

Introduction

>In 2006 the Blue Plan report makes an overview of **the evolution of the Mediterranean Basin**: +150 millions foreseen between 2000 and 2025. Currently, 60% of the world population suffering from water deficit is located in the Mediterranean and the Region is the first tourist destination worldwide. All these factors generate a strong pressure on the natural resources throughout the region, and in particular to wetlands.

>In 1991, **the MedWet Initiative** was created to encourage international collaboration among Mediterranean countries, specialized wetland centres and international NGOs. Inventories are an important component of MedWet and a review of the progress was carried in 1995 and a standard methodology was published in 1996.

>Within **the MedWet CODDE project** -MedWet information and knowledge network for the sustainable development of wetland ecosystems- this work is an update of the publication on the "Status of Wetland Inventories in the Mediterranean Region" (Hecker and Tomàs Vives, 1995). The main objective is to know the evolution of the wetlands inventory effort between 1995 and 2007 in each Mediterranean country.



Objectives

To review the present status of wetlands inventories in each mediterranean country

To review the methodologies used and the coverage of existing national and international inventories

To identify needs for national wetland inventories in the Mediterranean countries

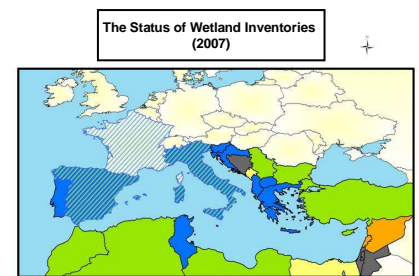
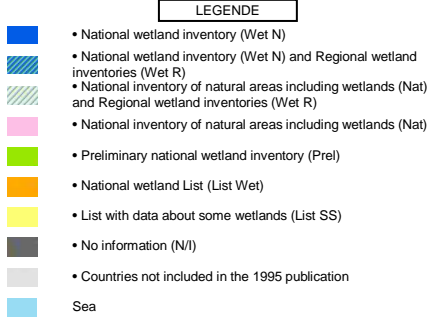
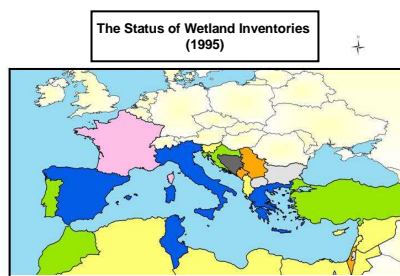
To disseminate knowledge on the methodologies used for wetlands inventories among wetlands conservationists and scientists in the Mediterranean region and to promote international cooperation

Methods

To identify and analyse the existing initiatives, in order to build on them and make the best possible use of their experience, information was obtained through different sources:

- ◆ **Internet**, to know the international environmental networks and legislative documents but also to identify environmental online databases.
- ◆ **Literature**, mainly from Tour du Valat library to review the older documents and inventories only available in paper version.
- ◆ **Direct contacts**, by telephone and email, to identify the best focal points in each country in order to obtain information concerning national and regional inventories through a questionnaire.
- ◆ **International meetings**, 1st Workshops of the Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands (March 2007), MedWet/Com8 meeting (June 2007).

Results



◆ **Europe**: - The Western European countries, which pioneered the development of inventories, have lost a little ground because of the decentralisation of competences which makes obtaining a geographic synthetic approach difficult. they use a combination of Ramsar and Corine Biotope systems.

- Keen to join the European Union, Eastern European countries use the most advanced methods to meet the European environmental requirements. Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Albania, Republic of Macedonia ... use MedWet System adapted to each country, which allows comparisons.

◆ **North Africa**: These countries have tried to fulfil their international commitments through the Ramsar Sites designation. Some countries use MedWet or Ramsar systems for their national inventory.

◆ **Middle East**: Currently, due to unstable geopolitical conditions, wetland protection is not a priority in these countries. Some NGOs are open to develop collaboration with other countries.

Recommendations

In 2007, the recommendations are the same as in 1995. Namely, when planning, undertaking or updating an inventory, the following aspects should always be considered:

- ✓ adopt **an approach in different phases**, starting with a preliminary inventory (easier to carry out), followed by more detailed and complete work.
- ✓ use a **standard methodology that permits comparisons with other countries**: classification system, data storage system, criteria for wetland delineation and mapping procedures.
- ✓ record **quantitative, as well as qualitative**, data in order to provide a baseline for monitoring analysis of data and networking.
- ✓ anticipate a **procedure for regular updating**.
- ✓ anticipate **means for dissemination** of the inventory results to wetland managers and decision-makers (politicians, land use planners...) and also to the general public.

Country	Type of inventory							No. Sites	Area. (ha) (approx.)	Source of information and comments
	Wet N	Wet R	Nat	Prel	List Wet	List SS	NI			
Portugal	X							816	162,462	ICN (2007)
Spain	X	X						1,379	120,537	MOPT (1995)
Gibraltar							X	-	-	-
France	X	X	X					26	169,988	IFEN (ONZH, 2006)*
Monaco				X				1	10	RSIS (2007)
Italia	X	X						244	450,563	WWF Italie (1996)
Malta	X							24	24	MEPA (2006)
Slovenia	X							3,525	35,409	Water Management Institute (2000)
Croatia	X							3,883	390,885	MEPPI(2003)
Bosnia & Herzegovina						X		?	?	Museum National de Sarajevo & Université de Banja Luka (2007)
Serbia			X					499	22,168	Université de Belgrade & EKBY (2007)
Montenegro						X		?	?	Institut pour la Protection de la Nature du Montenegro (2007)
Albania	X							784	96,803	ECAT & EKBY (2002)
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	X							44	57,422	BSPSM (2002)
Bulgaria				X				8,700	110,000	Université de Sofia & EKBY (2007)
Greece	X							378	202,618	EKBY (1995, 2000)
Turkey				X				135	1,227,775	MEP (2007)
Cyprus		X						212	2,401	CWS & EKBY (2007)
Cyprus (British)			X					1	2,171	RSIS (2007)
Syrian Arab Republic					X			?	?	Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Réformes Agraires (2007)
Lebanon					X			?	?	Ministère de l'Administration et de l'Environnement (2007)
Gaza Strip and West Bank						X		?	?	-
Israel						X		?	?	Ministère de l'Environnement (2007)
Jordan						X		?	?	Ministère de l'Environnement (2007)
Egypt						X		?	?	EEAA (2007)
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya				X				55	?	EGA, ONCFS, RAC/SPA (2005)
Tunisia	X							254	1,274,013	University College of London (1987)
Algeria			X					1,475	?	DGF (2006)
Morocco			X					185	200,000	CEMO (2006)
TOTAL	11	(3)	(1)	9	2	3	4	22,618	4,543,388	-

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