

Chart of Collaboration of the MEDITERRANEAN WETLANDS ALLIANCE

Article 1: Context and Mission

Due to the recent decline of environmental concern in political agenda in several Mediterranean countries as outcomes of political and institutional instabilities and financial and security events, as well as the raising role of the civil society in environmental matters, a partnership agreement dedicated to supporting to mobilizing the civil society towards the sustainable use of wetlands was endorsed in January 2017 by 20 members from 12 countries. This agreement is complementing the mandate and actions of the MedWet initiative and its Observatory towards wetlands.

The mission of the Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance is “***To raise collectively the profile of wetlands in the Mediterranean society at large and in particular in national, regional and international policy through the promotion of their sustainable use, based on innovation and evidence-based best practices as catalyst for change***”.

Its objectives, membership, structure and organization are described in the terms of reference of the Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance.

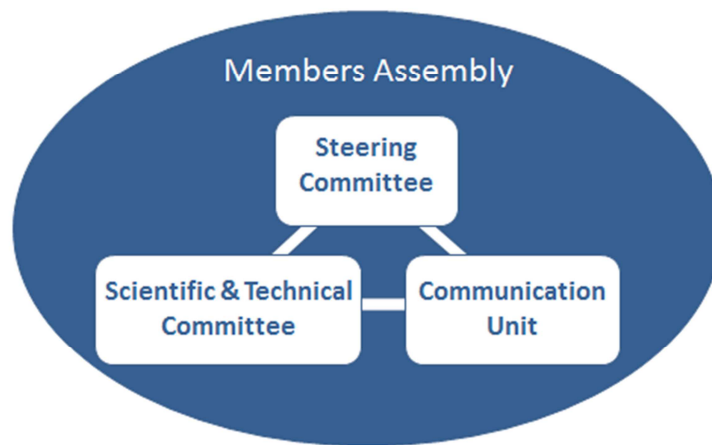
Article 2: Object of the Chart of Collaboration

The purpose of the Chart is to:

- Define the conditions for membership,
- Define members commitments to common general values, and their working relationship between Alliance’s members and partners.
- Clarify the issues of liability, confidentiality and settlement of disputes

Article 3: Governance and organization of the Alliance

The Alliance comprises three bodies, all composed of representatives of Alliance members: the steering committee (SC), the communication unit and the technical and scientific committee. The composition and functions of each of these bodies is described in the Terms of Reference.



Article 4: Membership and partnership

Members are sub-national, national or international NGOs, associations and CSOs and research organizations of various sizes and abilities, in charge or not of managing wetlands, but having in common a commitment to conservation and sustainable use of Mediterranean wetlands.

The Alliance is meant to be inclusive, i.e. open to any member organization that shares its objectives and that is willing to actively contribute to and benefit from one or more of its core functions. Each member commits to comply with these ToRs and to sign this Chart of collaboration.

The Alliance has been established in 2017 with 20 members (see annex of the ToRs). Any new organization complying with the above mentioned criteria willing to join the Alliance as member should submit an application to the Steering Committee, for approval by the Members Assembly.

Organizations that cannot be members - i.e. governmental or intergovernmental organizations other than research organizations, donors - or that are not ready for full compliance to the Alliance criteria, but that are willing to collaborate with the Alliance on one or more of its core functions, can be fully associated to the work of the Alliance as partners. However, they can't be part of the governance bodies, nor take positions on behalf of the Alliance.

Article 5: Common general values among members

- **Transparency**

Alliance members commit to transparency and honesty regarding the Alliance mission, structures, policies and activities.

Members commit sharing information available at their level that may be useful for the implementation of the Alliance mission, objectives, and activities.

- **Good governance**

Members commit to effective governance that ensures acting in accordance with stated values and agreed procedures and in concordance with the Mission of the Alliance.

- **Responsible advocacy**

Members commit that advocacy activities are consistent with the Mission, with evidence-based scientific knowledge, constructive and solution oriented, for public interest.

- **Participation**

Alliance members commit to work in partnership with local communities, NGOs and other organizations who share the same aims. The Alliance commit to the empowerment and inclusive participation of people and organizations in concordance with the mission of the Alliance.

- **Ethical fundraising**

Alliance members commit and ensure that all donations and funds to further the Alliance's mission respect rights, people's dignity, and environmental responsibility. They ensure that there is no conflicting interest and the fundraising does not compromise the values and reputation of the Alliance.

The Steering committee should be informed by members intending to raise funds referring to the Alliance prior to submitting the proposal.

- **Independence**

In the context of Alliance activities and management, members will work for the general interest of the Alliance and its target beneficiaries, independently from their specific professional and personal agenda.

- **Conflict of interest**

Members commit themselves to avoid any personal, institutional, financial or other interests that might hinder their capability or willingness to perform their actions with the Alliance.

Only members that have been endorsed by the SC to represent the Alliance at events or meetings can speak or take position on behalf of the Alliance.

- **Synergies**

Alliance members are expected to facilitate synergies and complementarity with regards to existing initiatives, in order to avoid duplication and to increase effectiveness.

- **Professional management**

Alliance members commit to effective, ethical management and continuous improvement in the quality of the work of the Alliance's members.

Article 6: Working relationships

Each Alliance member aims to:

- Actively contribute in the implementation of the Alliance work plan, especially in topics of his interest and have a recognized experience (communication, advocacy, monitoring, research, partnership, etc.)
- Collaborate actively with other Alliance members and partners to ensure sharing of technical and scientific, information related to wetlands for which the Alliance is involved (advocacy, monitoring, status, etc.).
- Inform other Alliance members of any news regarding its development and results, as well as changes and trends (policy, legal, institutional, technical, site designation, project impacting wetlands, etc.) related to Mediterranean wetlands.
- Inform and recommend to the Steering committee on organizations interested to join the Alliance, following the application procedure.
- Establish a clear membership: members of the Alliance are representing their own organisation.

Article 7: Language

English is the language adopted by the Alliance for any internal meetings and communication. However, key Mediterranean languages from international importance (Arabic, French, and Spanish) may be used depending on the situation and country/sub-region concerned.

Article 8: Liability towards each other

In respect of any information or materials supplied by one member to another member in the name of the Alliance, each recipient member shall in all cases be entirely and solely liable for the use to which it puts such information and materials. No member shall be responsible for any indirect or consequential loss or damage to another Alliance member, such as, but not limited to, loss of profits, loss of revenue and contracts, changes of relationship with their own partner network.

Article 9: Confidentiality

Any material and information provided by members for the purpose of the Alliance programme should be kept confidential within the Alliance member network, except otherwise indicated in written by member granting such material and information.

Any material and information shared and used in the name of the Alliance, with a purpose of a common decision and disclosure to a third party, may remain “Confidential information” until the date of official disclosure.

Article 10: Entry into force, and duration of membership

The Alliance was officially launched in January 2017.

Wetlands protection being a long-term commitment, membership will be for three years with automatic renewal, except if the member organization decides otherwise. In this case, the member organization will inform the SC at least one month before the deadline of the membership period.

For the founding members, deadline of the first period is January 2020.

Article 11: Termination of membership

Termination of membership can take place at the end of each commitment period of three years. In case of force majeure, including changes in the member organizations, or in the political, legal and institutional situations in countries, members may inform the SC on the exceptional termination of their membership.












However, members having terminated their membership will continue to fulfill their commitment to the provisions related to articles 8 and 9 on Liability and Confidentiality.

In case of major failure of one member in fulfilling the provisions of this Collaboration Chart, the Member Assembly can decide to exclude it, based on tangible elements.

Article 12: Settlement of disputes

All disputes that may arise out of or in connection with the Alliance will be preferably solved amicably between members involved. If the matter cannot be solved, the matter will be brought to the attention of the Alliance Governance level to seek for a discussion and solution on the matter.

**Founding members of the Mediterranean Wetlands Alliance
signatories to the Chart of Collaboration**

Name of the Organization	Name of member representatives	Contact	Logo
International NGOs			
IUCN Center for Mediterranean Cooperation	Antonio Troya	Antonio.troya@iucn.org	
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National NGOs			
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Société de Protection de la Nature du Liban	Assad Serhal / Bassima Khatib	aserhal2013@gmail.com	

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Scientific Organizations			
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