



Terms of Reference of the Mediterranean Ramsar Sites Managers Network (MeRSiM-Net)

1 Constitution and name

By decision of the MedWet/Com13, activity 2.2 of the Strategic Plan, the MedWet Secretariat has been mandated to create the Mediterranean Ramsar Sites Managers Network, or more commonly « MeRSiM-Net », among the members who adhere to this Terms of Reference.

2 Duration

Its duration is unlimited.

3 Coordination

The Mediterranean Ramsar Sites Managers Network is coordinated by the MedWet Secretariat and its office is established in Tour du Valat (Arles, France).

4 Scope

The scope of the Network is to promote the creation, coordination and development of a Mediterranean network of Ramsar sites managers.

It thus contributes to achieving the specific objectives fixed by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971), to establish and maintain comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative national and regional systems of wetlands of international importance that collectively, inter alia through a global network, contribute to achieving the objectives of the Convention as well as that of significantly reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels and contribute to poverty reduction and the pursuit of sustainable development.

5 Means of action

To achieve the purpose of the Network, MedWet intends to particularly pursue the following means of action:

- Promotion and coordination of exchanges between members and partners of the MedWet Initiative;
- Management, coordination or participation in projects related to wetlands conservation and wise use;

- Dissemination to the general public and the institutional players of actions carried out by the MedWet Secretariat or the members of the MedWet Initiative;
- Promotion of the role, of the value and the environmental, social and economic benefits of Mediterranean wetlands amongst all the publics concerned; and
- Promotion of the association and of members or partners of the network amongst public or private donors in order to help fundraising for the Network or the projects that it wishes to promote.

6 Membership

The MeRSiM-Net is comprised of legal entities that manage Ramsar sites in the Mediterranean area or are interested in the management or the establishment of these and wish to contribute to the establishment and strengthening of a network.

The legal entities are represented by their acting legal representatives or any other persons whose authorisations have been notified to the MedWet Secretariat.

The management entities of Ramsar sites that have filed their applications pursuant to the conditions specified by the internal rules may become members.

To apply as member, the applicant must:

- fulfil the MeRSiM-Net application form and attach all the requested documents;
- submit a cover letter to the MedWet Coordinator Chairman;
- agree with the MedWet's values (see Point 7); and
- agree to contribute to the network (see Point 7).

Membership is lost by virtue of:

- ✓ resignation notified to the MedWet/Secretariat by registered letter;
- ✓ dissolution of the legal entities for any reason whatsoever, or declaration of their placement in a state of judicial administration or liquidation.

7 MedWet values

Members agree to respect the MedWet Initiative values

- Recognize the diversity of objectives, functions, management modes, status and institutional nature of Ramsar sites;
- Develop relations of solidarity between Ramsar sites;
- Promote sharing, capitalizing and pooling of experiences between members; and
- Act to make MedWet becoming an efficient Mediterranean system of Ramsar sites, and other wetlands of biodiversity importance, which preserves the Mediterranean wetlands ecosystems and the associated natural and cultural resources.

Within this frame, they agree to contribute to network functioning and in particular to:

- Participate to the MedWet sharing-experience and training workshops;
- Provide data on wetlands;
- Offer their individual contribution in undertakings of interest to the Network;
- Support national Ramsar sites networks;
- Host MedWet meetings and/or exchange visits with other network members and partners;
- Participate in communication efforts of the Network; and
- Contribute to improving efficiency and effectiveness of Ramsar sites.