



Engaging the stakeholders and building their capacities

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- **Transboundary character of MedWet**
- **Pillar principles of TB cooperation**
- **Dialogue approach and lessons learned**

MedWet : the mediterranean wetlands network



The MedWet Initiative is born at the Grado Conference in 1991 with the main goal of contributing to the conservation and wise use of Mediterranean wetlands.

MedWet : the mediterranean wetlands network

A map of the Mediterranean region, including Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The Mediterranean Sea is highlighted in dark blue, and the surrounding landmasses are in shades of yellow and orange. Numerous small colored circles (red, blue, green, purple) are scattered across the map, representing the locations of wetlands within the MedWet network. Major bodies of water like the Atlantic Ocean, Black Sea, and the Gulf of Lion are labeled. A small MedWet logo is visible in the top left corner of the map area.

In 1997, MedWet became the first regional initiative under the aegis of the Ramsar Convention. It has been recognised as a model of regional co-operation, which has inspired many other initiatives around the world.

The MedWet initiative consists of 42 Voting members.

27 countries and entities (Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, The FYR of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Palestinian Authority). These countries and entities are represented by their focal points, which are mainly Ministries of Agriculture and Ministries of Environment.

5 Inter Governmental Organizations (Barcelona Convention, Bern Convention, European Commission, Ramsar Convention, United Nations Development Program)

5 international NGOs (Birdlife International, IMWI (International Water Management Institute) IUCN, Wetlands International, WWF International)

- Wetlands provide a wide range of ecosystem services beyond the geographical borders.
- Wetlands are also critical for the conservation of biological diversity.
- There is increasing recognition of the value of these functions and other ecosystem services provided by wetlands.
- Wetlands can thus be considered as essential components of overall water infrastructure



1st principle for an efficient cooperation

Create a common vision and objectives

2nd principle for an efficient cooperation

Ensure sustainable financing





3rd principle for an efficient cooperation

Implement joint projects and activities

4th principle

**Exchange
know-how and
experience**



Coordinated actions and projects

One of the founding principles of the MedWet Initiative is to create **synergies with all institutions involved** in the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Mediterranean.

MedWet is convinced that only concerted action on the part of all sectors of society, from the international level to the local, will enable the MedWet mission to be achieved and the benefits of wetlands to be secured for present and future generations.

MedWet is also **capitalizing**, through the various projects implemented these last years, the lessons and feedback drawn **from a larger circle of local and national stakeholders.**

MedWet Projects / Transboundary Cooperation Tools

Projects	Tools/Thematic	Partners	Date
MedWet1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory Methodology 	<i>ES, FR, PT, IT, GR, WI, TdV, EKBY, WWF</i>	1992-1996
MedWet2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory activities Socioeconomic aspects National Wetland Strategy 	<i>MO, ALG, TUN, ALB, CRO, Ramsar</i>	1997-1998
MedWet/Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory activities Socioeconomic aspects Management Plans 	<i>MO, TUN, EG, LE, PA, ALB, TdV</i>	2000-2006
MW/Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory activities at regional level 	<i>ES, PT, FR, IT, MO, TdV</i>	2003-2004
MW/SUDOE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodology Inventories / Data Base 	<i>ICNB, SEHUMED, Açores, Andalucía, Balearics, Gandía</i>	2003-2005

MedWet Projects / Transboundary Cooperation Tools

Projects	Tools/Thematic	Partners	Date
MW/LIFE3 NAWN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management Plans Environmental Education Centres 	ALG, MOR, TUN	2004-2006
Water Dialogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Governance Participative approach 	MAR, TUN, JOR, InWEnt	2004-2008
MW/CODDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web based inventory 	MWSec, EKBY ARPAT, ICNB, TdV, IGUT	2005-2008
TwinMed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGOs capacity building 	SPNL Lebanon RSCN Jordan	2006-2007
Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring, Information Decision making tools 	TdV, MWSec MedWet/Com Consortium	2008-

Key principles of the water dialogues

Participation – All legitimate stakeholders involved in the process. An important element of the dialogue and its participatory approach is respect for the views of others.

Transparency, right to information - Decisions are based on reliable information.

Equity – In the context of a dialogue, equity relates to equal access to information /knowledge and participation.

Sustainability – Stakeholders should learn to adopt a long-term view that ensures benefits to the community and sustainable use of resources.

Holistic approach –Different interests with regard to environmental, economic and social dimensions need to be addressed in their interrelationship.

The main lessons learned

1. **Entry point of the dialogue**
2. Context and institutional anchoring
3. Linkage with political process
4. **Managing the process**
5. **Ensuring stakeholders' participation**
6. **The critical role of facilitation**
7. Building the collective knowledge base
8. From planning to action.



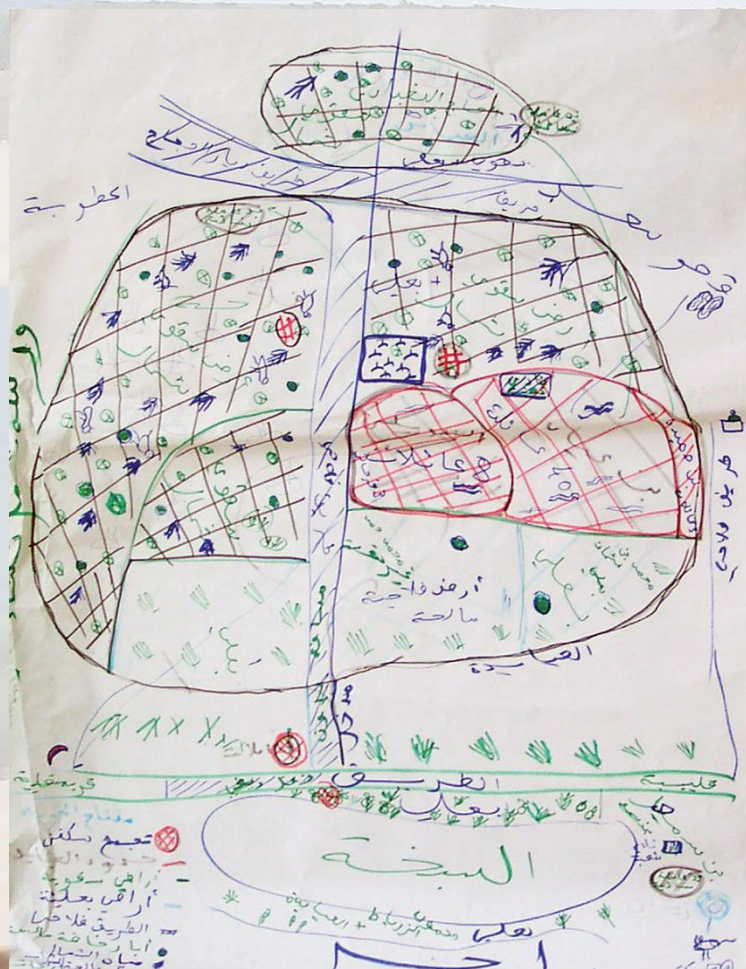
Entry point for transboundary dialogue



- The entry point is usually the way we approach the targeted stakeholders and the thematic we suggest to base the dialogue.
- Selection of entry point can be done either by an international organisation or by a government who plays the role of champion of the dialogue.
- The selection of appropriate subjects is crucial for the success of the dialogue.
- The problem should be able to be solved through the process of dialogue
Cases that require massive investments and reforms are less suitable.



Managing the process



- Often the sequential approach does not fit with the dynamic created by participation and the focus of the dialogue on cross-cutting issues.
- It is impossible to predict everything from the beginning. One has to remain flexible and opportunistic to a certain degree.
- If necessary, ambitions should be reduced and focus made on what is collectively possible.
- If important conditions for success are not met and possibilities of change are minimal, then it is best not to start the dialogue.

Ensuring stakeholders participation



- **Ensuring participation of all stakeholders involved is essential to success.** Give any interest and any options initially equal value.
- Give time to opposing or absent players, so they can join the dialogue or organize their representation.
- Avoid fake or cosmetic participation which often lead to a quick and minimalist consensus.
- **Giving respect to all involved stakeholders** increases the credibility of facilitators, experts and champion organizations leading the dialogue.

Ensuring stakeholders participation



- Develop specific methods to include potential supporters, such as schools, local universities, women ..
- Giving good examples of successful similar dialogues often creates a "can-do" positive atmosphere.
- Distinguish between guidance and manipulation. A pro-active guidance should not mean manipulation of actors to a predetermined scenario.
- Dialogue does not necessarily aim at equal access to resources. Equity in the dialogue context means: Equal right to speak, to participate, to decide and to express interests and concerns.

The critical role of facilitation

In a context of dialogue, the facilitators are also organizers of the process.



- The dialogue process requires substantial facilitations skills and commitment over a long period and excellent contacts with the convening organization.
- National facilitators with backstopping and support by experienced international facilitators.
- Focus on neutral and independent facilitation by experts with experience in the participatory approach.
- Combination of scientists and practitioners in the field is vital to success. Avoid the risk of relying just on desk studies only, but Instead, involve people and use the local knowledge.



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