

SUMMARY

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| THIRD & FOURTH MEETING OF WETNET PROJECT

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| WHATS GOING ON?

Dear Readers,

The WetNet team has been setting the ground for wetland contracts around the Mediterranean region of Europe. In this first semester of 2018, we worked together to create a common framework for this process including the site diagnostic, regulatory framework and stakeholder analysis. The team leaders from each of the pilot sites were able to share experiences with other pilot sites, learning and improving our processes along the way. Our forth project meeting in Valencia, Spain further build upon these exchanges and set new pathways for implicating local stakeholders in the wetland contract process.

The International Wetland's Day the first week of February provided a unique opportunity to raise awareness around some of our project sites. Seminars, public meetings, visits and educational activities were implemented in the different sites to increase contacts and interactions in the wetlands.

During the month of May, Giancarlo Gusmaroli (Italian Centre for River Restoration) visited the Tour du Valat in Arles, France. This provided the opportunity for different partners in the WetNet project to create synergies with MedWet (the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative) and the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory. These collaborations are the first steps for further spreading the concepts of wetland contracts around the Mediterranean basin.

Other recent activities include the participation in Regional Ramsar Pre-Cop meeting in the Czech Republic in April, X Iberian Congress on Water Management and Planning etc.

Lisa Ernoul, Tour du Valat (France)

| PARTNERS GOING ON

Below we detail the most relevant advances of the activities carried out by some of the partners of the Wetnet Project, in their pilot areas:

PILOT AREA #4: ODIEL MARSHES, NATURE RESERVE AND BIOSPHERE RESERVE (HUELVA)

LOCATION: HUELVA (SPAIN)

PARTNER: ANDALUSIAN FEDERATION OF TOWNS AND PROVINCES (FAMP)



PILOT AREA ACTIVITIES:

A number of Focus Groups sessions have been held in order to address the project's objectives. WETNET project was presented in the first meeting, as well as the model of River Contract, a tool for the integrated and participatory management of wetlands, which is the basis of the methodology for the joint elaboration of the Action Plan to be developed in the pilot area.

Individual and team work dynamics were carried out in the second meeting. The participants discussed about issues related to three areas: governance, environment and economic development, upon which to identify actions to be developed in the pilot area.

An alternative scenario was validated during the third meeting, including the initiatives to be carried out in the three areas established. Some of the initiatives were: to create more and better instruments of citizen participation, programs of permanent environmental education, or to promote Marismas del Odiel Biosphere Reserve brand.

An Action Plan was established through the different proposals of the attendees to final focus group. Among them, institutional and business projects of socioeconomic development covering areas such as health tourism, food and health or eco-entrepreneurs.

Nº MEETINGS OF PARTICIPATORY PROCESS: 4

Nº STAKEHOLDERS: 63

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 16

Nº PRESS RELEASES/COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES:

4 press releases.



PILOT AREA #5: ALBUFERA DE VALÈNCIA

LOCATION: COMUNITAT VALENCIANA (SPAIN)

PARTNER: SPANISH ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (SEO/BirdLife)



PILOT AREA ACTIVITIES:

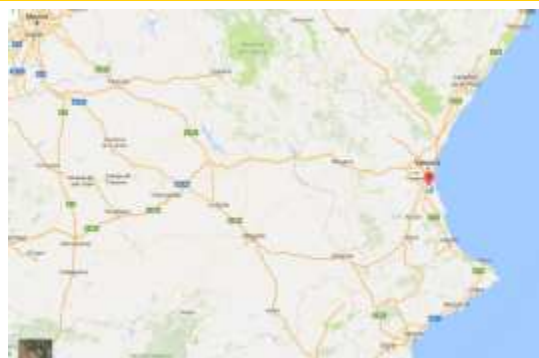
Activities have focused in carrying out an comprehensive assessment of the wetland biodiversity's conservation status and developing a Spanish regulatory framework assessment of Wetland Contract as a participative and management tool. There has been a series of meetings with key stakeholders and especially with Local and Regional Governments, and National Public Bodies, in order to engage them to play a key role as a facilitator to engage other local administrations and the wider as possible range of stakeholders, including those that could be reluctant to participate in the process. Also, a short video has been developed to introduce Wetland Contract to local stakeholder and the relevance of participating in the project, and also as a communication tool.

Nº MEETINGS OF PARTICIPATORY PROCESS: 0

Nº STAKEHOLDERS: 77

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: n/a

Nº PRESS RELEASES/COMUNICATION ACTIVITIES: 1



PILOT AREA #6: CAÑIZAR LAGOON

LOCATION: ARAGON (SPAIN)

PARTNER: SARGA - GOVERNMENT OF ARAGON



PILOT AREA ACTIVITIES:

The Humedal contract in Laguna del Cañizar began with a series



of consultations and information to the municipalities and boards of irrigators affected for the recovery of the lagoon.

This conflict has existed in the area for centuries and through this pilot experience a participatory and public process has been launched around the lagoon.

To date, an informative session and 3 workshops have been held in 4 locations in the affected area. These workshops sought to involve the agents involved in the management of the wetland.

Currently, a second phase of the process will be launched with sectoral workshops that help bring together positions that satisfy all agents.

Nº STAKEHOLDERS: 32

Nº MEETINGS OF PARTICIPATORY PROCESS: 6

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 30

Nº PRESS RELEASES/COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES: 10




¿Quieres participar en la elaboración del Contrato de Humedal de la Laguna del Cañizar?

¡Tu aportación es importante!

miércoles 18 abril Sesión Informativa 17:00-18:30 horas Casa de Cultura Cella	miércoles 2 mayo Taller 1 17:00-20:00 horas Salón del Horno Villafranca del Campo
miércoles 16 mayo Taller 2 17:00-20:00 horas Salón Social Alba del Campo	miércoles 6 junio Taller 3 17:00-20:00 horas Casa de Cultura Villarquemado

#ContratoHumedalCanizar **#wetnetmed**

Participación On line: <http://aragonparticipa.aragon.es>

Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.





PILOT AREA #7: MELIDES LAGOON

LOCATION: ALENTEJO (PORTUGAL)

PARTNER: DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION NETWORK (RCDI)



PILOT AREA ACTIVITIES:

With the context analysis concluded, stakeholders' involvement has been the main line of work. A set of meetings with individual stakeholders, one group



meeting with farmers and another with tourism operators, were done to prepare the 1st General Assembly of Stakeholders. This general meeting was held on March 5th, with 28 participants from 10 organisations, enhancing relationships among stakeholders and controversial points regarding their interests and expectations. Since then, stakeholders' involvement has been oriented to build alternative intervention scenarios. This year the breach of the lagoon occurred naturally at the end of March. The project team monitored the wetland changes and the connection with farming and tourism activities.

The project was presented in a local fair on open air activities organized by the Grandola Municipality, drawing visitors' attention to the specific goals of the project in the Melides wetland.

Nº MEETINGS OF PARTICIPATORY PROCESS: 14 individual meetings, 2 group meetings, 1 general assembly of stakeholders.

Nº STAKEHOLDERS: 30

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 28 participants in the general assembly of stakeholders.

Nº PRESS RELEASES/COMUNICATION ACTIVITIES: 2 Press Releases, participation in a municipal fair.



PILOT AREA #9: VERDIER MARSHES

LOCATION: RHONE DELTA (FRANCE)

PARTNER: TOUR DU VALAT FOUNDATION (TDV)



PILOT AREA ACTIVITIES:

The Verdier Marshes launched the preparation of the wetland contract with an updated diagnostic of the site, regulatory framework and stakeholder analysis. After 10 years of participatory management of the community wetlands, the different local stakeholders were reactivated in the project. Each stakeholder had the opportunity to express their vision for the Verdier Marshes in the future. These individual visions are now being shared and the stakeholders are working together to create a shared vision.

The Verdier marshes also hosted their annual Wetland Feast to raise awareness about wetlands. Along with a buffet of local wetland delicacies, the participants had the opportunity to tour the wetlands and play different interactive wetland games. The Wetland feast ended with an open conference on wetland contracts with over 80 people participating in the various activities.

MEETINGS OF PARTICIPATORY PROCESS: 3

STAKEHOLDERS: 15

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 10

PRESS RELEASES/COMUNICATION ACTIVITIES: 6



| RAMSAR CONVENTION (<https://www.ramsar.org/>)

Ramsar is the oldest of the modern global intergovernmental environmental agreements. The treaty was negotiated through the 1960s by countries and non-governmental organizations concerned about the increasing loss and degradation of wetland habitat for migratory waterbirds. It was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.



The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".

Wetlands are among the most diverse and productive ecosystems. They provide essential services and supply all our fresh water. However they continue to be degraded and converted to other uses.

The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands. It includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.

Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:

- Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;
- Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;
- Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.

The present text of the Convention, as amended in 1982 and 1987, can be found at <https://www.informea.org/en/treaties/ramsar/text>

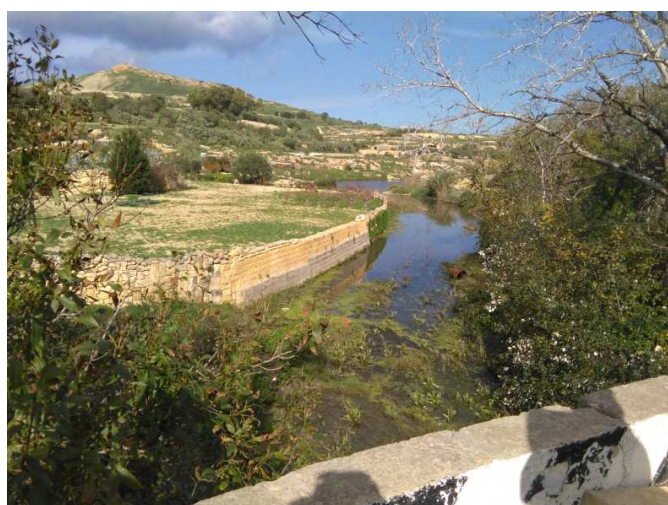
The Strategic Plan for 2016-2024

The Contracting Parties approved the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 at COP12. You can download posters summarizing the Plan and showing how it contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals.

See more information at <https://www.ramsar.org/>

WETNET PROJECT: THIRD & FOURTH PROJECT MEETING & STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN GOZO (MALTA) AND VALENCIA (SPAIN)

The **Third Project and Steering Committee Meeting of the WETNET project** was held by GRC-GDA last November 24-25th in MALTA and Gozo Island.

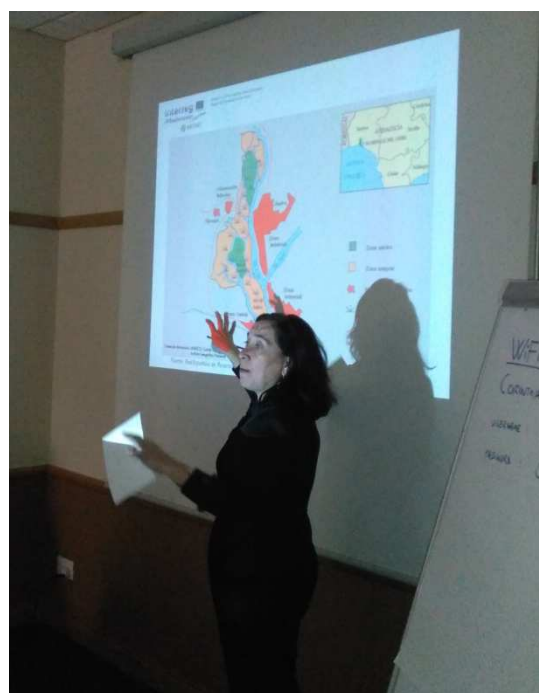


On the first day of the meeting we took a transfer by private bus and public ferry to the island of Gozo for the field visit to the pilot area of Malta. We visited several places considered as a wetland area within the island and its water communication channels.

During the second day of the meeting the representatives of each partner were spoken about project management, communication and Testing of wetland contract as a common methodology. ZRC SAZU presented the draft Guidance Manual for Wetland Contract implementation.

They have presented the national/regional/local regulatory frameworks, Pilot Areas description and Stakeholders Mapping (partners that have started one of more of these actions are kindly invited to present their former outputs and/or open issues) to implementing pilot Wetland Contracts





With the Malta meeting the meetings held during the year 2017 in relation to the WETNET project ended.

THE FOURTH WETNET PROJECT MEETING & STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN VALENCIA (SPAIN)

The fourth Project and Steering Committee Meeting of the WETNET was held by Seo/BirdLIFE last April 10-11th in Valencia (Spain).

We visited the fantastic pilot area "ALBUFERA DE VALÈNCIA". The technical manager of the Júcar River Basin explained the dynamics and fluvial management in the area and the project of recovery of the wetland that has been carried out progressively.

Environmental technicians accompanied us in the visit to the area. We were able to visit both the Albufera with the headquarters of the Albufera Natural Park, where its Director explained the management complexity of the pilot area and the different economic, environmental, and cultural interests that they have when implementing measures.



During the technical meeting, we were able to review the progress of the project in economic issues of management and communication as well as establish guidelines for coordinated work for each of the pilot areas.



In the next WETNET NEWSLETTER

**PANACEA HORIZONTAL
PROJECT**

**FIFTH STEERING COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 28-29TH (LISBON,
PORTUGAL)**

PARTNERS GOING ON