

MedWet Inventory Working Group Working Meeting

Lisbon (Almada) 20 February 2002

This meeting was held with the opportunity of the MedWet Coast training seminar on Inventories, in the new office of the Portuguese Wetlands Centre (CEZH/ICN), with the participation of Joao Carlos Farinha (CEZH/ICN), chairman, Emilia Silva (CEZH/ICN), Teresa Leonardo (CEZH/ICN), Pere Tomas Vives (TdV), Alain Sandoz (TdV), Spyros Kouvelis (MedWet Coordinator), Carlos Villalba (Ramsar Bureau / MedWet), Lamia Mansour (MedWet Coast), Luis Costa (consultant) and Naik Faucon (ATEN).

The objective was to discuss the key points for the development and further use of the MedWet Inventory Methodology and Data Base, in view of the IWG meeting in Athens on 11 & 12 March. The main points of the meeting were the following (*the text in Italics will constitute the main items for discussion and decision by the IWG in Athens*):

CEZH/ICN

In the beginning of the meeting, J.C. Farinha mentioned in his presentation that the new CEZH/ICN has secured for the current year and the next two years a budget of ~150,000 EUR, three full time staff, and the possibility of two contracts per year, in addition to his own (part-time) work in the centre. These resources will be used for work in Portugal as well as the centre's contribution in the IWG work.

Organisation / Coordination

The work of MedWet on Inventories began with the activities in the framework of the MedWet 1 and 2 project. In that period, the work was carried out under specific contracts and with funding secured by these projects. In the period that followed, the work continued based on the voluntary participation of the members of the IWG, and to the extent of the available human and financial resources.

It was clear to all participants that the workload and obligations of MedWet in relation to inventories, far exceed the level of voluntary contributions, and that there is a need to mobilize additional resources and

to establish a clear operating structure, with specific assignments and engagements.

It was proposed that the CEZH/ICN undertake the role of coordinating the IWG work (including collection of feedback from the application of the methodology, provision of support for its use and coordination of the work of the other IWG partners), while EKBY, acting as the Technical Unit for the development of the Data Base will maintain its role for the production of the final version of the Dbase, and the necessary updates in the future, provided that the necessary

MedWet Com in 2001 constitute a good platform for the operation of the IWG. However, it is deemed necessary to review this document in order to produce a clear framework of the Group as regards the engagement of each member, the procedures for further development and dissemination of the methodology, including the mobilization of resources, and to include the strategic objectives for the development and use of the Methodology and Dbase.

It was proposed that the TORs be discussed in the Athens meeting (comments to be



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resources are secured.

A draft report on the current use and application of the inventory tools was prepared and presented by Pere Tomas (attached as Annex I in Word file format - this is the final version that was updated by ICN). It was proposed that:

- *The report be updated by the ICN with contributions by the IWG members*
- *An updated report be prepared every 6-12 months by ICN, with contributions by the IWG members.*

Terms of Reference and Workplan

The TORs adopted at the Sesimbra

prepared by the MedWet Coordinator). Following this a reviewed version and a logical analysis will be prepared. At the same time, the workplan of the IWG will have to be revised and updated, in order to bring it in line with the current developments and commitments of the IWG as regards the dissemination and use of the Inventory tools and Dbase.

Finally, during the meeting a lack of clear targets and purpose for the development and use of the Inventory tools was sensed. It was therefore proposed that

A logical framework for defining the objectives and activities to be undertaken

by the IWG should be incorporated in the new TORs.

This logical framework, besides its obvious usefulness for defining better the work of the group, will be a good tool for developing and supporting funding proposals for the work of the IWG.

Dissemination of the Inventory Methodology and Dbase

The issue of who is currently using the methodology and Dbase, what feedback we have gotten or expect to get, and what our policy should be for disseminating further, was central to the meeting.

It was felt that we do not have a complete track of who is using the methodology and/or Dbase and on top of that which exact version is being used in each case (it was also noted that there is no system for telling if a version has succeeded another, and which one everyone has).

Therefore the following things were proposed:

- Define exactly which is the latest version of the 2000 Dbase, and identify its new features compared to older versions (EKBY with ICN)
- Identify the current users of the methodology and Dbase, and which version they are using.
- Restrict the use of this Dbase to the MW Coast applications and to a specific list of other users (to be developed: ICN+IWG)
- Collect the feedback of the use in these cases, and on their basis make the necessary adaptations to both the methodology and the Dbase. The focal unit for collecting the feedback and channel it to the right IWG member will be ICN (ICN with EKBY)
- Produce the final version of the methodology and Dbase, and

disseminate widely (ICN)

- All of the above should be agreed within a clear timetable.

Once we get to the broad dissemination phase, our strategy for this must be well defined. In addition, the terms of use by anyone for the methodology and Dbase must be clear, binding (but not restrictive, in order to allow the maximum use of it). It was therefore proposed that:

- The Terms of use for the Methodology and the Dbase must be drafted with the help of a legal expert. These terms must be not too restrictive in order not to discourage users, but must have clear terms on expected feedback, allowed modifications on the Dbase, commercial use, reference to MedWet, etc. A distinction must be made between Mediterranean and non-Med countries, as the needs for adaptation of the Dbase may be bigger in the latter case.
- The dissemination of the methodology and Dbase must be done pro-actively through MedWet's programme rather than re-actively to external requests, which must be assessed before a positive reply is given.
- The necessary resources must be secured for the work of the IWG members in each application, for training and technical support (by ICN for the methodology and EKBY for the Dbase) throughout the application of the tools. If resources are not secured, the application will have to be postponed (this means that to simply send out the Dbase CD should not be an option-technical support must be secured beforehand)
- All requests for the use of the tools must be directed to the ICN, and be filtered in consultation with the IWG.



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Modifications of the Dbase

As mentioned above, the users of the Dbase will be requested to accept the terms of use for the Dbase. These terms will have to specify the modifications that could be done to the Program, in order to secure the identity, compatibility and comparability of the applications in the future. It is therefore proposed that:

- A different scale of modifications will be allowed to the Med and non-Med countries, as the needs (because of varying natural characteristics to be inventoried) may be greater in the second case.
- The users should be allowed to modify the dictionaries, as is the case today
- Users should be allowed, in special circumstances, to modify the source code, but only by adding new features, and not modify existing ones, in order to maintain comparability.
- No commercial use of the original or modified Dbase will be allowed.

Funding

It was a common perception in the meeting that the needs and requests for the use of the MW Inventory tools are exceeding by far what the Group can cope with on a voluntary basis of contributing expertise and resources. It was therefore proposed that:

- A detailed assessment be made of the need for resources for addressing the specific needs for the future work of the IWG. This should include the needs of all members for their respective tasks, both for finalising the tools, and for further application (and support) of the MW Inventory tools (ICN & IWG members).
- The possible funding sources should be identified for this work (MW Coord. Unit)
- On the basis of the sources identified and the Logical Framework (see above) funding proposals should be submitted (MW Coord + ICN)



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