



Eurosites

**Networking for Europe's nature
WETLANDS AND
CLIMATE CHANGE
WORKING GROUP**

EUROSITE: A NETWORK FOR EUROPE'S SITE MANAGERS

Eurosite works to facilitate, support, inspire and unite its members in the common goal of caring for Europe's nature. One of Eurosite's main missions is to share ideas and good practice on subjects that are of interest to its members.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

The impacts of climate change, such as the higher frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, changes in the hydrological cycle and changes in sea levels are impacting society, the economy and nature.

Global climate change is endangering human wellbeing and is also hindering the achievement of the ambitious targets for biodiversity in Europe. The current situation requires that adaptation measures are taken at different levels, from site management to national, European and even global level.

Eurosite's mission is to provide opportunities for practitioners to network and exchange experience on practical nature management.

NATURA 2000 TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

In Europe, the Natura 2000 network is the main tool to conserve nature. Wetlands are an important part of this. Impacts of climate change on wetlands could lead to a loss of habitats, species and, consequently, to a loss of ecosystem services. For this reason, improving the resilience of the Natura 2000 network to climate change is one of the core means of delivering the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.



Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) © Saxifraga-Mark Zekhuis



Lapland © Saxifraga-Dirk Hilbers

Climate-adapted wetlands can play an instrumental role in mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change and function as *natural climate buffers* – also for other land use and economics. Developing robust, connected and resilient wetlands is an objective of this working group.

EUROSITE WORKING GROUP CONTRIBUTION

The Wetlands and Climate Change Working Group is set up following the request by a number of Eurosite members to exchange ideas on dealing with the new challenges

“We currently cannot ignore the effects of climate change, so it’s great to tackle this issue with a group of inspiring people who face the impacts on a daily basis.”

Kristijan Čivić

Eurosite Wetlands and Climate Change Working Group Chair

presented by global climate change.

The **main goals** of the Eurosite Wetlands and Climate Change Working Group are to:

- increase exchange of knowledge about ecosystem-based approaches to adapt wetlands to climate change and mitigate its impacts;
- follow and react to the developments of policy and practice in relation to wetlands and climate change and their effects on the Natura 2000 network, and advocate best possible approaches;
- cooperate on the development of joint projects and identify funding sources.

The Wetlands and Climate Change Working Group meets regularly throughout the year and organises annual demand-driven workshops on relevant topics.



"In the midst of challenging times, natural ecosystems - and for that matter, wetlands - need all the support they can get. Eurosite has brought us together in this working group to share valuable knowledge and experience on how to conserve and restore wetlands, bearing in mind that nowadays, climate change is an indispensable parameter in conservation management. So, come along and share your bright ideas... Join Eurosite!"

Lydia Alvanou

Eurosite Member Axios - Loudias -
Aliakmonas Management Authority

INTERESTED IN JOINING US?

Eurosite membership is ideal for individuals and organisations working to conserve Europe's nature, and wanting to:

- optimise their site management practices and achieve their nature conservation goals;
- share information and experiences in order to learn from each other;
- understand EU policies impacting on nature and their work; and
- network with other members leading to financial and environmental gains.

Interested in becoming a Eurosite member or want to find out more?

Don't hesitate and visit our website or contact us directly.

info@eurosite.org | +31 (+)13 5944 400 | www.eurosite.org



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