



MedWet

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

Doc. MedWet/Com13 – 3

MedWet/Com 13
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21 October 2018

Strategic Work Plan 2019-2021

Actions requested: MedWet/Com13 is invited:

- to note this report, - to provide comments,
- to adopt it as a strategic document to guide the work of the MedWet Initiative during the years 2019 – 2021, and
- to request that the MedWet Steering Group monitors and surveys progress with its implementation on a regular basis during the triennium.

1 Introduction

The present Strategic Work Plan 2019-2021 is intended to give member organisations, partner institutions and those interested a clear idea of the agenda of MedWet in next three years. The Work Plan is the keystone document of MedWet which allows it to achieve its mandate. The Work Plan is where the institutional goals and the specific objectives indicated by the MedWet/Com are organized into a series of defined tasks which, if completed, will bring the planned activities to reality.

With this aim, in the context of the Framework for Action 2016-2030 adopted by MedWet/Com during its 12th meeting, the priorities for the Work Plan 2019-2021 can be summarised as follows:

- Providing technical assistance to members to address the drivers of Mediterranean wetlands loss and degradation;
- Developing and coordinating the Mediterranean Network of Ramsar Site Managers and other networks of stakeholders related to wetland conservation;
- Promoting capacity building activities; and
- Consolidating communication and awareness raising activities.

This work plan is meant to be flexible, which means that the implementation of the projects also depends upon funds that will be obtained for the projects and the number and availability of members interested in assisting the organisation.

The MedWet mission is to ensure and support the effective conservation of wetlands and the wise use of their resources, values and services, through local, national, regional and international collaborations. MedWet has four main objectives:

- to promote and participate in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention's objectives and initiatives in the Mediterranean region;
- to develop and reinforce the capacity of governments and civil society for the sustainable management of wetlands, especially those designated as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention;
- to act as a catalyst for the exchange of knowledge and expertise between key conservation and sustainable use actors in order to reinforce Mediterranean wetland management; and
- to collaborate with other international initiatives in the region and globally.

As a Ramsar's Regional Initiative, MedWet's activities also refer to the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

The goals for the Ramsar's Work Plan, are the following:

- Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation;
- Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network;
- Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands;
- Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation.

Particularly relevant for MedWet is Target 15 of Goal 4, which states: "Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention".

It is worth mentioning that the MedWet's Work Plan should address the Ramsar Goals in the Mediterranean context in a sound and effective manner. All the activities of MedWet are designed to contribute to the achievement of specific targets of the four goals defined by Ramsar.

The template is fully coherent, in its form and substance, with the Ramsar Strategic Plan and, in particular, the activities proposed in the Work Plan correspond to the goals and targets of the Ramsar strategic Plan.

Within this framework, the proposed activities also reflect the results and the lessons learned from the past and, in some cases, represent a follow-up of previous activities. As for the reporting's template, the expected outcomes for each activity include indicators and responsibilities.

We also maintain the priority of each activity using the colour code indicated in the table below.

ON = Ongoing activities, with secured (or partially secured) funding	Green
PA = Priority activities without secured funding and/or implementation mechanism	Yellow
UA = Useful activities, but without secured resources and/or partners	Red

2 Strategic Work Plan

Strategic Goal I: Addressing the drivers of Mediterranean wetlands loss and degradation												
Ramsar Targets:												
1. Wetland benefits and ecosystem services feature in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure at the national and local level. 2. Water use sustainability is improved while respecting ecosystem and basin requirements. 3. Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of water and wetlands. 4. Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.												
Activity Number	Ramsar Strategic Plan target	MedWet Framework for Action 2016-2030 Action	Activity	Means of implementation	Lead actor	Partners	Expected deliverables	Indicator	Funds from voluntary contributions by MedWet countries	Resources	Time Frame	Status
1.1	1	1.1	Developing and implementing a training programme and organizing training sessions for national and local government officials on wetland services	The SALTAPAN project will assess the ecosystem services provided at selected wetland sites to demonstrate the sustainable socio-economic benefits and business opportunities that well-managed sites can provide.	BirdLife	MedWet /Sec, MEDSEA	Several workshops on the application of TESSA method to wetlands	Number of people trained	None	MAVA	2019-2022	
1.2	1	1.2	Increasing the knowledge base and awareness of ecosystem services and values of the Buna Delta	Activity carried out in the framework of the “Buna Delta Protection” project in Albania as part of the “Coastal Wetlands Strategy” of MAVA	IUCN Icaro	Tour du Valat, MedWet /Sec.	Ecosystem services valuation study in BRVPL; updated map with habitats developed	Ecosystem services valued	None	MAVA	2019-2020	
1.3	2; 3	2.4; 3.1; 3.3;	Improving the sustainability of water use in the wetlands of the Gulf of Oristano through an integrated management approach	Activity carried out in the framework of the MARISTANIS project of the “Coastal Wetlands Strategy” of MAVA	MEDSEA	Tour du Valat, WWF, MedWet /Sec.	Concrete measures to reduce water consumption in the area	Number of private operators involved	None	MAVA	2019-2020	

Strategic Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network												
Ramsar Targets:												
5. The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained, through effective planning and management.												
6. There is a significant increase in the Ramsar Site network, in particular underrepresented types of wetlands and transboundary sites.												
7. Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed.												
Activity Number	Ramsar Strategic Plan target	MedWet Framework for Action 2016-2030 Action	Activity	Means of implementation	Lead actor	Partners	Expected deliverables	Indicator	Funds from voluntary contributions by Medwet countries	Resources	Time-frame	Status
2.1	6	6.1	Planning and management of some pilot Ramsar Sites representative of contexts: an island site in an EU country; a transboundary site between two European countries not part of the EU; and another site located in North Africa	Coastal Wetlands Strategy MAVA	MAVA	MedWet /Sec., MEDSEA	Management plan for the identified sites	Number of management plans prepared and/or updated	None	MAVA	2019-2020	
2.2	6	5.5	Establishing and coordinating the MedWet Network of Mediterranean Ramsar Sites Managers (MeRSiM-Net)	Project CONNECT-MED (ENPI-CBC-MED)	MedWet/Sec.	Ramsar, Tour du Valat, WWF, IUCN, MedINA	Network established with 50 members by the end of 2021	Number of members involved	None	Secretariat Core Budget+ submission to EU ENPI-CBC-MED	2019-2021	
2.3	6	12.2	Defining a coordination group of Mediterranean regions committed to wetland conservation	The MW Secretariat will support the member countries to select "committed regions"	MedWet/Sec.	All countries	The coordination group established	n. of Regions involved	None	Secretariat Core Budget	2019-2021	
2.4	6	6.1	Enabling a multi-stakeholder governance and transboundary mechanism to address the key threats and support knowledge transfer and joint planning of the Buna Delta	The MW Secretariat will support partners in exploring possibilities for and initiate transboundary cooperation in the Bojana/Buna Delta	MedWet/Sec.	IUCN, EuroNatur, Tour du Valat	Action plan for addressing the priority issues	Stakeholders from both Montenegro and Albania	None	MAVA	2019-2021	

2.5	7	7.2; 7.6	Develop an advocacy campaign and legal action to enable protection of Ulcinj Salina	All legal means for the protection of the Ulcinj Salina will be explored and if appropriate applied	EuroNatur	Tour du Valat, BirdLife	By end of 2020 the management plan of the wetland area prepared	Value and threat of Ulcinj Salina are known nationally & internationally	None	MAVA	2019-2020	
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Strategic Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands

Ramsar Targets:

8. National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.
9. The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.
10. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.
11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.
12. Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.
13. Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.

Activity Number	Ramsar Strategic Plan target	MedWet Framework for Action 2016-2030 Action	Activity	Means of implementation	Lead actor	Partners	Expected deliverables	Indicator	Funds from voluntary contributions by MedWet countries	Resources	Time-Frame	Status
3.1	8	8.1	Producing an overview of national wetland inventories in the Mediterranean	The MedWet/STN Specialist Group "Inventories" prepares the report on and evaluation of the status of Mediterranean wetlands inventories	MedWet/Sec. /STN	MWO	Report prepared, published and widely circulated	Report prepared	None	Voluntary basis	2019	
3.2	8	8.2	Producing and disseminating a methodological guide for wetland inventoring	The MedWet/STN Specialist Group "Inventories" Guide to be disseminated by the MW/Secretariat	MedWet/Sec. /STN	MWO, MedWet /Sec.	Guidelines produced and distributed to MedWet members	Methodological guide drafted, number of countries / partners informed	None	Voluntary basis	2019-2020	

3.3	8	8.3; 8.4; 8.5	Mediterranean island wetlands inventoried and adequately documented	Within the framework of the MedsWet project, Mediterranean wetlands will be inventoried and knowledge will be disseminated to the public and to the scientific community	WWF Greece	MedWet /Sec., Terra Cypria, WWF Turkey, Association Hyla, PIM, Nature Trust Malta	A pan-Mediterranean report with data from all national inventories	Mediterranean Island Wetlands inventoried by 2022	None	MAVA	2019-2022	
3.4	9	7bis.1; 7bis.2	Promoting and supporting the Ramsar Cities Accreditation and promoting the cities already certified	The Ramsar Cities Accreditation will be promoted through the MedWet Network	MedWet/Sec.	Ramsar	At least 10 Mediterranean cities accredited at the end of 2021	Number of cities nominated	None	Core Budget + extra budget to identify	2019-2021	
3.5	10	10.1	Enhancing and promoting intangible and tangible cultural heritage of wetlands	As part of the work carried out under the MedWet Culture Network, the Secretariat and MedINA will undertake a survey, of local communities' practices that are ensuring the effective wise use of wetland resources.	MedWet/Sec.	MedINA	Database of wetlands' tangible and intangible heritage	Number of practices identified	None	Resources to be identified	2019-2021	
3.6	11	11.1	Evaluating socioeconomic values of coastal wetlands and marine-related habitats	Saltpan Initiative as part of the "Coastal wetlands Strategy" of MAVA	BirdLife	MedWet /Sec. WWF Tunisia, IUCN, MEDSEA	Socioeconomic valuation of coastal wetlands and marine-related habitats	Number of wetlands evaluated	None	MAVA	2019-2021	

3.7	12	11.bis.1;	Producing a guide for the use of wetlands as nature-based solutions to mitigate extreme events	The activities will be developed within the project CONNECT-MED (Programme ENI CBC MED), if finally approved by the Evaluation Committee.	AVITEM	MedWet /Sec., Plan Bleu, MEDSEA	The guide is widely disseminated in the 8 countries involved in CONNECT-MED (Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco)	Number of actions undertaken by stakeholders using the guide	None	MAVA + other local funding	2019-2022	
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Operational Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation

Targets:

14. Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.
15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.
16. Wetland values are mainstreamed through communications, education, public participation and awareness.
17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 from all sources are substantially increased.
18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.
19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 is enhanced.

Activity Number	Ramsar Strategic Plan target	MedWet Framework for Action 2016-2030 Action	Main Activities	Means of implementation	Lead actor	Partners	Expected deliverables	Indicator	Funds from voluntary contributions by Medwet countries	Resources	Time-frame	Status
4.1	14	14.1	Coordinating and reinforcing the MedWet/Scientific and Technical Network (STN)	Scientific and technical guidance at the regional level will be ensured by the experts of the STN	MedWet/ Sec. /STN	Tour du Valat	The 5 Specialist Groups (SGs) produce at least 2 relevant outcomes in the 3-years period	Number of outcomes produced by the STN SGs	None	Voluntary basis, COST ACTION (EU Funding) +	2019-2021	
4.2	7	14.1	The Mediterranean Wetland Observatory (MWO) publishing regularly the status and trends of Mediterranean wetlands based on reliable indicators	The MWO ensure this activity with the financial support of the Tour du Valat	MWO / Tour du Valat	MedWet/ Sec. /STN	Periodic reports	Number of reports distributed	None	Tour du Valat + other donors (funds partially secured)	2019-2021	

4.3	16	16.1	Communicating MedWet activities and in a broader way Mediterranean wetland news and initiatives to members, decision makers and other key stakeholders	Activities ensured by the Communication Officer with the support of one communication assistant part-time for Arabic.	MedWet/ Sec.		Monthly newsletter	Number of Newsletters distributed	None	Core budget	2019-2021	
4.4	16	16.2	Designing and producing communications tools for MedWet	Activities ensured by the Communication Officer with the support of external consultant.	MedWet/ Sec.		Communication tools (e.g., roll up; post cards, etc.)	Number of tools produced	None	exploiting resources of EU funded projects	2019-2020	
4.5	16	16.3	Promoting a more active celebration of the WORLD WETLANDS DAY in the MedWet countries	Activities ensured by the Communication Officer with the support of one communication assistant part-time for Arabic.	MedWet/ Sec.		WWD events in the Mediterranean are increased and covered	No. of participants in WWD events	None		2019-2021	
4.6	16	16.6	Maintain the MedWet website as an important tool for communicating the value of the Mediterranean wetlands	Activities ensured by the Communication Officer with the support of one communication assistant part-time for Arabic.	MedWet/ Sec.		Website updated	Website updated; increased number of visitors	None	To be identified	2019	
4.7	16	16.7	Reinforcing the presence in social media presence	Activities ensured by the Communication officer with the support of one communication assistant part-time for arabic.	MedWet/ Sec.		Update content daily/weekly	No. of followers	None	Core budget	2019-2021	
4.8	17	17.1	Developing, in cooperation with regional and national partners, a fundraising action for ensuring the complete implementation of the Framework for Action	Activity ensured by the MedWet Coordinator	MedWet/ Sec.		New funds	Funds raised	None	Core budget	2019-2021	
4.9	19	19.1	Defining and delivering a 3-years capacity building program dedicated to wetland managers	A physical workshop per year on specific and emerging issues for managers will be organized and 5(6) webinar / years coordinated by the chairs of the STN Specialist Group will be delivered	MedWet/ Sec.	Tour du Valat / MedWet/ STN	At least one training session per year (event through webinar)	One training	None	Potential funds: Mangrove foundation; AFD project managed by TdV	2019-2021	