



Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

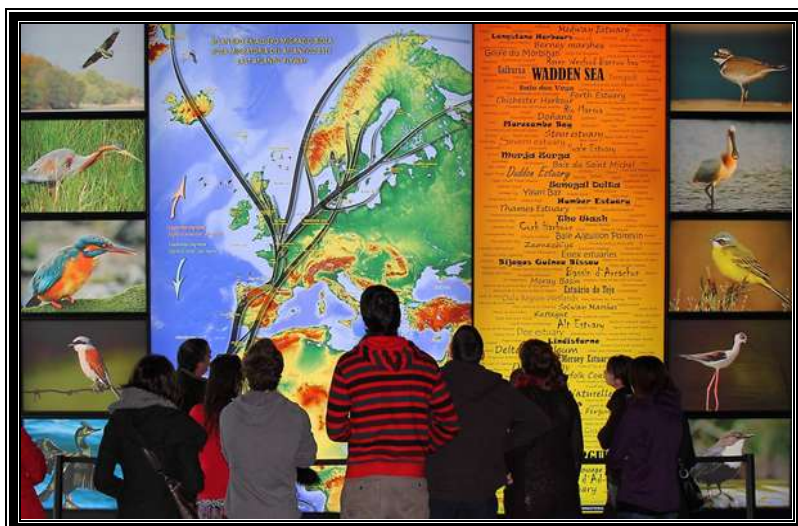
Atlantic Region

Sharing wetland centre best practice between Natura 2000 sites along the East Atlantic flyway

Date: 13th to the 16th of September 2015

Venue: Urdaibai Bird Center, Basque Country, Spain

Register at EUROSITE by the 1st of September



The meeting will include:

- Best practice from wetland managers across the Atlantic region on wetland centre and Natura 2000 site management
- International sustainable Tourism Network - Bird Flyway Project
- Project development and fund-raising advice on joint cross-boundary projects between wetland sites in different countries
- Communications workshop on tools and methodology to engage people at and between sites
- Visit to local sites and projects in the Basque region.
- Migratory Birds for People Annual Meeting 2015

*This event is being held with European Commission and Basque government support. The event is free to attend, but attendees must cover their own accommodation costs.

The working language will be English.

For further information, please contact the [Head of WLI](#).



Introduction

During the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process Atlantic kick-off Seminar, the coastal and dunes habitat group identified cross-boundary issues as a cross cutting theme. Amongst others, the need to establish cross-border collaborations to share knowledge and create ecological networks was stressed. Moreover, a series of solutions proposed for the cross cutting theme of cross-boundary issues were: timing and synchronisation of management planning, showcasing best practices (e.g. biosphere reserves and Ramsar sites) and sharing experiences among Natura 2000 areas in different countries.

The importance of the involvement of already existing networks of stakeholders was also highlighted, with lack of communication with stakeholders and the public identified as one of the main issues in management of the coastal habitats in the Atlantic region.

One of the most conspicuous examples of species needing cross-boundary collaboration through Natura 2000 areas is migratory birds. In Europe, birds coming from their breeding grounds in the Arctic use Atlantic coastal wetlands as stepping-stones to reach their wintering grounds in western Europe and Africa (this route is called the East Atlantic Flyway). Bird populations need healthy ecosystems along their travelling routes, which cross countries and even different continents. The commitment of stakeholders is needed across all routes covered by migratory birds.

In this context cross-boundary cooperation across the Atlantic region of Europe is critical for the protection of migratory bird species. For this reason, the Migratory Birds for People programme is holding a workshop to exchange knowledge on cross-boundary collaboration for the conservation of migratory birds and on engaging stakeholders in the conservation of migratory birds.

Workshop goals:

- Showcase case studies of cross boundary cooperation on the conservation of migratory birds in Natura 2000 areas;
- Showcase the Urdabai example (a biosphere reserve and Natura 2000 area) as a hub for international cooperation and a good practice example;
- Showcase the work of the Migratory Birds for People programme (one of the most important networks of stakeholders in the Atlantic biogeographical region) to the nature conservation community around Europe as an example of successful cross-boundary cooperation;
- Identify the main issues when working across boundaries and identify potential solutions.

About the Migratory Birds for People Network

The Migratory Birds for People Network consists of 25 partner wetland visitor centres across Europe and Africa, forming a network that follows the flight path of many migratory wetland bird species. These centres are working together to share best practice and develop new approaches to delivering wetland messages to their visitors. For more information see www.migratorybirdsforpeople.org.



About the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process

The purpose of the Biogeographical Process is to help Member States to manage Natura 2000 as a coherent ecological network, whilst exchanging experience and best practice, addressing objectives and priorities and enhancing cooperation and synergies. Consensus building through the participation of diverse stakeholders is a key tool in the essential dialogue required for the effective management of Natura 2000 sites.

Pilar Rodriguez, a Eurosite representative, will also deliver a presentation on the second day of the workshops, which will provide participants with a more indepth overview of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process.

About the Natura 2000 Communication Platform:

Launched in 2013, the Platform is set to become a vital source of information for Natura 2000 practitioners throughout Europe. The Natura 2000 Platform is a web-based resource that facilitates and underpins the face-to-face networking of the Process and provides information about upcoming events, as well as reports and documents from previous events. The platform contains a forum, through which stakeholders and experts can ask questions and make contact with others involved in Natura 2000 management, as well as contribute news about their projects and other Natura 2000 related activities.

Visit the [Natura 2000 Communication Platform](#) and subscribe to the [newsletter](#).

For more information contact: <mailto:natura2000platform@ecnc.org>



13th September – Sunday

Arrival in Bilbao; collected and taken directly to Urdaibai

- 14.00 MBP side event
- 16.30 Urdaibai Bird Center (Tour of the centre)
- 20.30 Dinner

14th September – Monday – URDAIBAI BIRD CENTER

- 8:30 Bus pick up from hotels
- 9.00 **Registration**
- 9.30 **Session 1: INTRODUCTION**
 - Welcome from Basque country Government, Urdaibai authorities and Urdaibai Bird Center/Gaia (20 minutes)
 - Introduction to MBP and aims of meeting
(Speaker: Chris Rostron - Head of Wetland Link International, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust)
 - Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process
(Speaker: Pilar Rodríguez, Eurosite representative)
- 10.30-11.00 Coffee break and Knowledge Market
 - Urdaibai Bird Center Presentation
(Speaker: Jose Mari Unamuno - Director of Urdaibai Bird Center)
 - Living lab - Smart Territory Urdaibai Bird Center case
(Speaker: Jokin Garatea - GAIA-Basque country cluster)
- 12.00 Lunch Break. Visit to Gernika.
- 14:30 **Session 2: INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM NETWORK**
 - BasqueTour and wetlands (presentation from Basque Tourist Board)
 - Bird Flyway project, an example of cross border cooperation
(Speaker: Fernando Jubete - Director of Bird Flyway project)
- 15.30-15.45 Coffee break and Knowledge Market
 - Session 3: FUNDING POSSIBILITIES**
 - EU funding possibilities for Cross boundary collaboration
(Speaker: Itziar Vidaurreta - GAIA-Basque country cluster)
- 17.00 Snack
 - Session 4: NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND COMMUNICATION**
 - MBP film development (Speaker: Katja Fedrowitz)
 - New technologies for centre collaboration and bird migration monitoring
(Speaker: Urdaibai representative)
- 17:30
- 19.00 Dinner



15th September – Tuesday

PLACE: MADARIAGA DORRETxea (Biodiversity Centre of the Basque Country and Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve Office)

- 8.30 Bus pick up from hotels
- 9.00 **Session 5: NATURE 2000 & Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve**
 - Nature 2000 site and biosphere reserve management / communication (Speaker Urdaibai, Basque Government Biodiversity Manager)
 - LIFE project experience from Urdaibai (Speaker Urdaibai, Basque Government Biodiversity Manager)
- 10:00 Coffee Break and Knowledge Market
- 10:30 **Session 6: COLLABORATION CASE STUDEIS**
 - Presentation about Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process (Pilar Rodríguez, Eurosite representative)
 - Case studies of cross border collaboration (maximum 20 minutes each)
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14.00-16.00 **Session 7: WORKSHOP ON GOOD PRACTICE**
 - Presentations of study cases on trans-boundary cooperation and examples of synchronous management planning of species in different countries (40 minutes)
 - Facilitated discussions to compile recommendations on how to work in international collaborations. (1 hour and 20 minutes)
 (Invited speakers)
- 16:00-16:30 Coffee break and Knowledge Market
- 16:30-19:00 Visit Madariaga Centre (Biodiversity centre of the Basque Country) and Urdaibai estuary
- 20.00 Dinner

16th September – Wednesday

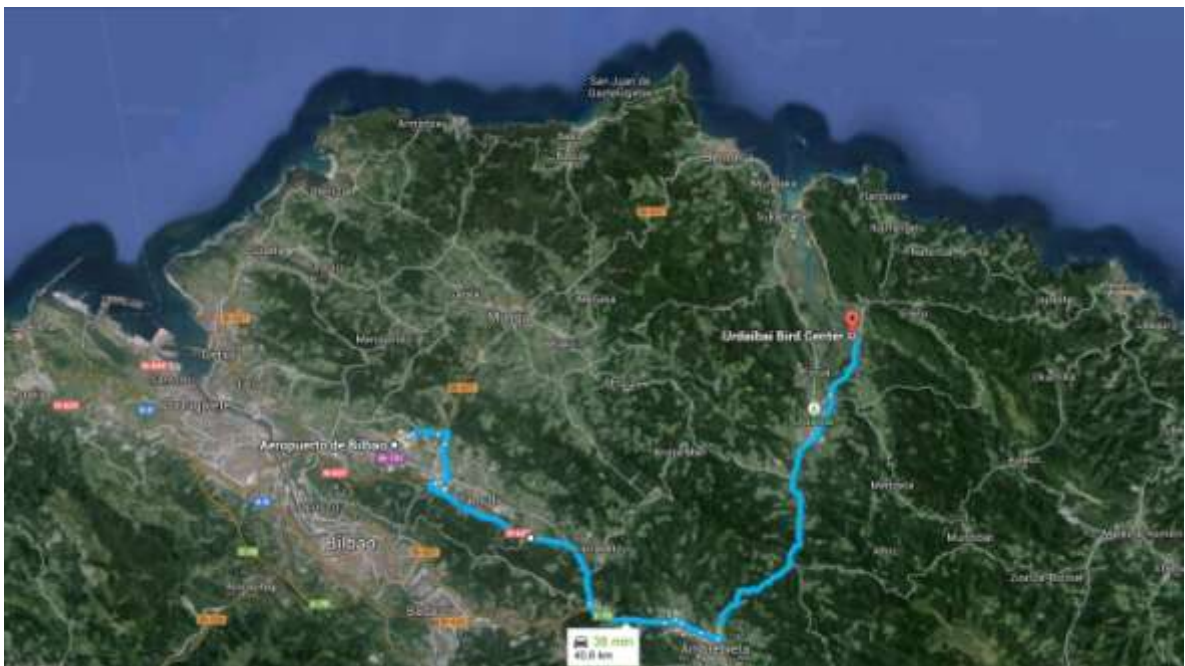
- 8.00 Bus pick up from hotels
- 8.30-13:00 Side event - Optional field trip in Urdaibai
- 9.00-12.00 MBP side event
- 13.00 Lunch and departure

Travel instructions to get to Urdaibai Bird Center

The meeting will take place in the Urdaibai Bird Center. The Center was opened in 2011 and it is located in Gautegiz Arteaga, a small village located 40 minutes from Bilbao and 5 minutes from Gernika-Lumo by car. With a population of around 900 inhabitants, it is one of the 22 villages that form the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve.



Map of the villages in Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve



Map of the route between Bilbao airport and Urdaibai Bird Center (Gautegiz Arteaga)



Transport for participants will be organized by the Bird Center on **Sunday the 13th, at mid-day, 5pm and 11.30pm**: Contact: Edorta Unamuno, eunamuno@birdcenter.org, Tlf: +34608584359

The connection from the airport to Urdaibai Bird Center is covered by the following bus lines:

A3247 Bilbao airport - Bilbao bus station (Termibus)

DEPARTURES FROM BILBAO AIRPORT:

From 6:20 to 00:00 every 20 minutes (:20/:40/:00)

*It takes around 30 minutes to get to Bilbao bus station from Bilbao airport.

A3514 Bilbao bus station - Amorebieta - Gernika

DEPARTURES FROM BILBAO BUS STATION:

Monday to Saturday: From 6:15 to 21:45 every 30 minutes

Saturdays: From 7:00 to 22:00 every hour

Sundays and holidays: From 8:00 to 22:00 every hour

A3515 Bilbao bus station - Amorebieta - Gernika - Bermeo

DEPARTURES FROM BILBAO BUS STATION:

Monday to Saturday: From 6:30 to 22:00 every 30 minutes

Saturdays: From 6:30 to 22:30 every hour

Sundays and holidays: From 7:30 to 22:30 every hour

The organizers will provide the transport between Gernika and the Urdaibai Bird Center.

Accommodation during the meeting will be in hotels around Urdaibai Bird Center in bed and breakfast regime. The organizers will be in charge of the transport to and from the centre to the accommodation place.

During the event there will be some field visits. These visits include the historical village of Gernika and the Biodiversity centre of the Basque Country. All transportation will be provided.

Termibus <http://www.termibus.es/localizacion.php?idi=en#>

Bilbao Airport <http://www.aeropuertodebilbao.net/en/>

Urdaibai Bird Center <http://www.birdcenter.org/en>

Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve <http://goo.gl/kHj4yc>