



European countries currently represented in the EPCN (see website for a full list of participants)

## Objectives of the EPCN

- To exchange information on pond ecology and conservation between researchers, managers and practitioners.
- To promote understanding of pond ecology by encouraging the development and coordination of fundamental and applied research.
- To raise the profile of ponds and guide national and supra-national policies for their protection.
- To promote effective practical pond conservation.
- To disseminate information on the importance, attractiveness and conservation of ponds to the people.

The network welcomes researchers and practitioners from other areas outside Europe.

## Why protect ponds?

There are millions of ponds in Europe, rich in biodiversity and supporting a wide range of rare and endangered plants and animals. They also provide a range of ecosystem services, and are important in the context of adapting to and mitigating climate change. These waterbodies are also important to European culture and history, and provide one of the closest links between people and wildlife.



## Threats and opportunities

Despite their value, ponds are now amongst the most vulnerable and endangered of freshwater habitats. They face many threats, and receive little effective protection from legislation or policy.

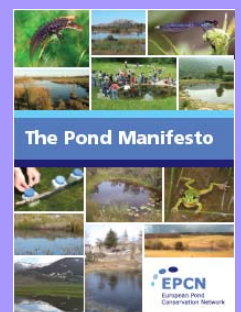
This is unfortunate since the characteristics of ponds make them both important and comparatively easy to protect. They are also ideal for engaging the public in practical action to help maintain and restore the integrity of freshwaters in the landscape.

## The Pro-pond Project (2007-2009)

Pro-pond, funded by the MAVA Foundation, is a networking project which has already allowed us to publish a new website, The Pond Manifesto and supported the organisation of two workshops here at the 3<sup>rd</sup> EPCN Conference in Valencia. Over the next two years, this project will also produce:

- A preliminary Pond Typology in Europe
- An Important Areas for Ponds assessment
- A training course on Mediterranean pond creation and management
- A biannual newsletter on pond research, creation and management

More information will be sent to EPCN members on how they can contribute to these initiatives.



To download the proceedings of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> European Pond Workshop, or The Pond Manifesto and other EPCN publications, please visit: [www.europeanponds.org](http://www.europeanponds.org)



➤ Would you like to join the EPCN?

➤ Do you have any pond news for the EPCN newsletter?

Then please contact Pascale Nicolet ([pnicolet@pondconservation.org.uk](mailto:pnicolet@pondconservation.org.uk)) or visit [www.europeanponds.org](http://www.europeanponds.org)