

Fundación Moeve wraps up its Wetlands Days with over 300 schoolchildren in Campo de Gibraltar

- **Participants visited the Madre Vieja Environmental Station and learned how to protect and recover wetland areas**

Fundación Moeve has celebrated World Wetlands Day this February with a program of environmental visits and workshops at the Madre Vieja Environmental Station in San Roque, Cadiz, to raise awareness about the importance of conserving and protecting this type of ecosystem.

In this year's training program, 310 sixth graders and 21 teachers from ten elementary schools in Campo de Gibraltar participated in an environmental workshop on the important role that these ecosystems play in the richness and recovery of biodiversity. They also got the chance to visit the Madre Vieja Environmental Station and see first-hand how this space was recovered over ten years ago. In this way, the students participated in educational workshops and fun activities to help them learn about and understand the importance of this type of natural space and the Madre Vieja Environmental Station; they were also invited to take part in a competition by submitting their drawings and photos of this area.

The Sagrado Corazón School in Puente Mayorga (San Roque) was the first to participate in these events, which this year took place under the slogan "*Protect and restore wetlands for everyone's future*" with the aim of raising awareness about the importance of valuing and caring for these natural spaces. This year's Fundación Moeve Wetlands Days were drawn to close by the Casa de la Virgen de Palmones School (Los Barrios).

Estrella Blanco, head of Fundación Moeve in Cadiz, stated that: "Thanks to this program the children have learned firsthand what a wetland is and why conserving them is important. And the Madre Vieja Environmental Station is a space rich in biodiversity, refuge for birds, amphibians and mammals in the Campo de Gibraltar. We all have to work together to preserve and promote the natural spaces in our region."

World Wetlands Day has been held on February 2 since 1977 in commemoration of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands in Ramsar (Iran). This was the first treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

Since 2014, over 4,600 students from schools in Campo de Gibraltar have been given the opportunity to participate in educational activities held at the Madre Vieja Environmental Station.

Madre Vieja Environmental Station

In 2009, Cepsa decided to recover and restore this space as part of its policy on biodiversity, sustainability, commitment and respect for the environment, so as to promote nature research and also serve as a space for environmental education which is open to the public. Over ten years after the project started, it continues to grow in importance. It is now led by Fundación Cepsa and is the first of its kind in the province of Cadiz. The richness and diversity of its habitats have made the Madre Vieja Environmental Station a true sanctuary for around 130 cataloged species of birds and 21 mammals.

Fundación Moeve is a non-profit, general interest organization whose goal is to carry out work aimed at serving the needs and priorities of the local communities where its founder, Moeve, conducts its activities. Fundación Moeve's scopes of action are people, biodiversity, and social innovation.

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Fundación Moeve
Tel.: (34) 956 023 600/659 578 080
<https://fundacion.moeveglobal.com/es>