



## MedWet

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

### MedWet Steering Group 2018 - 2021 First Meeting, 20/03/2019

#### Participants

Hela Guidara (Chair), Tunisia  
Ghislaine Ferrère, France  
Magdalena Bernues, Spain  
Ilse Geijzendorffer, Tour du Valat  
Tobias Salathè, Ramsar  
Thanos Giannakakis, WWF Greece  
Imen Rais, WWF Tunisia  
Antonio Troya, IUCN MED  
Alessio Satta (Coordinator)

#### Agenda of the meeting

1. Icebreaking: getting to know each other
2. Setting the functioning of the MedWet/SG (frequency of virtual meetings, planning possible physical meetings, contribution of SG members to MedWet activities, etc.)
3. Consolidating the strategic approach of the new MedWet/SG after the MedWet/Com13 (which are the most important 2,3 objectives of MedWet for 2019? How we will reach them?)
4. Implementing the next operational steps: work plan and budget for 2019 (updating the countries annual contribution to the new UN Scale 2019-2021, defining the deadline for the Coordinator to draft the docs)
5. Nomination of Ms Gordana Beltram as new honorary member (proposed by Thymio)

#### Report

##### Point I

- The agenda is approved by the participants
- Rule 25 of the ToR is respected: 6 members and 3 country representatives.
- Hela Guidara delivered an introductory speech stressing the following points: Bringing the center of action and exchanges between MedWet members in the field of pragmatism; Acting together to fight against changes due to human or natural factors; Going beyond national differences for the benefit of the Mediterranean region, our wetlands and our people.
- The coordinator gave an update on the situation of the secretariat team: Mailis Renaudin, from the period following the Ramsar COP in Dubai, repeatedly asked for a sick leave for depression at work. This period was extended from March 2019 for a further month that the request of the

occupational physician and is expected to be extended for the next 6-months. For this reason, given the delay accumulated by the communication projects followed by Mailis. A consultant has been selected until June 30, 2019 (end of the second period of the year for MAVA projects). The consultant, Chantal Menard (whose CV is attached), will work two days a week. For the rest, the team is still composed of Isabelle Perroud (administrative and financial manager) and the following part-time consultants: Abder Smari (communication assistant) and Flavio Monti (manager of STN).

#### Point 2

- It is proposed that the SG will meet every 3-months by videoconference which will be scheduled well in advance.
- The SG can meet for urgent matters or at the request of the Char, the Coordinator or other members for specific matters.
- It is proposed to organise at least one physical meeting of the SG per year.
- According to rule 12 of the ToR, the MedWet/Com shall hold regular meetings at 18 months intervals. As the MedWet/Com13 was held in Dubai in October 2018, the next meeting should be held April / May 2020.
- With the aim of optimizing resources and considering the proximity of dates, it has been proposed to hold the MedWet/Com14 during the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020 (Marseille, 11-19 June 2020).

#### Point 3

- Priorities defined by country representatives are as follows: implementing the wetlands managers network; coordinating the World Wetland Day and the Wetland City Accreditation initiatives in the Mediterranean; Collection and synthesis of existing scientific knowledge (e.g. ecosystem services) to be shared with members in a simplified format; improving communication on MedWet current and future operations to members (e.g. enhancing newsletters).
- The IOP representative mentioned the need for completed inventories and common data management, based on the experience gained from projects like the MedIsWet.
- All participants agreed that MedWet, as a regional initiative, should actively contribute to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Mediterranean. Tobias Salathè confirmed this has been reiterated by the Resolution on regional initiatives.
- Tobias Salathè suggested taking inspiration from the new COP13 Ramsar resolutions for MedWet's upcoming activities.
- It is also requested that MedWet define priorities in its actions, to avoid repeating a comprehensive action plan but impossible to implement.

#### Point 4

- The Coordinator introduced the main current activities of MedWet: building the wetland managers network; coordinating the Coastal Wetlands Communication Campaign and participating to the other MAVA funded projects (MedIsWet, MARISTANIS, etc.); carrying out the AFB project for the coordination of the promotion of the World Wetland Dyas in the Mediterranean region, preparing a strategic and long-term capacity building programme (MedWet Academy); etc.
- The Coordinator underlined the need to update the Countries Contribution according to the new UN Scale 2019-2021, as foreseen in the Ramsar Resolution XIII.9. A new table will be drafted by the Secretariat and distributed among the members of the SG for validation. Then the Secretariat will send the new invoices for the year 2019.
- The coordinator will prepare the 2019 action plan and the schedule of meetings and notices of the SG, which will be validated by the SG.

#### Point 5

- As proposed by Thymio Papayannis the members discussed his proposal to nominate Gordana Beltram as honorary member of MedWet

- All participants accepted this idea and asked the chair to promote this proposal to other members of MedWet / Com. The proposal will be submitted for validation by MedWet / Com14.
- The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their contribution.