Visitors Management in Protected Wetlands: Making them the allies of conservation, Valsain (Segovia, Spain), 24-28 July, 2017

Wetlands for the Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region - Mediterranean Wetland Initiative MedWet

Gordana BELTRAM,
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MedWet/Com Chair
Milestones of the MedWet Initiative

1991 – the Grado Symposium adopted a mission summarised in a Grado statement as:

*To stop and reverse the loss and degradation of Mediterranean wetlands.*

1st MedWet EU project

1996 – the MedWet Conference in Venice

(MW Strategy and a 10 year vision)

1998 – MedWet/Com established in Tessaloniki

Spain, Tunisia, Portugal, Turkey, Algeria, …

2012 – The Agadir Symposium (Grado+20)

2016 – MedWet/Com12, Paris France
Milestones of the MedWet Initiative

- 1991: MedWet Initiative born
- 1997: MedWet Secretariat (EKBY)
- 2006: MedWet Steering Group (Tirana meeting)
- 2008: Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO)
- 2013-2014: Moving MedWet Secretariat from Greece to France
A Thumio,
indéfectible compagnon de route,
avec notre reconnaissance et notre amitié
Some MedWet Initiative‘s Characteristics

1. Rich regional nature and culture diversity
2. A wetland community of highly committed individuals
3. Membership and cooperation of governmental, non-governmental and research institutions
4. Participatory approach of different sectors and users
5. Integrity and long term experience in management and sustainable use of wetlands
6. Working for the benefit of wetlands and their people
MedWet Initiative

- 1st of the regional initiatives established within the Ramsar Convention
- The 27 Ramsar Contracting parties are state members of the MedWet
- Mobilising major partnerships and substantial funds
- Bringing together three Ramsar regions
- Cooperation between governments and other organisations, internationally and intersectorally
- Following Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024)
MedWet Partners

• To carry out its mission MedWet works closely with a number of partners
• Project development and implementation
• Scientific and research organisations, international IOP (NGOs) and MedWet Centres
Agadir Commitments

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

• Promoting, developing and implementing national wetland policies and inter-sectoral action plans

• Ensuring the sustainable integrated management of wetlands

• Moderating the impact of climate change.
Wetland Conservation and Wise Use

WETLANDS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

A Framework for Action 2016–2030

Actions to achieve the Ramsar Strategic Goals - SDGs
MedWet Initiative

VISION
Mediterranean wetlands’ resources and functions are conserved in the long term, and restored when necessary, for the benefit of nature, nations and people.

MISSION
The MedWet Mission is to ensure and support the effective conservation of the functions and values of Mediterranean wetlands and the sustainable use of their resources and services.
The MedWet Framework for Action

• Ramsar Strategic Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation
• Ramsar Strategic Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Sites network
• Ramsar Strategic Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands
• Ramsar Operational Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation of the Ramsar Convention
The Ongoing MedWet Priorities

- Fundraising and project development
- Maintaining a flexible and operative MedWet structure
- Communication
- Networking
Thank you