



MedWet Strategic Planning Workshop 2-3 November 2017, Hotel City, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Annotated Agenda

Thursday 2 November

Registration from 12h00

Light lunch offered at the conference venue

Afternoon Session 14h00 – 19h00

14h00 **Opening and Welcome**

Marija Markeš, Head of Nature Conservation Division, Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia

◆ Questionnaire result: **Why focusing on Mediterranean wetlands?**

MedWet members who responded to the questionnaire distributed in August/September listed the most important reasons why a specific focus on wetlands in the Mediterranean is needed, in decreasing order: wetlands are important for biodiversity (including refuelling sites along bird migration routes), for hydrological services (including mitigation of flood and climate impacts) and water resources (including to fight desertification), for the economic returns derived from their products (fisheries, agriculture, salt, rural development), and for their cultural heritage and educational opportunities.

14h10 **Trends in Mediterranean wetlands**

Patrick Grillas, Mediterranean Wetland Observatory MWO

A short overview to set the scene and to present current wetland extent trends, how they relate to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and which changes are ongoing inside Mediterranean wetlands. This serves also as a brief update on the ongoing work of the MWO and its planned publications for 2018.

◆ Questionnaire result: **Most useful MWO analyses and reports?**

MedWet members valued most the “Mediterranean Wetland Outlook” synthesis and the Thematic Note 2 on “Land cover –spatial dynamics in Mediterranean coastal wetlands from 1975 to 2005”, followed by the leaflets with syntheses on “The status and trends of Mediterranean wetlands”, “Biodiversity” and “Land-use” produced by the MWO.

14h20 **Ramsar Regional Initiatives – what they are and how they operate**

Tobias Salathé, Ramsar Secretariat

A brief reminder about the nature of Ramsar Regional Initiatives which are an operational tool of the Convention on Wetlands to support the implementation of

the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 and to contribute to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

14h30 **The objectives of this workshop and its programme**

Gordana Beltram, chair MedWet, Slovenia

The “Background Paper” summarizes what the Medwet Initiative has achieved and been undertaking up to now. The responses received to the questionnaires sent out to all MedWet members last summer are summarized in the “Brief Analysis” that was used to prepare and focus the agenda of this strategic planning workshop on crucial issues to need to be clarified during these two days.

After the short coffee break that follows this introduction, we will briefly analyze and clarify why an organization such as MedWet, i.e. an intergovernmental regional network of governmental experts that work together with experts of key non-governmental organizations in the region, is still needed for an improved conservation and the wise use of Mediterranean wetlands?

We will clarify these issues in smaller group discussions, either in English or in French. Each group will bring its conclusions back to plenary which will then adopt consensual conclusions and precise recommendations.

The last part of the afternoon session will identify the objectives and activities for cooperative projects to be developed jointly during the period 2018-2021. We will thus conclude the first day with a clear view of the added value that MedWet will bring to the Mediterranean countries for the conservation and wise use of their wetlands, and what will be the concrete joint actions to be undertaken and further developed during the coming years by MedWet.

The second day will start with a summary of the conclusions reached during the first afternoon. Then it will reflect on and propose the most suitable governance structure for the effective management of the MedWet initiative. This will include defining the type of governing body, its function and the composition needed to be active and efficient. Special attention will be given to the recruitment process to be launched for the selection of a new Medwet coordinator. Then, we will develop guidelines for pro-active fundraising in order to identify adequate and realistic funding sources and partners that will support us to reach our objectives defined during the first day.

By the end of the seminar, at lunchtime of the second day, we aim to have developed four clear results:

OUTPUT 1: a list of the specific **objectives** that MedWet needs to address,

OUTPUT 2: a list of the **key elements for MedWet work in 2018-2021** with realistic objectives and concrete cooperative projects,

OUTPUT 3: a proposal for the **governance structure** for the regional initiative,

OUTPUT 4: **fundraising guidelines** that identify adequate and realistic new funding sources.

14h45 Coffee break

- 15h15 **Why do we want an active MedWet network?
What does MedWet need to achieve that other networks cannot do?**
Thymio Papayannis, honorary MedWet member & Paule Gros, MAVA Foundation

Short statements to introduce the work to be done in smaller groups. The aim is to clarify what the specific added value is that an intergovernmental network for the implementation of an international treaty can contribute to the sustainable management of wetlands and the prevention of their further loss, working closely with relevant scientific and non-governmental organisations.

- 15h30 Work in **parallel groups** (in English or in French) to provide answers to these questions.

- 16h00 Feed-back by the groups in plenary, discussion and agreement on the consolidated proposals presented by the break-out groups:

OUTPUT 1: The specific objectives that MedWet needs to address

At the end of this session, we will have agreement on the unique selling points why we wish to have an intergovernmental network in the Mediterranean, how MedWet can complement the work of other wetland-related cooperative networks, and which are the main objectives that MedWet needs to focus on.

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- 17h00 **Joint projects to be developed and executed under MedWet**
Jean Jalbert, Tour du Valat Institute

◆ Questionnaire result: **Key added value that MedWet needs to provide?**

MedWet members expect MedWet to disseminate know-how and methodological tools on wetland indicators, communication, education and cooperation, to develop joint projects for solutions to wetland projects, to provide information and comparisons of national situations for decision and policy makers, and to rise the effectiveness of national conservation programmes through capacity building and exchange of good practices.

Brief introduction on MedWet projects recently started and under preparation, focusing on communication and outreach about coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean, cooperation among different sub-national regions in the Mediterranean, and the creation of a network of Ramsar Site managers. Why were these project themes chosen and what are the next steps needed?

- 17h20 Work in **parallel groups** to develop concrete objectives and activities for the projects presented, in order to clarify who their actors are, what the projects aim to achieve and which results they will produce?

If additional projects need to be developed by MedWet in the mid-term (2018-2021), their focus, objectives and activities need also to be summarized briefly.

- 18h20 Feed-back by the groups in plenary, discussion and agreement on the consolidated proposals presented by the break-out groups:

OUTPUT 2: Key elements for MedWet work in 2018-2021

Listing the projects, their objectives and activities, focusing on projects that are starting or ongoing, in preparation and to be prepared shortly. With a concise

overview that lists active project partners, project coordinators and anticipated governance structures. Complemented by major milestones during the period 2018-2021 for the MedWet programme of work.

- 19h00 Closure of the afternoon session
19h30 Dinner at the conference venue

Friday 3 November

Morning Session 9h00 – 13h00

- 09h00 **Conclusions from day one**
Gordana Beltram, chair MedWet, Slovenia

OUTPUT 1: MedWet's specific role in the Mediterranean and the added value that it brings in addition to other cooperative projects and networks focusing on Mediterranean wetlands.

OUTPUT 2: MedWet's work programme 2018-2021, the cooperative projects it will be focusing on, their objectives and results to be produced, their main partners and governing structures.

- 09h15 **What structure does MedWet need?**
Tobias Salathé, Ramsar Secretariat

◆ Questionnaire result: ***The most efficient structure for MedWet?***

MedWet members wish to have an active coordinator who is in regular contact with them and ensures that the action plan which they adopt is implemented. Besides the coordinator, they see the need for a secretariat with a communications officer plus a project/administrative officer. Additional secretariat staff would depend on the financial situation. The members consider that a steering group is needed to support the small secretariat, and that this group should be composed of persons able and willing to engage in such work. The steering group can also be in the form of a smaller bureau (or "friends of the chair"), representing geographical and gender diversity.

A proposal for the governance structure of the MedWet Ramsar Regional Initiative will be proposed and discussed in smaller groups.

- 09h20 Work in ***parallel groups*** to prepare an operational governance structure for MedWet.
- 09h50 Feed-back by the groups in plenary, discussion and agreement on the consolidated proposals presented by the break-out groups:

OUTPUT 3: The governance structure for the MedWet Ramsar Regional Initiative

Listing the MedWet governance bodies, their structure and composition (number and quality of member, composition of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee, a possible steering group or bureau, and the MedWet operational structures (secretariat, etc.).

- 10h15 Coffee break

10h45 **Financial needs to coordinate and govern MedWet**
Antonia Troya, IUCN Mediterranean Programme

- ◆ Questionnaire result: **Who are the most important MedWet partners and funders?**
MedWet members consider that developing project concepts to allow several countries to cooperate for common objectives and submitting such concepts to donors is most crucial, plus the raising of funds for the secretariat functions to coordinate the network, communicate and reach out for capacity building and policy development. Among the strategic partners for MedWet, the European Union, GEF, CBD, UNEP-MAP, IUCN and the other Ramsar International Organisation Partners are mentioned most often.

Introduction to the reflection needed on MedWet's financial needs and ways to find the necessary funding sources. Who are the national and international partners that are likely willing to finance MedWet activities? Which are the funding instruments (bilateral and multilateral) that MedWet needs to explore in view of obtaining financial support for its core activities (secretariat operation, communication, know-how transfer, capacity building and outreach, project development and facilitation).

11h00 Work in **parallel groups** to identify strategic partners and financing institutions for MedWet, its coordination and projects.

11h30 Feed-back by the groups in plenary, discussion and agreement on the consolidated proposals presented by the break-out groups:

OUTPUT 4: Fundraising guidelines for MedWet

Instructions on what adequate and realistic funding sources to approach, on the objectives that external funding sources should cover and on a specific fundraising action plan 2018-2021.

12h00 **Outline of the next steps and short-term MedWet milestones 2018-2021**
Gordana Beltram, chair MedWet, Slovenia

Agreement and adoption of conclusions that summarize the results elaborated, the Outputs 1-4 agreed upon, and the decisions taken regarding the next steps to be proposed to the Steering Group (and MedWet Committee).

12h15 Closure of the workshop by the host.

Lunch at the conference venue

14h30 – 18h00 Meeting of the MedWet Steering Group