

11th Meeting of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee

5 July 2012, Bucharest, Romania

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Level of Achievement on the MedWet Strategic Work Plan 2009-2012

The MedWet Vision and Strategy that have been approved in Changwon in 2008 proposes 4 main axes along which the MedWet initiative activities should be developed:

- **Axis 1.** Improving the **knowledge** on Mediterranean wetland functions, services and values, as well as on their status and trends.
- **Axis 2.** Promoting, developing and implementing **national wetland policies** and inter-sectoral **action plans**.
- **Axis 3.** Ensuring the **sustainable integrated management** of wetlands.
- **Axis 4.** Moderating the impact of **climate change**.

This Vision strategic axes are developed through 4 main modalities: Scientific and Technical Collaboration, Capacity Building, Cooperation, Awareness and Communication

The following table outlines the level of achievement attained by MedWet on each of the specific points that make up the four axes of the strategic vision. The activities are presented in more detail in Document MW10.2 "From Bastia to Bucharest". Other activities MedWet has focused on that are not represented here, are the work it has done on environmental education through developing games and activities on wetlands as well as the involvement of young students in MedWet activities.

Axis 1. Improving the **knowledge** on Mediterranean wetland functions, services and values, as well as on their status and trends.

Target: Knowledge is generated, information is structured and shared for ensuring (i) understanding of the key functions and services provided by wetlands, (ii) effective monitoring of wetland status and trends at local, national and regional scales, and (iii) evaluation of progress in implementing the MedWet Strategic Vision.

	Activity	Expected outcome	Level of achievement
Scientific and Technical Collaboration	1.1 Development and updating of wetland inventories	7 new or updated wetland inventories in a standard and harmonised format (MedWet or compatible) and incorporated in the Pan-Mediterranean Inventory	<u>Partly achieved:</u> Very successful in Italy. ARPAT and ISPRA have managed to store 1266 wetland sites in the batch input WIS files.
	1.2 Finalisation of the Pan-Mediterranean Wetlands Inventory	Pan-Med Inventory published and disseminated through appropriate means	<u>Activity paused:</u> After assessment & internal consultation, the MW Inventory Group suggested to give more focus to the widest dissemination of all the tools and manuals with less emphasis on the ambitious objective of a Pan-Mediterranean Wetlands Inventory, only useful if done at the same time in all countries. WIS tool to be promoted as an example of a database that can be inspirational for those willing to do their inventory
	1.3 Development of applied research on the wetlands services and their valuation	Enhanced understanding of the services provided by wetlands and of their values	<u>Partly achieved:</u> Support and incorporation in the Agadir Commitments of the projects related to ecosystem services like the Hula-Camargue project, by TdV and the Tel Aviv University.
	1.4 Operation of the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO)	a- Endorsement by MedWet/Com reached (2008) b- Scientific & Technical consortium established (2008) c- Objective science-based, continuous and collaborative monitoring of the status and trends of Mediterranean wetlands	<u>Fully achieved:</u> The MWO is fully functional having signed memoranda with its partners. In February 2012 the first report "Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2012" was launched in the Agadir Symposium and is now available for free download to all users in two languages.

Capacity Building	1.5 Building capacity in the field of wetland inventory, monitoring and assessment	Wetland managers and scientists able to design, run, analyse and share monitoring and assessment programmes	<u>Partly achieved</u> : Even though on site capacity building has not taken place, the MedWet Inventory System has been made consistent and is now found in one location, available to all users (http://www.medwet.org/medwet-inventory/)
	1.6 Development of the NGOs network	NGOs able to influence the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater ecosystem at local or regional level	<u>Partly achieved</u> : First submission of the project to the MAVA Foundation was rejected. After a reformulation of the project to the “MedWet Civil Society network” with the contribution of WWF-MedPo, Tour du Valat and MWO, the project is being re-submitted.
Awareness and Communication	1.7 Establishment of a system for making widely available wetland-related scientific and technical knowledge to wetland managers and decision-makers	A system based on or integrating the MedWet Web Information System (WIS)	<u>Partly achieved</u> : The MedWet/WIS has been decoupled from the MedWet Inventory System and is now promoted as a choice for storing data to the users. However, the MedWet Inventory System can now be found in one location, (http://www.medwet.org/medwet-inventory/) as well as the last output of the MedWet/CODDE (http://www.medwet.org/codde/index.html)
	1.8 Grado+20 symposium on the status of Mediterranean wetlands	Major symposium in 2001 focusing on the analysis of the threats affecting Med wetlands, their trends, assessing their state, and debating action needed in the coming years	<u>Fully achieved</u> : The Grado+20 Symposium took place, under a different name, in Agadir, Morocco in February 2012. It achieved its objectives of increasing and sharing knowledge and assessing the threats and status through the plenary and thematic sessions. As a solid output, the Agadir Guidelines are available and so are the Agadir Commitments. http://agadir2012.medwet.org/

Axis 2. Promoting, developing and implementing national wetland policies and inter-sectoral action plans.

Target: An enabling policy, institutional and socio-economic environment for wetland conservation is provided; High level inter-sectoral commitment is sought.

	Activity	Expected outcome	Level of Achievement
Cooperation with other relevant organisations	2.1 Liaising with national organisations responsible for sectoral policies affecting wetlands (agriculture, water management, tourism...)	Agreements for harmonising sectoral policies as regards wetland conservation and wise use, focusing on wetland services	<u>Partially achieved:</u> Only ALG and MOR MW focal points representatives establishing contact with impacting Ministerial departments. No specific info about the other Med countries.
	2.2 Liaising with regional / international organisations responsible for sectoral policies affecting wetlands (MAP/MCSD, EU (N2000, WFD, CAP...), CBD, Bern Conv., CMS, AEWA, FAO, WTO, GWP-Med ...)	Wetland functions and services are taken into account	<u>Partly Achieved:</u> MedWet active in the field of Water Resources Management as UNEP/MAP partner, GWP-Med partner, Union for the Mediterranean partner. Also liaising with IME, Plan Bleu, Arab League and FAO. Relationship remains to be developed with EU, Bern Convention, WTO, AEWA, CMS and others.
	2.3 Development of national inter-sectoral policies and/or actions plans, adoption of governance of wetlands and water resources adapted to national specificities	2 national wetland policies / action plans developed	<u>Partly Achieved:</u> process started in Algeria in collaboration with MAVA and WWF and in Morocco with Dutch Cooperation and Tour du Valat.
Capacity building	2.4 Assistance to national authorities for designing and developing wetland policies, strategies and action plans	Ramsar focal points and relevant national authorities are able to lead and run the process for elaborating wetland policies	<u>Partly Achieved::</u> <u>Despite big delays some assistance has been provided to</u> start the formulation and approval of the national wetlands strategy in Morocco. Workshop organised in 2011 by Tour du Valat and Focal Point involving other sectors .

Awareness & Communi	2.5 Communication on the wetlands services and goods and on the need for harmonised intersectoral policies	Information is generated and disseminated to policy-makers and key stakeholders (agriculture, land use planning)	Partly achieved: Through the Agadir Symposium, keynote papers for the thematic sessions and the Agadir Guidelines generate such information. They are being posted in the website.
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Axis 3. Ensuring the sustainable integrated management of wetlands.

Target: Wetlands are managed on the long term to maintain and enhance their functions and services, especially those contributing to sustainable development activities, in a manner that integrates (i) an ecosystem-based approach at the river basin scale, (ii) the participation of all interested stakeholders and (iii) the various sectoral policies implications.

	Activity	Expected outcome	Level of achievement
Scient. & Tech collab / Cooperation with other relevant org.	3.1 Development of innovative approaches and tools for integrated participative wetland management	Formalised approaches and tools, building on the best practices in the Mediterranean and beyond	Achievements in progress: MedWet is a partner in the MAV3 project on using cultural values for wetlands conservation, is developing the MedWet Culture Network, is actively supporting the GlobWetlandII project and the “Hybrid HIMA” approach.
	3.2 Promotion of the participation of all relevant stakeholders in wetland management	Relevant stakeholders are able to take part to wetland management processes	Good achievement: Water Local Dialogues experience with InWEnt has been very successful. Achievements in progress: MedWet is a partner in the NEREUS project led by IUCN-Med which is now in progress and the ‘Sustainable management of Mediterranean coastal wetlands and lagoons’ led by RAC/SPA which is under formulation. It is an advisor in the PEGASO project and participated in the IUCN-led “Marine Spatial Planning for Artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in the Mediterranean which was rejected. All the above projects use integrated management frameworks and attempt to bring together a variety of stakeholders of marine and coastal environments.

	3.3 Application of innovative management approaches / methods in selected pilot sites in geographically balanced areas	Lessons learned from pilot projects ; management models to be disseminated	<u>Started</u> : despite institutional difficulties positive steps have been done for the Prespa Transboundary Park management body where MedWet is involved as observer and supporting the potential designation of Prespa as a trilateral UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
Capacity building	3.4 Building capacity in the field of integrated participative wetland management	Wetland managers able to lead the process for designing and implementing integrated participative wetland management	<u>Good achievement</u> : Wetland managers in Jordan and Tunisia involved in the Water Local Dialogues experience. <u>Partly achieved</u> : MedWet is actively supporting the WI-TdV/CIDA project Civil Society Capacity Building. It is also actively supporting the BlackSeaWet Initiative and the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative both aiming for more regional cooperation and integrated participative wetland management. More work remains to be done in a hands-on, local manner.
Awareness & Communication	3.5 Dissemination of formalised approaches and tools to wetland managers and key stakeholders (e.g. sustainable agriculture and grazing, sustainable hunting and fishing, sustainable tourism, etc.)	A dissemination and awareness programme for each economic activity	<u>Partly achieved</u> : Available documents are the Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2012 report, the 'Culture and Wetlands in the Mediterranean: An evolving story' edited by T. Papayannis and D. Pritchard, all the MW Inventory activities publications, the Agadir Guidelines and the keynote papers for the thematic sessions in the Agadir Symposium. Also, a fully functional MedWet website and newsletter.

Axis 4. Moderating the impact of climate change.

Target: The likely impacts of climate change on Mediterranean wetlands are assessed and the key hydrological functions of wetlands in a context of increasing water scarcity are understood by wetland actors and decision makers; land use planning and adaptive management practices are developed and implemented in order to maintain key hydrological functions and improve wetland resilience to climate change effects.

	Activity	Expected outcome	Level of achievement
Scient. & Tech collaboration / Cooperation with other relevant org.	4.1 Study, monitoring and assessment of climate change effects on Mediterranean wetlands (to be linked to 1.4)	Improved knowledge and more accurate data on potential impact of climate change on wetland	<u>Started:</u> The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory through the Community Temperature Index is looking at climate change as a biodiversity component on Mediterranean wetlands.
	4.2 Development of land use policies able to improve ecosystem connectivity, and therefore resilience to climate change	De-fragmentation of land use; room for changing ecosystems	<u>Not achieved</u>
	4.3 Development of management methods focussed on ecosystemic processes, able to improve ecosystem resilience (to be linked to 3.1)	New management approaches developed,	<u>Not achieved</u>
Awareness & Communication	4.4 Dissemination of information on the likely impact of climate change on Med wetlands to decision-makers, opinion-makers, wetland managers and users	Decision-makers and other key stakeholders able to take the appropriate decisions, anticipating on climate change effect	<u>Partly Achieved:</u> No dissemination has taken place, however MedWet has made new partners like the Observatory of Sahara and the Sahel very much involved in climate change and incorporated it into the Agadir Symposium thematic sessions. Equally, in the Agadir Commitments a project on climate change led by EKBY has been incorporated- "Effects of climate change on wetland ecosystems of Attica Region of Greece".