



# MedWet

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

## MedWet/SG Meeting

20/07/2022

### Participants

#### Members

1. Algeria, Nadjiba Bendjedda
2. Egypt, Noha Sami
3. France, Ghislaine Ferrere
4. Slovenia, Gordana Beltram (honorary member)
5. Spain, Maria Magdalena Bernues (Chair)
6. Tour du Valat, Jean Jalbert
7. WWF, Giuseppe Di Carlo
8. MedWet, Alessio Satta

#### Observers

1. IUCN MED, Antonio Troya
2. Ramsar, Tobias Salathe

### Agenda of the meeting

- 1) updating the core members contribution to MedWet
- 2) organizing a virtual MedWet/Com15 before the COPI4 (October?) to approve the countries contribution scheme well in advance;
- 3) organizing a MedWet event with all participating members at the COPI4.



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## Report

### Update on the forthcoming Ramsar COPI4 (Tobias and Ghislaine)

- The opening ceremony of the COP will take place in Wuhan, as China remains “the host”, but Contracting Parties and observers will gather from 5 to 13 of November 2022 at Geneva. Side events and negotiations will take place in Geneva.
- Official documents will be online from the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.
- Possibility to register side events as of late August, cf. Diplomatic Note of 26 July 2022 (attached).
- EU countries and European region will have an online Pre-COP meeting respectively on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> (or later) September (explore possibility of having discussion within MedWet Com before).
- On 22 September, the Ramsar Secretariat is organizing a brief on COPI4 at UNOG (UN Office at Geneva) for interested countries (thus the online Pre-COP for European Parties will have to be on a different date).
- The new Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands will be announced as soon as the selected candidate will have accepted the employment offer. As of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022, Jonathan Barzdo will be Acting Secretary General.
- Final workshop for MAVA Project will be in Sardinia end of October and will be the occasion for showing results.

### I. Updating the core members contribution to MedWet (Alessio)

- MAVA funding in the last 3-4 years helped MedWet to develop and position itself as an international reference organization on wetlands conservation in the Mediterranean.
- The closure of MAVA at the end of 2022 therefore requires a rethinking of the baseline budget of MedWet to consolidate its and to have enough budget to co-fund EU projects.
- As discussed in Malaga and presented in Dubai, 160,000 euros should be target baseline budget for MedWet.
- A presentation prepared by the Secretariat concerning core budget and members contributions was presented and discussed (see Annex I).
- In the new ToR of MedWet it is stated that non-countries members should contribute to the baseline budget of MedWet (concerns WWF and TDV).
- In the last MedWet/Com, it was proposed that non-country members could contribute with the minimum fee established for the country-members.



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- An increase of the minimum contribution to 750 or to 1,000 euros would result in a more balanced distribution of the contributions among countries. The minimum fee will be discussed in the forthcoming months with the aim to approve it at the MedWet Com 15 and presented as an annex to a Resolution being adopted by the COP.
- Almost all country-members are contributing, apart from Italy, Greece, Syria and Libya, for a total of almost 33,000 euros / year which results in a total budget for MedWet of less than 100,000 euros. The lack of contribution by a country like Italy will not make possible to reach 160,000 euros but rather an average of 120,000 - 125,000 euros.
- As for the contribution of the non-country-members, WWF will make the case internally. WWF works in financial years July-June so they can cover the fee by January 2023.
- WWF and TDV should be added as members in the table of contributions.
- The UN scale should be applied showcasing the percentage for each member. If other members want to add contributions, it should be stipulated as a voluntary contribution.
- Some members argued that countries that are not paying their contribution from much more than 2 years should no longer be part of MedWet.
- As explained by the Coordinator, Italy as other members with no contributions paid for more than 2 years, have no right to vote nor right to participate to the MedWet Com (cf. Article X of the Terms of Reference).
- The MedWet Com should decide if the countries that are not paying should leave or not, even if it seems that this specific scenario is not included in the ToR in force. The ToR rather focus on the suspension of rights.
- Should we address a letter of caution to the countries that are not paying warning them that a suspension can be applied?
- Members agreed that a reminder should be addressed to the concerned ministries, warning the countries that have payment in arrears for more than 2 years, in application of the ToRs, they would not be able to participate / to vote at the next MW/Com (before or during the COP). The letter should be written as to express the concern of MW/SG to ensure the participation of all its members
- The coordinator concluded highlighting the fact that excluding some countries as members could penalize MedWet as inclusive organization.

## **2. Organizing a virtual MedWet/Com15 before the COPI4 (October?) to approve the countries contribution scheme well in advance**

- The MedWet/Com 15 meeting should be organized before the Ramsar COPI4 in order to present official decisions and documents (e.g. annex on members contribution).



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- MedWet will share an agenda and the decisions from now and then take final decisions in MedWet/Com15 in October.
  - After a brief discussion, participants agreed on organizing the MedWet/Com mid-October
- 3. Organizing a MedWet event with all participating members at the COPI4.**
- MedWet is thinking of having a side event on MAVA program on Wetlands/ or on Wetlands Managers Network/or on the MedWet support for WWD thanks to OFB (taking into consideration what OFB is planning for the COP). 3 proposals will be presented by the end of July and decide which one will be submitted in September.
  - Cross check if all the members of MedWet are coming to the COP in Geneva.
  - Participants agreed on organizing a MedWet event with all members present at the COPI4 in Geneva.
  - MedWet will make a proposal.



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## Decisions

The members of the MedWet/SG:

1. Approved a baseline budget of 160,000 euro which aims to calculate the basic contribution of members (countries and non-countries) according to the UN scale assessment.
2. Asked the Secretariat to set up the MedWet/Com15 virtual meeting in mid-October.
3. Asked the Secretariat to prepare a brief document to justify the two scenarios for a minimum contribution (750 euro or 1,000 euro) for the members of the SG to decide the Scenario to be shared with the other members of the MedWet/Com before the MedWet/Com15
4. Decided to approve the table of the members' contribution at the MedWet/Com15 in order to be integrated as Annex to one of the Draft Resolutions referring to the RRI's submitted to COPI4.
5. Decided to send to all the countries which are not regular with contributions for more than two years, a warning letter signed by the Chair of the MW/SG.
6. Decided to meet at the COPI4 in Geneva and asked the Secretariat to organize 2 side events at the COP.