



**MedWet**

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

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**Strategic Work Plan 2023-2025**

# 1 Introduction

The present Strategic Work Plan (SWP) is intended to give members and a clear idea of the agenda of MedWet in the triennium 2022-2025. The Strategic 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 the main priorities for the SWP 2022-2025 can be summarised as follows:

- Providing technical assistance to members to address the drivers of Mediterranean wetlands loss and degradation
- Consolidating and expanding the Mediterranean Network of Ramsar Site Managers by enhancing capacity building activities and technical assistance
- Strengthening the leadership of MedWet in policy and advocacy in favour of Mediterranean wetlands
- Influencing and assisting Mediterranean governments and other stakeholders to work in favour of wetlands conservation and sustainable use through wetland literacy and awareness raising
- Developing an innovative communication approach combining scientific journalism, media work and tools to influence policy makers from EU to national levels.

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 of the 4th Strategic Plan are:

- 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 the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan.

The template is fully coherent, in its form and substance, with the Ramsar Strategic Plan and, in particular, the activities proposed in the SWP 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 = Priority activities, with secured (or partially secured) funding	Green
PA = Priority activities without secured funding and/or implementation mechanism	Yellow
UA = Relevant activities, but without secured resources and/or partners	Red

## 2 Strategic Work Plan 2022-2025

<b>Strategic Goal I: Addressing the drivers of Mediterranean wetlands loss and degradation</b>										
Ramsar Targets:										
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Water use sustainability is improved while respecting ecosystem and basin requirements.</li> <li>3. Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of water and wetlands.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>										
Activity Number	Ramsar Strategic Plan target	Activity	Means of implementation	Lead actor	Partners	Expected deliverables	Indicator	Resources	Time Frame	Status
1.1	1	Continuous support to country-members for the implementation of national policies wetland	Bilateral meetings and field missions	MedWet		Physical or virtual bilateral meeting delivered	Number of meetings	Costs can be shared between MedWet and the country member	2023-2025	
1.2	3	Involving Mediterranean regional authorities (NUTS3) in taking steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of wetlands	MedWet in collaboration with UfM and CPMR have developed a framework on wetlands conservation dedicated to Med regions	MedWet	UfM, CPMR	Regions are committed for wetlands conservation and wise use	Number of regions	UfM, CPMR and other funds to raise	2023-2025	
1.3	3	Consolidating the MedWet Policy and Advocacy Task Force	MedWet in collaboration with TdV, BirdLife, Wetlands International and UMA coordinated a Task Force to advocate for wetlands conservation and restoration at the EU and international level	MedWet	TdV, BirdLife, Wetlands International and UMA	Wetlands in the top of EU and other int. org agenda	Policy achievements	Baseline budget	2023-2025	
1.4	3	Advocating the Private sectors to take steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of wetlands	Since 2021 MedWet explore the opportunity to influence the private sector in reducing their impact on wetlands	MedWet		Advocacy work	Number of companies contacted and influences	Baseline budget	2023-2025	

<b>Strategic Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b>										
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	Activity	Means of implementation	Lead actor	Partners	Expected deliverables	Indicator	Resources	Time-frame	Status
2.1	6	Consolidating the MedWet Network of Mediterranean Ramsar Sites Managers (MeRSiM-Net)	This work is ensued by the staff of the MW Secretariati	MedWet	Country-Members	Network established with 100 members by the end of 2025	Number of members involved	Baseline budget + fundraising	2023-2025	
2.2	7	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/Se c. /STN	Periodic reports	Number of reports distributed	Tour du Valat + other donors (funds partially secured)	2023-2025	
2.3	7	Conducting an ecosystem baseline assessment using existing data to identify priority restoration actions within a number of Mediterranean pilot sites	In the framework of the RESCOM project (Design and implement Nature-based Solutions to increase Mediterranean coastal resilience)	Tour du Valat	Conservatoire du Littoral, MedPAN, AIFM, PIM, IUCN MED	Assessment of the pilot sites identified	n. of sites involved	FFEM, MAVA	2023-2025	
2.4	7	Design and implement an Online Platform regarding wetlands monitoring, ecosystems condition assessment and restoration actions prioritization	The activity will be developed within the HORIZON project RESTORE4C (2023 – 2026)	TdV	UMA, MedWet	Online Platform and Toolbox for decision making to support wetlands restoration actions	Platform online	HORIZON EUROPE	2024-2025	

### 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	Activity	Means of implementation	Lead actor	Partners	Expected deliverables	Indicator	Resources	Time-Frame	Status
3.1	8	Updating the overview of national wetland inventories in the Mediterranean	The MedWet/STN Specialist Group "Inventories" update the report on the status of Mediterranean wetlands inventories	MedWet /STN	MWO	Report prepared, published and widely circulated	Report prepared	Baseline budget and extra funds to be raised	2024	
3.2	10	Promoting and supporting the Ramsar Cities Accreditation	The aim is to promote the cities already certified through a dedicated network and also promote the Ramsar Cities Accreditation to other Mediterranean cities	MedWet	Ramsar	All the cities certified involved	Number of cities nominated	Baseline Budget + extra budget to identify	2023-2025	
3.2	12	Producing policy synthesis and recommendations on wetlands as NbS	Report that compiles the project Policy Briefs (2p. each) targeting global policy processes, EU policies and cross-cutting themes	MedWet	Partners of RESTORE4C	11 Policy Briefs	Number of briefs disseminated	HORIZON Europe	2023-2025	

### 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	Main Activities	Means of implementation	Lead actor	Partners	Expected deliverables	Indicator	Resources	Time-frame	Status
4.1	14	Coordinating 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/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	Baseline budget	2023-2025	
4.2	14	Organizing the first international scientific Congress on wetland-climate nexus	The Congress will take place in Valencia and The Congress will also host the 1st face-to-face meeting of the Mediterranean universities producing wetland research	MedWet	University of Valencia / Polytechnic University of Valencia	Congress First meeting of Mediterranean Universities	Number of researchers attending	Funds to be secured	2024	

4.3	16	Developing a broad communication campaign on wetland conservation and restoration as NbS as follow up of the Wetlands Based Solution Campaign	MedWet will focus on existing and potential decision-makers, wetland managers and any other restoration actor (private or public, from technical to finance). Our approach will be based on: tell human stories and strengthen the people/wetlands interaction including environmental, human and socioeconomic elements; offer concrete solutions and support; try to build a more regular social media presence; run and promote <a href="http://www.wetlandbasedsolutions.org">www.wetlandbasedsolutions.org</a>	MedWet		Monthly newsletter; infographics, websites management, etc	Number of people reached	Baseline budget	2023-2025	
4.4	16	Promoting a more active celebration of the WORLD WETLANDS DAY in the MedWet countries	Activities ensured by the Communication Officer with the support of the rest of the team.	MedWet	OfB	WWD events in the Mediterranean are increased and covered	No. of events No of participants to WWD events	Office Francais de la Biodiversité (OfB)	2023-2025	
4.8	18	Developing, Coalition of the European Ramsar Regional Initiatives	Activity ensured by the MedWet Coordinator	MedWet.	NorBalWet, BlackSeaWet, CapatianWetl and Initiative	New funds	Funds raised	Baseline budget, France, Spain	2023-2025	
4.5	19	Defining and delivering a 3-years capacity building program dedicated to wetland managers and other beneficiaries	MedWet Academy 3 webinar / years coordinated MedWet on the following topics: governance and management, restoration, NBS, etc.	MedWet	Tour du Valat / MedWet/ST N	At least one training session per year (event through webinar)	6 trainings	Baseline budget and other Funds from EU projects already secured	2023-2025	