

ANNOUNCEMENT

Research Networking Programme – EURAPMON
Research and monitoring for and with raptors in Europe

WORKSHOP

Inventory of existing raptor monitoring in Europe



**Centro Educativo del Medio Ambiente, CEMACAM
Torre Guil, Sangonera La Verde, Murcia, SPAIN**

Thursday 9th to Friday 10th February 2012

Summary

This announcement provides information on the Workshop on Inventory of Existing Raptor Monitoring in Europe, organised within the context of the European Science Foundation (ESF) Research Networking Programme, 'Research and Monitoring for and with Raptors in Europe' (EURAPMON). The two-day workshop will be held in Murcia on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th February 2012.

The workshop will focus on the science in relation to EURAPMON Work Package 2, ***inventory of existing raptor monitoring activities in Europe***, and thereby advance progress with this Work Package. The inventory is of fundamental importance to the EURAPMON programme as it underpins other work packages on analysis of user needs, identification of priorities, sharing of best practice, capacity-building, and development of a European-level database.

The workshop will bring together leading ornithologists, ecologists, ecotoxicologists and conservation professionals working at the forefront of raptor research and monitoring in Europe, including monitoring of species' states and trends, monitoring of contaminant and other pressures on raptors, and monitoring of the effectiveness of policy and management measures.

Participants will include representatives from leading research groups and conservation organisations from EURAPMON funding countries - Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In addition, and in accordance with ESF guidelines, the workshop is open to other interested participants from these and other ESF member countries.¹ Top priority will be given to applicants from the above-listed EURAPMON funding countries, and to those from non-funding countries who have already been involved in EURAPMON. However, a good number of places should remain for applicants who are new to EURAPMON. The organisers will seek to ensure balanced geographical representation, a balance of expertise, and the involvement of young scientists.

Accommodation (two participants per room) is provided free of charge at the workshop venue. If the number of participants exceeds the venue capacity (52), further accommodation will be arranged at nearby hotels by the local organisers. Participants are encouraged to cover travel and per diem costs from their own institute's resources wherever possible, in order that we may assist those with greatest need. However, participants without access to own resources for this purpose, or unable to fully cover their costs, may apply for support for travel, accommodation and/or meals costs. Any such need for financial support should be indicated clearly on the application form.

If you are interested to attend, please complete and return the attached application form by email to movalliduke@skynet.be by no later than Wednesday 11th January 2012.

The final list of invited participants will be issued by Friday 13th January 2012. Participants should confirm that they are on this final list before making any travel arrangements.

¹ For a map of countries with ESF member organisations, see: <http://www.esf.org/about-us/79-member-organisations.html>

Details

1. EURAPMON

EURAPMON² is a European Science Foundation³ Research Networking Programme,⁴ entitled 'Research and Monitoring for and with Raptors in Europe.' EURAPMON is funded by 15 European research academies, governments and NGOs.⁵

The **wider aim** of EURAPMON is to strengthen the contribution of research and monitoring *for* and *with* raptors in Europe to delivery of biodiversity, environmental and human health benefits, including maintenance and recovery of raptor populations and their habitats, and reduced chemicals threats to ecosystem and human health. By monitoring *for* raptors, we intend monitoring which focuses on raptor populations and trends. By monitoring *with* raptors, we intend monitoring which focuses on using raptors to monitor contaminants and other environmental pressures.

The **objectives** of EURAPMON are **(1)** to establish a sustainable and resource-efficient Europe-wide network for monitoring *for* and *with* raptors, linked to international networks; **(2)** to establish consensus on Europe-wide priorities for monitoring *for* and *with* raptors, based on comprehensive inventory of existing monitoring, and of needs of key users (policy makers, risk assessors, environmental managers); **(3)** to spread best practices and build capacities in Europe for harmonized monitoring *for* and *with* raptors; **(4)** to build a web-based database, populated with interoperable data on European raptor population trends and (contaminant and other) pressures on raptors in Europe, and to produce European- and EU- scale analytical outputs which meet priority needs of users.

EURAPMON was launched in May 2010 and will run for 5 years. It builds on a workshop held in Sicily, Italy in October 2006, proceedings of which were published in a Special Issue of *Ambio* in 2008.⁶ EURAPMON participants are drawn from most ESF member countries and from key international organisations, including BirdLife International, MEROS and the Raptor Research Foundation. EURAPMON has access to a significant proportion of leading and emerging expertise and facilities for such work in Europe. Our multidisciplinary (raptor ecotoxicologists,

² www.esf.org/eurapmon and www.eurapmon.org (EURAPMON website opening January 2012)

³ www.esf.org

⁴ <http://www.esf.org/activities/research-networking-programmes.html>

⁵ Danish Council for Independent Research, Natural Sciences (FNU); Estonian Science Foundation; Academy of Finland Research Council for Biosciences and Environment; Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS); Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA); Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Directorate General for Nature Protection, Italy; Comune di Castellammare del Golfo, Italy; National Research Fund, Luxembourg (FNR); Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NOW); Research Council of Norway; Society for Wild Animals 'Falcon', Poland; Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal; National University Research Council (CNCSIS), Romania; Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS); Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN), Spain; Swedish Research Council (VR); Swedish Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences & Spatial Planning (FORMAS); Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (CEH), UK.

⁶ *Ambio* 37(6) 2008: <http://www.bioone.org/toc/ambi/37/6>

ornithologists, ecologists, conservation biologists) will enable development of new leading-edge methods for early detection of environmental change, determination of drivers of change (with levels of certainty) and prediction of emerging problems (e.g. based on combined ecological, chemical, metabonomic and/or genomic techniques). This should effectively position raptors as sentinels of the health of European ecosystems.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop will focus on the science in relation to EURAPMON Work Package 2, ***inventory of existing raptor monitoring activities in Europe***, and thereby advance progress with this Work Package. The inventory is of fundamental importance to the EURAPMON programme as it underpins other programme work packages on analysis of user needs, identification of priorities, sharing of best practice, capacity-building, and development of a European-level database.

EURAPMON has developed ***two questionnaires*** to carry out this inventory of existing raptor monitoring activities in Europe, one related to monitoring *for* raptors (focusing on raptor populations status and trends), and another on monitoring *with* raptors (focusing on using raptors to monitor contaminants and other environmental pressures). These questionnaires will be launched on a new EURAPMON website to go online in advance of the workshop.

At the same time, EURAPMON is launching a call for ***National Coordinators*** to work with EURAPMON, within their respective countries, to ensure as comprehensive a response as possible to these questionnaires. National Coordinators will be confirmed by mid-January and invited to the workshop. The National Coordinators will be requested to present, at the workshop, a preliminary overview of the raptor monitoring activity in their respective countries.

Additionally, EURAPMON has been active in negotiating involvement in a proposal for a ***large-scale collaborative research projects under the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme***. The final proposal will be submitted in mid February 2012. EURAPMON input to the proposal will also be discussed at the workshop.

The ***objectives of the workshop*** are to:

- present preliminary overviews of current raptor monitoring activities in each country;
- present online questionnaires of existing monitoring activities;
- bring together, brief and motivate 'National Coordinators' who will play a vital role in ensuring as comprehensive response as possible to these questionnaires;
- establish steps for successful conclusion of the inventory;
- assess implications of the above for the assessment of user needs (WP3) and database development (WP7), building on the 2010 EURAPMON workshop outcomes.
- discuss EURAPMON input to FP7 proposal and agree next steps.

The workshop will consist of plenary, working and poster sessions designed to meet these objectives. Further details of the scientific content of the workshop will be issued in due course.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The workshop will bring together leading ecotoxicologists, ornithologists, ecologists and conservation professionals working at the forefront of raptor research and monitoring in

Europe, including monitoring of species' states and trends, monitoring of contaminant and other pressures on raptors, and monitoring of the effectiveness of policy and management measures.

Participants will include representatives from leading research groups and conservation organisations from EURAPMON funding countries - Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In addition, and in accordance with ESF guidelines, the workshop is open to other interested participants from these and other ESF member countries.⁷

Top priority will be given to applicants from the above-listed EURAPMON funding countries, and to those from non-funding countries who have already been involved in EURAPMON and, in particular, to those who are appointed as *National Coordinators*. However, a good number of places should remain for applicants who are new to EURAPMON. The organisers will seek to ensure balanced geographical representation, a balance of expertise, and the involvement of young scientists.

4. DATES

The workshop will start on the morning of Thursday 9th February and end on the evening of Friday 10th February 2012. Field excursions are anticipated for Saturday 11th February. Participants are advised to arrive on Wednesday 8th February and depart on (or after) Sunday 12th February. (The EURAPMON Steering Committee will meet back-to-back with the workshop, on Wednesday 8th February; SC members will therefore need to arrive one day earlier, on Tuesday 7th February.)

5. LOCATION

The workshop will be held at the Centro Educativo del Medio Ambiente (CEMACAM), Torre Guil, Sangonera La Verde, Murcia, SPAIN.

CEMACAM is located a few km to the west of the city of Murcia, which is near Alicante on the Coast Blanca in South-East Spain.

For an introduction to the city and region of Murcia, see the Murcia Turistica website⁸ and Wikipedia entries for Murcia city and region.^{9, 10}

Murcia hosts a wide range of raptor species and provides an ideal base for excursions for birdwatching. For an annual list of species observed in Murcia, see the *Anuario Ornitológico de la Region de Murcia*.¹¹

6. TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

⁷ For a map of countries with ESF member organisations, see: <http://www.esf.org/about-us/79-member-organisations.html>

⁸ <http://www.murciaturistica.es/en/tourism.home>

⁹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murcia>

¹⁰ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Murcia>

¹¹ www.aorm.es (click on 'Informe del Año 2010' for the latest list)

Murcia-San Javier airport (on the coast about 45 km to the east of Murcia city) is served by flights from only from Madrid, Brussels and several UK airports – see full list of destinations and carriers.¹²

Alternately, one can fly to nearby Alicante and transfer to Murcia by bus (75 km, about 1 hour).¹³ Alicante is served by direct flights from most European countries – see full list of destinations and carriers.¹⁴

Airport transfers from Murcia airport or Murcia bus terminal (for those arriving by bus from Alicante airport) to CEMACAM will be provided by the local organisers.

Accommodation will be provided free of charge at CEMACAM, two participants per room (max. 52 participants). If participants exceed capacity, accommodation will be provided at nearby hotels.

7. CLIMATE

Typical weather conditions for mid-February in Murcia are generally cool and dry, with occasional rain. Climate data for Murcia in February: average high 18.2°C, average low 5.2°C (64.8°F and 41.4°F), average 3 rainy days. Participants are advised to bring walking shoes/boots and warm and waterproof clothing.

8. SPONSORS, COSTS, FUNDING

The workshop is funded by EURAPMON and the Spanish Ministry of Research and Innovation. The workshop venue is kindly provided free of charge by the CEMACAM.

There is no registration fee for attendance. Transfers between Murcia airport and CEMACAM, and between Alicante airport and CEMACAM, will be provided free of charge.

Participants are encouraged to cover their travel and per diem costs from their own institute's resources wherever possible, in order that we may assist those with greatest need. However, participants without access to own resources for this purpose, or unable to fully cover their costs, may apply for full or partial reimbursement of travel costs and/or a contribution to the cost of meals (where these are not provided by the local organisers). Any such need for financial support should be indicated clearly on the application form. (NB: Steering Committee members and advisers, National Coordinators: travel, meals and any necessary accommodation costs will be fully funded).

¹² <http://www.aena-aeropuertos.es/csee/Satellite/Aeropuerto-Murcia-San-Javier/en/Page/1056634680325//Airport-destinations.html>

¹³ <http://www.alicante-spain.com/murcia-bus-to-alicante-airport.html#alicante-airport-to-murcia-bus>

¹⁴ <http://www.aena-aeropuertos.es/csee/Satellite/Aeropuerto-Alicante/en/Page/1056529998298//Airport-destinations.html>

9. WORKSHOP ORGANISATION

Scientific committee: Guy Duke (EURAPMON Chair), András Kovács (Steering Committee Member), Bert Van Hattum (Steering Committee Member), with the advice of the EURAPMON Steering Committee and experts.¹⁵

The local organising committee is: Antonio García Fernández, Emma Martínez López, Jose Francisco Calvo Sendin, Jose Enrique Martínez, Pilar Gómez Ramírez and Silvia Espin (University of Murcia).

Additional administration: Paola Movalli (EURAPMON Coordinator)

10. APPLICATIONS TO ATTEND

Please register your interest to attend by completing the attached application form and emailing to: movalliduke@skynet.be by DEADLINE Wednesday 11th January 2012.

A final list of invited participants, together with instructions for making travel arrangements, will be issued by Friday 13th January 2012. Participants should confirm that they are on this final list before making any travel arrangements.

ESF REMIT

The European Science Foundation (ESF) was established in 1974 to create a common European platform for cross-border cooperation in all aspects of scientific research.

With its emphasis on a multidisciplinary and pan-European approach, the Foundation provides the leadership necessary to open new frontiers in European science.

Its activities include providing science policy advice (Science Strategy); stimulating co-operation between researchers and organisations to explore new directions (Science Synergy); and the administration of externally funded programmes (Science Management). These take place in the following areas: Physical and engineering sciences; Medical sciences; Life, earth and environmental sciences; Humanities; Social sciences; Polar; Marine; Space; Radio astronomy frequencies; Nuclear physics.

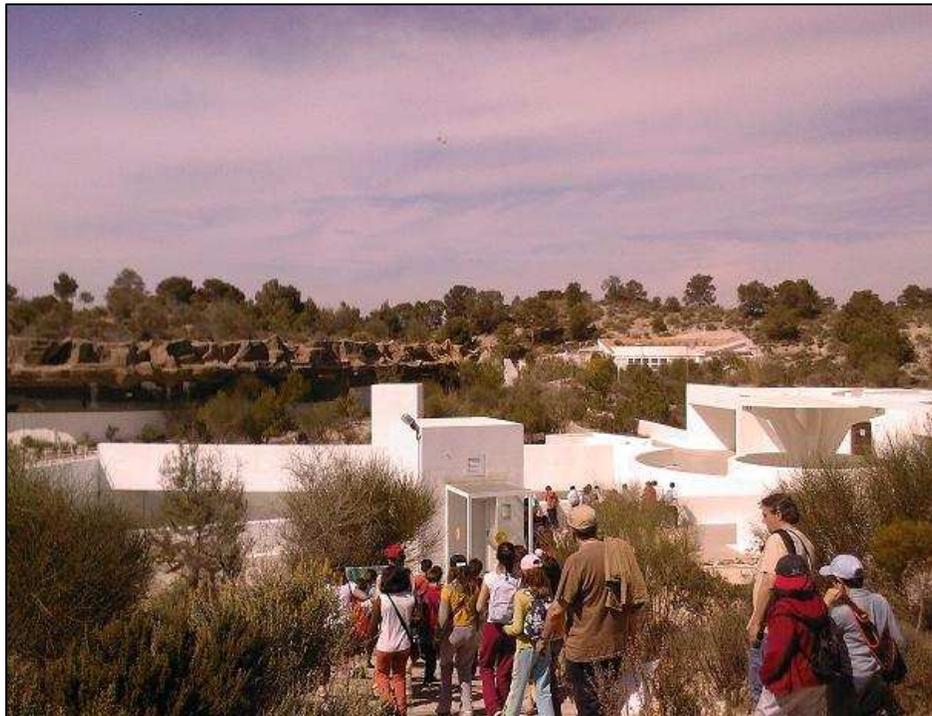
Headquartered in Strasbourg with offices in Brussels, the ESF's membership comprises 75 national funding agencies, research performing agencies and academies from 30 European nations.

The Foundation's independence allows the ESF to objectively represent the priorities of all these members.

¹⁵ EURAPMON Steering Committee: Christian Sonne (DK), Ülo Väli (EE), Pertti Saurola (FI), András Kovács (HU), Alessandro Andreotti (IT), Gilles Biver (LX), Bert Van Hattum (NL), Dorte Herzke (NO), Janusz Sielicki (PO), Luís Palma (PT), Szilárd Daróczy (RO), Al Vrezec (SI), Antonio Garcia Fernández (SP), Björn Helander (SE), Guy Duke (UK) (Chair). Experts: Richard Shore, Ian Burfield, Chris Wernham, Ubbo Mammen, Nico Van Den Brink, Marten Winter. Coordinator: Paola Movalli.



CEMACAM - the workshop venue



CEMACAM - surroundings