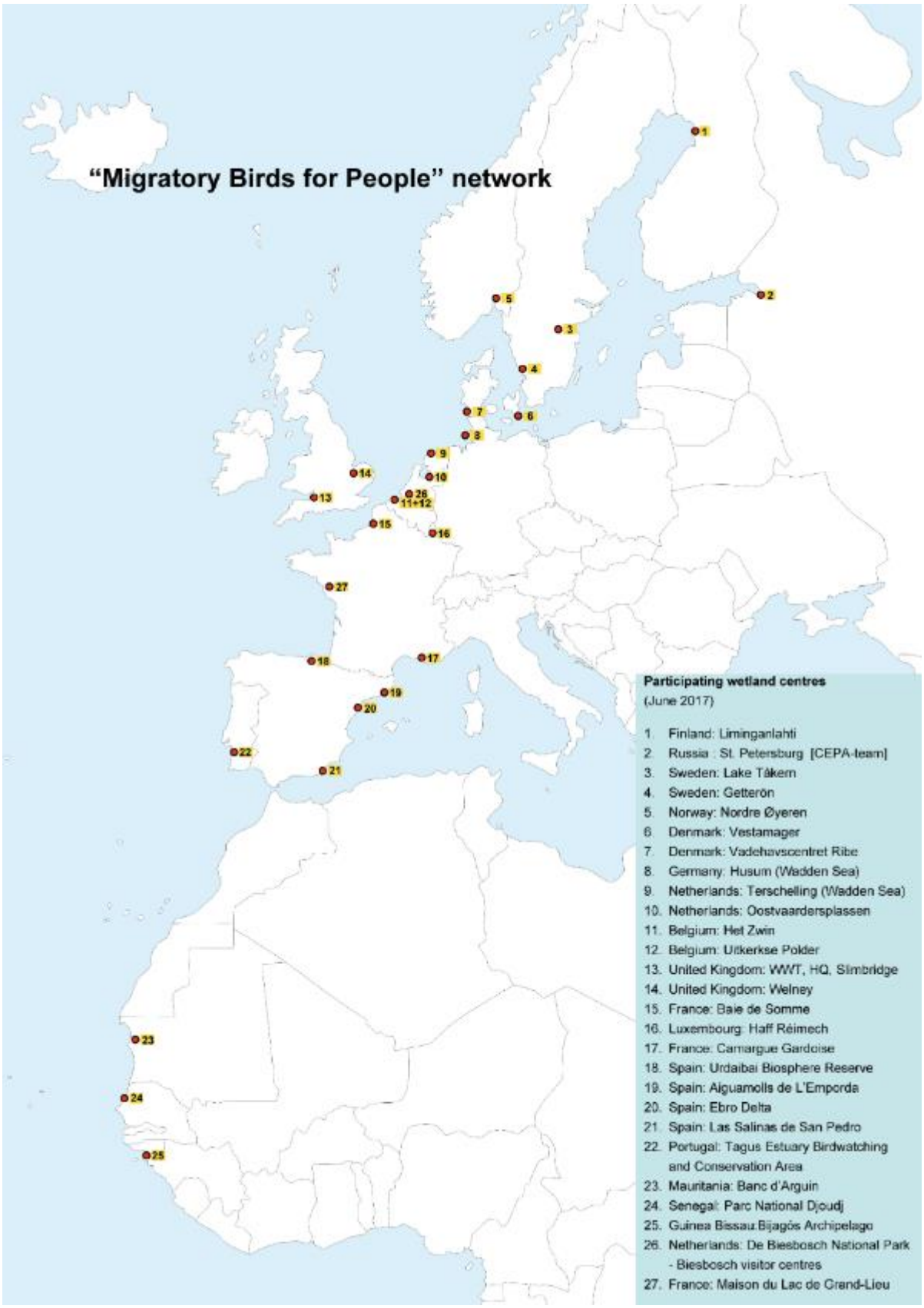
The team of the Urdaibai Center wearing our MBP-T-shirt with pride!

New names in the Core-group:

- Wetlands International: Cy Griffin
- Baltic Fund for Nature (BFN) : Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy
- La Maison du Lac-de Grand-Lieu: Audrey Cadou
- Wetlands International West-Africa: Gabin Agblonon

Taej Mundkur (Wetlands International) and Theo de Bruin (Independent) have left the core-group, but will remain involved in our MBP-network.

Supplement:


"Migratory Birds for People" network
Participating wetland centres
(June 2017)
1. Finland: Liminganlahti
2. Russia : St. Petersburg [CEPA-team]
3. Sweden: Lake Tåkern
4. Sweden: Getterön
5. Norway: Nordre Øyeren
6. Denmark: Vestamager
7. Denmark: Vadehavscentret Ribe
8. Germany: Husum (Wadden Sea)
9. Netherlands: Terschelling (Wadden Sea)
10. Netherlands: Oostvaardersplassen
11. Belgium: Het Zwin
12. Belgium: Uitkerkse Polder
13. United Kingdom: WWT, HQ, Slimbridge
14. United Kingdom: Welney
15. France: Baie de Somme
16. Luxembourg: Haff Réimech
17. France: Camargue Gardoise
18. Spain: Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve
19. Spain: Aiguamolls de L'Emporda
20. Spain: Ebro Delta
21. Spain: Las Salinas de San Pedro
22. Portugal: Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area
23. Mauritania: Banc d'Arguin
24. Senegal: Parc National Djoudj
25. Guinea Bissau:Bijagós Archipelago
26. Netherlands: De Biesbosch National Park - Biesbosch visitor centres
27. France: Maison du Lac de Grand-Lieu

Finland : **Liminka Bay Visitor Center**
Contact: Ulla Matturi and **Heli Suurkuukkaa and Petri Lampila**
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Tel. +358 40 832 1781
Email : Ulla.Matturi@metsa.fi and heli.suurkuukka@metsa.fi and petra.lampila@metsa.fi
Website : www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/.../liminganlahti and www.liminganlahti.fi

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Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern
Contact: Malin Granlund-Feldt, Manager Naturum Lake Tåkern,
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……
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==========

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Mob.:+47-46544672
Email: ts@fetsundlenser.no
Website address: http://www.fetsundlenser.no/nordre-oyeren-naturinformasjonssenter.html

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Phone: +7(812) 328 96 20
Email: eugene@bfn.org.ru **or:** genelt.yanovskiy@gmail.com
Websites : http://www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/europe/nature-watch-baltic
http://web.me.com/naturewatch.

Denmark: Nature Centre Vestamager

Contact: Rune Kjaergaard Lange, Naturvejleder and **Jes Aagaard ,** Naturvejleder
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Email: rukla@nst.dk
Website: www.udinaturen.dk

Denmark: VADEHAVSCENTRET

Contact: Klaus Melbye | Head & guide
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Vester Vedsted
6760 Ribe
tel. (+45) 75 44 61 61
Mob.: (+45) 51 20 61 60
mail. km@vadehavscentret.dk
web. www.vadehavscentret.dk

Germany : Nationalpark - Haus Husum

Contact: **Dr. Hans-Ulrich Rösner**
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Email: roesner@wwf.de
info@nationalparkhaus-husum.de
Website: www.nationalparkhaus-husum.de
www.wwf.de/wattenmeer

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Contact: Freek Zwart , manager / Joeri Lamers, warden
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Email: f.zwart@staatsbosbeheer.nl

2nd contact: Joeri Lamers
Mob: +31-653669318
Email: j.lamers@staatsbosbeheer.nl

Netherlands: Buitencentrum "Oostvaardersplassen"

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Mob: +31-615054539
Email s.bonekamp@staatsbosbeheer.nl and he.kuipers@staatsbosbeheer.nl
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Netherlands: N.P. de Biesbosch

Contact: Thomas van der Es, warden
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Belgium: Bezoekerscentrum Uitkerkse Polder

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Mob.:
E-mail: anneleen.lybeer@natuurpunt.be
Website www.natuurpunt.be/blankenberge

Belgium: Bezoekerscentrum Het Zwin

Contact: Leo de Clercq:+32-50403311
Contact: Kris Struyf: +32-50619342
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W www.west-vlaanderen.be

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M +44 (0)7906 564 641
Skype: Chris.Rostron1
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W wli.org.uk

United Kingdom: WWT, Welney

Contact: Leigh Marshall (manager Wetland Centre)
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Tel.:+44 1353 860711
E: leigh.marshall@wwt.org.uk
W: http://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/welney

Luxembourg: Biodiversum Remerschen

Contact: Patric Lorgé, expert en ornithologie
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Site: Haus vun der Natur, Kockelscheuer
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Centrale Ornithologique Luxembourg, Biodiversum Remerschen

France: Baie de Somme

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email: patrick.triplet1@orange.fr
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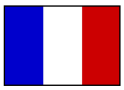
Contact : Benoit Marsal
Chef de projet Développement
Service aménagement
Tél: +33-3 22 20 11 78
Mobile: +33-6 86 67 97 94
Email: benoitmarsal@baiedesomme.fr

Email:fabienjansen@baiedesomme.fr

 **France: La Maison du Lac de Grand-Lieu**

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email : pfeliu@serpa.cat and sromero@gencat.cat
website:www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aiguamolls_de_l'Empordà
www.iberianature.com

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