

1. Title of your regional initiative: MedWet Initiative

2. Work and activities undertaken 2009

Provide a simple summary on your work undertaken, by listing your activities, the results achieved and your indicators of success according to the format below:

obj	activities	results/outputs	indicators
1. To promote and participate in the implementation of the Ramsar objectives and initiatives in the Mediterranean region.			
	1.1 MW/Secretariat operation	RRI endorsement letters, Implementation last audit's recommendations. Change legal status of MedWet	MedWet validated as RRI Inventory of office assets. Internal Regulation produced. Verification procedures installed. Drafting of law for international character.
	1.2 CEPA activities	Creation of new MW website.	Launching of website pending. See activity 2.3
	1.3 Networking	See activities under 2,4.	
	1.4 Cairo Ramsar conference	Networking with Arab Ramsar Countries.	Meeting participation
2. To develop and reinforce capacities in areas where these are lacking, and especially to develop and ensure adaptive management of Ramsar sites and cooperation between their management bodies.			
	2.1 Launching of MW/Culture Network	Prespa Workshop organization. Questionnaires drafted and sent.	Participation of experts at Workshop. Responses to questionnaire processed.
	2.2 Drafting proposals to launch new projects.	Two proposals submitted for evaluation and funding	Pending decisions for funding of projects.
	2.3. Dissemination of TDV publication	Publication sent to key recipients. Arabic version TwinMed pub.	Mailing of publications
	2.4 Dissemination of InWent/MW Dialogues	Document sent to key recipients. project's Lessons Learnt	Mailing of documents.
	2.5 Support to the Observatory of the Mediterranean Wetlands	Close involvement in Observatory related planning and setting up activities	Attendance of meetings, active participation in work planned.
	2.6 Participation in WI-TdV/CIDACivil Society	Follow up of the Project and assistance CU for regional aspects	Attendance of meeting, active participation in work planned.
3. To transfer and exchange knowledge and expertise to key conservation actors in order to reinforce Mediterranean wetland management.			
	3.1 Organization of MW/Com10.	Planning activities in progress.	Liaising with host.
	3.2 Organization of Grado+20 Symposium	Planning activities in progress.	Securing of host and funding.
	3.3 Promotion of World Wetlands Day.	Ramsar materials sent to all MW FPs, Centres and IOPs.	Materials received.
4. To coordinate with other international initiatives in the region, and globally.			
	4.1 Collaboration with BlackSeaWet Ramsar Initiative	Collaboration established, submitting of proposal postponed.	Pending legal status of BlackSeaWet and availability of new funding opportunities.
	4.2 Support GWP-Med.	Sharing of expertise in network.	Attendance of key meetings.
	4.3 Joining EU-Med Water Sector.	MedWet designated to join the 14 members of the EU-Med Water Directors Advisory Board	Participation in Board.
	4.4 Supporting UNEP-MAP (Barcelona Convention).	Involvement in network.	Participation in UNEP-MAP meetings.
	4.5 Support of Prespa Transboundary Park	Participated in Transboundary Monitoring and Conservation Working Group's workshops	Attendance of key meetings.

Selectively, the following items are of particular interest in the work of 2009 and are described in more detail below:

Ramsar Regional Initiatives endorsement:

In the framework of the Ramsar COP10 Resolution X.5 MedWet prepared and submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat the MedWet Ramsar Regional Initiative 2009 Report. The MedWet Secretariat put the necessary efforts to contact and collect Endorsement Letters from all MedWet/Com members by the end of February 2009. Out of the 27 countries and entities that make up MedWet, 16 sent an Endorsement Letter. Besides that, the 14 IOPs, Wetland Centers and IGOs (apart from the Ramsar Secretariat) which are also MedWet/Com members, responded by sending 11 Endorsement Letters to the MedWet Secretariat. The rate of endorsement of MedWet as Ramsar Regional Initiative shows that the majority of MW members and partners approve the actual governance and the strong link with Ramsar.

The 40th meeting of the Standing Committee¹ endorsed the MedWet Initiative as fully operating under the Convention during the period 2009-2012 and a confirmation letter has been received from the Ramsar Secretariat.

Collaboration with BlackSeaWet

A third cooperation also evolved during this past year for the development of a proposal under the EU's Black Sea Crossborder Cooperation programme (in line with MedWet's 2009 Work Plan, n.6 r.22). The project was designed to be led by the newly-forming Ramsar regional initiative of the Black Sea, BlackSeaWet, based in the Ukraine and operating under Wetlands International. The other project partners were DKM - Nature Conservation Centre from Turkey, the MedWet Secretariat from Greece and with possible technical assistance from Tour du Valat, EKBY and MedINA. The main goal of this collaboration was to create a network between BlackSeaWet and MedWet for the exchange of good practices, capacity building and promotion of environmental protection activities, while promoting awareness on the cultural and natural values of wetland sites among local people. Submitting a proposal under this initiative was postponed for 2010, in light of the current ineligibility of the project leader's legal status.

Launching of MedWet Culture Network

In line with the Terms of Reference for the MedWet Culture Network steps have been taken in order to launch the network in the first quarter of 2010. Firstly, the attendance of MedWet in the Mediterranean Workshop "*Cultural and natural values of wetlands: Towards an integrated approach*" in the Prespa lakes on the 23rd-27th September 2009 gave the opportunity to network with the prospective members and get their ideas on the structure and membership of the network. This feedback was taken in and a questionnaire was sent to all participants of the workshop, focal points and other targeted institutions in order to clarify the kinds of subjects to be included, the willingness to participate and the structure. The MedWet Culture Network will be a website hosted within the main MedWet website.

CEPA dissemination

Concerning the dissemination of CEPA material the TWINMED project publications in Arabic were sent out and follow up calls were made to see the reactions of the recipients. Also the lessons learnt from the InWent project was sent to all English speaking members. It is now in the process of being translated into French. It will be printed and published as a shared activity with GWP, as in the framework of GWP/MedWet cooperation on the 2009 WorkPlan, MedWet is leading the output 2.1 "*Facilitate the development of Water Dialogues in the Mediterranean*".

Networking activities

As instructed by the last MedWet/Com9 meeting in Changwon, the MedWet Secretariat dedicated significant efforts to continue its advisory role within several Working Groups and Advisory Committees of projects and partner initiatives.

Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med)

As every year, MedWet, a founding member of the GWP-Med, attended the GWP Consulting Partners Meeting organised on the 15th and 16th of August in Stockholm, Sweden. The theme was "Implementing the GWP Strategy 2009-2013" and was aimed at the assessment of the strategy one year after launching it.

This meeting provided the platform for the consulting partners and strategic allies to share experiences, opinions, present the successes, failures and most importantly the lessons learnt. Some of the key issues were the communication strategies for the promotion of the goals, the cooperation with partners and fundraising. The desired outcome of the meeting was a greater matching of regional and global activities, in terms of themes and programmes. The plenary session closed with the presentation of the GWP Annual Activity and Financial Reports for 2008 and the report of the rapporteurs on the key conclusions and priorities for the implementation of the Strategy. MedWet has been participating with all the other Consulting Partners, to direct the expected global outcome in a more holistic way and to create more synergies between regional and global activities. Those synergies will then be reflected in the GWP-Med 2010 work plan contributing towards achieving the global strategy outcomes.

¹ Ref Ramsar website

EU-Med Water Directors

MedWet was designated to join the 14 members of the EU-Med Water Directors Advisory Board to follow up the preparatory activities for the Inter-Ministerial Water Conference that was held in Amman at the end of 2008. This involvement was fruitful with the Ministers acknowledgment of the technical work prepared by the Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors as a contribution to the success of the Conference.

European Commission Biodiversity Conference

MedWet participated also in the European Commission's conference "Biodiversity protection beyond 2010: priorities and options for future EU policy", which took place in Athens on April 27-28, 2009. The conference focused on Europe's commitment to halt biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010 and forming a strategy for biodiversity protection post-2010, especially since scientific indicators show that the EU's 2010 target will not be met. MedWet has been invited as an observer at the second meeting of the water experts group to be held in Athens in the beginning of September 2010, to refine the strategy and establish the Drafting Working Group.

Prespa Transboundary Park

MedWet has been actively involved in the Transboundary Monitoring and Conservation Working Group by participating in the 1st and 2nd rounds of thematic workshops for the development of a transboundary monitoring system in the Prespa Park area. The 1st Workshop took place in Korca, Albania on the 16th March 2009 and the 2nd in Bitola, FYR of Macedonia on 29 May 2009, on the thematic areas of Birds and other Biodiversity, Water, Land-use and Socio-economics.

Observatory of the Mediterranean Wetlands

At the 9th meeting of the MedWet/Com in Changwon, the establishment of the Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands was unanimously approved and integrated in the amended MedWet Work Plan 2009-2011. The Chair of the MW/Steering Group requested Tour du Valat, the MW/STT and the Coordinator *to timely develop an implementation plan, considering also the financial implications, to be submitted to the Steering Group for its approval.* The coordination unit of the Observatory hosted by Tour du Valat, has been thus mandated to catalyze the initial process and to start the operation of the Observatory, through partners workshops, consultations and questionnaires.

MedWet attended the second International Workshop on the Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands organized at the Tour du Valat between 26 and 28 March 2009. The workshop was organized in parallel with a user meeting jointly organized by the European Space Agency and the Tour du Valat for discussing the preparation of the GlobWetland II project.

MedWet collaborated with the Coordination Unit of the OMW to refine the participatory questionnaires for decision-makers and data providers and finalize the factsheets produced for each theme by the Coordination Unit at Tour du Valat. MedWet has been also advising the Coordination Unit in the interviews and direct contacts with some key countries.

Cairo Ramsar conference

MedWet was invited (22-25 June 2009) by the General Secretary of Ramsar to attend the Regional Technical Meeting on Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Arab Region. The meeting was jointly organized by Ramsar, UNDP, UNEP-ROWA and the League of Arab States. Over 80 participants from the member countries of the Arab States attended the meeting together with experts from specialized regional and international organizations².

The specific objectives of the Cairo meeting included the review of wetland functions and benefits in the Arab region, identifying the challenges and opportunities for the wise use of wetlands, developing a regional framework strategy on the way forward and discussing the use of Arabic as a new Ramsar language.

The MedWet Acting Coordinator gave a presentation of the history, governance, technical structure, operation and financing of the MedWet initiative and was asked to assist the two Ramsar Senior Advisors in facilitating the debate between the twenty-two Arab countries, 9 of which were MedWet countries. The best example of MedWet's extensive work in the Arab Region was represented by the MedWet North African countries who presented their outstanding achievements in terms of Ramsar sites designations.

WI-TdV/CIDA project Civil Society

MedWet attended the Project Coordination Unit in the Roundtable workshop under the theme "*Capacity building for sustainable management of wetlands and water resources in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean*" that took place at Tour du Valat in Camargue, France on July 8th-10th, 2009.

² AOAD Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, ACSAD Arab Center for Studies of Arid zones and Dry lands, CEDARE, The Desert Research Centre – DRC-EOD Egypt, FAO, IUCN, UNESCO, MedWet, Nile Basin Initiative, WWF, TDV

This project is a regional cooperation initiative funded by the Canadian cooperation CIDA that aims to promote at the regional level the exchange of experiences between Mediterranean countries on the issues of participatory and integrated water management and environmental security. It is led by Wetlands International with a Coordination Unit in Tour du Valat. It will begin with three pilot projects.

MW Culture Network

At its meeting in Athens on 13-14 January 2009, the MedWet Steering Group, approved the establishment of a MedWet Culture Network (MW/CN) in the frame of the 2009-2012 MedWet Strategic Workplan. The Steering Group has asked the Coordinator of the Ramsar Culture Working Group to facilitate the launching activities of the Network.

MedWet Secretariat is actually refining the Terms of References of the Network in close cooperation with Thymio Papayannis. As a first concrete activity in the preparatory phase, a certain number of potential members of the MedWet Culture Network were invited to participate in a Workshop that was held on the Greek side of Prespa on September 23-27th, 2009. The theme of the Workshop was related to *the integrated approach to cultural and natural aspects of wetlands*. The Workshop³ is organised by Med-INA, with the participation of the MedWet Culture Network and the support of the Prespa Centre for Nature and Anthropos (SPP/PCNA). This forum provided a good opportunity for a first preparatory and launching meeting of the MW/CN.

3. Financial report for the year 2009 (in €)

Provide a summary of income and expenditures:

activities	planned expenditures	real expenditures	
Budgetary line	Approved 2009 Revised Budget	Actual Expenditure 1 Jan - 31 Dec	NOTE
1. Staff			
1.1 Coordinator	81,182	33,155.22	1. The Coordinator resigned in May 2009
1.2 Policy , networking and communication Advisor (part-time)	48,000	67,356.17	2. The Policy , networking and communication Advisor became Interim Coordinator in June 2009
1.3 Programme Development Officer (part-time)	28,599	28,598.97	
1.4 Executive Assistant	33,656	34,035.88	
1.5 New Communications Officer (part-time)		9,278.33	3. Due to Note 2 a Comm. Officer had to be hired
1.6 Salaries and compensation for former Communication Officer		19,204.73	4. Not budgeted by error
S-Total Staff	191,437	191,629.30	
2. Consultancy			
2.1. Accountant	8,568	8,202.94	
2.2. Legal Advisor	10,000	8,093.24	
2.3 Translation services	1,000	261.10	5. Computer technician
2.4 Auditing cost	4,500	4,522.00	
S-Total Consultancy	24,068	21,079.28	
3. Travel, networking and CEPA			
3.1 Travel	11,000	4,022.41	
3.2 SG Meetings	10,000	2,171.53	
3.3 Networking and Outreach	7,000	1,678.43	
S-Total Travel, Net, CEPA	28,000	7,872.37	
4. Overheads and other			

³ Ref Tentative Agenda of the Prespa Workshop.

4.1 Overheads	2,500	0.00	
4.2 Operational costs	2,500	1,863.76	
4.3 Miscellaneous	4,000	1,850.79	
4.4 Bad debt provision	3,000		
4.5 Bank fees	1,000	468.16	
S-Total overheads and other	13,000	4,182.71	
5. Creation of reserve fund	7,230		
TOTAL	263,735.0	224,763.66	
sources of income (donors)		income received (in €)	
Greece (Host Country) contribution		170,000.00	
MedWet Countries contribution		95,533.78	
Bank interest		368.11	
TOTAL		265,901.89	

Financial balance on 31 December 2009: amount left to be carried over to 2010, or deficit

2009 CORE Income	265,901.89
2009 PROJECTS Income	264,063.48
A. Total 2009 Income (core and projects)	529,965.37
Total 2009 CORE Expenditures	224,763.66
Total 2009 PROJECTS Expenditures	164,733.50
B. Total 2009 Expenditures (core and projects)	389,497.16
C. Operation balance = A-B = Tot 2009 Income - Tot2009 Expenditures	140,468.21
F. ACTUAL BANK ACCOUNT (31 Dec 2009)	342,317.36
G. EXPECTED COMMITTED 2010 EXPENSES	80,196.45
H. EXPECTED 2009 RESERVE FUND = F - G	262,120.91

After reservation of the *committed 2010 expenses* we will have a reserve fund of an amount of €262,120.91 (that includes the past 2007 and 2008 carry over).

The exact figures will be confirmed by the 2010 financial audit to be finalized end of March 2010.

4. Work and activities planned for 2010

obj	activities	results/outputs	indicators
1.	To promote and participate in the implementation of the Ramsar objectives and initiatives in the Mediterranean region.		
	1.1 MW/Secretariat operation	MedWet 25 ys Vision and Strategic Plan.	MedCom and SG meetings conclusions
	1.2 CEPA activities	-Launching of 3 new websites -Visibility through the Grado+20 process	Website visits Material production
	1.3 Networking	-Attend conferences, meetings, events as Ramsar-MedWet -Strengthen partnership with MW/Ramsar FPs	

	1.4 Culture network	-Promote the Ramsar objective of integrating culture in wetlands -work closely with Ramsar Culture WG	Quantity of material sent Website visits
2. To develop and reinforce capacities in areas where these are lacking, and especially to develop and ensure adaptive management of Ramsar sites and cooperation between their management bodies.			
	2.1 Coordination of wetlands strategy elaboration for Algeria	Better management of Algerian wetlands	Contribution to strategy with feedback
	2.2 Involvement of the MedWet NGO network in the MWO	Reinforce the MWO through involvement of wetland actors.	Reporting on communications and meetings held.
	2.3 Involvement of the North African wetlands network in the MWO	Reinforce the MWO through involvement of wetland actors.	Reporting on communications and meetings held.

3. To transfer and exchange knowledge and expertise to key conservation actors in order to reinforce Mediterranean wetland management.			
	3.1 Follow up implementation of GlobWetlands2 project	Promote and make visible the results of the project.	Communications with target countries and project partners, links to website
	3.2 Continuation of identification of priority areas for programme development in the MW countries based on needs and especially related to climate change.	MedWet involvement in hands on projects in MW countries.	Initiation of new projects
	3.3 Support to the MWO communication plan and activities	Increased visibility, identity and partnership building for the MWO.	Contribution to communication plan, provision of feedback
4. To coordinate with other international initiatives in the region, and globally			
	4.1 GWP-Med joint activities	Involvement in the water sector as Consulting Member	Regular reporting on meetings held and progress
	4.2 Prespa Park	Involvement in the Advisory Board	Regular reporting on meetings held and progress
	4.3 Participate in MWO Steering Committee + Advisory Group	Raise MedWet visibility through the OMW	Active participation and facilitation of meetings
	4.4 Continue/Revive relationship and cooperation with InWent, GWP, UNEP/MAP, AWEA , Blue-Plan, RAC/SPA, WOW, IUCN Malaga office..	Better contact and exchange of information with these organizations. Involvement in programs and projects	Regular reporting on meetings held and progress.
	4.5 More active coordination and cooperation with other Ramsar initiatives, international organizations and scientific institutes, related Conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change, UNCCD and others)	Better contact and exchange of information with these organizations. Involvement in programs and projects	Regular reporting on meetings held and progress.

5. Financial plan for the year 2010

Provide a summary of expected income and budgeted/planned expenditures:

activities	planned expenditures	
1. Staff		
1.1 Coordinator	81,182.00	
1.2 Policy and Networking Advisor	24,000.00	
1.3 Programme Development Officer	28,598.97	
1.4 Executive Assistant	33,656.00	
1.5 Communication Officer	27,597.92	
S-Total Staff	195,034.89	
2. Consultancy		
2.1 Accountant	8,568.00	
2.2 Legal Advisor	8,000.00	
2.3 Translation services	5,000.00	
2.4 Auditing cost	4,950.00	
2.5 Computer services	1,000.00	
S-Total Consultancy	27,518	
3. Travel expenses		
3.1 Travel of the Secretariat staff	11,000.00	
3.2 Steering Group Meetings	10,000.00	
3.3 MW members exceptional travels	3,000.00	
S-Total Expenses	24,000	
4. Networking and Outreach		
4.1 Website management	7,000.00	
4.2 Outreach activities	3,000.00	
S-Total Networking and Outreach	10,000	
5. Equipment purchase		
5.1 Office equipment	1,500.00	
S-Total Equipment	1,500.00	
6. Operational costs		
6.1 Office supplies	2,000.00	
6.2 Postage expenses	1,500.00	
6.3 Miscellaneous	2,000.00	
S-Total Operational costs	5,500	
TOTAL	263,553	
sources of income (donors)		Expected INCOME
		(in €)
Greece (Host Country) contribution		170,000.00
MedWet Countries contribution		95,533.78
Bank interest		368.11
TOTAL		265,901.89