



"Inspiring birds, inspiring people"

NEWSLETTER no. 15 (February 2013)



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Introduction:

Dear colleagues,

Another year and a fresh “Migratory Birds for People” - newsletter to start with!

A lot of work is being done in protecting our migratory birds by implementing international treaties, by increasing enhanced scientific research and improvement of the management also by training programmes.

“Migratory Birds for People” is therefore an exciting programme, because it seeks to support another branch: communication and education to the wider public about the importance of safeguarding our wetlands in coherence with the Ramsar-CEPA programme.

We can tell you that the core group has not gone in hibernation, but on the contrary had many contacts in order to get the programme further developed. We broadened contacts with the scientific world, prepared a bid for the EACEA-funding, made contact with new partners and visited some partners.

There is also news about the annual workshop/meeting 2013 !

You will find these items and more - including news from the participants in our network- in this newsletter.

Enjoy reading !

On behalf of the core group,

Roelof Heringa

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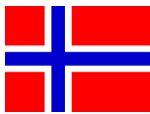
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News from the network:



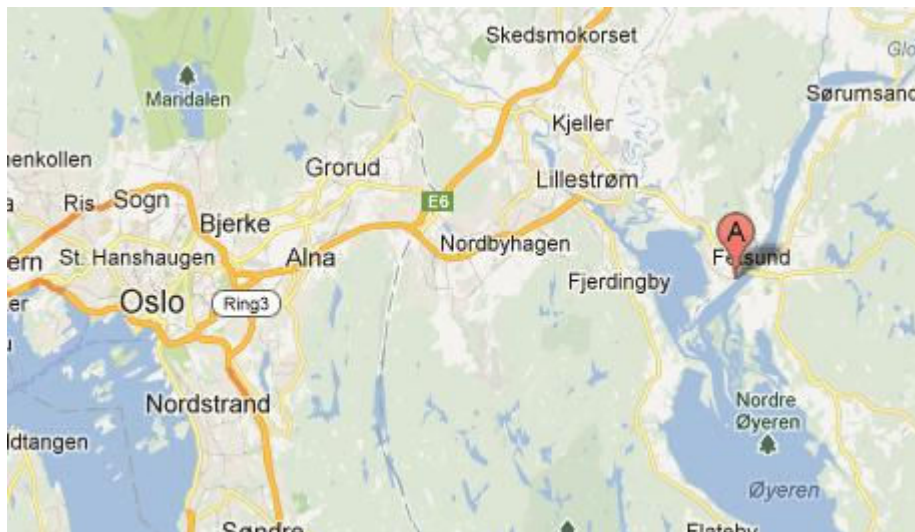
Finland : Liminganlahti conservation area

No message received / Ei viestejä vastaan



Norway: Fetsund Lenser, Nordre Øyeren wetland centre

*A warm welcome to our new member in the Migratory Birds for People-network!
on behalf of the core-group, Roelof Heringa*



A = Location of the wetland centre, east of Oslo

Our overall aim is to get children of all ages interested in nature, especially wetlands, and enjoy nature which in turn hopefully will turn them into guardians of our nature and contribute to its future protection.

Thousands of people visit our centre each year and between 2500-3000 pupils attend different kinds of lectures.

Our award-winning visitor centre is a 300 m² building filled with exhibitions (lots of interactivity for children), a cafe and a small shop for the visitor. The last year we have continued to renew our exhibitions, and for instance a wetland exhibition has been built and an interactive monitor with





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pictures, maps and information of all the 51 Ramsar-sites in Norway has been created. Two aquariums which shows fish from the nearby Nordre Øyeren nature reserve are now also a part of our wetland centre.

Line Gustavsen (in absence of Trude Starholm)

Website address: www.fetsundlenser.no/nordre-oyeren-naturinformasjonssenter



Sweden: Naturum Lake Tåkern

We received the message that Ellen Hultman is not working for some time now owing to ill health and her duties are temporary taken over by Malin Granlund-Feldt.

We sincerely wish Ellen a quick recovery and welcome Malin Granlund-Feldt in our (core-)team.

Roelof Heringa



Sweden: Naturum Getterön

In a few weeks the low season will be over. Naturum Getterön will wake up from its winter hibernation and welcome its visitors to a new bird watching season. We look forward to many changes this coming season.

Our old and dusty bird exhibition about the bird protection area from 1994 is now gone. And we look forward to a new and modern exhibition that will be opening in the summer of 2013. We can assure you, that you as a visitor will be surprised during your next visit when the new exhibition is finished.

The main winter attraction at naturum Getterön this winter has been all the Sea Eagles that come to feed from the carcasses that we are offering them in the reserve. Some winter days there has been a great numbers of visiting Sea Eagles. Our visitors have been enjoying the great birds by observing them closely from the hide and taking photos of them. Or just enjoy the experience by watching them from our café, while drinking a cup of tea or coffee.

Do you have a smart phone? If so please check out our site www.naturumgetteron.se that has a new cell phone adapted feature. The blog comes up first; here you can read the latest news (in Swedish). The program for the spring of 2013 will soon be out on the site.

Spring is just around the corner and we look forward to all the birds that will soon be back!
Early spring greetings from naturum Getterön!

Linda Eklund

- Brochure about Getterön can be downloaded from: <http://www.naturumgetteron.se/wp-content/uploads/GetterofolderENG.pdf>



White-tailed eagle above Getterön



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Estonia:

We are still looking for a contact in this country.

Roelof Heringa



Lithuania:

We are still looking for a contact in this country.

Roelof Heringa



Russia: CEPA , St. Petersburg

Baltic Fund for Nature - Workshop

Baltic Fund for Nature are planning a workshop from the **9th to the 11th of May** for around 15-20 managers of educational departments of nature protected areas, on the subject of creating a wetland visitor centre. The aim is to help protected area administration and educational departments to make an effective wetland nature education centre.



Objectives include:

- Define target groups of centre' potential visitors, through group discussions.
- Define types of infrastructure development needed (what should be done at minimum)
- Be ready to discuss the activities which each centre can provide to visitors.

Although the event is largely booked up, you can get more information from Eugene Genelt-Yanovsky.

*Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy and Yulia Danilova
Baltic Fund for Nature Of St.Petersburg Naturalists Society
Universitetskaya emb. 7/9-11
Saint-Petersburg*





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Denmark: Nature Centre Vestamager

For more information about these centres in Denmark and Germany, see report at page: 15

Contact: *Stella Blichfeldt*



**Germany :
Nationalpark - Haus Husum**

Contact: *Dr. Hans-Ulrich Rösner*
Head of Wadden Sea Office,
WWF Germany



.....Strange ‘Elk’ in Vestemager.....



United Kingdom : Wetland Centre Slimbridge (W.W.T.)

From our last update from WWT Slimbridge we reported on the first arrivals of Bewick’s swans to return to the centre for the winter. Each winter our Swan Researchers collate vital data on annual breeding success, the winter flock size and identifying individuals by their unique bill patterns, information such as this has been collated since Sir Peter Scott started the study in 1964. Now that the winter has progressed and we’re due to see the departure of the swans to their arctic Russian breeding grounds we can reflect on the winters swan season.

The peak count so far for the winter is 294 birds visiting Slimbridge and this is above average.

2011 proved to be a good breeding year for the species according to results from a recent international survey. Counting and ageing over 12,000 swans across Europe revealed 14% young in the flocks surveyed, the highest seen since 2001 (14.5% young).



“Caper”

From bill pattern identifying we’re able to confirm that Bewick’s swan **Caper¹** has returned for his 24th season at WWT Slimbridge and Rovers now holds the record for bringing back the biggest family of cygnets with a bumper brood of 6!

In January and February we held two catches in order to ring, measure, weigh and x-ray any caught birds. We were carrying out x-rays to assess the level of illegal hunting within the species. Updates from our Wildlife Health Team on this topic will follow the next newsletter.



Kane Brides
WWT Species Monitoring Unit.
<http://birdringing.blogspot.nl>

¹ In UK it is the custom to name the Bewick’s Swans. It sounds prettier than only a combination of ciphers & letters and it may help to gain more interest of a wider audience.
(Roelof Heringa)



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United Kingdom: Slimbridge

This time we received also an item from the Welney Wetland Centre:

World Wetlands Day at WWT Welney Wetland Centre

World wetlands day at WWT Welney was kicked off at 6am with a dawn flight out. In freezing conditions, some brave visitors defied the elements and witnessed over one and a half thousand migratory swans take flight from Lady Fen and Bank Farm. Once the swans had left their roost, visitors were then treated to an exclusive walk with a warden out onto Lady Fen to see our brown hares, who in the sunshine, have already started some early boxing.



The day progressed to include our daily wild swan feeds and encourage people to get creative by making recycled bird feeders and then the opportunity to join our WWT Welney volunteer and Fenland Poet Laureate, Elaine Ewart, for a **wetland themed poetry workshop** which included activities to stimulate the senses and inspire our creative side. The day was rounded off with a sustainability tour of the centre and a floodlit wild swan feed.

The poem below was inspired by Elaine’s experiences volunteering at WWT Welney.

The Drowned Lands

*Digging since dawn, bent slant
Against the whistling wind, crushing
With sweet scent the water mint under my boots,
Face whipped by willow; unsteady,
I cling to the iron shove-holers, feeling like a pennant
Run up a flagpole; hood rippling with gusts.
Across the field, banks hem in the horizon, sky hanging
Heavy over silver coin-puddles of squealing wigeon,
Fastidious-legged godwits; above them arch the flaunting lapwing.
Through the mist, in a soft-trumpeting cloud, butter-billed Bewicks
Raise mud-plated feet amongst the winter wheat.
Fixing the post, tamping down the soil, it seems solid enough:
But no. Rising water will shoulder it back, lift gate-latch and signpost,
Screen and fence, wash at the wheels of the tractor on the bank
Where it holds empty steel arms to the purple clouds. The ditch bridge will curve
Like the coil of a breaching sea monster; the bare oak tree reach gnarled fingers
Out of the flood, like the hand of an ancient invader, self-trapped in a chain mail net,
As he flounders in the burning reeds and smothering swamp.*



WWT Welney sunset
(photo: Susie Haynes)

By Elaine Ewart



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the Netherlands: Terschelling (Waddenzee)

The Staatsbosbeheer –team for Terschelling is creating two small exhibitions about Migratory Birds for People. One in the Centre for Nature and Landscape with flagship species: Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*), Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*) and Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*). In another information centre the theme is : “Travelling animals”.

As always we do have our pair of Whooper swans in the dune valley next to this centre.



*Whooper Swan on Terschelling
(photo: Jacob de Vries)*

Freek Zwart (Staatsbosbeheer, Terschelling)



the Netherlands : Oostvaardersplassen

Movie “De Nieuwe Wildernis” (the New Wilderness) and new building for visitor centre:

The new theatre-movie about the special life, nature, flora and fauna in the Oostvaardersplassen will be issued in September this year.

This is the reason that Staatsbosbeheer sees the need for a new – temporary – visitor centre in order to take care of the expected growth in number of visitors. In the past weeks we have asked three companies to put in an offer.

The images below show the outcome: a sustainable, fully removable building, which might function after 5 - 6 years elsewhere in the Netherlands or perhaps as a headquarter for “Migratory Birds for People”.

We are very pleased with this building and the opportunities it will offer to the public to have a good reception and entrance to the Oostvaardersplassen.



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Movie “De Nieuwe Wildernis” (the New Wilderness):

Some images can already be watched at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=sJap4blyuY#!

Another teaser (about red deer) can be found at:

<http://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/nieuws%20en%20achtergronden/nieuws/archief/2012/1/1/de%20nieuwe%20wildernis%20preview.aspx>

Staatsbosbeheer also placed a webcam in an artificial fox den. See: <http://volgdevos.nl>

Theo de Bruin
(Staatsbosbeheer, Oostvaardersplassen)



Belgium: Natuurpunt : visitor centre 'Uitkerkse Polder'.

News from the Uitkerkse Polder. Winter 2012- 2013

Last winter began with an extraordinary warm December: almost no freezing or snow, temperatures sometimes above 10°C. Suddenly, half January, temperatures began to drop (at night down to -12° near the coast and even lower inland) and shortly after, several inches of snow covered the country, even the coastal area up to the dunes and beaches, a rare view for this area. Snow and ice cover in the Uitkerkse Polder made most geese and ducks migrate further towards snow free areas.

mostly walking or cycling, as we try to discourage motorized traffic. From 1994 until 2004, the centre was open only on Sundays. Since 2005 the centre was open four days a week, and since 2011 six days a week (afternoons only, except on Sundays during winter).

Prior to the celebration of the 100.000th visitor, we held a special ‘Fair-trade breakfast’ for the inhabitants of the nearby village Blankenberge. Among the participants, we chose our 100.000th visitor (photo) and offered them a present and a membership of Natuurpunt.



December the 16th we celebrated our 100.000th visitor since the start of the centre in 1994. Since the start of the project in the Uitkerkse Polder in 1990, several millions visited the nature reserve,

After breakfast, most went for a guided walk to watch the geese. Besides many thousands of White-fronted, Pink-footed, Barnacle and

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Graylag geese, one Red-breasted goose was present! With almost seventy participants, among them the Mayor of the village, and some fine press coverage, this day was a great success.

In January, an international group from the Grundtvig project ‘Awareness for landscape – inspiring civic responsibility’ visited the Uitkerkse Polder (photo). Participants from the Regionaal Landschap Houtland in Belgium, Ecovast in Austria, the BHU in Germany and the Biosphere reserve Lake Vaner Archipelago and Mount Kinnekule in Sweden came to see and learn about the case ‘Uitkerkse Polder’. One of the discussed issues was: ‘Are the inhabitants of the Belgian coastal area’s aware of the potential impact of climate change on the coastal landscape?’. The high public interest for several information sessions organized by Natuurpunt and local towns seems at least partly to confirm this.

As an educational ‘gift from heaven’, a group of at least six **long-eared owls** decided to choose the garden around the visitors centre as their



wintering habitat. Since half November, probably over a thousand people have now seen an owl in nature - so not in a zoo - for the first time in their lives! As the owls seemed to adapt to human presence, they became increasingly shameless, resulting in some remarkable photos. Last Sunday, probably as a result of oral publicity, not less than forty people showed up for a guided ‘owl tour’. Short-eared and Long-eared owl were both present! With more snow forecasted, Spring seems still far away!

*Bob Vandendriessche,
Wetland centre ‘Uitkerkse Polder’.*



= Visitor centre “het Zwin”

In the Flemish naturereserve “Het Zwin” work has started in order to restore the dynamic mud-flat system. Over the last two decades the area silted up in an increased pace. Only drastic measures can secure the expansion of mud-flats and prevent monotonous overgrowth with grasses.

Another item is the restoration of the former breeding islands for Black-headed Gull, Common Tern, Kentish Plover and Avocet.

Another zone of 8 hectares will be scraped in order to restore mud-flats.

The works must be finished by the first of April and we look forward to the results. At a later stage we intend to de-polder 120 hectares and widen the Zwin-channel. (To be continued)



Leo Declercq

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France: Baie de Somme

No message received / Aucun message reçu



France: Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre,

No message received / Aucun message reçu



Spain: Aiguamolls de l'Emporda

Reconstruction for the benefit of nature:

Aiguamolls Natural Park managers have developed a system to allow fish and other (sub-)aquatic



animals to move from the main marshes (called "Llaunes") to the Sirvent River, the place where the water reached once the flooded marshes. It consists of gradual small water steps, that permits fish to swim in both directions, as they need depending the water levels in the lagoon and the river. This system will allow more wildlife to colonize both ecosystems and, in addition to this, increase the biodiversity of the wetlands.

Apart from that, although wintering season has been quite poor for duck numbers, the geese population has increased a lot and, birds such as great egrets, flamingos and other ardeids have wintered in spectacular numbers, with more that 550 white stork.

*Ponç Feliu,
Aiguamolls de l'Emporda Jan. 2013*



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Abundance of White storks in Aiguamolls de l'Emporda this winter!



Spain: Ebro Delta

MónNatura Delta – a new visitor centre in the Ebro Delta by Fundació CatalunyaCaixa

No messages received / No hay mensajes recibidos

Contact person for the Network:

Xavier Escuté

Xavier.escute.fos@catalunyacaixa.com



Spain: las Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

Activities round World Wetlands Day 2013

On the 10th of February we have conducted a guided tour in the Regional Park of the Salinas de San Pedro, during which there was also be a historical tour of the Mar Menor to discover the different people who have lived on the banks of this wetland and exploited resources, transforming the lake and its surroundings over the centuries.

Also during the weekend, people who came to the Visitor centre “las Salinas” will enjoyed a series of videos and discover the high environmental value of these wetlands.

Schools in this area were also present at the celebration of World





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Wetlands Day as they were involved in various activities, both in the classroom as in the Regional Park in drawing workshops, guided itineraries and educational seminars related to the importance of wetlands.

Teresa Lopez

West-African Centres



- **Mauretania**
- **Senegal**
- **Guinea Bissau**

For more information contact:

Mr. Abdoulaye Ndiaye Email: andiaye@wetlands-africa.org;

‘From the Arctic to Africa’: new initiative protecting key sites for migratory birds

11-Dec-2012

Dakar (SEN) / Ede (NL) / Naryan-Mar (RU)

A new initiative to protect migratory waterbirds flying between the Arctic and Africa has been launched by Wetlands International. Funded by the Arcadia Fund, the three-year initiative will engage local people and governments to develop a coherent approach to the management of the wetland sites used by the birds along the flyway.

Millions of waterbirds migrate each year along the [East Atlantic Flyway](#), spanning an area from the Russian Arctic to South Africa. This flyway is formed by a chain of wetland sites, which the birds use for breeding, staging, moulting, and wintering or as stopover for resting. It includes many internationally important ([‘Ramsar’](#)) sites as well as nationally and locally important wetlands.

Bridges of cooperation

“The initiative builds new bridges of cooperation at the sites and a strong network across the flyway through sharing of expertise and experience and to raise the awareness and capacity of local authorities to wisely manage their wetland resources”, says Ibrahima Thiam, regional director, [Wetlands International Africa](#).

The initiative works to limit the threats that cause the loss and degradation of key sites along the flyway, and thereby assures the safe migration of these waterbird populations (such as the Ruff, at right) while ensuring that the ecosystem services provided by these wetlands benefit the local people that depend upon them. In this way it will complement and enhance the effectiveness of the conservation measures which have been already taken by the European Union Member States in accordance with the [Birds Directive of the European Union](#).



Wetlands International offices in [Senegal](#) and [Russia](#), supported by the head office in the Netherlands, will work to improve the management of these key wetland sites along the flyway. Together the offices will promote a comprehensive approach of strengthening management of these ecoregions. Together



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they promote cooperation, networking and exchange by site managers at three levels: the ecoregion, sub-region and entire flyway.



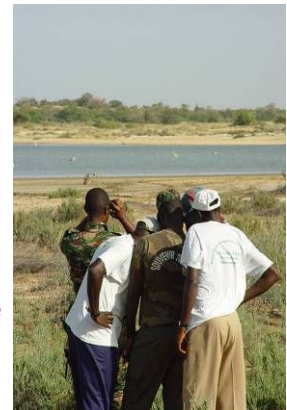
Selected ecoregions

The initiative will start with the eco-regions of the Arctic coastal tundra in the [Nenets Autonomous Okrug](#) (left), an internationally important area for breeding and staging birds in Russia; and the Senegal River Delta with the focus in [Djoudj National Park](#) in Senegal (below, right) and [Diawling National Park](#) in Mauritania. The transboundary site Djoudj-Diawling is of international importance for many northern migrants during the non-breeding period as well as for waterbird species that reside in the region or migrate within Africa.

Intercontinental flyway

“The Ruff and Pintail Duck (below) are examples of two species that fly across this intercontinental flyway and are dependent on sustainable management of these sites. Whereas the Pinked-backed Pelican that breeds abundantly in the Djoudj migrates within the region and will also benefit from improved management of wetlands in West Africa”, says Taej Mundkur, flyway programme manager, Wetlands International.

“Economic development and easier access through new infrastructure bring rapid changes to the Arctic and the life styles of local people. The biodiversity of our planet cannot adapt as fast as the changes are taking place. Migratory species are challenged by varying changes at places that they use at different times of their annual cycle across the flyways. It is important that the needs of these species are taken into consideration. The project will help to develop our responsibility and suggest ways and methods how to help migrating species”, says Tatiana Minayeva, Arctic specialist.



The Arcadia Fund



Wetlands International wants to thank the [Arcadia Fund](#) for the funding. The Arcadia Fund is a grant-making fund established in 2001. Its key mission is to protect endangered culture and nature. This includes near extinct languages, rare historical archives and museum quality artefacts, and the protection of ecosystems and environments threatened with extinction.

For more information, contact:

Frank Hoffmann
Wetlands International Head Office
Frank.hoffmann @ wetlands.org

Tel. +31 318 660941 Vrij +31 318 660941

Website: www.wetlands.org/flyways

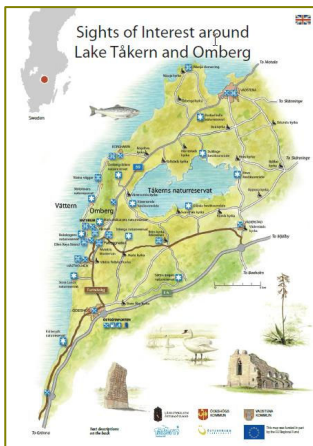
Website Arcadia Fund: www.arcadiahfund.org.uk

Other network news

First ANNOUNCEMENT ANNUAL WORKSHOP 2013 “Migratory Birds for People”

The annual workshop will be held in the wetland centre “Naturum Lake Tåkern” in Sweden and will be hosted by the team from Lansstyrelsen, Linköping.
Due to circumstances, the dates had to be postponed and are now fixed at:

29th of Sept.- 1st of Oct. 2013.



We are very much welcomed to come to Lake Tåkern by Claes Svedlindh and Malin Granlund-Feldt.

Of course we will inform you in due course with more details about programme, costs, accommodation and travel arrangements. We also have good hope for some additional funding for the organisation of this workshop.



Foto: Henry Stahre

So, enter these dates in your agenda and prepare yourself for very nice experiences and meeting your colleagues from the “Migratory Birds for People”-network !

Roelof Heringa

➤ **Linking scientific research to the MBP-network.**

You are still invited to send me information about contacts with scientists working with migratory birds. Please, send you information to rheringa@eurossite.org.

➤ **Kind request for footage.** (repeated request)

Wetlands International is planning to make a film on migratory birds and wetlands, which could also form a resource for each wetland centre as a movie in digital format with images that could be used for a “Migratory Birds for People”- presentation. We hope for your positive response and will of course discuss with you the conditions under which you would be willing to share this material with us. Please send in your material to : rheringa@eurossite.org



Report visit in the framework of Migratory Birds for People to participants in Germany Nationalpark-Haus Husum (17-01-2013) and Denmark (Vestemager) (18-01-2013)

By Theo de Bruin & Roelof Heringa

Introduction:

Because of the fact that both locations are in reasonable distance from the Netherlands, we thought it a good idea to have a personal contact in order to get to know each other and learn more about the specific features and interests in and around these wetland centres. We may conclude that the trip has been very worthwhile and we look forward to a forward strengthened cooperation.

Nationalpark-Haus Husum

Spoken with:
- Hans-Ulrich Rösner
- Anja Szczesinski
- Klaus Günther



Nationalpark-Haus Husum is situated in the heart of the city of Husum, near the harbour with a clear smell and sense of the nearby Wadden Sea. Annually, some 50.000 visitors enter the centre while roaming the city as part of their holidays in the region. The building gives room to the visitor centre as well as a Fair Trade-shop. The building is home to several organisations (see picture below).



The public part of the centre is basically funded by National Park administration, together with Schutzstation Wattenmeer and WWF. The public information within the visitor centre is mainly done by young volunteers.



Nationalpark-Haus Husum is one of many centres serving the public interested in nature, landscape and wildlife of the Wadden Sea. However, within Schleswig-Holstein there is just one more Nationalpark visitor centre which has more visitors (the Multimar at Tönning, about 200.000 visitors, entrance fee paying). The Nationalpark-Haus at Husum distinguishes itself by the exhibition on ‘Wadden’-birds, the international flyway and items related to this. Almost a third of the exhibition is dedicated to children / young visitors. The exhibition suites the “KISS”-principle (Keep It Simple Stupid) and contains basic and good information about the migrating birds, the Wadden Sea area and its place in the flyway. Second part of the exhibition reflects the different habitats - including fauna and flora - from the inland location of Husum to the island of Helgoland.

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In the area of the National Park Wadden Sea many thousands of activities such as guided tours on the mudflats are taking place, expressing the enormous value of nature for local tourism and economy.



Hans-Ulrich explains the history and features of the area.

Since 1978 there is a trilateral official co-operation among Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands on management and conservation of the Wadden Sea, served by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. Many tasks on monitoring, information, education are carried out in tuning with the organisations in de three countries. Several years later a twinning relation had started with Korea. The Dutch and German parts of the Wadden Sea area are jointly inscribed in the UNESCO world heritage list. In the meantime, Denmark is also applying for this title and status for its part of the Wadden Sea. (in 2014?)



Part of the exhibition



The Fair Trade-shop

Due to their individual workload, little time can be put into the MBP network. Nevertheless the goals and ambitions of the network are affirmed and practically translated in terms of value for their own organisation.

Based upon the experiences in the collaboration within the three Wadden Sea countries, the Nationalpark-Haus would like to focus on a efficient distribution of educational material and information documents that could fit in a local programme after translation. Excellent examples are given by the International Wadden Sea School as part of the Wadden Sea co-operation such as a beautiful and illustrative Wadden Sea puzzle for children, different games, and educational brochures in three languages.

Also an exchange of footage is proposed but this is more difficult due to the legal rights on these materials. Therefore it is suggested to contact Jan van de Kam, a famous Dutch photographer. Short videos (clip-movies) were also recommended, highlighting the different wetlands along the flyway.

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Several documents and posters were handed out as examples of exchange material for the MBP-network.

Support should be given to development of African visitor centres and its touristic infrastructure (trails, look out platforms, sleeping accommodation, support of local communities). Connection with other projects with Tim Dotman as projectmanager (former Wetlands International employee(?) (action Taej) and Gerard Boere (action Roelof).

Sponsoring might also be an interesting option for specific issues or products in the programme. The visit and meeting was very informative and fruitful.

Wetland centre Vestemager, Copenhagen, Denmark

Spoken with:
- Stella Blichfeldt
- Sven Norup



Stella



The Vestemager wetland centre serves the visitors of a relative new wetland area created during the second world war, used till 1984 as a military shooting area. Not being used as agricultural land, it was turned over as a nature reserve in a relatively unspoiled status.

The area was cleaned of ammunition and other military artefacts. The reserve is reclaimed land with a dike at the sea-side and has sandy and clay soils.

The area is located in the shadow of the capital Copenhagen, with direct links and connection to the city and the international airport. The centre and its surrounding natural area (ca. 2.500 ha) are an important outdoor recreational destination for local people who arrive here on foot, by bike, car and metro ! Recreational use is facilitated by several hiking paths, biking routes, 4 (day)campsites, 3 bird hides, fishing and/or swimming platforms.

Attention is also given to recreational use and opportunities for disabled persons. Some 2 million people visit the area each year. The northern part of the area, north of the highway and close to the city is used as golf course. The south western part is closed for public and designated strictly as bird reserve but can be observed from the bird hides.

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The landscape offers a sharp contrast of a grazed nature area, directly linked by concrete bridges to the suburbs of the city. Planes are flying in every minute, passing the centre and the area at a close distance.



The area is seasonal grazed by sheep, cattle and horses. Most of the area is designated as N2000, but is not a RAMSAR-site. Steps are taken to connect the Vestemager nature reserve with adjacent nature sites on the island in order to create some sort of a nature park. This broadened status should help to increase public support and bring in extra financial means.



After a long drive we were welcome with lunch in the centre.

Routes from the centre into nature are under construction and were in the past a missing link. There is extra attention given to invite visitors to actually enter nature in stead of ‘hanging around in the centre’.

The centre itself, although being renewed, aims at bringing Copenhagen citizens into contact with nature.

Migratory birds are just a small part of the entire story and are given special attention by rangers acting within the Nature Schools. Part of the renovation is the creation of an outdoor exhibition, freely accessible for the visitors.

The centre exists of several small buildings, giving room to different functions like café, nature school, exhibition, office, ornithological museum. The total ensemble of buildings creates a sort of small nature village where 200.000 visitors are welcomed annually. Nature schools have activities all year around, every day for classes, kindergarten, etc. originating mainly from the city of Copenhagen. Total surface of the buildings contains some 2.000 m².



One of the buildings is used as a restaurant

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One of the two shelters for school classes. Staying overnight offers them a very special nature experience !

The MBP network offers a good opportunity for receiving new ideas for educational activities and nature interpretation. Stella stated that few people who contributed to the newsletters, seem to understand the value of the messages that were spread around by - for example - the newsletter. Therefore she urges to continue putting together stories and information into newsletters and other means of sharing news and inspiration.

Stella and Sven are interested in products, footage and documents from the MBP network.

Vestemager centre is willing to host a MBP workshop if this fits into the MBP agenda.

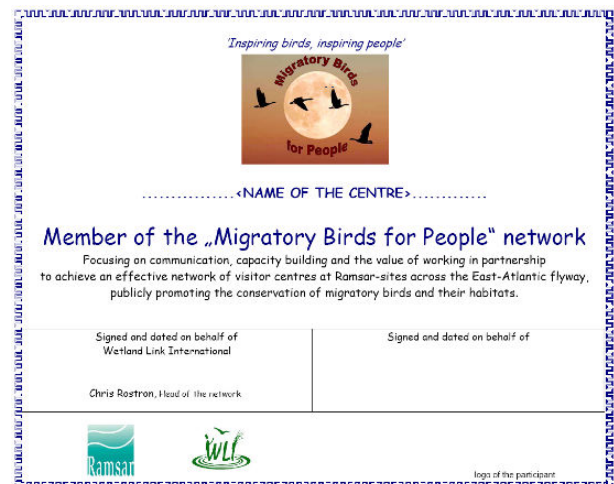
Inspired by all the information we have gathered and the similarities between this area and the Oostvaardersplassen, we think it might be a good idea to ask both parties to undertake a special relation in the form of a “Eurosites-twinning”. Of course we know the arguments to refrain from such an action, but let us look at the opportunities to establish a working relationship. Roelof will contact the local management of the Oostvaardersplassen and inform them about this.

Many thanks to Stella and Sven for the fieldtrip, stories and hospitality.

➤ **"Migratory Birds for People" certificate**

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

This certificate can still be obtained for free. Just write an email to rheringa@euosite.org and we will send you a certificate.



➤ ***Congratulating Jan van der Winden on his Herman Klomp Prize for the protection of birds***

05-Dec-2012

Ede, the Netherlands - Wetlands International congratulates Jan van der Winden on his Herman Klomp prize for his long-term commitment to the protection of birds. In collaboration with Wetlands International, Jan was instrumental in the success of the [Follow the Bird!](#) initiative.



The Herman Klomp prize is presented every three years by [BirdLife Netherlands](#) (Vogelbescherming), [Netherlands Ornithological Union](#) (NOU) and [SOVON](#) to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the understanding and protection of birds. Jan received the award in recognition of his long-term studies on black terns, purple herons, bitterns and common terns, and the dedication and enthusiasm he brings to his research.

Jan served as the lead technical expert in the [Follow the Bird!](#) initiative, that equipped several Purple Herons **with satellite transmitters** to understand their migration between Europe and West Africa. The initiative demonstrated the importance of a network of healthy wetlands along the flyway and the functional role of these sites.

As part of the project, Jan and the staff of Wetlands International followed herons to Sierra Leone (*photo right*) as an ambassador for the birds. His work in the [Boama](#) and [Waanje River](#) helped the people of Sierra Leone understand and appreciate the importance of their local wetlands for global waterbird conservation.



Szabolcs Nagy of Wetlands International, who worked with Jan on Follow the Bird! added, “I worked with Jan throughout the entire migration season following the fate of a handful of Purple Herons from their breeding grounds to their wintering grounds and I was truly amazed both by his technical skills and field craft. Jan’s satellite telemetry work helped enormously in informing our understanding of the ecology of migratory waterbirds. His efforts provided us with a wealth of stories to explain the importance of wetlands along the flyway to various levels of decision-makers, ranging from managers at multinational companies to village chiefs in Africa. He truly deserves this prize.”

For more details about Follow the Bird! visit the [website](#).

For more information:
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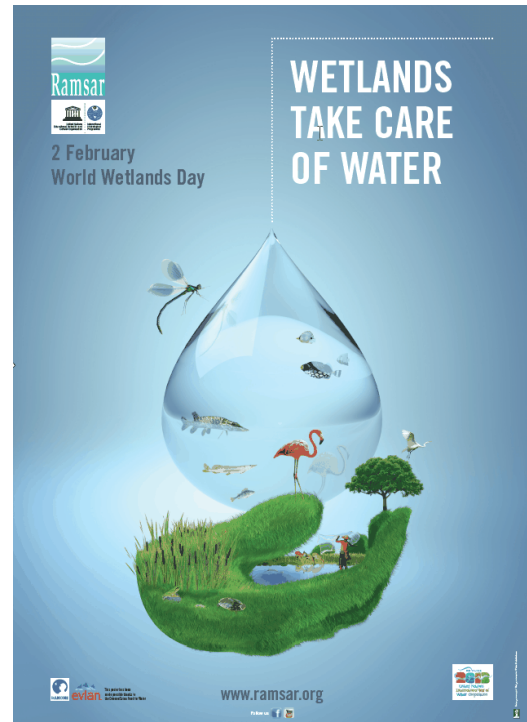


Ramsar Convention:

The theme for this year's
World Wetlands Day (2nd of Feb.) is:
"Wetlands take care of water"

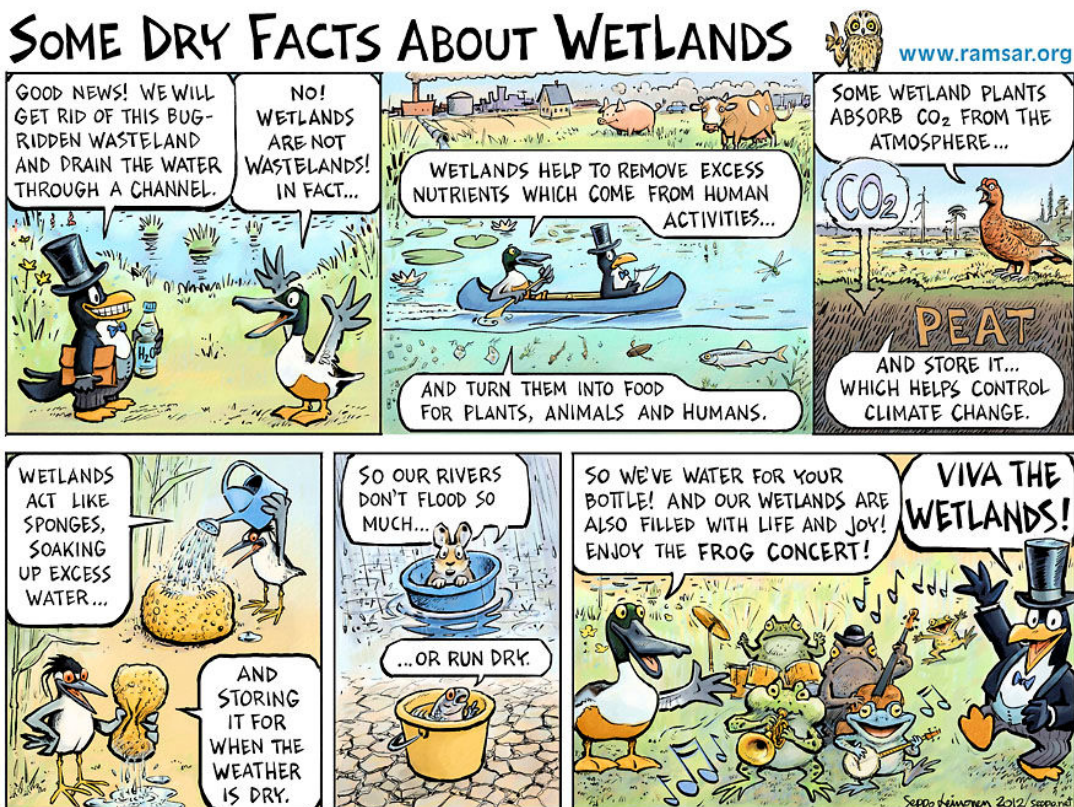
World Wetlands 2013

Ramsar celebrates 200 million hectares of Ramsar Sites! From the first Ramsar Site designation in May 1974, Australia's Cobourg Peninsula, 28 years went by before the Convention's global coverage rose to over 100 million hectares in June 2002 with the designation of the Peruvian Complejo de humedales del Abanico del río Pastaza Ramsar Site.



And now, just over a decade later, on World Wetlands Day 2013, the second tranche of 100 million has been added to the Ramsar List through the designation of 3 new sites in Bolivia. [Read more about Bolivia's new sites.](#)

Sandra Hails (Ramsar secretariat, Gland, Switzerland)





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WLI information sheets

As a new tool for those working at wetland centres, WLI is producing a series of information sheets on issues that are likely to be of interest to those involved in wetland centres and education. The format is a 'two sides of A4', offering an introduction to the topic, with further links and resources.

The first topic is on constructed wetlands as water treatment systems, followed by 'wetland centre development', 'evaluation of wetland visitor groups', and 'engaging the public in bird breeding programmes'.

You can see them at the [WLI website](#)

WLI information sheet No. 1: [Wetland treatment Systems \(Constructed Wetlands\)](#)

WLI information sheet No. 2 : [Masterplanning](#)

WLI information sheet No. 3 : [Engaging the public in aviculture](#)





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News from the Core group

Bid for funding from AECEA [‘Europe for Citizens’- programme]

Natuurpunt submitted a bid to the EU EACEA fund, to cover the costs of three exchange trips between Lake Tåkern (Sweden), Centre de Camargue Guardoise (France) and Uitkerkse Polder (Belgium) over the next two years. It will focus on looking at how we deliver engagement with local people at each of the centres, and how best to communicate messages about wetland conservation. We will also create a short video and web resources working with staff and volunteers.



Staff at Tåkern have also submitted a bid to a local fund, and we aim to visit their site at the end of September this year – we’ll keep you update on the exact dates, but this is likely to happen regardless of the funding situation, thanks to our colleagues at Tåkern.”

For the EACEA the match funding comes from WWT, Sweden's Tåkern Fund, Staatsbosbeheer and Wetland International's Arcadia project.

Chris Rostron

From the (Skype-)meetings of the core group / Dec. 2012 and Jan. 2013

We organised three Skype-meetings in which we mainly discussed :

- preparation for the bid for funding (EACEA and Darwin)
- development of the MBP-network
- start of products for the network
- planning for the Annual workshop 2013



In the coming months the core group will continue with the development of the network, making contacts for funding and with the scientific world.

We hope that you are inspired after reading this newsletter and hope that you will take also action to connect with your colleagues in the “Migratory Birds for People”-network to learn more about each other and the way communication is being done, especially concerning migratory birds.

Be inspired!

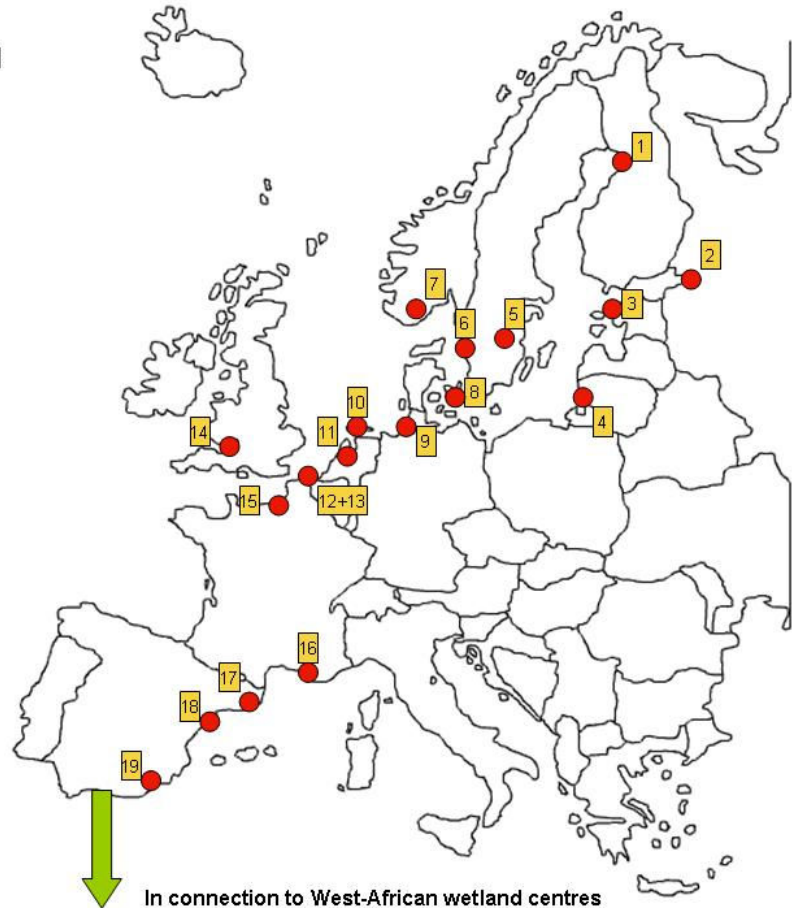
Roelof Heringa

SUPPLEMENT: List of participants in Europe and West-Africa

Participating visitor centres (Europe)

(Nov. 2012)

1. Finland: Liminganlahti
2. Russia : St. Petersburg [CEPA-team]
3. Estonia: Matsalu (proposed)
4. Lithuania: Nemunas Delta (proposed)
5. Sweden: Lake Tåkern
6. Sweden: Getterön
7. Norway: Nordre Øyeren (new!)
8. Denmark: Vestamager
9. Germany: Husum
10. Netherlands: Terschelling
11. Netherlands: Oostvaardersplassen
12. Belgium: Het Zwin
13. Belgium: Uitkerkse Polder
14. United Kingdom: WWT, HQ, Slimbridge
15. France: Baie de Somme
16. France: Camargue Gardoise
17. Spain: Aiguamolls de L'Emporda
18. Spain: Ebro Delta
19. Spain: Las Salinas de San Pedro



Finland :

Liminganlahti conservation area

Contact: Sari Airas, Programme manager Metsähallitus
Jukupolku 5, 85100 Kalajoki
Mob: +358-40-5016127
Email : sari.airas@metsa.fi
Website : www.wwt.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/.../liminganlahti



Sweden:

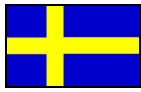
1. Naturum Lake Tåkern

Contact: Malin Granlund-Feldt, (temporary-) manager Naturum Lake Tåkern
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Östgötagatan 3, 581 86 Linköping
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Mob : +46-144535155
Email: mailin.granlund-feldt@lansstyrelsen.se
Website: www.naturumtakern.se



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Mob. +46 - 703 - 925389

Fax +46-340 - 150 54

Linda.eklund@lansstyrelsen.se

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Contact: Christopher Gullander, Naturumvärd

Tel: +46-340-101 89,

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Länsstyrelsen i Hallands län

301 86 Halmstad

E-post: christopher.gullander@lansstyrelsen.se

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Contact: Trude Starholm, manager wetland centre

Lundveien 3, 1900 Fetsund, Norway

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Mob.:+47-46544672

Email: ts@fetsundlenser.no

Website address: <http://www.fetsundlenser.no/nordre-oyeren-naturinformasjonssenter.html>



Russia: CEPA-team St.Petersburg

Contact: Dr. Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy

Baltic Fund for Nature Of St.Petersburg Naturalists Society

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Saint-Petersburg

199034 Russia

Phone: +7(812) 328 96 20

Email: eugene@bfn.org.ru

Websites : [http://www.wwf.org.uk/wli/regional-](http://www.wwf.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/europe/nature-watch-baltic)

[partners/europe/nature-watch-baltic](http://www.wwf.org.uk/wli/regional-partners/europe/nature-watch-baltic)

[http://web.me.com/naturewatch.](http://web.me.com/naturewatch)



Estonia:

Still searching for contact.



Lithuania:

Still searching for contact.



Denmark:

Nature Centre Vestmager,

Granatvej 3-9,

2770 Kastrup

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Naturstyrelsen, Hovedstaden

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www.wwf.de/wattenmeer



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Bezoekerscentrum Het Zwin

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Project coördinator REECZ en Natura People

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Syndicat Mixte Baie de Somme

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email: patrick.triplet1@orange.fr

website: www.baiedesomme.fr



France:

- **Camargue Gardoise / Centre de découverte du Scamandre**, Syndicat Mixte pour la protection et la gestion de la Camargue Gardoise

Contact: Jérémiah PETIT

Conservateur RNR du Scamandre

Responsable gestion-aménagement des domaines
Départementaux

*Centre de découverte du Scamandre

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email : petit@camarquegardoise.com

website : www.camarquegardoise.com



Spain:

1. Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Parc

Contact: Ponç Feliu and Sergio Romero

Information Centre : El Cortalet, Castelló d'Empúries (road to Sant Pere Pescador).

Tel.: +34-972 454 222.

email : pfeliu@serpa.cat and sromero@gencat.cat

website: [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aiguamolls de l'Empordà](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aiguamolls_de_l'Empordà)

www.iberianature.com



Spain:

2. Ebro Delta

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Àrea de Territori i Paisatge

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xavier.escute.fos@catalunyacaixa.com

website: www.monnaturadelta.com



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Spain:

3. Parque Regional Salinas y Arenales de San Pedro del Pinatar

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 Área de Conservación de Espacios Naturales del Litoral de la Región de Murcia
 Dirección General de Medio Ambiente.
 Consejería de Presidencia.
 C/Catedrático Eugenio Úbeda, nº 3,
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 C.P. 30008 Murcia,
 Teléfono: +34-968.22.84.49
pr-salinasdesanpedro@listas.carm.es
- Teresa López Aledo & Ana Navarro Sequero**
 Dirección General de Medio Ambiente
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 30.008 Murcia

 Teléfono: +34-968.17.81.39
 Móvil: +34-648 540 987
 Fax: +34-968 22 89 03
 Email: teresa.lopez@lagenerala.com
 Website: http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salinas_y_Arenales_de_San_Pedro_del_Pinatar

Participants in West-Africa

The wetlands in West Africa are: the **Banc D'Arguin** in Mauritania, the **Djoudj** in Northern Senegal and the **Bijagós Archipelago** in Guinea Bissau.



Banc d'Arguin, Mauretania
Contact: Mr Yelli Diawara
 Centre de Chami / PNBA Bp 5355
 AV Gamal Abdel Nasser du Nouakchott
 Mauritanie;
 téléphone: +222 45258541
 Email: ydiawara00@yahoo.fr



Parc National Djoudj, Senegal
Contact: Colonel Ibrahim Diop
 Conservateur du Parc National des oiseaux du Djoudj
 BP 80 Saint-Louis Dakar-Senegal
 Tel : + 221 77 656 70 38
 Email : ibraadiop@yahoo.fr



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Bijagós Archipelago, Guinea Bissau
Contact: Mr Meio Dia qu'a coordinateur
Reserva da Biosfera do Arquipélago de
Bolama Bijagós
Avenida Dom Settimio Arturo Ferrazzetta
Caixar Postal 70 Bissau, Guiné-Bissau
Tel. (245) 320 71 06/07
Email:
meiodiasepamariaieco@gmail.com
Skype: meiodiasepa2005@yahoo.com.br

In our previous newsletters we highlighted briefly
Bijagós Archipelago, Banc d'Arguin and
Parc National des Oiseaux du Djoudj)

Our contact person for this region is:

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Capacity Building Manager
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Tel: +221 33 869 16 81 ;
E-mail: andiaye@wetlands-africa.org



*N.P. Djoudj, Sénégal [Ramsar- and UNESCO-heritage site]
has the largest population of Pelicans worldwide.*

[Photo: The Djoudj National Park in the Senegal River Delta, Senegal]



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