

## **Fundación Cepsa brings Wetlands Conference to a close after returning to Madre Vieja Environmental Station**

- During the month of February, environmental education workshops are being held with schools, following the COVID-19 safety protocol
- For the eighth year in a row, 340 sixth graders from schools in Campo de Gibraltar are taking part in this activity

Fundación Cepsa is celebrating World Wetlands Day this February with a program of environmental visits and workshops at the Madre Vieja Environmental Station, following the COVID-19 safety protocols. Students have thus returned to the San Roque wetland after the pandemic forced the workshops to be held in classrooms or online last year.

A total of 340 sixth graders from a dozen schools in Campo de Gibraltar participated in this edition of the training program.

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. First Cepsa and later Fundación Cepsa have played a part in this celebration for the last eight years, running an environmental education program for children from schools in Campo de Gibraltar. Pupils participate in fun, educational workshops to learn about the importance of this type of natural spaces and the Madre Vieja Environmental Station; the children are also invited to take part in a competition by submitting their drawings and photographs of the surroundings.

The Sagrado Corazón School in Puente Mayorga (San Roque) was the first to participate in the conference, held this year under the slogan "*Value-manage-restore-love*" with the aim of raising awareness of the value of these natural areas and the need to conserve them. The Parque del Estrecho de Algeciras School brought this edition of the Fundación Cepsa Wetlands Conference to a close in an event attended by Eva Pajares, subdelegate of the Andalusian Government in Campo de Gibraltar.

Estrella Blanco, head of Fundación Cepsa in Campo de Gibraltar, said: "We are very pleased that the children were able to visit the Madre Vieja Environmental Station this year and learn first-hand what a wetland is and why its conservation is important. Madre Vieja is an area rich in biodiversity, a refuge for birds, amphibians and mammals in Campo de Gibraltar."

Since 2014, over four thousand students from schools across the district have been given the chance to participate in educational activities held at the Madre Vieja Environmental Station as part of these environmental workshops.

### **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 Cádiz. 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 Cepsa** is a general interest, nonprofit entity whose aim is to carry out initiatives that serve the needs and priorities of the local communities where its founder, Compañía Española de Petróleos S.A. (Cepsa), conducts its business. The areas of action for Fundación Cepsa are social, environmental and scientific-educational.

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