

11th Meeting of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee

5 July 2012, Bucharest, Romania

Doc MWC11.04

MedWet Strategic Work Plan 2012-2015

Info MWC11.02 analysed the level of achievement of the MedWet work plan during the period 2009-2012, which covered the long term strategic axes as well as the priority activities. The 2009 -2012 Work Plan was ambitious but set relevant strategic activities. Important priority activities scheduled in the past triennium have been successfully achieved, even though its implementation was negatively affected by the financial difficulties of the Secretariat,

The proposed activities for the second triennium of the strategic work plan implementation, will take into account the results and the lessons learned from the last period, but most importantly, capitalize on the conclusions of the International Symposium on Water and Wetlands in the Mediterranean “From Grado to Agadir; the next twenty years” that took place in Agadir, Morocco 6th-8th February 2012.

The conclusions of the Agadir Symposium have taken the form of the “Agadir Guidelines” and the “Agadir Commitments”. They have been formulated in harmony with MedWet’s mission and objectives and provide both general guidelines and priority areas of action as well as concrete ways, approaches and methods respectively, to tackle the several challenges identified. The Agadir Symposium was a good opportunity to validate the MedWet Strategic Vision approved by MedWet/Com9 in Changwon, South Korea. The commitments, guidelines and new paths recommended are in accordance with the four axes of the Strategic vision which highlights its lasting relevance. While these recommendations drew upon new ideas that emerged from the feedback on the final plenary sessions, they confirm the 2009 recommendations *for keeping MedWet politically relevant for the coming decades, and enhancing its technical focus in order to provide more evidence-based policy arguments to be used to convince decision-makers.*

The Agadir Guidelines and the way forward

According to the Agadir Guidelines *The role of the MedWet Initiative, and particularly its Secretariat, supported by specific institutions, should focus in the coming years on the following tasks:*

- serving the MedWet/Com and assisting it in realising its advisory and coordination objectives,
- maintaining and updating the Agadir Commitments roster
- assessing the contribution of these activities to the realisation of the MedWet Vision

The “Agadir Commitments” are a solid output of the Agadir Symposium and it is expected they will significantly contribute to the MedWet work plan achievement. In short, it is a list of programmes and projects which are all in favour of Mediterranean wetlands and represent activities that are on-going, just starting or being planned. They are promoted by national governments, regional and international organisations, civil societies, the private sector and financing agencies aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of water-related ecosystems in the Mediterranean. They concern policies, strategies, administrative measures, legal instruments and frameworks, initiatives or measures at the local, national or regional level. A full copy of this document is available in the Symposium’s website.¹

The projects and programmes included in *The Agadir Commitments* are directly connected to the four axes of the MedWet Strategic Vision, approved in Changwon, Korea in 2008 during MedWet/Com9:

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

The Agadir Commitments have as a key objective to create synergies. Promoting synergy and best practice can be achieved through networking, common actions, sharing of lessons, capacity building, cooperation, mutual support and transboundary coordination.

The Strategic Axes are flexible enough to integrate the activities and shared efforts expressed in the Agadir Commitments with the long term vision that *all the wetlands and water resources of the Mediterranean are managed actively and effectively in the long term and restored in order to sustain and enhance all the services and values that they may provide, for the benefit of biodiversity and for human well-being.*

Strategic guidance for the triennium

1. Organise, maintain and update the Agadir Commitments Roster: that means ensuring a sufficient flow of information, encouraging cooperation among complementary activities, safeguarding the sustainability of their results, mobilising the support of the MedWet/Com where appropriate, and communicate widely about the projects merits. This will be done through eventual participation to the programs and projects steering boards, visits to the field of implementation, exchange of advice and information. The guidance that should be provided will be linked to the assessment of their contribution to the MedWet Vision implementation.

¹ <http://agadir2012.medwet.org/the-agadir-commitments-les-engagements-d%E2%80%99agadir/>

2. In parallel MedWet needs to identify gaps for which new projects should be developed with broad participation.
3. Maintain and update the MedWet database of resource persons and institutions contacts in order to identify necessary partnerships.
4. Mobilise and animate the MedWet/Com. More consultation with the members is needed to evaluate the member countries needs in terms of information and training. We have to explore how to increase direct participation to the formulation of objectives and expected results and not only through the opportunity of the MedWet/Com meetings.
5. Harmonise the collaboration between all the MedWet entities: MedWet/Com members, Steering Group, Secretariat, Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory and Scientific and Technical Network. Valorise the good practices in the field of Mediterranean wetland conservation and development, through a coordinated and efficient dissemination. We have to provide more solutions, disseminate success stories and eventually organize contests, label designations and best use awards.
6. Examine the possibilities to get support from targeted private sponsors.
7. Enlarge the MedWet/Com to new partners from the water, tourism, agriculture and physical planning fields.
8. Continue to reinforce the involvement of young students in the work of MedWet. Through its entities, MedWet could act as a great resource umbrella to provide internships, include research activities and develop educational material.
9. Encourage and continue the dissemination and use of the MedWet inventory system at national and sub-regional levels.
10. Strengthen and support MedWet Networks: NGOs, Culture.

Long term Strategic Activities

The proposed refined strategic activities are taking into account the results and the lessons learned from the last period. Also included are some key projects or programs mentioned in the Agadir Commitments. As follow up of the precedent format of reporting, for each activity the expected outcomes are mentioned with respective indicators and responsibilities. We also maintain the priority definition already used and the respective colour code:

- ON = Ongoing activities, with secured (or partially secured) funding
- PA = Priority activities without secured funding and/or implementation mechanism
- UA = Useful activities, but without secured resources and/or partners



Finally, we have to recall that the implementation of this Work Plan is the responsibility of the different MedWet bodies, as stated in the MedWet terms of reference. It is of utmost importance that all MedWet/Com members actively participate and collaborate, with their respective capacities. Another important asset is the participation of new partners through the Agadir Commitments and activation of the Scientific and Technical Network. .

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	Indicators	Lead actor	Funding	Status 2012
Scient. & Tech collaboration / Cooperation with other relevant org.	1.1 Development and updating of wetland inventories	New or updated wetland inventories (MedWet or compatible) are undertaken.	The national inventories	National authorities / Ramsar focal points / MedWet IWG	National or international contributions	UA
	1.2 Development of applied research on the wetlands services and their valuation	Enhanced understanding of the services provided by wetlands and of their values	Results of applied studies and guidance documents	MedWet Scientific & Technical Network (MWST-Net)	To be sought	PA
	1.3 Operation of the Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands	Established collaborative monitoring of the status and trends of Mediterranean wetlands. NGOs and local Observatories trained and operational. OMW indicators refined and further developed	Reports of the Observatory Nb of NGOs trained	Tour du Valat in collaboration with Observatory partners	To discuss	PA
Capacity building	1.4 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	No. of staff trained, and no. countries / organisations they belong to	GlobWetland II project + MWST-Net	To be sought	ON
	1.5 Development of the NGOs network	Establishment started for NGOs able to influence the conservation and sustainable management of freshwater ecosystem at local or regional level	No. of NGOs in the network, No. of NGOs' staff trained	WWF MedPO (lead) + MWST-Net	Submitted to MAVA	PA

	Activity	Expected outcome	Indicators	Lead actor	Funding	Status 2012
Awareness & Communication	1.6 Establishment of a system for making widely available wetland-related scientific and technical knowledge to wetland managers and decision-makers	Refined GlobeWetlandII monitoring system used by Mediterranean scientists and wetland managers	The system itself; No. of registered users No. of connections / consultations	Tour du Valat + ESA + EKBY	To discuss	ON
	1.7 Agadir International Symposium on Water & Wetlands in the Mediterranean	Publication online and hard copy of the key findings of the symposium disseminated to all MW members and partners	Proceedings of the symposium, Final declaration	MedWet Secretariat + ad hoc working Group	MAVA	ON
	1.8 Involvement of young Mediterranean students in wetlands conservation and development	Role game disseminated + participation in MedWet events	dedicated website	MedWet Secretariat + partners in Greece, France, Morocco and Tunisia	MedWet core budget	ON

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	Indicators	Lead actor	Funding	Status 2012
	2.1 Liaising with regional / international organisations responsible for sectoral policies affecting wetlands	Wetland functions and services are taken into account	Minutes of the meetings; formal agreements	MedWet Secretariat	MedWet core budget	ON

	2.2 Development of national inter-sectoral policies and/or actions plans, adoption of governance of wetlands and water resources adapted to national specificities	More national wetland policies / action plans developed	The policy documents;	National authorities / Ramsar focal points + MedWet Secretariat / MWST-Net	National contributions to be mobilised	UA
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	Activity	Expected outcome	Indicators	Lead actor	Funding	Status 2012
Capacity building	2.3 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	No. of wetland policies/strategies developed; No. of missions;	MedWet Secretariat / MWST-Net	National & International contributions To be sought	PA
Awareness & Communities	2.4 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	The documents produced; their dissemination	MedWet Secretariat + MWST-Net	To be sought	UA

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	Indicators	Lead actor	Funding	Status 2012
Scient. & Tech collab /	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	The tools and methodological documents	Med-INA + MWST-Net	To be sought	ON

	3.2 Promotion of the participation of all relevant stakeholders in wetland management	Relevant stakeholders are able to take part to wetland management processes	Level of participation in wetland management processes	MedWet Secretariat + MWST-Net	To be sought	PA
	3.3 Application of innovative management approaches / methods in selected pilot sites	Lessons learned from pilot projects ; management models to be disseminated	Management documents formalising the experiences	National authorities Site managers MWST-Net	National contributions + (Interreg...)	PA

	Activity	Expected outcome	Indicators	Lead actor	Funding	Status 2012)
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	No. of staff trained; No. and localisation of wetland sites concerned	MWST-Net	To be sought	PA
Awareness & Communication	3.5 Dissemination of formalised approaches and tools to wetland managers and key stakeholders	Dissemination and awareness programme for each economic activity	No. of stakeholders involved in the programmes. Doc disseminated	MedWet Secretariat + MWST-Net	To be sought through private sector	UA
	3.6 Dissemination of good practices in wetland conservation and development,	Success stories disseminated. Contests, label designations and best use awards organised.	No. of doc disseminated, label designations ...	MedWet Secretariat + MWST-Net	To be sought	PA
	3.7 Establishment of the MedWet Culture Network	Operational website. Information provided by and shared among the Network members.	Website	MedWet Secretariat + MWST-Net	Core budget	ON

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	Indicators	Lead actor	Funding	Status 2012)
Scientific and Technical Collaboration	4.1 Study, monitoring and assessment of climate change effects on Med wetlands	Improved knowledge and more accurate data on potential impact of climate change on wetland	The publications; The Observatory report	MWST-Net with specialised partner (OSS)	To be sought	PA
	4.2 Study for land use policies able to improve ecosystem connectivity, and therefore resilience to climate change	Recommendations for de-fragmentation of land use and improvement of ecosystems resilience	Reports and Policy recommendations	MWST-Net + Plan Bleu+ National authorities /	National contributions	PA
	4.3 Development of management methods focussed on ecosystemic processes, able to improve ecosystem resilience	New management approaches developed,	Methodological documents	Wetlands International + GWP-Med + MWST-Net	To be sought	ON
Awareness & Com	4.4 Dissemination of information on the likely impact of climate change on Med wetlands	Decision-makers, opinion-makers, wetland managers and users informed	Nb and type of awareness documents;	MedWet Secretariat	Core budget	PA