

Twinning programme for Migratory Birds for People network

Draft 2 June 2023

Terms of Reference

Goal

Enable in-depth learning between staff/volunteers at two different centres in the East Atlantic Flyway, strengthening the MBP network. The participants should have new or clearer ideas about CEPA (Communications, Education, Participation, Awareness), and greater confidence of successfully implementing the ideas. The MBP network should become more effective.

Objectives

Members of the network a host another member for skills and knowledge exchange. The hosting can be online or in-person.

Structure

The exchanges are managed and designed by the two parties involved, with support from the MBP core group.

Processes

The MBP core group will advertise the scheme to all members. They will invite interested parties to share which roles they wish to play, on which topics they would like to exchange, and by what method.

The parties will exchange either:

- online, at least six times within a year
- in-person, with a residential stay at one or both wetland centres, for at least five days.

After the exchange, the parties will create an output (which could be text, visual, video, or any other shareable format) for the rest of the MBP network to learn through their eyes.

Roles and Responsibilities

The parties will dedicate sufficient hours to carrying out the exchange. If an in-person twinning, they will assist the other party with daily needs such as accommodation and sustenance.

Both parties will agree their specific goals before commencing.

Outputs

Each twinning will be said to be complete once a learning resource is created. This may take the form of a printed report, a blog, video, or other output from which other MBP members can learn.

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Sample agreement

CENTRE 1 and CENTRE 2 are members of Migratory Birds for People (MBP), a voluntary network in the East Atlantic Flyway. CENTRE 1 and CENTRE 2 are part of the MBP twinning and exchange programme. They will hold an exchange online via video call/in-person. The duration will be no less than 10 hours / five days.

CENTRE 1's leading participant in the exchange will be NAME.
CENTRE 2's leading participant in the exchange will be NAME.

NAME and NAME will meet online to exchange on the following topics:

TOPIC 1

TOPIC 2

TOPIC 3

NAME will host NAME at CENTRE 1.

Proposed dates:

CENTRE 1 will provide accommodation at a price of PRICE / free of charge.

NAME will organise practical experience and discussion for NAME, with others at CENTRE 1.

The main learning goal will be:

GOAL 1

Both parties will plan their involvement and share information about potential limiting and enabling factors, including financial, visa requirements, travel, and other topics.

Guidelines

20 April 2023.

Remit

Migratory Birds for People (MBP) is a voluntary network of wetland education and visitor centres and practitioners in the East Atlantic Flyway. At the MBP Annual Meeting 2022, participants suggested starting an exchange or twinning programme.

In October 2022, the participants of the regional capacity-building meeting in the Saloum Delta, co-organised by MBP, suggested the network develop a twinning or exchange programme.

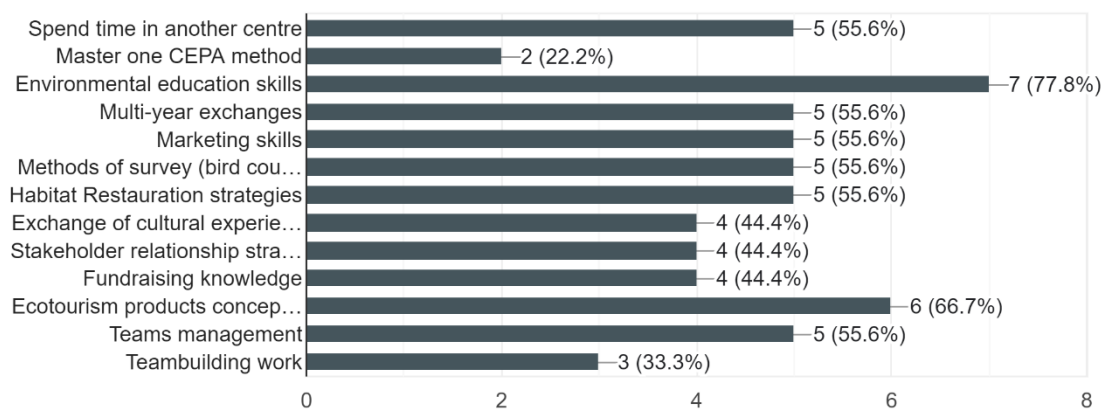
In March 2023, nine MBP members took part in an online survey about their interest and capacity for such a programme.

The most popular option was to meet online, e.g. by Zoom, ten times, for one hour each. Five of the responses are able to provide accommodation for one week, and another two were able to provide accommodation for three days.

Seven of the respondents want to gain environment education skills, but only two are interested in mastery of a single skill. The second least popular topic was teambuilding work. Ecotourism product conception was the second most popular.

What would you expect from a twinning? E.g. what would you like to achieve or receive from participation?

9 responses



The survey suggests there is a lot of flexibility in what the host centre provides.

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Structure

We propose both online and in-person exchanges.

For **in-person exchanges**, the host centre could prepare an outline of their planned activities and potential learning outcome for the period of the exchange. The two parties should discuss in advance what they want and need, to avoid disappointment. The parties can choose whether to hold reciprocal visits, or to have one host the other.

For **online exchanges**, both parties should share what they can offer, and select an exchange that will benefit both sides. Connor Walsh will produce a platform to facilitate this, based on input from the membership.

Outputs

A report by the exchange participant outlining the exchange, including key learnings, and giving an example of implementing at least one approach or action from the exchange at their own centre. The report can be provided in English, French, or Portuguese, and will be made publicly available.

Funding

We have not identified funding yet. Possible sources mentioned in the survey include the EU, Interreg, Erasmus+. Other possible sources include partnerships with other initiatives such as LT&C, and funding for fly

Funding needs

Providing the funds for the twinning will be a considerable challenge. Costs to cover will include:

- Travel to and from the host wetland centre
- Work hours for the host
- Work hours for the participant
- Wages for cover staff required at host or participant centre
- Accommodation and food during the exchange
- Visas
- Sundry expenses outside work hours

Minimising bureaucracy

Visas and travel permits may seem like a blockage so we should design the system around minimising that.

Free travel areas within MBP:

- European Union, European Economic Area
- ECOWAS (TBC) <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/ch30-free-movement-policies-and-border-controls.pdf>

Finding an exchange partner

Members are invited to examine the [membership profiles on the MBP website](#), to identify where and who works on topics of interest. Then, email the contact person listed, while copying Connor.Walsh@wwt.org.uk.

The core group will also prepare an email for the whole network to publicise their interest or capacity for exchanges.

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