MBP annual meeting, 12th to the 14th September 2016

Monday, 12th September.

Lessons learnt from Amager site and activities:

- We joined a school group, aged around 10 years old, working wild game that had been shot at Amager. The pupils worked in groups to dissect a duck or pheasant, looking at how the bird is adapted. The pupils enjoyed the exercise and were later given the option to eat the meat that they had cut up as part of lunch.

- The Centre also ran activities for people with special needs, such as bike maintenance and practical activities around the site.

- The Café used locally sourced food, including meat sourced from cows and deer raised on the site, seasonal fruit and vegetables and locally brewed beers.

Monday afternoon:

Practical exercise! Each group was given a task of preparing an outreach / education session based on migratory birds, to a particular audience. The group came up with some nice examples of how to deliver this, based on their experience and objects/props that they found at Amager site! (Include some pictures of participants doing this)

Some presentations from partners on work they are currently delivering (RH do we need to put some summaries in here? Or make a link to presentations?)

Monday evening: Trip to the Deer Park, north of Copenhagen.   Jes explained the history of the park, and how the wildlife service manages it. Some great views of rutting stags, with their female harems. Also useful talk about how this is presented to the media, and how large numbers of local people use the park.

Tuesday, 13th September

Discussions:

1. Life Project, Theo de Bruin.

Can it fund core group activities to support the project? Would be good to look at both education / engagement work, but also behaviour change, to see concrete actions deliver.

World / European themed days – already many of these exist, but should be promoted and explained to members. Would be useful to use them to see some activity or communication across the network. Opportunity to do a Skype connection with several / all of the partners?

World Migratory Bird Day. Wanda introduced Terschelling's activities for WMBD which included games themed around migratory birds, and teaching children about the importance of the migration route. Wanda and Joeri proposed that these types of activities could be shared amongst sites, possibly including a Skype or other link up with twinned sites.

CR suggested that we work harder to promote these days, and offer sites each other's details so that they can communicate. This could also be done via a central forum to share pictures and results of activities.

2. Membership

Some confusion still about the difference between WLI and MBP. This needs to be made clearer both in the membership forms / joining process, but also in the website which most people do not find easy to understand. CR will be working on creating a new website. Key things to see from this include: Up front links to MBP and other regional projects; explanation of wider WLI network and how MBP fits with this; searchable database for project ideas and activities, to follow a set format; map available on home page, with MBP members identified by use of logo on their map pinpoint.

Use these annual meetings to get work done on practical aspects of MBP (e.g. acitivity sheets, review website, get responses to survey etc.)

Interesting site: ebirds.org

Migratory Birds Day is May 13th 2017

Joeri Lamers came up with an idea for migratory birds day: Establishment of friendship classes at primary schools, exchange of data, pictures, etc. more or less like the Urdaibai scholars project/program

1. Some thoughts about the network.

After an introduction by Chris, the question was asked to everyone what their personal needs were in terms of the MBP network and its facilities. What do we need to do to improve the cooperation?

What do we need to do;

– It would be good if more managers would/could be available
– The people on the ground should do it

– Updating the MBP website needs to be done
– Appointing someone to bring new ideas to realization
– Shared things should easily fit in everyone's programme like the migratory Day program in Terschelling

Chris showing website, where to find different programmes, etc. Chris makes a link from the MBP site to the WLI-learning and schools part.

MBP centres are placed in the overall European map without any specific recognition. Could that be changed? For example by using the MBP logo? MBP should be a practical tool for members to work together.

Website is difficult when hardly used. Mark the MBP members on the map with the logo. State what are conditions to become a member? Is there a minimum set of activities / commitments that members should do?

What should we do to increase the cooperation within in the network? Juliano: why do we have to do more than what we currently do? Maybe this is what we should concentrate on doing without losing more energy.

Rune - We are in the network to tell the story. This wetland is part of a bigger thing. We're very busy with day to day activities. It still is a good story for us to tell the visitors. There are big issues in Africa about birds being captured; eaten. We have different stories at this place

Roelof - There is positive news. Look at Urdaibai and their commitment.

Chris to do:
– Improve website
– Condition of becoming member is to provide information and take part
– Better structure for data about educational methods, e.g. a standard format of examples that is searchable

2. Feedback from 'Walk of MBP wonders', when each group took a walk and discussed ideas.

Roelof:
– Website; explain how we are connected; explain about other organisations
– Individual websites of centres, explaining info about migratory birds should have a link to MBP
– Sharing materials about new ideas; example bird bingo; small description and format to link to the website. Used as handout for the teachers
– Common activities to be announced annually. E.g. Skype meetings that centres can partake in.
– Special days; nice to have an explanation about these days and a reminder when they are due to happen
– Skype communication during special days from centres.

Joeri:

–   Why are centres joining MBP? Because of the value we see in the network and sharing best practice and information.

–   Patric. We connect habitats of birds all over the world. Looking for data, searching for addresses found in MBP.

–   We can find centres, share ideas and find other ideas, collaborating in a low cost network.

–   Network MBP is meeting the expectations being a basic network, where it needs a good website

–   As a partner or member, you also have to deliver information, shared experiences, not only take.

–   Annual meetings are an important phenomenon because that's where we start connecting

Juliano:

–   Non-active members. Start pin-pointing not partaking members, start a dialogue, asking them why they are not coming?

–   Is it a big problem not everybody is attending every time? No genius solutions except for ZEN courses for Chris and Roelof!

Next Annual Meeting will be held in Luxembourg 2 and 3 October

3. Evening presentations

DOF(Danish Ornithological Foundation, Birdlife) presentation from Mark Desholm on migration detection techniques.

Copenhagen University, Bird Migration and monitoring and what we still don't know about why and how migrations happen, Kasper Thorup

Wednesday the 14th September, Trip to Bla Planet national Aquarium, Copenhagen

The group had the opportunity to visit the Aquarium, and talk with the head of learning activities. We learnt about the programmes that they run, and visited their 'learning lab', where students get to experience hands-on programmes with aquatic fauna.

We also had a trip 'behind the scenes' to look at how the aquarium is run, and how the fish and other exhibits are kept healthy and looked after. An amazing visit! We then had some time to explore the aquarium, noting the great interpretation that they have, some of it very high tech and interactive, some of it very basic but hands-on, like the 'touch tank' exhibit where you can pick things out of the water.