

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PROVISION OF SERVICES AS CONSULTANT

Establishing the basis for a MedWet Network of Mediterranean Ramsar Sites Managers (MeRSiM-Net)

About MedWet

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Established in 1991, the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) brings together 26 Mediterranean and peri-Mediterranean countries that are Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971). They constitute the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com)¹. The Palestinian Authority and a series of intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations and wetland centres are also members of the MedWet/Com.

The MedWet mission is *to ensure the effective conservation of the functions and values of wetlands and the sustainable use of their resources and services*. To achieve this mission, MedWet promotes and supports local, national and regional actions and collaboration in the Mediterranean region, within the framework of the Ramsar Convention.

MedWet activities are coordinated by a Secretariat hosted since 2014 by the Wetland Research Centre of La Tour du Valat in the Camargue, France. The Secretariat is funded by contributions of the 26 MedWet/Com countries and, during the triennium 2014-2017, by grants from the MAVA Foundation and the French Water Agency Rhône Méditerranée Corse.

MedWet works with a large number of partners in the region and participates in the promotion and execution of specific projects to further its mission.

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The issue

One of the tools of the Ramsar Convention to achieve its goals is the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List). The 168 Contracting Parties to the Convention have, so far, included 2,186 wetland sites in the Ramsar List, and in the Mediterranean region, the 26 MedWet countries have designated 396 Ramsar Sites.

Many of these 396 Mediterranean Ramsar Sites have been provided with some type of management system and with personnel assigned to this task. The MedWet Secretariat has decided to invest resources and energy in the identification of all the persons and/or institutions, of all sorts, that are involved in some type of management of our Ramsar Sites and to establish a network to connect all of those who are willing to participate.

¹ Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, The FYR of Macedonia, Tunisia and Turkey, and the Palestinian Authority

Objectives of the MedWet Network of Mediterranean Ramsar Sites Managers (MeRSiM-Net)

Initially, the MeRSiM-Net will have the following objectives:

- a) to promote the feeling and experience of belonging to the Mediterranean Ramsar Sites 'ethos'²;
- b) to facilitate exchanges of knowledge and experiences concerning the situation of and management practices in Mediterranean Ramsar Sites;
- c) to facilitate mutual support in terms of technical advice and assistance in problem solving; and
- d) to encourage the twinning of Mediterranean Ramsar Sites.

Once the network is firmly established, the participants may identify other needs and expectations and propose new activities and initiatives.

To facilitate the work of the network, the MedWet Secretariat will establish a dedicated platform on its website, and guidelines will be prepared on the procedures for using it in an effective manner. The Secretariat will also pay attention to the need and possibilities for promoting field visits and encounters among the network members with specific objectives.

Terms of reference

The consultant will be expected to:

1. Identify and contact existing networks and institutions in the Mediterranean region (or elsewhere) that may already have developed other networks that could be useful to the MedWet MeRSiM-Net in order to avoid duplication of efforts;
2. Prepare a chart of the 396 Mediterranean Ramsar Sites with summary information on:
 - 2.1. the management system existing in each site, if any, including the legal or regulatory status of the system (e.g., the Ramsar Site has a formally approved management plan; is also a legally protected area; has other international designations, such as as a World Heritage Site);
 - 2.2. the Ramsar Site is managed according with traditional or consuetudinary systems of resource use and/or on the basis of traditions or other cultural values;
 - 2.3. the institution(s) responsible for the application of the existing management system, if any;
 - 2.4. a list of the individuals and/or institutions directly involved in the application of the management system(s), with full details about postal address, telephone and e-mail;
 - 2.5. as far as possible, a list of other individuals and institutions that in some way or another, formally or informally, are involved in the management and/or resource use of the Ramsar Site, such as:
 - local communities and/or individual users (e.g., loggers, hunters, etc.) intervening in the site, legally or otherwise;
 - non-governmental and civil society organizations involved or interested in the management of the site;
 - individuals and/or groups active in the Ramsar Site because of its cultural values (festivities, religious events, beliefs, traditions, etc.);

² Ethos: the character or disposition of a community, group, person, etc.

3. Prepare a proposal for the content and operation of the web-based platform to be used by the network; and
4. Prepare recommendations to the MedWet Secretariat concerning the perspectives and future operations of the MeRSiM-Net and on any other issues that could be pertinent for improving the effective management of Mediterranean Ramsar Sites.

Required qualifications

Applicants should fulfil all, or at least the majority, of the following qualifications:

1. Have a demonstrated record of interest in and enthusiasm for the issues related to nature conservation and natural resources use with active participation of relevant stakeholders;
2. Be fully acquainted with the general current status and management of natural resources in the Mediterranean;
3. Be fully aware and respectful of the diversity of cultures and political sensitivities in the region;
4. Be fully aware of the differences in institutional capacity and governance systems among the Mediterranean countries;
5. Be familiar with the Ramsar Convention and its operation;
6. Be fluent in spoken and written English and have a good command of French; having a good command of Arabic will be a clear advantage; and
7. Having experience with the setting up and animation of networks will also be a clear advantage.

Conditions of work

The consultant will work under the direct supervision of the MedWet Coordinator and will be required to submit periodic reports on the progress made with his/her assignment.

The consultant, if he or she is a citizen of a European Union country, may choose to work from the MedWet offices in Arles, France. Otherwise, he/she may work from his/her place of residence.

The duration of the consultancy agreement will be for a minimum of three months, subject to a probation period of one month. In discussions between the candidate and the MedWet Secretariat, it could be decided that the contract should be for a longer period, but not more than six months.

The remuneration shall be established on the basis of a fee for each day of work during each month of the contract. The daily fee will be negotiated with the candidate.

Applications

Applications should include:

1. A motivation letter describing how the candidate responds to each of the requirements listed above and with an indication of the expected level of payment.
2. A brief draft work plan for implementing the required tasks.
3. A complete curriculum vitae.
4. The name, e-mail and phone number of at least two referees.

Applications should be sent by e-mail to the MedWet Coordinator at blasco@medwet.org. The deadline for receiving applications will be 30 April 2015 at midnight metropolitan French time.