2023 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8th - 10th March 2023

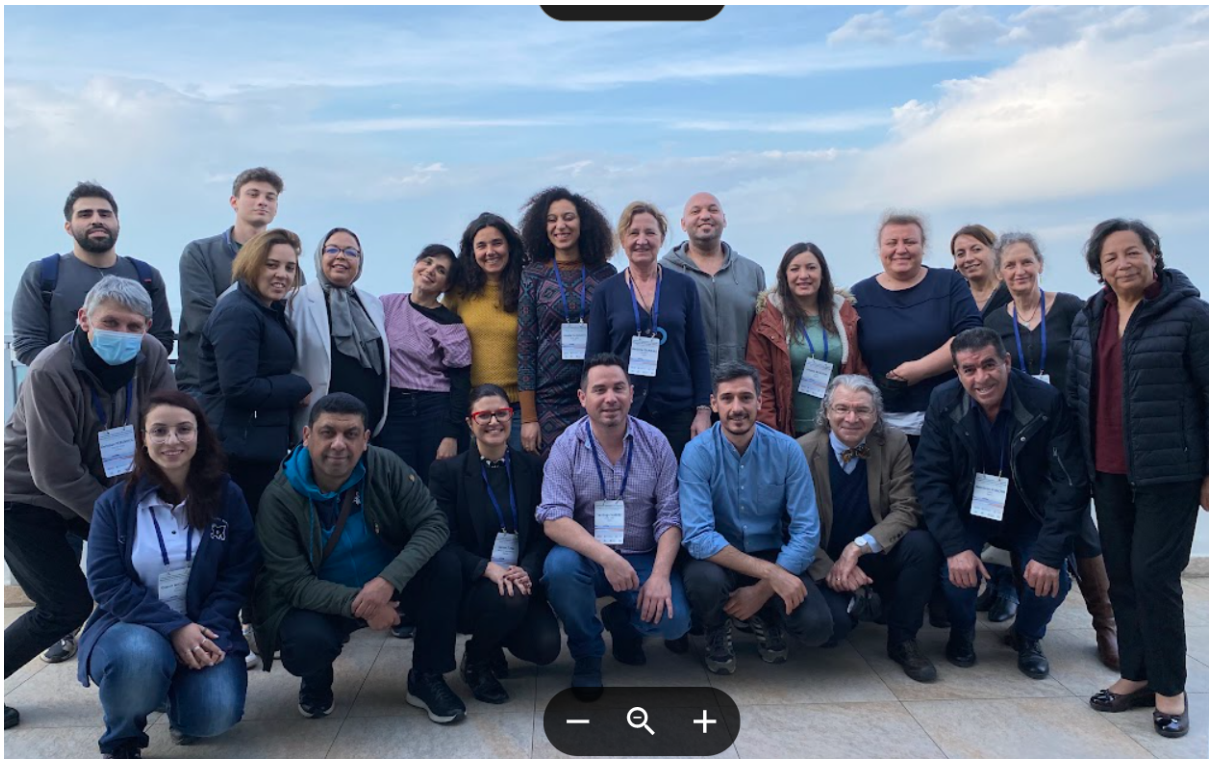
Samsun, Turkey

8th March - Field trip to the Kizilirmak delta

9th March - Capacity building on environmental knowledge transfer

17.30 pm – 18.45 pm TRT (UTC +3) MAVA Farewell Celebration

10th March, 9.30 (UTC +3) - General Assembly of the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands
Zoom link https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84306820560; Meeting ID: 843 0682 0560



Meeting Objectives

1. To present 2022 achievements
2. To agree on the secretariat structure 2023-2025
3. To select the next Steering Committee
4. To work on the different Alliance pillars
    a. Red Alerts
    b. Green Lights
    c. Communication
    d. Policy and Advocacy

Adopted Agenda and Recommendations

Time	Agenda point	Doc	Recommendations
9:30-9:35	Opening de GA/Welcome Presenter(s): Kiraz and Lorena S.		
	Approval of the agenda Presenter(s): Teresa Zuna	doc	*Members to approve the agenda. Agenda will be corrected if any last minutes items are added*
9:35-9:45	Ice breaker		*Name, organisation and hobby (1min)*
9:45-10:00	Presentation of the secretariat structure and action plan 2023-25 Presenter(s): Houda E. Lorena S., Santiago S., Teresa Z.	Organigram Action plan	*Members to endorse the action plan: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EUyYZ-_RztiQJzTifF9pGsj9v6EjMT2l/edit?usp=sharing&rtpof=true&sd=true*
10:00-10:50 15' each table	World Cafe - sessions on Red Alert & Green Lights, Advocacy and Policy, Knowledge Presenter(s): Lorena S., Teresa Z., Anis G.	Mural and tables	*https://app.mural.co/t/medalliancefor wetlands0320/m/medalliancefor wetlands0320/1677849367085/3f443164ab5b94d0194103 0ce8b400 93203ba6bb?sender=u680222f1a6631e5d18269751*
10:50-11:00	*Coffee Break*		
11:00 - Online participants are joining			
11:00-11:40	Achievements and needs Presenter(s): Lorena S., Teresa Z.	Short ppt	
11:40-12:00	Red alert update and next steps Presenter(s): Lorena Segura, tbc	Ppt	
12:00-12:30	Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory Presenter(s): Anis Guelmami	Ppt	
12:30-14:00	*Lunch break*		

14:30-15:00	Collective session on pilot sites Presenter(s): Santiago Suarez	Group dynamic	*Members to present their own issues from project sites*
14:00-14:30	Communications Presenter(s): Santiago Suarez	Ppt	
15:00-15:15	*Coffee Break*		
15:15-16:00	Presentation of the new green light project: supporting wetlands restoration Presenter(s): Lorena Segura	Ppt	
16:00-16:20	Fundraising Presenter(s): Teresa Zuna		
16:20-16:30	Steering Committee	Terms of Reference .doc	*https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lwGRMPTRkSvvwdb3i6fKY8AtZRDDiOKpQuWOZl2dzrw/edit?usp=sharing*
16:30-16:45	Action points and timeline Presenter(s): Teresa Zuna	Agenda doc	*Members to agree on the action list*
17:00	**Closing**		

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was hybrid with members participating in Samsun, Turkey and online, through Zoom.

Lorena Segura with Kiraz Erciyas-Yavuz opened the session and welcomed the participants.

Approval of the agenda: Teresa Zuna presented the proposed agenda and participants expressed their acceptance. A short presentation round was carried out.

Presentation of the secretariat structure and action plan 2023-25: the members of the Secretariat introduced themselves and explained the different pillars of the Action Plan, as follows: Lorena Segura (TdV, secretariat, site advocacy), Teresa Zuna (WIEA, secretariat, policy, fundraising) Santiago Suárez (IUCN, communications) and Houda El Alaoui (IUCN, Capacity building).

Achievements and needs: Lorena shared the achievements in 2022 and mentioned the relevance of the secured funds until 2025 to support the Alliance, it's operational structure and capacities, increase membership and strengthen the collaborations with members. Teresa added the need to continue fundraising the secretariat.

World Cafe - sessions on Red Alert & Green Lights, Advocacy and Policy, Knowledge (see Annex A)**:** an interactive session was organised to collect the inputs from members regarding:
* site-specific advocacy – through the Red Alert protocol and Green Lights
* international advocacy and policy
* scientific and technical knowledge
* capacity building
(*https://app.mural.co/t/medallianceforwetlands0320/m/medallianceforwetlands0320/1677849367085/3f443164ab5b94d01941030ce8b40093203ba6bb?sender=u680222f1a6631e5d18269751*).

Red Alert system: by Lorena Segura with a introduction of the the Red Alerts, and what has been done and in which countries. Lorena also talked about the stages to request the red alert call, what needs to be done or how a site can qualify for a red alert alarm, mentioning that it is important to use Red Alert at the latest possible, meaning, to try to foster dialogue with the authorities at the local and national level first l, before requesting the Red Alert, which should be the highest only used when the national actions have not been successful, therefore, preventing the devaluation of the meaning of the Red Alert system.

Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO): by Anis Guelmami who presented the work done so far, including compiling, analysing and synthesising data and information on wetlands, by using a set of indicators feeding a DPSIR framework (Drivers-Pressures-State-Impact-Responses) for 27 MedWet countries. In conclusion the main objective is to create a pan-Mediterranean geoportal (beta version to be launched in summer 2023), integrating the MWO wetlands monitoring results at both national and site scales and facilitating the indicators visualisation and data sharing. At site level, we have already integrated 320 sites which are being monitored by the MWO. The objective is to increase this sample to more than 500 sites in the near future.

Collective session on pilot sites: The participants were encouraged to brief the members on the projects and sites where their organisations are working. This allowed them to identify several sites interested in applying for the Green Light mechanism Further, members showed interest in exchange activities and knowledge from their sites.

Communications: Santiago presented the Communications strategy, which will aim to support the Red Alert and Green Lights mechanisms by compiling information about the threatened sites, in cooperation with the concerned organisations. The strategy suggests to focus on a specific site for a period of three months, to have enough time to create awareness. Based on the data collected through a preliminary survey, members wish to be primarily informed by email, on Linkedin and through a quarterly newsletter. Santiago also explained the plans to revamp the website and possibly the logo.

Green Light System: Lorena presented the new protocol to support NGOs in the Med on the co-creation, by local stakeholders, of a vision for a wetland restoration area (supported by a visual illustration with the wetland restored). An Alliance task force will facilitate the analysis of the targeted actors and the creation of a letter that highlights the benefits of the project to nature and society among decision-makers. Green lights will also provide communication support to highlight the restoration opportunity and create awareness of the restoration opportunity.

Fundraising strategy: Teresa presented the fundraising strategy developed for the Alliance with support from several members and mentioned that resource development needs to be seen as a continued effort. Teresa also reported the fundraising event in Tunis in July 2022, hosted by the MAVA Foundation, where the team had the opportunity to present the Alliance work's and fundraising needs to donors. From this event, exchanges with interested donors have been

promoted, including Cartier for Nature, Audemar Atkins Foundation, CEPF, and DIMFE. The Alliance will be nurturing the relationships with these donors, keeping them informed with developments and interests.

Steering Committee: Teresa acknowledged the expression of interest from some members to integrate the SC and the list will be presented in the next SC meeting. The Terms of Reference to be a member of the SC are being reviewed and will be shared along with the documents from this meeting.

All the agenda points were concluded and the action points below agreed.

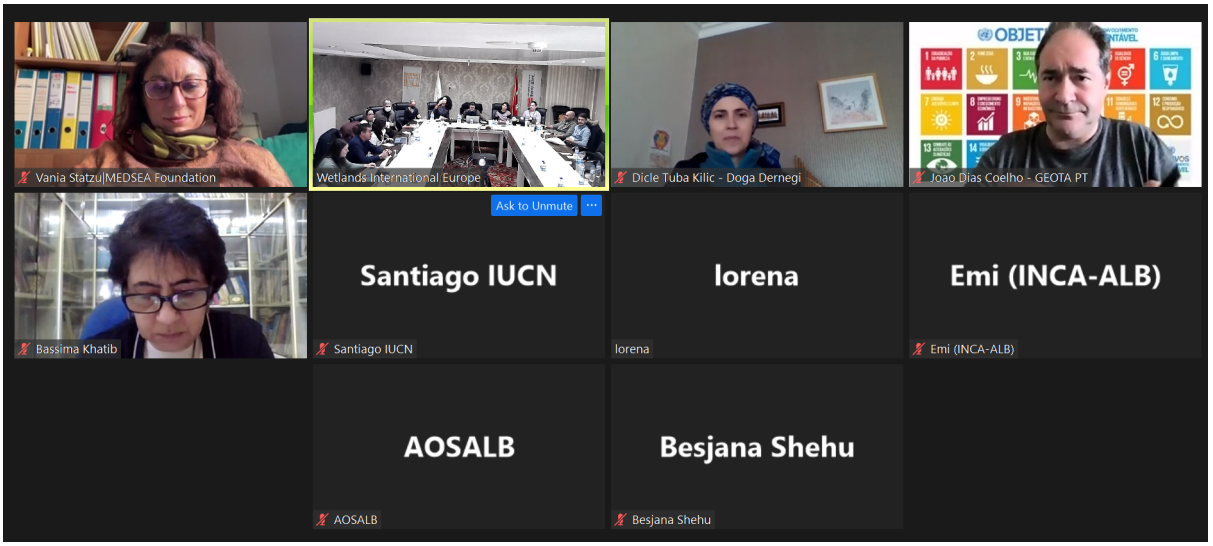
Teresa declared the meeting closed and thanked all the participants for joining.

Action List

Task	Who	Deadline
Green Lights - Protocol and ethical considerations	Lorena	20th April
ToR of Steering Committee	Teresa	27th March
Action Plan and Strategy	All members	31st March
Red Alert Protocol update	Lorena	20th April
GA Minutes (ppt with mural reflections)	Coordination team	27th March
Relevant documents will be uploaded in the website/Members section	Coordination team	30th April

List of Participants

Name	Organisation		Name	Organisation
Santiago Suarez	Spain/ IUCN - MED		Nassim Abou Hamad	Lebanon/ Litany River Authority
Irini Lyratzaki	Greece/ MedINA		Gizem Akdoğan	Türkiye/ AKD
Houda El Alaoui	Spain/ IUCN-Med		Imen Rais	Tunisia/ WWF-NA
Teresa Zuna	Brussels/ WI-EA		Imad Cherkaoui	Morocco/ SPANA
Marianne Couroble	France/ MEDWET		Rhimou El Hamoumi	Morocco/ GREPOM
Guelmami Anis	France/ Tour du Valat		Elie El-Haddad	Lebanon/ SPNL
Ana Catarina Miranda	Portugal/ GEOTA		Imene Benzina	Algéria/ ANAO
Julia Henderson	Greece/ Society for the Protection of Prespa		Kiraz Erciyas-Yavuz	Türkiye/ Ornithological Research Center
Giorgi Giorgadze	France / TDV		Erald Xeka	Albania/ AOS
Lorena Segura	France / TDV		Si Bachir Abdelkrim	Algéria/ ANAO
Christian Perennou	France / TDV		Dicle Tuba Kilic	Türkiye/ Doga Dernegi
Zeineb Ghrabi			Khaoula Benaicha	Algéria/ ANAO
Sofia Capelan	UK/ BirdLife International		Eva	Initiative PIM
Vania Stazu	Italy/ MedSea		Bassima Khatib	Lebanon/ SPNL
Stefan Ferger	Germany/ EuroNatur		Emi	Albania/ INCA-ALB
Besjana Shehu	Albania/ Aoos		João Dias Coelho	Portugal/ GEOTA
Tosmilav Hudin	Croatia/ BIOM			



Annex A. World Cafe sessions

WORLD CAFE RULES

1) Table ambassador

2) Three rounds of conversation, travellers should travel to each table

3) At the table, you can bring your insights by writing and drawing

4) After the rounds, people can return to their original table to synthetyse their discoveries

5) Present to the group

WORLD CAFE - SITE SPECIFIC ADVOCACY & RED ALERTS

In which cases my organisation can contribute to Red Alert?

- Supporting the review of the protocol
- Supporting cases with knowledge and expertise

What is my organisation experience in Advocacy?

Participants suggested a new question: how to improve the red alert protocol and focused in only first and second questions

- Including the PESTEL analysis in the first questionnaire
- Organise a presentation of each Red Alert action plan to the whole Alliance to give everyone the opportuity to contribute
- Share the red alert case with the whole alliance at the beginning of the case

WORLD CAFE - CAPACITY BUILDING

- TOPIC - WETLANDS and target groups
- Support for organisational developement

WORLD CAFE - INTERNATIONAL POLICY & ADVOCACY

TOPIC

How could we strengthen the conservation of wetlands as stepping stones for migratory bird and fish species?

TOPIC

How to strengthen the conservation/restoration of wetlands/ wetland dependent species and the key ecosystems functions providing services for people. How national wetland strategies under Ramsar and country action plans could fit into this?

Entry point should be communities, ecosystem services, agriculture. Socio-economomic needs

Amplify national needs/messages to the international fora

Low level of responsiveness from Barcelona Convention focal points. In one case (Tunisia), at the end of the MAVA project the representatives of Barcelona Convention seemed to be favourable to take on ICZM protocol.

TOPIC

How do you see the Alliance contributing to EU/ Mediterranean policies?

Members have site/national interventions and they rely on Ramsar

INT/National and site level - interest in focusing on site level advocacy

NGOs tend to focus their policy influencing on the local/national level, with some common obstacles, e.g. different national ministries sharing competencies over a wetland

"Water" as a more effective topic for advocacy than 'wetlands'

Site-specific advocacy more effective in reaching results than international advocacy (for most NGOs), particularly to influence decisions at a national level

Greece - Legistlation is in place but enforcement is na issue

Tunisia - local people are engeaged and want to do something on wetland protection/ restoration. Governments are not commiteted and Ramsar is not an obligation

Ramsar designation was considered an important tool, but insufficient for effective conservation. Efforts are needed to promote Ramsar sites to become protected areas.

pushing the work on the EU Restoration law

EU NRL makes emphasis on the conservation of peatlands and rivers **, but not wetlands in general**. The alliance can position itself as defenders of Wetlands, in general, and particularly Mediterranean wetlands. One idea is to work on the construction of a position paper collectively with WWF, Medwet and Alliance partners as a first action.

MedWet suggested aligning with national commitments to Paris agreements.

Before a Red Alert is issued, MedWet asked for members to inform previously their Ramsar focal point.

WORLD CAFE - SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL BASELINE

How can the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory spport the MAW partners in getting the required knowledge baseline on wetlands?

Need for more simplification of the data platforms

There is a huge amount of data already collected and produced. The main challenge is harmonize and synthesize them in order to help the decision making

Need for developping single entry points for data visualisation and sharing

The MWO could play a key role as data providor but also to support MAW's parteners in developping hamonized and standardized frameworks for data collection and production