

LAST CALL

'Strengthening the spoonbill network to North African and Eastern Mediterranean countries'

Dates: 23 to 29 November 2015 / **Working Language:** English

Call for contributions: deadline 10 September 2015

Deadline for registration: deadline 10 September 2015

Updated information on: <http://www.unep-aewa.org>



Target Audience: This workshop under the AEWA Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group is open to network members and any participant with an interest in wetland conservation. It will be of relevance to staff from a variety of nature conservation organizations, including scientists, statutory agencies, NGOs, as well as volunteers and students, particularly:

- Within the AEWA Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group (ESIEG);
- Ornithologists studying waterbird populations;
- Wetland Site Managers working on habitat restoration;
- Staff working in outreach / public information functions – for example, awareness-raising and garnering support for wetland conservation;
- Stakeholders in local communities.

Introduction

The workshop will provide a unique opportunity to strengthen connectivity between people involved in studying and managing wetlands for the conservation of spoonbills and associated waterbird populations. Our aim is to share information and build practical know-how about drivers of population regulation and ways to improve management effectiveness in habitat restoration. A special emphasis will be put on enhancing capacity-building within the network focusing on stakeholders from North African and Eastern Mediterranean countries.

Organising Committee

- AEWA Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group
- Tour du Valat

Collaborating partnerships

- MAVA Foundation
- EuroNatur
- IUCN
- WWF

Scientific Committee

- Dr. Claudine de le Court, Agencia Medio Ambiente y Agua, Junta de Andalucía, Spain
- Mr. Csaba Pigniczki, Debrecen University, Hungary
- Dr. Khaled Etayeb, University of Tripoli, Libya
- Mr. Hichem Azafzaf, AAO/BirdLife, Tunisia
- Secretary: Dr. Juan G. Navedo, Austral University, Chile

Workshop Technical Secretary

- Dr. Jocelyn Champagnon, Tour du Valat, France
- Mrs. Marie Antoinette Diaz, Tour du Valat, France

Programme Schedule

- **Monday 23:** Arrival of participants at Arles
- **Tuesday 24 – Friday 27:** Workshop at Tour du Valat (see scientific programme below)
- **Saturday 28:** Field trip in Camargue + Spoonbill dinner
- **Sunday 29:** Departure of the participants from Arles

Scientific Programme

- **Session 1: Migratory connectivity**
 - Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Sergey P. Kharitonov, Bird Ringing Centre of Russia, Russian Academy of Sciences. "Current status and migration of Spoonbills in Russian Federation and nearest countries"**
- **Session 2: Spoonbills in Africa, wintering distribution, conservation priorities**
 - Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Leo Zwarts, A&W Ecological consultants, The Netherlands. "Changes in the Sahel and consequences for waterbird populations"**

- **Session 3: Population regulation**
 - Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Tamar Lok, Centre d'Ecologie Fonctionnelle et Evolutive, France. "What do we still need to understand spoonbill population regulation? A plea for better understanding spoonbill migration"**
- **Session 4: Miscellaneous**

The official language of the VIII International Spoonbill Workshop will be English. Proceedings of the Workshop will be published. Further information including the Scientific Programme of the Workshop will be published and updated on <http://www.unep-aewa.org>

Call for contributions: deadline 10 September 2015

Abstract submission should be made by e-mail to jgnavedo@uach.cl

At least one author of each contribution has to be registered in the Workshop. Each contribution will be proposed as an oral or poster presentation. Abstracts should include: title, authors and affiliations, a brief description of the purpose and methods of the study, as well as main results and discussed ideas of the contribution. A maximum of 2,500 characters (up to one page, A4 standard) is allowed per abstract.

The Scientific Committee will evaluate each proposed contribution with regard to its potential of filling identified gaps in basic knowledge and transferability for the conservation for spoonbill populations. The Scientific Committee will further decide if a contribution should be made as an oral presentation, within one of the four proposed sessions, or if it should be presented as a poster. The deadline for the final decisions will be 30 September 2015.

The final programme and the abstract books will be provided to participants at the workshop and will also be available on the AEWA website. If you have any query about abstract submission, please contact directly jgnavedo@uach.cl

Registration deadline and fees

Registration should be made through (on line):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uHyz44HkoPGmquBH_irexF8-HIM84voDYNwkTGY7Ap4/viewform

Your registration will be officially considered when we receive an e-mail with copy of the transfer request from your bank. If you need additional information, please contact the Technical Secretariat of the Workshop diaz@tourduvalat.org

The LAST registration deadline is 10 September 2015. The regular registration fee for the Workshop is €250. The organizers will try to accommodate registrations submitted after the deadline (with an additional charge of €50), but do not guarantee the availability of places (the capacity of the workshop is limited).



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Student registration allows a €50 discount. The Student Registration Fee is available only to students with official documents showing their status, which should be submitted right after payment to diaz@tourduvalat.org

The Regular registration (for local participants) fee includes daily shuttle from Arles to TDV, admission to oral and poster sessions, workshop material, the official reception and coffee-breaks, lunch (5 days), a whole-day fieldtrip and the 'Spoonbiller party'. Breakfast, dinner, accommodation and travel costs are not included in registration fees (please see below).

This six-day workshop is being organized by the AEWA Eurasian Spoonbill International Expert Group and Tour du Valat for the benefit of any person that loves waterbirds, especially spoonbills!

It is generously supported by MAVA Foundation and EuroNatur. The fees exclude any personal expenses incurred during your stay.

Venue, accommodation and food

The workshop will be held on Tour du Valat (TDV) research center. <http://www.tourduvalat.org/en>

The Organizing Committee will provide a unique possibility for accommodation for the whole workshop (six nights) at Arles, including food (breakfast, lunch and dinner) as well as daily shuttle from Arles to TDV, which can be booked through the Workshop Technical Secretary. This special offer (**which includes the registration fee**) is only available for workshop participants.

- Registration to Workshop + Accommodation at [Hotel Atrium](#) €450 (€180 supplement for a single room) per person.

There are other options and facilities for accommodation available in the area, but they should be arranged directly by participants.

BANK INFO

SOCIETE GENERALE		RELEVÉ D'IDENTITÉ BANCAIRE	
Titulaire du Compte :	FONDATION TOUR DU VALAT LE SAMBUC MAS TOUR DE VALAT LE SAMBUC 13200 ARLES		
Domiciliation	ARLES		(00120)
Identification nationale (RIB)			
30003	00120	00037260672	97
Code Banque	Code Guichet	Numéro de Compte	Clé RIB
Identification internationale (IBAN)			
IBAN FR76 3000 3001 2000 0372 6067 297			
Identifiant international de la Banque (BIC)			
SOGEFRPP			



LOGISTICS, LOCATION & SPECTACULAR SITE VISITS

This workshop will be held on Tour du Valat, south-east France <http://www.tourduvalat.org/en>

Founded more than 50 years ago by Luc Hoffmann, the Tour du Valat (TDV) has since then developed its research activities for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands with a major focus: 'Better understanding of wetlands for better management'.

Convinced that it will only be possible to preserve wetlands if human activities and the protection of the natural heritage can be reconciled, the TDV has for many years been developing programmes of research and integrated management that promote interchanges between wetland users and scientists. The TDV mission is to halt the loss and the degradation of Mediterranean wetlands and of their natural resources, and to restore them.

La TDV, located in the heart of the Camargue is a private research organization. It has the legal form of a charitable foundation recognised as a non profit-making association since 1978. The Tour du Valat Estate (see below), which includes all the natural habitats representative of the Camargue with its rivers and wetlands, extends over an area of 2,600 hectares. The TDV it is also a unique bibliographical resource centre in the Mediterranean, specialised in Wetlands Ecology, Ornithology, Zoology, Mammalogy, Ichthyology, Herpetology, Botany. Each year, hundreds of researchers, teachers and students from the Mediterranean basin come and consult the library's reference material.



La Camargue

The Camargue extends over an area of 145,300 hectares, between the two gulfs of Aigues-Mortes and Fos, in the form of a triangular delta whose base is formed by 80km of sandy sea coast running east-west. Its central artery, the Rhône, divides into two branches: the Grand Rhône, which drains 85% of the land, and the Petit Rhône, which only drains 15% and which tends to silt up at its mouth, close to Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer.

The vegetation of the delta is determined by the hydrological regime and by salinity. Depending on the level of salinity and the degree of flooding, the following may be distinguished:

- Freshwater habitats, with wet riparian woodlands along the Rhône and relict riverine dunes with permanent grasslands.



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- Brackish habitats with open ground, which may be dry (Salicornia beds) wet (sansouires) or submerged (oligohaline and brackish marshes).
- Hypersaline flooded habitats of the salinas and low-lying lagoons.
- Maritime dry and flooded habitats with extant and relict dunes.

An indigenous wild fauna persists in the Camargue, despite intensive agriculture. Vertebrates include about 75 species of fish, 10 amphibians, 15 reptiles (excepted turtle) and 398 birds, of which 111 regularly breed here.

A full-day visit is planned on Saturday, 28 November by bus to visit the best birdwatching areas around the TDV. Bring your binoculars and spotting scope!

Of the 4,700 species of flowering plants recorded in France, over 1,000 are found in the Camargue. Some species have arisen here through the evolution of special adaptations to their environment. Others are very rare throughout the whole of France or even Europe. Large populations of plants which are rare elsewhere, due to their isolation or to the limited extent of their habitats, persist over vast areas of the Camargue.

At first restricted by natural conditions unfavourable to any permanent human settlement, the development of the delta was begun in the Middle Ages when the first clearing and deforestation work was undertaken by members of religious orders. The first of the dykes to keep out the sea and the Rhône were built in the 16th and 17th Centuries. Up to the 19th Century, development was basically agricultural (particularly involving sheep farming), and was confined to the highest parts of the fluvio-paludal Camargue. The large-scale exploitation of the salinas began in 1856. The development of rice growing after the Second World War led to the creation of a massive hydraulic infrastructure. These days the service sector (tourism, farming for the tourism industry) is becoming increasingly important. Agriculture is becoming more intensive (irrigation, pesticides, overgrazing, hunting pressure). Urban areas are spreading and more land is becoming accessible to the public.

Coming from Marseille airport

From Marseille-Provence airport (<http://www.marseille-airport.com/access-car-parks/access/by-train-or-by-bus>): Proceed to the Airport Train platform (in front of Hall1) 20 min before every train departure. Then take a train ticket from Vitrolles Aéroport station to Arles station: 12.30€, 48min. You can buy it by distance through (www.voyages-sncf.fr), at the airport or at the train station

REGISTRATION

To register for this unique workshop, please fill up the On-line registration form (see above). If you have any question send an e-mail to diaz@tourduvalat.org

- We will reserve your accommodation directly with the hotel.
- Programme details and further information will be published and updated at <http://www.unep-awa.org>

We look forward to welcoming you in Tour du Valat!

