



Ramsar STRP21  
Gland, CH, January 2018

# The Mediterranean Wetland Outlook 2



*Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory*



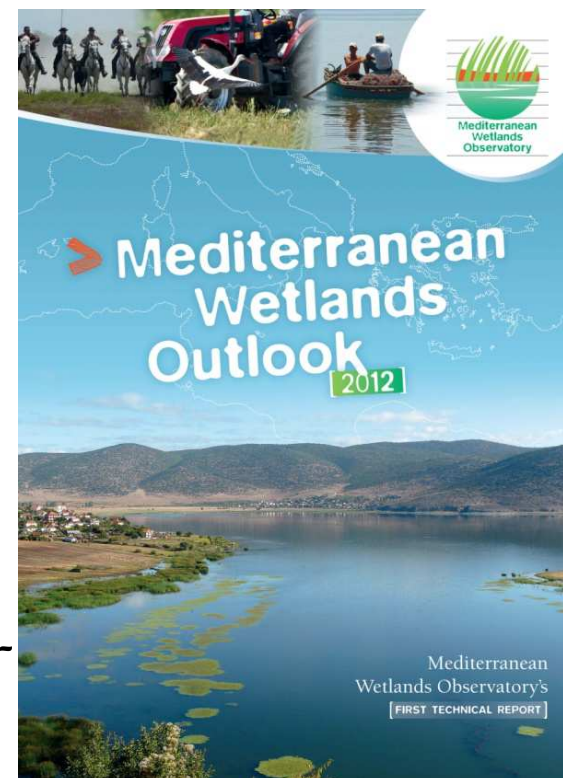
Research Institute for the  
conservation of  
Mediterranean wetlands





## Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 1 - 2012

- A first attempt at synthesizing information on wetlands at pan-Mediterranean level :
  - MedWet sense, 27 countries
  - 25 indicators selected – 17 actually measured/ compiled
  - One technical document, + 1 for decision-makers (*with Indicators fact-sheets*; <http://medwet.org/publications/page/3/>)
  - To be updated every 5-10 years





- A more concise format :
  - c. 15 Indicators fact-sheets
  - A short synthesis (c. 8 p.)
  - Additional information online
- Several indicators convergent with GWO 2 (*LPI, WET Index...*)





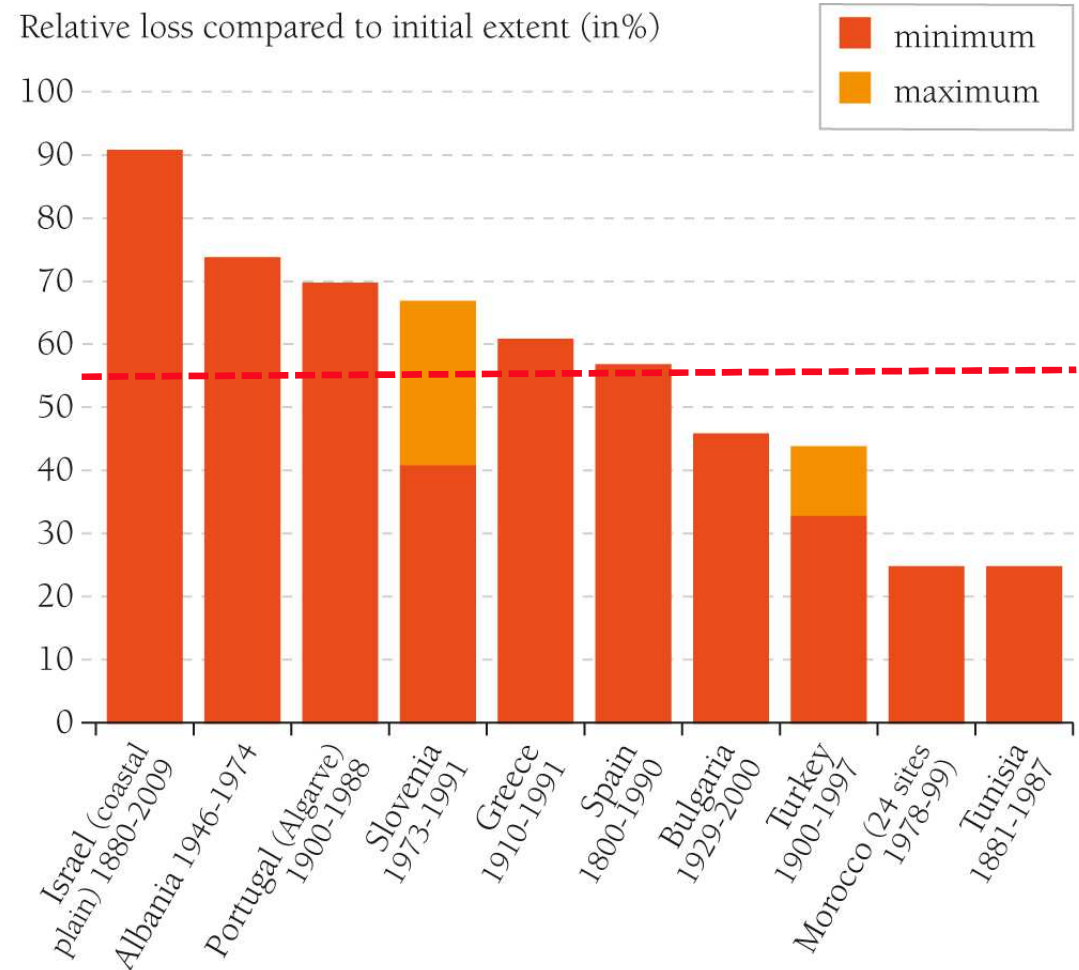
## *A few new results*



## Surface area of Mediterranean wetlands

- 2012 Key results :

- The Mediterranean has **c. 15 – 22 million ha. wetlands** by end XXth century (*1.5% of the World's wetlands*)
- Literature review → Wetland loss of at least **50%** over XXth Century (*median of sub-regional assessments*)

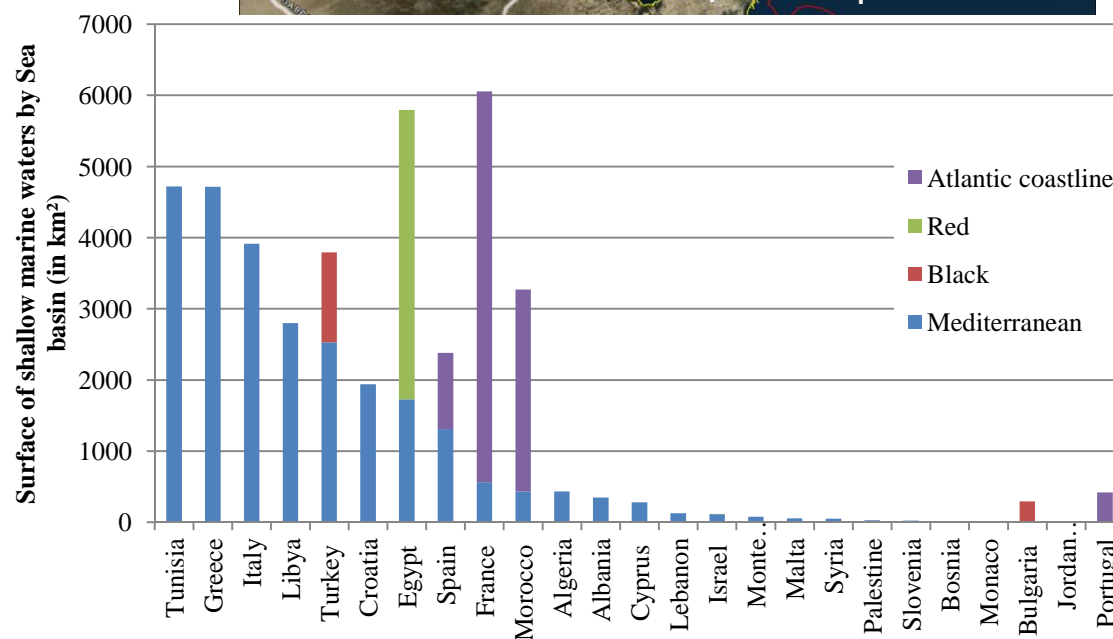
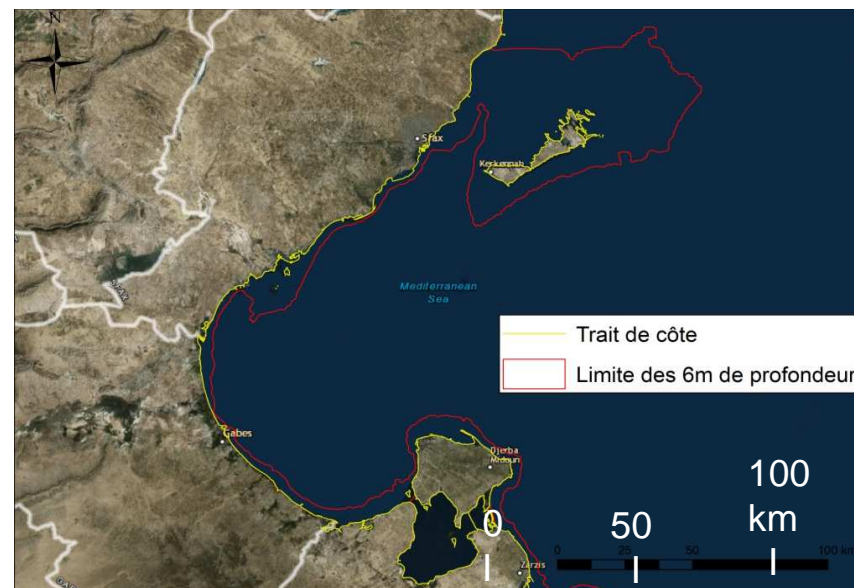




# 2018 : Surface area of Mediterranean wetlands

## • New results - 2018 :

- « Forgotten » wetlands : shallow marine waters (< 6 m deep) cover 1000s km<sup>2</sup>, but omitted from most national wetland inventories
- e.g. in South Tunisia :
- + 4.2 M ha for the 27 MedWet countries (+ 19%-28%)
- Now c. 19 – 26 million ha. wetlands in the Mediterranean basin

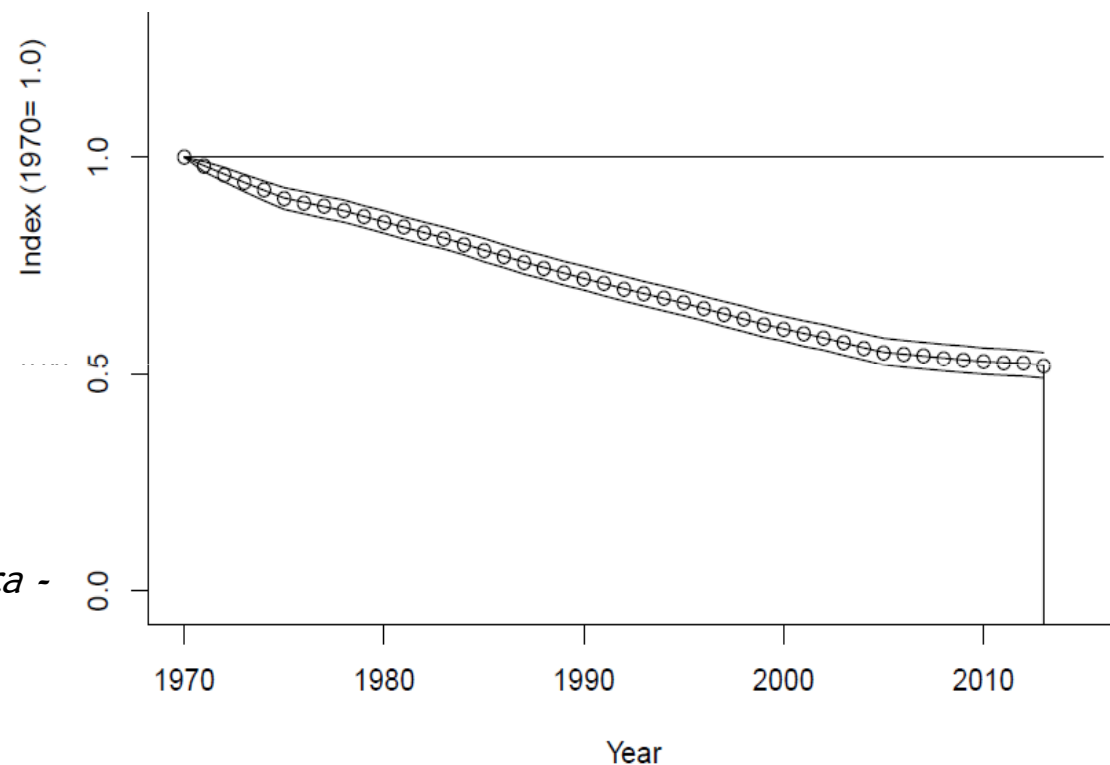




## 2018 : Trend in surface area of Mediterranean wetlands

- WET index (with WCMC):

- Loss of **45-51%** of natural wetland area between 1970-2013 : **faster** than previously reported
- Mediterranean wetlands loss rate **higher than in the 3 surrounding continents** (*Africa - 42%, Europe -35%, Asia - 32%*) over same period

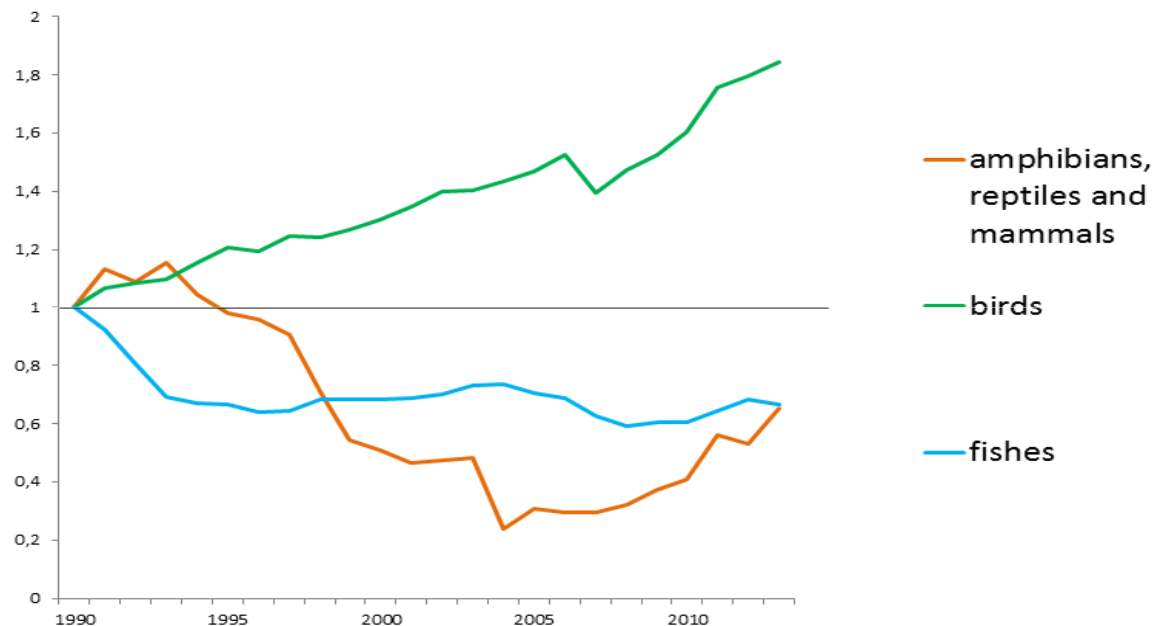


Credit : S.Darrah et al. in prep., Jonathan Loh/ University of Kent, and UNEP-WCMC. 2017. Wetland Extent Trends (WET) Index - 2017 Update. In Global Wetland Outlook: State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People. (forthcoming 2018). Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Gland: Switzerland



# Trends in Biodiversity : LPI

## Contrasting trends depending on groups :



- Wetland birds increase in the Mediterranean, other vertebrates decline
- Birds : older protection (e.g. Bird Directive in EU : 1979) + benefit from man-made wetlands ;
- Others suffer from decline especially of temporary wetland habitats, and pollution

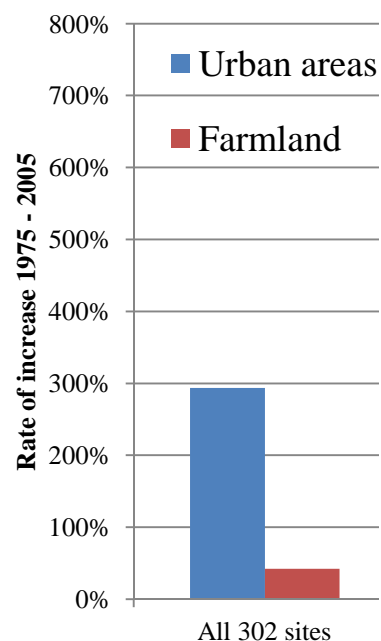




# Land conversion to agriculture and urban areas

## Corrected GlobWetland2 data :

- satellite images
- 302 main Med. Wetland sites (Ramsar, IBAs...)

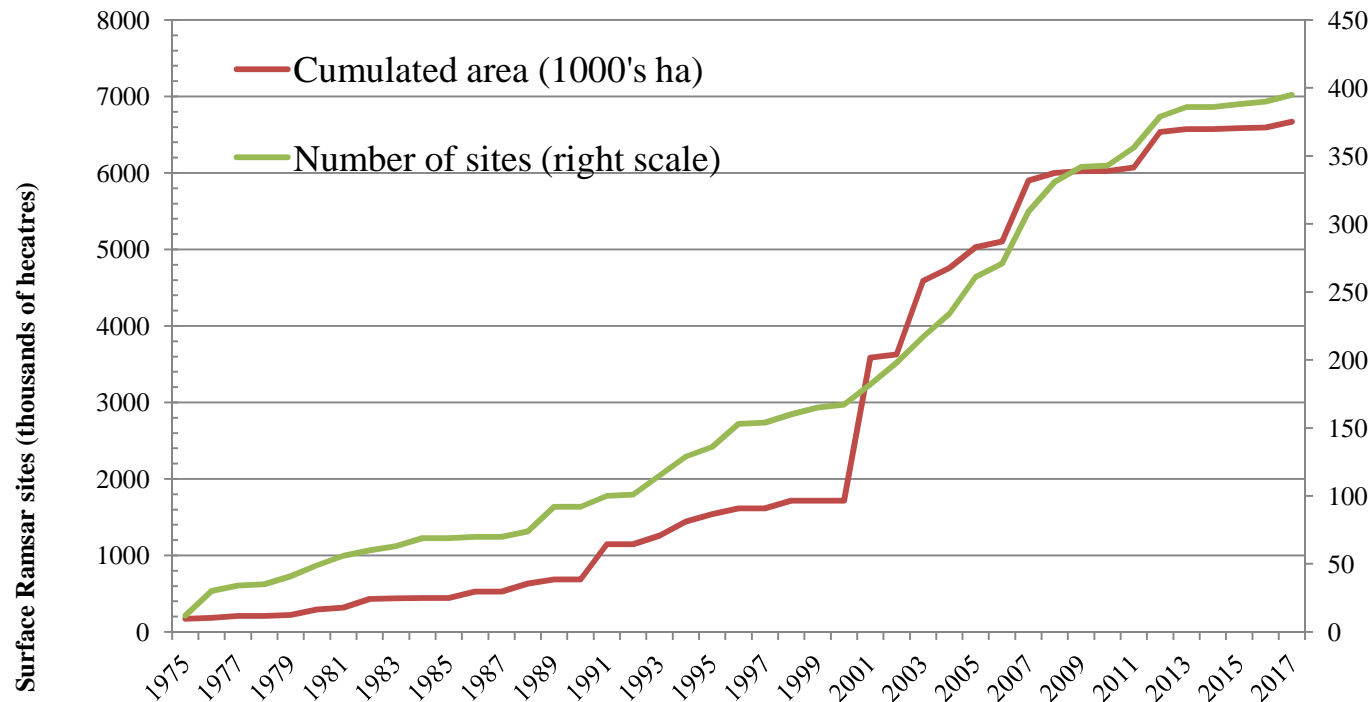


- Urban areas increase much faster than agriculture inside main Med. Wetland sites (*starting from much lower level, though*)
- Large inter-regional differences : lower conversion in EU than in S. & E. Med.



# Ramsar sites designation

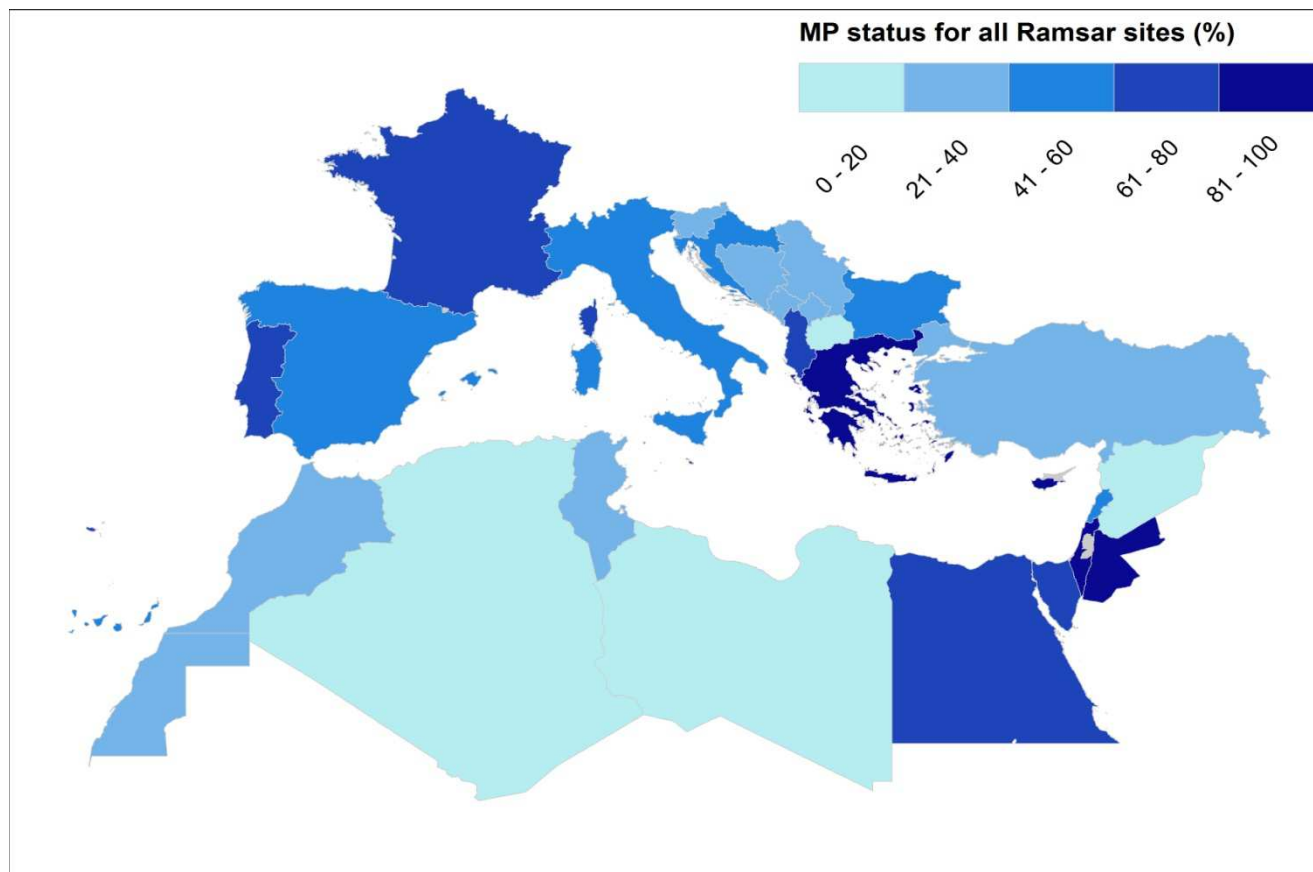
- 6.7 million ha by end 2017



- Since 2000 : designated area **x 3.8 in Mediterranean** vs. x 2.6 globally
- Since MWO1 (2012), 52 new Ramsar sites (+645,000 ha), mainly in Tunisia (21)



## Ramsar sites « Management effectiveness » ?



- 29 of 52 new sites have no management plan (being prepared in 5 of them) ; all others (23) have an effectively implemented MP



- More to come on :
  - Climate change and Wetlands
  - River flows & regulation
  - Water quality
  - Use of renewable water resources
  - Human demography
  - Generic trends in Ecosystem services provided by Mediterranean wetlands
  - Role of wetlands in attenuating floods/ droughts
  - Educational and touristic role of wetlands
  - State of conservation of wetland species (Red List index)
  - Extent of flooding in wetlands
- Learn more at COP 13 ! *(+ pre-COP Europe, CZ, March )*
- Connect with GWO/ SoWWS ? *(e.g. an example from a Regional initiative)*



# TOUR DU VALAT

*THANKS FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION !!*

[www.tourduvalat.org](http://www.tourduvalat.org)



**MedWet**  
The Mediterranean  
Wetlands Initiative





# The set of 25 MWO indicators

Priority ones)

Bold → 17 out of 25 Indicators covered in 2012 report  
*“State & Outlook of Med. Wetlands”*

<b>STATE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Trends in abundance of species, including the Living Planet Index</li><li>➤ Community Temperature Index</li><li>➤ Community Specialization Index</li><li>➤ River flow</li><li>➤ Water quality</li><li>➤ Mediterranean wetland surface area</li><li>➤ Inundation extent in the wetlands</li></ul>	<b>IMPACTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Role of wetlands in water supply</li><li>➤ Role of wetlands in flow regulation (flood and drought)</li><li>➤ Wetlands &amp; tourism</li><li>➤ Role of wetlands in water purification</li></ul>
<b>DRIVERS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Human population trends in/near Mediterranean wetlands</li></ul>	<b>RESPONSES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Protected wetlands</li><li>➤ Integration of environment in local development planning</li><li>➤ Level of implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management</li><li>➤ Effectiveness of the management in the Ramsar sites</li><li>➤ Level of implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management</li><li>➤ Development of a national strategy for wetlands</li><li>➤ Integration of wetlands in national strategy of sustainable development]</li><li>➤ Integration of wetlands in water national management plans</li><li>➤ MDG/EU environmental implementation towards wetlands related targets</li></ul>
<b>PRESSURES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Exploitation index of renewable water resources</li><li>➤ Water demand per sector</li><li>➤ Land conversion to agriculture and urbanization in/ around the main wetlands</li><li>➤ Overexploitation of underground water in oases / salinisation</li></ul>	