



MedWet

L'initiative pour les zones humides méditerranéennes
The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
مبادرة المناطق الرطبة المتوسطية

Doc. MedWet/Com12 – 8 (a) - Add 2

MedWet/Com 12

Palais de la Porte Dorée, Paris (France), 7 – 11 February 2016

Item 8 – Work Plans and budgets 2016-2017 for MedWet and the MWO

Three project concepts

As part of the initial implementation of the MedWet Framework for Action and of the MedWet Work Plan 2016-2017, this document contains three project concepts that MedWet, in collaboration with several partners, has the intention to submit to potential donors as soon as possible.

The views of MedWet/Com members on these project concepts will be most welcome.

PROJECT CONCEPT I



ASSESSING AND MANAGING PRESSURES ON WATER AND WETLANDS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THROUGH THE WATER FOOTPRINT INDICATORS

A joint project proposal from:

The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet)

The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO)

The Water Footprint Network (WFN)

Plan Bleu – Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (UNEP/IMP)

Euro-Mediterranean Information System on know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS)

Summary

1. Water is the essential element common to all wetlands. It is also essential for human development, and recent decades have seen a huge increase in humans' ability to harness water for productive purposes, with huge benefits for the growth of nations and economies. However, such developments have also had a cost, with rivers, lakes, wetlands and aquifers in many parts of the world polluted, impaired or dried up.
2. Quantifying more precisely these impacts of human activities is the first step required for helping to reduce them. In this sense, the **Water Footprint (WF)** concept and indicators are increasingly becoming accepted in the global picture of water sustainability, including wetlands. They have been used, amongst others, in the WWF's Living Planet reports, in the UN World Water Development Reports, in UNEP's Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) targets and indicators, etc. The use of the WF could help governments, businesses and individuals to better understand how we use water in our lives and economies, directly or indirectly.
3. At geographic level, the WF Assessment and the WF indicators can be applied to global, regional (e.g., Mediterranean), national and river-basin scales. The results and findings of such assessments can assist policy-makers and managers of water resources at any of these scales. Whilst global or regional pictures are necessary for providing an overall background and context, water is mainly managed at river basin level, so this is the scale for which the WF indicators can best assist water managers. Early assessments of the WF indicators at the global scale had large gaps in the Mediterranean, based on data which need to be updated. They covered one period only (1996-2005), limiting any assessment of trends.

4. Subsequently, tests on a few river basins using updated data have demonstrated the relevance of this approach and indicators for River Basin Authorities, for a better management of water resources.
5. For these reasons, a consortium of five partners proposes a Mediterranean WF project in order to assess the pressures on water and wetlands in the Mediterranean and propose measures for sustainable water management planning through the WF indicators, with two main complementary components :

Component A. Publish a complete and updated Mediterranean Water Footprint Outlook :

- i) complete and upgrade the WF through bridging the existing data gaps;
- ii) update the relevant WF indicators for more recent time periods, and assess trends; and
- iii) assess the future WF changes (e.g., to 2030/ 2050), under different socio-economic and climate change scenarios.

Component B. Apply the WF Assessment using relevant indicators to three or four Mediterranean river basins, in partnership with the relevant River Basin Authorities, to assist water managers in:

- i) measuring these indicators for different time periods in their specific basin, and evaluating/assessing trends;
- ii) assessing future trends (e.g., to 2030/ 2050) under different socio-economic and climate change scenarios;
- iii) testing local improvements of some WF indicators, especially water quality, in pilot basins with reliable field data for validation/calibration;
- iv) assisting decision-making in water resources management at basin level by:
 - a. evaluating the maximum sustainable WF in each basin, today and in the future (taking climate change into account);
 - b. assessing whether current practices and water consumption patterns are sustainable;
 - c. assessing how a changing WF could affect human societies through changes in water-related ecosystem services; and
 - d. identifying where adaptations in water use patterns are needed; and
- v) incorporating these results and recommendations into the appropriate national or local frameworks, e.g., National Hydrological Plans; Master Water Management Plans, etc.

Time scale

6. Component A would require ca. 1.5 years and component B ca. 3 years, but could run either in succession or in parallel. Whole project duration: 3 to 4.5 years.

Budget estimate

7. Component A may require ca. 850,000 € whereas Component B has not been evaluated yet, but may be higher.

PROJECT CONCEPT 2

DEVELOPMENT OF A HARMONIZED PAN-MEDITERRANEAN WETLANDS DATABASE AS A SUPPORT TO WETLAND NATIONAL INVENTORIES

A MedWet project proposal Summary for submission to the MedWet/Com I2

Background

1. Mediterranean wetlands are considered to be hotspots of biodiversity and provide many invaluable ecosystem services to populations living in this region, including: fresh water and food supplies, protection against floods and droughts, climate regulation and climate change mitigation and ecosystem-based adaptation.
2. Nevertheless, these ecosystems continue to be among those which are declining more rapidly, and the threats against them continue to mount.
3. Moreover, information on the location of wetlands, their ecological character, their conservation status, their ecosystem services, and their trends is often sparse and difficult to find or access. The result is a limited concern for wetlands in policies and management practices in most Mediterranean countries. As a result, the implementation of national instruments related to wetland protection, such as biodiversity laws and plans, wetland strategies, invasive species plans, evaluations of ecosystem services, etc., is hindered because of the lack of sufficient data regarding these ecosystems.
4. The location and delineation of wetlands at broad scales (national and/or large river basins) are among the missing and/or fragmented but essential information for the implementation of strong wetland conservation and sustainable use measures. These are essential tools for countries to meet the requirements of wetland protection and monitoring under obligations derived from international public law instruments (e.g., the Ramsar and CBD Conventions and EU Directives).
5. A harmonized inventory of all Mediterranean wetlands still does not exist. This lack of a complete spatial inventory is mainly due to the technical difficulties of its implementation and also to the fact that wetland definitions differ among countries. Nevertheless, many countries have already done important work on their local and/or national inventories, and some of them are quite advanced in the location and description of their wetland resources.
6. New technologies, in particular remote sensing, constitute at present a significant tool to assist in filling these information gaps.
7. In this context, and with the support of its technical partners such as the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory, the MedWet Secretariat is launching a new initiative, in line with its new Framework of Action 2016-2030, with the aim to have a regional picture of all wetlands regarding their location, their delineation, their

ecological characteristics, and their conservation status in all the Mediterranean countries.

Project objectives

8. The ultimate objective of this project is to promote a regional framework for wetland protection through national legislations or through a Mediterranean agreement, by providing a harmonized pan-Mediterranean general picture of wetland status regarding: a) location; b) delineation; c) main ecological characteristics; and d) conservation status. This general picture can be then “downscaled” and adapted by each country according to its specificities (e.g. using a national definition of “wetland”) and used as a baseline to help them to start and complete, or finalize or update their national inventories.

Expected outputs

9. ***Product 1: The Mediterranean Islands Wetland Inventory (GIS layers and databases)***

This output is related to Ramsar COP12 Resolution XII.14 on Conservation of Mediterranean island wetlands¹ and will provide data and information on wetlands larger than 0.1 ha of all Mediterranean islands. The development of this product will be facilitated by the extension and the implementation of the methodology developed by WWF-Greece to all non-covered islands.

10. ***Product 2: The Potential Wetland Areas Layer (GIS layers and databases)***

This product will provide a delineation of potential wetlands areas (areas where wetland ecosystems may be encountered) at large scales with a related database, as a support to local wetland inventories. It will serve the needs of national and regional agencies interested in exploring the possibilities to reduce costs associated with large wetland inventory exercises and to study large and/or inaccessible areas where in-situ information is scarcely available.

Project implementation levels

11. Three implementation levels are proposed, depending on available resources:

Level 1: Provide harmonized regional products

- a) Primarily, a harmonized pan-Mediterranean map of potential wetland areas and their hydrological catchment basins (location; extent and delineation) will be provided.
- b) In addition, if and where possible at minimal cost, a database containing the main information on wetlands, such as their basic ecological description; their values and

1. The Resolution, *inter alia*, “URGES Mediterranean Contracting Parties in the framework of the MedWet Initiative, to produce or update as a matter of high priority a complete, science-based inventory of their island wetlands, based on appropriate methodologies, and to share it with neighbouring countries, for example, through a MedWet database”

(http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop12_res14_med_islands_e.pdf).

ecosystem services; their socio-economic activities; their conservation status; and the human pressures and threats upon them.

Level 2: Adapted products for each country

The Level 1 products, which will cover a broad definition of wetlands, could be adapted to each of the MedWet countries depending on their national definitions and policies (when they exist).

Level 3: Development of complete national/local wetland inventories

In close collaboration with national/local authorities, wetland inventorying programmes will be conducted at local and/or national scales. These wetland inventories will be undertaken through the improvement of the Level 2 products.

Budget and time scale

12. The budget has not yet been estimated.
13. First results are expected by the end of 2017, at least for Level I, Products a) and b).

PROJECT CONCEPT 3

See separate PDF file under document

EN - MedWet Com 12 - INFORMATION DOCUMENT MED YOUTH
PARLIAMENT

Note: The brochure will be distributed in hard copy during the meeting.