MedWet

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

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**MedWet/Com 12
Palais de la Porte Dorée, Paris (France), 7 – 11 February 2016**

SIDE EVENTS

SIDE EVENT 1

TUESDAY 9 February, 18.30 – 20.00 hs

Room 3, Palais de la Porte Dorée

Soft drinks and snacks will be offered

Language: English

CONSERVATION OF MEDITERRANEAN ISLAND WETLANDS: RAMSAR RESOLUTION XII.14 AND STEPS AHEAD

The objective of the side event is to support the implementation of Ramsar Resolution XII.14 on *Conservation of the Mediterranean island wetlands* adopted at Ramsar COP12 last June.

The Mediterranean Basin is a global biodiversity hotspot and one of the world's leading tourist destinations. It also hosts thousands of islands with especially high endemism richness and endemic species evolved to survive in very specific habitats. Island wetlands are amongst the most restricted and endangered island ecosystems facing intense and multiple pressures from urban and coastal developments as well as the increasing demand for fresh water for human use.

Resolution XII.14 was unanimously adopted by the 12th COP Ramsar, signifying a major step forward towards common action among the Mediterranean countries for the conservation of their island wetlands. In the next few years, Mediterranean countries should produce (or update) complete, science-based inventories, share them through a common database and ensure conservation of the island wetlands through effective and decisive legislative or executive measures.

The intention of this side event is to trigger a discussion on how forthcoming activities should be planned aiming at a greater level of coordination among all relevant stakeholders (Mediterranean countries, NGOs, research institutions, etc).

The following results are anticipated:

- *Promotion of a discussion on how relevant stakeholders could cooperate in order to record and conserve the Mediterranean Basin Island Wetlands*

- *Share the experience of WWF Greece acquired from the 9-year inventory project "Conservation of the Island Wetlands of Greece" (2004-2013) and look into ways to apply the methodology developed to the rest of the Mediterranean Basin countries.*

SIDE EVENT PROGRAMME

Moderator: Katerina Stylogianni, Ramsar Focal Point, Greece (to be confirmed)

Cyprus wetlands' inventory
       Lefkios Sergides, Terra Cypria
       Duration: 10 minutes

Wetlands of the Balearic Islands. Current status and future perspectives
       Eva Hernández, WWF Spain
       Duration: 10 minutes

Inventory and conservation of island wetlands of Greece
       Thanos Giannakakis, WWF Greece
       Duration: 10 minutes

Thoughts and proposals for the implementation of the Ramsar Resolution XII.14 for the conservation of the Mediterranean Basin island wetlands
       Kaloust Paragamian, WWF Greece
       Duration: 20 minutes

Discussion *(40 mins)*

Conclusions and follow up *(10 minutes)*

SIDE EVENT 2

TUESDAY 9 February, 18.30 – 20.00 hs

Room 2, Palais de la Porte Dorée

Soft drinks and snacks will be offered

Language: English

BRIEFING ON THE SATELLETE-BASED WETLANDS OBSERVATION SERVICE

The Satellite-based Wetlands Observation Service (SWOS) that started in 2015 is developing a monitoring and information service for wetlands tailored to specific policy needs on different levels (local, national, regional and global).

The project will bring together satellite based Earth Observation (EO) data, ground information/validation datasets and use citizen science to produce maps and metrics on wetland ecosystem status and trends and on the services these ecosystems provide.

SWOS will make available these outputs as well as the toolkit required to produce them. In addition SWOS is developing a pilot of the infrastructure (portal, data broker, app) used as an entry point for the Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS).

During the side event, the SWOS team will present the background, goals and major items of SWOS and how the Mediterranean wetland community can contribute to the development of SWOS as well as how to use the service.