



THE PAN-MEDITERRANEAN WETLAND INVENTORY DESCRIPTION – 2006

The fourth meeting of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) in 2001 recommended the creation of a Pan-Mediterranean Wetland Inventory (PMWI) by 2010 and endorsed the establishment of a MedWet Inventory Working Group (MW-IWG).

WHAT IS THE PAN-MEDITERRANEAN WETLAND INVENTORY?

The PMWI consists of a compilation of inventory data from Mediterranean countries in order to build a Mediterranean-wide wetland inventory; this will allow building an overall picture of the location of the wetlands in the Mediterranean and their extent. For this the PMWI aims to:

- Include as many wetlands as possible in each Mediterranean country.
- Include information useful to assess the status of wetlands.
- Be easy and quick to compile (it is included in the overall MedWet inventory system).
- Facilitate data transfer, through the online database.
- Be accessible to contributors, through the online database.
- Allow dissemination of up-to-date information/results (e.g. through websites: MedWet, partners, etc.).
- Allow producing location maps of Mediterranean wetlands at different scales.

OBJECTIVES AND CONTENTS

The first objective of the PMWI is to provide answers to some basic questions:

- How many wetlands there are in the Mediterranean countries and region?
- What is the area of these wetlands?
- Where are these wetlands located?

Furthermore, the PMWI also aims to answer the following questions:

On the status of Mediterranean wetlands:

- What is their condition? (degree of modification by human activities)
- What is their protection status (legal designations)?
- What is the site tenure? (public/private)
- Which wetlands are affected by human activities and impacts?

On the values of Mediterranean wetlands:

- Where are the important habitats? (MedWet types and/or Ramsar wetland types).
- Where are the important species of flora and fauna?
- Which wetlands meet the Ramsar criteria?
- Which wetlands meet physical and biological functions?
- Which wetlands meet socio-economic values?

STRUCTURE AND DATA ENTRY

In order to simplify it and to facilitate data entry, the fields included in the PMWI are a small subset of the fields existing in the complete MedWet Inventory system. Any data entered into the main MedWet Inventory Database can automatically feed the PMWI. That means that if you are using the main database to store the complete inventory data, you do not need to complete



the PMWI, as data can be automatically transferred. It is also possible to enter PMWI data without having to undertake a complete inventory.

The structure of the PMWI has three simple sections: basic information, status and values (see the PMWI datasheet).

Basic information

This includes the basic fields needed to answer the basic questions. These are the minimum data needed to include a site in the PMWI, and they will be public. The data fields are:

A. Basic information
Date of the data
Site code
Site name
Catchment code
Catchment name
Geographic coordinates and/or UTM
Wetland area
General wetland description (including category, salinity, presence of water)
Source(s) of the data

B. Status
Condition
Protection status (legal designations)
Site tenure (% public/private)
Human activities
Impacts

C. Values
MedWet habitats (up to class level = 3 digits) + % area (if known)
Ramsar wetland types + % area (if known)
Noteworthy Flora
Noteworthy Fauna
Ramsar criteria
Physical and biological functions
Socioeconomic values (social, cultural, economic)