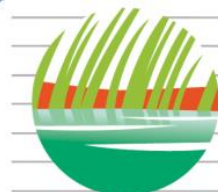


# Monitoring the status and trends of wetlands in the Mediterranean region

## The Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2



Mediterranean  
Wetlands  
Observatory

Ramsar COP13  
Dubai, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018



Institut de recherche  
pour la conservation  
des zones humides  
méditerranéennes

# CONTEXT



MedWet

**1996** MedWet Initiative: 27 countries + various organisations



**1999** Recognised as the first Ramsar Regional Initiative and as a model for regional collaboration



**2008** Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory

# WHY A MEDITERRANEAN WETLANDS OBSERVATORY?

## Wetland loss and degradation continues

- faster than at global scale

## Importance and values of wetlands underestimated

- Many values and benefits contributed by wetlands to human well-being unrecognized
- Policy decisions favour activities impacting wetlands

## Many data, but no reliable synthetic information

### *Need for tangible information*

- ➔ Assess the progress towards conservation targets
- ➔ Feed public policies



# AGENDA

- **Welcome address**

*Jean-Marie Quemener – France and Gordana Beltram - MedWet Chair*

- **Regional wetland assessments, Regional Initiatives and the Ramsar Strategic Plan**

*Tobias Salathé or Paul Ouedraogo - Ramsar Secretariat*

- **From a global wetlands assessment to a regional one**

*Roy Gardner - Ramsar STRP / GWO 2018*

- **Some key results from the Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2**

*Ilse Geijendorffer - MWO / Tour du Valat*

- **Perspectives from MedWet countries :**

- **Algeria:** Developing a National Wetland Strategy - *Ilham Kabouya - DGF*
- **Turkey:** Inventorying wetlands – *Mehmet Gölge - MoFE*

- **Discussion:**

***How can a periodic regional assessment like the MWO2 help CPs to strengthen wetland conservation and wise use?***

# The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory

- **Launched in 2008**
  - In the framework of MedWet
  - Run by Tour du Valat
- **Science evidence-based**
- **Established under the Ramsar convention**, but connected to other international multilateral agreements  
CBD, UNFCCC, SDG
- **Broad partnership**  
scientific institutions,  
national authorities,  
NGOs, etc.



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# The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory

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## Two objectives

- **Analyse the status and trends** of Mediterranean wetlands, including their biodiversity, the goods and services that they deliver as well as pressures and responses
- **Stimulate effective decision-making** for the protection, restoration and wise use of Mediterranean wetlands

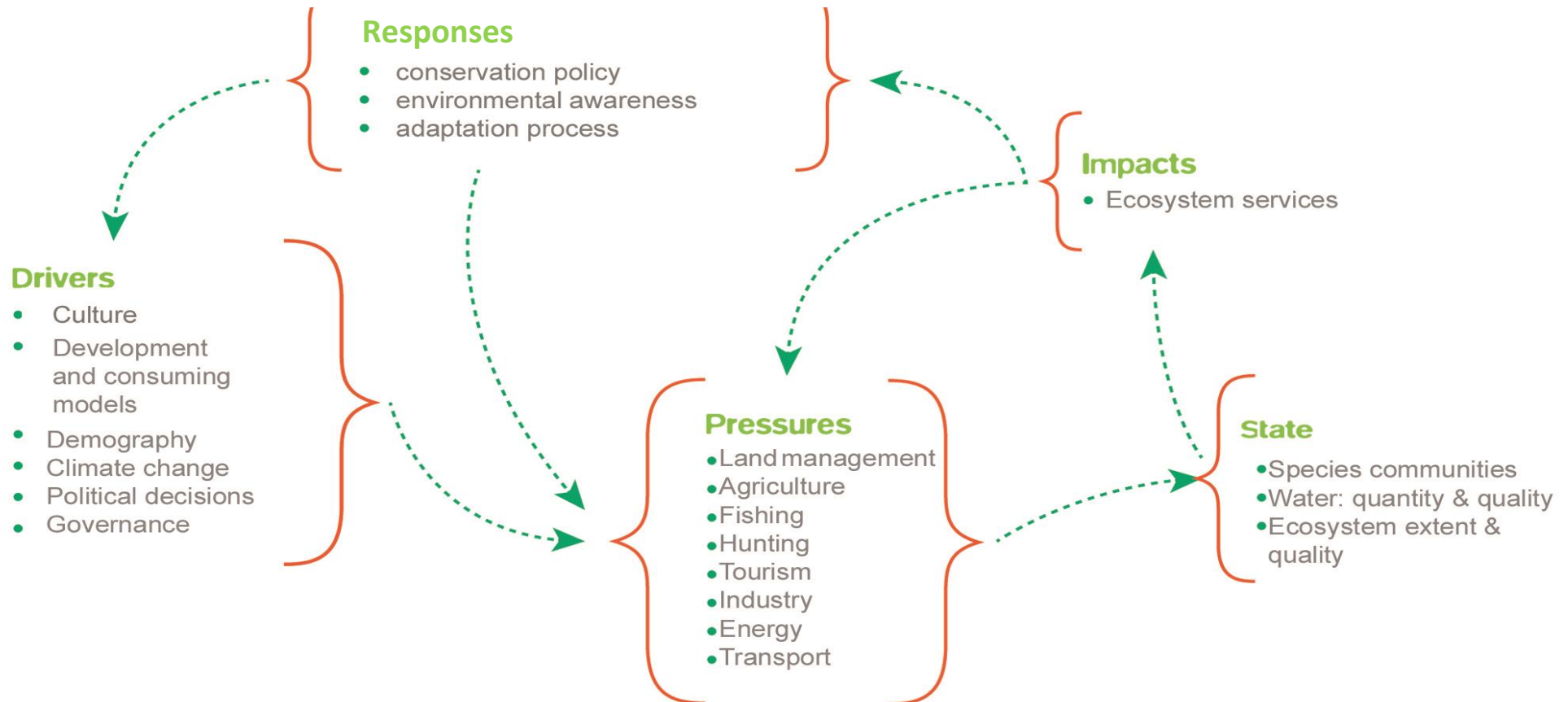
## Two key target audiences

- **Decision makers**
- **Wider public** (through the media)



## First attempt at synthesizing information on wetlands at pan-Mediterranean level

- 27 countries
- 25 indicators selected with countries





## First attempt at synthesizing information on wetlands at pan-Mediterranean level

- 27 countries
- 25 indicators selected with countries
- A technical document on indicators
- A policy synthesis for decision-makers
- To be updated every 5-10 years





# Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2

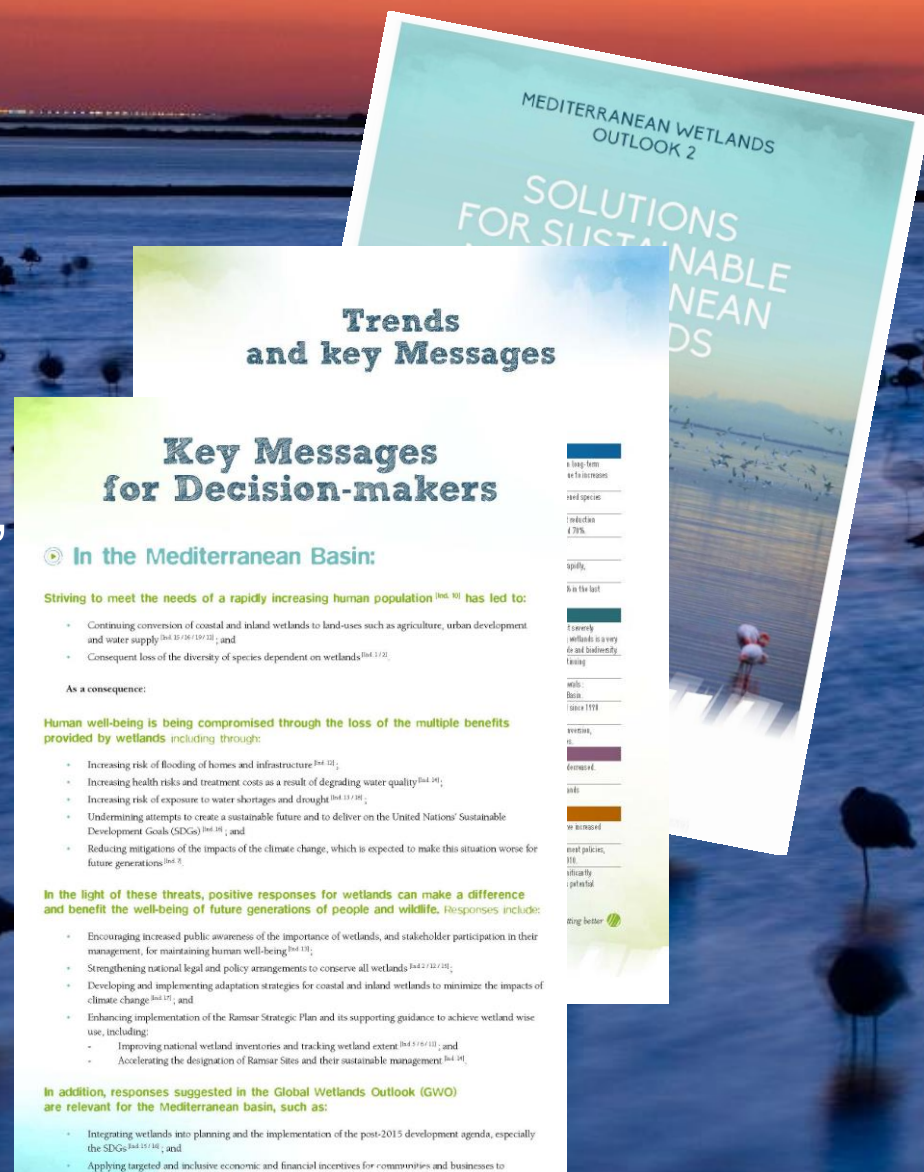
## THE LAUNCH

16 indicators + policy synthesis

Connecting the results to

- Sustainable Development Goals,
- Climate change agenda,
- Aichi Targets,
- Nature Based Solutions
- the Global Wetland Outlook

→ Targeted messages

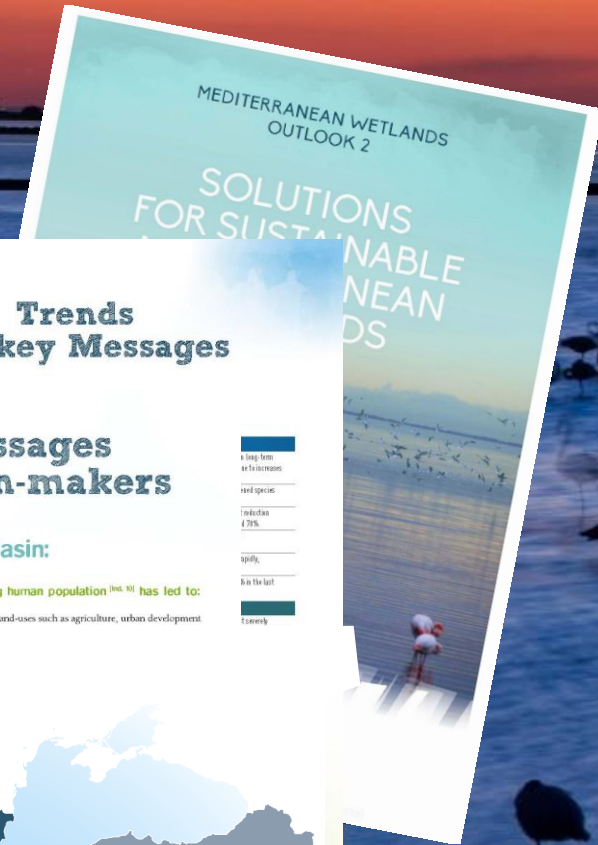


# Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2

## THE LAUNCH

16 indicators and a policy synthesis

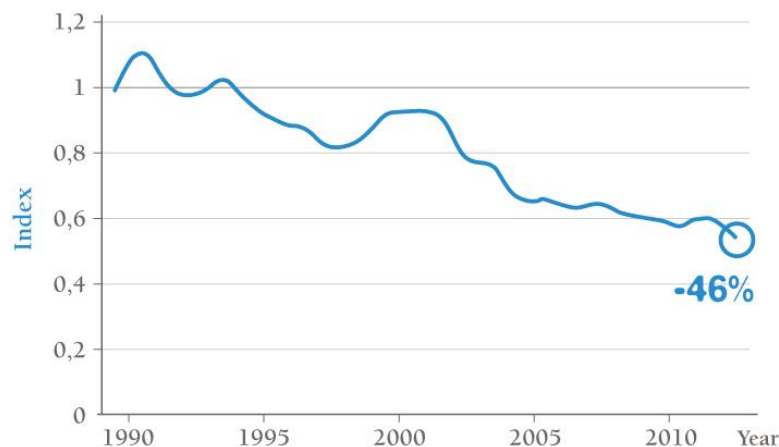
data for all countries – data to share





# MWO-2 results - State of the socio-ecosystem

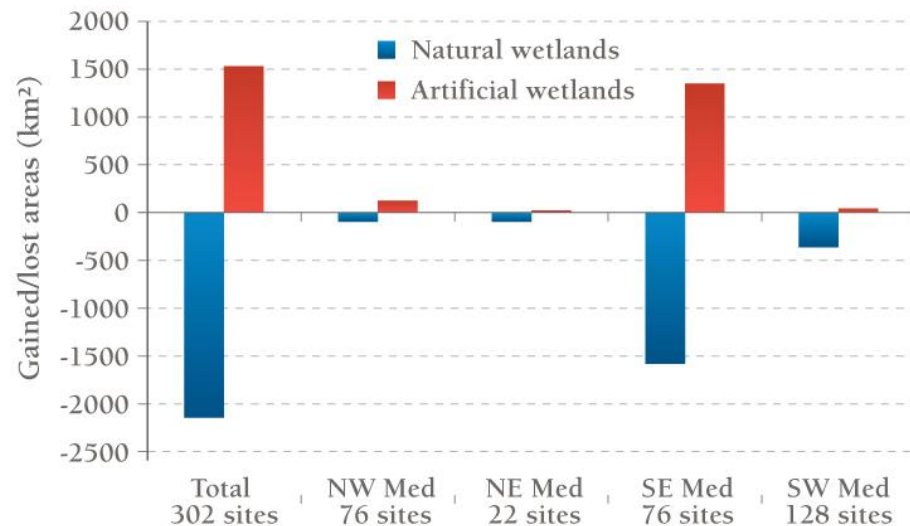
- 48% surface have disappeared since 1970
- Living Planet Index for threatened vertebrate species reduced by 46%
- Natural wetlands decrease and are partly replaced by artificial water bodies (reservoirs)



*Living Planet Index of threatened vertebrate species which is 1 in 1990*

- Species abundance
- Extinction risk of species
- Water flow
- Water quality
- Wetlands surface area
- Area of surface water
13. Education and tourism

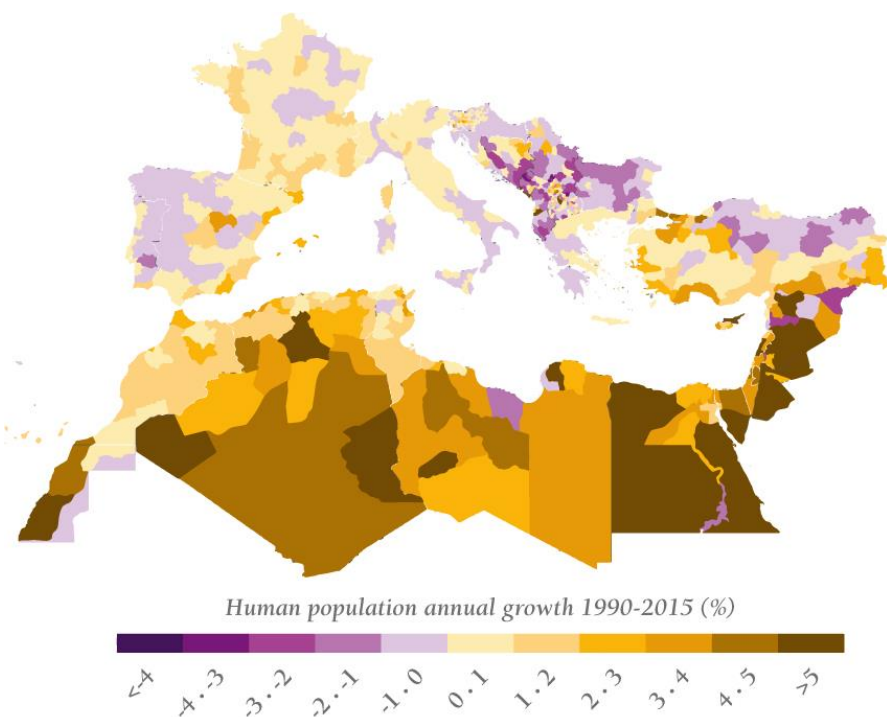
Long term  
Since MWO1





# MWO -2 results - Drivers and pressures

- The number of people increased by a third, but along the coast with 42%!
- Impacts of climate change are particularly pronounced where wetlands are least protected
- The pressure on water resources increases



7. Impacts of climate change

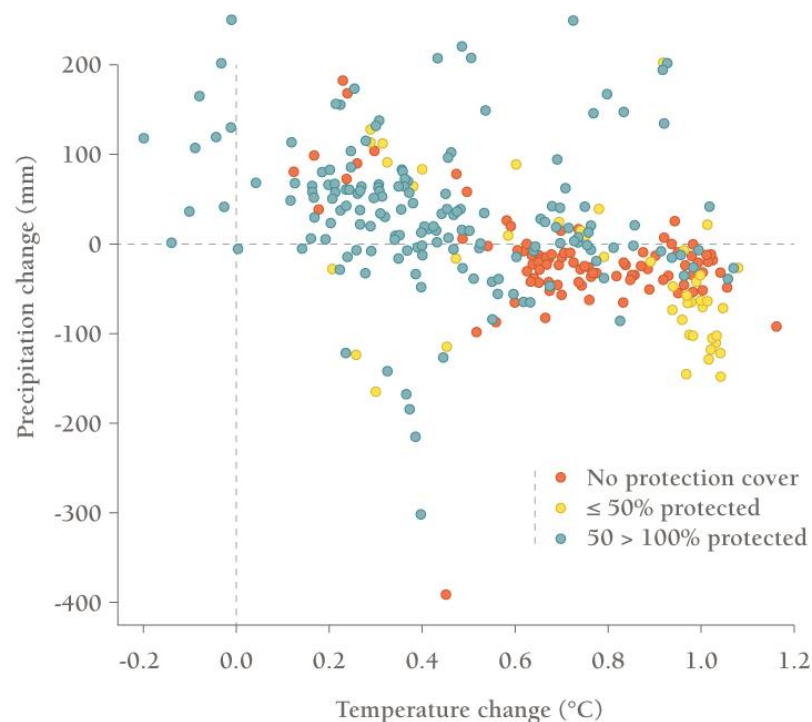
8. Exploitation of water sources

9. Water demand

10. Demography

11. Conversion of wetland habitat

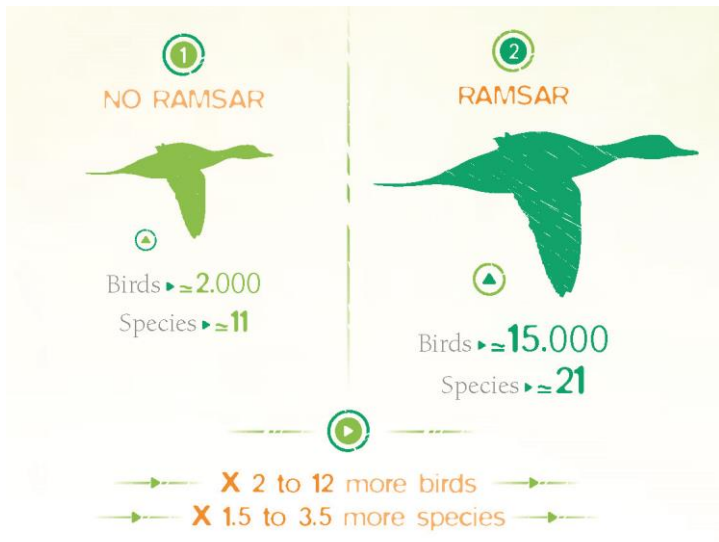
Long term  
Since MWO1












# MWO-2 results - Governance responses

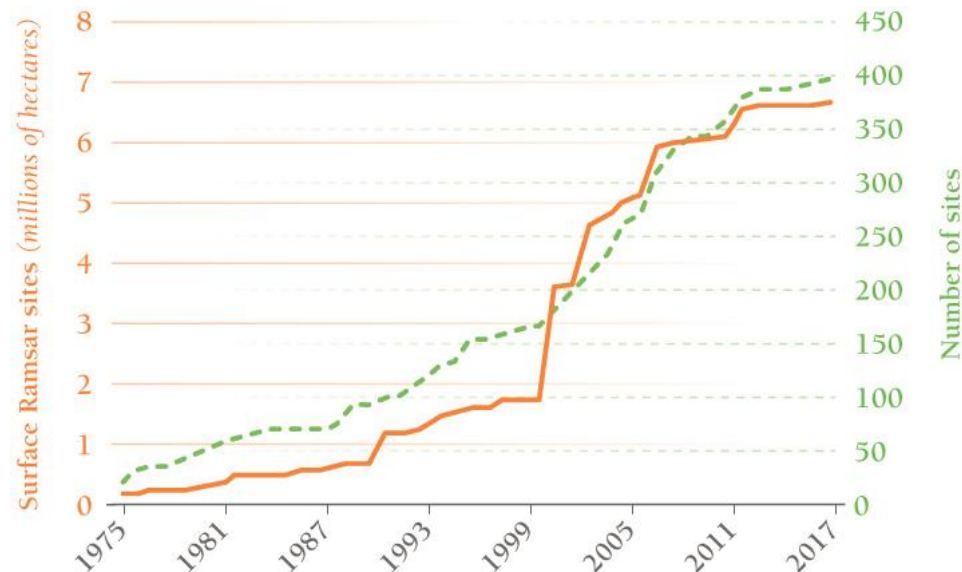
- Since 2012, 55 new Ramsar sites (+660,000 ha), mainly in Tunisia (21), France (8) and Spain (7)
- Of the 55 new Ramsar sites: 24 have a management plan
- Effective site management: increasing bird numbers on Ramsar sites with a management plan



Total species numbers of overwintering water birds

Long term  
Since MWO1

- 12. Flood regulation  
- 13. Surface of Ramsar sites  
- 14. National strategic efforts  
- 15. SDGs 



Surface area (left axis) and numbers (right axis) of Ramsar sites over time



« People well-being and livelihoods depend greatly on maintaining the functioning of natural ecosystems »

**Mediterranean governments are not on track to meet their international commitments for the conservation and wise use of wetlands**

**It also shows that Mediterranean governments will not meet their commitments to deliver the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, 12: prevention of species extinction & Target 15: reduction of at least 50% of natural habitat loss.**

**Nor are Mediterranean governments on track to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their Targets, Related to protection, restoration, sustainable management and reduction of the degradation of water related ecosystems and natural habitats (Targets 6.6, 14.2, 15.1 & 15.5)**



## Recommended responses

### Policy & legislation

National governments

NGOs

Local government/  
local communities/  
site managers

Private sector

Ramsar Strategic Plan  
Paris Agreement  
CBD Aichi Targets  
Sustainable Development Goals  
....

Responsible

Key actor

Informal role possible

Develop and implement adaptation strategies for coastal and inland wetlands to minimise climate change impacts



Recommended responses

National governments

NGOs

Local government/  
local communities/  
site managers

Private sector

Policy & legislation

Sustainable development

Management

Knowledge





From today the MWO2 is freely downloadable from our website

Your feedback helps us improve!

Please disseminate

If you are interested in collaborating with the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory, please contact us:

[Geijzendorffer@tourduvalat.org](mailto:Geijzendorffer@tourduvalat.org)  
[Satta@medwet.org](mailto:Satta@medwet.org)



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Side event #55



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