



MedWet

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

The MedWet Initiative is currently composed of the following members:

Country members

- 27 States: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, North Macedonia, Tunisia and Turkey.
- One self-governing body: Palestinian Authority.

Non - country members

- Tour du Valat research institute for the conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands (TdV).
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Honorary members

- Mr. Thymio Papayannis.
- Ms Gordana Beltram.

Permanent Observers

- Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation.

The MedWet Coordinator

Rules of procedure of the MedWet/Com and the MedWet/SG

Amended Rules of Procedures of the MedWet/Com and the MedWet/SG of the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative as a Ramsar Regional Initiative

Membership

- Rule. 1* New members of the MedWet/Com shall be admitted by a three-fourths majority of votes cast of members present at a MedWet/Com meeting.
- Rule. 2* The MedWet/Com may award honorary members on the proposal of the MedWet/SG to whom is broadly acknowledged as having contributed significantly to MedWet. Honorary members shall be admitted by a three-fourths majority of votes cast of members present at a MedWet/Com meeting.
- Rule. 3* Each member of the MedWet/Com shall be entitled to be represented at meetings of the Committee by a Representative and an Alternate Representative.
- Rule. 4* Voting. "Simple majority" means more than half of the total number of votes cast.
- Rule. 5* "Members present and voting" means ordinary members present and casting an affirmative or a negative vote. Members abstaining from voting shall be considered as not voting.
- Rule. 6* Conditions for the admission and participation of observers. The MedWet Coordinator, with the tacit consent of the MedWet/Com members, may invite them to send representatives to observe any MedWet public meetings or for particular agenda items, any other Ramsar Contracting Party or any country, or intergovernmental organization, or non-governmental organization, or persons, who are implementing the Ramsar Convention in the Mediterranean region or are interested in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Observers may, upon the invitation of the Chairperson and with the tacit consent of the meeting, actively participate, present information or report relevant to the meeting and objectives of the Convention, without the right to vote.
- Rule. 7* MedWet/Com members are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs to attend MedWet/Com meetings, with the exception of one government representative (or more, if resources allow) from each country eligible for support according to the List of Development Assistance Recipients established by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). No representative will be sponsored from eligible countries that have not paid their membership dues to the MedWet baseline budget for more than two years in arrears.
- Rule. 8* The MedWet/SG, to approve the measures and documents, submits them to the MedWet/Com for adoption, through on-line consultation or at face-to-face meetings. A 'silent assent' procedure applies on the on-line consultation, where decision is 'deemed adopted', unless any member objects within the specified period under Rule 22".

Chair and meetings

- Rule. 9* The MedWet/Com is chaired by the Chair of the MedWet/Steering Group (MedWet/SG).
- Rule. 10* The Chair represents the MedWet/Com as required within the limits of the Committee's mandate and shall carry out such other functions as may be entrusted to him/her by the MedWet/Com.
- Rule. 11* MedWet/Com may appoint a Vice-Chair among the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention in the region, which shall assist the Chair in his/her functions and shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair.
- Rule. 12* The Chair of MedWet/Com may declare a session of the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least half of the Country-members are present and voting. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.
- Rule. 13* The MedWet/Com meets face-to-face at least once every three years prior to or during the Ramsar Convention COP. MedWet members are encouraged to host additional face-to-face MedWet/Com meetings. In case face-to face meetings may be impossible, impracticable or against health protocols, virtual MedWet/Com meetings should be considered.
- Rule. 14* The MedWet/Com shall also hold regular online meetings in between the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
- Rule. 15* The MedWet/Com meetings shall be called by the MedWet/SG or at the request of at least one fifth of the country members.
- Rule. 16* The MedWet Secretariat shall be responsible to make necessary arrangements for the logistic and the organization of the meetings of the Committee.
- Rule. 17* Notice of a meeting shall be given to all members at least 45 days in advance.
- Rule. 18* The agenda and the time of the meetings shall be determined by the MedWet/SG.
- Rule. 19* The working documents shall be distributed for the approval of the MedWet/SG at least 15 days before their distribution to all MedWet/Com members at least 30 days before the opening of the meeting.
- Rule. 20* A quorum of the meeting shall consist of at least half of the country-members. No decision shall be taken at a meeting in the absence of a quorum.
- Rule. 21* The minutes of each meeting, with the approval of the Chair, shall be distributed to all members within 60 days after the closure of each meeting and shall be posted in the MedWet website.

Rule. 22 In absence of a regular face-to-face meeting of MedWet/Com, documents related to the functioning of MedWet, mainly strategic work plan and provisional budget, shall be adopted by online meetings.

Rule. 23 Other decisions, other than those provided for in Rule 21, may be adopted by electronic means. In this case, the Chair shall send the relevant documents approved by the MedWet/SG to the members for comment. Comments are to be sent to the Secretariat within 30 days of the dispatch of the communication, after which the Secretariat shall communicate all comments received to all members. If no objection is received by the Secretariat within these 30 days of communication, the documents shall be considered as adopted and a notice of the adoption shall be given to all members. If a member objects to a document within the applicable time limit, the document shall be put to voting or otherwise referred to the next meeting of the MedWet/Com. Any member may also make a proposal to the Chair for a decision by electronic means. The Chair shall send the proposal to the members for comment, following the same procedure as outlined above.

Working languages

Rule. 24 The working languages of the MedWet/Com shall be English and French. All documents shall be distributed in the two languages and simultaneous interpretation shall be provided at the face-to-face meetings of the MedWet/Com. The costs of using these two working languages shall be included in the budget of the face-to-face meetings of the MedWet/Com.

If resources are obtained, Arabic shall be used as the third working language at the face-to-face meeting of the MedWet/Com.

Final provisions

Rule. 25 In matters not covered by the present Rules, the Rules of Procedure as adopted by the latest regular meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands shall apply, mutatis mutandis.

Rule. 26 Any amendment to these Rules of Procedure is adopted according to the voting procedure of Rule 4.

Rule. 27 These Rules shall apply mutatis mutandis to the MedWet/SG.

Rule. 28 All members of the MedWet/SG, including the alternate members, should be notified about the dates of the next meeting and should receive all working documents.

Rule. 29 All members are invited to meetings. For participation at face-to-face meetings full members eligible for sponsoring have priority over alternate members.

Rule. 30 In the case of the MedWet/SG, a quorum is reached with the presence of five members, of which at least two shall be country members, which are the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention in the region.