

Planning the future of MedWet

Alessio Satta, Secretary

Summary

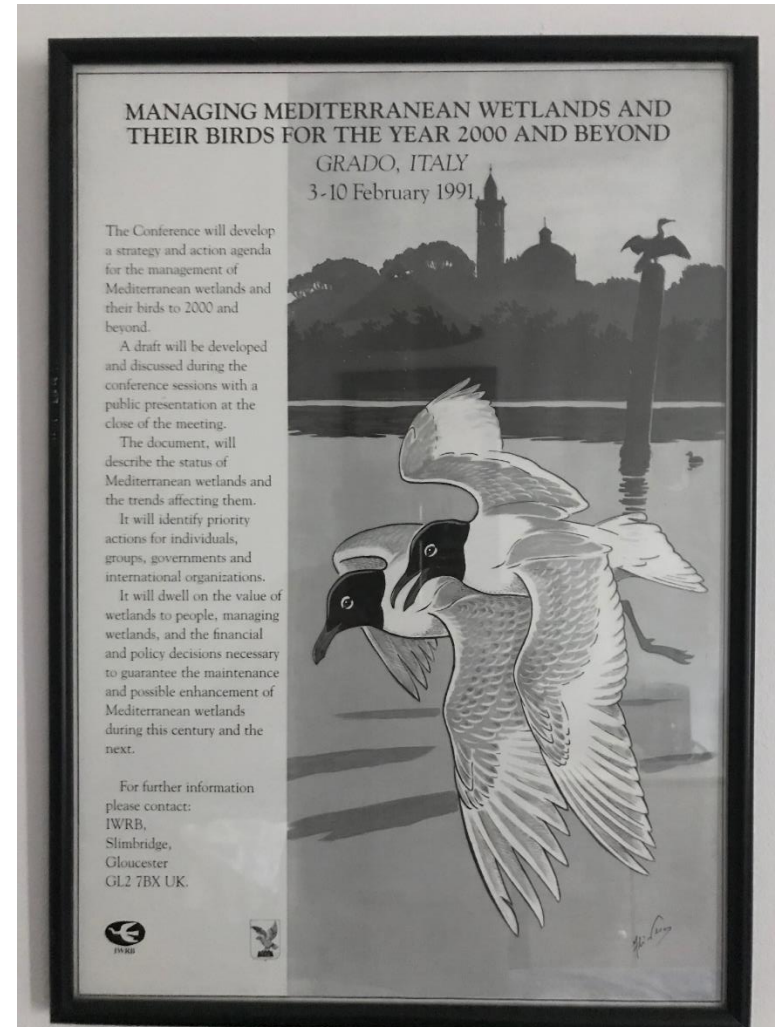
1. Introduction
2. Terms of Reference 2016
3. Achievements
4. MedWet services
5. Future challenges

I_INTRODUCTION | A Platform for Mediterranean dialogue

- The Mediterranean basin is the region in the world experiencing the greatest tensions between two contiguous zones (the European shore and the southern and eastern shores) and that many of these tensions are rooted in the scarcity of water and related conflicts.
- As a result, the sustainable management of wetlands as a key ecosystem for water resources management is a geopolitical issue.
- It therefore seems crucial to have a space for dialogue and concerted action, be it MedWet or another device.

I_INTRODUCTION | A Ramsar Regional Initiative

- First established RRI
- Leading role and model for other RRI
- Innovative and effective governance based on partnership between Countries and International Organizations
- Towards a new Ramsar Resolution for the RRI to be approved in Dubai at the COP13



2_TERMS OF REFERENCE | Mission and Objectives

(Terms of Reference of MedWet – MedWet/Com12)

Mission

to ensure the effective conservation of wetlands and the wise use of their resources values and services within the framework of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Objectives

*a) to **promote** the effective implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan, pertinent Resolutions and initiatives in the Mediterranean region by supporting actions on the ground by governments, civil society organisations and the private sector;*

*b) to **reinforce capacities** in areas where these are not sufficiently developed, and especially to develop and ensure adaptive and integrated management of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) and other wetlands;*

*c) to **transfer to and exchange knowledge and expertise** among key conservation and sustainable use actors in order to reinforce Mediterranean wetland management; and*

*d) to **coordinate** with other regional and international actions and programmes relevant for wetland conservation and sustainable use.*

2_TERMS OF REFERENCE | inspired by the 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*.

2_TERMS OF REFERENCE | Priorities 2017-2018

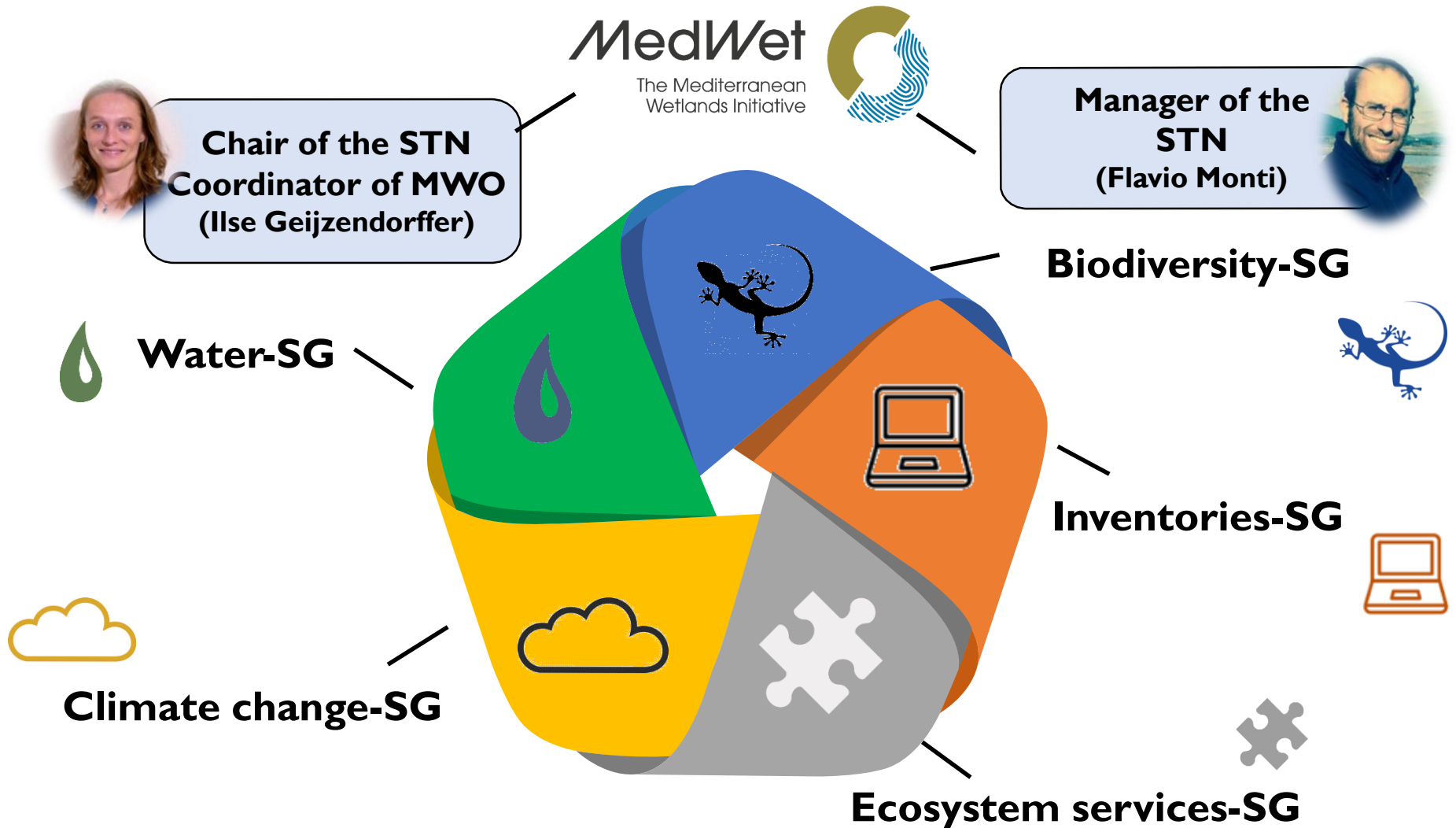
- Project development and technical assistance to countries on a few key objectives with high impact on wetland conservation and wise use as part of sustainable development in the Mediterranean (SDGs/Agenda 2030)
- Research and monitoring through the MWO and MedWet/STN
- Networking (MedWet/STN, MeRSiM-Net)
- Communicating wetlands values

3_ACHIEVEMENTS | the last 3 years

- Development and implementation of the **MedWet communication strategy** with, (renovation of the MedWet website; strong activity on social networks (Twitter, Facebook); introduction of the Arabic)
- Development and launch of the **MedWet Scientific and Technical Network**
- The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory **prepared the MWO2**
- 14 project proposals submitted and 4 projects granted
- The **MedWet Culture Network** launched (www.medwetculture.org) with more than 10 countries represented
- **Training** program on "Managing visitors in protected wetlands: making them allies of conservation" bringing together in **Spain** 21 participants mainly from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (organised by MAPAMA)
- Signature of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Corsican Bureau of the Environment for "**Mediterranean Youth Parliament for Wetlands**"



3_ACHIEVEMENTS | the MedWet/STN





Violeta Barrios
IUCN-Med

14 Members
57% Males
43% Females



Marc Paganini
ESA

14 Members
79% Males
21% Females



Maria Snoussi
Univ Rabat

9 Members
56% Males
44% Females



Özge Balkız
DKM-Turkey



**Ilse
Geizendorffer**
MWO-TdV

8 Members
37% Males
63% Females



**Stefano
Barchiesi**
IUCN

9 Members
67% Males
33% Females

Geographical balance of the MedWet/STN Specialist Groups



22 countries
whereby **16** within
the **Mediterranean**
region

Six countries outside the Mediterranean basin:

Belgium-Denmark-The Netherlands
Austria-UK-Switzerland

Major
represented
countries:

France = 9

Greece = 8

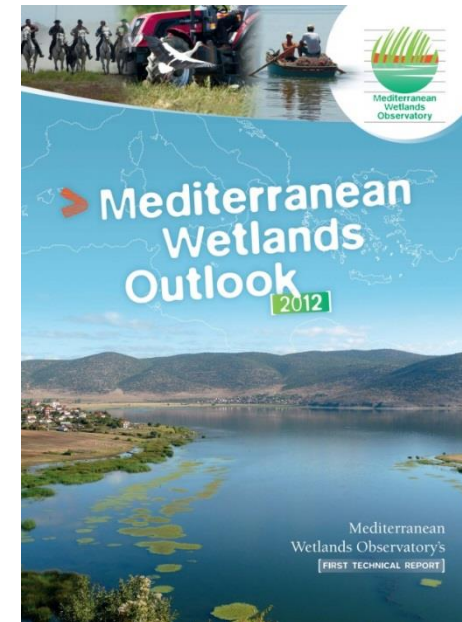
Spain = 7

Italy = 5

Tunisia = 4

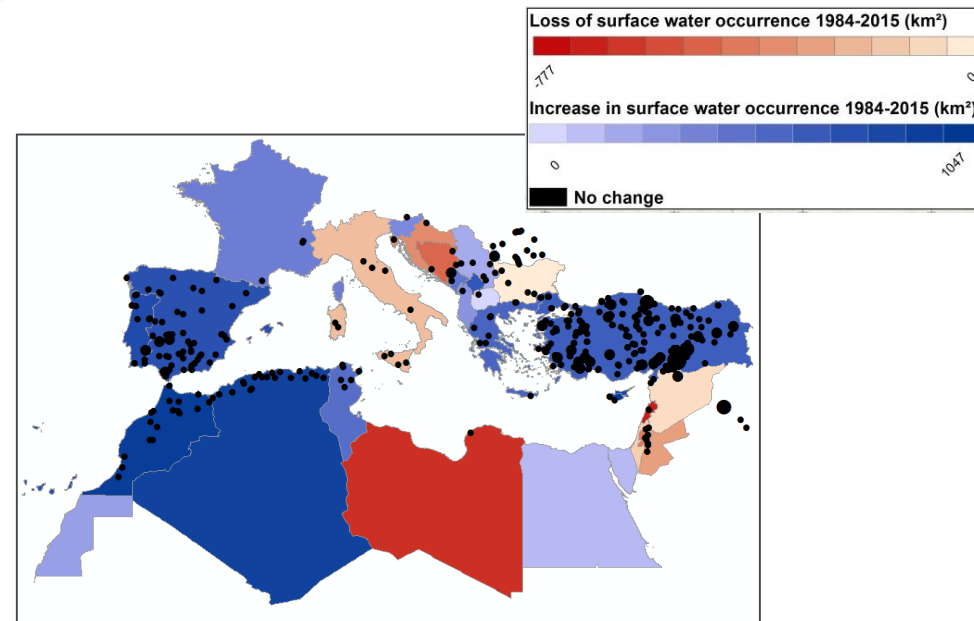
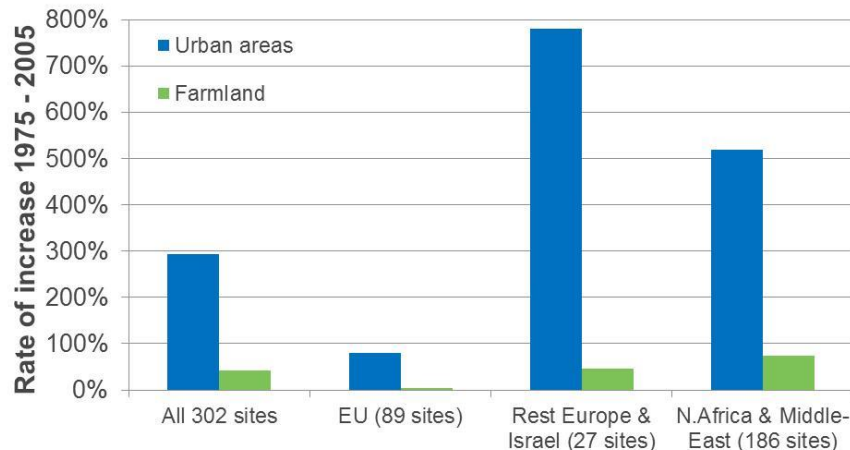
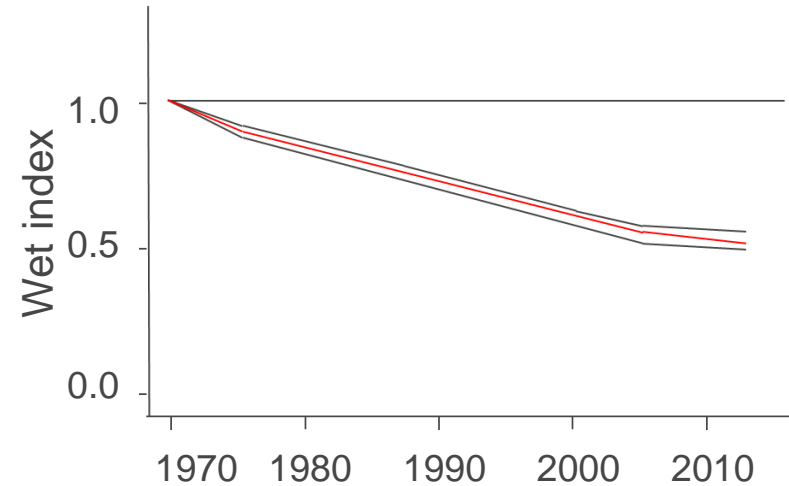
3_ACHIEVEMENTS | the MWO2

- After MWO1 in 2012 the MedWet Observatory has prepared the MWO2 to be presented at Dubai
- A more concise format:
 - 17 Indicators fact-sheets
 - A short synthesis (c. 8 p.)
 - Additional information online
- Several indicators convergent with Global Wetland Outlook (LPI, WET Index...)
- Strengthened collaboration between the Observatory, STN and the Secretariat



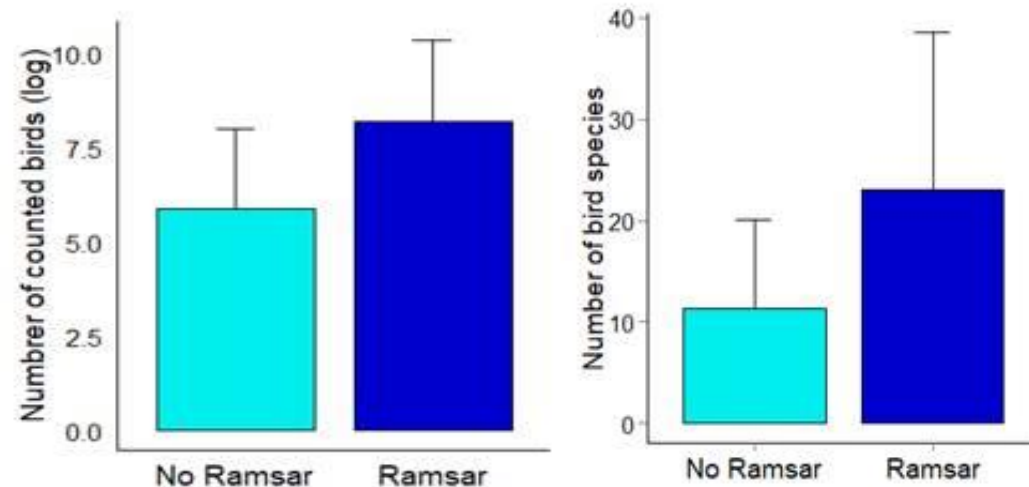
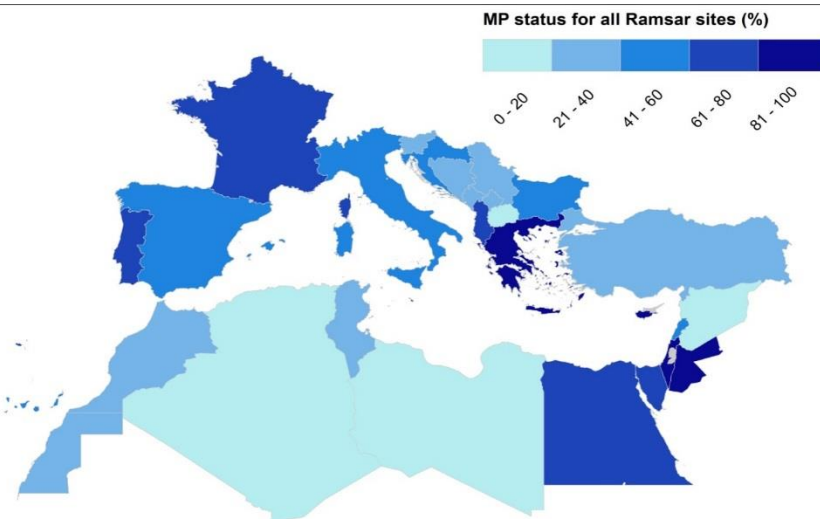
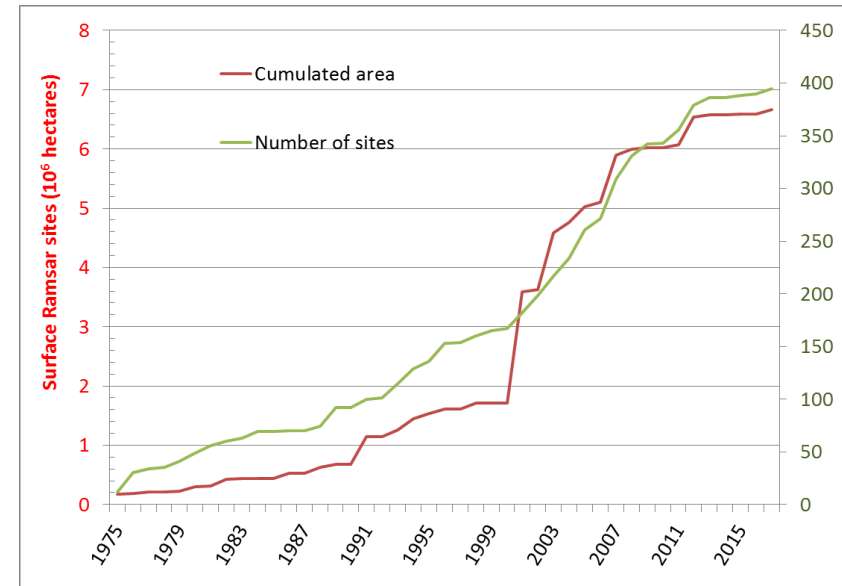
The MWO2 2018 | Main conclusions

- Overall the declining trend of wetlands continues (surface area, biodiversity ..)
- Urban areas increase much faster than agriculture inside main Med. wetland sites
- The pressure on water resources increases (+ climate change)
- The surface area of permanent water increases (reservoirs)



The MWO2 2018 | Main conclusions

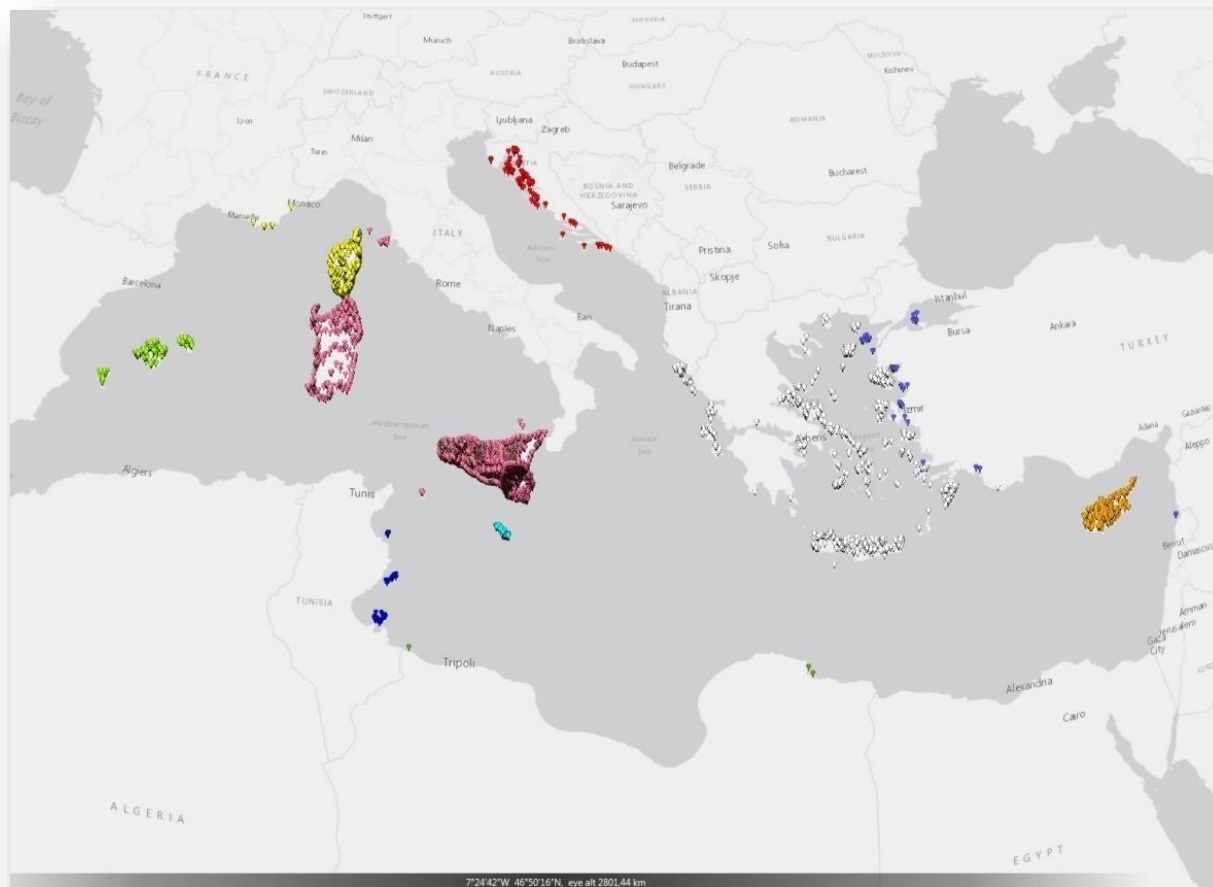
- Since MWO1 (2012), **55** new Ramsar sites (+660,000 ha), mainly in Tunisia (21), France (8) and Spain (7)
- Of the 55 new Ramsar sites: 24 have a management plan (7 “in progress”)
- Effective Ramsar site management is maintaining biodiversity
- Bird numbers increase on Ramsar sites with a management plan



3_ACHIEVEMENTS | ongoing activities

- Leading the regional **communication campaign on coastal wetlands** funded by MAVA (joined by BirdLife, DiversEarth, GWP Med, IUCN Med, MedINA, MedPAN, PAP/RAC and Plan Bleu (UNEP/MAP), Tour du Valat and the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory, Wetlands International, and WWF)
- Implementing **Wetland Inventories** through the MedWet/STN and the Observatory: analyzing the current status of wetland inventories; developing an integrated approach to Wetland Inventory applicable to all MedWet countries
- **MedIsWet**: a Mediterranean Wetlands Island network aiming to develop islands wetland inventories & protection
- **MARISTANIS**: a model for adapting the ICZM Protocol to the integrated management of coastal wetlands

Ongoing activities | MedISWet



Resolution XII.14

Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands

1. AWARE that the Mediterranean Basin is a global biodiversity hotspot and hosts one of the largest groups of islands in the world with a rich history and varied cultural values;
2. ALSO AWARE that the Mediterranean Basin is one of the leading tourist destinations in the world and that its coastal and island ecosystems are facing intense and multiple pressures from this sector;
3. ACKNOWLEDGING the crucial role of Mediterranean island wetlands in protecting these islands against the impacts of climate change and desertification, and their critical significance for a variety of threatened and endemic species of flora and fauna and an important number of migratory species;
4. CONCERNED that Mediterranean island wetlands increasingly face serious pressures, such as the spread of urban and coastal developments that threaten to undermine their ecological character and lead to the increased degradation of wetland areas and, subsequently, to ecosystem fragmentation;
5. AWARE of the fact that small island wetlands are extremely vulnerable and could be easily destroyed, including by non-intentional actions and/or lack of awareness of their significance;
6. ALSO CONCERNED that several Mediterranean island wetlands have already been partly or fully drained, or are increasingly water-stressed, and AWARE that the demand for fresh water for human use on these islands continues to grow;
7. RECALLING the commitments made by the Contracting Parties to achieving the wise use of all wetlands in their territories;
8. ALSO RECALLING Recommendation 6.11, which encouraged continuing collaboration for Mediterranean wetlands and urged all government and non-government organizations and individuals concerned with wetlands in the Mediterranean to commit their best efforts for the preparation and implementation of a concerted Mediterranean Wetlands Strategy;
9. NOTING that the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) has successfully contributed to the protection of Mediterranean wetlands for more than 20 years and it is anticipated that it will continue to do so;
10. ALSO NOTING the efforts made by organizations and initiatives directly focusing on the Mediterranean, such as the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against

- Completing the inventories of all the Mediterranean island wetlands, disseminating knowledge and promoting conservation measures
- Implemented by 14 partners from **9 Mediterranean countries** (Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey).

Ongoing activities | MARISTANIS



AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

Framework

MAVA Strategy for Enhancing the Conservation of Coastal Wetlands

Objectives

1) restoring damaged habitats; 2) encouraging sustainable water use and 3) reducing the impacts of water abstraction, pollution and coastal development on wetlands and related marine habitats

Countries involved

Italy, Tunisia (Ghar El Melah), Albania (Buna River), Montenegro (Ulcinj)

AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

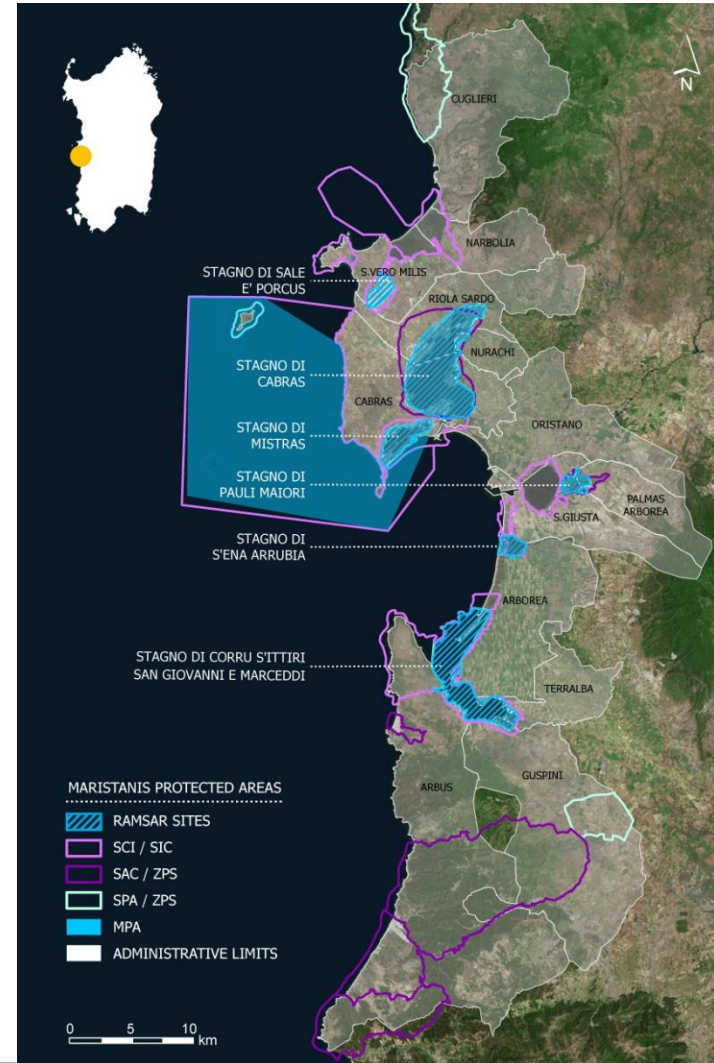
6 Ramsar sites

12 Municipalities

1 MPA / 1 SPAMI

17 Natura 2000 Sites

Population about 78.000 inhabitants



4_MEDWET SERVICES | the added value of MedWet

- **Unique platform** for sharing information and technical capacities between institutions and civil society
- **Bringing together** governments and key non-governmental organizations in the region
- The **multifaceted dimension** of MedWet allows it to do things that other networks cannot do : MedWet is a unique Network of Countries; International NGOs; Wetlands Managers; scientists and researchers, ...

4_MEDWET SERVICES | the Secretariat today



Isabelle Perroud
Financial Officer
90%



Dr. Alessio Satta
Secretary
50%



Mailis Renaudin
Communication Officer
100%



Dr Flavio Monti
STN Manager
30%



Abderrahim Smari
Communication Assistant
40%

4_MEDWET SERVICES | Future challenges

- Full development of the Mediterranean Network of Wetland Managers
- Implementing the FfA through EU funding multi-countries projects
 - Submitted in the 1st Semester of 2018
 - **MedBluePrint** project (EMFF Call of the EU): **innovative Adaptive Management Strategy for wetlands restoration**. Countries involved: Cyprus, Malta, Greece, Turkey and Spain. MedWet as leader
 - **CONNECT-MED** project (ENI CBC MED): **integrated coastal wetland management and climate change adaptation through NBS**. Countries involved are: France, Italy, Spain, Greece, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Lebanon. MedWet is partner
 - **RENEW** (Interreg V – Adriatic): fostering the coordination and enhancing the **effectiveness of management and planning of wetlands** in the Adriatic-Ionian region. Countries involved: Greece, Albania, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia and Italy
 - In preparation for the forthcoming calls:
 - LIFE Climate Governance and Information - MedECC
 - ENI CBC MED – Call for Strategic Projects
 - Interreg MED – WETNET 2

5_FUTURE CHALLENGES | The Mediterranean Network of Ramsar Sites Managers

Objectives

- ▶ to promote the feeling and experience of belonging to the Mediterranean 'ethos';
- ▶ to facilitate exchanges of knowledge and experiences about managing Ramsar Sites;
- ▶ to facilitate mutual support in terms of technical advice and assistance in problem solving;
- ▶ to encourage the twinning of Mediterranean Ramsar Sites.



How it will work?

- ▶ based on a Web platform and a regular newsletter;
- ▶ a database with the management plans;
- ▶ a directory of managers' contacts;
- ▶ forum/annual workshop for exchanging

The MeRSiM-Net | Long term vision

- MedWet will operate permanently as a reference network for wetland managers.
- The MeRSiM network will perpetuate technical support and services tailored to wetlands managers' needs with strong synergies with the partners of the MedWet organisation in a concerted and coherent approach.
- The MeRSiM network will contribute to establishing an ecologically representative network of Ramsar sites, consistent and effectively managed, contributing to improve ecosystem services and preserve the wetlands of the Mediterranean basin, for the benefit of present and future Mediterranean societies.
- MedWet will ensure that the management of the network will take into account the adjacent territories and the development of sustainable economic activities which respect the natural resources and wetland habitats.

5_FUTURE CHALLENGES | MedWet plan for 2019-2021

- Enhancing MedWet capacities to support the implementation of actions bringing together members and wetland managers
- Wetland managers and key players in their territories as crucial actors for achieving Ramsar goals and contributing to the Barcelona Convention
- Being closer to members and enhancing their dynamism, their willingness and ability to exchange
- Representing wetland managers to improve the inclusion of their needs in European, Mediterranean and international policies
- Reinforcing the coordination and the cooperation between all partners and players involved with Ramsar sites
- Consolidating the network's governance and the MedWet Secretariat in operational, institutional and financial terms